

THE SUITCASE

By

Caetlyn McLean

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CAST

LEE

CAMERON

TOURIST (2 WORDS)

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SCENE ONE

FX: FAINT CRASHING WAVES WITH ROWING OF BOAT. BOAT LANDS ON SHORE.
DRAGGING OF LARGE SUITCASE.

CAMERON: Geez, Lee! What the hell have you got in this thing?

LEE: All the essentials for our tropical island getaway.

CAMERON: When I said I wanted a tropical island getaway, this isn't quite what I had in mind.

LEE: Oh, c'mon! Look around you! This is a tropical island, is it not?

CAMERON: Oh, no! Don't you turn this around. It's your fault we're in this mess!

LEE: (*defensively*) Hey, it was your idea to go on a cruise in the first place. You got that, didn't you?

CAMERON: Yeah, in the baggage compartment as stowaways! No wonder they sent us out to sea on a dingy!

LEE: Now, wait a minute. I'm not completely to blame here. You didn't exactly protest when you found out we were hiding in the compartment.
(*Pause*)
In fact, I'm willing to bet that you wanted this to happen ...

CAMERON: I did *not* want to end up in the middle of nowhere with no food or water!

LEE: Give me some credit, will ya. Of course I packed some food and water!
(*hasty*)
But anyway, aside from that, you wanted the adventure. You wanted to take the risk of not getting caught.

CAMERON: Yeah, but we did.

LEE: Look, will you stop seeing the bad side of things for a second? Go on, admit it. You wanted the thrill of being a stowaway.

CAMERON: (*stubborn*) No, I didn't.

LEE: Then why didn't you stop us from hiding?

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FX: SILENCE.

LEE: See? There's nothing wrong with admitting you like taking risks. In fact, it's quite healthy.

CAMERON: (*sarcastically*) Oh, you are a wealth of information, aren't you?
(*pause*)
Alright, I'm a thrill seeker, like you are. Well, maybe not quite so much. After all, I did grow up in the country.
(*hasty*)
But now we've got to work out how to get off this rock ...

LEE: What's the hurry? The sun is shining. The breeze is gently blowing. The waves are crashing on the shore.

CAMERON: (*casually*) The dingy is floating away ...

LEE: What?

CAMERON: The dingy.

LEE: What about it?

CAMERON: You did secure it to something, didn't you?

LEE: (*nervously*) Yes ... I did ... Let me just check on something for a sec. Don't move. I'll be right back.

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUN OFF

CAMERON: (*snorts*) Like I've got anywhere to go ... Lets see what's in this suitcase.
(*proceeds to rattle off a few assortments.*)
(*surprised*)
Rope?

FX: FOOTSTEPS RETURN

LEE: It's no use. It's too far away. I couldn't find any rope to –
(*Sheepish*)
Oh, right. I'd forgotten I'd packed it in.

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CAMERON: You'd forgotten it?
(*pause*)
Okay, I'll bite. Apart from the obvious, why exactly did you need to pack it in there in the first place?

LEE: (*shrugs*) I like to be prepared for anything.

CAMERON: Like what? A kidnapping?

LEE: No, for something like this ...
(*Pause*)
I know how it looks but I honestly didn't expect us to get caught!

CAMERON: (*knowingly*) Sure, you didn't ...

LEE: I didn't. I swear!

CAMERON: (*sighs*) Well, seeing as we're going to be stuck here for a while, we might as well make the most of it.

LEE: I'll call for help.

CAMERON: Unless there's a phone tower on this island, I doubt you're going to get a signal.

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF. PAUSE. PAPER RUSTLE.

CAMERON: (VO) To whom it may concern, recent events have forced me to put pen and paper to plead for some assistance in locating us for we are hopelessly lost. Yours sincerely, Cameron.

FX: PAUSE.

CAMERON: No, no, no! That just sounds too snobby. I need something more direct and urgent.
(*thinks*)
Hmmm ... Ah ha! I know!

FX: PAPER RIPS OFF PAD. SCRUNCHES IT UP. SCRIBBLES FURIOUSLY.

CAMERON: (VO) Help!

FX: FOOTSTEPS ON.

CAMERON: (*smug*) No signal?

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LEE: What are you writing?

CAMERON: An SOS. I don't suppose we have a bottle?

FX: PAPER RIPS FROM THE PAD.

LEE: Actually, it's funny you should ask that

FX: RUMMAGING THROUGH SUITCASE. PAUSE.

LEE: Look, just ... don't.

FX: SCREWING LID ON BOTTLE. PAUSE. OCEAN WAVES.

CAMERON: And there it goes.

LEE: So, where exactly are we?

CAMERON: I dunno. Somewhere ... out in the ocean ... Probably somewhere in the Caribbean ...

LEE: So, you just sent an SOS to someone without mentioning where we are?

FX: BEAT.

CAMERON: Great! Now, what do we do?

LEE: I don't know about you but I know exactly what I want to do.

CAMERON: That's not exactly helping.

LEE: Why are you stressing so much? We've got all the time in the world! One, there's no stresses of the concrete jungle. Two, there's no family to hassle you about needing you to play handy man or babysit. Plus, you've gotta feel good about this glorious weather!

CAMERON: *(basking in the sun)* I have to admit the sun does feel awesome.
(pause)
But we have to face reality! We need to find some way for getting rescued!

LEE: Why? This is so much better than the real world!

CAMERON: Okay, but answer me this; how long this is going to last?

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LEE: (*shrugs*) As long as we want it to.

CAMERON: And then what?

LEE: We're on an island. Most islands have a very active ecosystem so chances are, even if we do run out of food in the suitcase, there'll be something on this island we can eat.

CAMERON: Speaking of food, what do we have in there?

LEE: Feel free.

FX: RUMMAGES THROUGH SUITCASE.

CAMERON: What? That's it? Chips and sweets? Where's the healthy stuff like fruit and veg?

LEE: You're the one who wanted a cruise. You can't exactly bring fruit and veg to an overseas country. That's what quarantine is for.

CAMERON: (*groans*) We're done for.
(*pause*)
Okay, what about water?

LEE: Easy. We're right by the sea. We can drink all the water we want.

FX: SCOOPS UP WATER TO DRINK.

CAMERON: You realize that's salt water, right?

FX: SPITS OUT THE WATER.

LEE: (*grins*) Just testing. I've got two large bottles of fresh water in the suitcase. Look, will you please just relax?

CAMERON: I can't. Your shortsightedness is scaring me. I need to know that we'll be okay in a few days. That suitcase doesn't really look very promising. I'm going to go for a walk.

LEE: Hang on. What's that?

CAMERON: What?

LEE: Something just washed up on the beach.

FX: OCEAN WAVES. OPENING BOTTLE. RUSTLING PAPER.

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LEE: That's not what I think it is, is it?
(*suddenly realizes what it is*)
You're kidding! That was quick! Well? What does it say?

CAMERON: (*reading*) "Where are you?"
(*to LEE*)
God, I'm hopeless! I can't even get a bloody message in a bottle right!

FX: SCRUNCHING UP THE MESSAGE AND THROWS TO GROUND.

LEE: Are you going to reply?

CAMERON: What's the point? We're hopelessly lost.

LEE: That's really weird.

CAMERON: What is?

LEE: That reply. It was almost too convenient.

CAMERON: Well, we're not going to find out by just sitting here. I'm going to go for that walk ...

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF.

LEE: (*sighs*) Suit yourself. But I tell ya, there's nothing to worry about!

FX: BEAT.

LEE: (*to LISTENER*) Everything will turn out okay. Just wait and see. Okay, so the message was a bit weird but I'm sure there's a perfectly good explanation for it.

FX: PAUSE. BIRD FLYING.

LEE: You hear that? Food! Cameron will be so proud of me. Excuse me while I go find some nice strong sticks.

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SCENE TWO

FX: JUNGLE AMBIENCE. FAINT SOUND OF WATERFALL. FOLIAGE RUSTLING. SNAPPING OF BRANCHES.

LEE: Ouch! God dammit! That hurt!
(*pause*)
Ah, ha! Here's some!
(*pause*)
Now, let's see. How does this go again? Um ... we do this
(*pause*)
and then
(*pause*)
Oh, that's right. That ...

FX: SCRAPING WOOD FOLLOWED BY SILENCE.

LEE: Ta da!!

FX: FOOTSTEPS ON.

LEE: (*proudly*) I've just made myself a bow and a few arrows. Not bad for someone who has never really been camping but don't tell Cameron that.
(*pause*)
You know, if worse come to worse, I saw a waterfall back there when I was looking for branches. God, did it look awesome. You could just stand there for hours admiring its beauty. Plenty of fresh water to drink. Plus if it gets too hot, we can just jump in and take a bath.
(*pause*)
Anyway, I'm getting pretty peckish. Time to eat.

FX: BEAT.

LEE: Now, where's that pesky bird? Come out, come out. Wherever you are ...

CAMERON: Hey, look what I've found. We can - What the-?

FX: FOOTSTEPS ON.

CAMERON: (*shocked*) You trying to get me killed??

LEE: Will you stop sneaking up on me like that? I nearly shot you!

CAMERON: Yeah, I can tell! So much for friendship!

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LEE: (*testily*) Actually, I'm trying to get lunch. If you just shut up for a second, I might be able to snag us a nice juicy bird. Listen ...

FX: BEAT.

CAMERON: Once again, you're imagining –

FX: BIRD SQUAWKS.

CAMERON: - things.

LEE: (*grins*) I'm not just a pretty face. Now, where did that bird go?

FX: BIRD FLYING PAST. ARROW FIRED. ARROW FLIES THROUGH AIR AND LANDS IN WATERFALL WITH SMALL SPLASH. BIRD SQUAWKS TRIUMPHANTLY AND FLIES AWAY.

LEE: Take two?

CAMERON: Hey, you're the one firing the shots ...

FX: BIRD SQUAWK. ARROW FIRED. ARROW RICOCHETS OFF TREE.

CAMERON: Have you even done any target practice before?

LEE: Nope. First time.

CAMERON: Give it here! Watch and learn ...

FX: SILENCE. ARROW FIRED. ARROW HITS BIRD. SQUAWK. THUD.

LEE: Well done! I didn't know you could shoot.

CAMERON: (*grins*) Like I said, country kid. C'mon, lets go and cook our lunch.

LEE: You know, I saw an awesome place back there where we can go cook this thing.

CAMERON: You mean by the waterfall?

LEE: Yep. After you.

CAMERON: Hang on a tic. I nearly forgot something.

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF.

LEE: (*groans*) Now what? I'm getting hungry.

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FX: SLIGHT STOMACH RUMBLE.

LEE: (to LISTENER) What did I tell you?

FX: BEAT.

LEE: (to CAMERON) What are you doing??

CAMERON: (*distant*) Keep your knickers on! I'm coming!

FX: FOOTSTEPS ON. DRAGGING OF SUITCASE.

CAMERON: We can't leave this on the beach.

LEE: Ah yes! Good thinking! Come on before something else finds the bird.

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF.

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SCENE THREE

FX: ONCOMING STORM FROM BEACH. THE STORM INTENSIFIES WITH THUNDER.
MULTIPLE FOOTSTEPS RUN IN.

LEE: *(panting)* Well, that was unexpected. Good thing you found this cave while looking for fruit before.

CAMERON: Thanks although I'm not sure how beneficial this is.

LEE: As long as we're out of the storm, we'll be fine.

FX: SILENCE AS STORM CONTINUES TO RAGE.

LEE: You think it'll last long?

CAMERON: You're not panicking already, are you?

LEE: Well, no but I'm not seeing much in the way of wood for fire later on. Plus, what if we get hungry?

CAMERON: Hungry? We've just eaten that bird we shot.

LEE: *(testy)* I'm not hungry now but we can't stay in here forever. What if someone came to rescue us? They wouldn't know we were in here.

CAMERON: No one is going to be rescuing us while we're in here. They'd be crazy to venture out into a storm like that! Besides, you just said we'll be fine as long as we stay in here.

LEE: *(cautiously)* I guess.

CAMERON: You okay?

LEE: *(nervously)* Yeah, why?

FX: THUNDER.

VOICE: LEE GASPS.

CAMERON: You're not scared of the storm, are you?

LEE: *(trying to stay calm)* No, what makes you say that?

CAMERON: Go on, admit it. You're scared.

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LEE: No, I'm not.

CAMERON: (*smug*) Yes, you are. You're scared!

LEE: (*snorts*) Me? In your dreams!

FX: THUNDER STRIKES

CAMERON: (*monotone*) In that case, I'm definitely dreaming. Let go off me!

LEE: Sorry. Okay, so I get a bit nervous when I'm in a cave.

CAMERON: Don't worry, Lee. It'll only be until the storm subsides. Just take a deep breath and try and relax. I'll talk you through the storm. It's not that bad. We're protected from the elements in here.

FX: DEEP BREATH. HOWLING WIND

CAMERON: (*soothingly*) That's just the howling of the wind. Just close your eyes and think of a cool summer breeze.

FX: RUMMAGING SUITCASE.

CAMERON: (VO) Ooooh! Shiny torch!! (expand on playing with torch)

LEE: (*frowns*) What are you doing?

CAMERON: (*hasty*) Nothing. I ... um ... found a torch.

LEE: Oh, yeah. I'd forgotten about that.

FX: FAINT SCRATCHING. STORM OUTSIDE DIES DOWN SLIGHTLY.

CAMERON: By the way, you're in luck. I think the storm is passing.

FX: FAINT THUNDER STRIKES.

CAMERON: C'mon, you can't seriously tell me you're still scared of thunder!

LEE: Actually, I'm feeling a lot better.

FX: SCRATCHING INCREASES.

LEE: Will you stop that! It's not funny!

CAMERON: Stop what?

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LEE: That sound.

CAMERON: What sound?

FX: SILENCE.

CAMERON: You're just imagining things. There's nothing there!
(*pause*)
Here, have something to eat. It'll help with the distraction.

FX: APPLE CRUNCH

LEE: (*through apple crunch*) Thanks, I was getting a bit hungry too and when I do, I don't think straight.

CAMERON: Did you now there's a name for that?

LEE: Really?

(Lee starts to hallucinate and Cameron's voice changes.)

CAMERON: Yeah, it's called being hangry where people get aggressive when they don't get something to eat. It's got something to do with the fight for survival.

FX: SWIRLS.

CAMERON: And now is your chance to prove your worth.

LEE: I don't have to prove anything to you!

CAMERON: Silence! The master has spoken! Fight or die!

FX: SWORD SWIPE.

VOICE: LEE GASPS.

LEE: (*suddenly angry*) Right, you want a fight? I'll give you a fight!!

FX: SWORD FIGHT

CAMERON: Surrender! You cannot defeat me! I am more powerful than you!

LEE: Yeah, well, now it's your turn to prove your worth!

FX: SWORD FIGHT. SWORD DROPS.

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(Cameron's voice slowly starts to turn normal again.)

CAMERON: Lee! Don't! Put it down! You're not yourself!

LEE: Don't try to weasel your way out of this. You will die for your deception!

CAMERON: Lee, just calm down. You're not yourself. Just put the branch down!

LEE: How dare you call my weapon a branch! I will strike you where you lie, you coward!

(Cameron's voice now normal.)

CAMERON: Lee, just listen to yourself. Please, look at what you're holding.

LEE: *(confused)* What happened?

CAMERON: You were trying to beat me with a skinny stick ...

FX: DROPS BRANCH ON THE GROUND.

LEE: Sorry, but you were about to kill me with a sword.

CAMERON: What sword?

LEE: *(confused)* I dunno but you were wearing a strange cape.

CAMERON: *(ridiculously)* A cape??
(slowly)
Oh, my god ...

LEE: What?

CAMERON: I can't believe I've been so stupid!

LEE: *(urging)* What?

CAMERON: I'm sorry. It's too embarrassing ...

LEE: What?! What did you do?

CAMERON *(shamefully)* You're going to hate me.

LEE: I'm going to hate you if **you** don't tell me.

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CAMERON: You know that strange fruit I gave you?

LEE: (*wary*) Yes ...

CAMERON: I think it made you hallucinate.

LEE: And you didn't think before you gave it to me?

CAMERON: I'm really sorry. I was planning on having some myself but you were hungry.

LEE: So much for healthy eating ...

CAMERON: Hey, do you hear that?

LEE: Don't try and change the subject. You tried to poison me. I should really –

CAMERON: No, I'm serious. Listen.

LEE: I don't hear anything.

CAMERON: Exactly! The storm's died down.

FX: MULTIPLE FOOTSTEPS RUN OFF. PAUSE. CREATURE SOUNDS. HISSING. DRAGGING SUITCASE.

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SCENE FOUR

FX: JUNGLE AMBIENCE. MULTIPLE FOOTSTEPS RUN ON.

LEE: *(laughing)* Sun!

CAMERON: Warmth!

LEE: Rain!

CAMERON: Rain?

LEE: *(hasty)* I meant the smell of rain. I love the smell of rain after the storm. It makes you feel so calm inside.

CAMERON: Amen to that!
(pause)
I think we might be missing something.

LEE: What?

CAMERON: You didn't happen to bring the suitcase out, did you?

LEE: I thought you did.
(Pause.)
Alright, I'll go and get it if it means so much to you.

CAMERON: I thought you were scared of the dark.

LEE: I don't hear you offering to retrieve it.

FX: BEAT.

CAMERON: Stay right there.

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUN OUT.

LEE: *(to LISTENER)* There's something weird about that cave. I can't quite put my finger on it but I definitely didn't feel comfortable in there.

VOICE: CAMERON SCREAMS

(Cameron is in the cave)

LEE: 'You okay there, Cameron?

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CAMERON: *(trying to keep calm)* Yeah ... There's this ... thing guarding the suitcase.

LEE: A thing?

CAMERON: Yeah.

FX: BEAT.

LEE: Well, what does he look like?

CAMERON: I wouldn't exactly call it a he.

LEE: Look, stop splitting hairs, will ya! What does it look like?

CAMERON: Bloody scary!

FX: HISS.

CAMERON: *(shaky voice)* There, there. Nice little thing. All - all I want is the suitcase.

LEE: Hey, I've got an idea! I'll be back in the tic.

FX: FOOTSTEPS RUN OFF.

CAMERON: Don't just leave me here! Urgh!!

FX: HISS. FOOTSTEPS RETURN. PAUSE.

(Cameron has run out of the cave)

CAMERON: Hey! If you're going to throw our underwear at us, you can at least give the suitcase back too!

FX: FOOTSTEPS RETURN.

CAMERON: Don't tell me you're hungry for fruit at a time like this.

FX: ROLLING SOUND. DEVOURING OF FRUIT. PANTING AND LICKING OF LIPS.

CAMERON: Do it again.

FX: ROLLING SOUND. DEVOURING OF FRUIT. PANTING AND LICKING OF LIPS.

CAMERON: Right. I'm going in.

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(Cameron goes back into the cave.)

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF. DEVOURING STOPS. GROWLS.

CAMERON: It's okay, thing. Just eat your delicious fruit. Don't mind me. I'll just ...
um ... take the suitcase and leave you alone.

FX: PAUSE. DEVOURING CONTINUES. FOOTSTEPS RETURN. PANTING. DEVOURING
FADES.

CAMERON: Phew! That was a close one!

LEE: So, that's what the scratching noise was! I knew there was a reason
why I was so edgy in there!

CAMERON: I don't remember any scratching ...

LEE: You can't be serious.

CAMERON: I am. I don't remember hearing it. I thought you were just imagining
it because you were so anxious in there.

FX: OMINOUS SILENCE.

LEE: In any case, you can't deny there was a ... creature hiding in there.

CAMERON: Well, not anymore. Speaking of the creature, I'm starting to get
hungry.

FX: RUMMAGING SUITCASE.

CAMERON: Ah crap!

LEE: What?

CAMERON: How many packet of chips did you put in here?

LEE: I dunno. I didn't count them. Why?

CAMERON: Well, I can't count any. What about the sweets?

LEE: Ditto.

CAMERON: (*suspiciously*) How many did you have when I wasn't looking?

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LEE: *(insulted)* Wasn't looking? For one, I wouldn't be able to eat all of it in one go. Secondly, I was with you the *whole* time!

CAMERON: Bullshit!

LEE: *(annoyed)* You calling me a liar?

CAMERON: If the shoe fits. After all, you're the one who gets hangry.

LEE: What the hell has that got to do with anything??

CAMERON: What about the time I went looking for the fruit?

LEE: *(testily)* In case you've forgotten, I was trying to shoot down a bird with bow and arrows I crafted with my own hands. Just so we wouldn't go hungry!

CAMERON: Hang on. So, if you didn't have any of the food and I didn't have any of the food, whose been eating them?

LEE: Well, that's just great! Here we are on the verge of starvation and Mr Thing in there has been helping itself to our food supply!

CAMERON: *(knowingly)* You know, there is one thing we can do ...

LEE: What's that?

CAMERON: Bow and arrow.

LEE: *(Sheepish)* I think there might be a slight problem.

CAMERON: *(groan)* Don't tell me ...

LEE: Sorry.

CAMERON: You said you made the bow and arrows.

LEE: *(curious)* Yeah?

CAMERON: Well ...

LEE: I'll be right back ...

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF.

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CAMERON: (to LISTENER) Seriously, I don't know how Lee expects to get rescued. We've been here for at least an hour already.
(Pause.)
Well, I think it was an hour. No watch.

FX: HELICOPTER IN THE DISTANT.

CAMERON: (to LISTENER) You hear that? I'm not hearing things, am I?

VOICE: CAMERON FRANTICALLY CALLS OUT TO HELICOPTER

FX: HELICOPTER FADES.

CAMERON: (groans) Great! Now, we'll never get off this bloody island!

FX: FOOSTEPS ON.

CAMERON: Hang on. That's a tourist with a map ... May I?

TOURIST: Sure.

CAMERON: Is this a map of the island?

TOURIST: Yep.

CAMERON: That's not what I think it is, is it?
(pause)
Thank you.

FX: FOOTSTEPS OFF.

CAMERON: Well, well, well. This is a turn up for the books. Hang on. That means the helicopter was landing somewhere near here ...

FX: SOFT RESORT AMBIENCE. FOOSTEPS ON.

LEE: Cameron! You'll never guess what I found!

CAMERON: A resort?

LEE: How did you know?

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CAMERON: A tourist just wandered passed here with a map of the island. You know what that means, don't you?
(grins)
We were never lost in the first place! We must've just been on the other side of the island all along.
(sudden realization)
That would also explain the message in the bottle – sort of.

LEE: *(grins)* Lets go book ourselves a room.

CAMERON: Hang on. There's something I don't quite get.

LEE: What's that?

CAMERON: Your phone.

LEE: What about it?

CAMERON: Before you couldn't get a signal, but if we are near a resort ...

LEE: Let me just check something.

FX: OPENING PHONE.

LEE: *(smiles sheepishly)* Silly me. No SIM card.

CAMERON: *(sighs)* C'mon. Lets just go ...