

The Island Without Parents

4 ft 11 in / 1.50 m

The mystery isn't solved. It's crossed.

LOGLINE

When an inexplicable epidemic kills the adults of a village on an island far from everything, a little person takes charge of eight children who, to survive, must not grow up.

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SYNOPSIS

On an island far from everything, in a village of nine huts, animals and adults begin to die for no apparent or comprehensible reason. The evil strikes relentlessly and inexorably. When only Amara, the village chief's widow, and Guè, a thirty-five-year-old man of short stature, are left alive, Amara prepares for the worst and asks Guè to look after the children.

Amara dies too, and Guè takes command of the community of children, deciding everything: rations, water, the generator and, until a reckless act by little Carlito breaks it, the use of the radio.

While they wait for rescue, death gradually strikes the children too. When he suspects that the mysterious evil strikes those who breathe more than one and a half metres above the ground, Carlito decides to always walk on his knees. Marcela shares the suspicion, while Gonzalo denies fear and defies the threshold. Guè, meanwhile, chooses and imposes, always poised between method, fear of dying, survival instinct and tests carried out at the risk of the children's lives.

When the boat arrives with the doctor and the rescuers, only Guè and three children are left on the island: Marcela, Veronica and Carlito.

The doctor investigates but cannot make a diagnosis and finds no explanation. Survivors and rescuers leave the island without an answer. Only Guè, who in the eyes of the outside world is the man who saved the children, forms a hypothesis he keeps to himself as the island recedes, with the broken radio and the graves.

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From the village to the ship (five movements)

I	**The evil**	The birds, then the adults. Amara entrusts the children to Guè.
2	**The suspicion**	Guè ties the height flashes and sends Rafael to fetch the boxes.
3	**The deduction**	Paco climbs the branch. Carlito understands: “I have to stay small.”
4	**The challenge**	The countdown, the thirst, Gonzalo and Raul on the highest branch.
5	**The arrival**	The doctor finds nothing. They leave without an answer.

CHARACTERS

Guè, 35
The last adult. Short in stature, perhaps safe because of it. Villain, coward or caring?

Carlito, 10
Deduces the rule and has walked on his knees ever since.

Marcela, 11
Measures, verifies, reaches the same truth by another road.

Gonzalo, 12
Denies fear and defies the threshold, all the way to the top.

Raul, 13
Follows whoever is strongest at the moment: Gonzalo, Guè or Carlito.

Veronica, 4
For her, staying low is still natural. She watches the ants.

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One adult and five ways of being afraid

Subtraction

Information arrives through gestures, environmental data, ellipses. A number, a glance, a branch.

Black irony

“Apart from God, everything has an explanation,” and the rooster drops dead an instant later.

Echoes

The lizard and the bird from the opening return alive in the finale, without comment.

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FIVE KEY IMAGES

The lizard

Climbs, stops, falls. At the start.

The branch

At one and a half metres, over the playground.

The knees

Carlito walks on his knees even when the rescuers arrive.

The radio

Broken, abandoned in the last shot.

The rain

Unearths the dead. Perhaps it washes the air.

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PRODUCTION

Psychological drama | Character-driven film | Mystery | Tragedy | Dark tone

81
pages

1–2
locations
One island, plus brief scenes on the boat.

$0.5–2M
Possible budget
From $0.5 to $2 million.

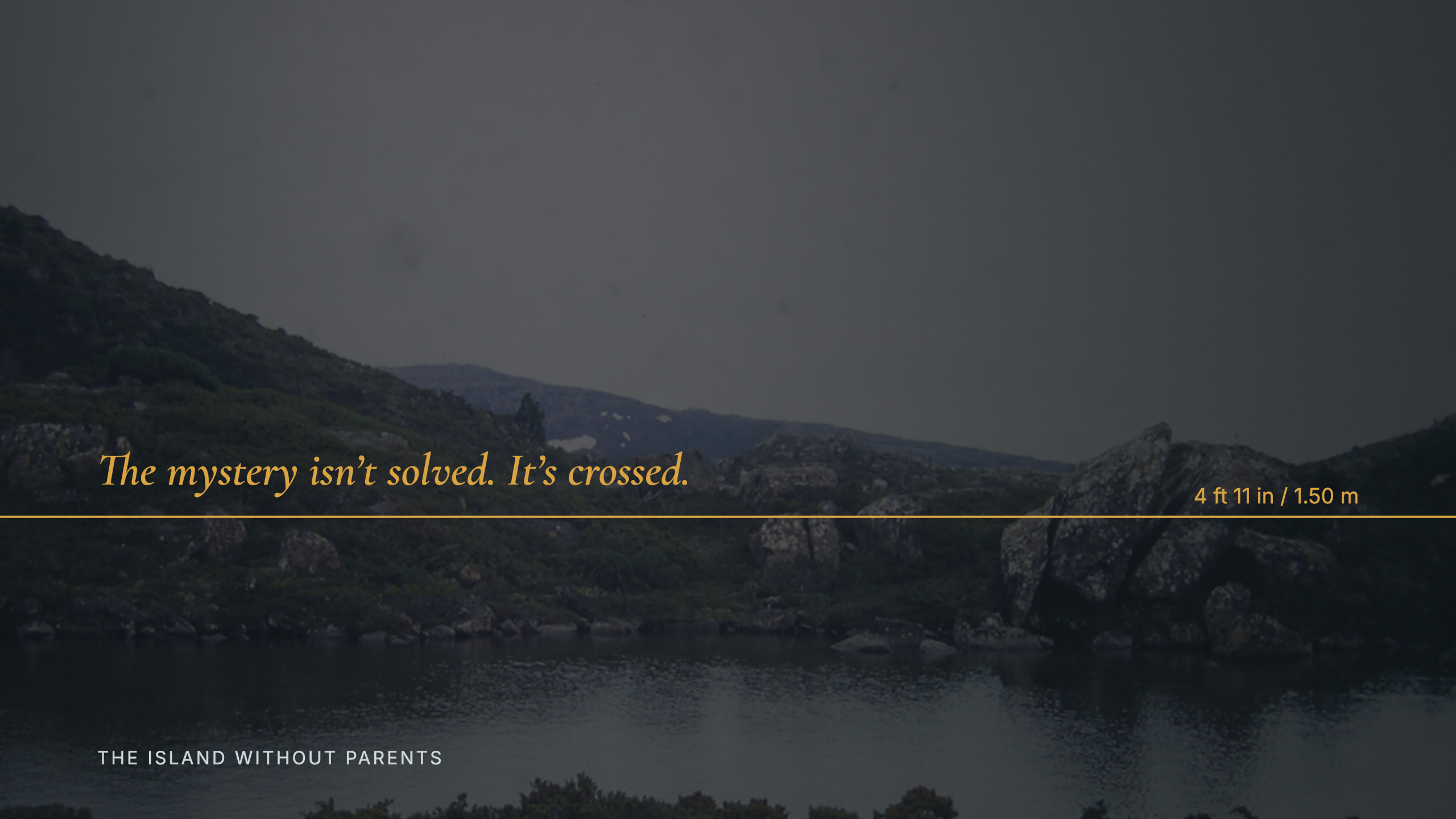
No special effects. Cost items: the island, a dozen adults in the first act, eight child actors, the animals, a short-statured actor for Guè.

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REFERENCES

Lord of the Flies, 1963
Children alone on an island, without adults.

Picnic at Hanging Rock, 1975
A mystery that is never solved.


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