

The Lake

Pilot Episode
“Tilt-a-Girl”

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AMAZE

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. ROUSSEAU'S GAS & GO - DAY

A vintage truck stop. An electric car charges at a post. Next to it, BILLIE (16, biracial) Facetimes her parents.

BILLIE
It's not fair!

2 INT. HOME OFFICE - INTERCUT

OLIVER and NAOMI (52 & 47, Black), crowd Billie's screen.

OLIVER
Your parents are making you spend
summer on a lake. We're monsters.

BILLIE
I've said I'm sorry. Can't I come
home?

NAOMI
Daddy and I feel it's safer with you
in the country.

BILLIE
You think it's safer here?

She gives them a slow pan of the gas stop.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm about to get eaten by inbred
hillbillies or rumble with drunken
townies.

OLIVER
Buck up, Billie-bear. It's important
to know your birthfather.

BILLIE
I have a dad. Who's usually pretty
cool when he's not sending me back
to the factory for parts.

NAOMI
We're *giving* you the chance to connect
with your birth story. You know how
Daddy and I feel about Open Adoptions.

NAOMI/OLIVER
No secret histories to
fester or fetishize.

BILLIE
*"No secret histories to
fester or fetishize..."*

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Just once, angry nuns hiding a slutty teen mom might be nice.

NAOMI

Justin may skew slutty but good luck finding his skeleton in a closet.

JUSTIN (PRELAP)

Rainbow pops... ?

3 INT. ROUSSEAU'S GAS & GO - DAY

In the back, at the freezers, JUSTIN LOVEJOY (35, white, nerdy, gay fit), tries to decide on a flavor of ice cream.

JUSTIN

Bit on the nose... Chocolate?
Pandering... Vanilla? Probably
triggering... Oreo? Definitely
insulting... Neapolitan? All the
flavors of colonialism...

Justin clocks the very KEWT clerk, RILEY (30s, tats), watching him talk to a freezer. Red-faced, he shuts the door and heads for the cash, tossing items in his basket willy nilly.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Hey.

He puts his basket down so Riley can ring up his items.

RILEY

No ice cream. Lose the argument
back there?

JUSTIN

Lactose intolerant. Who needs to
douche after a shot of 2%, right?

Riley cocks an eyebrow: *did Justin just talk anal hygiene?*

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

T.M.I-yai-yai...

(backpeddling)

My daughter's an athlete. Bit of a
fit-shamer.

(then)

My daughter... So weird to say...

RILEY

Only if it's not your daughter.

JUSTIN

Just out of practice. I had her in high school then took off to Australia.

Riley cocks an eyebrow,

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

There was an adoption. Between that.
(then)
It's our first summer together. I got us a place on the lake.

RILEY

Lucky to find one. Mostly lifers here.

JUSTIN

I know. My grandparents used to have a cottage on the lake but Dad sold it. My stepmom wanted some shitty condo in Florida or something.

RILEY

Ouch.

JUSTIN

Ya but without their shiny example of marital dystopia, I'd've missed years of formative trauma dating any manchild with a bun and a beard.

Riley has both. He pushes Justin's bags towards him.

RILEY

Have a great summer.

Justin smiles. Wishing the floor would open under him.

4 EXT. ROUSSEAU'S GAS & GO - MOMENTS LATER

Billie hangs up the phone when Justin bursts out of the store, looking like a demented sherpa with all his grocery bags.

BILLIE

Thought we were only stopping for ice cream.

He cram bags furiously in the back. Crunching and breaking.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

That better be your shit.

Justin gets in the car. Billie following.

5 INT. JUSTIN'S CAR- DAY

Justin throws the last bags on Billie's lap.

BILLIE
What happened?

JUSTIN
I think I tried to seduce my prison
hipster fantasy with anal douching.

BILLIE
That's why my generation doesn't
have sex.

Justin goes to turn the key--

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Whoa! Still plugged in.

JUSTIN
How much 'til a full charge?

BILLIE
Thirty minutes.

Justin lays his head against the wheel. Defeated.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Saving the environment takes time.

Justin presses his forehead against the horn: *hooooooooonk...*

TITLE SEQUENCE - THE LAKE

6 EXT. WOODS - DAY

Justin and Billie trudge along a dirt road. Justin drags a
paddle-board with suitcases and coolers like a sled.

JUSTIN
Probably should've gone with some
4x4 thing but it felt homophobic.

Billie marches ahead. Slapping flies and sulking.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Did you see the pictures of the
cottage I rented? So cute, right?
Fingers crossed there's A/C.

BILLIE
Air conditioning is one of the biggest
contributors to climate change.

JUSTIN

Who needs A/C on a lake...

The tension thickens but then the trees part, revealing the cottage. It actually is adorable. Run down but adorable.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

See? Total lakeside fantasy.

7 INT. JUSTIN'S COTTAGE - DAY

The inside is not.

JUSTIN

And 80s horror realness.

They take in the musty animal heads on the wall.

BILLIE

I'll have to stay a virgin if I'm gonna make it to Labour Day.

JUSTIN

Feels like the right time to start drinking.

Justin retrieves two wine boxes from a cooler.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Maintaining a low-key buzz is critical to every cottage experience. Is Mama a Rose or more of a Sav Blanc?

BILLIE

"Mama" is sixteen.

Justin puts a cork in Operation Wine box. Tries a new tact.

JUSTIN

Maybe a swim in the lake. Everything feels better after a swim in the lake.

8 EXT. JUSTIN'S DOCK - DAY

Justin and Billie arrive at the dock in swim trunks. The shoreline is a little reedy. The dock a little mossy.

BILLIE

Ew...

JUSTIN

Don't tell me you've never swum in a lake before. Weren't you training for the baby Olympics?

She hasn't but doesn't want to tell him that.

BILLIE
There better not be leeches.

ULRIKE (O.S.)
(Swedish accent)
Actually leeches are excellent for
curing hypertension..

A giant floppy hat swims towards them. This is ULRIKE (60).

ULRIKE (CONT'D)
Also reattaching fingers after
surgery. Just not the cure for
hemorrhoids the Romans hoped.

Billie and Justin unconsciously touch their buttoles. Ouch.

ULRIKE (CONT'D)
Halla, I'm Ulrike. I have the cottage
next door.

JUSTIN
Hollah, I'm Justin and this is my
daughter, Billie.

BILLIE
Birth daughter. I'm adopted.

JUSTIN
It's an open adoption. Birthparents
are still part of their kid's life.

BILLIE
He got his best friend pregnant at
prom. Like in a dumb teen comedy.

JUSTIN
(cheery)
Only not funny because we thought
we'd ruined our lives and our families
hated us.

An unimpressed Ulrike absorbs this while treading water.

ULRIKE
Meh. Wolves raise pups communally
and the male emu looks after the young
while the female seeks a new mate.

JUSTIN
Polyemury is a valid life choice.

ULRIKE

I have a little skaal hour at 5.
Come by anytime.

Ulrike swims away, giving them the full pap.

BILLIE

Please tell me that's seaweed.

JUSTIN

Unwaxed seaweed... The hat's a fresh
spin.

BILLIE

Still wanna swim in that?

JUSTIN

Maybe canoe. Let the water air out
a bit.

9 SERIES OF SHOTS - "LEARNING TO CANOE" - DAY

1. Billie in the prow. Justin teaches in back.

JUSTIN

You make a J. Make a J.

They turn in circles.

2. Justin directs from the prow. Billie paddles in back.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Make a J! A J!!!

BILLIE

I learned how to write on a keyboard!

They turn in circles.

3. Billie and Justin paddle backwards. Another canoe passes
them going the right way. They give a friendly wave.

CANOERS

Looking good!

Justin paddle-blocks Bille to stop her from lunging at them.

4. Billie lounges, feet up. Justin is gone. PANNING down
to reveal Justin in the water, pushing the canoe from behind.

10 EXT. LAKE - DAY

Justin and Billie, finally in synch-ish, paddle across the
shining water. As they pass an overwrought cottage--

JUSTIN

That one's the Harrington's. After thirty years of subpar banging, Mrs. Harrington leased her husband to her best friend Maureen two nights a week, but *escandalo*, Mr. Harrington broke the deal and married Whoreen at Laborpalooza next summer.

BILLIE

Laborpaloozaa?

JUSTIN

Last event on the lake before the Boathouse shuts for the season. There's a Regatta, a potluck throwdown, the Tilt-off. Everyone competes for shitty trophies and bragging rights. People hold grudges for generations.

BILLIE

Sounds about White.

A magnificent cottage appears, blending old and new.

JUSTIN

And that one...
(stops paddling)
Used to be ours. My great-grand father built it. Spent every summer there as a kid.

Even Billie can't help but admire it.

BILLIE

Who owns it now?

JUSTIN

Dunno. Shall we find out?

Justin steers towards the shoreline.

BILLIE

Shouldn't we call first?

JUSTIN

We're just dropping in on a neighbor.

BILLIE

Feels more like trespassing.

JUSTIN

Turn us around then.

Billie tries but can't because Justin is steering the canoe.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Someone needs to work on their J-
stroke.

11 EXT. MAISY-MAY'S COTTAGE - LATER

Justin and Billie walk the beautifully landscaped grounds.

JUSTIN
Can you believe that garden? How...

BILLIE
Gorgeous it is?

JUSTIN
Like a rainbow took a nap. And I
want to have babies with that dock.

They arrive at the door. Justin knocks.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Hello? Anyone home? Hello... ?

BILLIE
We came. We knocked. We leave.

Justin peers inside but curtains block the view.

JUSTIN
I wanna see how these powerdouches
ruined the homestead with their
exquisite taste.

He backs up. Reassesses. Then points to a nearby tree.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
If you climb that tree you can get
in through the bathroom window.
It's how I snuck home after curfew.

BILLIE
Except you're not twelve and that's
a felony.

JUSTIN
It's an *adventure*. A classic summer
shenanigan.

BILLIE
See, for a Black girl, Breaking and
Entering is more a "When They See
Us" adventure than a "Wet Hot American
Summer" shenanigan.

JUSTIN

Just keep an eye out if anyone comes
back.

She watches in disbelief as Justin climbs the tree--

BILLIE

Mom will definitely let me come home
if she sees this.

She reaches for her phone. Realizes it's in the canoe.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Damn.

She heads to the dock.

12 INT. MAISY-MAY'S COTTAGE - BATHROOM - DAY

Justin drops from the window. Takes in the woodsy charm.

JUSTIN

Holy shit... It's the same.

He exits the bathroom a beat. Returns. Turns on the tap.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Fixed the water pressure. Ten points.

13 EXT. MAISY-MAY'S DOCK - DAY

As Billie grabs her phone, she sees something on the water.

BILLIE

Crap.

She races back to the cottage.

14 INT. MAISY-MAY'S COTTAGE - UPSTAIRS HALL - CONTINUOUS

Justin quietly walks the corridor, peeking into bedrooms.
The wall is hung with vintage maps, antique mirrors, etc.

JUSTIN

No way...

He unhooks a framed cross-stitched limerick.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh, grampa...

He wipes a tear away.

BILLIE (O.S.)

Justin!

Justin YELPS in surprise. Sees Billie in the window.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Let's go. Someone's coming.

Justin shoves the limerick down his bathing trunks.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

JUSTIN
It was my-

BILLIE
Put it back or I'm calling the Coast
Guard.

Justin begrudgingly puts it back, muttering:

JUSTIN
There's no Coast Guard on a lake.
It's a committee. And you have to
be elected--

BILLIE
OH MY GOD WOULD YOU SHUT UP AND GO?!

Justin runs to the window and Billie YANKS him up.

15 EXT. MAISY-MAY'S DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

Billie and Justin arrive just as VICTOR (42, Chinese) and KILLIAN (15, biracial) rise from the water like the iconic James Bond beefcake moment in Casino Royale. Justin and Billie grin goofily as the men glisten towards them.

VICTOR
Um... Who are you?

NEEDLE SCRATCH.

BILLIE
Sorry. We're Billie.
(oops)
I'm Billie. He's Justin.

JUSTIN
Her dad. Birth dad.

BILLIE
I'm adopted. He gave me up because
he's gay.

JUSTIN

Nope. Chose parents who could give her a better life. Wasn't even out.

(beat)

Am now.

(super awkward)

Yas... Kween....

Victor and Killian trade looks: *O-kaaaay...*

VICTOR

Uh, nice to meet you. I'm Victor. And this is my son, Killian.

KILLIAN

What are you doing on our dock?

BILLIE

My great-grandsomething built your cottage and he wanted to show me.

JUSTIN

We knocked but nobody was home.

Victor shifts uncomfortably hearing this.

VICTOR

We were at the Boathouse. Everyone's getting ready for the Opening BBQ tonight.

KILLIAN

You coming?

A playing-it-cool Billie looks to Justin for confirmation.

JUSTIN

Wouldn't miss it.

BILLIE

Maybe you could give us a tour sometime?

Killian is about to answer "yes" but Victor stops him.

VICTOR

I'll ask my wife. It's her cottage.

Killian looks at his dad, surprised. What's that about?

JUSTIN

We still have to unpack. It was nice meeting you.

Billie waves and gets in the canoe as Justin pushes off--

BILLIE

For the record, that's how you get a tour *without* invading someone's home.

JUSTIN

Tour of what? Your vagina? I saw you drooling over that Aberzombie.

BILLIE

Like how you were eyeboning his dad.

JUSTIN

I don't need to stay a virgin to survive the summer. Your words.

ON THE DOCK, father and son watch them paddle away.

KILLIAN

Why do you need to ask mom to show the cottage?

VICTOR

You know she likes everything to be perfect. Go get changed for the BBQ.

Killian heads up to the cottage. Victor watches Justin and Billie canoe away, a worried look on his face.

16 EXT. JUSTIN'S COTTAGE - DAY

Billie wanders the front lawn, trying to find a signal. Justin exits the cottage with a tray of snacks and drinks.

JUSTIN

Get ready for some deep dives into septic tanks at the BBQ tonight. How you flush your poop is a hot button topic on the lake.

He sets the tray on a picnic table. Opens wobbly lawn chairs.

BILLIE

There's no signal here.

JUSTIN

Someone's coming Monday. You can ask Ulrike to use hers but textiles and bandwidth may not be compatible.

BILLIE

Do you know how parenting works? Baseline? Keep the kid safe.

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Like, don't rent a cabin in the woods if you can't call for help when invaded by rednecks or demons. Or don't be the rednecks or demons invading someone else's cabin.

JUSTIN

Technically you were never inside.
(then)
I just wanted to show you where you came from.

BILLIE

I know where I came from. It's 300 clicks from here. And I'm going back as soon as I tell Mom and Dad that you broke into someone's cottage.

Justin realizes he could be in big shit here.

JUSTIN

I got a little excited going from FaceTime to RealTime and overshot. We haven't been on the same continent since you were a baby.

BILLIE

Whose fault is that?

Justin swallows. She knows where to twist the knife.

JUSTIN

Whatever you did to deserve it, your parents said it's summer with me or All-Girls Bible Camp. If you'd prefer experimenting with light lesbianism and the Word of our Lord, by all means, call them from the Boathouse.

Billie bites her tongue. She definitely doesn't want that.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I know it's not the summer you wanted but you're all about the environment, this place is all environment... And there's Killian... Kissy, kissy, Kissian.

BILLIE

I'm the child. Me.

Justin feels her yield. A teensie bit.

JUSTIN
Give it a shot? At least for tonight?

BILLIE
Just... don't try to be my parent.

JUSTIN
Never. I'm not like other birth
dads. I'm a *cool* birth Dad.

BILLIE
Are you quoting Mean Girls?

JUSTIN
Your parents have their Bible. I
have mine.

Billie almost smiles. Not yet friends. Not quite enemies.

17 EXT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - ESTABLISHING

Billie and Justin approach a huge log cabin. Boats lashed
to its dock. Fairy lights twinkling to the stars.

BILLIE
Pretty extra for a Boathouse.

JUSTIN
It's over 150 years old. Used to be a
Fishing Club, menfolk only. But then
ladies became people so hard pivot.
Imagine the PTA ran a daycare for
functional alcoholics.

18 INT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - MAIN HALL - DAY

Billie and Justin walk into the main hall. Cottagers and
kids mingle. Eat off paper plates. Drink from plastic cups.

BILLIE
Whoa. So. Much. Sunburn.

JUSTIN
Beginning of the season is muy charro.
We're weeks from peak sunscreen.

Cottagers stare and whisper as Billie and Justin grab drinks
and food from the buffet table.

BILLIE
Why is everyone staring at us?

JUSTIN

Because my gay ass giving you up for adoption was the second biggest escandalo to rock the lake since Whoreen married Saggy Balls Henderson.

BILLIE

Too late to run for it?

Justin clocks two people moving towards him like sharks.

JUSTIN

For me. The sharks are already circling. The library downstairs is always empty.

Billie slips away just as WAYNE and JAYNE MOORE arrive. Justin takes a bolstering chug of wine.

WAYNE

Justin Lovejoy! Can't believe you're back, buddy!

JUSTIN

Hey, Wayne. Jayne.

JAYNE

Was that...

JUSTIN

The child I abandoned.

JAYNE

Hilarious. That sense of humor hasn't vanished with your waistline. OmJeepers, you're so mini now!

JUSTIN

Australia. The misogyny and melanoma just melt the fat away.

JAYNE

Is it true you dated a Hemsworth?

JUSTIN

A Coff's Harbour Hemsworth. Shorter. More knuckle hair.

WAYNE

And now you've come home to be a parent. Sort of. After giving it up for the wild gay lifestyle.

JUSTIN

This place has seen more orgies and
fists in the tush than me.

JAYNE

You need any help you come see us.
We have four now. Can you believe?

WAYNE

Quads. But with legs.

JAYNE

It's gonna be so fun having you back!

WAYNE

Like old times.

JUSTIN

OhfuckIhopenot.

They slurp their drinks. Reunions are fun!

19 INT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - DOWNSTAIRS LIBRARY - DAY

Billie flips through a photo album of the fishing club over
the decades. Killian enters.

KILLIAN

Hiding?

BILLIE

It was a bit Housewives of Cottage
Country up there.

Billie points to a shot of two men balancing on two canoes
in life jackets, helmets, holding foam-swaddled paddles.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

What's this chapter in sunstroke?

KILLIAN

Tilting. Canoe jousting.

BILLIE

That would definitely not happen
with more melanin on the lake.

KILLIAN

It's actually pretty fun. There's a
tournament at the end of the summer.
My Dad's won it like nine times.

BILLIE

One more he get a free canoe?

KILLIAN

Better. He beats Wayne Moore's record.
That dude's a talking shart.

BILLIE

Maybe I should try. Heard something
about pride and falls, black horses
and races...

KILLIAN

You'd be up against the junior champ.
And I hear he's unbeatable.

She realizes it's him. Smiles. Sparky-sparks.

BILLIE

Sounds like a dare.

KILLIAN

Double. Dawg.

Challenge accepted.

20 INT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - MAIN HALL - AT THE SAME TIME

Justin still trapped in his convo with Wayne and Jayne.

WAYNE

Must be weird not having the old
place. Never thought you'd let it
go.

JUSTIN

Wasn't up to me.

Jayne and Wayne trade conspirator looks.

JAYNE

Do you know who owns it now?

JUSTIN

Mhmm. Dropped by earlier today.

Jayne and Wayne lean closer. Gossip vampires.

WAYNE

And you're cool with it?

Justin sees Victor chatting across the room. An escape!

JUSTIN

Can't live in the past. I'm gonna
go say hi now. Great catching up.

Justin slips away leaving them to gawk from across the room.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Victor!

Victor turns, revealing dishy Riley and a small boy of nine, (this is OPAL LIN), who is clearly upset.

VICTOR

Justin! Do you know Riley--?

JUSTIN

From the Gas 'n Going down. Not on you. In flames. Because when we met I was such a retar-nope. We don't say that anymore.

(wipes his brow)

Nice to see you again.

Confused beat as everyone digests Justin's mini spinout.

VICTOR

And this is my son, Darien.

OPAL

Opal.

VICTOR

Sorry. Opal is his chosen name.

OPAL

My pronouns are he and him.

JUSTIN

Me too. Pronoun twinsies.

Riley smiles and Opal glares at them both. *Not funny.*

VICTOR

We're having a rough night. Opal's pick got torpedoed for Movie Night.

OPAL

But I got there first! That's why there's a sign-up sheet! Now we have to watch *Minions*. Again.

JUSTIN

I thought *Minions* was cute.

OPAL

More like *Cretins*.

VICTOR

You can watch Carol with your Zoom group.

OPAL

Killian better not torrent porn when we do. The buffering's maddening.

Opal stalks off. A contained hurricane.

JUSTIN

Carol... Oof. Tough sell.

VICTOR

He's still upset from getting booted off the Talent Show committee. He wanted to replace the annual show with Boathouse Drag Race, Canadian Diva edition. They'd start with Anne Murray, work their way through Jann Arden, KD Lang, Sarah McLachlin...
(shrugs)
Anyone can do Shania or Celine.

Justin and Riley nod. Fair point.

JUSTIN

Your wife here? Love to meet her.

Victor shifts uncomfortably.

VICTOR

About that... something you should know about my wife. She's--

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Justin? Justin LOVEJOY!!!!

Justin turns to see a radiant WOMAN beaming at him. He drops his plastic cup in shock. SPLOOSH.

JUSTIN

Maisy-May... ?

VICTOR

Your stepsister.

MAISY-MAY (41) throws her arms around him in a happy hug.

MAISY-MAY

Welcome home, little brother.

21 EXT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - DOCKS - DAY

On the sand, Killian and Billie stand in canoes, holding foam wrapped paddles reminiscent of a Karate Kid montage.

KILLIAN

Remember: brace before you swing.

BILLIE

I'll brace your face.

KILLIAN

Weak.

BILLIE

I'm still gonna destroy you.

KILLIAN

What's that thing about Pride and--

Billie swings wildly at Killian and pitches onto the sand.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)

Falls?

Killian hops off his canoe to help her up.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)

Told you to brace.

He offers his hand. She yanks him down next to her.

BILLIE

Works both ways.

They're face to face. First kiss countdown.

KILLIAN

I'm glad you're here this summer.

Billie bites her lip. Does she still want to leave?

TEEN GIRL VOICES (O.S.)

OMG, Killian. Stop pawing her.

Four teens step out from the shadows: KERI, JERI, TERI and OLIVE (16); Wayne and Jayne's quadruplets from hell.

KERI

She's not a chew toy.

Killian and Billie scramble to their feet.

KILLIAN

Billie, this is Keri, Teri, Jeri and Olive. They have the cottage across from the Boathouse.

Jeri holds up a magnum of vodka.

JERI

Look what we nicked from the canteen.

KERI

This tilting's 'bout to get turnt.

Billie sets her jaw. No way these girls are taking her down.

22 EXT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - UPPER DECK - DAY

Justin and Maisy-May speak outside, looking across the lake.

JUSTIN

I don't understand. Dad was gonna sell the cottage because your mom wanted some condo in Florida.

MAISY-MAY

He changed his mind.

JUSTIN

So did you buy it from him?

MAISY-MAY

No. He left it to me.

Sucker punch to Justin's gut.

MAISY-MAY (CONT'D)

I think when he saw how happy I was here... how happy the boys were... He wanted it to stay in the family.

JUSTIN

But... we're not even related. Your Mom was barely married to my dad.

MAISY-MAY

Sixteen years.

JUSTIN

First two don't count. He was still married to my mom.

He stabs a metal straw into a box of rose like a juice box.

MAISY-MAY

I know you two didn't have an easy relationship but he changed. You should've seen him with Opal...

Justin slurps his wine to drown out *that* unfair image.

MAISY-MAY (CONT'D)

I understand why you left. Just the *thought* of giving up my babies...

SLURP. The box is dry. Justin looks down to the docks below. Something familiar catching his eye--

MAISY-MAY (CONT'D)

I know how much the lake meant to
you. It's why you brought Billie,
right?

JUSTIN

Billie...

That's who he's seeing on the shoreline. He tosses his
winebox over the edge and bolts for the docks.

MAISY-MAY

We don't litter...

Maisy walks to the edge to see the box and sees...

MAISY-MAY (CONT'D)

Oh shit.

23 EXT. BOATHOUSE LODGE - DOCKS - DAY

Billie eats sand. Again.

BILLIE

Fuck.

KERI, JERI, TERI

Shot! Shot! Shot! Shot!

Billie takes an angry swig of vodka.

BILLIE

You next, Jeri?

TERI

It's Teri.

BILLIE

Whatever, Gwyneth.

They stand on their canoes. Billie wobbling from many shots.

KERI

Three, two, one -- TILT!

Teri swings. Billie dodges. Stays up.

TERI

Wish my thighs were muscular like
yours.

Billie smiles. Teri exploits and swings again. Billie falls.

KERI

Balance is tough with abandonment issues.

JERI

No stigma.

Billie grabs the bottle from Olive. Chugs three shots worth.

KILLIAN

Maybe that's enough.

BILLIE

Back off! I already have a boyfriend!

Killian steps away hurt just as Justin arrives running.

JUSTIN

What the hell is going on?

BILLIE

I'm tilting the shit out these four... eight bishes...

JUSTIN

Easy, spinny Minnie.

Justin grabs the vodka from a swaying Billie.

KERI

She had it when we got here.

MAISY-MAY (O.S.)

That true, Killian?

Maisy-May has arrived as backup.

JUSTIN

I got this, Maisy.

MAISY-MAY

Let me help. I know these kids.

JUSTIN

So would I if you hadn't stolen our cottage.

BILLIE

They *stole* our cottage?!

(to Killian)

I can't believe I let you sexy Mr Miyage-me.

Drawn by the fracas, Ulrike, Victor, Riley, Wayne and Jayne arrive from the Boathouse.

JAYNE

What's going on, girls?

TERI

We were just showing her how to tilt,
Mummy.

JERI

She was like this when we got here.

ULRIKE

The rules are very clear about
underage drinking. Two weeks
suspension from Boathouse privileges
and parents pay a 500 dollar fine to
the Canteen Renovation Fund.

(at Billie and Justin)

Biological *and* adoptive.

A panicked Billie whispers to Justin:

BILLIE

I don't wanna go to Bible Camp.

Justin nods. He's the only one who can save her.

JUSTIN

The only one drinking is me!

Drawing all eyes, Justin chugs the vodka then holds the bottle
aloft like he just drew a sword from a goddamn stone.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

And why shouldn't I? I've been robbed
of my birthright by trickery and
deception.

MAISY-MAY

There was no decep-

He thrusts the bottle towards her--

JUSTIN

DECEPTION!

(belches ferociously)

... Forgot about the wine...

KERI

Wine before liquor...

JAYNE

... Never sicker.

Justin jumps unsteadily on to a canoe.

JUSTIN

To reclaim my family honor, I
challenge Maisy-May by the sacred
blood oath of Trial by Tilt.

MAISY-MAY

That's not a thing.

JAYNE/WAYNE

Shh. We wanna see where this goes.

JUSTIN

If defeated in lawful tilt, you must
return the cottage to its rightful
owners. Will you answer the call?!

VICTOR (O.S.)

We will.

Justin backs away from going up against a serious athlete.

JUSTIN

Actually, my challenge was more for
Maisy-May...

VICTOR

As her husband and champion, I am
sworn to defend her honor.

MAISY-MAY

A moment, Lancelot?

As Maisy pulls her husband aside, Billie whispers to Justin:

BILLIE

You can't win. Victor's been Tilting
Champ for nine years.

JUSTIN

Never thought I could. Lost every
Tilt and my father's love by the
third grade. But no one will remember
you drinking tomorrow.

WITH MAISY AND VICTOR.

MAISY-MAY

Are you insane? We're not giving
him our cottage if you lose!

VICTOR

He just found out his Dad left it to
you. I'll let him knock me around a
little. Make him feel better.

Maisy reluctantly backs down.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

We're ready.

Justin and Billie trade looks.

BILLIE

You really gonna humiliate yourself
in front of all these people?

JUSTIN

For you? Anything.

He squeezes her hand.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

But you need to walk me to the dock.
Lotta spinning right now.

With as much dignity as their drunk asses can muster, they
head for the water. Slipping once. Maybe thrice.

24 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

Things got tribal fast. People line the docks. Holding
flashlights. Drums. Opal clutches his mom's hand.

OPAL

We're not really gonna lose our
cottage if Daddy loses, right, Mum?

MAISY-MAY

No, baby. Just our dignity.

ON THE WATER, Victor and Justin stand in their canoes. Helmets
and lifejackets on, foam-swaddled paddles in hand.

VICTOR

Remember to brace.

Justin nods. Terrified.

ON THE DOCKS-- Killian tries to make nice with Billie.

KILLIAN

We didn't steal your dad's cottage.

BILLIE

Birth dad. And whatever you thought
was happening here? That's over.

Ulrike, in full Midsommar caftan, solemnly holds a white
scarf, ready to wave it to start the tilt.

Tension rises. Unbearable build up. A penny whistle blows.

ULRIKE

TILT!

Justin takes one look at Victor - the picture of Tilting Perfection - and jumps in the water. SPLOOSH.

25 EXT. JUSTIN'S COTTAGE - ESTABLISHING (DAY 2)

The morning after. Birds chirp. The lake glistens.

26 EXT. JUSTIN'S COTTAGE - DAY

A hungover Justin slumps in a lawn chair. Billie exits the cabin with an ice mask and mugs of coffee.

BILLIE

I don't think anyone saw you vomit when you hit the water.

JUSTIN

There's a very strong chance Wayne and Jayne tagged my tilt-a-hurl on Facebook.

She hands him the ice mask and a coffee.

BILLIE

Thanks. For saving me from getting saved.

JUSTIN

I'm still gonna dunk you in the lake.

Billie watches Justin put on the mask. Digs deep for courage.

BILLIE

What happened... in Australia... Why did you come back?

JUSTIN

... Don't marry a Buddhist if you're attached to staying Chlamydia free.

Justin pushes up his mask. Peeps out from under it.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Your turn. Why did your parents wanna send you to Bible camp?

Billie bites her lip.

BILLIE

A few sexts to a boy accidentally uploading to the family cloud may have convinced them it was time to connect with my birth-story.

JUSTIN

I thought it was because you got arrested at that Climate March.

BILLIE

They were proud of that. My booty-shots to Jared, not so much.

JUSTIN

It's hard to get the lighting right. Even Captain America made his super soldier look pretty unsuper//pretty dinky look shrinky.

(then)

So... *Jared*... Snowboarder? DJ?

BILLIE

Leader of my activist youth circle.

JUSTIN

Fuck I'm old.

(then)

If your parents made you come here he's either thirty-seven or nine.

BILLIE

Twenty-two. He starts grad school in the fall.

JUSTIN

Because that's why you took those pics. For his big brain.

(then)

But if you hadn't sent him childporn we wouldn't be here so, thanks, Jared.

They smile warmly at each other. A beginning.

KILLIAN (O.S.)

Who's Jared?

It's Killian, holding a box. Justin looks to Billie who shakes her head, message clear: *say nothing of Jared*.

JUSTIN

My, uh, weed dealer. Wish he delivered. Ugh. Hangovers.

KILLIAN

Mom wanted to give you some of your
Dad's old stuff.

He hands the box to Justin.

JUSTIN

Thanks...

Killian looks to Billie. It feels like he should apologize.

KILLIAN

Don't get in a drinking contest with
Keri, Jeri or Teri. Olive's the
weak link.

He slouches off as Billie and Justin trade quizzical looks.

JUSTIN

I think he just proposed to you in
Boy.

BILLIE

His family stole our cottage.

JUSTIN

Maybe there's regret and sound
environmental policy under those
abs.

(then)

You're too young to day drink with
me so you're gonna need a project.

(shooing her away)

Go. Make-out town is that way.

Billie rolls her eyes: *he tries so hard...* Then, as fast as
feigned nonchalance allows, she slouches after Killian.

27 EXT. JUSTIN'S DOCK - DAY

Too late. Killian is already paddling away.

BILLIE

Killian! Killian!!!

He can't hear. Billie looks at her canoe. Hello old enemy.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

"You make a J."

She grabs a paddle and gets in the boat. On the seat she
finds an old manilla envelope. Picks it up. *What the... ?*

28 INT. JUSTIN'S COTTAGE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Justin sits on the couch. His dad's box open before him. He holds the framed limerick from Sc 14. He's been crying.

Billie enters.

BILLIE

I found--
(sees weepy Justin)
You okay?

She comes over to him. Sees the framed needlepoint.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Didn't you shove that down your pants yesterday?

JUSTIN

(nodding)
My Grampa made it... Gramma taught me needlepoint at the cottage. We'd embroider when it rained. Dad hated it cuz I should've been catching frogs or peeing on a wasp's nest, whatever normal boys do but... after Gramma died... Grampa let me teach him to petit point. Kept her alive for us.

Justin hands her the frame like it's the holiest of relics.

BILLIE

*"There once was a man from Chile.
With holes down the length of his
willy. When he got an erection,
He could play a selection, of the
opera Aida by Verdi."*

Nostalgic tears trickle from Justin's eyes.

JUSTIN

He was a little racist.

Billie nods, pats his knee awkwardly: *there, there...*

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Where's Killian?

BILLIE

Already gone. I think he dropped this in our canoe.

Justin opens it. Pulls out some legal documents.

JUSTIN

It's an addendum to Dad's will.

He scans the pages. Eyes nearly popping out of his head.

BILLIE

What...

JUSTIN

Maisy doesn't own the cottage. It's in a trust. And if she ever leaves--

Justin stops. Gobsmailed.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

It passes to me.

BILLIE

Your Dad changed his will so you could get the cottage back.

JUSTIN

Doubt it. When I begged Dad not to sell he said: "If keeping it in the family was so important, you wouldn't have come out after giving away my only grandchild."

BILLIE

That's dark.

JUSTIN

Asshole probably changed his will to torture me. Keep me hoping for something I'll never get.

BILLIE

That feels like a stretch.

JUSTIN

But if we could get Maisy to leave. Find the right push...

BILLIE

Like off the dock?

JUSTIN

She's a Varsity League swimmer. We'd have to hold her under. We need to give her a reason to leave.

BILLIE

And then what?

JUSTIN

We take back what's ours.

Billie looks at her birthdad, illuminated with unholy purpose.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Your birthdad's nobody's bitch.

OFF Justin's shining (and slightly crazed) face.

FADE OUT: