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REVISED NETWORK DRAFT

# we were liars

"Episode 101"

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Based on the novel by E Lockhart

REVISED NETWORK DRAFT (CLEAN)

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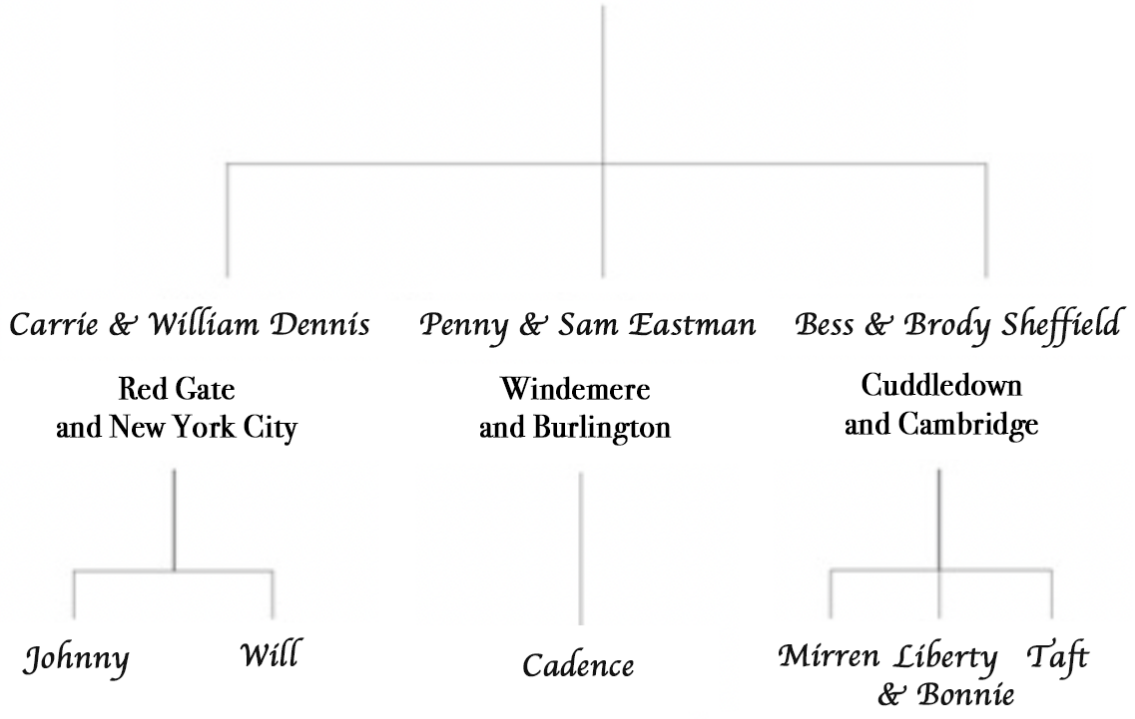
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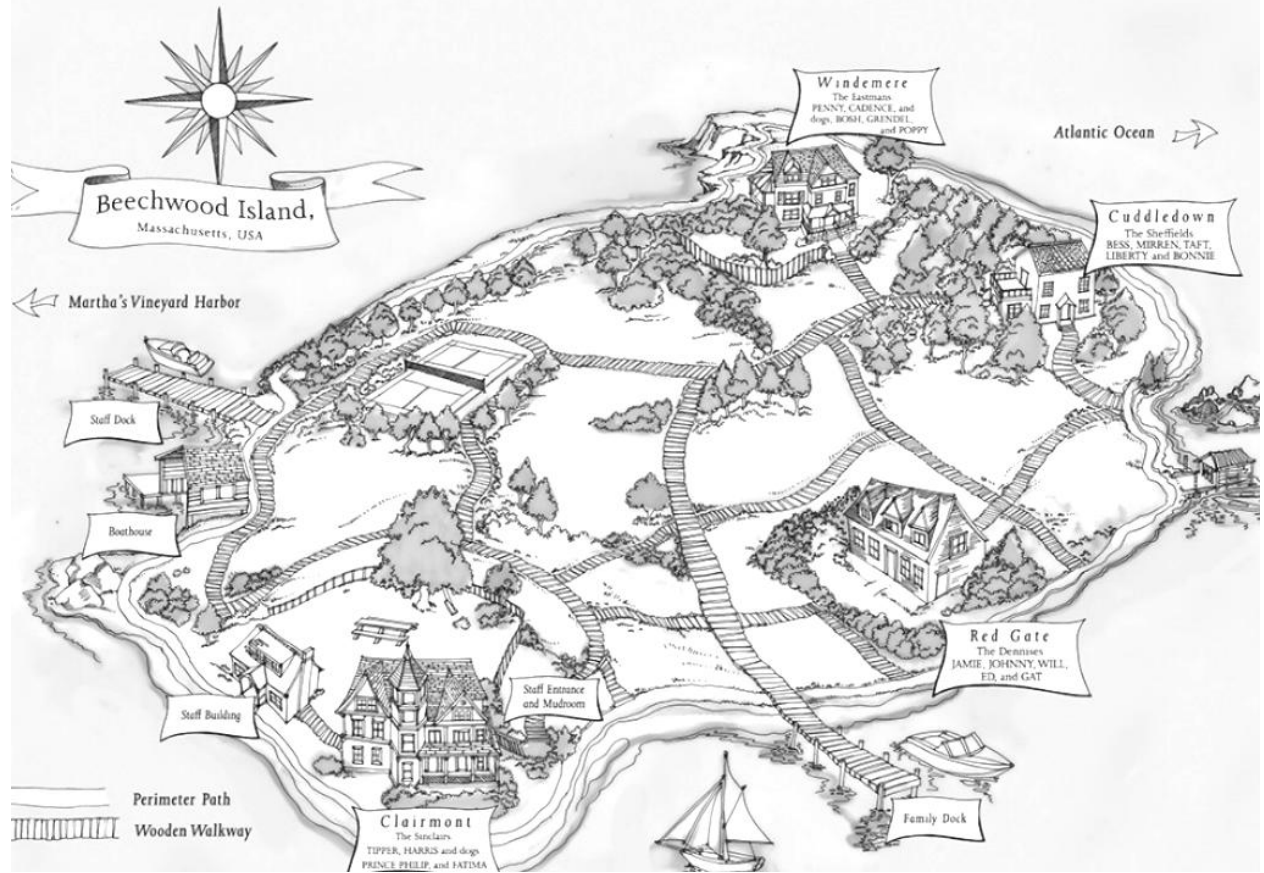
*The Sinclair Family Tree*



*Harris Sinclair & Tipper Taft*

Clairmont  
and Boston





INT. CADENCE'S BURLINGTON, VT HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

17 year-old CADENCE stares at CAMERA. Hair dyed jet black. Eyes sunken and hollow. Haunted. In VO --

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*My name is Cadence Sinclair  
Eastman. I am seventeen years old.  
I used to be blonde. I used to look  
pretty. I used to be strong.*

Our view of her is partially obscured by objects in the foreground. As focus resolves, we see -

It's PILLS. Bottles and bottles of pills. A surreal amount, each label emblazoned with her name.

Equally surreal (in her imagination), the labels read: For Pain. For Sleep. For Sadness. For Feeling Anything At All.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*So what happened to the girl I used  
to be?  
(beat)  
I don't have the answer. All I can  
do is tell you about the last  
things I remember to be true.  
Just keep in mind... I'm a Liar.*

She reaches for her pills. As she shuts the medicine cabinet mirrored door, CUT TO:

EXT. MARTHA'S VINEYARD - DAY

**CHYRON: SUMMER 16**

CAMERA FLIES OVER Martha's Vineyard. Gulls. Boats. Fudge shops. Ferries. And then, running towards us lit by the kind of sunlight halo that seems to find beautiful rich people, is CADENCE at SIXTEEN. Blonde hair, beautiful smile, eyes alive and sparkling. Two Golden Retrievers run alongside her.

Her mother, PENNY (40's), stands at a private water taxi while her many, many bags are loaded. Elegant. Fit. Awash in linen. The sun is warm, but she doesn't sweat. If anything, she's a little icy.

PENNY  
Cadence, where's your Lily tote?

CADENCE  
It's there.

PENNY

It's not here.

CADENCE

It's there, mom. Buried underneath  
your seventy-five other bags.

PENNY

Hey. I packed lighter this year.

CADENCE

(laughing)

If you say so.

Penny summons the dogs to jump into the boat. Cadence follows. The DRIVER, EBON (17), leaves the dock. CUT TO:

EXT. DOCKS - DAY

Wind in Cadence's hair as the taxi cuts across the open water. A small ISLAND in the distance.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*Once upon a time, there was a young man. Everything he touched turned to gold.*

EXT. BEECHWOOD ISLAND - DAY - FLASHBACK

**FORTY YEARS AGO.** Handsome young HARRIS SINCLAIR, 20's, stands on the upper veranda of a large Colonial-inspired beach house. The full expanse of the Vineyard Sound is his view.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*When he became King, he inherited a castle, where he and his beautiful queen spent summers ruling their island overlooking the sea.*

As she narrates, a series of CUTS:

Harris exits the front door of the house with a lovely young BRIDE (TIPPER, 20's). They kiss. CUT TO:

Harris, a Pregnant Tipper, two young blonde toddlers and a Golden Retriever pose for a family photo in front of a sign that says BEECHWOOD ISLAND.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*Soon there were many princesses. The king gave them each a castle of their own.*

TIME LAPSE as construction pops up all over the island, showing the progress of THREE additional smaller homes, while the family photos change over time. The daughters grow into lovely young women with children of their own. More Golden Retrievers appear.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*Princes would come and go, but the princesses never strayed.*

Husbands/Dads appear, then disappear from the family photo line-up over the years.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*And so the King had a dynasty. A Family. My family.*

By the end, the family portrait contains a dozen beautiful smiling blonde family members including six children under the age of eight. And the dogs. Always the dogs.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

**CHYRON: SUMMER 8**

On the sprawling front lawn of Clairmont House, an EIGHT YEAR OLD CADENCE is with some of her cousins (MIRREN, 8, LIBERTY and BONNIE, 4).

MIRREN AT 8  
Your story needs a dragon.

CADENCE AT 8  
No it doesn't.

MIRREN AT 8  
Or a wicked witch. Every story needs a villain.

CADENCE AT 8  
Not our story.

Nearby, a pregnant AUNT BESS (not a hair out of place) sips lemonade in an Adirondack chair while Cadence's mom Penny stretches out after a run.

Tipper at 60 (tasteful but warm, a smile that reaches her eyes) comes gliding down the porch of Clairmont.

TIPPER  
The boat's here.

Everyone rises in excitement. Cadence taps Mirren.

CADENCE AT 8

Tag, you're it.

Cadence takes off like a rocket, leaving Mirren to follow.

EXT. DOCKS - DAY

A WATER TAXI is approaching as Tipper, Penny, Bess and the kids all race down the wooden walkway towards the dock.

The mood is festive. Cadence in the lead. Eight year-old Mirren tries to keep up.

MIRREN

Cadence, you're too fast --

CADENCE

You can do it, Mirren --

Everyone heads for the dock, cheering on the newest arrivals.

On the boat, AUNT CARRIE (30's, bohemian chic) waves, an infant (WILL) with a shock of blonde hair in her arms. Eight year-old JOHNNY leaps off the boat first.

CADENCE/MIRREN

Johnny --!

Arms wide, like he's flying, Johnny runs up the dock, circling first Cadence, then Mirren in his fly-by.

JOHNNY

I brought Gat.

CADENCE

What's a Gat?

Mirren finally catches up to Cadence, tagging her --

MIRREN

You're it --

As the kids run around, Carrie unloads bags with her boyfriend ED (Indian, sunglasses and city linen, an infectious smile, patience for days).

TIPPER

It's nice to finally meet you, Ed.

ED

You too, Mrs. Sinclair.

CARRIE

Mom, Ed brought his nephew. Gat's dad passed last year and it's a big help to his mom.

ED

(looking around the boat)  
Where'd he go? Gat?

Cadence chases Johnny under the dock. He flies underneath it to the other side, but she stops in her tracks, noticing --

A young boy of Indian heritage is hiding there in an orange lifejacket. He's shy. Sweet. Smart. This is GAT PATIL (8).

His eyes land on Cadence. She studies him. His eyes are soft and curious.

CADENCE

Are you real?

GAT

I think so?

A beat as she takes him in. Then --

CADENCE

Tag, you're it.

She taps him, then turns and RUNS. After a beat, Gat FOLLOWS.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY

Cadence races across the sun-bleached wooden walkways that criss-cross the sprawling property, followed by Gat, who is followed by Johnny, who is followed by Mirren. They're all followed by a parade of Goldens.

The cousins and the dogs run into a cottage with a sign that reads WINDEMERE.

A moment later, the dogs come racing out of the back of the house --

-- only they're DYED BLUE.

**CHYRON: SUMMER 9**

A laughing Gat, Cadence, Johnny and Mirren scramble out of the house behind the Goldens. Hands also blue.



INT. CLAIRMONT HOUSE - HARRIS'S OFFICE - DAY

The four children stand in line in front of a stern Harris.  
The two blue Goldens in the bg.

JOHNNY

--and one of the staff must've  
forgot to close the door all the  
way. Bet *somebody's* gonna get a  
real talking-to, huh?

HARRIS

And none of you has any idea how  
the dogs might have gotten into  
Tipper's study, opened her knitting  
closet, selected a shade of yarn  
dye, closed up behind themselves,  
then wound up blue from nose to  
tail -- all without opposable  
thumbs?

JOHNNY/GAT

No, sir.

CADENCE/MIRREN

No, grandpa.

He looks at their hands, which are stained with blue dye. The  
kids remain silent. Finally, Harris breaks into a smile.

HARRIS

Go clean up for dinner, you Liars.

Released, the kids fly out of Harris's office.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

They race past Bess holding a BABY (TAFT). Carrie, Penny and  
the younger cousins ("The Littles") play CROQUET.

EXT. TINY BEACH - DAY

The Liars build a three story sand castle. Cadence writes  
their names in the sand: *Cadence, Mirren, Johnny, Gat.*

EXT. OUTDOOR SHOWER - DAY

The Liars huddle together under the warm shower as sand  
sloughs from their bodies. All skin and innocence.

**CHYRON: SUMMER 10**

EXT. REDGATE - DAY

The Liars run down the path that leads to a cottage labeled  
REDGATE.

They tumble into the large hammock that hangs from a giant nearby tree. Piled on top of each other, it's impossible to tell where one body ends and another begins.

INT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Mirren dresses Cadence, Johnny and Gat in various "costumes" she's pulling together from the yards of fabric in Tipper's crafting room.

EXT. WALKWAYS - DAY

Free-spirited, barefoot and laughing, the Liars run the walkways that cut through the property towards the Beach, the long swaths of costume fabric flapping in the air behind them. Dune grass waves in the breeze. The dogs frolic.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

JOHNNY  
CANNONBALL!!!

Four innocent, naked bodies cannonball off the dock into the water.

**CHYRON: SUMMER 11**

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Tipper shouts encouragements as the Liars hunt for Lemons like one would an Easter Egg Hunt. Bess chases Taft, now 3.

Gat gives Cadence the lemons he's found. Harris hands out prizes. Family fun.

EXT. CUDDLEDOWN - DAY

The Liars all cram into a TIRE SWING that hangs outside a cottage labeled CUDDLEDOWN. As they laugh and spin --

**CHYRON: SUMMER 12, SUMMER 13, SUMMER 14, SUMMER 15**

As the spinning comes to a stop, find the Liars as TEENAGERS, crammed in like sardines, dizzy and laughing.

The best of friends in the greatest place on earth.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY

**CHYRON: SUMMER 16**

Back with Cadence (16) as her boat approaches the docks. Like always, the family is there to cheer their arrival.

She disembarks, running straight into the arms of MIRREN, JOHNNY and GAT (16). They hug and dance. The Littles (now aged 8 - 12) run around like the Liars used to. Penny is greeted by her parents, Bess, Carrie and Ed.

In the bg, a household STAFF member can be seen helping Ebon the water taxi guy unload bag after bag from the boat.

A DRONE pulls back from this happy reunion. The outline of a FAMILY TREE etches itself over this image, showcasing the entire family's lineage as we get a complete picture of the island, its tennis courts, boathouses and four homes.

It's a paradise. Or so it seems.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*We were the Sinclairs. Our smiles were wide, our chins square, our tennis serves aggressive. Beechwood Island was our kingdom. No one was an addict. No one was a criminal. No one was needy. No one was a failure. Our summers were lemonade, bonfires and sand castles. We wanted for nothing. We were happy.*

Over this image, WORDS APPEAR in the sky:

**WE WERE LIARS.**

As the main titles drift above like a warning, **CUT TO BLACK.**

INT. CLAIRMONT KITCHEN - DAY

Pies line the counter, fresh from the oven. Blackberry. Blueberry. Strawberry. Fruit bold in color. Crust lovingly crafted. Tipper at the helm, a master of her kitchen.

She lifts one, heads out of the spacious kitchen, down a hallway lined with family photos over the years, out french doors to the porch that runs the length of the house.

The backyard is a bustle of activity. Staff sets a large table. Fresh lemonade. Crisp summer greens. Buttery bread. A lobster salad that goes for \$75 a pound.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Family Lunch. Well-mannered chaos. The Littles at one end.

TAFT, eight years old -

TAFT

I want pie as the appetizer.

LIBERTY, twelve -

LIBERTY  
Pie's the dessert.

Her twin sister BONNIE -

BONNIE  
Pie can be both.

The Liars in the middle. Mirren, a flair for drama, always afraid of being left behind --

MIRREN  
This summer I'm winning the lemon hunt.

Johnny, handsome and likable, forever the life of the party -

JOHNNY  
You say that every summer.

MIRREN  
But this summer I'm *manifesting* it.

JOHNNY  
Well then I'm *manifesting* beating you.

Gat, open-hearted, able to be both funny and serious at the same time, nudges Cadence.

GAT  
So, get this. Turns out all those fairy tales you love actually started out as Indian folklore.

CADY  
Really?

He hands her a thick jewel-toned book, proudly.

GAT  
I learned on my trip. The Crusaders brought the stories back to Europe, and the Europeans ran with 'em.

CADY  
Wow. Thank you.  
(then, slyly)  
Wait. So is this a gift, or am I colonizing it?

GAT  
(with a laugh)  
I brought it back for you.

She flips it open, landing on a page with a bold title: HOW THE RAJAH'S SON WON THE PRINCESS LABAM.

CADENCE  
I love it, Gat, thank you. How was India?

A tiny shadow crosses his face as he looks down the table --

GAT  
A world away from this.

CAMERA moves along to find the Adults at the end. Penny -- a vision in lululemon -- waves off the platter of french toast.

PENNY  
Mom, can you tell Paola I want to redecorate Windemere this summer?

TIPPER  
Of course.

Bess, an impeccably if not annoyingly put-together housewife -

BESS  
You can't just redecorate every time you get a divorce.

PENNY  
I'm only planning on getting divorced once, so yes, I can.

The mention of divorce makes Cadence dip her head. When she looks up, Gat is watching her. Checking in on her. He gives her a comforting smile. She appreciates it.

BESS  
Cuddledown is supposed to be next. The porch steps are rotting --

HARRIS  
(putting an end to it)  
Cuddledown can wait a year.

Tipper quietly puts her hand over Bess's, quieting her in a way that only a mother can. Carrie, loose and flowing, warm and wry, changes the subject.

CARRIE

Dad, Ed and I are in escrow on that space in Tribeca. It's right by his art gallery --

HARRIS

(distracted)

What is that?

They follow his gaze to the water, where a PARTY BOAT has floated into Harris's view. Johnny notices --

JOHNNY

Party boat. Sick.

HARRIS

It's obstructing the view.

ED

(trying to make light)

Good thing it can sail on by.

Tipper leans into Carrie, sidebarring --

TIPPER

Congratulations, honey. I know how much you want that property.

CARRIE

Ten years of dating. Seemed like a good way for us to celebrate.

Still fixated on the boat --

JOHNNY

It looks like a blast.

HARRIS

It's gauche.

From The Littles end of the table, Will, Age 10 --

WILL

What's gauche?

GAT

(in a faux-snooty accent)

It means poor, and *loud* about it.

Cadence laughs. Gat smiles at her. His eyes hold hers for just an extra beat before he looks away. She feels an unexpected twinge. Like a new feeling is brewing inside her.

## INT. WINDEMERE - CADENCE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cadence unpacks. Her room is simple in the way that old money denies frills. Photos of The Liars over the summers. Stacks of books. Half-full journals.

She slides Gat's book to the top of a stack of gorgeously bound fairy tales. Smiling to herself at the thoughtfulness of the gift.

A noise outside draws her attention. She moves to the window, looking down below to see Gat and Johnny jockeying for control of a soccer ball. Playing dirty and laughing.

Gat looks up, seeing Cadence. He stops, giving her a smile and a wave. His hair flopping over one eye. Sun kissing his face in just the right way.

Their eyes lock again, as though a whole lifetime is passing between them in that tiny instant.

It's a moment they've probably shared a million times. But this time, somehow, it feels *different*.

HOLD ON Cadence as she watches Gat through a new set of eyes, trying to put a name to this new feeling.

## EXT. TINY BEACH - DAY

Cadence and Mirren are planted on a small stretch of sandy beach with high rocks on either side. Their spot of choice.

Mirren is braiding sea grass trying to make a crown while Cady lingers over a journal page.

In the water, Johnny is on a paddleboard while Gat freestyle swims. The party boat lingers in the distance.

CADENCE

Johnny is...bounce, effort and snark.

MIRREN

Do me next.

CADENCE

You are...sugar, curiosity and rain.

MIRREN

That's nice. You make me sound like one of Gran's pies. In a good way.

Cadence writes it all down in her journal, one eye fixed on Gat as he emerges from the water. Maybe it's the way the sun hits the water dripping down his chest, or maybe Gat filled out over the last year.

CADENCE

Gat got...taller.

MIRREN

Apparently he joined the swim team. Meanwhile, I swear I've peaked at 5'4. What's a girl gotta do to be a sample size?

Gat plops down on a towel next to Cadence. She tries not to stare as she takes in the muscles on his legs.

MIRREN (CONT'D)

Cady, do Gat.

CADENCE

Gat is...contemplation and enthusiasm. Ambition and strong coffee.

GAT

I like that.

He smiles warmly at her as she writes it down. Johnny plops down on the other side of Mirren with a mission.

JOHNNY

I'm getting us on that party boat this summer.

CADENCE

Why? It's just a bunch of trashy drunk tourists looking to hook up.

JOHNNY

Exactly. Gat, back me up.

GAT

Just...disinfect before you come back.

JOHNNY

Where's the love?

MIRREN

I'm in.



JOHNNY  
(skeptical)  
Yeah right.

MIRREN  
I *am*. I have decided I am no longer interested in being virginal and therefore need the practice before I do it for real back in Boston this fall.

CADENCE  
Doing it for practice is still doing it.

MIRREN  
Yes, but it's low stakes.

JOHNNY  
Are you comparing vineyard dick to the practice SAT?

Cadence shifts. She feels a warm blush creeping up her cheeks. A sidelong glance at Gat, wondering if any of this sex talk is fazing him. But he flops onto his back, unbothered. His thigh landing just centimeters from her hand.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Gat, please tell me you got busy in the land of Kama Sutra.

MIRREN  
Oh my god, you don't even know what the Kama Sutra is.

GAT  
Bro, I was with my mother.

CADENCE  
Tell us more about your trip.

GAT  
It was amazing. Horrible. It's hard to explain. You can be staring at the most beautiful thing you've ever seen, but then ten feet away is absolute poverty. The systemic imbalance is insane. The richest 10% control 80% of the country's wealth...

Gat continues, his voice fading into the bg as Cadence finds herself mesmerized by him.

The soft intelligence of his voice.

His lips.

The way their fingertips are almost touching.

The curve of Gat's chest, newly formed.

A BUTTERFLY escapes from her chest, fluttering above. A representation of the new feelings that have been dancing inside of her all day.

She stares at it, understanding finally --

Everything is about to change.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY/DUSK

A series of aspirational vignettes:

- The Littles play Hide and Seek in the long beach grass.

- Carrie and Ed snuggle together in the hammock.

- Penny jogs the empty beach with the dogs.

- The Liars play tennis, minus Mirren who sits on the side of the court bedazzling her tennis skirt. Johnny serves an ace and runs around the court basking in love from the imaginary crowd. Classic Johnny. Always having a good time.

INT. CLAIRMONT - HARRIS'S OFFICE - DAY

Ed enters Harris's office to find him at the window with a set of binoculars.

ED

Harris, do you have a minute? I wanted to ask you --

HARRIS

It's there again.

ED

(confused, then realizing)  
What's -- the boat?

ANGLE on the view, where the party boat floats offshore.

HARRIS

The entire Sound at its disposal and it parks its ass in my view every day.

Then, almost as an afterthought --

HARRIS (CONT'D)  
See what you can do about it.

Beat as Ed realizes Harris is tasking him with something. Whatever he came to ask Harris will have to wait.

INT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Cadence is in the main house kitchen eating chocolate mousse straight out of the pan when Gat finds her.

GAT  
I think that's the mousse Harris requested Lydia make for tonight.

CADENCE  
Oops.

GAT  
Hey, so do you want to take the boat out with me?

CADENCE  
Where do you want to go?

GAT  
I just want to get off-island. Change of scenery.

CADENCE  
Sure. I'll find Johnny and Mirren.

GAT  
How about just us?

*Just us.* It's never *just us*. Cadence meets his eyes briefly before quickly looking away.

CADENCE  
Sure. Just us.

INT. CLAIRMONT - TIPPER'S STUDY - DAY

Tipper's safe haven. A room filled with homey pieces in progress. Fabrics. A sewing machine. A pottery wheel.

Mirren stands at a design mannequin while Tipper shows her how to do a backstitch on a dress.

TIPPER  
It's a variation of a straight stitch, but a lot stronger.

MIRREN

I think I'm going to write about you in my application essay for RISD (*riz-dee*). They want to know my style icons.

TIPPER

I could name a few more interesting people. Coco Chanel, for one.

MIRREN

Coco Chanel didn't teach me how to do a backstitch.

Bess peeks her head in.

BESS

Mirren, family FaceTime with your dad in ten.

(giving her the once over)  
And brush your hair.

MIRREN

Dad doesn't care if my hair is brushed.

BESS

But *I* like to give him the illusion that I haven't let you four go entirely feral while he's away. Help me with my charade.

TIPPER

Is Brody going to make it here by the fourth?

BESS

I'm trying. He's been so slammed launching the new fund.

TIPPER

I remember those days.

BESS

*I* remember Dad being around during Beechwood summers.

TIPPER

By the time you were old enough to take notice, sure. But trust me, I had lonely times, while he was off building something great.

BESS

I keep telling Brody there's no point in working so hard if you can't share the spoils with your family.

TIPPER

He'll get there. At some point, the empire runs itself.

Bess nods, hopeful, but not convinced.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Carrie and Penny are on the Adirondacks. In their view, HARBOR SERVICE (JOMO, 40) unloads bags of ice at the dock.

JoMo is one of those ageless weather-worn water cowboys with strong muscles and a full head of sun-bleached hair. The two women admire him from afar.

CARRIE

That's what you need. A distraction.

PENNY

I don't need a distraction. I need a decorator.

Three clean and well-dressed Littles come flying out of the house followed by Bess, who carries a bottle of cold French Chablis and two glasses.

Bess plops down into one of the chairs. Starts pouring out a glass for herself and Penny.

CARRIE

How's Brody?

BESS

Well, we got seven minutes of Liberty and Bonnie talking about Taylor Swift. Three minutes of Taft naming every Pokemon and ninety seconds of Mirren being Mirren. Then he had to go before I got a chance to talk to him.

CARRIE

Poor Ed. No one to bro out with this summer.

BESS

Poor Ed? Poor Dad. He has no one to spend endless hours talking to about the stock market.

CARRIE

He's not gonna get into a whole discourse about art, that's for sure. Every time I mention Ed's gallery a Sinclair angel loses its wings.

PENNY

Thank God Little Bess made the family proud and married a suit.

BESS

It was either that or go to business school myself.

Penny laughs into her wine. Bess takes offense.

BESS (CONT'D)

Excuse you.

PENNY

You've literally never had a job.

BESS

Try raising four kids.

PENNY

God, no.

BESS

And you know I hate Little Bess.

PENNY

You're the youngest. You don't get a vote.

Bess flicks an ice cube at her. Penny sends one flying back at her in response. Carrie ignores their sisterly squabbling.

CARRIE

Bess, tell Penny it's okay to get naked with JoMo.

BESS

Who?

CARRIE

(a nod to the dock)  
JoMo. Hello.

BESS

The harbor service guy?

CARRIE

Yes. Look at him. He's a cowboy,  
and she needs to get back on the  
horse.

PENNY

Oh my god, shut up and pour the  
wine.

Bess sips her wine, quietly sneaking a long look at JoMo.

EXT. BOAT DOCK - DAY

Gat and Cadence untie a well-used MOTOR BOAT from its  
moorings.

CADENCE

You wanna drive?

GAT

Nope.

CADENCE

You never drive.

GAT

It's not my boat.

CADENCE

It's no one's boat.

GAT

It's a Sinclair boat.

CADENCE

And you're an honorary Sinclair.

GAT

That doesn't give me the freedom to  
drive it. Here.

He tosses her the key. Not interested in arguing, she climbs  
in and starts it up. He follows.

The boat leaves the dock, setting out across the Sound.

EXT. WATER - DAY

Cadence and Gat motor, Gat sprawled out in the co-Captain's  
seat as Cadence expertly steers. Cadence sneaks a look at Gat  
just as he's looking at her. He smiles at her.

When he looks away, HOLD ON Cadence as she allows herself a secret smile. Sinking into the throes of her new crush.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY

Johnny and Mirren head for Tiny Beach.

JOHNNY

There's this guy in Edgerton who can get us shitty fake ID's.

MIRREN

How do you -- of all people -- not have a fake ID?

JOHNNY

It was confiscated. Long story.

MIRREN

We literally have *nothing* but time.

JOHNNY

Some shit went down at school this spring. Not a big deal.

MIRREN

What kind of shit --

JOHNNY

I don't want to talk about it, Mirren --

He stops in his tracks, realizing the beach is empty.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Where are they?

EXT. WATER - DAY

The boat finds an inlet. Cadence throws an anchor. Gat stands on the boat's edge, staring into the water.

GAT

On the count of three?

He holds out his hand. She takes it.

GAT/CADENCE

Three, two --

They both JUMP, submerging. Camera follows them UNDER. They sink, still holding hands, bubbles escaping their mouths.

The silence is magical. And then --



They break through the surface. Gat lets out a hearty yawp --

GAT  
(Fuck) that's cold!!!

CADENCE  
Come on, swim team. You can handle it.

GAT  
What are we thinking jumping in the water? Everyone knows there are sharks off the coast.

CADENCE  
Are you seriously bringing up sharks right now?

She pushes off of him, swimming towards the ladder.

GAT  
So many sharks.

CADENCE  
Gat! Stop talking about sharks!

He swims past her to get to the ladder. She grabs his shoulder as he passes, dunking him, racing him.

A few strong strokes and he gets there first, but she quickly catches him, fighting him for room on the ladder.

After a brief struggle, he leans back, letting her go first.

GAT  
Not because you're a girl, but because I'm a good person.

CADENCE  
Uh-huh.

GAT  
But when a shark bites my leg off, promise to write a speech about how great I was.

CADENCE  
Deal. "Gattwick Matthew Patil made for a delicious meal."

Cadence does a little dance on the deck to try to warm herself up. Gat pulls himself onto the boat and digs under one of the seats for a large towel. He wraps it around himself and Cadence.

The two of them sit together, huddled under one towel. Cady is hyper-aware of his closeness.

Bare shoulders touching.

Cold feet on top of one another for warmth.

She turns her head to find Gat watching her.

CADENCE (CONT'D)

Why are you looking at me like that?

GAT

I'm not.

CADENCE

Okay.

But then --

GAT

Do you sometimes feel like everything is changing?

CADENCE

Yeah. But this island never changes, which is what I love most about it.

GAT

It feels different without your dad here.

CADENCE

Yeah. I guess it does.

GAT

How's he doing?

CADENCE

He has a new girlfriend.

GAT

You okay with everything?

It's a personal question, one Cadence is genetically hard-wired not to answer. She shrugs.

CADENCE

We got a new couch.

GAT

That is...a very Sinclair-ian response.

CADENCE

It's a really nice couch.

He rolls his eyes. She laughs.

CADENCE (CONT'D)

Did you bring me out on this boat for therapy? Because I have a person in Burlington to help me manage my Sinclair-ian feelings.

GAT

No, Cady. I brought you out here to be a good friend.

Friend. The word lands on her.

Suddenly the sky seems dimmer.

Her shoulder against his feels clingy.

Her feet feel clammy instead of warm.

Disappointment lingers on her face as she realizes perhaps she's mis-read the situation completely.

Suddenly insecure, she shifts. Putting the smallest of distance between them.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY INTO NIGHT

Family vignettes:

Penny walks Tipper through Cuddledown. Cadence watches.

PENNY

The armchair definitely can't stay.

CADENCE

I like that armchair.

PENNY

It reeks of your dad's old man Professor cologne.

CADENCE

So get it cleaned.

PENNY

Cady, love, if you're not going to be helpful --

CADENCE

-- be elsewhere?

Cadence grabs a book, exiting.

TIPPER

I remember you at that age. We did nothing but fight.

PENNY

It helps that she has her dad to be mad at instead of me.

TIPPER

(polite)

That's a shame. They were so close.

PENNY

(laughing)

Mom, you literally can't say that with a straight face.

TIPPER

What? I liked Sam.

PENNY

You tolerated Sam.

TIPPER

Well, I tolerated him better than you did, clearly.

PENNY

Touche.

As they continue on...

INT. CLAIRMONT - CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Mirren works on the hemline of her dress design while Bess talks to Harris in the hallway.

BESS

It would be really great to have the whole family together for the fourth. Maybe you could talk to him? Some tips on work-life balance?

HARRIS

There's no such thing when you're rising in the ranks. Brody's making a name for himself. Be proud.

BESS

So I should just let the whole summer go by without seeing my husband?

HARRIS

No one raised you to just accept disappointment. Figure it out.

He moves along. Bess sighs, frustrated.

MIRREN

Why do you care so much? You know how boring Dad is when he's in work mode.

BESS

Women have needs, Mir.

MIRREN

TMI, Mom. Jesus.

BESS

Why are you in here? Shouldn't you be out getting up to no good with the rest of the Liars?

MIRREN

Cady and Gat are holed up buried in their books as if no one else on this island reads.

BESS

Honey, everyone has their special gift. You make beauty out of fabric, Cady makes beauty out of words. You can let her thing be hers and your thing be yours.

MIRREN

I guess. But summers are supposed to be about all four of us together. That's the beauty of the Liars. At least, it used to be.

As Mirren continues her work...

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Golden Retrievers frolic on the shoreline. Johnny and his little brother Will throw sticks for them to fetch.

Watching the boys play, Ed and Carrie talk.

ED

I talked to the company that runs the boat service, but how do you convince someone of the logic of a man who doesn't want to see a boat floating on public water?

CARRIE

He wasn't giving you an assignment, he was just venting.

ED

Keep telling yourself that.  
(then, kidding)  
What size hole in the hull do you think would sink a boat of--

CARRIE

(with a laugh)  
If you're going to play games with my dad, you're going to have to be more Machiavellian than that.

ED

I asked myself, "What would a Sinclair do," but unfortunately, I don't have 'throw money at the problem' money --

CARRIE

-- one of your many charms.

ED

Thank you.  
(beat)  
Besides, I'm pretty sure that crowd only takes singles.

He makes a "make it rain" gesture. Carrie laughs, wrapping her arm around his waist, snuggling into him as they watch the boys play.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

Family breakfast. Platters of fresh fruit. Fresh-baked muffins. French toast with warm syrup shipped in from Vermont. Perfectly crispy bacon.

Tipper makes an announcement.

TIPPER

Today marks the twenty-third annual  
Beechwood Sand Castle Competition.  
This year I've shifted the teams  
around. It will be the Liars -

A whoop from Johnny --

TIPPER (CONT'D)

Versus The Littles --

Liberty and Bonnie throw a grape at Mirren.

TIPPER (CONT'D)

(a wink)  
Versus "The Olds."

Penny, Bess, Ed and Carrie --

PENNY/CARRIE/BESS/ED

Oh come on//This seems  
unfair//Who's bringing the wine.

CARRIE

Who's the judge?

TIPPER

Who do you think?

She looks to Harris, who raises his mimosa glass with a  
wicked smile.

HARRIS

Winner gets my eternal respect.

Tipper puts an admonishing arm around her husband.

TIPPER

You already have his respect.  
Winner gets a pound of fudge from  
Murdick's.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DAY

The Liars run the path towards the beach with the dogs.  
Laughing and dancing along the way. In the distance, the  
Littles chase them. The adults bring up the rear.

EXT. MAIN BEACH - DAY

The Sand Castle Contest is underway. Tipper cheers each team  
on while Harris moves in between the three groups.

To the Littles --

HARRIS  
Excellent foundational structure.

To the Liars --

HARRIS (CONT'D)  
Very creative adornments.

To the Olds --

HARRIS (CONT'D)  
Where's your artistic spirit?

ANGLE ON ED, taking this very seriously.

ED  
Carrie, this needs more water.

CARRIE  
Water will make it drip.

ED  
That's the point. I need the drips.  
Otherwise it's just a block of  
sand.

As Carrie passes the water over --

PENNY  
Why are you stressing? It's just a  
sand castle.

ED  
It's not just a sand castle. Much  
like the party boat is not just a  
boat. It's your dad's version of a  
test he doesn't want me to win.

BESS  
He's right. Like me wanting Brody  
to be here for the fourth. In the  
world according to Dad, if I push  
him, I'm getting in the way of his  
career. But if I accept defeat, I'm  
weak. There's no good option.

ED  
Exactly.

PENNY  
It's not like having Sam here every  
summer made my marriage better.

(MORE)



PENNY (CONT'D)  
(off Bess's look)  
Just sayin'. You could let it go.

BESS  
(snappish)  
But then I'd be all alone like you,  
Pen.

PENNY  
It's called independence, Holly  
Homemaker.

BESS  
You breed dogs for a living. That's  
hardly Girl Boss material.

Ever the peacemaker --

CARRIE  
Okay, okay. Let's stay focused. Ed  
wants to win, we'll win.  
(beat, then)  
Thereby literally stealing candy  
from the mouths of our babies.

Ed has to laugh. Carrie grins back at him. Nudging him lovingly. Bess and Penny both notice this small moment of intimacy. Bess, envious. Penny, uninterested.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The Liars work together. Cadence and Gat are digging a moat. Shoulders occasionally brushing.

JOHNNY  
So listen. Party boat.

CADENCE/GAT  
Again with the party boat//let it  
go, Johnny.

MIRREN  
No, he has it all planned out.

CADENCE  
But why? We have everything we need  
here.

JOHNNY  
Um, no, we do not have everything  
we need here.

CADENCE

We only get like six weeks with each other. Sex can wait.

MIRREN

Speak for yourself. And this is something all four of us can do together.

GAT

Sex?

MIRREN

Ha ha. Jerk.

GAT

Hey, I'm just over here trying to built a moat --

JOHNNY

*That's the problem.* Our sexual prime is passing us by while we build sand castles.

Beat.

GAT

For fudge, yo.

Johnny dumps sand on Gat's head.

GAT (CONT'D)

Oh, you dick.

He retaliates. Before long, all four Liars are engaged in an epic sand fight with each other. Laughing even as Harris awards The Littles with the top prize. CUT TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR SHOWER - DUSK

Much like they did when they were eight, the Liars huddle together under the warm spray of the outdoor shower. Johnny and Mirren finish, leaving just Cadence and Gat.

Water cascades down their slippery bodies, sloughing off the sand. And suddenly Cadence finds herself face to face with Gat, who also seems newly aware of their close proximity.

Time slows as her eyes meet his.

Something is happening. She can feel it. Friends be damned.

GAT  
(voice low)  
Cady --

But then --

Johnny reappears, grabbing his forgotten towel. Gat takes a step back, putting a healthy distance between them. Looking suddenly uncomfortable.

HOLD ON CADENCE as she grabs for a towel. Wrapping it around herself tightly as if trying to keep all these confusing feelings from being exposed.

EXT. BEECHWOOD/INT. RED GATE - NIGHT

The island is quiet except for the sound of the ocean as Cadence approaches Red Gate. Through the window, she sees Gat at the table, writing something. Through the screen door, she watches his hand move, the furrow of his brow, the tip of his tongue between his lips.

Then, he folds up the paper and slips it into an envelope... along with a dried beach rose. As he stands, she steps back into the shadows, unable to hold back her smile.

One day, she'll say this is the moment she knew she was in love with him. Watching him write this love letter meant only for her.

EXT. BEECHWOOD/INT. CLAIRMONT - DAY

More transitional vignettes:

CAMERA FLOATS down the hallways of family photos. Year after year of Sinclairs, Sinclair kids and Sinclair dogs.

Tipper works a hand-stitched quilt in her craft room. Two dogs asleep at her feet.

JoMo unloads a seafood and produce delivery on the dock as the kitchen staff carries it up to the main house. The party boat lingers in the bg.

EXT. WINDEMERE - DAY

Cadence lounges in the hammock reading a book. Suddenly Gat's there, piling into the hammock with a book of his own.

GAT  
What are you reading?

Cadence holds up the book he gave her.

CADENCE

The harrowing tale of The Brâhmin  
Girl That Married a Tiger. You?

Gat holds up A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking.

GAT

Nerd porn.

They settle in to read. It's a quiet moment. Peaceful. Then,  
Cadence gathers her courage.

CADENCE

Do you want to watch the meteor  
shower with me tomorrow?

GAT

Johnny doesn't have the attention  
span for meteors.

CADENCE

How about...just us.

A tiny beat that seems to last forever. Gat seems to be  
considering his response. A million insecurities flash  
through Cadence's mind as she awaits his answer.

GAT

Sure. Just us.

Cadence nods, pleased. They return to reading. A beat later,  
Johnny and Mirren arrive, piling into the hammock with them.

JOHNNY

Friends. I need to be entertained.

Cadence hands him her book.

CADENCE

Here. Have at it.

JOHNNY

I fear you and I have different  
meanings of the word.

MIRREN

We could play tennis.

JOHNNY

No offense, but you three are not  
up to my standards.

MIRREN

That's ridiculous --

CADENCE

We're not that bad --

GAT

I'm terrible. I admit it.

They lie there, contemplating the day ahead. Johnny steals a glance at Cadence and Gat's legs, which are pressed together. His eyes meet Mirren's, something unspoken passing.

JOHNNY

Turns out I'm gonna need a new doubles partner this year, though.

MIRREN

(faux-gasp)

Not the *Connecticut private school club-level champions*. Granddad never stops bragging about it.

JOHNNY

Yeah, well. Things got messy and we started losing.

GAT

How do things get messy with a -- ?  
(off Johnny's look)  
Yep, okay.

CADENCE

Classic Johnny.

JOHNNY

Not my fault. We had all these travel matches, and, you know how it goes, hotel rooms and chaperones who don't actually chaperone. One night we just sort of went for it and then it got weird and ruined our vibe and everything changed. Killed our rhythm on the court.

This lands on Cadence. Her grin starts to fade.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

We played together since middle school and we're not even, like, friends anymore. It blows.

MIRREN

It probably messed up the whole team, too.

JOHNNY

A hundred percent.

Cadence notices Gat exchange a look with Johnny before he shifts his body position. Is she imagining it or did he just move his leg away from hers?

INT. CLAIRMONT - CRAFT ROOM - DAY

Mirren has Cadence modeling the early shape of her dress in progress. As she pins --

MIRREN

So tonight, I was thinking movie night. Back to the Future 2 or Mean Girls, maybe.

CADENCE

(caught off guard, lies)  
Oh. I think I'm gonna finish my book tonight.

MIRREN

Really? You're just gonna hang by yourself?

Cadence's guilt emanates from her. Is Mirren testing her?

CADENCE

Yeah. Boring, I know.

But then --

MIRREN

No big.  
(chatting as she works)  
We need to expand our collection.  
We simply can't keep watching the same ten movies until we're dead.

While Mirren rambles, hold on Cadence's face, trapped guiltily in her lie.

INT. WINDEMERE - CADENCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cadence is at her vanity, brushing her hair. She applies lip gloss. A little eyeliner.

She studies her reflection. Is she trying too hard?

She wipes the eyeliner. Puts her hair up in a messy bun.

Keeps the lip gloss.

INT. WINDEMERE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Penny, Carrie, Bess and Tipper are playing bridge when Cadence comes down the stairs and heads for the kitchen.

BESS

Brody's coming in on the last flight tonight.

TIPPER

What a nice surprise.  
(re: the cards)  
Three no trump.

PENNY

What'd you do, threaten to withhold sex?

CARRIE

Technically, he was withholding sex. Pass.

BESS

(towards Penny)  
At least we *have* sex.  
(to Tipper)  
Pass.

PENNY

(unwounded)  
If I was offended by that, I'd still be married. Pass.

TIPPER

Girls. Show some class.

CARRIE

(to Bess)  
You're the dummy, dummy.

As Bess lays out her cards --

BESS

I simply reminded him that marriage is about more than just providing.

PENNY

Ahh. You bartered in blow jobs.

TIPPER

Girls.

In the kitchen, Cadence takes a bottle of Chablis from the fridge and slides it stealthily into her tote along with a wine opener and two plastic glasses.

INT. REDGATE - NIGHT

Ed is rifling through a stack of books when Gat comes downstairs.

GAT

What are you doing?

ED

Reading up on local ordinances.  
Don't ask.

(then)

You're lucky. I do all the hard work to get us invited back year after year and you get to hang on the beach and eat pie.

GAT

(surprised)

I guess I never realized there was a chance we wouldn't get invited back.

ED

We're the outsiders. And they're...  
Sinclairs. There's always a chance.

The thought unsettles Gat.

GAT

That's depressing.

ED

That's reality.

(then)

You got a letter in the mail.

He hands Gat an envelope. Gat tucks it away quickly, as if it makes him uncomfortable.

ED (CONT'D)

I thought your generation only communicated via texts with no punctuation.

GAT

Says the guy who still wears skinny jeans.



ED

Mean.

The screen door bangs open as Johnny arrives.

JOHNNY

Gat. Bro. I have done it. I have  
bested even my greatest  
achievements.

GAT

Do I want to know?

ED

Do I?

JOHNNY

(to Ed)

You do not.

(to Gat)

You, my friend, need to come with  
me.

He drags Gat out the door.

EXT. TINY BEACH - ROCKS - NIGHT

Cadence is sitting up top on the flat rocks that overlook  
Tiny Beach. A blanket spread out. Wine on standby.

She stares at the sky above. Nervous anticipation. Aware that  
tonight could be a turning point.

CUT TO:

She checks her watch. Waits.

CUT TO:

She's laying flat, staring at the sky. Still waiting.  
Starting to wonder if she's being ghosted.

Finally --

A noise from below. Relieved, she turns, looking down towards  
the beach --

-- where Gat, Johnny and Mirren are all waving at her.

JOHNNY

Cady! Get down here!

Disappointment and confusion wash over her. She abandons her stuff, heading down to where they are.

CUT TO:

EXT. TINY BEACH - NIGHT

Cadence warily approaches a very excited Johnny.

JOHNNY

It's on. The party boat. My guy  
came through. We're in.

A quick look at Gat, who won't meet her eyes.

Johnny throws an L up to his forehead.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Not driving.

Mirren quickly follows. Gat eventually does too. Leaving a bewildered Cadence as the newly designated boat driver.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

What were you doing up there?

Another quick unreturned glance at Gat.

CADENCE

Meteor shower.

JOHNNY

By yourself?

MIRREN

I thought you were reading tonight.

CADENCE

Change of plans, I guess.

A final pointed glance at Gat. This time, their eyes meet for just a moment before he looks away.

Cadence's heart sinks. Whatever she thought tonight would be, it's clearly the opposite.

EXT. WATER/INT. BOAT - NIGHT

The Liars motor their boat out to where the party boat floats a few hundred yards offshore. The boat is lit up, music blasting in the distance.

Cadence drives. She can feel Gat staring at her.

MIRREN

Gat, why do you keep looking at Cady like that?

GAT

What?

MIRREN

You keep staring at her.

GAT

I'm not staring at her.

MIRREN

Then what are you looking at?

GAT

The...nothing. I'm not staring at anything. Jesus.

JOHNNY

She is wearing lip gloss. You look pretty, Cady. It's like you knew an epic night was upon us.

MIRREN

(to Cadence)

Why are you wearing lip gloss?

GAT

Enough about the lip gloss.

Cadence wants to die. She keeps her eyes fixed ahead. Trying to remain stoic in the midst of her humiliation.

EXT. PARTY BOAT - NIGHT

Their boat arrives at the Party Boat. Other, smaller boats are tethered nearby. Music blares. The atmosphere is alive.

Johnny is giddy as a wordless Cadence ties the boat up.

INT. PARTY BOAT - NIGHT

Cadence and the Liars climb aboard the party boat. LED lights flash, illuminating a sea of dancing bodies.

JOHNNY

(to Gat)

Let's find the bar.

They disappear into the crowd. Mirren in Cadence's ear --

MIRREN  
Target acquired.

CADENCE  
What?

Mirren nods to a preppy boy nearby. This is SHEP CALLOWAY (18). His name and vibe tell you all you need to know.

MIRREN  
Operation practice fuck can begin.

Mirren dances off in Shep's general direction, leaving Cadence alone.

CLOSE ON CADENCE as she takes in what's become of her night:

Mirren flirting with Shep.

Johnny and Gat do tequila shots.

Gat talks to a girl in a bikini top and a sarong.

Johnny dances in the middle of a crowd.

Gat joins Johnny's dance party. A pretty PARTY GIRL spins into his arms and starts twerking against him.

Never once does Gat look her way. Tears threaten to spill, but she angrily fights them back. She's not going to cry.

Instead, dusty sand crabs pour from her heart. Skittering across the deck of the boat towards the water.

It's all too much. She turns and leaves.

EXT. PARTY BOAT - NIGHT

Cadence untethers her motorboat and drives off back towards Beechwood alone.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - FIRE PIT - NIGHT

The firepit is alive in flames as The Littles make smores under Carrie's supervision. Penny and Ed sip wine.

Cadence trudges up the lawn, joining the fire circle.

PENNY  
Where's everyone else?

CADENCE  
They're doing their own thing tonight.

PENNY

Weird. Where?

CARRIE

The booze cruise, obviously.

Cadence starts to protest out of loyalty, but Carrie laughs.

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Poor kid thinks I have no idea. As if I didn't get my fake ID from the same shitty backdoor bar in Edgerton when I was his age.

CADENCE

(unnaturally upset)

Then why didn't you tell him he couldn't go?

CARRIE

Because then he would've wanted it even more. People always want what they can't have.

Cadence slumps. Isn't that the truth.

ED

Wait. Were any of you served alcohol?

CADENCE

(flimsy denial)

We're underage.

ED

Yes you are. Perfect. Thank you.

He kisses Carrie, a sparkle in his eyes.

ED (CONT'D)

Be right back.

He hurries off.

BESS

What's that about?

CARRIE

Machiavelli.

Cadence settles in with the Littles, grabbing for a marshmallow skewer. Feeling more at home amidst the adolescent fun than the grown-up mess she left behind.

As she watches the fire burn...

CADENCE (V.O.)

*Once upon a time, a young maiden  
met a gallant prince. She always  
thought she had no need for such  
things, for she knew that princes  
came and went.*

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY BOAT - NIGHT

Mirren is dancing with Shep. Johnny is making out with a random tourist GUY. CAMERA FINDS GAT. Looking around for Cadence. Realizing she's gone.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*But she thought this prince might  
be worth it. Not realizing that by  
opening her heart to him...*

CUT TO:

EXT. CLAIRMONT - FIRE PIT - NIGHT

Now the Littles are all seated around the fire with Cadence as she tells them a story.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*...she would be destroying her own  
fairy tale.*

Suddenly something catches her eye. She looks up.

WILL

Gat --!

Gat is standing there. Dripping wet from head to toe.

He's staring at her. Eyes apologetic.

Her breath catches in her throat.

WILL (CONT'D)

Why are you wet?

GAT

I was swimming.

WILL

But you're wearing clothes.

GAT  
I know. I just really wanted to be  
here with you guys...

A beat as he looks right at Cadence.

GAT (CONT'D)  
Instead of where I was.

Cadence stands. Takes two steps towards Gat, closing the gap  
between them. His eyes never leave hers.

She opens her mouth, not sure if she wants to yell at him or  
kiss him. So she chooses option C:

She runs.

A beat, and then Gat follows. Just like when they were eight.

EXT. BEECHWOOD - NIGHT

Cadence runs down the paths, all the way to the dock at Tiny  
Beach. Gat remains in pursuit.

EXT. TINY BEACH - NIGHT

Cadence comes to a stop on the dock at Tiny Beach. Gat right  
behind her. Both breathing heavily. Finally --

GAT  
Why did you run?

CADENCE  
To see if you'd chase me.

GAT  
I've been chasing you my whole  
life. I'll always chase you.

This is what she's been wanting to hear, but it just confuses  
her even more.

CADENCE  
Then why --  
(exposed)  
You made me feel so stupid tonight.

GAT  
I know. I'm sorry. I got scared.

CADENCE  
Of what?

He hesitates over his next words. A confession brewing.

Cadence waits, her heart pounding.

Their eyes are locked on each other.

Whatever happens next will be irreversible.

Time slows.

And then --

JOHNNY (O.S.)  
CANNONBALL!!!

A very naked Johnny and Mirren fly by them, catapulting themselves off the end of the dock into the water.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Get your asses in here, you  
ditchers!

Moment broken, Cadence and Gat have a decision to make. A look passes between them. In this moment, they're both sixteen and ten years old.

Cadence grins at Gat. Then pulls her dress off over her head -

CADENCE  
CANNONBALL!

-- and hurtles herself off the dock. As she plunges below the water, she hears the splash and feels the telltale rush of Gat following suit beside her.

But as she breaks the surface--

It's TEN-YEAR-OLD CADY who comes up for air, beside her three ten-year-old friends. They all grin, treading water, whooping and laughing as little Johnny lunges for little Gat, trying to dunk him--

Then, as the camera rounds the circle of Liars, they are sixteen again. But -- the boys are still wrestling, Mirren is still squealing about something gross touching her leg...

...and Cady is still overwhelmed with uncomplicated, innocent love for these people, in this place.

For just this moment, it's like nothing has changed.

INT. CLAIRMONT - NIGHT

Harris is at his desk working when there's a light knock on the doorframe. It's Carrie.



CARRIE

The Edgartown PD is shutting the party boat down right now, thanks to a tip from a concerned citizen. Ed rose to your challenge.

Harris raises his brows a bit, surprised.

HARRIS

Well. Thank him for me.

CARRIE

You didn't care about the boat.

HARRIS

It was an eyesore *and* a hazard--

CARRIE

Dad. Come on. Why are you testing him? Are you trying to see if he's got it in him to be a Sinclair?

HARRIS

(a soft chuckle)

I assure you, I don't think your boyfriend will ever be a Sinclair.

Carrie's expression shifts, just the briefest flare of hurt in her eyes before she covers it up.

CARRIE

My partner. He's been obsessed with impressing you because he wants to ask you if he can marry me. I told him that's an antiquated practice, but...

She waits for his response. Any response. But he says nothing. Disappointed, she sighs and leaves. Harris clenches his jaw, a darkness we haven't seen settling over his face.

EXT. CLAIRMONT - FIRE PIT - NIGHT

The Littles are asleep on blankets around the fire. Penny pours the last of the Chablis into her glass. Tipper masks a yawn beside her.

PENNY

It's late for you, mom.

TIPPER

I'm keeping you company.

PENNY

You don't have to worry about me.  
(a beat, then--)  
Honestly. I'm fine. I don't miss  
Sam. Eighteen years of marriage and  
I don't even think about him. What  
does that say about me?

TIPPER

Well. Sinclairs face forward.  
(then)  
I imagine the divorce must be  
draining, though.

PENNY

Mostly on my bank account. He's  
coming after me for everything. The  
Burlington house, what's left of  
the trust. I've been meaning to  
talk to you about it.

TIPPER

You must be kidding. He leaves you  
for another woman and he thinks  
he's entitled to that? The nerve...

PENNY

It's... not that simple. He's hired  
a private investigator, Mom.

This lands on Tipper as she realizes --

TIPPER

And you have something to hide...

A moment passes between them in the silence. A beat as guilt  
washes over Penny's face. She wants to tell her mother  
everything. But that's not what Sinclair's do. Instead --

PENNY

I need to go for a run.

As she rises --

EXT. BEECHWOOD - DOCK - NIGHT

Bess stands on the family dock as a boat approaches. She's  
wearing a flattering sundress and a wrap. Color on her lips.

But it's not the water taxi, it's JoMo from Harbor Service.  
Bess looks confused.

BESS

Where's the taxi?

JOMO

Done for the night. Unlike me, they were all running on time today.

BESS

But my husband was due in on the last flight --

JOMO

Anyone on that flight got where they needed to go already.

On Bess, crestfallen and frustrated.

JoMo starts to unload, chatting easily while Bess watches him at work. Trying to get her emotions in check.

JOMO (CONT'D)

Tell your mom I loaded her up on those clams she likes --

BESS

Can you tell what's wrong with me?

JOMO

Excuse me?

BESS

I've had four kids, sure, but I *maintain* myself. Work out five times a week. Keep my highlights fresh. I host one hell of a dinner party. I don't lose my temper, I write thank you notes on time, I'm sexually generous. I'm prettier than both of my sisters, even though Carrie's got the stronger chin my father bought for her. All told, I can't see a single thing wrong with me except that I married a man who can't seem to make it in time for the last fucking flight of the day.

(then)

Do you have any cigarettes?

Unsure what to make of her, he reaches into one of his bags and pulls out a pack of American Spirits. Offering her one.

JOMO

Need a light?

Off her nod, he pulls out a lighter, igniting it for her. As she lights her cigarette, her eyes find his.

JOMO (CONT'D)

Since you asked...the answer is,  
not from where I'm standing.

As she holds his gaze --

EXT. TINY BEACH - NIGHT

The Liars are lying on the beach, partially dressed, staring  
up at the night sky.

MIRREN

There's another one.

Above, a METEOR shoots across the sky. Then, Mirren nudges  
Johnny. He clears his throat.

JOHNNY

Cady and Gat, I'm sorry I made you  
go on the boat even though you  
didn't want to.

Cadence appreciates this. And --

CADENCE

I'm sorry I ditched you.

GAT

Same.

MIRREN

Are you sorry for lying?

This takes Cadence by surprise. But Mirren's serious.

MIRREN (CONT'D)

About blowing me off to watch the  
meteor with Gat. Liars don't lie to  
each other. That's not what we do.

CADENCE

(means it)  
I'm sorry for lying.

With a wave of his hand --

JOHNNY

You're all forgiven.  
(he stands)  
Okay, I'm freezing. Wanna watch a  
movie at Red Gate?

MIRREN

(getting up)

Yeah, I'm just gonna shower and put on cozies. You guys coming?

CADENCE

(a brief pause)

Yep. Be there soon.

GAT

Yeah, right behind you.

Johnny and Mirren go on ahead, seemingly not noticing the moment passing between Cady and Gat. They're already clambering over the rock ledge, bickering pleasantly--

MIRREN

I'm calling it now. Shep and I are gonna happen.

JOHNNY

His name is *Shep Calloway*. You can't have sex with a Shep. It's too cliché.

As their voices fade, Cady looks back to Gat. In the sand, he moves one pinkie finger slowly, to brush against hers. Once again, butterflies explode from her chest.

EXT. BEECHWOOD PATH/FAMILY DOCK - NIGHT

Johnny and Mirren walk the lit path together.

MIRREN

Did you see them? Everything's changing whether we like it or not.

JOHNNY

There's always the nuclear option.

The path forks and he turns off toward Red Gate. He walks backward for a beat, facing her, gesturing like he's pulling a grenade pin with his teeth and throwing it, making an explosion sound effect.

MIRREN

You're so dramatic.

JOHNNY

You love me. See you in ten.

Mirren waves him off, continues down the path, Johnny disappearing into the darkness, walking the other way.

EXT. TINY BEACH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Gat tears his eyes away from Cady's, looking down at their hands touching in the sand. She waits with bated breath...

And then he sits up, looking out at the water. She deflates, just the tiniest bit. *This is never going to happen.* Then he rakes a hand through his wet hair, nervous.

GAT

Am I forgiven too? Because I'm sorry. I'm really, really sorry.

CADENCE

(making him work for it)  
You're going to have to lend me your nerd porn books.

GAT

Easy.

CADENCE

You're definitely gonna need to learn to drive the boat.

GAT

That has to wait until I can afford to get it fixed if I break it.

He smiles, holding her eyes in his. As if he never wants to look anywhere else. *She can't take it anymore.*

CADENCE

And you need to stop looking at me like that.

GAT

I'm not looking at you.

With a roll of her eyes, she stands up, brushing a bit of sand off her legs. As she straightens, he's up too, standing right in front of her. Lifting her chin with his hand.

GAT (CONT'D)

And that's the last lie I'll ever tell you.

With that, he leans in and kisses her. A sweet, romantic kiss to seal his words. They part -- staring at each other.

Gat searches Cadence's face for reassurance...

--And then, giddy, she kisses him back. Her hands wrapping around his neck, lips parting as they kiss and kiss.

CAMERA PULLS UP WIDE as (imaginary) meteors begin to fall from the sky around them like phosphorescent rain...

CADENCE (V.O.)

*For a long time, that night was the last thing I remembered of our sixteenth summer on Beechwood Island. Gat and me, caught in the idyll of our own private kingdom.*

FLASH TO:

INT. RED GATE - NIGHT

A somber Carrie cleans up the bridge game. A half-empty bottle of Chablis sits on the table.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*Where no one was an addict.*

Carrie eyes it for a moment longer than normal. As if it's calling to her.

Then she picks it up and pours it down the drain.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CLAIRMONT - NIGHT

Ed scoops up a sleeping Will from the lounge chair, nodding his goodnight to Tipper and heading off down the path.

Above, quiet, Harris stands on the second floor balcony of Clairmont with his nightcap, flanked by two goldens.

CADENCE (V.O.)

*No one was a criminal.*

He watches Ed walk into the trees with his grandson, a king peering down on his subjects. A shadow over his face.

FLASH TO:

EXT. BEECHWOOD - NIGHT

Mirren walks alone. But then she hears a creak, and a gasp. She turns toward the sound. Curious, as she nears the main dock and sees it --

JoMo, pressing Bess up against the side of the boathouse, her skirt hiked up around her waist, her hands buried in his hair as he scrapes his teeth across her collarbone--

Mirren turns away violently. Breathing hard. Horrified.

CADENCE  
*No one was needy.*

FLASH TO:

Penny runs on the dark beach. Feet pounding the surface as though she's fleeing something. She stops, bent over. It seems like she's just breathing heavily, but then it becomes clear -- she's sobbing. Her secrets weighing her down.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*And no one was a failure.*

FLASH TO:

BACK TO CADY AND GAT

As they kiss and kiss....

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*We were happy. We wanted for nothing.*

CAMERA TRAVELS from Cadence and Gat, down the walkways, across the beach grass, down to Tiny Beach.

**CHYRON: ONE MONTH LATER**

CAMERA FINDS a girl, unconscious, washed up on the beach in her underwear, blonde hair tangled and matted to her face.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*But like I said...*

A wave shifts her body and her face is revealed.

It's Cadence. Her body bruised and bloodied, left for dead.

CADENCE (V.O.)  
*We were Liars.*

SMASH TO BLACK.