

THE CAMPER VAN CREW

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CALI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The neat, average-sized room contains many books and a full-body mirror. A bedside lamp lights the room with a soft glow.

CALI, 33, a petite brunette with blue-green eyes, lies in bed with HEATH, 32, a short and rather skinny man with dark hair. He cuddles her while she studies their engagement rings.

HEATH
Overthinking again, Sweets?

CALI
I'm... yeah. Are we... I don't know. Doing this the wrong way?

HEATH
Doing it "the wrong way" worked for Mum and Dad. And don't worry, they loved you in all the zoom calls.

Cali glances up at him, managing a brief smile.

CALI
The covid lockdown really screwed us, huh? What about your sister?

HEATH
Her too. Just be delicate about the divorce. And don't call her Sephie.

Cali giggles nervously and fiddles with her ring.

CALI
Do you ever worry about us?

HEATH
Yeah. Once in a while. Do you?

CALI
All the time.

Heath smiles at her reassuringly, then gently tilts her head up and kisses her. Cali relaxes, snuggling up to him.

INT. CALI'S FLAT - DAY

Cali sits at her small dining area table, reading an email from a UK writing competition on her laptop. She rocks back and forth on her chair.

Onscreen: *"Dear Cali, thanks for submitting The English Lass. After careful consideration, we regret to inform you that you will not be advancing to the semi-finals. Best wishes."*

CALI

A simple "piss off" would suffice.

Heath enters with a suitcase, sees Cali's dejected face and rocking motions, and takes one look at the email. He puts a hand on her shoulder.

HEATH

They're illiterate idiots.

Cali laughs, looking up at Heath gratefully. She shuts down the laptop, packing it into a case before taking the suitcase.

INT. HEATH'S CAR - DAY

Heath drives and Cali sits in the passenger's seat, hugging her laptop case. Checking her phone, she scans a bunch of loving, occasionally concerned texts between her and her father.

HEATH

Sometimes I think he thinks you're still a kid.

CALI

Oh, you should have seen his face when I told him we're engaged.

She sends a quick, reassuring smiley emoji to her father.

EXT. SWISS FARM TOURING AND CAMPING - DAY

Tents, cabins, caravans and camper vans are scattered around. Despite the typical English weather, Cali wears sunglasses, hugging her laptop case as she and Heath get out of the car. Heath gets her suitcase, leading her to a large camper van.

His parents step out of the van. Cali waves to them shyly.

ARIANA, 66, is petite with long, greyish-blond hair, effortlessly graceful. Her brown-eyed, still mostly dark-haired husband, GERALD, 60, towers over her.

CALI

Hiya, I'm Cali. Obviously.

Ariana smiles and Gerald chuckles as Cali fumbles, blushing.

GERALD

So, he finally popped the question.

CALI

Actually, I asked him.

ARIANA

Bold. It's nice to properly meet you. You're prettier off zoom.

Cali smiles awkwardly but winces as Gerald shakes her hand. Ariana tilts her head at the camper van and steps inside.

INT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

The long van, neatly arranged, can hold six people. Behind the driver's cab is a toilet and shower cubicle next to a bunk bed. There are two sofas at the back, one of which Ariana sits on.

Cali shrinks slightly as she follows Gerald. Heath, bringing up the rear, touches her shoulder.

HEATH

You okay, Sweets?

CALI

Yeah. Where do I put my stuff?

Gerald opens an overhead compartment. Once Cali's cases are stored, she sits opposite Ariana, tapping her leg awkwardly.

GERALD

This was the largest camper van available. Persephone suggested it.

CALI

I'm... anticipating meeting her.

ARIANA

No need to worry tonight. We'll fetch her and Mary tomorrow.

EXT. MEADOW - DUSK

Wide, open, green and isolated, it is beautiful. Ariana parks the camper van and steps out first, the fading light illuminating her long, greying hair.

Gerald gazes at his wife lovingly. Ariana notices and they share a warm smile. Gerald goes into the back of the van.

INT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

He finds Cali and Heath sitting on one of the sofas together. Cali types on her laptop while Heath watches her, smiling.

GERALD

We're here. Would you prefer inside
or outside?

Cali's eyes dart to him nervously as she rocks back and forth.

CALI

Sorry?

HEATH

On a nice evening, we often set up
camp outside.

Cali glances out of the window, skin glowing in the sunset.

CALI

Oh. Hang on. How's this dialogue?

She turns the laptop towards Heath, away from Gerald's gaze.

HEATH

Vulnerable and sincere.

CALI

By which you mean corny.

They grin fondly at each other. Gerald clears his throat. Cali shuts down her laptop, darts to the door holding it, then sheepishly turns to put it in the overhead compartment.

EXT. MEADOW - NIGHT

The sky is overcast and the four sit around a portable stove. Sleeping bags are laid out, Ariana and Gerald roast marshmallows, and Cali leans on Heath's shoulder.

HEATH

In the end, Cali walked away and I
spent twenty-four hours being
terrified that she regretted
proposing.

CALI

Twenty-one and a half. I was
processing.

Heath smiles, kissing her head.

HEATH

I drew a blank trying to figure out what she was thinking. Even checked my women psyche studies.

GERALD

A lost cause.

Ariana elbows him playfully.

CALI

I worry that we've done the whole process wrong.

ARIANA

So did we. And we didn't have the lockdown excuse.

She gestures between herself and Gerald, then gives Cali a marshmallow. Cali eats and vaguely waves around the meadow.

CALI

Dad didn't let me do much of this.

ARIANA

Overprotective?

CALI

Yeah, but it's my fault. I'm a robot with faulty wiring.

She taps her head, giggles, and eats her marshmallow.

HEATH

You're not faulty, Sweets.

CALI

Of course I am. So is everybody else on this giant bowling ball.

She giggles again, but nobody else seems amused. Heath looks slightly sad. Cali sheepishly eats another marshmallow.

GERALD

So, what do you do for a living?

CALI

I quit my last job, so I live off benefits and Dad pays the bills. Failing as a writer is still better than being a token hire.

HEATH

Cali, you're a good writer.

Cali smiles doubtfully, tapping her leg.

GERALD

What about the rest of your family?

Cali tenses and takes her sunglasses out of her pocket.

CALI

It's just me and Dad. He's a clown.

GERALD

What about your...

HEATH

Dad. Too soon.

Cali laughs, much louder and less natural than her giggles, breathing abnormally hard as she puts her sunglasses on.

CALI

You could have told them.

HEATH

I thought it was private.

Ariana and Gerald share a look as Cali rocks back and forth.

CALI

Mum died giving birth to me. I don't even have a picture of her.

GERALD

God rest her soul.

Cali is silent, face unreadable. Her breathing calms and she stops rocking, forcing a smile as she removes her sunglasses.

CALI

Can I have another marshmallow, please?

INT. PERSEPHONE'S FLAT - DAY

The small flat is cluttered with clothes, toys and DVDs. The kitchen and living area are combined in one room.

PERSEPHONE, 35, a dark-haired woman with Ariana's petite build and Gerald's brown eyes, finishes packing a suitcase. She turns to a half-open door.

PERSEPHONE

Marietta, have you got everything?

MARIETTA, 7, a little blonde girl with her hair tied in the same braid as her Elsa doll, enters with a small bag.

MARIETTA
Yep. I got Elsa.

PERSEPHONE
Toothbrush and toothpaste?

Marietta frowns, disappears back into her room, and returns with the requested items, packing them into her little bag.

MARIETTA
When will they come?

Persephone shrugs, wanders to the kitchen area, and picks up a bottle of wine. Marietta goes to the window and looks down at the car park below, fiddling with her Elsa doll.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Do you think Uncle Heath's
girlfriend is nice?

Persephone shrugs again, pours the wine into a glass, and slumps lazily onto the sofa.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)
Daddy said no wine in the morning.

PERSEPHONE
Too bad, Daddy's gone!

She glares at Marietta, who shrinks slightly. Persephone's expression softens. She sighs, gazing into her wine glass.

MARIETTA
They're here.

Persephone downs her wine and rises, picking up the suitcase.

EXT. PERSEPHONE'S CAR PARK - DAY

Marietta bounces into the near-empty car park. Gerald gets out of the camper van, beaming as she rushes to him.

MARIETTA
Grandad!

Gerald lifts her up as Persephone exits the building.

GERALD
You're getting too big for this,
Sweetheart.

PERSEPHONE

You're just getting old, Dad.

GERALD

Yes, thank you.

He opens his arms. Persephone rolls her eyes but accepts the hug. Cali, wearing her sunglasses, joins them with Ariana and Heath. Persephone allows Ariana's hug, but gives Heath a guarded look.

HEATH

Good to see you too, Sephie.

CALI

Hiya, Seph-- Persephone. I'm Cali.

Persephone smiles and nods curtly. Marietta skips to Cali.

MARIETTA

Uncle Heath likes tall ladies.
You're small.

ARIANA

Marietta.

CALI

It's fine, being small is great.
It's partially why your grandma
still looks fifty-six. Actually,
are you fifty-six?

Gerald and Persephone frown, Heath and Marietta look amused, and Ariana smiles patiently.

ARIANA

No, but that's very sweet, Cali.

PERSEPHONE

Yes. How old are you?

CALI

Thirty-three years and eight
months. What about you?

Persephone ignores her, walking past Cali to the camper van.

CALI (CONT'D)

Did I say something wrong?

HEATH

Nah, my big sister's just insecure
about her age.

Persephone flips him the finger. Ariana quickly turns Marietta's head away, to the little girl's confusion.

HEATH (CONT'D)
Oi, not in front of the kid,
Sephie!

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Persephone lounges on the bottom bunk, scrolling on her phone. Her family and Cali gather on the sofas with a map of England. Gerald points to the southern part, tracing a route until his finger reaches and taps Stonehenge.

GERALD
We've arranged for Cali's father to meet us here in two weeks. Keep to the usual driving cycle.

CALI
What's the driving cycle?

HEATH
Youngest to oldest, one driver per day. Guess that means you're taking over today, Mary.

He grins at Marietta and Cali giggles. Heath's family give him flat stares. Even Persephone looks up to join in.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY (LATER)

Cali, wearing her sunglasses, chats with Marietta on a sofa. On the other, Gerald reads a Bible and Ariana snoozes on his shoulder. Heath drives over a speed bump, jolting her awake.

HEATH
Everyone okay back there?

MARIETTA
We're fine, Uncle Heath. Anyway, what's the song called, Cali?

CALI
Hellfire.

MARIETTA
Oh yeah. It's really scary and why was Frolo singing to Quasi's mum?

CALI

He wasn't. He was praying. It's even scarier when you grow up.

Gerald removes his reading glasses and rubs his forehead. Ariana gives him a half-amused, half-admonishing look. She puts his Bible in a tiny book cabinet with a different Bible.

Marietta fidgets, looking at Cali's sunglasses.

MARIETTA

Can I see your eyes?

Cali hesitantly takes off her sunglasses.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

You've got pretty eyes. Why do you hide them?

CALI

Protection.

MARIETTA

From what?

CALI

I'm autistic. Sometimes I need to--

MARIETTA

What's autistic?

CALI

It's a weird brain condition. The sunglasses help.

Marietta opens her mouth but Ariana shakes her head. Marietta fidgets, then her face brightens.

MARIETTA

Elsa helps me sleep. You wanna meet her?

Cali nods and smiles, relaxing.

INT. CAMPER VAN DRIVER'S CAB - DAY

Heath drives. Persephone, sitting without her seat belt on, looks back to see Cali braiding Elsa's hair with Marietta.

PERSEPHONE

Weird catch. How long before you lose interest?

Heath shows her his engagement ring.

HEATH

Cali's got a matching one.

PERSEPHONE

Cute. But be honest, you're using her for your psyche studies.

HEATH

That's not true. Granted, it started that way--

PERSEPHONE

Hah! Does she know that?

Heath is silent. Persephone raises an eyebrow.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Women don't like being used.

HEATH

First of all, she proposed to me. Second, you used Fredric for money.

Persephone looks hurt.

PERSEPHONE

You know it wasn't only that.

Heath looks at her doubtfully, then glances back at Marietta.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

Trees tower over the camper van as Gerald and Ariana set up an awning. Cali hops out of the van without her sunglasses.

CALI

What's this?

Persephone pokes her head out of the passenger's window.

PERSEPHONE

You've never seen an awning?

CALI

No. I've never lived in a caravan.

ARIANA

It's an extension to give us more sleeping spaces. We thought you and Heath might want some privacy.

CALI

That's thoughtful, but we don't need privacy. We've never had sex.

Persephone gapes at her. Ariana and Gerald share an awkward glance, although Ariana is fighting a smile.

PERSEPHONE

Really?

CALI

Yeah. I said that wrong, didn't I?

Ariana and Gerald smile with amusement and discomfort respectively. Persephone snorts and withdraws into the van.

INT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

She goes to the back where Heath is reading and Marietta is playing on her Nintendo Switch.

PERSEPHONE

Heath, can we talk?

Heath closes his book and follows her to the door. Persephone makes sure Marietta is distracted by her game.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Is Cali a virgin?

HEATH

Yeah. So?

PERSEPHONE

That's weird for an adult woman.

HEATH

Cali's very shy. And not stupidly reckless.

Seeing his provocative smirk, Persephone angrily shoves him against the shower cubicle door. Heath rubs his shoulder but keeps smirking as Persephone whirls around and storms out.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

She finds Cali watching Ariana and Gerald finish the awning. Cali, oblivious to Persephone's mood, looks inside.

PERSEPHONE

Ready to lose your virginity?

Cali turns to her, surprised.

CALI

No.

PERSEPHONE

Why not? You just lay back and--

ARIANA

Persephone.

PERSEPHONE

She's the one who brought it up.

CALI

I was just being transparent. I thought people liked that.

Persephone looks at her for a long moment, huffs out a laugh, and walks away. Cali glances at Ariana and Gerald, uncertain.

EXT. FOREST RIVER - DAY

The river flows by, trees and sky reflecting off its surface.

Persephone shuffles to a rock and sits, looking sadly at her phone. She puts it in her pocket, takes off her shoes and socks, and dips her feet in the water, watching it flow by.

CALI (O.S.)

Persephone?

Persephone jumps, rising swiftly as Cali emerges from the trees, wearing her sunglasses.

PERSEPHONE

What the hell? Don't sneak up like that!

CALI

Sorry. I wanted to say I'm sorry about your divorce.

PERSEPHONE

They told you.

CALI

Well, Heath did. And I've told him personal stuff.

PERSEPHONE

About you or someone else?

CALI

About me, which I guess is a bad comparison. Sorry, I'm not good at people. It's great that I've got a guy who gets them.

Persephone smiles condescendingly, sitting back on the rock. Cali stays standing awkwardly, twisting her engagement ring.

PERSEPHONE

He's a wannabe psychologist.

CALI

Yeah, but he could be a proper one.

PERSEPHONE

You know he needs a psychology degree first, right?

CALI

Well, he's an autodidact, so I--

PERSEPHONE

Don't use that word. It makes you sound pretentious.

CALI

Autodidact? But that's what he is.

Persephone huffs. She glares at her frustrated reflection as Cali's earnest one ripples beside hers in the flowing water.

CALI (CONT'D)

So, do you want some company?

PERSEPHONE

No. Thank you.

CALI

Oh. Alright.

She walks away. Persephone glances back to sneer after her.

INT. AWNING - DAY

Cali and Heath sleep, sharing a blanket on a large mattress. Marietta barges in, filling the awning with light.

MARIETTA

Morning! We're going to the beach!

Cali jerks upright with a quiet yelp, shielding her eyes. Heath sits up, touching her shoulder while she calms down.

HEATH

Mary, don't burst in like that.

MARIETTA

Sorry, I'm just so excited.

She bounces outside, singing to herself.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

When we go down to the beach today,
we're going to lie in the sun. When
we go down to the beach today,
we're gonna have so much fun!

Cali glances at Heath and he smiles apologetically.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

Shining sunlight reflects off the gentle waves rolling in and out. Families and couples enjoy the sun, sand and sea.

Marietta bounds onto the crowded beach. Persephone, wearing a revealing bikini, follows with Gerald and Ariana. Heath and Cali, holding hands, are the last to leave the camper van.

CALI

Oh. That's a lot of people.

She puts on her sunglasses. Ariana and Gerald set up and relax on two deck chairs while Persephone lays out a large beach towel.

HEATH

I'll get another chair.

CALI

It's fine, I don't mind sand.

HEATH

You sure? It's coarse, rough and irritating.

Cali laughs. Heath sits with Persephone on the towel and Cali sits on the sand, watching Marietta chat to a group of kids.

CALI

How is Marietta so confident?

HEATH

Probably inherited it from her dad.

Persephone smiles ruefully, rises, and walks into the sea.

CALI
Is he a good dad?

HEATH
He tries to be but the marriage was a disaster. Especially after Sephie cheated on him.

Cali twists her engagement ring as Marietta skips to her.

MARIETTA
Cali, can you help us build a sandcastle?

Cali relaxes, glancing at Marietta's new friends, who build a shapeless pile of sand. She rises, following the little girl.

Cali does not notice a tall, handsome young man, TERENCE, watching her with interest.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY (LATER)

The moat has been dug and the children try to make an arch for the entrance with wet sand. Cali, no longer wearing her sunglasses, watches with amusement as it keeps collapsing.

Ariana whistles. Cali flinches and Marietta looks up to see her grandmother holding an ice cream.

ARIANA
The van's over there, kids.

She jerks her thumb to a nearby ice cream van. The other children abandon the sandcastle, stampeding towards the van while Ariana gives Marietta the ice cream.

MARIETTA
Thanks, Grandma.

Terence, still watching from a distance, does a double-take as he looks at Ariana. Then his intense gaze returns to Cali.

ARIANA
I think you girls should leave the arch and focus on the turrets.

Cali looks at the sandcastle, then at Marietta.

CALI
You can handle that, right? I'm going to get a lolly.

She heads to the camper van. Marietta points left.

MARIETTA

Hey, the ice cream van's that way.

CALI

But my purse is this way.

MARIETTA

Grandma can buy you one.

CALI

I can buy it on my own, Marietta.

Marietta, puzzled by Cali's annoyance, licks her ice cream. Cali walks past Terence without noticing his lustful gaze.

ARIANA

You forgot she's a grown-up, didn't you?

MARIETTA

Yeah. She's not boring enough.

Ariana raises an eyebrow as Marietta innocently returns to the sandcastle. Huffing good-naturedly, Ariana returns to her deck chair.

Cali exits the camper van with her purse and approaches the ice cream van. The children disperse, licking ice creams and lollies. The ICE CREAM MAN smiles as Cali avoids eye contact.

CALI

Can I have a fruit pastel lolly, please?

ICE CREAM MAN

Sure. One pound.

Terence swaggers towards Cali as she pays and takes the lolly. She turns and almost bumps into him.

TERENCE

Hey Gorgeous, wanna lick my lolly?

Cali stares at him, confused. She edges around him, heading towards Ariana and Gerald, but Terence stalks after her.

HEATH (O.S.)

Oi, back off!

His shout distracts Terence. Cali watches anxiously as Heath storms out of the sea to confront the much larger man.

TERENCE

You her boyfriend?

HEATH

Fiancé.

TERENCE

Seriously? She can do better.

Cali sidles closer to Heath, avoiding eye contact.

HEATH

Take out your crap on someone else!

TERENCE

Make me, you scrawny simp.

Cali meets his eyes, stalks forward, and slaps him hard. Straight afterwards, she looks shocked. Terence does too and even Heath looks surprised.

Then Heath smiles proudly at Cali. Terence glares at the couple, turns on his heel, and storms away.

Heath holds Cali's hand, still smiling. Cali forces one in return, then turns away, ripping open her lolly and licking it, eyes darting. Marietta hurries up with her sunglasses.

MARIETTA

Cali, you left these at the sandcastle. You okay?

Cali shakily smiles at her and puts on the sunglasses. She returns to the camper van and Heath follows. Marietta starts to go too, changing her mind when Gerald rises from his deck chair and enters the sea.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, licking her lolly, grabs her laptop one-handed from the overhead compartment. Heath watches, concerned, as she sits on the sofa, rocking back and forth and tapping her leg while the laptop powers up.

Heath hesitates, then leaves her alone, closing the door quietly.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

Marietta paddles in the sea with Gerald while Persephone flirts with a blond man named GREG. Frowning as she watches her mother, Marietta attempts the breaststroke.

GERALD

Mary, don't go too far out.

MARIETTA

Don't worry, Granddad, Mum's there.
Mum, am I doing this right?

Persephone glances over impatiently.

PERSEPHONE

You're doing fine, Marietta.

Greg raises an eyebrow as she turns back to him.

GREG

You're a mother?

PERSEPHONE

Did you not see the stretch marks?

GREG

Nope. But you must be experienced.

He winks and Persephone smirks flirtatiously. Gerald frowns disapprovingly as she jerks her thumb to the camper van.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, no longer wearing her sunglasses, looks up from her laptop, smiling nervously as Persephone and Greg enter.

PERSEPHONE

Can we have the van for a bit?

CALI

Why? Aren't you enjoying the beach?

PERSEPHONE

Yes, but we want to... you know...

Cali looks from Persephone to the stranger.

CALI

Do you know each other?

GREG

No, but we want to.

He winks at Persephone, to Cali's bewilderment.

CALI

Is this prostitution?

Persephone and Greg both flush bright red.

GREG

Well, I wouldn't-- No!

CALI

You both want to have sex with a stranger, right?

PERSEPHONE

That's not prostitution! I'm not asking him to pay me!

CALI

Well, how's casual sex any better? Especially considering--

She stops quickly, dropping her gaze and fiddling with her engagement ring. Greg looks uncomfortable.

GREG

Um, I'm gonna go now.

He awkwardly leaves and Persephone glares furiously at Cali.

PERSEPHONE

You little-- I was-- Gah!

She slams the door and Cali flinches. She stares at the door, rocking slightly.

CALI

Well, there's no need to get huffy.

She stops rocking, turns to her laptop, and keeps typing.

INT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT (LATER)

Cali eats pasta with Heath, Gerald, Ariana and Marietta on the sofas. Ariana turns towards the shower cubicle.

ARIANA

Persephone.

PERSEPHONE (O.S.)

Not hungry.

ARIANA

I was going to say, don't use all the water.

Cali finishes her food and turns to Heath.

CALI

Shall we go for a walk?

HEATH

Now? Why the eagerness?

CALI

It's a nice night and Persephone's angry with me.

GERALD

You did the right thing, telling her to stop.

CALI

I didn't tell her to stop. I've just never understood why people are so obsessed with--

ARIANA

Not in front of Mary.

Marietta looks up with pasta dangling from her mouth, frowning.

MARIETTA

Is this Mum's boyfriends?

HEATH

Basically. Though I wouldn't even call them boyfriends. She likes to use them and lose them.

MARIETTA

For what?

GERALD

Disgusting behaviour.

CALI

Speaking of disgusting, I need the toilet.

She rises and puts on her sunglasses before going into the shower cubicle.

INT. CAMPER VAN SHOWER CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Persephone, showering, shrieks and covers herself. Cali flinches but composes herself and goes to the toilet, trying to seem nonchalant.

PERSEPHONE

Can't you wait?

CALI

Why? You were totally fine with some random guy seeing you naked. I'll just be a minute.

PERSEPHONE

What the hell is wrong with you?

CALI

Plenty, like everybody else. The difference is, I hate pretending.

PERSEPHONE

Then you shouldn't like my brother.

CALI

What do you mean?

Persephone smirks, her bearing shifting into confidence.

PERSEPHONE

Did Heath ever admit he's dating you to study you?

CALI

Well, that's just logical. You shouldn't marry somebody if you haven't studied them first.

Persephone scowls but quickly regains her composure.

PERSEPHONE

He wants to use you for his psyche studies. He thinks he can bypass the psychology course if he has a messed-up girlfriend.

Cali finishes her wee and washes her hands. She slams the door, leaving Persephone looking smug.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - NIGHT

Cali walks in bare feet without her sunglasses, holding Heath's hand as they wander along the moonlit shoreline.

HEATH

You okay, Sweets?

CALI

I'm just processing.

She looks down at her engagement ring, then at the matching one on Heath's finger.

CALI (CONT'D)

Do you really want to marry me?

HEATH

Of course I do. What's the matter?

CALI

I know I'm not exactly normal.

HEATH

Define normal.

Cali giggles, but her smile quickly fades.

CALI

When I was on the toilet,
Persephone said you're studying me.

HEATH

Yeah, but you've been doing the
same to me.

CALI

That's true, but I want a life
partner. She said you're studying
me for your "psyche studies".

HEATH

Okay, cards on the table, it
started like that. But then you
proposed.

Cali smiles shyly, uncertainly. Heath's smile is sincere.

CALI

You didn't expect it?

HEATH

No. But I'm glad you did it.

Cali gently slips her hand out of his and steps into the sea,
letting the water wash the sand between her toes.

CALI

Persephone also said you need a
degree.

HEATH

Sounds like gatekeeping to me.

CALI

It is. And I think she's more
realistic about it than you. I
can't get you past the gatekeepers.

HEATH
I don't expect you to.

CALI
So, I'm just an experiment?

Heath hesitantly steps closer and touches her shoulder.

HEATH
No. Not since you asked me to marry you. I didn't realize I'd been waiting for that.

CALI
I chose you. You didn't choose me.

She keeps her back to him, fiddling with her engagement ring.

HEATH
I do now. I didn't expect to fall in love. But when you proposed... I realized I already had.

Cali glances at him, avoiding eye contact, then looks back down at her ring.

CALI
People don't want to try and fix somebody unfixable.

HEATH
You don't need fixing.

Cali smiles ruefully, shifting Heath's hand off her shoulder.

CALI
I'd like some time alone, please.
I'll meet you back at the caravan.

Heath nods and leaves, glancing back at her sadly as he goes.

Alone, Cali drifts through the shallows, looking down into the water. She reaches some rocks and picks up a spiral shell, examining it in the moonlight.

TERENCE (O.S.)
You're even hotter in moonlight.

Cali drops the shell, whipping around as Terence climbs over one of the larger rocks. She eyes him warily.

TERENCE (CONT'D)
I didn't introduce myself properly today. I'm Terence.

CALI

I'm Cali. Why are you out here?

TERENCE

Why're you?

CALI

My future sister-in-law needed some time away from me. And it's a nice night.

TERENCE

True. There's a lotta stuff people can do at night.

CALI

If you're trying to flirt again, your pickup lines are terrible. Besides, I'm engaged.

She turns to leave, but Terence grabs her arm tightly.

TERENCE

You really shouldn't have slapped me, bitch.

Cali tries to pull away from him, eyes wide and scared.

CALI

Let me go. I'll scream!

TERENCE

Go ahead.

CALI

Do you want to go to prison?

TERENCE

Don't care. Better than home.

Cali wrenches her arm free but his large hand grabs her throat as he shoves her against a rock. Cali goes limp, the perfect picture of submission. Terence loosens his grip.

Without warning, Cali knees her assailant very hard in the balls. He collapses with an undignified yelp. Cali darts around his crumpled body, sprinting back across the beach.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT

Heath helps Persephone set up the awning. Cali rushes to them, barely giving them time to register her return.

HEATH
Hey, you're back.

Cali kisses him, catching him off guard, before hugging him.

HEATH (CONT'D)
Whoa, what was that for?

Persephone frowns as she watches Cali shake in Heath's arms.

CALI
Can I help with the awning?

PERSEPHONE
Too late, we're done.

HEATH
Cali, what's wrong? You look--

CALI
I just want to go to bed!

Persephone gives her a strange look before going into the camper van. Cali unzips the awning and steps inside.

INT. AWNING - CONTINUOUS

Heath follows her in. Cali looks down at the large mattress and blanket, twisting her engagement ring without facing him.

CALI
Do you want to have sex?

HEATH
What? Right now?

CALI
I met that guy on the beach. You know, the one I slapped. He, well, he grabbed me and shoved me against a rock. It was scary but...

HEATH
Did he hurt you?

CALI
No. Well, except maybe some bruises. It was... I was less scared of him than of myself.

She finally turns to him. Her eyes dart and she breathes abnormally hard. Heath frowns, confused.

HEATH

Okay, you got attacked on the beach
and now you want to...

Persephone enters with their pyjamas. Cali starts to panic as she tosses them onto the mattress. Persephone glances at her, hesitates, then leaves and zips up the awning.

Cali throws herself into Heath's arms, hyperventilating.

CALI

What's wrong with me? Objectively,
I was attacked and I should feel
violated because that's how normal
women feel, but if I need to remind
myself to be upset it means I'm not
really upset, which means some thug
on the beach aroused me, so I--

HEATH

Cali, you need to breathe.

Cali stops rambling, but it takes a few moments for her breathing to return to normal. She pulls back from the hug.

CALI

I'm sorry. I'm a mess.

HEATH

That's okay. You'd be boring if you
weren't.

Cali laughs unnaturally loudly. She sits on the mattress, still looking distressed as she rocks back and forth. Heath sits with her.

CALI

Why did I get excited by some
violent thug?

HEATH

A lot of people can be submissive.
Did he excite you more than me?

Cali hesitates, tapping her leg.

CALI

Not intellectually.

Heath stays silent, looking slightly jealous, so she starts fiddling with her engagement ring again.

CALI (CONT'D)
 You stood up to him. I found that attractive. It's partially why I went back to the caravan.

HEATH
 Wait, did you--

CALI
 No! No. I just needed some time to calm down.

Heath's expression softens, even looking slightly amused.

HEATH
 Getting aroused is normal, Cali.

CALI
 Not during an attempted assault.

Heath's amusement vanishes. He furrows his brow thoughtfully until Cali starts tapping her leg.

CALI (CONT'D)
 Well, you can show me how it works. I mean, I know theoretically but... And we're going to get married soon anyway.

HEATH
 Do you want to have sex?

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

Persephone stands in the shallows, watching Marietta try to swim. Cali emerges from the awning. Marietta waves to her, swallowing and spitting out water.

MARIETTA
 Cali, look! I'm doing breaststroke!

She clumsily demonstrates as Persephone steadies her. Cali smiles briefly. Heath exits the awning while Gerald emerges from the camper van.

GERALD
 If you two want to go for a swim, you'd better hurry. We're leaving for the Fens in an hour.

CALI
 I think I'll just do some writing.

She avoids looking at Heath and goes into the camper van.

INT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

Ariana, reading her Bible on one of the sofas, looks up and smiles at the younger woman.

ARIANA
Good morning, Cali.

Cali waves briefly, avoiding Ariana's eyes as she grabs her laptop and sunglasses. She sits on the other sofa and Ariana closes her Bible as Cali switches the laptop on.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
How was your night?

Cali flinches and hastily puts on her sunglasses, rocking back and forth.

CALI
It was-- Well, I met a creep on the beach, but I can use that to help my writing, so it wasn't all bad. And Heath and I know each other better now.

She twitches very nervously, restraining herself from touching her engagement ring and tapping her leg instead.

ARIANA
Could I take a look?

Cali hesitates, then turns the laptop towards Ariana as the older woman moves gracefully over to her sofa.

Onscreen: "Chapter 5

As the indifferent moonlight shone through the half-open window, Tallisibeth woke in a cold sweat, looking wildly around the room. The echoes of her mother's voice rang through her mind, even as the rest of the dream fled from her consciousness."

Cali watches nervously while Ariana reads the paragraph.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
Tallisibeth?

CALI
I know it's weird. I named her after my favourite Star Wars character.

ARIANA

I see. Maybe you should shorten it to Beth. It might be more accessible to readers.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

Gerald and Persephone stand in the sea as Marietta clumsily swims to them. Smiling proudly, Gerald lifts her up.

GERALD

Well done, Sweetheart.

MARIETTA

Can I go deeper?

GERALD

Not yet, but you're getting better.

Marietta glances at Persephone, who smiles and nods curtly.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

The van is moving and Cali is slumped on the bottom bunk while Heath, Persephone, Ariana and Marietta chat on the sofas. Marietta bounces up and down.

HEATH

Save some energy for the walk, Mary.

MARIETTA

I can't. I'm bored.

Ariana smiles fondly and offers Marietta her Nintendo Switch. Marietta pouts at it.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

It's too hard. I can't beat Volo.

ARIANA

You will if you keep trying.

Persephone turns to Cali, who stares blankly at the top bunk.

PERSEPHONE

Why are you so quiet?

CALI

Should I not be?

PERSEPHONE
No, but this isn't normal, is it?

CALI
I'm processing.

EXT. THE FENS - DAY

Tall reeds sway as Marietta bounces through the wet, open marshland ahead of her family. Cali lags behind them and Heath keeps glancing back at her with concern.

PERSEPHONE
You did it, didn't you?

Heath ignores her as she ambles beside him, smirking.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)
Guess you're a bad lover.

Heath glares at her, then catches up with Ariana and Gerald. Persephone slows down and Cali almost bumps into her.

CALI
Sorry.

PERSEPHONE
That bad, huh?

CALI
Yeah. I screwed up.

EXT. HOMEFIELDS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME PARK - DUSK

Everybody returns to the camper van. While Persephone, Heath and their parents collect food and cooking equipment, Cali and Marietta wander off to admire the sunset.

MARIETTA
Cali, are you sad?

Cali glances down at her, then looks back at the sunset.

CALI
I think I rushed something.

MARIETTA
Mum rushes to new boyfriends all the time.

CALI

That's not exactly what I meant.
Besides, Heath isn't a new
boyfriend. We've been together for
over two years.

MARIETTA

Then why haven't I seen you before?

CALI

Covid got in the way. Are you glad
you met me?

MARIETTA

Yep. I can't talk to most grown-ups
'cause they're too grown-up. Mum
doesn't wanna be with me.

Cali frowns and looks back at Persephone, who is helping
Heath set up the portable stove.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

Why does the sky turn orange?

CALI

I don't know, I'm not a scientist.
It's beautiful though, isn't it?

MARIETTA

Yep. I like the sun like this more
than up there.

She points directly overhead.

CALI

So do I.

Gerald joins them, ruffling Marietta's hair. She bats him
away, grinning.

GERALD

Cali, Heath wants to show you how
to set up the awning.

CALI

Oh. Alright.

She puts on her sunglasses and returns to the camper van.

EXT. HOMEFIELDS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME PARK - NIGHT (LATER)

The moon peeks through the clouds while the family gathers around the portable stove. Cali sits alone by the awning, rocking slightly.

MARIETTA
Beef burgers, yum!

ARIANA
Cali?

CALI
Sorry, I'm not hungry.

PERSEPHONE
Guess Heath filled you up last night.

CALI
Is that a euphemism?

PERSEPHONE
Duh.

HEATH
Shut up, Sephie.

Ariana and Gerald grimace and glance at each other while the blissfully ignorant Marietta stuffs her face.

GERALD
So, who enjoyed the walk?

MARIETTA
Me!

She thrusts her hand up, spraying crumbs from her mouth.

PERSEPHONE
Don't talk with your mouth full.

CALI
How do you do that?

Everybody looks at her with confusion as she moves her chair closer.

CALI (CONT'D)
I mean, one moment you act like a teenager and the next, you scold Marietta for how she eats. That's mum stuff, right?

HEATH

It's her borderline personality disorder. It causes erratic--

PERSEPHONE

Shut up, Heath! No one wants to hear your pretentious psychoanalysis.

CALI

I do.

Persephone glares at her and Heath smirks at his sister. She rises, storms into the camper van, and slams the door. Cali flinches and Marietta drops the remains of her burger.

MARIETTA

Aw, now I can't finish it.

ARIANA

There's plenty more, Mary.

While she hands Marietta another burger, Cali stares at the camper van door blankly.

HEATH

You still want to know why she's like that?

Cali nods silently.

EXT. HOMEFIELDS CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME PARK - DAY (LATER)

Cali is helping Ariana take down the awning when Persephone joins them. She takes Cali's arm before the job is done.

PERSEPHONE

Cali, we need to talk. In private.

She pulls her, not gently, out of the concerned Ariana's sight and earshot.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

I overheard my little brother's psychoanalysis last night.

CALI

It was fascinating, wasn't it?

PERSEPHONE

No. It was infuriating and he did it because of you.

CALI

Well, he's your brother and he knows you better than I do, so I--

PERSEPHONE

Do you know how intrusive it is to have your psyche picked apart?

CALI

No. I wish more people would bother to explore it.

PERSEPHONE

Hah! Heath's only marrying you because he likes damaged goods.

Cali fidgets and takes out her sunglasses. Persephone slaps them out of her hands, causing Cali's breath to quicken.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Look me in the eyes.

Cali struggles to do so, her eyes darting away.

CALI

Damaged goods are women who have slept around, cheated on their husbands, and been divorced.

She manages to meet Persephone's eyes, only for a second. Persephone looks furious, wounded. Before she can retort, Cali picks up her sunglasses, turns her back, and walks away as calmly as she can.

INT. CAMPER VAN SHOWER CUBICLE - DAY

Cali sits shakily on the toilet and drinks a glass of water. She puts it on the sink, rocking and breathing unnaturally.

Then she bursts into tears.

Hyperventilating uncontrollably, Cali tries to muffle her sobs with her trembling hands. She is still crying when she finally regains enough composure to fumble for her phone.

INT. MARKUS' BEDROOM - DAY

The room is messy, except for the neat double bed. MARKUS, 60, hair almost fully grey, sits at a woman's mirror, applying clown makeup.

His phone rings. Taking it out of a drawer, Markus checks his caller before answering.

MARKUS
Finally calling your old man, huh?

CALI (V.O.)
Hi, Dad.

Markus immediately looks concerned.

MARKUS
Little Star, what's wrong?

CALI (V.O.)
I just... I think Heath's sister hates me. She was pissed off that I wanted to hear his psychoanalysis, you know, because he's her brother, and said I'm "damaged goods".

MARKUS
Aren't we all?

CALI (V.O.)
Dad.

MARKUS
Sorry. Seriously though, people are all damaged, Cali. This girl's no different.

CALI (V.O.)
Well, she's bitter because she's divorced. I said she's damaged because of it. And she sleeps around a lot.

MARKUS
Good girl. When someone hits you, hit them back.

CALI (V.O.)
I hate hitting back.

MARKUS
I know.

There is a silence.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
You still there?

CALI (V.O.)
Yeah, I just...

MARKUS
Do you want to come home?

CALI (V.O.)
No. I just needed to hear you.
Thanks, Dad.

MARKUS
Any time, Little Star. Listen, I'm getting ready for a birthday party, so I can't talk for long. You sure you're alright?

CALI (V.O.)
Yeah, I'll see you in a week. Well, technically in nine days but...

MARKUS
I know. See you then. I love you.

CALI (V.O.)
I love you too, Dad.

She hangs up. Markus puts his phone into his pocket and looks sadly into the still open drawer. A small, red, heart-shaped locket shines inside. Markus takes it out, hangs it around his neck, and continues to apply his clown makeup.

INT. CAMPER VAN SHOWER CUBICLE - DAY

Cali puts her phone into her pocket and washes her face. She looks into the small mirror, takes a breath, then leaves the cubicle.

EXT. THE FENS - DAY

Ariana walks with the sullen Persephone. Marietta runs ahead, exploring the marshes, and Persephone keeps her eyes on her.

ARIANA
You should try to be nicer to Cali.

PERSEPHONE
She's got no right to poke around in my head.

ARIANA
She only wants to get to know you.

PERSEPHONE

She shouldn't use Heath to do so.

ARIANA

Why not? You don't show yourself to people. It doesn't only affect you.

Persephone huffs, still watching her daughter and avoiding her mother's gaze. Ariana sighs.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

Persephone, if you keep shutting people out, you'll only make everyone miserable. Especially yourself.

Persephone grunts. Marietta picks up a frog, then squeaks as it hops out of her hands.

PERSEPHONE

Marietta, we're going back now.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, Heath, Persephone and Marietta are seated on the sofas. Cali and Persephone are guarded, avoiding each other's gazes. Marietta plays on her Nintendo Switch while the countryside whips past the window, which Heath gazes out of.

CALI

How long has it been?

HEATH

About five years. Dad sometimes goes back to preach.

CALI

So, he's still a vicar?

HEATH

Technically, but the Church doesn't like Mum because she doesn't think like them.

PERSEPHONE

In other words, she's not a pretentious, self-important cow.

Cali giggles but still avoids looking at her as Heath laughs.

HEATH

Anyway, Dad kind of sacrificed his career for her.

CALI

Kind of?

PERSEPHONE

Their imaginary friend told them to spread the Gospel outside the Church. Same career, different setting.

CALI

God's not imaginary and Jesus is a historical figure.

HEATH

Haven't you read *The God Delusion*?

CALI

No, but I haven't read the Bible either. I just used logic and history. It helped me deal with this before I met you.

She taps her head. Persephone snorts.

PERSEPHONE

Seems like the God delusion to me.

Cali flinches while Heath shoots his sister a glare.

MARIETTA

God's real. Someone had to make everything.

She does not even look up from her game.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

The wide, green site makes the camper van seem isolated, despite the presence of several other vans. Cali and Marietta step outside.

MARIETTA

Mum and Dad took me to the city when I was a baby. I don't remember.

She shrugs, takes Cali's hand, and pulls her away. Persephone and Heath watch them go from the van's doorway. Heath glances at his sister.

HEATH

When was the last time Mary held your hand like that?

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PLAYGROUND - DAY

Cali sways gently on one of the swings, watching Marietta thrust herself higher on the other. She suddenly launches herself off. Cali yelps as she lands on her hands and knees.

CALI

Mary! Are you alright?

MARIETTA

Yep. That was fun!

She bounces to her feet, wiping her hands on her trousers before skipping to the simple rope climbing frame beside the swings. Then she stops and looks back at Cali thoughtfully.

CALI

What is it?

MARIETTA

Nothing.

She grins warmly and starts scrambling up the climbing frame.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

Cali and Marietta return to the camper van and find Heath and his parents sitting outside. Ariana and Gerald are reading their Bibles, the latter dressed in a vicar's robe.

ARIANA

Where have you girls been?

MARIETTA

To the park. It's fun, but I don't remember anything.

GERALD

Perhaps the chapel will remind you. It's where you were baptised.

HEATH

Still surprised Persephone agreed to that.

ARIANA

Would you like to come, Cali?

Cali hesitates as Persephone emerges from the camper van.

CALI

I feel like I can't sit in a religious service.

GERALD

Why not?

Cali puts on her sunglasses and twists her engagement ring.

PERSEPHONE

You'd have to walk a few miles anyway.

MARIETTA

I wanna walk. Can I take Elsa?

ARIANA

If you want to, Mary.

Persephone goes back into the camper van and returns with the doll, tossing it to Marietta.

PERSEPHONE

Have a good time. Cali, I'm going into town. Want to come?

CALI

Sorry?

PERSEPHONE

Girls' night out. I figured you've never had one so--

HEATH

So you can bully her again?

ARIANA

Heath.

PERSEPHONE

Actually no. It's because none of my friends live here anymore.

CALI

You feel lonely?

PERSEPHONE

You don't have to come. I can find a guy.

CALI

No, I'll come.

She forces a nervous smile. Heath looks worried. Persephone looks Cali up and down, then grins.

PERSEPHONE

Perfect time to get you dolled up.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE STREET - NIGHT

Few other people are out and about as Ariana, Gerald, Heath and Marietta stroll along. They pass a homeless woman and Ariana gives her a pair of fifty pound notes.

HEATH

Really Mum? A hundred pounds?

ARIANA

Yep. We don't need it.

Gerald kisses her cheek. As they leave, Marietta waves to the homeless woman, who looks shocked and grateful.

HEATH

We shouldn't have let Cali go with Persephone.

ARIANA

She's thirty-three. It's not our place to decide for her.

HEATH

Don't you want to teach her more about Christianity?

ARIANA

Only if she's willing.

MARIETTA

Are you a Christian, Uncle Heath?

HEATH

Not really. Believing in God can be explained by psychology.

GERALD

Jesus' resurrection can't.

HEATH

Assuming it actually happened.

MARIETTA

If you're so... what's the word?

ARIANA

Sceptical.

MARIETTA

Yeah. If you're so sceptical, why are you here?

HEATH
To support Dad.

INT. CAMBRIDGE PUB - NIGHT

Persephone looks confident in her low-cut dress, sauntering into the crowded pub. Cali looks uncomfortable in her more modest dress, shyly following Persephone to the bar and avoiding eye contact with everybody.

PERSEPHONE
Hello, only us.

The BARMAN turns to the pair.

BARMAN
Two pretty women in a bar full of drunkards? Recipe for disaster.

PERSEPHONE
Look on the bright side. If this gets messy, you'll have late night entertainment.

She winks and the Barman smirks wryly. Cali looks awkward.

BARMAN
What'll it be?

PERSEPHONE
Double vodka for me. Cali?

CALI
Can I have a coke, please?
Including a straw?

PERSEPHONE
Really?

Cali avoids her eyes. Persephone shrugs.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)
You heard her.

The Barman fetches their drinks and Persephone gives him a charming smile as she pays him. She saunters to a table at the back, shooting flirtatious looks at some of the other men. Cali follows and sits, rocking back and forth.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)
Wow, you really haven't done this before. What did you do in college?

CALI
I studied.

PERSEPHONE
Apart from that.

CALI
Was I supposed to do anything else?

Persephone blinks and sips her vodka. Cali drinks her coke, looking anywhere except at the other woman.

PERSEPHONE
What were you studying?

CALI
History and literature. I barely scraped through history because I kept questioning its accuracy.

PERSEPHONE
It's written by the winners. That's why I never gave a damn.

CALI
You can learn a lot from it.

PERSEPHONE
But how do you know what's true?

CALI
I gather as much evidence as I can and figure out the most logical conclusion. That's how I realised that Jesus rose from the dead.

Persephone rolls her eyes and takes an almost defiant gulp of her drink.

PERSEPHONE
I didn't invite you out for a Bible lecture. I can ask Dad for that.

CALI
I told you, I've never read the Bible. Christianity had a massive impact on history, so I just traced it back and used cause and effect. The data's on my laptop, so I can show you when we get back.

PERSEPHONE
No thanks.

INT. CAMBRIDGE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Marietta hugs Elsa to her chest as she follows her uncle and grandparents into the small, near-empty church.

MARIETTA
Why's it so empty?

GERALD
Because few people are willing to
come to Jesus these days.

HEATH
Or because it's eleven at night.

Gerald ignores him. Ariana kisses her husband's cheek.

ARIANA
Speak well, Dear.

As Gerald goes to the pulpit, Marietta looks around the church with a furrowed brow. Then she sees the baptism font and her expression clears.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
Mary.

Marietta turns away from the font and goes to her seat.

INT. CAMBRIDGE PUB - NIGHT

Cali relaxes, drinking her coke slowly while she watches Persephone down more alcohol.

CALI
So, you had bad teachers?

PERSEPHONE
Complete idiots. But Mum was so
mad, she swore off the system
altogether. I keep telling Heath
he's nuts if he thinks he can help
people without a degree.

CALI
I thought you told him that because
you don't believe in him.

PERSEPHONE
He could be a psychologist with
proper training. Problem is Mum's
distain for the system rubbed off
on him.

CALI

By "the system", you mean education as a whole, right?

Persephone nods as she sips her alcohol.

CALI (CONT'D)

Well, it's a good thing in and of itself. I just question the motives of teachers. One of mine in college diluted rape down to men just looking at women the wrong way.

Persephone snorts derisively into her drink.

PERSEPHONE

Soy boy or psycho bitch?

CALI

Well, she was a woman, if that's what you mean.

PERSEPHONE

Bet she was ugly, so no one looked at her "the wrong way".

CALI

Actually, she was quite pretty. I guess she just had bad experiences with men.

PERSEPHONE

I've had bad experiences with men. Plenty of them. Doesn't mean I don't want them to look at me.

She raises her glass and winks at a drunk man leaving the pub. He is distracted enough to bump into the door frame as he goes. Persephone smirks before finishing her drink.

CALI

I don't like being looked at or hit on, but calling either of those things rape is insulting to real rape victims.

She drinks her coke through her straw, leaving her hands free to fiddle with her engagement ring.

CALI (CONT'D)

Heath told me they often blame themselves. I don't want to trivialise it, but I get why it might make people feel ashamed.

PERSEPHONE

Don't be. He isn't and you asked him to marry you anyway. I don't think God would be angry.

CALI

I thought you didn't believe in God.

PERSEPHONE

I don't, but you obviously do. Besides, if God sends you to Hell, my parents are going there too.

CALI

Why? They're devout Christians.

PERSEPHONE

Yes but they had me out of wedlock.

Cali stares at her, to Persephone's amusement.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Really? You know it happens all the time, right?

CALI

Well, yeah, but I thought...

She twists her ring and drinks more coke.

PERSEPHONE

Frankly, I don't think it matters. Mum and Dad love each other, so who cares if they had me early?

She looks at her empty glass and her expression saddens.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Although sometimes I wonder if they're ashamed of me or themselves.

CALI

What makes you think they're ashamed at all?

Persephone smirks ruefully.

PERSEPHONE

Atheist daughter of two devout Christians who was born out of wedlock and doesn't live a holy lifestyle.

They are silent and Cali starts rocking back and forth.

CALI

Why did you cheat on your husband?

Persephone looks at her for a long moment and Cali rocks faster, fiddling with her engagement ring.

CALI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Forget I--

PERSEPHONE

Marriage is difficult. Fredric and I... just weren't compatible. We argued about everything, whether it was how to raise Mary or how to do the bloody dishes. Eventually I just... I was an angry idiot.

CALI

That's it? You destroyed your relationship just because you were angry?

PERSEPHONE

And stupidly reckless. I'm just glad Mary was too young for it to really affect her.

Cali taps her leg uncertainly.

CALI

I think it did affect her. She just tries to be happy.

Persephone silently watches her finish the coke as Cali's rocking slows.

PERSEPHONE

You want another one?

Cali smiles and nods. Persephone rises, sauntering towards the bar. Two drunk men whistle and another, twice her size, rises and looms over her. Unfazed, Persephone smiles at him.

BARMAN

Oi, let the lady pass!

The drunk man slouches away. Persephone shoots flirtatious looks at the other two. Then she glances back at Cali, who looks into her empty glass and taps her leg.

PERSEPHONE

Sorry boys, not tonight.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Marietta yawns as she follows Heath, Ariana and Gerald out of the chapel.

HEATH
That boring, huh?

MARIETTA
No. Some was kinda like a lullaby.
Although I don't get why God killed
people if he's all loving.

ARIANA
He didn't.

HEATH
The Old Testament says he did.
Seems to me that God's a murderous,
narcissistic control freak.

GERALD
It's unwise to try your
psychoanalysis on God, Heath.

ARIANA
Besides, even if he did all that,
murder of the body and murder of
the soul are two different things.

Marietta yawns again. Gerald hoists the little girl onto his shoulders.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
Gerald, your back.

GERALD
I can still manage.

INT. CAMBRIDGE PUB - NIGHT

Persephone, drunk, lounges in her seat with a near-empty glass, while Cali twitches rapidly from a sugar rush. Apart from the Barman, the pub is emptying.

CALI
So, pissing off the entire country
came back to bite her. Countless
people stupidly think they're
untouchable and it never ends well.
I focus my control into writing
because trying to control real
people is just sick.

PERSEPHONE

Isn't that what God tries to do?
You know, with threats of Hell,
killing the firstborns, and
everything?

CALI

Maybe, but if so, that's exactly
why it's stupid to gamble with your
afterlife.

PERSEPHONE

I think we just fade out of
existence.

CALI

What if you're wrong?

Persephone finishes her drink.

PERSEPHONE

It's not just or loving to demand
"love me or I'll damn you to Hell".

Cali calms down, although her fingers keep twitching.

CALI

I know. I'm afraid of what I might
find in the Bible. I know some
basics like...

She shifts uncomfortably and fingers her engagement ring.

PERSEPHONE

What?

CALI

Like no sex before marriage. Which
I've disobeyed and I'm scared of
finding more rules that I've been
disobeying.

PERSEPHONE

That's not freedom.

CALI

Exactly.

She looks thoughtful as she drums her fingers on the table.

CALI (CONT'D)

But your parents seem happy. They
seem to feel free. More than we do.

PERSEPHONE

What's that supposed to mean? I'm completely free.

CALI

But you don't seem happy. This is the first time I've seen you... not miserable. I like drunk you more than normal you.

She giggles nervously as Persephone smirks.

PERSEPHONE

Getting drunk is apparently another sin.

CALI

Well, alcohol often brings out the worst in people, but with you...

PERSEPHONE

Why do you think it's easier to find men when I'm wasted?

Both of them giggle. Persephone fingers her empty glass.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

You know, I can see why my little brother fell for you. You're a total weirdo who talks too much, but you're sweet.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - NIGHT

Gerald lifts the half-asleep Marietta from his shoulders as they approach the camper van. Ariana gives him a concerned look and he smiles reassuringly.

Cali exits the camper van to meet them and Heath.

HEATH

How was it, Sweets?

He looks worried, but Cali gives him a sincere smile.

CALI

It was nice. We had a chat and Persephone's much nicer when she's drunk. She's just gone to bed.

Heath smiles with relief and takes Marietta into the van.

CALI (CONT'D)
How was your service?

ARIANA
There weren't many people, but
hopefully, Gerald inspired a few.

GERALD
My wife believes that hellfire
preaching is counterproductive.

CALI
Do you believe that?

GERALD
I see her logic. It helps.

ARIANA
You should have seen how self-
righteous he was twenty years ago.

She smiles at Gerald, who kisses her lips.

GERALD
A good wife is far more precious
than jewels.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Persephone groans and rolls out of the bottom bunk. Everybody else stays asleep as she drags herself to the shower cubicle.

INT. CAMPER VAN SHOWER CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Leaning over the sink and staring into the mirror, Persephone brushes her long, dishevelled hair out of her eyes. Then she undresses and gets into the shower.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali and Heath take their blankets off the sofas and fold them as Persephone exits the shower. Cali smiles at her. Persephone grumbles, slumping onto the bottom bunk while Marietta climbs down from the top.

MARIETTA
Morning. Where are we going today?

HEATH
Rutland Water.

MARIETTA

Ooh, can we do the climbing wall?

HEATH

Sure.

Persephone groans as he and Cali pack the blankets away.

PERSEPHONE

Who's driving?

HEATH

You, according to the cycle.

Persephone flips him the finger, staying on the bunk. Cali frowns and Heath sighs. They go to the driver's cab together as Ariana and Gerald enter and sit with Marietta, who takes out her Nintendo Switch.

PERSEPHONE

Don't bump the van around.

EXT. RUTLAND WATER - DAY

The large lake is as blue as the sky. The climbing wall towers over the camper van as Heath parks. Everybody gets out, except Persephone. Marietta looks nervously up at the wall.

MARIETTA

I'm gonna get to the top this time.

She braces herself and heads for the wall with Heath and Gerald. Ariana is about to go too, but Cali touches her arm.

CALI

Ariana, can I talk with you,
please?

ARIANA

Of course. Go ahead, you three.

Gerald nods and he, Heath and Marietta continue towards the climbing wall. Cali and Ariana go back into the camper van.

INT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

Persephone snoozes on the bottom bunk while the other women sit on the sofas. Cali fidgets and puts on her sunglasses.

CALI

I had sex with Heath.

ARIANA

I know. Honestly, I'm impressed you held off for two years.

CALI

Persephone said she was born out of wedlock.

Ariana smiles ruefully.

ARIANA

Yes, she was. Gerald and I got married shortly afterwards.

CALI

Isn't that against your beliefs?

ARIANA

Yes, but it's done now. Besides, my beliefs don't have to be yours.

She looks at Persephone with a loving and sad expression.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

I'd never repent for Persephone's birth. Thankfully, God sanctified the marriage.

CALI

How do you know?

ARIANA

The Christian answer is the Holy Spirit. The logical answer is Gerald and I have been happily married for thirty-five years.

CALI

But did you know you were going to be when you got married?

ARIANA

No. Especially since I'm six years his senior.

CALI

Really?

ARIANA

Yep.

CALI

Oh.

Ariana smiles with gentle amusement.

ARIANA
Did you expect God to give us the
power of foresight?

CALI
Well, no, I guess not.

She starts tapping her leg, then touches her engagement ring.

CALI (CONT'D)
What if Heath gets bored of me?

ARIANA
Falling in love is always a risk,
Cali. There's always a chance of
getting hurt and not even God is
exempt from that risk.

Cali is silent, apart from a subtle quickening of breath.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
You don't think of yourself as a
Christian, do you?

CALI
I believe that God and Jesus exist.

ARIANA
But you don't walk with them?

CALI
I don't trust them. At least not
God.

ARIANA
I understand. The Old Testament
doesn't inspire confidence about
God's mercy. But I believe Satan
had far more control than the
Church realises, or is willing to
admit.

She looks at Persephone again.

ARIANA (CONT'D)
Even if I'm wrong, I don't regret
having my daughter. And you've been
listening, haven't you?

PERSEPHONE
You know I'm a light sleeper.

Cali starts breathing abnormally hard as Persephone sits up.

CALI

I'm sorry. I thought you-- We shouldn't have done this in here.

She wrings her hands anxiously. Ariana looks concerned.

ARIANA

Should I get Heath?

CALI

No, just give me a moment.

She starts to calm down when Persephone smiles kindly at her. Ariana subtly nods approvingly at her daughter.

PERSEPHONE

Go on, you weirdo. I need sleep.

Cali smiles awkwardly and goes to the door. Ariana gives Persephone a frown as she lies back down.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

Stepping outside, Cali leans on the van. After a moment, she smiles more sincerely and takes off her sunglasses.

EXT. RUTLAND WATER CLIMBING WALL - DAY

Heath and Gerald watch Marietta climb while an instructor holds the rope. Cali joins them and Heath looks at her with concern. She smiles warmly and takes his hand. Relaxing, he smiles back.

Marietta, halfway up the climbing wall, looks down and freezes.

GERALD

Mary?

MARIETTA

I can't do it.

Cali lets go of Heath's hand, puts on a climbing helmet, and steps into a harness. She offers the rope to Heath.

CALI

Can you help me up?

Heath takes the rope and Cali starts climbing. She reaches Marietta's level and smiles at her reassuringly.

CALI (CONT'D)
The instructor won't let you fall.
She'll be out of a job if she does.

MARIETTA
I wanna get down.

CALI
You're halfway there. Do you want
to start again?

Marietta shakes her head, clutching the wall tightly.

CALI (CONT'D)
There's a rock by your right foot.

She waits for Marietta to put her foot on the rock.

CALI (CONT'D)
Are you ready?

Marietta swallows, then looks up at the rock above her. She pushes up and grabs it. Cali easily moves up beside her.

MARIETTA
You done this before?

CALI
Plenty of times. I map my route
before I start.

She points to another rock and Marietta moves across to it. Whenever she falters, Cali waits patiently, staying by the little girl's side until they reach the top.

MARIETTA
I did it! Grandad, Grandad,
picture!

Gerald takes out his camera and takes a photo.

CALI
Are you ready to go down?

Marietta's joy fades as she glances down. Cali smiles at her.

CALI (CONT'D)
Don't worry, it's easy.

She waves to Heath, who starts lowering her. Marietta gulps and nods jerkily to the climbing instructor, who lowers her too. Upon reaching the bottom, Marietta laughs and hugs Cali.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Marietta bursts into the van while Persephone is snoozing.

MARIETTA

Mum, Mum, I got to the top!

Persephone jerks up, hitting her head on the top bunk.

PERSEPHONE

What? Ow. Marietta, what the hell are you talking about?

MARIETTA

I got to the top of the wall.

PERSEPHONE

Oh. That's great.

Marietta deflates as her irritable mother lies back down.

EXT. RUTLAND WATER - DAY

In an area that gives a view of the large lake, Ariana lays out a picnic mat and passes sandwiches to Cali, Gerald and Heath. Marietta joins them, slumping down on the grass. She takes a sandwich and starts to eat.

INT. CAMPER VAN DRIVER'S CAB - DAY

Persephone sits silent and alone, listening to her family and Cali talk behind her while she drives.

HEATH

You've never been there?

CALI

No. Somehow, Dad and I were more likely to end up in Scotland.

ARIANA

You'll love it. The District is beautiful.

CALI

I know, I've seen pictures.

GERALD

You must experience it in person.

Persephone glances back at the others gathered on the sofas. While the adults chat, Marietta plays on her Nintendo Switch. Persephone looks pensive as she turns back to the road.

EXT. LEEK CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

Persephone parks the camper van among the trees enclosing the site. Everybody gets out. Cali, Heath, Ariana and Gerald carry backpacks and hiking gear.

Marietta pulls Cali to some simple flowers. Cali smiles as the little girl picks a bunch and gives them to her. Ariana and Gerald join them, so Marietta picks flowers for them too.

ARIANA

Thank you, Mary. How about your mum?

Marietta's face falls. She plasters on a happy smile, picks more flowers, and goes to Heath and Persephone. Instead of giving them to her mother, she gives them to her uncle.

MARIETTA

You want flowers too, Mum?

Persephone notices Heath's warning look and shrugs.

PERSEPHONE

Fine.

Marietta smiles more sincerely and rushes off.

HEATH

Sephie--

PERSEPHONE

Don't.

Marietta returns and Persephone awkwardly takes the flowers.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Thanks, Marietta. These are cute.

Marietta beams as her mother gives her a one-armed hug. Persephone lets go quickly, but Marietta seems satisfied. Gerald ruffles her hair as she skips past him, then turns to Persephone and nods towards the camper van.

GERALD

We packed your hiking gear for you.

EXT. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK - DUSK

The six campers settle on a grassy hill overlooking a serene lake in a beautiful valley. While the family sets up camp, Cali wanders away, sits on a rock, and admires the sunset reflecting off the lake below.

CALI

You were right. This is way better than pictures.

PERSEPHONE

Will it rain tonight?

ARIANA

Possibly.

She grins at Persephone's scowl. Heath and Gerald set up the portable stove while the giggling Marietta rolls down the hill, then climbs back up covered in grass.

HEATH

Mary. Now someone'll have to clean your sleeping bag.

He looks at Persephone with a smirk.

PERSEPHONE

Don't look at me.

HEATH

You are her mother.

Persephone rolls her eyes. Heath's teasing smirk turns into a more thoughtful look.

PERSEPHONE

What?

HEATH

You wouldn't want to hear it.

PERSEPHONE

Like you don't want to hear you need a degree?

ARIANA

Kids.

The siblings glance at their mother as she gives them a warning look. Heath looks back at Persephone seriously.

HEATH

Don't take Mary for granted.

PERSEPHONE

Thanks.

She and Heath lay out everybody's sleeping bags together.

After Heath finishes, he joins Cali, smiling fondly as he watches her admire the sunset. Cali notices his gaze and smiles gently back. She hesitates, then leans in and kisses him.

EXT. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT (LATER)

The sky is black and starless. Finishing their meal, the adults sit around the portable stove while Marietta lies in her sleeping bag, holding Elsa and watching Gerald.

MARIETTA

Tell us a story, Grandad.

GERALD

Alright then. How about the story of Blakemere Pond? According to legend, it is the resting place of a girl who rejected a man named Joshua Linnet.

CALI

What was the girl's name?

GERALD

Nobody knows.

PERSEPHONE

But they recorded the man's name?

HEATH

Let Dad tell the story.

GERALD

Thank you, Heath. Anyway, Linnet's heartbreak turned to rage, so he accused the girl of enchanting him. She was found guilty of witchcraft and sentenced to drown. As she was lowered into the pond, Linnet watching, the girl cursed him. Remorseful, the young man returned days later to pay his respects.

PERSEPHONE

After murdering her.

The others ignore her.

GERALD

But when he knelt by the pond, the girl's spirit burst from the water, slashing his face and neck with nails that were now claws. The last thing Linnet saw was a mermaid's tail disappearing into the depths.

Marietta crawls backwards in her sleeping bag until it is over her head. She clutches Elsa tightly. Ariana nudges Gerald and nods to their frightened granddaughter.

GERALD (CONT'D)

In later years, people claimed to have seen the mermaid. As time passed, the spirit grew to miss human contact, so she now lets people swim in her home.

He smiles at Marietta reassuringly.

EXT. BLAKEMERE POND - DAY

The small, almost circular lake looks serene and unimposing. Gerald and Ariana lay out the picnic mat while the others, all dressed in their swimming clothes, go to the water.

Persephone sits at the edge of the lake and dips her feet in the water. Marietta, giggling, splashes in eagerly.

HEATH

Mary, be careful.

He and Cali follow her in. Cali shoots Heath a grin.

CALI

I hope there's no angry mermaid.

HEATH

Don't worry, Sweets, I'd be in more danger than you.

GERALD

Mary, you're in too deep!

Persephone leaps to her feet as Marietta starts floundering, dipping in and out of the deceptively tiny lake. She tries to swim back, swallowing and spitting out water, becoming frantic.

MARIETTA

I can't-- Help!

Persephone plunges into the water as her daughter sinks. Heath reaches Marietta first and grabs her. Persephone helps him carry her back to shore.

When they get there, Heath steps back, white-faced as Marietta collapses, coughing, shaking and gasping. Persephone stays with her, not touching her, looking equally terrified.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

I was dying. I was dying! Mummy, I was dying!

Persephone looks around helplessly at her own parents as Ariana, trembling, kneels beside them. Marietta bursts into tears and Persephone pulls her into a hug.

PERSEPHONE

It's okay, Mary. You're alive. You're okay.

Marietta returns her embrace, sobbing hysterically in her arms. Persephone lays her chin on her daughter's head and looks at Heath gratefully.

Cali comes out of the lake, shaking and struggling to control her breathing. Heath glances at her.

HEATH

Cali?

CALI

I'm fine. This isn't about me.

She nods at Marietta and Persephone, who are still hugging each other while the little girl wails.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Marietta huddles on one of the sofas with Persephone. Ariana gives her a hot chocolate with marshmallows.

MARIETTA

Thanks, Grandma.

Ariana kisses her forehead, then leaves. Persephone silently strokes Marietta's hair until the child glances up almost fearfully. Persephone looks heartbroken.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

Mum... you're not mad, are you?

PERSEPHONE

Not with you. I'm mad with myself.

MARIETTA

Really? Why?

PERSEPHONE

I've been a bad mother. I'm so sorry, Mary. If I'd taught you to swim properly... And all those times I ignored you or snapped for no reason...

MARIETTA

I thought I was bad.

Persephone silently brushes her hair until Marietta picks a marshmallow out of her hot chocolate and eats it.

PERSEPHONE

I love you. I know I don't say it enough, but I really do.

Marietta smiles lovingly and snuggles up to her mother. Persephone holds her close and starts to cry.

EXT. LEEK CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

Ariana pulls up a chair beside Gerald, Heath and Cali, who all look shaken.

ARIANA

She's okay. She just needs rest.

Cali smiles shakily, squeezing Heath's hand comfortingly. Gerald breathes out, relieved.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, wearing her sunglasses, finds Gerald sitting at the back, reading his Bible. Marietta is asleep on the top bunk. Cali glances at her with relief before turning to Gerald.

CALI

Gerald, it's your turn to drive.

She stays standing, fidgeting. Gerald bookmarks the page and puts the Bible into the tiny book cabinet with Ariana's copy. Cali looks hesitantly but curiously at the two Bibles.

CALI (CONT'D)

Are the differences just aesthetic?

GERALD

They're different translations. Ariana noticed some rewording and was scorned by the Church for her interpretations. Especially Satan's control over the Old Testament.

CALI

She mentioned that. It technically makes her a heretic, right?

GERALD

Yes, but so was Jesus and my wife's faith in him puts most of her critics to shame.

He smiles but Cali stays standing, fiddling with her engagement ring.

CALI

I've studied Jesus' resurrection. Just from a historical perspective. I'm convinced that it happened, but going further into Christianity scares me. It seems... restrictive.

GERALD

People often think that, even among believers. But many advances in art, maths and science were made by Christians.

CALI

Like Isaac Newton?

GERALD

Precisely. Although his views were borderline heretical.

CALI

I guess he'd get along well with your wife then.

Gerald laughs. Cali giggles and relaxes enough to sit on the sofa opposite him.

GERALD

Ariana and I hoped you'd be willing to visit a cathedral as a tourist. You won't have to sit through any preaching.

CALI

Alright. Thank you.

Persephone, Heath and Ariana return. Persephone checks on the sleeping Marietta, Heath joins Cali on the sofa, and Ariana smiles at Gerald while jerking her thumb to the driver's cab.

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Cali, Heath, Gerald and Marietta admire the grand, ancient building while Persephone and Ariana smile at Marietta's awestruck expression.

MARIETTA

Wow. This is way better than the other church.

ARIANA

No, it's only bigger.

She and Gerald lead the way inside. Cali holds Heath's hand and puts on her sunglasses.

INT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

Upon entering, they find many people milling about, admiring the art and architecture. An elderly VICAR approaches. Gerald gives him the sign of the cross and he returns it.

GERALD

Hello, Father.

VICAR

It's good to see you again, Gerald.

He meets Ariana's gaze and his warm smile fades.

VICAR (CONT'D)

Ariana.

He nods curtly and Ariana smiles coldly. The Vicar nods to Persephone and Heath too, noticing the latter's engagement ring before looking at Cali's ring, which she fiddles with.

VICAR (CONT'D)

So, you're engaged.

HEATH

Yes, Father. This is Cali.

Cali waves shyly.

CALI

Hiya.

VICAR
Welcome and peace be with you.

He looks down as Marietta tugs on his robe.

VICAR (CONT'D)
Young lady, please don't touch the
robe.

MARIETTA
But it's so smooth.

Nonetheless, she steps back. The Vicar straightens his robe.

VICAR
Enjoy your visit.

Ariana and Persephone both give him contemptuous looks as he walks away. Marietta bounces between the pews while Cali and Heath examine the stained glass windows.

CALI
This place is beautiful.

She is trembling, so Heath squeezes her hand.

HEATH
Do you want to go outside?

CALI
No. I'm fine.

Heath leaves her alone. Cali takes off her sunglasses and explores. She passes the Jesse Window and finds a stained glass image of Jesus Christ. Her breathing quickens. She drops her sunglasses.

Marietta notices Cali's distress from across the building.

MARIETTA
Cali?

Cali collapses and curls up on the floor, her abnormal breathing turning into full-blown hyperventilation. The people closest to her move away as she cowers and whimpers.

Marietta rushes to Cali's side, but Heath stops her from touching the panicking woman. The rest of the family gathers, and the Vicar approaches more cautiously.

VICAR
What's wrong with her?

HEATH

She's having a meltdown. Just give her a moment.

GERALD

What triggered this one?

Everybody in the cathedral stares at Cali, children climbing onto pews for a better view. Cali keeps struggling to breathe, staring at someone only she can see.

VICAR

She... might be possessed?

Persephone rolls her eyes.

PERSEPHONE

Have you never seen a panic attack, you old goat?

HEATH

Cali?

Cali glances at him before staring back at thin air. She relaxes, smiling warmly at nobody in particular. Sunlight shines onto her through the stained glass window.

With a soft giggle, Cali sits up and puts her sunglasses into her pocket. She gazes at Heath, seemingly oblivious to all of the other people staring at her.

CALI

I want to get married here.

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Persephone gazes at the building. Cali, Marietta, Ariana and Gerald return to the camper van while Heath joins his sister, following her gaze up to the cathedral.

PERSEPHONE

Looks like your wedding's going to be quite glamorous.

HEATH

Yeah. No sign a paper ceremony.

PERSEPHONE

Don't rub it in. What do you think happened in there?

HEATH

I don't know. I've never seen Cali have a meltdown that intense. Or seen her come out of one smiling.

Persephone shoots him a smirk.

PERSEPHONE

Maybe you'll figure it out with a degree.

HEATH

Don't start.

Persephone's smirk fades as she looks back at the cathedral.

PERSEPHONE

Honestly, I think you could get one. But don't expect being an autodidact to get you far.

HEATH

You're trying to be encouraging?

PERSEPHONE

I'm trying to be objective. The gatekeepers won't let you through without the paperwork. Fredric knows some people.

She shrugs, smiling ruefully as Heath stares at her.

HEATH

I've known you since I was born. How do you keep surprising me?

PERSEPHONE

I'm your sister. I've got to keep you on your toes.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali types on her laptop, Marietta plays on her Nintendo Switch, and Ariana leans on Gerald's shoulder while he reads his Bible.

Persephone and Heath enter. Ariana smiles at them. Heath sits with Cali while Persephone stays standing.

PERSEPHONE

What should I make for supper?

EXT. STONEHENGE - DAY

The camper van parks close to the ring of massive stones while a few tourists admire and photograph the ancient monument. Marietta leads her family towards the stones and Cali brings up the rear.

MARIETTA

Can you park this close?

GERALD

Normally no. Travelling vicar's privilege.

Marietta bounces into the ring of stones while Ariana gives Gerald a half-amused, half-exasperated look. Cali, Heath and Persephone linger around the outer stones.

PERSEPHONE

Where's your dad?

CALI

He won't be here until tomorrow. We have time to check this place out.

HEATH

Apparently, the stones have been here since three thousand BC.

CALI

You looked into history?

HEATH

Briefly. I bet you know more than me.

PERSEPHONE

Any idea who built this place and why?

CALI

Several. I like the theory that it was built by aliens.

PERSEPHONE

Really?

CALI

They exist. The universe is far too massive for Earth to be the only inhabited planet.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT (LATER)

The starry sky is clear and the moon shines overhead. The family camps between the stones, finishing their supper around the portable stove.

CALI

Persephone, I said I like the theory, not that I believe it.

PERSEPHONE

You said aliens exist.

CALI

They do, but that doesn't mean they built this place.

HEATH

Which theory do you believe then?

CALI

I'm open to any, but I doubt it was humans.

HEATH

Humans built the pyramids.

CALI

Yeah, but they didn't have to put those on top.

She points to the massive stones on top of the monument.

PERSEPHONE

Stick to psychology, Heath. Cali's the historian here.

Ariana and Gerald smile fondly as they eat.

ARIANA

It's nice to see you girls getting along.

Persephone shrugs.

PERSEPHONE

Freaking out in the church was weird even for her. Kind of worried she might pull out some devil magic.

Ariana, Gerald and Heath all glare at her.

HEATH

That was in poor taste.

PERSEPHONE

Says the guy with the worst sense
of humour in the family.

Cali taps her leg uncomfortably until Marietta yawns.

GERALD

Time for bed, Mary.

MARIETTA

I forgot Elsa.

Persephone rises and heads to the camper van while Marietta burrows into her sleeping bag. Cali follows Persephone, fiddling with her engagement ring.

INT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT

Persephone retrieves Elsa from Marietta's bunk and Cali meets her at the door.

CALI

I want to show you something I've
been writing.

PERSEPHONE

Can't it wait?

CALI

Well, Dad's coming tomorrow, so I
don't know when I'll get another
chance.

PERSEPHONE

Fine, give me a minute.

She leaves. Cali gets out her laptop, sits at the back, and switches it on. She finds a file titled *God and Jesus* and taps her leg, checking through emails and tabs.

Persephone returns with Heath and they sit on the other sofa.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

How long will this take?

CALI

It depends how fast you can read.

HEATH

She reads quickly. Possibly because she doesn't process the words.

Persephone flips him the finger. She beckons to Cali, who hesitates before handing over her laptop. Persephone twitches at the title.

Onscreen: "Evidence of God's Existence"

Heath looks at the document, then raises an eyebrow at Cali. She starts rocking nervously, twisting her engagement ring.

HEATH (CONT'D)

You've never shown me this, Sweets.

CALI

Dad's the only person who's ever seen it. I was planning to show you, but I was--

PERSEPHONE

I'm trying to read here.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

The rest of the family is asleep when the trio returns. Heath and Persephone look thoughtful while Cali looks anxious.

CALI

So, what do you think?

PERSEPHONE

I think you've put a lot of thought and research into it.

She gets into her sleeping bag and stares pensively at the starry sky.

HEATH

You got all that without reading the Bible?

CALI

Yeah, but some of the evidence was found by people who have. C.S. Lewis was very helpful. He was really good at pointing out logical fallacies in atheism.

HEATH

I still think there are psychological explanations.

CALI

Liars make bad martyrs, multiple people can't have the same hallucination, and Christianity would have never made it out of Jerusalem if Jesus' enemies could disprove his resurrection.

HEATH

Mass hysteria is a thing.

CALI

Thomas and Paul were against that sort of thinking. And Paul was hunting Christians when he converted.

Heath looks annoyed as Cali gets into her sleeping bag. After a moment, he shrugs and gets into his own.

EXT. STONEHENGE - DAY (LATER)

Markus arrives on foot and sees Cali taking pictures on her phone. As soon as she spots him, Cali darts out of the stones to meet him.

CALI

Hiya, Dad.

Markus beams and opens his arms. Cali throws herself into them as Heath, Ariana and Gerald join them.

MARKUS

How are you, Cali?

CALI

I'm good. These guys have been great to me. Well, except Persephone, but she's nicer now.

Markus greets Ariana and Gerald with handshakes before turning to Heath.

MARKUS

Persephone's your sister, correct?

HEATH

Correct.

He nods to Persephone as she joins them with Marietta. Markus holds out his hand. Persephone takes it and winces.

MARKUS

I hear you weren't very nice to my daughter.

CALI

Dad, it's fine. We're over that now.

Marietta bounces to Markus, who kneels to her level with a smile.

MARKUS

Hiya, little one. My name's Markus. What's yours?

MARIETTA

Marietta. I'm Cali's... friend? She helped me climb a climbing wall and build sandcastles and--

PERSEPHONE

Basically, Cali's been a better mother in two weeks than I have in two years. I'm working on that.

HEATH

You could start by not interrupting your daughter.

Persephone raises her hand to flip him off, then stops herself when Marietta looks at her.

GERALD

Would you like to join us for lunch?

MARKUS

Sure, if you're willing to listen to my theories about the stones.

CALI

I've already told them about the alien one.

MARKUS

Then I'd better suggest something even more bonkers.

INT. MARKUS' CAR - DAY

The modest car is worn. Cali rambles to her father while Markus drives along the motorway.

CALI

So, we're getting married in Wells, Mary will be a bridesmaid, and Persephone's ex might help Heath get his psychology degree. Which has nothing to do with the wedding, but we'll need income because I don't know how to get published.

She calms down, gazing at her engagement ring.

CALI (CONT'D)

I hope I can be a good wife.

Markus smiles at her reassuringly.

MARKUS

Little Star, any man would be lucky to have you.

INT. CALI'S FLAT - DAY

Sitting at her dining area table, Cali reads an email on her laptop. She slumps back in her chair with a rueful smile.

Onscreen: *"Dear Cali, congratulations on reaching the semi-finals! Unfortunately, The English Lass won't be proceeding to the final stage but we encourage you to keep writing."*

Cali closes the email as her phone buzzes. Her smile becomes more sincere when she checks her caller.

CALI

Hiya.

PERSEPHONE (V.O.)

Hello, Weirdo. You ready to buy your wedding dress?

CALI

Yeah, thanks Sephie.

INT. CALI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cali smooths down her wedding dress and examines herself in her full-body mirror. There is a bookmarked Bible on her bedside table. Markus enters and Cali sees him in the mirror.

MARKUS

You look beautiful, Little Star.

Cali smiles shyly as she turns to him. He kisses her forehead and takes his little red locket from around his neck.

MARKUS (CONT'D)

Your mother bought this when we found out she was pregnant. We planned to put a picture of the three of us in it.

Cali takes a breath as he opens the heart-shaped locket. It is empty.

CALI

You never told me.

MARKUS

I'm telling you now. And I want you to have it. Maybe you'll find something to put inside.

CALI

Dad... I'm sorry but... I don't want it.

Markus looks confused and Cali avoids his eyes.

CALI (CONT'D)

It's my fault that Mum died. I don't want to carry something that reminds me of that.

MARKUS

Cali, we've talked about this. Your mother's death wasn't your fault.

CALI

Well, when I think about her, it's confusing. Logically, I shouldn't miss somebody I never knew.

Markus smiles sadly as he puts the locket back on.

MARKUS

Emotions are rarely logical, Little Star. Now let's go. You don't want to be late for your own wedding.

Before they leave, Cali picks up her Bible.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Heath, dressed in his wedding suit, paces nervously and talks on his phone.

HEATH

Thanks for sorting it out, Fredric.
You sure you can't make it?

He is silent as Fredric responds, then smiles ruefully.

HEATH (CONT'D)

Yeah, she's trying to move on too.
I'll tell Mary you said hi.

He switches off the phone as Persephone enters, dressed in her wedding clothes. She mimics his rueful smile, then lets Ariana, Gerald and Marietta in. Heath smiles more sincerely at his niece.

HEATH (CONT'D)

Your dad's thinking of you.

MARIETTA

Great, but today's about you and
Auntie Cali.

Ariana adjusts Heath's tie as he gestures around the van.

HEATH

You sure you're okay with us taking
this?

ARIANA

We're sure. It'll do Persephone
good to play hostess for once.

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Persephone and Marietta wait outside as Cali, wearing her sunglasses, and Markus arrive. Marietta bounces excitedly and Persephone gives Cali a warm smile and nod.

INT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

The large building has few guests. Cali enters on Markus' arm and Marietta carries her train. Persephone goes around the side to join her parents at the front.

Heath smiles at Cali as she approaches the altar. She smiles back.

CALI

Hiya.

HEATH

Hi. Can I take your glasses?

Cali nods and Heath takes off her sunglasses for her.

HEATH (CONT'D)

I see you.

Cali laughs loudly, catches herself, and sheepishly glances at the Vicar as he begins the ceremony.

VICAR

Dearly beloved, we're gathered here today to witness the union between Cali and Heath. If anyone objects to this union, may they speak now or forever hold their peace.

Nobody speaks.

VICAR (CONT'D)

Very good. The couple have written their own vows. Cali, would you like to go first?

CALI

Not really.

The Vicar looks taken aback. Heath chuckles softly, takes out a piece of paper, and skims it before gazing at Cali again.

HEATH

Cali, when I first contacted you, I expected an unfulfilling and pointless online relationship. When we properly dated, I admired your openness and willingness to go out of your comfort zone, but I never expected you to propose. I was selfishly thinking about what you could do for me, but now I just want to be a good husband.

Cali smiles warmly and glances at the Vicar. He nods and she takes out a piece of paper of her own.

CALI

Heath, I'm used to being an outsider, so when I met you, I thought our relationship would fall apart within weeks. I doubted you'd be willing or able to handle my quirks and meltdowns and thought you'd leave out of sheer annoyance. Thank you for being so patient and understanding. I promise I'll do my best to be a good wife.

She meets Heath's eyes and smiles nervously.

VICAR
May we have the rings?

Marietta presents the wedding rings on a cushion.

INT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY (LATER)

Cali fidgets with her new wedding ring while everyone listens to the Vicar's marriage speech. She relaxes as the wedding formalities reach their conclusion.

VICAR
Do you, Heath, take Cali to be your
lawfully wedded wife to love and
cherish in sickness and in health
until death do you part?

HEATH
I do.

VICAR
And do you, Cali, take Heath to be
your lawfully wedded husband to
love and cherish in sickness and in
health until death do you part?

CALI
I do.

VICAR
Then by the power vested in me, I
pronounce you husband and wife. You
may now kiss the bride.

Cali squeaks in surprise as Heath dips and kisses her. He grins impishly and she beams through her tears. They walk up the aisle together while their friends and family celebrate.

INT. WEDDING MARQUEE - DAY

Cali sits with Heath, drinking coke while they watch Gerald and Ariana dance, surrounded by other guests.

HEATH
I think we're supposed to be the
ones dancing, Sweets.

CALI
Not a chance.

HEATH

Thank God.

Persephone, tipsy, slumps down beside them with a glass of wine in her hand.

PERSEPHONE

Hey lovebirds, should I start puking at you sending bedroom eyes at each other yet?

HEATH

Only if you want us to puke as you do it to any good-looking bloke.

CALI

Especially while you're in this state, Sephie.

Persephone playfully flips Heath the finger and shoots Cali a smirk.

PERSEPHONE

Don't pretend you don't prefer me like this.

She finishes her wine.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Honestly, I hope you stay happy together. Marriage isn't all it's cracked up to be.

CALI

At least you got Mary from yours.

Persephone smiles as she watches Marietta hover by the wedding cake.

PERSEPHONE

When are you going to cut the cake?

EXT. WEDDING MARQUEE - DUSK

Cali and Heath step outside with Markus. The camper van awaits them with a *Just Married* sign attached to the back. Markus smiles at Cali and gestures to the sunset.

MARKUS

You were waiting, weren't you?

CALI

Yeah.

Markus kisses her forehead and turns to Heath.

MARKUS
Look after my daughter.

HEATH
I will.

Persephone, Ariana, Gerald and Marietta join them. Persephone is drunk, Ariana and Gerald are smiling, and Marietta tugs on Cali's dress.

MARIETTA
When are you coming back?

CALI
In a couple of weeks. Well, twelve days to be exact.

MARIETTA
Can I call you Auntie Cali now?

CALI
Of course, if you want to.

Marietta hugs her while Heath eyes his drunk sister.

HEATH
You sure you can drive, Sephie?

PERSEPHONE
No.

ARIANA
Thankfully, she doesn't need to.
Now go and enjoy your honeymoon.

Cali pulls Heath to the camper van and climbs into the front. As Heath settles into the driver's seat, everybody gathers to wave them off.

HEATH
See you all soon.

CALI
Bye, everybody.

Heath starts the camper van and Cali waves to their family and friends as they drive away.

FADE OUT.

THE END