

ACT TWO

18

EXT. COVE - NIGHT

18

Something is lurking out in the cove. From its water level POV, we see a distant bonfire raging on a beach. We hear the sound of voices, music filtering out across the water--

ON THE BEACH, a group of TWENTY-SOMETHINGS is partying, drinking. Ben and Maddie walk along the sand.

MADDIE

I feel like we're being watched.

They walk past a cluster of YOUNG LOCALS, holding red party cups, stealing glances at them, and no doubt gossiping.

BEN

Are you having a flashback to high school?

MADDIE

Yeah, like how much it sucked being the weird punk rock Haida girl.

BEN

I wouldn't know, since I was pretty much Mr. Golden Boy.

MADDIE

We never would have dated back then.

BEN

No. I wasn't nearly evolved enough.

Maddie smiles, they walk a bit further.

BEN

You know what I'd do most days after school? I'd come here and free dive out past the break. I'd close my eyes, and just let the water surround me.

MADDIE

Sounds delightful.

BEN

It was the one place I couldn't hear my parents fighting. My own private world. It was perfect.

MADDIE

Until Pownall Seafood buys up every last fish left in the ocean.

Ben nods, taking in the irony of it all.

BEN

Yeah. But hey, he built a new park for the town, so who cares what he does to the ocean?

MADDIE

Well, I think it's awesome you're standing up to him.

She throws her arms around him.

MADDIE

Someone's gotta stick up for the fishies.

Ben puffs out his cheeks, makes a funny fish face. Maddie cracks up. They kiss like young lovers.

Maddie notices Xander sitting off by himself, staring blankly into the bonfire.

MADDIE

What's up with Xander?

BEN

I better go talk to him.

Ben steps over and joins Xander by the fire.

BEN

Hey, how's it going?

Xander doesn't respond.

BEN

Come on, you're not really pissed at me, are you?

XANDER

I shouldn't have told you. I shoulda known better.

Ben is getting annoyed now.

BEN

Think about what you're asking me to believe.