

THE CAMPER VAN CREW

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. CALI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CALI, 33, a petite brunette with blue-green eyes, lies in bed with her laptop. Her neat, moderately sized room also has a full-body mirror, bedside table and many books. She zooms with HEATH, 32, a short and rather skinny man with dark hair.

CALI

Hiya, Heath.

HEATH

Sorry I'm late. Bloody Wi-Fi. How are you?

CALI

I'm still processing. It's surreal.

She fiddles with the engagement ring on her finger.

HEATH

Agreed. You ready for the trip?

CALI

Not really.

HEATH

Don't worry, my parents are the least scary people in the world.

CALI

I'm more worried about your sister.

HEATH

You'll get used to her. Just be delicate about the divorce and don't call her Sephie.

Cali giggles nervously, gazing pensively at her ring.

CALI

Do you ever worry about us?

HEATH

Once in a while. You?

CALI

All the time.

HEATH

This is why I love you.

INT. CALI'S FLAT - DAY

Cali is sitting at her small dining area table, silently reading an email from a UK writing competition on her laptop.

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.

She sighs resignedly, closes the email, and goes to her kitchen area. Returning with a biscuit, she opens a YouTube video of Marina Diamandis' *I Am Not a Robot*. Her phone buzzes before she can play it. The call is from her father, MARKUS.

CALI (CONT'D)

Hiya, Dad.

MARKUS (V.O.)

You up yet, Cali?

CALI

Yeah, and packed. Mostly.

MARKUS (V.O.)

Good. I'll be there in a couple of minutes.

CALI

Exactly a couple?

MARKUS (V.O.)

Make it three and a half.

INT. MARKUS' CAR - DAY

Markus, 60, dark beard flecked with grey, looks gentle but tired. Cali tosses her suitcase into the worn back seat, then gets into the front with her laptop bag. She smiles nervously at her father. Despite his weariness, he smiles back warmly.

EXT. SWISS FARM TOURING AND CAMPING - DAY

Tents, cabins, caravans and camper vans are scattered around. Despite the cloudy sky, Cali is wearing sunglasses as she and Markus get out of the car. Still holding her laptop bag, she retrieves her suitcase and gestures to a large camper van.

CALI

It's that one. I think.

As she hesitantly leads Markus towards the van, Heath steps out of a similar-looking one with his parents. ARIANA, 66, is petite with long, grey-blond hair, effortlessly graceful. Her brown-eyed, still mostly dark-haired husband, GERALD, 60, towers over her.

HEATH

Cali. Wrong van.

Cali hurries to the correct van and drops her suitcase, but not her laptop, to hug Heath. She shyly waves to Ariana and Gerald as Markus picks up her case.

CALI

Hiya, I'm Cali. Obviously.

ARIANA

It's nice to put a face to the name. Heath's been gushing about you for over a year.

HEATH

Mum.

Ariana grins at him. She and Gerald each shake Markus' hand.

MARKUS

Markus Rowling, Cali's father.

GERALD

Pleasure to properly meet you both. I'm Gerald and this is Ariana.

MARKUS

I'd love to stay, but I need to work. Cali, if there's a problem...

CALI

Dad, I'm an adult. Don't start with the teenager talk.

MARKUS

Okay, no teen talk.

He gives Cali back her suitcase, along with a packet of fluoxetine pills. She looks annoyed at first, but smiles when Markus kisses her forehead. He returns to his car.

Cali waves as her father drives away, then turns back to her fiancé and his parents. She looks at the pills in her hand.

CALI

I'm ninety-three percent sure these are useless for autism.

ARIANA

Then there's a seven percent chance
you're wrong.

She grins, takes the pills, and puts them in her pocket.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

But don't worry, Sweetie. We don't
do drugs in this family.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

The van, neatly arranged, is large enough for six people. Behind the connected driver's cab is a toilet and shower beside a bunk bed. At the back are two sofas and a TV.

Cali shrinks slightly as she and the others enter. Heath touches her shoulder.

HEATH

You okay?

CALI

Yeah, I'm just not used to narrow
spaces. Where do I put my stuff?

Gerald opens an overhead compartment. Cali puts her bags in.

GERALD

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

Cali sits by a window and starts tapping her leg awkwardly.

CALI

Heath said she's having a hard time
right now. I'm... anticipating
meeting her.

ARIANA

Relax, Cali. We'll collect her and
Mary tomorrow.

EXT. MEADOW - DUSK

The wide, open, green meadow is in the middle of nowhere, beautiful in the sunset. Ariana parks the camper van and gets out. The fading light illuminates her long, greying hair.

Gerald, still in the passenger's seat, 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 the sunset filters through the window onto her. Heath watches her work with a small smile.

GERALD

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

CALI

Sorry?

HEATH

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

Cali glances out of the window at the sunset.

CALI

Oh. Hang on a moment. How's this?

Heath reads through her writing.

HEATH

It's pretty corny. No offence.

CALI

None taken. I think being corny shows vulnerability and through that, sincerity.

Heath smiles affectionately. Gerald clears his throat.

CALI (CONT'D)

We're coming.

She turns off her laptop, darts to the door holding it, then sheepishly turns back to put it in the overhead compartment.

EXT. MEADOW - NIGHT

The foursome are sitting around a portable stove. Sleeping bags are laid out, Gerald is roasting marshmallows, and Cali is leaning on Heath's shoulder while he talks.

HEATH

In the end, Andrews pleaded insanity, but they hanged him anyway. Good riddance.

ARIANA

Heath.

HEATH

What? He murdered his family for no reason. Didn't even feel anything.

CALI

So, what's your diagnosis?

HEATH

Definitely a psychopath. It was nature, not nurture.

CALI

Human brains are so strange.

She notices Ariana's disturbed frown.

CALI (CONT'D)

Sorry. Was that too cold?

ARIANA

I can't comprehend such evil.

Cali shifts uncomfortably off Heath's shoulder.

GERALD

Ready.

He gives the first marshmallow to Cali.

CALI

Dad never let me do stuff like this.

ARIANA

It seems he's very overprotective.

CALI

Yeah. It's my fault though.

ARIANA

Why?

CALI

I'm a robot with faulty wiring.

She taps her head, giggling before eating her marshmallow.

HEATH

Cali, you're not faulty.

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 accepts another marshmallow from Gerald.

GERALD

So, what do you do for a living?

CALI

I just write now. I expect to keep failing, but it's better than being a pretty diversity hire.

HEATH

Still more successful than me.

GERALD

What about the rest of your family?

CALI

Dad's an entertainer. Apparently, he can be very funny.

GERALD

And your mother?

Cali flinches, dropping the marshmallow into the fire. Breathing abnormally hard, she takes her sunglasses out of her pocket and puts them on, fingering her engagement ring.

ARIANA

Cali?

HEATH

Give her a moment.

Cali takes deep breaths, keeping her sunglasses on as she regains her composure. Heath hesitantly touches her shoulder.

HEATH (CONT'D)

Should I tell them?

Cali nods silently, putting her hand on his.

HEATH (CONT'D)

Cali's mum died in childbirth. She doesn't even have a picture.

GERALD

God rest her soul.

Cali stares into the fire. Then she plasters on a smile and takes off her sunglasses.

CALI

Can I have another marshmallow,
please?

INT. PERSEPHONE'S FLAT - DAY

PERSEPHONE, 35, a dark-haired woman with her mother's petite build and father's brown eyes, checks a suitcase. Her flat is cluttered with clothes, toys and DVDs, the kitchen and living area combined into one space. 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)

I wonder what Uncle Heath's
girlfriend is like. You think she's
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 and she sighs, gazing into her wine glass.

MARIETTA

They're here.

Persephone downs her wine and rises, picking up her 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 up to him.

MARIETTA

Grandad.

Gerald lifts her up as Persephone exits the building.

GERALD

You're getting too big for this,
Sweetheart.

PERSEPHONE

You mean you're getting too old.

GERALD

Yes, thank you. Now give your "old
man" a hug.

Persephone rolls her eyes but obeys. Ariana joins them with Heath and Cali, who is wearing her sunglasses. Ariana hugs Persephone and when she lets go, Persephone looks at Heath.

PERSEPHONE

Heath.

HEATH

Good to see you too, Sephie.

CALI

Hiya, Seph... Persephone. I'm Cali.
It's nice to meet you.

Persephone smiles and nods curtly. Marietta skips up to Cali.

MARIETTA

Hi, I'm Marietta. Uncle Heath
usually likes tall ladies. You're
smaller than I thought.

ARIANA

Mary.

CALI

It's fine, being small is great.
You can avoid people more easily
and look younger for longer. That's
why your grandma still looks fifty-
six. Hang on, are you fifty-six?

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 visible confusion.

HEATH (CONT'D)

Oi, not in front of the kid, Sephie. What kind of mother are you?

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Persephone lounges on the bottom bunk, scrolling through her phone. Her family and Cali are gathered on the sofas, examining a map of England. Gerald points to the southern part, tracing a route through various places until he reaches Stonehenge.

GERALD

Markus will meet us here in two weeks. We'll keep to the usual driving cycle.

MARIETTA

Who's Markus?

CALI

My dad. What's the driving cycle?

HEATH

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

Cali giggles while Heath's family give him flat stares. Even Persephone looks up from her phone to join in.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY (LATER)

Cali, wearing her sunglasses, chats with Marietta on one of the sofas. On the other, Gerald is reading a Bible while 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. What did I say, Cali?

CALI

We were talking about *Hellfire*.

MARIETTA

Oh yeah. I don't get why Frollo sung to Quasi's mum, but the red hoods were really scary.

CALI

Frollo wasn't singing to Quasi's mum. He was praying.

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

MARIETTA

To who? God's a man and Frollo was singing to a lady.

CALI

I think he was praying to Jesus' mum. Some people do that, right?

She turns to Ariana and Gerald. They both nod.

MARIETTA

But Jesus and his mum weren't in the movie.

CALI

I know, but Jesus founded Christianity and Frollo's a Christian.

MARIETTA

Then why's he the bad guy?

She looks at her grandparents.

GERALD

Not all Christians are good people.

Marietta is silent for a moment, then looks at Cali again.

MARIETTA

Can I see your eyes?

Cali hesitates, then takes off her sunglasses, exposing her blue-green eyes.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

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

CALI

Protection.

MARIETTA

From what?

CALI

I have a mental condition. The sunglasses help.

MARIETTA

Elsa helps me sleep. You wanna meet her?

Cali smiles and nods, relaxing.

INT. CAMPER VAN DRIVER'S CAB - DAY

Heath is driving. Persephone, sitting beside him without her seatbelt on, looks back at Cali as the younger woman braids Elsa's hair with Marietta.

PERSEPHONE

Weird catch. How long before you lose interest?

Heath shows his engagement ring to her.

HEATH

Cali's got a matching one.

PERSEPHONE

Nice. 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

Hypocrite. You used Fredric for money.

Persephone looks genuinely 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 before?

CALI

No. I've never lived in a caravan before.

ARIANA

It's an extension to give us six sleeping spaces. We thought you and Heath might like 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

Seriously?

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 and Marietta are watching *Frozen 2*. Marietta starts singing along to *Show Yourself*.

PERSEPHONE
Heath, can we talk?

Heath follows her to the door. Persephone shoots a glance at Marietta, making sure the child is distracted by the movie.

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.

He smirks provocatively. Persephone, looking insulted, shoves him against the shower cubicle door before storming out.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

She finds Cali watching Ariana and Gerald finish the awning. Cali darts to it and looks inside.

CALI
This looks nice.

PERSEPHONE
Ready to lose your virginity?

Cali turns to her, looking genuinely surprised.

CALI
No.

PERSEPHONE
Why not? You simply lay back and...

ARIANA
Persephone.

Persephone glares at her mother. Cali looks confused.

CALI

Are you angry with somebody?

Persephone turns back to her with a calculating look.

PERSEPHONE

You know my little brother loves psychology, right?

CALI

Yeah, he gets really happy when he talks about it. It's cute.

PERSEPHONE

Have you ever considered that he...

GERALD

That's enough, Persephone. You're thirty-five years old. Grow up.

Persephone turns, sees his glare, deflates, and walks away.

EXT. FOREST RIVER - DAY

Persephone sits on a rock and takes out her phone. She looks at it sadly, then puts it back into her pocket and watches the river flow leisurely by.

CALI (O.S.)

Hiya.

Persephone jumps and rises quickly as Cali approaches, wearing her sunglasses.

PERSEPHONE

What the hell? Don't sneak up on me 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 and sits back down.

PERSEPHONE

He's a wannabe psychologist.

CALI

Yeah, but he'll be a proper one in the future.

PERSEPHONE

You know he has to get a psychology degree first, right?

CALI

Oh. Well, he's an autodidact, so I assumed he'd succeed on raw skill.

PERSEPHONE

What the hell's an autodidact?

Cali laughs but stifles it when Persephone glares at her.

CALI

Sorry. You mean autodidact. It's somebody who teaches themselves, so they don't need professional training.

PERSEPHONE

You know words no one's ever heard of, but not that psychologists need a degree?

CALI

I don't think Heath knows either.

Persephone snorts and turns back to the river.

PERSEPHONE

I'd expect that from him.

CALI

That implies you weren't expecting it from me, which implies you expected me to know more about Heath's passion than he does. Why would you assume that when we barely know each other?

Persephone huffs, glaring at her own frustrated reflection and Cali's earnest one in the water. Cali hovers behind her, fiddling with her engagement ring.

CALI (CONT'D)

So, do you want some company?

PERSEPHONE

No.

CALI

Oh. Okay. Shall I come back when dinner's ready?

Persephone shrugs, still staring at their reflections. When Cali finally walks away, she turns to sneer after her.

INT. AWNING - DAY

Cali and Heath are asleep, 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.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

The van is moving and Marietta bounces up and down while she, Cali, Heath and Ariana are seated on the sofas. Ariana smiles at her granddaughter.

MARIETTA

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 going to have so much fun.

She stops when Cali puts on her sunglasses.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

You don't like my singing?

Cali taps her leg rapidly. Heath touches her shoulder.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

The sun shines brightly, reflecting off the gentle waves as 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 her sunglasses back on. Ariana and Gerald set up two deck chairs and 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

Very funny. People always take that out of context. If they really understood Anakin and Padme's pasts and personalities, they'd know that Lucas knew exactly what he was doing.

HEATH

Agreed.

He sits with Persephone on the beach towel. Cali sits on the sand, watching Marietta chat with a group of children.

CALI

How did Marietta get that much confidence?

HEATH

Probably from her dad.

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

CALI

Was he a good dad?

HEATH

He tried to be, but the marriage was a disaster.

Cali twists her engagement ring. Marietta skips up to her.

MARIETTA

Cali, can you help us build a sandcastle?

Cali relaxes and looks at Marietta's new friends, who are building a shapeless pile of sand.

CALI

You were quick.

MARIETTA

Yep.

Cali smiles and follows her to the sand pile. She does not notice a tall, handsome young man, TERRENCE, 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, children.

She jerks her thumb at a nearby ice cream van. The other children abandon the sandcastle and stampede towards it while Ariana gives Marietta the ice cream.

MARIETTA

Thanks, Grandma.

Terrence, 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 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 towards the camper van on the right.

MARIETTA

Hey, the ice cream van's that way.

She points to the ice cream van on the left.

CALI

But my purse is this way.

MARIETTA

Grandma can buy you one.

CALI

I can buy a lolly on my own,
Marietta.

Marietta looks taken aback. She starts licking her ice cream as Cali walks away, passing Terrence 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 their ice creams and lollies, and the ICE CREAM MAN smiles at Cali.

ICE CREAM MAN

Alright love, what can I get ya?

Cali fiddles with her purse, avoiding eye contact.

CALI

Can I have a fruit pastel lolly,
please?

ICE CREAM MAN

Sure. Two pounds.

Terrence swaggers towards Cali as she pays the man.

ICE CREAM MAN (CONT'D)

Much obliged.

Cali smiles shyly, then turns to find Terrence standing right beside her.

TERRENCE

Hey Gorgeous, wanna lick my lolly?

Cali looks genuinely confused. Then she blushes as he points to his swimming trunks. Without responding, she hurries back towards Ariana and Gerald, but Terrence follows her.

TERRENCE (CONT'D)

You're cute when you blush. I bet I can make you...

HEATH (O.S.)

Oi, back off.

Terrence is distracted and Cali watches anxiously as Heath storms out of the sea to confront the much larger man.

TERRENCE

You her boyfriend?

HEATH

Fiancé.

TERRENCE

She seemed pretty turned on.

Cali moves closer to Heath, avoiding eye contact.

HEATH

Take it out on someone else, asshole.

TERRENCE

Simps like you give real men a bad name.

Cali meets his eyes, stalks forward, and slaps him. Immediately afterwards, she looks shocked. Terrence does too and even Heath looks surprised for a moment.

Then Heath smiles proudly at Cali. Terrence glares at them both, turns on his heel, and storms away.

CALI

I usually walk away when guys talk to me like that, but I just...

HEATH

Thanks.

Cali turns away, ripping open the ice lolly and licking it anxiously. Marietta hurries up with her sunglasses.

MARIETTA

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

Cali smiles shakily and puts on the sunglasses.

CALI

I'm fine. Thanks.

She returns to the camper van, still licking her lolly. Heath follows and Marietta starts to go too. She changes her mind when she sees Gerald going into the sea and splashes in after him.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, still holding her lolly and wearing her sunglasses, grabs her laptop from the overhead compartment, doing so one-handed and nearly dropping it. Heath stands by the door, watching her jittery behaviour as she sits on a sofa.

HEATH

Should I stay or go?

Cali shrugs, not even glancing at him as she switches the laptop on and finds *I Am Not a Robot*. Heath gives her a concerned look, then closes the door as he leaves her alone.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - DAY

Marietta is paddling in the sea with Gerald while Persephone flirts with a blond man named GREG. Frowning as she watches her mother, Marietta starts to attempt 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, visibly annoyed.

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. And I've got a thing for MILFs. Experienced.

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

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

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

CALI

Hiya.

PERSEPHONE

Excuse me, can we have the van for a few minutes?

CALI

Why? Aren't you enjoying the beach?

PERSEPHONE

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

Cali looks from Persephone to the complete stranger.

CALI

Do you know each other?

GREG

No, but we want to.

He winks at Persephone.

CALI

Is this prostitution?

Persephone and Greg both go very red.

GREG

Well, I wouldn't... No.

CALI

You each want to have sex with a stranger.

PERSEPHONE

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

CALI
 So, you're a sex addict then. How's
 that any better?

Persephone splutters angrily and Greg looks uncomfortable.

GREG
 Um, I'm gonna go now.

Persephone's face falls as he leaves. She glares at Cali,
 still slightly flushed.

PERSEPHONE
 You little... I was... Gah.

She slams the door and Cali flinches. She stares at the shut
 door blankly.

CALI
 Well, there's no need to get huffy.

She turns back to her laptop and continues typing.

INT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT (LATER)

Cali is eating 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 her mouth full of pasta, 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

Why?

GERALD

She likes 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, completely naked in the shower, shrieks and covers herself at the intrusion. Cali flinches but composes herself and goes to the toilet, trying to seem nonchalant.

CALI

Hiya.

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, not even trying to hide her body anymore.

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 silently finishes her wee and washes her hands. She shuts the door slightly harder than necessary, leaving Persephone looking smug.

EXT. FELIXSTOWE BEACH - NIGHT

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

HEATH

You okay?

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.

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

CALI
She also said you need a degree.

HEATH
Sounds like gatekeeping to me.

CALI
It is. And I think Persephone'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 steps hesitantly closer without touching her.

HEATH
No. Not anymore.

CALI
But I used to be.

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

HEATH

I'm sorry. To be honest, I didn't expect to fall in love with you for real.

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

CALI

People usually lose interest once they know what's wrong. They don't want to try and fix somebody unfixable.

HEATH

You don't need fixing.

Cali smiles ruefully.

CALI

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

Heath nods and leaves, glancing back at her 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.

TERRENCE (O.S.)

You're even hotter in the moonlight.

Cali drops the shell and whips around as Terrence climbs over one of the larger rocks.

CALI

Oh. Hi.

TERRENCE

I didn't introduce myself properly today. I'm Terrence.

CALI

I'm Cali. Why are you out here?

TERRENCE

Why're you?

CALI

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

TERRENCE

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

CALI

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

She turns to leave, but Terrence grabs her arm tightly and looms over her.

TERRENCE

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.

TERRENCE

Go ahead.

CALI

Do you want to go to prison?

TERRENCE

Don't care. Better than home.

Cali wrenches her arm free, but he grabs her throat, shoving her against a rock. She goes limp, the perfect picture of submission. Terrence, looking mildly surprised, loosens his grip.

Without warning, Cali knees her assailant very hard in the groin. He collapses with an undignified yelp and she darts around him, sprinting back across the beach.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT

Heath is helping Persephone set up the awning when Cali runs up 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... My own reaction scared me more than what he was trying to do.

She finally turns. Her eyes are darting around and she is breathing abnormally hard. Heath frowns, looking confused.

HEATH

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

Persephone enters with their pyjamas and Cali starts to panic as she tosses them onto the mattress. Persephone glances at her, hesitates, then leaves. 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 babbling, but her breathing is still abnormal. After a moment, 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 visibly distressed, and Heath sits with her.

CALI

Why did I get excited by some violent thug?

HEATH

A lot of people have a submissive streak. Did he excite you more than me?

Cali hesitates.

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 and he's twice your size. 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 after 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 all 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 is standing in the shallows with Marietta, who tries to swim. Cali emerges from the awning and Marietta waves to her, swallowing and spitting out water.

MARIETTA
Cali, look, I'm doing breaststroke.

She clumsily demonstrates with Persephone steadying her. Cali smiles briefly. Heath follows her out of the awning while Gerald emerges from the camper van.

GERALD
If you two want to go for a swim, you'd better hurry. We want to reach the fens before evening.

CALI
I think I'll just do some writing.

She avoids looking at Heath as she 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

Hi.

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

ARIANA

How was your night?

Cali flinches and hastily puts on her sunglasses.

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 is twitching 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, Marina woke in a cold sweat, looking wildly around the room. The echoes of her mother's voice rang in her mind, even as the rest of the dream fled from her consciousness."

Cali watches nervously as Ariana reads the paragraph.

ARIANA (CONT'D)

Is this based on your life?

CALI

Yes and no. I'm trying not to make her a self-insert.

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 looks hopefully 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 watch Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Frolo is singing *Hellfire*.

PERSEPHONE

This is for kids?

Marietta huddles with Ariana, peeking through her fingers. She continues to cower until the scene ends, but when she takes her hands off her face, she looks awed as well as scared. Ariana pauses the film.

ARIANA

Are you alright, Sweetie?

MARIETTA

Yeah. But I still don't get it.

HEATH

Trust me, that's for the best.

Persephone, now looking bored, turns to Cali, who is staring 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 ambles beside her brother, smirking.

PERSEPHONE
You did it, didn't you?

Heath ignores her.

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 messed up.

EXT. THE FENS - DUSK (LATER)

Everybody returns to the camper van's parking spot. While Persephone, Heath and their parents collect food and cooking equipment, Cali and Marietta wander away 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
Life 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 but grins.

GERALD

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

CALI

Oh. Okay.

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

EXT. THE FENS - NIGHT (LATER)

The sky is overcast while the family gathers around the
portable stove. Cali sits alone by the awning.

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 oblivious Marietta stuffs her face.

GERALD
So, who enjoyed the walk?

MARIETTA
Me.

She thrusts her hand into the air, spraying crumbs from her mouth.

PERSEPHONE
Swallow first, Marietta.

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. THE FENS - 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 more roughly than necessary 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 someone picking your brain?

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 breathing to quicken.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Look me in the eyes.

Cali struggles to do so, her eyes darting away.

CALI

Damaged goods are people who have
slept around and been divorced.

She manages to meet the divorced woman's eyes, only for a second. Persephone, shaking, looks furious and 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 swallows two of her fluoxetine pills with a glass of water. She places the glass on the sink, trembling and breathing unnaturally.

Then she breaks. Hyperventilating uncontrollably, tears streaming down her face, Cali tries to muffle her gasping sobs with her shaking hands.

INT. MARKUS' BEDROOM - DAY

The room is cluttered, apart from the neat double bed. Markus is sitting before a mirror, applying clown makeup. His phone rings and he takes it out of a drawer, checking his caller before answering.

MARKUS

Finally called your old man, huh?

CALI (V.O.)

Hi, Dad.

Markus immediately looks concerned.

MARKUS

Little Star, what's wrong?

CALI (V.O.)

I just had a... I think Heath's
sister hates me. She was angry 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. I don't feel like me when I do.

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 okay?

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 the phone into his pocket and looks sadly into the still open drawer. A small, red, heart-shaped locket shines inside it. 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 and takes a breath. Then she steps out of the cubicle.

EXT. THE FENS - DAY

Ariana moves a chair to the sullen Persephone and sits with her. Marietta is exploring the marshes and Persephone keeps her eyes on the child.

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
They're back.

She nods to Gerald and Heath as they return from the marshland. Marietta rushes to show them a frog she has found. She squeals as it hops out of her hands and into the marshes.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Cali, Heath, Persephone and Marietta are sitting on the sofas together. Marietta is playing on a Nintendo Switch while the countryside whips past the window, which Heath gazes out of.

HEATH

It'll be nice to see Cambridge again.

CALI

You used to live there, right?

HEATH

Yeah. Dad was a vicar when we were kids and he goes back to preach every few years.

CALI

So, he's still a Church member?

HEATH

Technically, but the Church doesn't like Mum. They think she's a heathen because she doesn't think like most Christians.

PERSEPHONE

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

Cali and Heath laugh, the latter now fully focussed on the conversation.

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 are the first to step outside.

MARIETTA

Mum and Dad brought me when I was a baby. I don't remember. Let's look around.

She takes Cali's hand and pulls her away. Persephone and Heath watch them go from the van's doorway.

HEATH

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

Persephone glances at him, then is distracted by Ariana and Gerald getting out of the front.

GERALD

Are you two coming to my service?

PERSEPHONE

Is that rhetorical?

GERALD

Naturally.

HEATH

Too lazy to walk a few miles, Sephie?

PERSEPHONE

We're living in a camper van. Why park several miles away?

GERALD

It shows humility.

ARIANA

And it's good exercise.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING PLAYGROUND - DAY

Cali sways gently on one of the swings, watching Marietta gradually get higher on the other. The little girl suddenly launches herself off and Cali yelps as she lands on her hands and knees.

CALI

Mary. Are you okay?

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.

MARIETTA (CONT'D)

You called me Mary.

CALI

Sorry, do you prefer...

MARIETTA

No, I like it.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

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

HEATH

Where have you two been?

MARIETTA

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

GERALD

Maybe the chapel will remind you. It's where you were baptized.

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.

ARIANA
 Why not?

Cali puts on her sunglasses and twists her engagement ring.

PERSEPHONE
 We'd have to walk a few miles
 anyway.

MARIETTA
 I wanna walk. Can I take Elsa?

ARIANA
 If you want to, Sweetie.

Persephone goes back into the camper van and returns a moment later 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 before 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 smiles nervously and 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 a thirty-three year old woman, Heath. It's not our place to make her decisions 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 as she saunters into the crowded pub. Cali looks uncomfortable in her more modest borrowed dress, shyly following Persephone to the bar and avoiding eye contact with everybody.

PERSEPHONE

Hello, only us two.

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

Seriously?

Cali avoids her eyes and Persephone shrugs.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

You heard her.

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

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Wow, you really haven't done this before. What the hell 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 realized 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 church. There are only a few people inside.

MARIETTA

Why's it so empty?

GERALD

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

HEATH

Or maybe because it's eleven at night.

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

ARIANA

Speak well, Dear.

Marietta looks around the modest church, brow furrowed as she follows Ariana and Heath to their seats. Gerald steps up to the pulpit.

INT. CAMBRIDGE PUB - NIGHT

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

PERSEPHONE

After that, Mum took us out of school and never looked back. She thinks it's propaganda designed to brainwash kids.

CALI

I realized in hindsight that some schools do that. So, you had bad teachers?

PERSEPHONE

Yes, 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. He's annoyingly good at getting in people's heads, but 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 trivialize it, but I get why it might make people feel ashamed.

PERSEPHONE

Don't be ashamed. He isn't and you're going to marry him 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? Your parents are very devout Christians.

PERSEPHONE

Yes, they are now, but they had me out of wedlock.

Cali's jaw drops and her straw falls on the table. Persephone smirks as Cali puts it back in her glass.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Don't look so shocked. It happens all the time and frankly, I don't think it makes any difference. Mum and Dad love each other, so who cares if they had me early?

She pauses thoughtfully, sips her drink, 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. You do the maths.

CALI
 Why do people say that?

PERSEPHONE
 What? You do the maths? It's only
 an expression.

CALI
 Yeah, but it makes no sense if it
 has nothing to do with math.

Persephone looks amused as Cali finishes her coke.

PERSEPHONE
 You want another one?

Cali smiles and nods. Persephone rises and saunters towards
 the bar.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE CHAPEL - NIGHT

Marietta is yawning 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 looks back at her.

GERALD

Do you want a ride, Mary?

MARIETTA

Yes please, Granddad.

ARIANA

Gerald, your back.

GERALD

I can still manage.

INT. CAMBRIDGE PUB - NIGHT

Persephone is drunk, lounging in her seat with a near-empty
glass, while Cali twitches rapidly from a sugar rush.

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 simply 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 are still 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 terrified 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, I get the logic because it 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 at her reassuringly. Cali exits the van to meet them and Heath.

CALI

Hiya.

HEATH

How was it?

He looks worried, but Cali gives him a genuine 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 and he 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 are taking their blankets off the sofas and folding them when Persephone comes out of the shower.

CALI
Hiya.

Persephone grumbles and slumps 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
Of course.

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 disapprovingly and Heath sighs with exasperation. They go to the driver's cab together as Ariana and Gerald enter and sit with Marietta, who has taken out her Nintendo Switch.

PERSEPHONE
Don't bump the van around.

EXT. RUTLAND WATER - DAY

The large lake is as blue as the sky and the climbing wall towers over the camper van. Heath parks and everybody except Persephone gets out. 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
Excuse me, can I talk with you?

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 is snoozing on the bottom bunk as 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 couldn't bear the thought of repenting 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. After a moment, she touches her engagement ring and looks down at it.

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. When I was pregnant with Persephone, Gerald and I were terrified. The Old Testament didn't inspire confidence about God's mercy, but I believe Satan had far more control than the Church realizes. 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 mild frown as she lies back down.

EXT. CAMPER VAN - CONTINUOUS

Stepping outside, Cali leans on the van and takes a deep breath. After a moment, she smiles more genuinely 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 at the others 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.

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 and he starts lowering her. Marietta gulps before nodding jerkily to the climbing instructor, who lowers her down 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 climbing 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. She is passing sandwiches to Cali, Gerald and Heath when Marietta joins them, slumping down on the grass. She takes a sandwich from Ariana and starts to eat.

INT. CAMPER VAN DRIVER'S CAB - DAY

Persephone is 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 Peak District is beautiful.

CALI

I know, I've seen pictures.

GERALD

You must experience it in person.

Persephone glances back at the others, who are all gathered on the two sofas. While the adults chat, Marietta plays her Nintendo Switch.

Persephone looks pensive for a moment, then returns her attention to the road.

EXT. LEEK CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB - DAY

Persephone parks the camper van among the trees enclosing the site. Everybody gets out, with Cali, Heath, Ariana and Gerald carrying 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 more flowers.

ARIANA

Thank you, Sweetie. How about your mum?

Marietta's face falls. She plasters on a happy expression, 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

Alright.

Marietta smiles more genuinely 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 his granddaughter's hair as she skips past, then turns to his daughter 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 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 Marietta, giggling, 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 subtle 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

Children.

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.

After Heath finishes, he joins Cali, watching her admire the sunset with a smile. Cali notices his gaze and smiles back. After a moment of shy hesitation, she kisses him.

EXT. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK - NIGHT (LATER)

Marietta is in her sleeping bag, holding her Elsa doll and lying on her front to watch Gerald. The others are gathered around the portable stove, having finished their meal.

GERALD

According to legend, the Blakemere Pond is the resting place of a local girl who rejected a man named Joshua Linnet.

CALI

What was the girl's name?

GERALD

Nobody knows.

PERSEPHONE

But they bothered to record the man's name?

Heath shoots her an annoyed look.

HEATH

Let Dad tell the story.

GERALD

Thank you, Heath. Anyway, Linnet's heartbreak soon 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 her, the girl cursed him. Remorseful, the young man returned days later. But when he knelt by the pond, the girl's spirit burst from the water, tearing his face and neck with nails that were now claws. Linnet bled to death and the last thing he saw was a mermaid's tail disappearing into the depths.

Marietta has crawled backwards in her sleeping bag, which is now over her head as 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, circular lake is serene and unimposing. Gerald and Ariana lay out the picnic mat while the four others, all dressed in their swimming clothes, head for water.

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

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, I'd be in more danger than you.

ARIANA

Mary, you're in too deep.

Persephone leaps to her feet as Marietta starts dipping in and out of the deceptively tiny lake, struggling to stay afloat. She tries to turn and swim back, swallowing and spitting out water.

MARIETTA

I can't. Help.

Persephone dives into the water as her child sinks. Heath reaches Marietta first and grabs her. Together, the siblings struggle to carry her back to shore.

Once they get there, Persephone frantically shoves her brother aside, kneeling beside her unconscious daughter.

PERSEPHONE

Marietta? Mary. Please.

Gerald and Ariana rush over while Cali, looking terrified, watches from the lake. Gerald performs CPR.

After a couple of tense moments, Marietta chokes, coughs up water, and gasps for air. Persephone, trembling with relief, pulls her daughter into a hug.

PERSEPHONE (CONT'D)

Thank God.

Marietta slowly returns her embrace and starts to cry.

MARIETTA

Mummy.

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

Cali?

CALI

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

She nods at Marietta and Persephone, who are still hugging each other.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY

Marietta is huddled on a sofa 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, Sweetie. 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... 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. If anything happened to you...

MARIETTA

I'm here, Mummy.

She smiles and snuggles up to her mother. Persephone holds her daughter close and starts to cry.

INT. CAMPER VAN - DAY (LATER)

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

CALI

Hiya. It's your turn to drive.

She stays standing, fidgeting anxiously. Gerald bookmarks the page and puts the Bible into the tiny book cabinet with Ariana's copy. Cali looks curiously at the different 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 would put most of her critics to shame.

He smiles as Cali, still standing nervously, fiddles 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 very...
restrictive.

GERALD

Many people think that, even among
believers. Admittedly, the Church
rarely makes compelling arguments
to disprove it, 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

Okay. 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 at the driver's cab.

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Cali, Heath, Gerald and Marietta admire the grand, ancient
building while Persephone and Ariana watch Marietta's
awestruck expression with small smiles.

MARIETTA

Wow, this is way better than the
other church.

ARIANA
No, it's only bigger.

She and Gerald lead the way inside. Cali is holding Heath's hand and wearing 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 to her 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've gotten 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 and Heath squeezes her hand.

HEATH
You want to go outside?

CALI
No. I'm fine.

Heath leaves her alone. Cali takes off her sunglasses and goes from window to window until she reaches one showing Jesus Christ on the cross. Her breathing quickens and she drops her sunglasses.

Marietta, despite being near the other side of the building, is the first to notice Cali's distress.

MARIETTA
Cali?

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

Marietta is the first to reach Cali's side, but Heath stops her from touching the panicking woman. The rest of the family rushes over and the Vicar approaches too, albeit more cautiously.

VICAR
What's wrong with her?

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

GERALD
What triggered this one?

Every single person in the cathedral is staring at Cali now. The Vicar makes the sign of the cross. Cali keeps struggling to breathe as she stares 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 slowly relaxes, calmly retrieves her sunglasses, and smiles warmly at nobody in particular. Sunlight shines onto her through the stained glass window.

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

CALI

I want to get married here.

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Persephone gazes up 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. And
she's never 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

Seriously, 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 shrugs.

PERSEPHONE

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

She looks rueful 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 and Ariana smiles at them. Heath goes to sit with Cali.

PERSEPHONE

What should I make for supper?

EXT. STONEHENGE - DAY

The camper van parks close to the ring of massive stones. A few tourists are already admiring and photographing the ancient monument, gazing up at the slabs perched upon the towering rocks.

Marietta leads her family towards the stones while 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 and 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 gazes around the monument with mild curiosity, then looks at Cali.

PERSEPHONE

Do you know who built this place and why?

CALI

Nobody does. I like the theory that it was built by aliens.

PERSEPHONE

Seriously?

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 family has set up camp between the now otherwise deserted stones. They are gathered around the portable stove, finishing their supper.

CALI

Don't take me out of context. 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 that are being held up over the 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 towards 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

Alright, but I'm putting Marietta
to bed first.

CALI

So, I'll just wait here, shall I?

PERSEPHONE

You do that.

She leaves. Cali gets out her laptop, sits on one of the sofas, and switches it on. She finds a file titled *God and Jesus* and opens Marina Diamandis' *To Be Human* music video in a separate tab.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

Marietta is already asleep when Persephone returns. Shaking her head, she tucks Elsa into her daughter's arms.

HEATH

Cali's sleeping in tonight?

Persephone shrugs but tilts her head, so Heath follows her.

INT. CAMPER VAN - NIGHT

Cali closes her YouTube tab as Persephone and Heath enter and sit on the sofa opposite her.

PERSEPHONE

How long will this take?

CALI

It depends how fast you can read.

HEATH

She can read pretty fast. Possibly because she doesn't process the words.

Persephone flips him the finger and beckons to Cali, who hesitates before handing over her laptop.

Onscreen: "Evidence of God's Existence Life is a story. And every story needs a writer. If atoms created the Universe, who or what created the atoms?"

PERSEPHONE

Oh, great.

Heath looks at the document, then raises an eyebrow at Cali.

HEATH

You've never shown me this.

Cali twists her engagement ring.

CALI

Dad's the only person who's ever seen it. I was planning to show you, but I was waiting for the right time. I thought that...

PERSEPHONE

I'm trying to read here.

EXT. STONEHENGE - NIGHT

Marietta, Gerald and Ariana are asleep when Cali, Heath and Persephone return. The siblings 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 a lot 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 slightly annoyed as Cali gets into her sleeping
bag. After a moment, he shrugs and gets into his own.

EXT. STONEHENGE - DAY (LATER)

Cali is looking around the monument when she sees Markus
arrive on foot. She 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 looking at Heath.

MARKUS
Persephone's your sister, correct?

HEATH
Correct.

He nods to Persephone as she joins them with Marietta.

PERSEPHONE
Hello.

Markus holds out his hand. Persephone takes it and winces.

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

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

Marietta bounces up to Markus.

MARIETTA
Hi, Cali's dad.

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 as Marietta glances up 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 told them the alien one.

MARKUS

Then I'll have to suggest something
even more bonkers.

INT. MARKUS' CAR - DAY

Cali is babbling to her father while Markus drives.

CALI

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

She calms down and gazes 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 silently reads an
email on her laptop. She slumps back in her chair.

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. Good luck."

Cali smiles ruefully, closing the email as her phone buzzes.

CALI

Hiya.

PERSEPHONE (V.O.)

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

CALI

Yeah, thanks Sephie.

INT. CALI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Cali is wearing her wedding dress and examining 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, which is empty.

CALI

You've been carrying that for thirty-four years?

MARKUS

Yes, I have. And I want you to have it. Maybe you'll find something to put inside.

CALI

Dad... I'm sorry. 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, is pacing nervously and talking 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 genuinely 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 on our honeymoon?

ARIANA

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

EXT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - DAY

Persephone and Marietta are waiting outside when Cali,
wearing her sunglasses, and Markus arrive. Marietta is
bouncing with excitement and Persephone gives Cali a warm
smile and nod.

INT. WELLS CATHEDRAL - CONTINUOUS

The large building has a small number of 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 is
still wearing her sunglasses but smiles back.

CALI

Hiya.

HEATH

Hi. Can I take the 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 are gathered
here today to witness the union
between Cali and Heath. If anybody
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 a pointless and unfulfilling online relationship. When we properly met, I admired your openness about your autism and willingness to go out of your comfort zone, but I had no idea I was talking to my future wife. I was selfishly thinking about what you could do for me, but now I just want to be a good husband.

Cali smiles 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 me out of sheer irritation. 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 she and Heath listen to the Vicar's obligatory 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 with 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 is sitting with Heath, drinking coke while they watch Gerald and Ariana dance, surrounded by other guests.

CALI

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

HEATH

Not a chance.

CALI

Thank God.

Persephone, looking 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.

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)

Seriously, I hope you two 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 is waiting for them with a *Just Married* sign attached to the back. Markus smiles at Cali and gestures to the sunset.

MARKUS

You were waiting for this, weren't
you?

CALI

Yeah.

Markus gives her a loving look, 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, who is visibly unsteady.

HEATH

You sure you can drive, Sephie?

PERSEPHONE

Not at all.

ARIANA

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

Cali pulls Heath to the camper van and gets 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