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# Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 16  
BLOCK 3

"Control"

Written by Samantha Strauss

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**Release Script**  
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1

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 6**

1

TARA, CHRISTIAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, MISS RAINE, PETRA, N/S FIRST YEAR STUDENTS (GIRLS AND BOYS), TARA (V.O)

Pas de Deux: We see snatches of the First Years executing a pas de deux combination (choreography from Scene 36). Miss Raine is teaching, eagle-eyed as ever.

The combination comprises finger fouette turns and pirouettes from fourth position but it's hard to work out exactly what the dance students are doing as we only catch glimpses - the flick of a head, the swivel of a pointe shoe, a boy's hands on a girl's waist.

TARA (V.O.)

*As dancers we learn to be in control of our bodies. Down to the last millimetre.*

Close on Tara's face as she fights to stay en pointe. Her brow is furrowed and beaded with sweat.

TARA (V.O.)

*Because if even one finger is out of alignment -*

MISS RAINE

Tara!

Tara takes a deep breath and continues dancing with Christian.

TARA (V.O.)

*- it all falls apart.*

2

**INT. ACADEMY/MR. KENNEDY'S OFFICE - DAY 6**

2

TARA, SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, KAT, ETHAN, ABIGAIL, PETRA, MR. KENNEDY, TARA (V.O)

Mr. Kennedy is lecturing the students who stand before him. He seems extremely angry, but we can't hear what he's saying.

TARA (V.O.)

*So you practise the movements until they're perfect.*

Instead, we travel along the line of suspects. First Abigail who gazes up at Mr. Kennedy, the picture of innocence. Then Christian who has a black eye.

TARA (V.O.)

*You learn to control gravity. To control pain.*

We linger on Kat who rolls her eyes, unrepentant.

2 CONTINUED: 2

TARA (V.O.)  
*And refuse to let yourself get away  
with anything.*

Then to Ethan who is stone-faced... Petra who looks queasy...  
and Sammy who is glancing worriedly between everyone...

TARA (V.O.)  
*But there's one thing that doesn't  
follow the rules. That you wish you  
could control. But can't.*

Finally, we reach Tara.

TARA (V.O.)  
*Your heart.*

MR. KENNEDY  
I want to know right now who is  
responsible?

Tara looks straight at Mr. Kennedy.

3 **EXT. SYDNEY - REVERSE TIME LAPSE** 3  
NIL CAST

In a blink of an eye, time slips backwards. The sky changes  
from day into night and back to day again. The ferries travel  
across the Harbour in reverse.

The world is reeling as we travel faster and faster, until  
with a thud we cut to:

4 **EXT. ACADEMY/CAFE - DAY 4** 4  
TARA, KAT, SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, PETRA, N/S STUDENTS

Kat is standing beside a table in the outside cafe. Her eyes  
are shut and she's grinning with anticipation. Sammy is  
holding a small cream-filled cake.

SAMMY  
No it's too weird.

KAT  
(firm)  
I said, let there be cake!

Sammy sighs and half-heartedly launches the cake at Kat's  
face. It misses her by inches, the frosting just swipes a bit  
of her hair.

SAMMY  
I know. I throw like a girl.

4

CONTINUED:

4

An array of other cakes are clustered on the table. Ethan chooses one and then stands up, as if making a toast.

ETHAN

Okay - to my sister. Sweet sixteen  
and never been kissed...

Christian and Sammy snort - he's clearly in denial. The cake flies at Kat and lands on her neck. She looks down, grimacing.

KAT

What is wrong with you people? I  
specifically asked you to fulfil my  
one birthday wish.

Kat smiles as she becomes inspired by the beauty of her idea.

KAT

Not for presents but for a world  
seen through cream and sugar and  
all things -

She's cut off by the surprise of Petra hitting her square in the face. Kat blinks through the cream, grinning.

KAT

Petra, I'm so glad I met you.

PETRA

But of course.

CROSS TO:

Tara pauses near the table and looks between Ethan and Christian. She braces herself and heads over. Kat's back is to her and Tara can't see her face.

TARA

Hey. What did I miss?

Everyone is watching Tara expectantly. Kat turns around, face full of cake. Realisation dawns with a horrible thud.

TARA

Oh my gosh. Your birthday.

Tara sits down beside Ethan.

SAMMY

(under his breath)  
I sent you like fifty reminders  
about being here.

4

CONTINUED:

4

TARA

(over)

I know. I'm so sorry. I just totally...

KAT

Spaced? It happens.

As Kat wipes the cream off her face, she smiles but there's something behind it. A hint of ice. Tara tries to make amends.

TARA

So what's the plan? Are we doing anything tonight?

Kat shakes her head, excited but playing it cool.

KAT

Negative. The parentals get back tomorrow. I've made Natasha promise she'd cook us all something edible.

Ethan laces his fingers through Tara's.

ETHAN

The woman can do sixty-four fouettes but give her an oven and -

Kat's phone starts to ring.

KAT

It's fantastic to watch.

(into phone)

Hello, we were just talking about you. I hope you're studying your recipes...

Kat steps away from the group to take the call. Tara turns to Ethan who puts his arm around her.

TARA

I can't believe I did that. I don't know what's wrong with me.

Tara looks over to Christian, accidentally making eye contact. Petra clocks the weird vibes passing between.

ETHAN

Oh no. No. You've got to be kidding.

Tara and Christian react, guilty.

ETHAN

I've seen that look before.

4

CONTINUED:

4

They belatedly realise that Ethan is talking about Kat who is now arguing with her mother. She ends the call and storms back to the table.

KAT

So ma and pa have extended the tour. Estonia needs them apparently.

TARA

Kat, I'm... (sorry)

Kat covers her disappointment with a bright smile.

KAT

Don't be. They put money in my account and said I can buy anything I want. Thing is I don't want anything and the house is empty which means -

5

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDORS - DAY 4**  
KAT, ETHAN, SEAN, N/S STUDENTS

5

Kat is distributing party invitations like a benevolent party fairy/town crier. Ethan is trailing beside her.

KAT

Off-campus house party. Tell your friends.

She hands Sean a pile of invites.

ETHAN

Not too many friends.

As Sean scampers off, grinning, Kat turns on Ethan.

KAT

He has three in the known universe. Come on grandma, embrace the fact that tomorrow night we -

ETHAN

(grins)  
Oh it's "we" now, is it?

KAT

(over)  
Yes we are putting on the event of the year.

Ethan reluctantly gives in to Kat's excitement.

5

CONTINUED:

5

ETHAN

All right. But you're doing all the work. I'm hanging out with Tara.

Kat sprinkles some more invitations around.

KAT

Good luck with that. She hasn't had time for a lot of people lately.

ETHAN

Does she seem all right to you? She hasn't said anything about me?

KAT

Yes. We discussed you in detail. Because the world revolves around...

Kat's phone rings. She grins when she sees who it is.

KAT

(into phone)

Hey. Why thank you.

(whispers to Ethan)

Lucas.

Ethan doesn't share her excitement.

KAT

(into phone)

Yeah, whoever. Tell the boys there'll be ballerinas as far as the eye can see.

Kat grins at Ethan. He gives up the battle.

6

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 4**

6

TARA, KAT, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, SEAN, PETRA, FIRST YEAR BOY, MISS RAINE, N/S FIRST YEARS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Pas De Deux: There's no music as Miss Raine walks along the line of First Years who are practising finger fouette turns and pirouettes from fourth position.

She passes Petra and a FIRST YEAR BOY who are operating the movement smoothly.

MISS RAINE

Good. Everyone notice Petra's high retire position. Nice and controlled.

Nearby, Abigail shoots a dirty look at Sammy. She climbs back up onto pointe so they can execute the turn again.

6

CONTINUED:

6

Miss Raine continues down the line of students, where Kat and Sean have stopped dancing because Kat is taking a phone call.

KAT  
(into phone)  
A proper dj? Not one of those  
greatest hits jukeboxes...

Kat looks up and notices Miss Raine shooting her a look designed to kill.

KAT  
(into phone)  
I'll call you right back.

Kat places the phone into Miss Raine's outstretched hand who then turns her attention to Tara and Christian. Tara is poised en pointe, not turning.

MISS RAINÉ  
And fouette. Now Tara. Not in your  
own time.

Tara is forced to turn. She misjudges where she is and stumbles back, wrenching Christian's arm.

MISS RAINÉ  
You had this working last week.  
What's changed?

They avoid her gaze.

MISS RAINÉ  
That was a question.

TARA  
I think I'm nervous about falling.

MISS RAINÉ  
Then you need to trust your  
partner.

CHRISTIAN  
(under his breath)  
Maybe she needs to trust herself.

It was designed to bait and Tara can't resist.

TARA  
What's that supposed to mean?

CHRISTIAN  
You want me to say?

The rest of the class are now staring at them. Including Petra who takes a nervous intake of breath.



6 CONTINUED: 6

Miss Raine cuts the tension.

MISS RAINÉ

If there's a problem here it needs  
be resolved outside the studio. One  
day, heaven forbid, you may be  
professionals. Start acting like  
it.

Miss Raine walks away. Tara refuses to look at Christian.

7 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 4** 7

TARA, PETRA, N/S FIRST YEARS (GIRLS AND BOYS)

Class has ended and the students are packing up their dance  
bags and leaving the studio.

Tara is shaken by her run-in with Christian. She's  
concentrating on removing her pointe shoes, when Petra  
approaches.

PETRA

(tentative)

Hi Tara.

TARA

Hey.

Tara smiles briefly but is obviously not in the mood to talk.  
This is awkward for Petra.

PETRA

Look, I know we don't know each  
other very well yet but I um...  
well...

TARA

Sorry Petra. Whatever it is, I  
can't help you right now.

She goes to leave, Petra decides to stop her.

PETRA

The other day I saw you with  
Christian.

TARA

You did?

PETRA

By the water.

Tara's face pales.

7

CONTINUED:

7

TARA

Oh. Right.

She laughs nervously, scrambling for cover.

TARA

See, I... fell. Totally unco. And then he um... He...

(beat)

It wasn't what it might have looked like.

Petra nods sympathetically, pretending to buy Tara's story.

PETRA

Of course. But if you ever want someone to talk to -

TARA

(over)

There's nothing to talk about. It's under control.

8

**INT. ACADEMY/BOYS' DRESSING ROOM - DAY 4**

8

TARA, CHRISTIAN

Tara checks that the boys' dressing room is empty and then determinedly drags Christian inside. She's furious but he just looks around, grinning.

CHRISTIAN

You know this is where we met? Maybe there's something about the urinals...

He steps towards her. Tara does her best to hold him at arms length.

TARA

Stop it.

CHRISTIAN

Stop what?

She realises Christian is leaning in to kiss her. She pushes him away.

TARA

He's my boyfriend. My incredible, talented, too good to be true...

CHRISTIAN

(over)

Slow down training bra.

(MORE)

8

CONTINUED:

8

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)  
Sounds like you're trying to  
convince yourself something.

He's right and it stops her.

TARA  
I just want things to go back to  
the way they were before.

CHRISTIAN  
Really? Because I was pretty sure  
you're the one who kissed me.

Tara looks like he's slapped her.

TARA  
(quietly)  
That was an accident.

CHRISTIAN  
What? Your lips slipped and just -  
He grins but Tara doesn't return it.

TARA  
It didn't mean anything. I don't...  
you know... feel that way.

For the briefest moment we see how much this affects  
Christian, but then he puts the wall back up.

CHRISTIAN  
Forget it. You're not even my type.  
He laughs bitterly and goes to leave the dressing room.

TARA  
Christian?

CHRISTIAN  
Yeah?

They stare at each other for a moment.

TARA  
Don't say anything to any...

Christian lets the door shut behind him. Tara doesn't move.

9

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT 4**  
SEAN (O.S)

9

Establish the Boarding House.

9 CONTINUED: 9

SEAN (O.S.)  
Heard you were looking for a DJ.  
I've scratched some big events.

10 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - NIGHT 4** 10  
KAT, PETRA, SEAN

Sean is at Kat's door, pitching his services.

SEAN  
Parties, my grandparents 40th  
anniversary. I can give you mates  
rates.  
(off her look)  
Or for free. Whatever.

Kat is clearly out of options.

KAT  
You mess this up, my knee slips in  
the fouette turns.

She indicates to Sean's groin.

SEAN  
Killer.

He walks away, excited. Kat closes the door, wondering what she's getting herself into.

She sits down on the bed beside Petra who is working on her "Public Display of Affection" photographic series.

PETRA  
Want me to come early and help you  
get set up?

Kat smiles gratefully.

KAT  
That would be splendid.

11 **EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 5** 11  
TARA (V.O)

It's a new day over the Academy.

TARA (V.O.)  
*Ethan Karamakov - Pros.*

12

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 5**

12

TARA, ETHAN, SEAN, N/S STUDENTS, TARA (V.O.)

Tara and Ethan are walking down the corridor. He's energetically telling a story but Tara is having trouble paying attention. She's studying him in a detached kind of way.

TARA (V.O.)

*So he still smells like Christmas  
even though up close you realise  
that's just his soap.*

As they keep walking, Ethan takes Tara's hand in his.

TARA (V.O.)

*And what you didn't know before is  
that it's not enough for him just  
to hold your hand. He has to wrap  
his fingers around yours.*

Tara looks down at her fingers laced through Ethan's, then back at his face.

TARA (V.O.)

*And then, of course, he's smart.  
And inspiring.*

Sean walks past, arms loaded down with CDs.

SEAN

Your sister is going to wanna marry me.

ETHAN

Welcome to the family.

TARA (V.O.)

*Kind to animals.*

ETHAN

How do you feel?

TARA

Nothing.

Tara winces. Freudian slip.

TARA

Sorry what was the question?

Ethan has stopped walking and is studying her, concerned.

ETHAN

I was just saying you look tired.

12

CONTINUED:

12

TARA

Oh, yeah. Pas de deux. I'm having trouble with the fouette turns.

She feels guilty for lying as Ethan kisses her on the nose.

ETHAN

Don't worry. You were born to fouette.

Tara tries very hard to smile.

13

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 5**

13

TARA, KAT, CHRISTIAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, PETRA, SEAN, MISS RAINÉ, N/S FIRST YEARS (GIRLS AND BOYS)

Pas De Deux: Once again, class is underway but there is no music. Miss Raine is walking along a line of newly formed couples, all practising the exercises from the day before. A video recorder set up in the corner records the class.

MISS RAINÉ

You've all been getting too comfortable dancing with the same partners. During your careers you will have to perform with people you've just met. People you don't particularly like.

Tara is dancing with Sean. She's hovering en pointe, preparing to turn, when she gets distracted by Kat who is beside her, messing around with Christian.

Kat shrieks, hyperactive. Miss Raine shoots them a death stare.

MISS RAINÉ

Am I interrupting your social life Katrina?

KAT

Always.

Miss Raine ignores the comment and walks over to correct Sammy's placement.

Tara turns to Kat, who's whispering in Christian's ear.

TARA

Come on. You'll get in trouble.

KAT

Who are you? Our mother?

13

CONTINUED:

13

Tara stares at her friend, stung. She watches in disbelief, and an uncomfortable flicker of jealousy, as Christian turns his back on her as well.

He lifts Kat into the air. Giggling, Kat wrestles free and they both crash to the ground. Miss Raine storms over to them.

MISS RAINÉ

I can't imagine why you think I want my time wasted on a Saturday.

CHRISTIAN

(under his breath)  
What about our time?

KAT

(laughing)  
Miss Raine, we were -

MISS RAINÉ

Out. You can injure yourselves somewhere else.

Kat and Christian share a look and start laughing again.

Tara watches them leave the studio, without looking back. This is what she wanted. Isn't it?

14

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 5**

14

TARA, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

Still in her ballet clothes, Tara turns the corner of the empty corridor. She sees Kat walking towards her from the opposite direction, wearing her civvies.

They stop when they reach other. It's awkward.

KAT

Petra and I are heading over now to set up.

TARA

(guilty)  
I have a private this afternoon, but I'll get there as soon as -

KAT

Don't worry about it.

But she's clearly offended.

TARA

Kat, have I done something wrong? It's been a full-on week.

14

CONTINUED:

14

KAT

It's been a full-on week for me too. Small issues like my parents ignoring my birthday...

TARA

We should talk. Tonight.

KAT

Tonight I'll be pretty busy.

TARA

Yeah, of course. I'll just -

KAT

I'll just see you there.

Kat walks out of the Academy, obviously hurt and mad. Tara doesn't have the energy to run after her.

15

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 5**

15

TARA, MISS RAINÉ

Tara stands before Miss Raine. They're alone in the studio for Tara's regular Saturday private coaching class.

MISS RAINÉ

Fouettes en pointe.

Tara stares at her. She's got to be kidding. Not today.

MISS RAINÉ

If you can't do them by yourself, how can you expect to do them with a partner?

16

**INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY 5**

16

PETRA, KAT, ETHAN

Kat and Petra are giggling as they fill balloons with helium. Petra takes a quick gulp as Ethan enters the room.

PETRA

(squeaky voice)  
Meow.

KAT

(squeaky voice)  
Listen Petra has an inner cat.

The girls collapse into giggles. Ethan is carrying a cordless phone and a tray of jelly shots still in semi-liquid form.



16

CONTINUED:

16

ETHAN

So the fridge has spawned jelly shots. Want to explain how that might have happened?

KAT

(over)

Relax grandma. They've barely got any... (*alcohol in them*)

The doorbell rings.

ETHAN

I'll get it. Oh yeah, Sammy's mum.

Ethan shoves the phone and the tray of shots at Kat as he goes to answer the door. Kat struggles to balance the shots as they slip precariously close to the edge.

KAT

Pets can you...

She nudges Petra the phone.

PETRA

(into phone)

Hello? Adult supervision?

Kat winces. She goes to grab the phone back but Petra's already talking, not skipping a beat.

PETRA

(into phone)

Yes. Of course. I am Mrs. Karamakov...

Kat shakes her head. Petra backtracks.

PETRA

(into phone)

... 's housekeeper... Gerta... and I will be here all evening.

Petra shrugs at Kat who shoots her the thumbs up, impressed with her quick-thinking improvisation skills.

As Petra continues to listen to Mrs. Lieberman, Kat offers her a jelly shot. Petra takes a sip and pulls a face.

PETRA

(whispers, to Kat)

Tastes funny.

KAT

Might need more fridge time.

16 CONTINUED: 16

Kat carries the tray out of the room, as Petra nods to Mrs. Lieberman's chatter. She takes another sip of the jelly shot, not realising it's alcoholic, it goes down more easily this time.

17 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - NIGHT 5** 17  
ABIGAIL, SAMMY, HAZEL, N/S STUDENTS (GIRLS)

Ready to leave, Sammy walks past the Common Room which is swarming with girls making themselves beautiful for the party.

He notices Abigail sitting outside it all. Ignoring the activity around her, she's focused on watching the video of today's pas de deux lesson.

INSERT: Video footage of pas de deux lesson on television in Common Room (from Pas de deux class - Scene 13).

HAZEL

Abigail, you're not going. Can I borrow your -

ABIGAIL

No.

HAZEL

What if I promise to -

ABIGAIL

It's one syllable.

Sammy grins as Hazel walks away, chastened. He sits down beside Abigail.

ABIGAIL

I honestly don't see why everyone is so obsessed with this.

SAMMY

Pas de deux?

ABIGAIL

Parties.

She grits her teeth and continues to fast forward to the part where they're in shot.

ABIGAIL

I mean, what are they really? People acting cool and hooking up, purely so on Monday they can talk about how cool they were and how they hooked up...

17 CONTINUED: 17

Sammy stares at her, quietly shocked.

SAMMY

You've never been to one before  
have you?

Abigail looks at him, caught out.

18 **INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 5** 18

KAT, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, SEAN, N/S PARTYGOERS, N/S JOCK TYPES

The living room is now heaving with people. Sean is hooking up his dj decks.

A group of jock-types have taken up residence on the couches and are now embroiled in an arm-wrestle.

ETHAN

"Close friends" Kat?

KAT

Would you like me to be unpopular?

As Ethan goes to break it up, Kat surreptitiously throws back another jelly shot. Her cheeks are flushed and she's starting to feel a buzz from the alcohol when she notices Abigail.

ABIGAIL

Sammy invited me.

KAT

(rolls her eyes)  
Awesome.

ABIGAIL

So where's Tara?

KAT

She's going to be a little late.

ABIGAIL

To her best friend's party? That's  
gotta hurt.

KAT

You have a gift.

But as Kat walks away we see her bravado falter, she doesn't like that Abigail has a point.

19 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - NIGHT 5**

19

**TARA, MISS RAINÉ**

Miss Raine watches as Tara fouettes around and around. She's drenched in sweat, having a horrible time.

**MISS RAINÉ**

Tara, where's your spot? You're not on your leg. Get on your leg, Tara.

Tara loses her centre balance and travels across the floor. She falls off pointe as her ankle buckles underneath her.

**TARA**

I can't.

The world is spinning.

**MISS RAINÉ**

You're perfectly able to do this. You're just second guessing yourself.

Frustrated, Tara looks up at the clock. It's after 7.30pm.

**MISS RAINÉ**

And neither of us are leaving until you get it right.

20 **INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 5**

20

**KAT, CHRISTIAN, SEAN, LUCAS, N/S PARTYGOERS**

Carrying another tray of shots, Kat re-enters the living room, which is now crowded with people dancing to some seriously excellent music. Kat shoots Sean a surprised thumbs up. He grins - what did she expect?

Kat approaches Christian. He's standing by himself, watching the world go by, brooding over Tara.

**KAT**

Hey loner. Having fun?

**CHRISTIAN**

Not really in a festive mood. You?

**KAT**

Definitely. Massive improvement on dinner with the parents.

Christian doesn't quite believe her.

**LUCAS (O.S.)**

So I was told the birthday girl cut the cake without me.

20

CONTINUED:

20

Kat looks around to see Lucas standing above her. He looks gorgeous.

KAT

You shouldn't listen to such rumours.

He kisses her on the lips.

LUCAS

Come on. Everyone's outside.

Lucas heads outside. Kat looks at Christian, questioningly.

CHRISTIAN

Go. I'm crap company anyway.

21

**EXT. KARMAKOV HOUSE/VERANDAH - NIGHT 5**

21

KAT, LUCAS, OLDER GIRL 1, OLDER GIRL 2, N/S LUCAS' MATES,  
N/S PARTYGOERS

Kat is standing with Lucas' group of friends outside on the balcony overlooking the Harbour. They all seem older and cooler than she is.

Lucas passes Kat a paper cup of alcohol. She takes a sip and pulls a face.

KAT

Yikes. My brother would burst a blood vessel if he knew you brought that in here.

LUCAS

Is he always so uptight?

KAT

Only now he's got a girlfriend.

Lucas laughs and clinks *cheers*. He puts his arm around Kat and turns to talk to some of the guys in the group. She hovers beside him, not fitting in. She tunes into the conversation between the older girls on her other side.

OLDER GIRL 1

Do you know whose party this is?

OLDER GIRL 2

Some ballerina chick wanting a rent-a-crowd.

Kat turns away and takes another big sip from her drink.

22        **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - NIGHT 5**  
TARA, MISS RAINÉ

22

Once again, Tara is turning around and around. She tries to insert a double within the fouette, but falls off pointe at the last moment.

Tara struggles to catch her breath as she brushes away tears. She's reached her limit.

TARA

I told you. It's not working.

MISS RAINÉ

No, you told me you were afraid of falling. What will happen?

TARA

I'll get hurt, I guess.

MISS RAINÉ

Maybe. But you've got to get over that fear sometime.

Tara stares at her reflection in the mirror.

MISS RAINÉ

Tara, fouettes can only be controlled up to a point. After that you've got to trust yourself. Stop thinking and just turn. From here.

Miss Raine taps her chest. Tara takes a deep breath and turns again, this time sticking the double pirouette without falling.

Miss Raine nods, smiling ever-so-slightly.

MISS RAINÉ

Again.

23        **INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 5**  
CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, SEAN, N/S PARTYGOERS

23

INTERCUT WITH:

24        **INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/VERANDAH - NIGHT 5**  
KAT, LUCAS, OLDER GIRL 1, OLDER GIRL 2, N/S LUCAS' MATES, N/S PARTYGOERS

24

LIVING ROOM: Partygoers are now jumping up and down to the music Sean is mixing. Sammy and Abigail hover on the edge. Watching them, Abigail wrinkles her nose.

24

CONTINUED:

24

SAMMY

(grins)

You know, I don't think they're worried about technique.

Abigail tosses her head in disgust.

ABIGAIL

They should be. They look ridiculous.

SAMMY

It's called fun. You could try it sometime.

ABIGAIL

Yeah - if it's so much fun, then why are you just standing there?

She's got him on that one.

CUT TO:

ON THE COUCH: Christian, who is now brooding on the couch. He watches Kat through the French glass doors, becoming worried.

She's carrying the cake over to Lucas and his friends. But she's unsteady on her feet and seems out of it.

Inside, Ethan passes Christian, stressed to the max.

CHRISTIAN

Hey Ethan...

ETHAN

In a sec. The neighbours are threatening to call the police.

CUT TO:

VERANDAH: Kat bumps the cake into one of the girls. The icing goes all over Kat's top.

OLDER GIRL 1

Watch it!

OLDER GIRL 2

Look how wasted she is.

Kat stumbles over to Lucas and drapes herself on his lap.

KAT

I've come to cut the cake. I like cake.

24 CONTINUED: 24

LUCAS

Lovely. But you might want to get cleaned up first.

He wipes some icing off her top, taking the opportunity to put his hands on her waist. Kat giggles and takes a swig from his drink.

INSIDE: Christian watches as they leave the verandah, holding hands.

25 INT. BOARDING HOUSE/TARA'S ROOM - NIGHT 5 25  
TARA

Tara has changed into an outfit for the party. She notices a photograph of herself and Ethan that's taped to the mirror.

Tara pulls it down and stares at it, deep in thought.

26 INT/EXT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM/VERANDAH - NIGHT 5 26  
CHRISTIAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, PETRA, SEAN, BONNIE, PASHING BOY,  
N/S PARTYGOERS

INTERCUT WITH:

27 INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/KAT'S OLD BEDROOM - NIGHT 5 27  
KAT, LUCAS, CHRISTIAN

PARTY: On the dance-floor Petra is using her camera phone to take photos of couples kissing for her Public Display of Affection series.

Bonnie and the BOY she's pashing react as Petra holds the camera inches from their faces.

PETRA

Art project. Pretend I'm invisible.

They glare at Petra and she's forced to move away.

Nearby, Abigail and Sammy are dancing together to Sean's music. Abigail's perfect technique is disappearing fast and she's laughing as Sammy leads her in some crazy dance moves.

PETRA

Hey guys!

Petra clicks their photo and then grabs a handful of jelly shots that are going past.

PETRA

Want some?



27

CONTINUED:

27

ABIGAIL

Yes. And then later you can inject my eyeballs with sugar.

Sammy also shakes his head. He looks concerned as Petra throws a couple of them back.

SAMMY

Petra, how many of those puppies have you had?

PETRA

I'm making a rainbow. See.

She sticks out her tongue to demonstrate the different colours.

SAMMY

Oh. Excellent.

Petra slurps another.

PETRA

I've never tasted jelly like this before.

Sammy and Abigail exchange a glance. Oh dear.

PETRA

Take a photo of us, Abigail.

She launches the phone at Abigail and slings her arm through Sammy's, grinning wide.

CUT TO:

KAT'S BEDROOM: Kat flicks on a light and stumbles into her childhood bedroom. It's pink and distinctly un-Kat like, with posters of ballerinas on the walls.

LUCAS

Nice decor.

Kat flops onto her bed, amongst all the stuffed animals.

KAT

Daisy the rabbit. I haven't seen you in ages.

Kat cuddles up to the old toy and is about to fall asleep.

LUCAS

Don't pass out on me yet, birthday girl.

He sits down beside her.

27

CONTINUED:

27

LUCAS

We have to get you out of these cakey things.

KAT

No, I'm shy!

LUCAS

Yeah. You're Little Miss Innocent.

CUT TO:

PARTY: Abigail is still trying to take the photo, increasingly irritated as Petra keeps moving, blurring the shot.

ABIGAIL

Stay still Petra.

Abigail tries to delete the photo but scrolls forward instead. What she sees is obviously intriguing.

INSERT - The photo that Petra took of Tara and Christian locked in a kiss down by the Harbour. (From Episode 15)

Abigail glances up as Christian approaches, a worried expression on his face. He yells at Sammy over the music.

CHRISTIAN

Have you seen... (drowns out over the music)

SAMMY

(yells)  
What?

CHRISTIAN

(yells)  
Kat? Have you seen Kat?

Sammy shakes his head and Christian moves off through the throng of people.

SAMMY

Did you take it?

Sammy is valiantly trying to keep Petra steady on her feet. Abigail is still focused on the screen.

ABIGAIL

Huh?

SAMMY

The photo?

27

CONTINUED:

27

ABIGAIL

Yup. Done.

She smiles, with evil mischief, as she hits "send" instead.

CUT TO:

KAT'S BEDROOM: Kat's phone beeps as it receives a text message, but she doesn't hear it.

Kat is sitting up on the bed, making out with Lucas. He's trying to get her to remove her top, but Kat has the coordination of a rag doll which means he doesn't get very far.

LUCAS

Come on, you've got to work with me.

KAT

Can't we just talk?

LUCAS

(laughs)

We've been talking for weeks. And we both know that is not why you brought me up to your bedroom.

He leans in to kiss Kat but she sits up. The world spins.

KAT

I should go back to the party. I'm not being a good hostess.

LUCAS

Everyone's fine. It's your birthday. They want you to enjoy it.

Lucas pulls Kat back down onto the bed and continues kissing her. Kat lets him for a moment, but then his hands start wandering again.

KAT

No, I really... I want to go back downstairs.

Kat tries to pull away but Lucas ignores her. He starts kissing her neck. Kat squirms, becoming frightened. This is moving way too fast.

KAT

I mean it. Lucas. I don't want to do this.

Kat is more upset by the moment.

27

CONTINUED:

27

KAT

Are you listening? Get off me!

Kat pushes him off. At that moment, Christian enters the room. He instantly clocks the situation and throws Lucas up against the wall.

LUCAS

What is your problem?

CHRISTIAN

My friend wants you to leave.

Christian looks to Kat for confirmation. She nods, wide-eyed and scared.

LUCAS

Whatever.

With a look of disgust, Lucas leaves the room.

28

**EXT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE - NIGHT 5**  
TARA, N/S PARTYGOERS

28

A fresh swarm of partygoers arrive. Tara stands in darkness looking up at the brightly lit mansion that's pumping with music. She seems focused; like she's made up her mind.

29

**EXT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/BACKYARD - NIGHT 5**  
CHRISTIAN, KAT, ETHAN, TARA

29

INTERCUT WITH:

30

**INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 5**  
TARA, ETHAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, PETRA, SEAN, N/S PARTYGOERS

30

BACKYARD: Christian is guiding Kat through the backyard. She plonks herself down onto a swinging garden seat. Her face is streaked with mascara from crying. Christian is more furious than we've ever seen him.

CHRISTIAN

You're stupid Kat.

KAT

You're stupid.

CHRISTIAN

What are you doing drinking like that? Do you think it makes you cool?

30

CONTINUED:

30

KAT

No.

CHRISTIAN

Cause it doesn't. It wrecks things.  
And that guy - did you like him?

Kat nods and then changes her mind and shakes her head instead.

KAT

I um... Not really. I just  
wanted... for once I wanted someone  
to... (like me)

She starts crying again. Christian relents.

CHRISTIAN

Water.

He passes Kat a bottle of water and she gulps it down.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

I'll get Ethan.

Kat wipes her nose on her sleeve.

KAT

No, he'd freak. Anyway, he'll be  
with Tara.

Christian winces imperceptibly at the mention of her name.

KAT

Because she's perfect and he's  
perfect and perfect people attract  
each other. I'm seriously not  
perfect.

CHRISTIAN

Don't worry, I'm not perfect  
either.

KAT

Nope. I've always thought that you  
and I are the same.

The world slows down as they take in each other. For the first time, Kat takes the plunge and lets it show how much she likes Christian as she looks into his eyes.

KAT

Seriously un-perfect.

30

CONTINUED:

30

Christian studies her, conflicted. With a tear-stained face, she's vulnerable yet beautiful in the moonlight.

CUT TO:

LIVING ROOM: Tara enters the living room where the party is reaching the high point of craziness. Her eyes widen as she sees Petra dancing on top of the dining room table to Sean's music.

Ethan comes up to greet Tara. They both struggle to make themselves heard over the noise.

ETHAN

Hey. You're here.

He goes to kiss Tara, she turns her head at the last moment.

TARA

I really need to talk to you.

ETHAN

Wanna go outside?

Tara nods, nervous, as Ethan takes her hand and leads her outside.

On the other side of the room, Petra is dancing. She's entertaining a crowd which includes Sammy and Abigail. They're watching, wincing, as Petra gets closer to the edge.

SAMMY

You get down from there Petra Hoffman.

PETRA

Only if you dance with me first!

Abigail laughs at Sammy's reaction.

SAMMY

If I'm going up, you're coming with me.

CUT TO:

BACKYARD: Ethan leads Tara into the backyard. She's nervous and rambling.

TARA

Something's been going on with me lately that's been messing up my head. And I don't think it actually meant anything except that I haven't been fair to you and...

30

CONTINUED:

30

ETHAN

I think I know what it is.

TARA

You do?

Ethan reaches into his pocket and pulls out silver necklace with a beautiful bird charm. Tara stares at it.

ETHAN

The fouettes right? You said you were having trouble and I figured you were probably scared of falling so...

Tara tries not to cry.

TARA

You got me a bird.

ETHAN

You don't like it?

TARA

It's perfect. But...

Ethan spots something over Tara's shoulder.

ETHAN

Couldn't have predicted that.

Tara turns around and spies Kat sitting on the swing. A boy is sitting beside her, but they can't see his face.

ETHAN

My sister handballs all the work so she can be free to...

They watch as Kat leans in and starts kissing the unseen boy.

ETHAN

... go in for the birthday pash.  
(he shudders)  
I didn't need to see that.

TARA

I'm not a Lucas fan. She could so do better.

ETHAN

(squints)  
I think she is. Check it out.

Tara looks back over. At that moment, Kat breaks away from the guy she's kissing.

30

CONTINUED:

30

Christian turns around and his eyes guiltily lock with Tara's for what feels like the longest moment. The hurt registers on her face and all her pretenses vanish. She's been in denial - that kiss wasn't nothing, it was everything. She likes Christian and it's too late.

Ethan looks at Tara, her face has drained of colour.

ETHAN

What?

Tara shakes her head, unable to speak. She stumbles back, her only thought is to run away and so she does. The necklace slips through her fingers.

Christian approaches Ethan, trying to apologise.

CHRISTIAN

I'm sorry mate. I didn't mean...

Christian breaks off and chases after Tara, leaving Ethan thoroughly confused.

KAT

Did I miss something? What just happened?

ETHAN

(confused)

I don't know.

Kat reaches into her pocket and pulls out her phone.

KAT

I'll call her.

Kat finally sees she has a message.

INSERT - The photo of Tara and Christian starts to download onto her screen.

31

**EXT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/STREET - NIGHT 5**

31

CHRISTIAN, LUCAS, N/S PARTYGOERS

Christian is out on the street, frantically looking for Tara. There are partygoers everywhere but she's nowhere to be seen. Christian kicks a rubbish bin over in frustration.

LUCAS (O.S.)

Bad night?

Christian turns around. Lucas is holding another drink.

CHRISTIAN

Thought I told you to get lost.



31 CONTINUED: 31

LUCAS

I don't make a habit of listening  
to ballet boys.

He pushes Christian backwards. Christian puts his hands up.

CHRISTIAN

Not interested in fighting you,  
man.

LUCAS

That's a shame.

Lucas drops his bottle to the ground and raises his arm to  
swing a punch.

32 **INT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 5** 32

PETRA, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, SEAN, N/S PARTYGOERS

Petra, Sammy and Abigail are all dancing together on the  
table in an array of Hip Hop moves. For once, Abigail is  
dancing with abandon, her eyes are closed.

SAMMY

Wow.

Abigail opens her eyes and smiles back at him. The moment is  
broken by Sean rushing into the living room. He cuts the  
music, trying to contain his excitement.

SEAN

Fight. A real fight.

As everyone pushes their way out, Petra staggers over to  
Abigail and Sammy. She doesn't look well.

PETRA

I don't feel so good. Do you think  
there was something in the jelly?

SAMMY

Yes.

ABIGAIL

Yes.

Petra nods and then vomits rainbow jelly all over their  
shoes.

33 **EXT. KARAMAKOV HOUSE/STREET - NIGHT 5** 33

CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, LUCAS, SEAN, N/S LUCAS' MATES X 3,  
N/S PARTYGOERS

The partygoers have gathered on the street when Ethan rounds  
the corner.

33

CONTINUED:

33

Through the crowd, he sees flashes of Christian up against four other guys - Lucas and three friends. It's hard to make out what's happening.

Ethan watches for a moment, unsure whether he wants to intervene.

Christian falls to the ground and Ethan's conscience gets the better of him. He runs in and pulls away one of the guys off of Christian. Ethan is about to get punched himself when we hear a POLICE SIREN approaching.

It's suddenly chaos as kids immediately start running in all directions, clambering to get away.

Sean looks like he's about to wet his pants.

Lucas and his friends high-tail it down the street.

As the siren draws closer, Christian lies groaning on the ground. He looks up at Ethan who is standing above him.

CHRISTIAN

Thanks mate.

Ethan turns away, not helping Christian up.

ETHAN

I'm not your mate.

Ethan walks towards the house. We travel with him across the broken bottles and other debris of the party, leaving him behind as we find the twinkling lights from across the Harbour.

34

**EXT. SYDNEY - TIME LAPSE**

34

NIL CAST

And then in a blink of an eye, time races forwards... The sky changes from night into day and the ferries travel the right way across the Harbour.

The world is reeling until with a thud we return to:

35

**INT. ACADEMY/MR. KENNEDY'S OFFICE - DAY 6**

35

TARA, SAMMY, PETRA, CHRISTIAN, KAT, ETHAN, ABIGAIL,  
MR. KENNEDY

The present... The suspects stand in front of Mr. Kennedy. They're looking very much worse-for-wear. No one is making eye contact.

35

CONTINUED:

35

MR. KENNEDY

Drinking, fighting... Do I need to remind you this is the National Academy of Dance? I want to know right now who is responsible?

Guilt-ridden, Tara looks up at Mr. Kennedy.

TARA

That'd be me.

KAT

Please. You were barely there.

CHRISTIAN

Sir it was my fault.

This gets Ethan's back up and the floodgates open. Everyone starts to speak at once, arguing over whose fault it was.

ETHAN

(about Christian)  
So the hero.

ABIGAIL

It certainly wasn't mine. I was cleaning up vomit.

PETRA

That jelly was dangerous.

SAMMY

(to Abigail)  
So what you should get a medal?

KAT

(to Tara)  
Self-absorbed much?

MR. KENNEDY

Enough!

They're all silent. Mr. Kennedy is furious.

MR. KENNEDY

You were all found at the party when the police arrived. And so you are all on detention until further notice.

Abigail looks like she's about to hyperventilate.

ABIGAIL

But...

MR. KENNEDY

Back to class. Katrina, I'll see you separately.

They push past each other as they trudge out of his office.

36

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 6**

36

TARA, CHRISTIAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, PETRA, SEAN, MISS RAINÉ, N/S  
FIRST YEARS (GIRLS AND BOYS), TARA (V.O)

Pas De Deux: Once again, the First Years stand before Miss Raine.

MISS RAINÉ

Back to your original partners.

Tara looks to the window where Kat is walking past. It seems like she's been heavily berated.

MISS RAINÉ

Are you joining us Katrina?

KAT

I would but I'm on probation.

Kat holds Tara's gaze for a second - she obviously blames her - and then keeps walking.

TARA (V.O.)

*These days, I'm sky-high one  
minute. Nose-diving the next.*

CUT TO:

LATER. The First Years are performing the pas de deux combination flat out to the music.

TARA (V.O.)

*And so far out of control I don't  
know which way is up anymore.*

Petra still looks queasy as her partner goes to turn her. She moves his hands from her waist, where it's pressing her fragile stomach, onto her hips.

Beside her, Sammy and Abigail are grimly dancing together. He's clearly angry.

SAMMY

You didn't have to send it.

ABIGAIL

Can you focus.

SAMMY

Why do you make it impossible for  
people to like you?

For a moment we see that Abigail regrets what she did, as they nail the turn.

36

CONTINUED:

36

Across the room, Tara is dancing with Christian. They won't look at each other.

TARA (V.O.)  
*Miss Raine was wrong.*

Tara summons up her courage and manages to get through the fouette sequence.

TARA (V.O.)  
*Sometimes, you really should be  
afraid of falling.*

She sighs with relief and then falls out of a relatively easy step. In slow motion, Tara falls through the air. The ground rushes towards her, just like in her dream.

With a heavy thud, Tara lands on her face.

CUT TO BLACK

END OF EPISODE.