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# Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 24  
BLOCK 7

**"Heatwave"**

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**1ST AMENDMENTS**  
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1

**EXT. POOL - DAY 6**

1

KAT, SAMMY, SAMMY (V.O)

UNDERWATER: Beams of light play over a commotion. It's hard to make out what it is.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*I have this recurring dream where  
I'm about to take the biggest exam  
of my life.*

\*

Then it becomes clear - oxygen bubbles dancing around two bodies, slowly drifting towards the bottom of the pool.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Sometimes Superman is there and he  
wants to borrow my glasses.*

\*

Establish that the bodies belong to Sammy and Kat. They gently land and sit on the pool floor, facing each other.

\*

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Anyway, I open the booklet and  
realise I can't answer a single  
question.*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Kat points to the surface. She's running out of air. Sammy shakes his head - no.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*All this time I've been studying  
the wrong subject.*

\*

Sammy mouths something inaudible, but Kat can't make it out. She shakes her head and gestures - can't hear you.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*It's like I thought I was on track.  
I thought I knew what I was doing.*

\*

\*

Sammy abruptly swims up to the surface.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*But actually... I don't know  
anything at all.*

\*

SURFACE: Sammy is treading water when Kat surfaces, worried. He stares at his friend.

SAMMY

Christian's never going to speak to me again.

2      **EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR/ACADEMY WHARFSIDE - DAY 6**      2  
N/S PASSERS BY

A blistering summer day. Everything suddenly moves IN REVERSE...

Sweltering pedestrians walk backwards, shielding themselves from the sun with files. Academy students throw buckets of water over one another - the water magically goes back into the bucket as they laugh and play.

The day turns into night and then back into day again.

3      **EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - DAY 4**      3  
CHRISTIAN, SAMMY, N/S JOGGERS, N/S PASSERS BY

Morning. Still, hot, breathless. Christian and Sammy enter frame, jogging, drenched in sweat. Sammy is breathless.

SAMMY

What are we doing? My shoes are melting.

Grinning, Christian picks up the pace. Sammy tries to keep up. Can't. He stops, panting.

SAMMY

Need. A. Second.

Christian jogs back as Sammy produces his asthma inhaler and takes a long drag.

CHRISTIAN

If you're not up to it...

SAMMY

Hold this, yeah?

He hands over the puffer. As Christian takes it, wondering why, Sammy bolts. Christian takes off after him. Best mates, with no worries or tension between them.

Music over the following montage:

4      **EXT. ACADEMY/BACK OF SCHOOL - DAY 4**      4  
CHRISTIAN, SAMMY

In the area where Christian skates, he's laid down a practise mat and is teaching Sammy to do a back-flip. Sammy gets one in and the two boys grin at one another.

They both start a high five and then joke/baulk at completing it - a private joke handshake.

5 **OMITTED** 5 \*

6 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT 4** 6  
SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, KAT, TARA

Sammy and Christian are fully engaged in a video game of **MOSHPIT**. They both have consoles and although we don't see the game, we can hear the ear-splittingly loud guitar music, as they battle each other to get the notes. \*

CHRISTIAN  
I am Henrdix.

SAMMY  
I am a golden god.

Behind them Tara and Kat look in the door - drawn by the noise.

KAT  
Bromance. Aint it grand?

The boys don't even notice them. Tara and Kat just leave them to it - there's obviously no room for them in this duo.

7 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 5** 7  
CHRISTIAN, TARA, KAT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, SEAN, MISS RAINE, N/S  
STUDENTS

Mixed Repertoire Warm Up: Tara is at the barre, tights and leotard soaked in spots of sweat.

TARA  
I have rib sweat. Don't you think  
rib sweat is wrong?

Unenthusiastic, Kat and Sean compete for the breeze of a chugging electric fan. Kat talks into it:

KAT  
(robot voice)  
Computer says way too hot in here.

7

CONTINUED:

7

SEAN

Broken air con should mean no class.

KAT

(making a face)

It should mean wearing deodorant.

The girls move off as Sean sniffs himself - he can't smell anything. Christian and Sammy enter, a good-natured debate in progress.

SAMMY

You can't call a band 'Free Beer'.

CHRISTIAN

Imagine the poster. Guaranteed crowd puller.

They reach the girls. Kat looks at Christian who's smiling.

KAT

You're in a good mood. Again.

Christian shrugs, happy in the weeks since his court appearance.

SAMMY

We're getting a band together.

Tara and Kat exchange another amused glance.

TARA

Won't that mean playing actual instruments?

\*

Hot and harried, Miss Raine enters, barking instructions.

MISS RAINE

Auditions for the end of year production are tomorrow. I'm teaching these Nutcracker variations once. I have a headache, pay attention.

8

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

8

CHRISTIAN, TARA, KAT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, SEAN, MISS RAINE, PATRICK, N/S STUDENTS

Mixed Repertoire: The heat is punishing, impossible.

Miss Raine wields a handheld battery-powered fan, beads of perspiration pricking her face. Patrick is beside her, co-teaching the class, also glistening in sweat.

Sean wrings the sweat out of his singlet, making a puddle on the floor.

The boys are on the sidelines while the girls practise the Act One Clara solo. Christian and Sammy are standing together.

PATRICK

As first years you can expect to fill the corps de ballet. On rare occasions we might decide you are ready to be given a solo role.

Abigail's eyes gleam - she definitely wants a solo role and is the only girl holding The Nutcracker doll. Despite the heat, she is performing the dance flat out. As are all the other girls, including Tara.

Kat is the only one marking it, just walking through the steps. It doesn't escape Miss Raine's attention.

MISS RAINE

Katrina, just because your father is directing The Nutcracker, does not mean you are guaranteed anything.

\*

The dance ends and the girls catch their breath. Tara is drenched in sweat - she looks at Abigail who still seems perfectly unruffled.

TARA

How does she stay like that?

KAT

Robots don't sweat.

Miss Raine stops Kat as they start moving to the side.

MISS RAINE

Since you missed that run-through you can rehearse with the boys.

The boys start moving into the centre. Sean wrings yet more sweat out of his singlet, straight onto the floor.

PATRICK

(background)

Start with a faili assemble.  
(adjust)

8

CONTINUED:

8

KAT

Miss Raine, there will be lot of  
paperwork if I die of heat  
exhaustion.

Miss Raine's irritation is mounting as Patrick hits play on  
the stereo. The boys start to dance.

MISS RAINÉ

(warningly)

Katrina we are all hot. We are all  
uncomfortable. But we're here and  
we're...

\*

At that moment, Sammy slips in the puddle of Sean's sweat. He  
hits the ground hard.

Like Kat, Patrick also looks to Miss Raine. She closes her  
eyes, conceding defeat.

9

**EXT. POOL - DAY 5**

9

CHRISTIAN, TARA, KAT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, PATRICK, N/S STUDENTS

UNDERWATER: Light refracts as a row of legs move in balletic  
harmony as they practise a series of barre exercises - their  
arms refracted elegantly through the surface of the water.

CUT TO:

SURFACE: We see the students lined up in the pool, waist deep  
in the water, using the edge of the pool as a barre.

Patrick moves between them, also in the water, correcting  
their placement.

PATRICK

Use the resistance of the water.  
It'll help you work the correct  
muscles.

\*

\*

Once Patrick's back is turned, Sammy uses the dance movement  
to splash Christian. Christian immediately dumps him  
underwater.

Patrick moves onto Tara and Abigail, both focused on their  
battement fondus. Abigail smiles, winningly.

ABIGAIL

Is this right Patrick?

9

CONTINUED:

9

But Patrick is already pulling himself out of the pool. He's studies Tara's placement.

PATRICK

Good Tara. Rehab seems to have strengthened your technique.

Tara beams. Abigail sours. The class continues in the pool.

10

**EXT. POOL - DAY 5**

10

CHRISTIAN, TARA, KAT, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, N/S STUDENTS

Abigail is towelling off her hair as her phone rings. It's a distinctive tune.

ABIGAIL

Hi Mum... Seriously? Do I have to?

Annoyed, she stalks away to take the call.

CROSS TO:

Kat floats on a pool lilo, fabulous in big sunnies and a floppy hat. Sammy is beside her in the pool, leaning against the side. He applies some sunblock to his arms.

SAMMY

Christian's getting us some drinks.

Kat glances at him sideways, noting the casual name-drop.

KAT

Two of you are very chummy these days. Do I have cause for jealousy?

SAMMY

Possibly. We made a pact of brotherhood.

Off Kat's amused expression.

SAMMY

No more girls. No more break ups. No more jumping when one of you snaps your pretty little fingers. From now on, we are an island of man.

Kat puts her hand to her heart. Proud.

KAT

You have a guy friend. It's what you've always wanted.

A beautiful smile stretches over Sammy's face.

SAMMY

Yeah. I have a guy friend.



They both look up as Christian and Tara appear at the edge of the pool, carrying drinks and discussing the auditions.

TARA

It's just annoying that if anyone in our year gets a solo role it's going to be Abigail.

They sit down and dangle their legs in the water as Kat paddles her lilo and Sammy swims over.

KAT

My mum played Clara when she was a first year.

TARA

(dreamily)  
I'd love to play Clara.

KAT

She never got over it. Insisted on dancing it until she was thirty.

A dark look crosses Kat's face which only Sammy picks up on.

KAT

I hate The Nutcracker.

TARA

I'll be Flower Number Six if they want me to. I'm just happy I can audition.

CHRISTIAN

So your knee's feeling all right?

TARA

(smiles)  
Yeah. Mostly.

As always, there's something between them. Kat clocks it and then notices Sammy seems slightly uncomfortable. He re-inserts himself into the conversation.

SAMMY

You going to throw us that drink bro?

Christian starts pegging the cans of soft-drink in his direction - they all fall into the pool.

\*  
\*

CHRISTIAN

I would if you could catch.

Sammy laughs, happy to be with his mate again. Christian then dive-bombs the water beside Kat, unsettling her pool lilo. Tara jumps in on top of them all and together they make the most of an afternoon away from the Academy.

\*

11

**EXT. ACADEMY/CAFE - DAY 5**  
ABIGAIL, PAIGE, N/S STUDENTS

11

Paige is killing time at a table when Abigail approaches, mobile phone in hand. She's irritated about having to babysit her younger sister.

ABIGAIL

How could she do this to me? She knows auditions are tomorrow.

PAIGE

Mum didn't make it a heatwave. Schools are closed everywhere.

Paige looks around, expectant.

PAIGE

Where's Sammy?

ABIGAIL

He's busy. We all are. Get your bag.

Paige scrambles to follow Abigail as she strides back to the Academy, making no concession for her little legs.

PAIGE

But we'll see him tonight?

Paige's crush lives on.

ABIGAIL

No, we won't.

PAIGE

Why?

ABIGAIL

Because.

Abigail in no mood to rehash the end of her relationship. Not that Paige is giving her much choice:

PAIGE

Because why?

ABIGAIL

Because we broke up.

Paige stops walking. She glares at Abigail, cold.

PAIGE

What did you do?

Abigail takes her sister's arm and drags her to keep walking.

ABIGAIL

I'm not discussing this with you.

11

CONTINUED:

11

PAIGE

It's so not fair. Everyone is  
breaking up.

Abigail rolls her eyes at sister's dramatic.

ABIGAIL

Oh everyone in the whole wide  
world?

Paige tries to hold it in - but can't.

PAIGE

Mum and Dad are.

Abigail finally stops.

ABIGAIL

Paige. You're not funny.

PAIGE

They are. And it's your fault.

Paige storms off towards the school. Abigail watches her go,  
thrown.

12

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/SAMMY'S ROOM - DAY 5**

12

SAMMY, CHRISTIAN

Sammy and Christian are hanging out in their room. Christian  
is strumming his guitar, trying to write a song. Sammy is  
kind of just watching him.

SAMMY

What went through my parents' minds  
when they sent me to flute lessons?  
How is that a life skill.

CHRISTIAN

You could play bass guitar. Girls  
dig bass.

SAMMY

Not that that's a concern right?

Christian looks at Sammy over the top of his guitar. It's  
less important to him but he'll go with it.

CHRISTIAN

Island of man.

Sammy's face lights up as he gets an idea.

SAMMY

This summer, you should come stay  
at my house. We can rehearse in the  
garage.

12

CONTINUED:

12

A smile spreads over Christian's face as well.

CHRISTIAN

I could teach you to surf.

SAMMY

It'll be off the hook.

They do their private faux high-five. As they settle back, a more serious look crosses Christian's face.

CHRISTIAN

Do you think your olds would really go for it? This place gets a bit much over the holidays.

SAMMY

(grins)

I think, they don't have a choice.

As Christian goes back to the guitar, Sammy leans back thinking about the holiday. It's going to be the best ever.

13

**EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 5**

13 \*

ETHAN, KAT, SEBASTIAN, N/S STUDENTS

Kat and Ethan wait on the front steps, expectant. Ethan fidgets, anxious already. Kat is trying to reassure him.

KAT

Hey. You're still golden boy and I'm child of concern. That's not changing.

Ethan isn't convinced.

ETHAN

Yeah. We'll see.

An expensive car pulls up, and the man in question gets out - Sebastian Karamokov. Impeccably dressed. Charismatic. A player. His face lights up at Kat and Ethan's approach.

SEBASTIAN

(in Russian)

Kitten.

KAT

(in Russian)

Father.

Sebastian envelopes her in a warm hug - kisses on both cheeks then turns to Ethan and does the same then holds him by both arms and examines him.

SEBASTIAN

No wonder the Company wanted you.  
You been working out?

ETHAN

A bit.

SEBASTIAN

And now it's all for nothing?

He says it deadpan, for a moment Ethan expects a lecture and then Sebastian grins.

SEBASTIAN

We'll get to that.

Kat takes the opportunity to interject.

KAT

After dinner right? I've been  
living on dancer food too long. I  
need degustation. \*

SEBASTIAN

You, offspring, are spoilt.

But it's clear he doesn't mind - he hands Ethan a box of files.

ETHAN

Maybe I could get you to look at my  
reel at some point?

SEBASTIAN

Of course. You're one of my main  
reasons for being here.

Again, there's an undertone. Ethan nods, he knew there was going to be trouble about turning down the Company position.

KAT

The thought of directing a student  
version of The Nutcracker wasn't  
temptation enough?

Sebastian grabs another box and heads into the Academy followed by his children.

SEBASTIAN

The thought of keeping an eye on  
you two was certainly appealing.  
There are some serious family  
discussions to be had.

He directs the last part to Ethan and walks inside. Ethan and Kat exchange a look.

ETHAN

How many more ways could he just  
say I'm a disappointment?

Kat stretches her arms out, grinning.

13

CONTINUED:

13

KAT

Welcome to my existence.

14

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

14

ABIGAIL, PAIGE

Elsewhere, in the building, Abigail and Paige are having their own family discussion. Abigail is using her sister to help her stretch. Paige stands underneath Abigail's leg and pushes it higher in arabesque.

ABIGAIL

You must have misunderstood.

PAIGE

They fight on the phone. And dad hasn't been down to visit for ages.

ABIGAIL

That's not the same as breaking up. Push harder.

Paige instead gives up and Abigail's leg falls to the floor.

ABIGAIL

Careful!

Abigail shoots her sister a dirty look. She presses play on the stereo and starts to rehearse the Nutcracker variation, en pointe.

PAIGE

All you care about is ballet.

Paige slumps down onto the floor and uses Miss Raine's fan to ward off the heat.

ABIGAIL

What do you want me to do Paige?  
Lock them in a room and not let them out until they promise to stay together?

PAIGE

I want you to help. I have to live there. And you don't do anything except make it worse.

Abigail stop dancing and stares at her sister.

ABIGAIL

Meaning?

Paige stares back at Abigail, knowing this is dangerous ground, but she braves it out.

14

CONTINUED:

14

PAIGE

I'm not the reason Mum moved down here. Dad's back home and... (*he misses us*)

ABIGAIL

(over)

I didn't ask anyone to do that.

Abigail uses the remote to flick back to the start of the track.

PAIGE

You have to talk to them.

ABIGAIL

No. I have to rehearse.

(beat)

If they are splitting up because of the distance, don't you think I should make it worth it?

Abigail shuts her sister out and starts the variation again. Her eyes are glistening with tears which she refuse to acknowledge.

Paige watches her sister dance, isolated, not knowing how to get through.

15

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

15

ETHAN, SEBASTIAN, KAT

INTERCUT WITH:

16

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO (TELEVISION FOOTAGE)**

16

TARA, CHRISTIAN

STUDIO ONE: Ethan watches Sebastian view his showreel. Ethan's need for his approval shines through.

SEBASTIAN

The girl?

CUT TO:

ACADEMY/STUDIO ONE (TELEVISION FOOTAGE): Christian and Tara dance Ethan's choreography (Episode 15).

ETHAN (O.S.)

A first year. Tara Webster.

CUT TO:

STUDIO ONE: Kat is standing in front of a fan, eager to avoid a family conflict.

KAT

My best friend. His muse.

Sebastian makes a mental note. A possibility.

SEBASTIAN

And you've sent this to companies overseas? Looking for choreography work?

Sebastian switches off the Television, hard to read. Ethan nods, on tenterhooks.

ETHAN

I've had some positive responses.

SEBASTIAN

I'm not surprised.

Ethan is relieved. But Sebastian's not finished.

SEBASTIAN

You'd get in the door on your name alone but the work here - it doesn't stand up.

Sebastian doesn't say this with malice, he's just matter-of-fact, but it still gets Ethan's back up.

ETHAN

I'm approaching some pretty cutting edge places, Dad. Your name wouldn't necessarily help me there these days.

Kat knew this was a bad idea and tries to intervene.

KAT

Maybe tonight's not the best time for this. I'm peckish. You're jetlagged.

SEBASTIAN

(talking over Kat)

You should've taken the Company's offer.

ETHAN

It would be years until I got out of the corps. Doing other people's work when I'm ready to do my own.

KAT

Look - a pirouette. You guys love pirouettes.

Kat spins around, trying to distract them. But it's futile. There's going to be bloodshed.



SEBASTIAN

You're ready, at eighteen, to stand  
in front of professional dancers  
and tell them what to do?

Ethan ejects his DVD, upset with how this has gone.

ETHAN

I've said no to the Company so if  
you don't have anything more to  
add...

Sebastian didn't come here to fight with his son.

SEBASTIAN

How about a proposition? Don't  
audition for The Nutcracker, come  
work as my assistant. See if you  
can cut it in a professional  
environment.

Ethan bites his lip, he knows this is a chance to prove  
something to his father. Kat looks between them.

KAT

You know, I think it's too hot to  
eat anyway.

We go out on Kat's face. Like Paige, she also hates what  
ballet does to her family.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room/Corridor - Day 5**

SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, TARA, N/S STUDENTS

Music over: Sammy and Christian play pool. The world is  
slower than usual. Fragmented moments, incomplete but golden.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Before I got to the Academy I had  
this list of whys...*

Sammy concentrates, determination on his face.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Why do I get anxious if I don't  
know where the nearest toilet is?*

He misses the shot. Christian laughs at him. Grinning, Sammy  
brushes off the teasing and gives it right back. The boys rib  
each other loudly, but we don't hear what they're saying.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Why do I have three hairs on my  
chest and eighteen on my big toe?*

Sammy watches impressed as Christian slams the last few  
balls, including the black into the pocket.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Why do I like taking those IQ tests  
on the internet?*

\*

Sammy stops smiling as he watches Christian dancing around, in a victory dance, using the pool stick as if it's a vaudevillian cane.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Why have I never been this happy?*

CHRISTIAN

Your break.

The world reverts to real time. With a thud, Sammy realises that Christian is talking to Tara who has entered the room.

TARA

No way. I'm hopeless.

SAMMY

Right. And I thought... I thought we were playing?

The brotherhood pact has obviously been forgotten. Sammy can't help but let the jealousy show in his face.

CHRISTIAN

Yeah, but training bra here needs a lesson.

Sammy watches, left out, as Christian moves over to Tara to demonstrate. She lets him put his arms around hers. The connection between them is obvious.

CHRISTIAN

(laughs)

Come on, you're meant to be coordinated.

Tara laughs as well. She can't even get the pool stick steady.

SAMMY

I'm done anyway. Why don't I leave you guys to it?

As Sammy leaves the room, he looks back but neither of them notice - Christian's much more focused on teasing Tara as she messes up the break. After a moment, Sammy keeps walking.

The sisters wait at the curb. It's still suffocatingly hot and their stony silence drags on until...

ABIGAIL

So they don't know you know?

Paige shakes her head.

PAIGE

But you could come home and talk to them about it? Tell them how we feel?

Paige needs her big sister but Abigail doesn't answer. Her phone rings.

ABIGAIL

(on phone)

Hi Mum... *We're around the front.  
Paige is ready to be picked up...*

\*

\*

Abigail stands and leads Paige *over to where she will collected.*

\*

\*

ABIGAIL

(into phone)

*Well they're saying first years don't get solo roles but I'm doing everything I can to change that.*

\*

(listens)

Exactly. The competition doesn't stand a chance.

Abigail's obviously not going to do anything to help the family situation. Defeated, Paige has no choice but to trudge after her sister.

19

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE - SUNSET 5**

19

NIL CAST

Sunset but no relief from the heat. Nutcracker music drifts out an open window.

\*

20

**EXT. BOARDING HOUSE/DAWES POINT STAIRS - SUNSET 5**

20

SAMMY, KAT

Kat finds Sammy sitting on *a park bench*, lost in thought as he stares out at the view. Brooding.

\*

\*

KAT

Am I allowed to perch or will it be breaking rules of the brotherhood?

SAMMY

Already broken. He's in there with Tara.

Kat sits down beside Sammy, clocking his mood.

SAMMY

You know if they get back together we're entitled to lodge an objection. How many times can they put us through that?

Kat glances at him sideways - that sounds like jealousy to her.

KAT

Guess you can't help how you feel...

Kat studies Sammy for a moment, before deciding to take the conversation into uncharted territory.

KAT

You guys have been hanging out a lot lately. It'd be totally understandable if you'd developed... say a crush?

Sammy wrinkles his nose in confusion.

SAMMY

On who? Tara?

KAT

Christian. Like a man crush. Or... whatever.

Sammy shakes his head as if it's the most ridiculous concept in the world.

SAMMY

I don't have a crush on Christian.

KAT

Hey, I've had girl crushes before. It doesn't have to mean anything.

Sammy stares at Kat, speechless.

KAT

You're an evolved specimen Samuel. We can talk about this.

But Sammy really can't. It's way too weird. He changes the subject as the Nutcracker track begins again.

SAMMY

Can we talk about your hatred for The Nutcracker?

Kat shrugs, her own demons.

KAT

It just reminds me of stolen  
Christmases. Natasha dancing, Dad  
directing. *Ethan and I stuck in a  
hotel room.*

\*  
\*

*Kat groans.*

\*

KAT

I am so sick of complaining about  
my parents.

*She stands and drags Sammy up to his feet as well.* They start  
heading over to the Boarding House.

\*

SAMMY

Have you ever thought about *really*  
telling them where you're at?

\*

KAT

Yeah... Where am I exactly?

Kat grins, hopelessly confused, and Sammy swings his arm  
around her.

SAMMY

That I can't tell you.

KAT

So where are you?

Sammy's smile fades.

SAMMY

Same place I've always been.

But it's not said with complete conviction. Neither quite  
knowing, they head inside as the theme from The Nutcracker  
swirls around them.

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/SAMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT 5**  
CHRISTIAN, SAMMY

Sammy enters to the hum of an electric fan. He looks almost  
disappointed the light is on and Christian is awake. *He*  
crosses to his bed, silent and confused.

\*

He lies on top, fully clothed. Christian clocks Sammy's mood.  
Without a word, he makes the fan oscillate. It moves from  
Christian to blow a cooling breeze over Sammy, a gesture of  
friendship. Christian turns off the light, and from a...

POV high above Sammy, we see him stare at the ceiling, the  
rhythmic hum of the fan punctuating his sleeplessness.



Sebastian makes it clear that Ethan is starting at the bottom as he gives him a heavy load of paperwork. Kat approaches at that moment, flashing her brother a sympathetic look.

ETHAN

I'll get right on it.

As he heads away, Sebastian turns to his daughter, adopting a warmer tone.

SEBASTIAN

So Nutcracker... You ready to fight the mice?

A grin twitches at his lips. Kat instantly knows where this is going and is embarrassed.

KAT

(complaining)

Dad. Do you have to?

Sebastian does - it's a favourite family story.

SEBASTIAN

I'll never forget it. Your mother was playing Clara. It was the battle scene. You were... \*

KAT

(over)

Three. And I ran on stage to save her from the giant rodents. \*

She's been told this story a million times before.

SEBASTIAN

You stopped the whole performance. \*  
Stole the show. And I knew, right \*  
then, that you were born to be on-stage too.

Sebastian smiles, proud. They start walking towards the Academy.

SEBASTIAN

That's why I'm not worried about you. I get it - you've felt the need to push the boundaries this year. I know that next year you'll be ready to work.

Kat stares at her father, stunned by how little he understands.

KAT

I've "pushed the boundaries" because I've been unhappy here.

25

CONTINUED:

25

SEBASTIAN

Then why haven't you left?

KAT

Last time I checked, I didn't have a choice.

SEBASTIAN

Come on, ever since you were three you've done exactly what you've wanted.

He studies his daughter, so confident that he knows how she ticks.

SEBASTIAN

Sweetheart, I understand you want to rebel against your parents but you belong here. And you really need to start accepting it.

He kisses Kat on the forehead and walks into the building. She's left to process whether this is really true.

26

**INT. BOARDING HOUSE/CORRIDOR - DAY 6**

26

TARA, SEBASTIAN (O.S.)

CLOSE on the door of Tara's room. Her scream can be heard clear through the solid timber. The door flies open with Tara still throwing dance clothes on as she exits, tearing down the deserted boarding house corridor. \*

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)

I'm not one of your teachers.

27

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

27

CHRISTIAN, KAT, ETHAN, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, TARA, SEBASTIAN, MISS RAINE, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

Audition warm up. The fan oscillates, still no air-conditioning. Students are congregated in the centre, dressed to stand out and wearing audition numbers pinned to their leotards.

Sebastian's gravity generates tension that mingles with the suffocating heat. Beads of sweat are forming over everyone.

SEBASTIAN

I don't care about school politics, or what year you're in, or how good your attendance is.

Christian shoots Sammy a wry 'how serious is this?' smile. Sammy can't help being charmed. Lightening up, he mimes choking, in return.



27

CONTINUED:

27

When Christian looks away Sammy's smile drops - he's in unchartered water here.

SEBASTIAN

I'm a choreographer looking for dancers. All that matters is how well you perform. How focused you are, how...

Flustered Tara hurtles in.

TARA

So. Incredibly. Sorry.

SEBASTIAN

...professional you prove to be.

Tara joins the group next to Christian, who grins at her. Tara turns to Abigail, gives her the evil eye.

SEBASTIAN

Let's get started.

28

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

28

ABIGAIL, TARA, KAT, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, SAMMY, SEBASTIAN, MISS RAINE, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

INTERCUT WITH:

29

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

29

KAT, SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, TARA, N/S STUDENTS, N/S TEACHERS

\*

INTERCUT WITH:

30

**EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 6**

30

ABIGAIL, BONNIE, N/S STUDENTS

\*

STUDIO: Abigail cradles The Nutcracker doll as she performs the variation the girls were learning. She blocks out any thought of her family and performs a cold, but technically perfect solo. No expression.

On the panel, Ethan passes Sebastian a note with his comments, Sebastian ignores it.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR NOOK: Kat hits the buttons on the vending machine, processing her feelings about her father's conviction that this is the right place for her, as the jammed packet of chips hangs in the balance.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Tara and Christian stay warmed up on opposite sides of the corridor. He passes her his drink bottle and they share a smile when their eyes meet.

Down the way, Sammy watches them and something flickers across his face - is he jealous?

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Tara dances the same solo as Abigail, but her performance comes from the heart. She's having fun, free from expectations as she raises the doll high into the air.

Miss Raine watches, the ghost of a smile.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Kat walks into the audition room. She clocks the desk where Sebastian, Ethan and Miss Raine are waiting on the panel.

Ethan passes her the Nutcracker doll as she gets ready to begin.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Abigail completes the dance. It's been faultless even though there's still no artistry, no joy.

Miss Raine nods and Abigail knows she's done well. She finally allows herself a small smile.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Tara's jetés. The jump is perfect, but she botches the landing, crashing to the floor on her (previously) injured knee.

The room is thick with tension, as Tara gets herself up from the floor.

MISS RAINE

Are you okay Tara?

Tara feels every eye on her as she tests her injured knee.

TARA

It's fine. My knee's fine.

She laughs - thrilled that her injury really has healed. Ethan grins as her pure happiness fills the room.

SEBASTIAN

Can you go on?

TARA

You bet.

The music starts again and Tara dances on beautifully, bravely. Full of spirit and happiness.

TARA

Here goes.

Tara screws up her face, comically, as she attempts the jete again. This time she nails it and grins at the panel. None of this is lost on Sebastian.

Ethan watches as Sebastian makes his own notes. This time he doesn't try to throw in his own two cents.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Sammy dances hard, investing his confusion over Christian into intensity that impresses Sebastian.

He's become a strong, masculine dancer as he spins faster and fast around the room.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Time expands as Kat stands in front of the audition panel. Her mind racing as she clutches the doll.

SEBASTIAN

Your cue Kat.

KAT

Sorry.

Ethan rewinds the music and Kat goes to take her position again. She looks up at the panel as if to say - this time she'll do it.

CUT TO:

WHARFSIDE: Smiling confidently, Abigail pushes past other students to the end of the wharf. *She pulls out her phone.* \*

BONNIE

How did you go?

*Abigail glances down and sees that display says she has three missed calls from Paige.* \*  
\*

ABIGAIL

How did you think?

Abigail keeps the smile firmly plastered on her face until she finds privacy.

Once she's out of sight, we finally see the tears fall. She's been holding onto them ever since Paige told her about her parents *and now clutches the phone, but still is not able to call her sister back.* \*  
\*

CUT TO:

CONTINUED:

STUDIO: Christian does barrel turns, completely out of his shell and living up to his potential.

30

CONTINUED:

30

He smiles at the height of his jump, content that he's staying at the Academy, just starting to accept the fact he has friends he can count on.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Sammy watches Christian dance through the corridor window. He smiles, impressed, proud, involved.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Kat still stands in front of the panel. She begins to dance but can't complete even the first step, her mind is elsewhere. She stops and Sebastian flicks off the music.

SEBASTIAN

Are you okay?

A light is slowly dawning on Kat.

KAT

Yeah. I think I am.

She makes her decision, eyes focusing again on the panel.

KAT

Thanks everyone. Dad.

Kat curtsies to her father, and crosses out. They all watch, stunned, as she very deliberately leaves the room.

31

**EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 6**

31

SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, KAT

The heat is still overpowering, humid, relentless. Sammy is waiting when Christian bursts out of the building.

SAMMY

So?

On a post-audition high, Christian smiles wide.

CHRISTIAN

Killed it.

Sammy goes in to do their usual handshake but Christian pulls him into a spontaneous hug instead.

SLOW MOTION... The world slows down to a snail pace and we stay on Sammy's face as Christian wraps his arms around him. The surprise of how this feels, hits him like a punch.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*Okay, this is bad. It's like I'm  
back in the exam room and suddenly  
I don't know anything.*

\*  
\*  
\*

31

CONTINUED:

31

He takes in everything about Christian. His familiar friend, his own unfamiliar feelings.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*There's a whole list of whys that had never even crossed my mind before. They're now staring me in the face.*

\*

\*

NORMAL SPEED... The hug ends. And Sammy will never be the same.

Christian registers Sammy's expression.

CHRISTIAN

You okay?

Kat comes downstairs, still caught up on what she's just done. She looks at Sammy, not noticing his panic.

KAT

Want to get going? Everyone's heading over to the pool.

Sammy can barely speak. He nods.

SAMMY

(exiting, to Christian)  
I'll see you there.

32

**EXT. POOL - DAY 6**

32

SAMMY, KAT

Lolling in the shallows, Kat is rambling. She still hasn't come off her walkout high. Sammy is too shell-shocked to take much in.

KAT

*I was standing there, really thinking, any moment I am going to dance. And then suddenly my legs are walking me out of the studio. Like I have absolutely no control over what's happening to me and all I could think was...*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Sammy quietly sinks below the surface. Curious Kat scrambles after him.

CUT TO:

UNDERWATER: Reprising Scene 1: Beams of light play over a commotion - two bodies slowly sink to the bottom of the pool until they're sitting there - face to face.

Sammy mouths something inaudible, but Kat can't make it out.

SAMMY (V.O.)

*The problem is once I let these questions out, there's no going back.*

She shakes her head.

He abruptly swims away, up to the...

SURFACE: Sammy is treading water when worried Kat surfaces. He looks away from her.

SAMMY

Christian's never going to speak to me again.

KAT

Why?

Sammy can't answer. Kat waits.

SAMMY

Because... you were right.

Kat's heart goes out to him, he looks scared.

KAT

Sammy, a man crush is not the end of the world.

SAMMY

What if it's more than that?

Sammy stares at Kat, world changing all around him.

**EXT. POOL - DAY 6**

SAMMY, KAT, TARA, CHRISTIAN, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, N/S STUDENTS

The pool has now been taken over by Academy students celebrating the end of Auditions. Some are swimming, others are dive bombing into the water. More are passing around the cast list. Expressions vary from ecstatic to depressed.

Abigail walks away from the group with her phone.

ABIGAIL

(into phone)

Mum? Guess what - I'm doing the Snowflake solo. It's so technically demanding.

Abigail takes a deep breath.

ABIGAIL

Listen, do you think I could come over tonight? Paige and I really need to talk to you about something.

She crosses Sammy and Kat as they approach the others on the side of the pool.

SAMMY

I mean, going out with Abigail that wasn't nothing. That was real and...

KAT

Of course it was.

SAMMY

Things have just been intense since the court sentencing and...

Kat keeps nodding as Sammy backtracks.

KAT

Yeah. Sure.

SAMMY

Plus being in close proximity to someone, it's textbook that stuff gets confused and...

KAT

Uh-huh. All of that.

Kat looks at Sammy, levelly.

KAT

And maybe you just like him.

He can't deny this might be an option. At that moment Tara arrives, concerned about Kat.

TARA

Audition walkout? How could you not tell me?

KAT

It wasn't exactly planned.

TARA

You okay?

KAT

So far.

Christian appears on a high.

CHRISTIAN

You're looking at the Mouse King.



SAMMY

Mate, that's epic.

Sammy smiles, happy for his friend despite everything.

CHRISTIAN

Cast list. Check yours.

Christian pulls a cast list from his pocket, hands it to Sammy.

SAMMY

(reading)

Soldier Number 2 and Boy at the Party.

They perform their private faux high-five - to all outward appearances, nothing has changed between them.

Only Kat knows different. Sammy averts his eyes from hers.

CHRISTIAN

(turning to Tara)

How do you go?

TARA

Ba-bow.

Everyone stares.

KAT

What?

SAMMY

Nothing?

Tara shrugs, trying to be a good sport.

TARA

I was late. I fell. I just wasn't good enough.

Ethan arrives - singles out Tara.

ETHAN

Can I grab you for a second?

As Ethan leads Tara away for a private talk, Christian watches them. Jealous.

CHRISTIAN

You think this heatwave's ever going to end?

Sammy watches Christian watching.

SAMMY

Guess it has to.

The students around them start squirting one another with super soakers - a massive water fight ensues as they endeavour to break the heat.

CROSS TO:

TARA

You don't have to explain.

ETHAN

We can't announce it until the doctor signs off on your knee, so this has to stay in the vault.

\*  
\*

Tara looks confused. Ethan grins.

ETHAN

You're dancing Clara.

Tara's shock.

TARA

What.

ETHAN

I hope you're ready for your life to change.

END OF EPISODE.