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Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 25
BLOCK 7

"The Deep End"

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1ST AMENDMENTS

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TARA (V.O.)

*I thought I knew everything and
didn't stop to listen to any
warnings.*

Christian, Sammy and Kat walk through the corridor together. Kat is wearing civvies - she has no intention of dancing. The boys are talking about the upcoming holiday. Sammy is trying to put any strangeness about being around Christian behind him.

CHRISTIAN

We're going to be out there every
day of the holidays.

*
*
*

Sammy flicks a glance to Kat, aware she's watching him,
worried.

*
*

SAMMY

Christian's teaching me to surf.

*

KAT

Awesome.

*
*

TARA (V.O.)

*It took about three minutes for the
rip to drag me out to sea.*

As they turn the corner, Kat spots Miss Raine and heads straight back out. Too late.

MISS RAINE

Katrina! See me later. I have plans
for you.

Kat winces: sprung. A fresh wave of students rushes past her.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Tara finishes the few last steps of the dance.

TARA (V.O.)

*I was in over my head and I didn't
even know it.*

Sebastian sends Tara to the side.

SEBASTIAN

Good start Tara. Keep warm until
the *others* get here.

*

Abigail walks calmly into the studio amongst the excited crowd of girls. She doesn't notice Tara is already there.

Sebastian stands in the centre of the studio watching them enter. He notices Abigail and calls her over with a friendly tilt of the head.

SEBASTIAN

Abigail.

A look of anticipation lights Abigail's face.

SEBASTIAN

You'll be understudying Clara.

Even Abigail can barely contain her delight.

ABIGAIL

Thank you.

SEBASTIAN

You should be proud of that audition. It was technically very competent.

Abigail notices Tara is in the studio, despite not being announced for a role.

ABIGAIL

Who are you understudying?

TARA

No one.

ABIGAIL

Sorry. I assumed they must have given you something.

(beat)

I've got Clara.

Ethan rushes into the studio, having delivered the mouse-masks.

SEBASTIAN

Good to have you with us Ethan. My assistants usually arrive before the dancers.

Ethan swallows his father's jibe. He knew this would be tough. The chatter in the room falls silent the moment Sebastian speaks.

SEBASTIAN

Okay. Starting with the Act Two snowflakes. Clara, can you come into the centre?

Abigail looks around for who will be the Clara and fails to notice for a moment that Tara is walking towards the centre. A soft murmur rises as girls say Tara's name, surprised and not pleased that she has the role.

BONNIE

Tara Webster... She's only a first year...

Abigail is the most shocked of all. She looks at Ethan as he watches Tara along with the rest of the class, he's proud of her but Abigail obviously reads something else - favouritism

Tara reaches her spot and turns to face the hostile crowd of girls. In over her head but not yet knowing it.

3

INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 7

3

SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, PATRICK, N/S MOUSE, N/S SOLDIER, N/S STUDENTS (BOYS)

*

REHEARSAL STUDIO: Boys' **Battle Scene** Rehearsal: Christian and Sammy **are among the two couples who are practising** the Mouse-Soldier choreography from Nutcracker. Christian is the Mouse King and Sammy is **a soldier. They're all wielding swords.**

*

*

*

*

Patrick demonstrates one of the more athletic jumps and then directs the boys to follow.

PATRICK

Soldiers attack. Bring some energy to it **guys.**

*

Sammy and the other Soldier engage a masked mouse in a muscular, physical pas de deux that involves body contact and jumps.

*

Sammy and Christian throw themselves into the steps. But Sammy is using too much force and after a few spectacular moves, they end up falling out of the lift.

PATRICK

(to Sammy)

It's only the illusion of fighting. You actually need to work together.

Christian holds out a hand and helps Sammy to his feet.

PATRICK

First positions. This time engage with your partner.

*

Christian gives Sammy an encouraging grin.

4

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 7

4

TARA, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, SEBASTIAN, BONNIE, N/S SNOWFLAKES

*

STUDIO: The Girls' Act Two Rehearsal: Snowflakes dance in the centre. **Abigail is part of the corps de ballet.**

*

Sebastian watches the dancers with a cool professional eye.

Tara stands at the side, conspicuously alone, waiting for her *
cue. Ethan walks over to her and, while watching the dance, *
gives her some advice in a soft voice. *

ETHAN

Don't hold back going into the
grand jeté.

*
*
*

Sebastian notices that Ethan is talking to Tara. His face darkens momentarily. But he hides his annoyance and calls him over.

SEBASTIAN

Ethan. I need your expertise over
here.

Ethan trots over to his father, expecting to be given a useful task.

SEBASTIAN

Macciato, easy on the foam.

If Sebastian is aware of the humiliation he has dished out he doesn't show it. Ethan does.

5

INT. ACADEMY/COSTUME ROOM - DAY 7

5

KAT, MISS RAINE

Miss Raine escorts Kat into the costume room.

*

MISS RAINE

Every tutu here needs to be washed
and sequined.

*
*
*

Kat takes in the racks upon racks of costumes. It's a like treasure chest, or a graveyard, of past productions. She covers with bravado.

*
*
*

KAT

Always happy to help you guys out.
Next production, I might try set
design.

*
*

MISS RAINE

Productions are for students of the
Academy. I doubt you'll be here for
the next one.

Kat is thrown but tries to hide it as Miss Raine turns and exits. She looks at a pile of silky material in front of her - what she's done begins to hit her for the first time. She's all alone and doesn't like it at all.

6

INT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 7
SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, TARA, N/S STUDENTS

6

Sammy and Tara exit the Academy, bags slung over their shoulders. Both are tired from their respective rehearsals, for different reasons.

TARA
(good-naturedly)
One rehearsal in and I already feel like I'm...

SAMMY
Drowning?

TARA
There's so much to get my head around.

Sammy nods, thinking about his own problems.

CHRISTIAN (O.S.)
Sammy. Wait up.

They both turn and watch Christian running towards them. He looks gorgeous. Christian stops and smiles at Tara, catching his breath.

CHRISTIAN
Hey. How's life in the spotlight?

She smiles back, shrugging.

TARA
I haven't made a total fool myself yet.

CHRISTIAN
It's only lunchtime.

There's that connection between them again. A flicker of jealousy crosses Sammy's face but he's getting better at covering it.

TARA
Thanks. See you guys.

Tara exits, leaving Christian and Sammy alone. Christian's smile dies, he's a bit awkward about what he has to ask Sammy.

CHRISTIAN
My parole officer sent me these forms.

*

He hands some forms to Sammy.

CHRISTIAN

He needs both your folks to sign them so I can stay over the holidays.

SAMMY

My dad.

It properly hits Sammy that he's not only going to be one-on-one with Christian, but it's going to be in front of his parents. It's all getting too real.

CHRISTIAN

Do you think he'll be cool?

SAMMY

Cool and Doc Lieberman don't really fit in the same sentence, but I'm sure he'll sign.

*

Christian bumps knuckles with Sammy. Good mates. Sammy smiles through his discomfort.

7

EXT. OBSERVATORY HILL - DAY 7

7

SAMMY, KAT, N/S STUDENTS, GREG, GREG'S FRIEND, MAITLAND THE LABRADOR

*

Kat and Sammy are lying on the grass, staring up at the clouds. Kat is eating a muffin.

KAT

So, I'm sewing about a million sequins by hand, I have no idea what I want to do with my life. Which is fine, except everyone else around here worked it out at age two.

She passes Sammy the muffin. He takes a bite.

SAMMY

For the first time in my life I find a real mate, a guy friend who I can hang out with, and then I get these ... I have these ... these things that ...

*

*

Kat props herself up onto her elbows.

KAT

Struggling for clarity right now.

Sammy gives in, leans in close to Kat. It's easier to whisper them.

SAMMY

I'm trying to say feelings but it's too weird.

KAT

Ugly word. Call them... muffins. And I'm glad we're finally talking about this. *

Sammy takes a deep breath. He does need to talk about this to someone.

SAMMY

Okay. So you know how I get these muffins around um ... around... *

KAT

(helpful)
Christian? Let's make him Mouse Ears. *

SAMMY

Right. Mouse Ears. Before the muffins I thought I knew exactly who I was but now it's all out of shape. And I can't stop thinking it means I'm... that I'm... *

Kat looks around, searching for a word. GREG and FRIEND are walking his labrador-cross, MAITLAND, along the grass in front of them. *

KAT

A labrador.

SAMMY

What?

KAT

Friendly, bouncy, cuddly labrador.

Sammy takes offense.

SAMMY

(sarcastic)
You're right, I'm so glad we're talking about this. *

He stands up and starts walking. Kat follows - she's on his side, she's just not trying to treat it like the end of the world.

KAT

Come on. I just think you need to focus on your muffins for Mouse Ears. *

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

Don't agonize about the *labrador* thing until it follows you home and asks you to keep it.

SAMMY

I have a better plan. Avoid *Mouse Ears* until the *muffins* go. Every last crumb. Temporary insanity will flush away like the chemical imbalance it is.

Kat looks at Sammy. He's deluded if he thinks that's a solution.

KAT

You room with him, you dance with him, and in between you hang out with him. That's a lot of muffins to flush.

8 INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR NOOK - DAY 7

8 *

ABIGAIL, ADAM, N/S STUDENTS

Abigail is sitting on a bench in the corridor, staring at a sandwich she doesn't want to eat as ADAM, her therapist, approaches. He attempts a joke to break the ice.

*

*

ADAM

I call and call and you never pick up.

*

*

ABIGAIL

Rehearsals. I'm dancing the Snowflake solo and understudying Clara.

The pride over this is tinged by the fact that Tara is one who is performing Clara.

ADAM

That's great Abigail.

Adam sits beside her, broaching a difficult subject.

ADAM

Your mum rang. She told me what's happening at home.

*

He waits for Abigail to respond. Nothing. She just takes a bite of her sandwich, it's an effort to swallow but she doesn't show this to Aaron.

ADAM

Having your parents separate is a pretty tough thing for anyone...
(*especially at this time*)

Abigail is not interested in where this conversation is going.

ABIGAIL

(interrupting)

I am not on the couch right now, Adam. And it's got nothing to do with my eating so I don't see how it fits your job description?

He won't be fobbed off so easily. He knows her well.

ADAM

Sometimes when students see their parents making sacrifices to send them to the Academy, they can blame themselves when things start to go wrong at home...

*

Abigail rolls her eyes. She's not a child, she knows what's happened.

ABIGAIL

Let's shortcut the psycho-babble. Mum left Dad behind in Brisbane, so she could support my dancing. Now they're separating because of the distance. It all seems pretty cause and effect to me.

ADAM

That isn't something you can control.

ABIGAIL

No, but I can make their sacrifice worthwhile.

Abigail gets to her feet.

ABIGAIL

Are we done? I have rehearsal.

She leaves the corridor, throwing the sandwich into a bin as soon as she's out of Adam's sight.

*

*

9

INT. ACADEMY/COSTUME ROOM - DAY 7

9

KAT, MYLES

Kat is alone with a mound of silver sequins and a mountain of white tutus. She sniffs the air and puts her nose to one of the tutus. It smells bad - like old sweat.

Her mobile phone rings. She scrambles for it with enthusiasm, answers without checking who it is.

KAT

Save me! I'm drowning in a sea of tulle.

MYLES (O.S.)
(on the phone)
*Hey gorgeous. What's the weather
like down there?*

Kat's face breaks into a stunning smile.

KAT
Myles!? Sunnier than London I
guess. But I don't know, I'm
trapped in a room with no windows.

MYLES (O.S.)
(on the phone)
*You think you could go outside and
check for me?*

KAT
Sure. If you want to waste an
international call talking about
the weather.

Kat lifts herself off the tutus and walks to the door.

KAT
After that we can ask each other
what time it is where we are and
discuss the quality of the phone
connection...

She opens the door - and her boy is standing on the other
side! In all his gorgeous Myles Kelly glory.

He still holds his mobile phone to his head.

KAT
(into her phone)
I've gotta go. Someone at the door.

MYLES
Should I be jealous?

KAT
I don't know, he's pretty hot.

And then she throws her arms around Myles and hugs him tight.

10

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/SAMMY'S ROOM - DAY 7
SAMMY, CHRISTIAN

10

Sammy sits on his bed scribbling into a writing pad.

Christian enters in his shorts and singlet, having been for a
run. Sammy scrambles to cover whatever it was he was
writing. Christian quickly senses he has walked in on
something private.

CHRISTIAN

Homework?

SAMMY

Sort of -

Christian snatches the pad before Sammy can stop him. He skims it quickly.

CHRISTIAN

Pros and Cons. "Should I tell M.E. about the muffins?"

(to Sammy)

Who's M.E.?

SAMMY

No one. It's nothing -

Sammy reaches for the page, but Christian pulls it out of reach and continues reading.

CHRISTIAN

"Cons - one: probably hates labradors. Two: I'll be thrown into the harbour or I'll jump. Three: Jews can't join a monastery."

He looks up at Sammy.

CHRISTIAN

Should I ask?

SAMMY

Please don't.

Christian tosses the pad back at him and grabs shampoo and a towel.

CHRISTIAN

Did your dad say anything when you gave him the forms?

SAMMY

(covering)

I haven't had a chance... He's been working. But I'm onto it.

Christian nods and goes to leave.

CHRISTIAN

You should tell ME. She might like muffins.

SAMMY

Highly doubtful.

Christian exits and Sammy slumps back onto his bed. How long can he keep this up?

11

EXT. HARBOURSIDE - DAY 7

11

KAT, MYLES, BUSKERS, N/S EXTRAS

Kat and Myles walk along the Harbourside. Some distance away a group of young BUSKERS (11-13 yrs) rap and hip hop to a tiny crowd of spectators. They're using backing music.

Myles is trying to remain incognito with his hoodie pulled low and sunglasses on. He has one arm draped over Kat's shoulders.

KAT

My cyber stalking failed me. I thought your tour was supposed to go till Christmas?

MYLES

I woke up in Belgium and felt this overwhelming need to be with someone who had a clue. About anything.

KAT

And you came up with me? Poor deluded fool.

Myles smiles at her, he really thinks she's special.

MYLES

You know who you are. You know where you're going.

An uncomfortable look crosses Kat's face.

MYLES

So how come you don't have to rehearse?

It's not the moment to tell him she doesn't have a clue either. She covers.

KAT

Muscle strain. My shoulder.

Myles takes his arm away. Kat is saved by the buskers who notice Myles and start to perform a Myles Kelly song, using his backing music.

KAT

(teasing)

Now why does that sound familiar?

Myles blushes, embarrassed. Kat grabs his hand and drags him towards the group.

The buskers exchange big smiles as Myles joins the spectators. They do a full MK performance, dancing, singing, rapping to MK's song.

*
*
*

*

*

The crowd builds up. Kat cheers. Even Myles eventually smiles at their antics.

Sensing they have him, the buskers begin to work gestures of invitation into their routine. Every time one of them passes close to Myles they beckon him to join them.

KAT

Scared they'll upstage you?

Kat joins the buskers. A moment later, so does Myles, to cheers from the spectators. They dance for a moment with the kids, smiling at each other through the sunlight.

MYLES

(over the music)

What about your shoulder?

KAT

(over the music)

I walked out of my audition.
They're about to kick me out of
school, my life is a total mess and
I don't have a clue either.

Myles's eyes fill with sympathy but Kat brushes it off, grinning. Right now they're dancing, having fun and there is nowhere either would rather be.

12 OMITTED 12 *

13 INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO/CORRIDOR - SUNSET 7 13
ETHAN, TARA, SEBASTIAN

The sun sets through the windows of the studio bathing everything in a soft orange glow.

Tara has an informal private rehearsal with Ethan. They are running through Clara's Act 2 solo, Ethan stands in the centre with her, watching and checking her choreography. Tara looks stressed and tired, she's struggling with the steps. She stops, exhausted.

TARA

They're expecting too much. Clara's
on-stage the whole time. I'm not
ready.

*

*

Before Ethan can answer a voice booms from the doorway.

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)

You wouldn't have been cast if you
weren't ready Tara.

They both turn to find Sebastian walking into the empty studio. He smiles reassuringly at Tara.

SEBASTIAN

You've had a long day. Take a bath
and rest up for tomorrow.

Tara heads over to her gear, Ethan goes with her. Sebastian stops him.

SEBASTIAN

Can I steal you for a moment? *

Tara grabs her bag and leaves. Sebastian turns to Ethan, his smile fading.

SEBASTIAN

Assistant choreographer. Such a
difficult concept to wrap your head
around. *

ETHAN

(quiet)

Tara was uncertain about some of
the choreography. *

Sebastian double-checks the door - Tara has gone.

SEBASTIAN

I have an extremely inexperienced
dancer in one of my lead roles and
you decide to give her unsupervised
advice?

ETHAN

I thought it'd save you time in
rehearsals. *

SEBASTIAN

Look, you argued for Tara in the
audition and I saw enough potential
to give her a chance. But she's
struggling and you need to remain
professional. Is that understood? *

ETHAN

Yes sir. *

Ethan is not happy with the way his father is talking to him, but in no position to stop it. Sebastian turns and heads for the door.

CUT TO:

CORRIDOR: Tara stands just outside in the corridor - she's heard everything.

She takes off down the corridor before Sebastian can get to the door and discover her.

14

EXT. THE ROCKS - SUNSET 7

14

KAT, MYLES

*

Kat and Myles walk through The Rocks towards the boarding house. It's late in the day and the sun is gone, bathing the city in a beautiful orange warmth.

Kat opens a fortune cookie.

KAT

(reads)

The path to happiness begins with a dream.

Myles snaps his fingers, pretending to figure it out.

MYLES

That's my problem. I don't remember my dreams.

KAT

I do. Fly to Darwin, hire a Kombi. Drive...

MYLES

You're sixteen. You don't drive.

KAT

It's a dream. Go with it... Drive around Australia. Stop at every beach, camp out at every music festival.

*
*
*
*

Myles smiles at her - maybe she's his dream girl, Kat tries to deflect the attention.

KAT

What does yours say?

*

Myles opens his cookie.

Sebastian even smiles at Ethan, this is going well.

The snowflakes form a circle around Clara (Tara). It opens up so that she emerges from the snowflakes and becomes the focus of all eyes. Watched by everyone Tara gets a sudden stab of self-consciousness and almost deliberately comes off pointe. The magic is broken.

Ethan reacts, disappointed. Sebastian is cool and professional.

SEBASTIAN

Starting positions again please.
Okay Tara?

Abigail rolls her eyes. Bonnie giggles.

CUT TO:

REHEARSAL STUDIO: The boys' Act One rehearsals: Christian is dancing the Mouse King role and Sammy is one of the soldiers.

They're rehearsing the same section as before, but Sammy unexpectedly changes the choreography and instead of the body contact, he keeps his distance.

PATRICK

Stop, stop... Sammy you're meant to lift Christian. (*adjust*)

SAMMY

I thought it'd be more dramatic, to put some distance between us -

Christian looks at Sammy, confused by his shift.

PATRICK

Let's stay with the director's choreography.

CUT TO:

COSTUME ROOM: Kat and Myles are wearing mouse noses and whiskers but pay no attention to them. Kat is sewing sequins on a costume. Myles is plucking his guitar, and humming a song as he invents it.

MYLES

I know a girl called Kat.
And she is all that.

*
*

KAT

Genius.

*

CUT TO:

*

STUDIO: Tara dances by herself, **weaving around the frozen snowflakes**. She runs to the wrong spot. *

SEBASTIAN

Tara, prompt side. Again please.
Cue the music.

CUT TO: *

COSTUME ROOM: Myles is **filling in as Kat's dressmaker dummy**. **As she pins a half tutu he is wearing**, her phone rings. Myles beats Kat to answering it. *

MYLES

Kat's phone.

He mouths to Kat.

MYLES

(soundless)

It's your Mum.

While he is listening to Kat's phone. His phone rings. Kat picks it up. Each is half appalled and half delighted that the other one is taking control.

KAT

Myles' phone.

MYLES

(on the phone)

I'm sorry Mrs K, but your daughter is performing surgery on some manky costumes. *

KAT

(on the phone)

Sorry Tristanne. Myles doesn't do shopping centre promotions. They're for hacks.

Myles watches her, impressed, and takes his phone out of her hands. He drops them both onto the surrounding tulle and picks her up in the air. They kiss.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Rehearsals continue. Tara is tired and frustrated **while Abigail and the other snowflakes dance together**. Close-by, Ethan marks cues on his clipboard. Tara watches him, hoping he will give her the signal. *

TARA

(sotto)

What's my cue?

ETHAN

That was it.

Tara quickly dances into position, beautifully but late. She comes close to colliding with Abigail, who firmly holds her to her mark and ensures that Tara's poor timing is shown up.

Sebastian is becoming impatient with her.

SEBASTIAN

Still late by half a bar, Tara. We don't have time for this.

*

CUT TO:

REHEARSAL STUDIO: Sammy is towelling off after rehearsal, hurriedly stuffing his gear into his bags.

As Christian approaches, Sammy throws his bag over his shoulder and hurries out. Christian is left certain there's a problem.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Tara is rehearsing the Clara part amongst the snowflakes but she loses concentration before a jete and pulls up short.

*

*

SEBASTIAN

What's the problem?

TARA

I just lost focus.

Sebastian checks his watch.

SEBASTIAN

We have to move on. Get the DVD and learn it before the next rehearsal.

*

Tara nods, exhausted. Abigail, watching in the background, leans across to Bonnie.

ABIGAIL

Is it just me, or is this is getting embarrassing?

*

*

Ethan feels sorry for Tara as she looks away, red-faced.

19

INT. BOARDING HOUSE/Common Room - Day 8

19

TARA, ABIGAIL, ETHAN, BONNIE, N/S STUDENTS (GIRLS)

*

*

Abigail spins around impersonating Tara to the amusement of the other dancers.

*

ABIGAIL

(mocking)

I lost my focus. Wait, I missed my cue. I can't do the steps. Ethan, help me.

Bonnie and the other girls snigger at Abigail's impersonation.

BONNIE

You should have gotten Clara.

ABIGAIL

Or you. Or Sue-nee. Any girl here could dance it better than her. We all know why she got it.

*

The other girls don't, but Abigail enlightens them.

ABIGAIL

It helps when the Assistant Choreographer is wrapped around your little finger and you're not afraid to exploit that.

The girls suddenly look worried. Abigail spins around to see that Tara and Ethan have entered the common room, and heard this last statement. She refuses to back down.

ABIGAIL

Sorry but this is a professional production and one person is going to make us look like a primary school Christmas Concert.

*

Too tired to fight, and hearing the truth in what Abigail said, Tara turns and walks out of the room. Ethan walks over to Abigail and with absolute calm and conviction tells it to her straight.

ETHAN

Abigail, you are well cast as a Snowflake but Clara is about heart and you can't fake that.

Abigail scoffs at this - whatever - but Ethan isn't finished.

ETHAN

So you'd better hope Tara dances that role, because if it's you up there... the audience will see how empty you really are.

20

EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 8
SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, N/S STUDENTS

20 *

Christian is skating and thinking and becoming more depressed by the moment.

Sammy comes around the corner, sees Christian and beats a quick retreat. But not quick enough.

CHRISTIAN
I can see you. You're not
invisible.

Sammy comes back around the corner, his expression is deliberately casual and innocent.

SAMMY
Oh, hey?

*

CHRISTIAN
"Oh, hey?" You're avoiding me.

*

SAMMY
(too quickly)
No I'm not.

CHRISTIAN
I get why. It's fine.

*

Sammy's heart is thumping - he can't believe what he is hearing. Christian knows?

*

*

CHRISTIAN
Your dad won't sign the forms.

Sammy sees his way out and he doesn't deny it.

CHRISTIAN
They're respectable people. They
shouldn't have to take
responsibility for a convicted
criminal.

Sammy decides to let him believe this. It's easier. For him.

SAMMY
I'm... Yeah you're right. I'm
really sorry.

*

Christian misreads his agony.

CHRISTIAN
Not your fault. You tried.
(MORE)

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

I'm used to it.

*

Christian heads off, leaving Sammy knowing he's hurt his friend and feeling terrible for it.

21

EXT. HARBOUR BATHS - DAY 8

21

SAMMY, KAT, MYLES

Myles and Kat are frolicking beside the water. He's laughing as she teaches him a ballet step. She's pretending to be strict.

KAT

Pas de cheval is step of the horse.
You have to do the neigh.

*

Instead, Myles grabs Kat and kisses her. Still neighing, they're both laughing while they kiss.

Sammy approaches. He's at breaking point.

SAMMY

I let Mouse Ears think my Dad
wouldn't sign the forms, because my
muffins are out of control and I
could be a labrador.

*

Kat stares at Sammy appalled. Whatever is going on, Myles doesn't want to be in the middle of it.

MYLES

I'm going to take that as my exit
cue.

He jumps into the water.

KAT

That is low. You're making
Christian believe he's not good
enough for your family. Sammy...

SAMMY

I need space, okay. Just a little
time away from him so I can get my
head back to normal.

*

*

*

KAT

Your best friend is going to rot in
the Boarding House all summer
because you can't talk about your
feelings?

*

Sammy has no choice.

SAMMY

What do you want me to do? Get a t-shirt, "Samuel Lieberman - Gay Boy - have you met my room mate"?

*

Kat stares at Sammy.

KAT

You said the G word.

SAMMY

(miserable)

I can't pretend it's just a man crush.

*

Myles swims up to them and stands up in the waist deep water. His body is amazing, the water drips down his ripped torso. Sammy doesn't look at him.

MYLES

You getting in?

*

KAT

In a bit.

Kat notices Sammy's complete disinterest in her boyfriend.

*

KAT

(to Sammy)

You didn't even look at him. Hey Myles. Who is Australia's number one gay icon?

*

Myles does a mock bow - pleased with the title.

MYLES

That'd be me.

KAT

Thank you.

She shoos her hand at him to run along. As Myles dives back into the water, Kat turns to Sammy.

KAT

I think it's a bit early to start worrying about whether you are or you aren't. Let's just deal with the problem at hand - Christian.

*

*

Sammy bites his lip, taking this in.

KAT

He's done nothing wrong and it's
not fair to let him think he has.

Kat slides into the water and swims after Myles, not happy
with Sammy at all.

22 OMITTED 22 *

23 INT. BOARDING HOUSE/SAMMY'S ROOM - DAY 8 23 *
CHRISTIAN

Christian is getting dressed. He picks up a pair of socks
from the floor, sniffs them. Three day old, for sure! He
discards them and crosses to the other side of the room,
opening Sammy's sock drawer.

Grabbing a pair of Sammy's socks, Christian catches sight of
a set of papers at the back of the drawer. He takes them out
and has a closer look.

24 EXT. BOARDING HOUSE/DAWES POINT STAIRS - SUNSET 8 24 *
SAMMY, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN

Sammy walks along the Harbour, wrestling with his jumbled,
messy thoughts. There's no answer his incredible brain can
come up with to help him out of this problem. *

He comes across Abigail who is sitting on a park bench,
staring out at the view, not seeing anything. She's shaken by
what Ethan has just said to her. *

SAMMY

Hi. *

Abigail smiles, tightly. Things are still awkward between
them, since the break-up. Sammy goes to pass without saying
anything further when...

ABIGAIL

So do you think I'm empty?

Sammy turns back.

SAMMY

Never.

ABIGAIL

Then why did you break up with me?
I'm fine with it. I'm just curious.

Sammy sits down beside her.

SAMMY

I didn't. You dumped me.

Abigail laughs, shaking her head. But it's not funny.

ABIGAIL

No, Sammy. I said the words but you were the one who pulled away.

SAMMY

I...

Sammy decides to be honest. He has to really think about what happened.

SAMMY

I don't know. I guess... it stopped feeling right.

Abigail suddenly starts to cry. Sammy's heart goes out to her.

ABIGAIL

Sorry. It's just - family stuff and rehearsals... I don't cry. This is embarrassing.

SAMMY

Hey.

Sammy wipes her tears away. For a moment, he stares at her beautiful, tear-stained face and then leans in and kisses her. It's instinct. She kisses him back. Both are clinging to each other.

But when Sammy closes his eyes, Abigail is replaced with Christian. In his mind, Sammy is kissing Christian.

Sammy opens his eyes with a start. Abigail is back. She pulls away, knowing something is wrong.

ABIGAIL

What?

SAMMY

I'm sorry. I have to...

Guilty. Mind racing. Sammy stumbles to his feet and heads off down the wharf. Abigail is left alone and humiliated.

Sammy enters his room, heart pounding but trying to keep a hold of himself. Christian is lying on his own bed, working on his laptop.

CHRISTIAN

That's your dad's signature.

Sammy sees the parole papers lying flattened on his pillow. His heart sinks further.

SAMMY

I can explain. *

CHRISTIAN

Don't worry about it. *

Sammy babbles an excuse -

SAMMY

I just ... want a break, you know. We've been living in each other's pockets all year...

CHRISTIAN

And yet, I'm not good enough to live in your house.

SAMMY

That's not what it is.

CHRISTIAN

Okay. What is it? *

Christian waits for an explanation. Sammy tries.

SAMMY

I swallowed this brick. It was supposed to be muffins but ... do you mind if I use codewords, it's sort of hard to say? I'm worried they mean I'm a labrador and you're Mouse Ears and... and... *

While Sammy babbles, Christian closes his computer, stands up and walks towards the door. He is almost out the door when Sammy speaks. *

SAMMY

I think I like you. *

Christian stops. He turns and stares at Sammy, scanning his face for some joke, or lie, or misunderstanding. Looking back at him, Sammy is immediately certain of one unavoidable fact.

SAMMY

No, that's not true. I know I like you.

Christian's mind is reeling. He turns for the door, leaving Sammy feeling like his whole world has just collapsed.

26 **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/KAT'S ROOM - NIGHT 8** 26
SAMMY, KAT

Kat is sitting up in bed, painting her toenails. She looks up to see Sammy at the door, holding his pillow.

She intuits immediately that's something has happened and moves over in her bed to allow Sammy to lie down next to her.

Sammy attempts a smile, but the effort is too much. He curls up next to Kat on the bed. They lie there together.

27 **EXT. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DANCE - DAY 9** 27
NIL CAST

The first rays of the morning sun bathe the Academy and the harbour in beautiful light.

28 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 9** 28
TARA, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, CHRISTIAN, ETHAN, SEBASTIAN, N/S
STUDENTS (BOYS & GIRLS)

Full Cast Rehearsal Act Two: The cast are watching Tara rehearse her solo. Sammy and Christian are sitting apart, tension between them, as --

Tara continues her solo. She does a jete (adjust). Sebastian barks instructions as she continues.

SEBASTIAN

Not good enough, Tara. I need more extension. More height. (adjust)

Tara is tiring as she continues to plough her way through. *

SEBASTIAN

You're meant to be carrying the ballet at this point. *

Every eye is on Tara.

SEBASTIAN

We're going to keep doing this until you get it right. *

Tara performs another jete but this time she engineers a little stumble in the landing. *

TARA

My... my knee is hurting a little. *

Ethan realises what Tara is doing and thinks it is a mistake.

Sebastian moves over to her, *flicking off the music*. Despite his frustration, he's concerned for TARA's wellbeing. *

SEBASTIAN

How badly?

Tara tests her knee. She fakes wincing in pain.

TARA

I think I twisted it in the last *grand jete*. *

With a glance at Ethan, as if he is to blame --

SEBASTIAN

Maybe you were right. Maybe you're not ready.

Ethan helps a distressed Tara to a seat as Sebastian beckons Abigail.

SEBASTIAN

Abigail, take over Clara's part for this rehearsal.

Ethan is angry with Tara, he lowers his voice so the others can't hear.

ETHAN

I know your knee is fine. Tell him you can do it.

Tara shakes her head. She can't.

SEBASTIAN

From the beginning of Clara's solo. Places please.

Tara watches Abigail dancing the solo, her whole world crumbling. Abigail gives it everything - technically accomplished, still no heart.

SEBASTIAN

Good Abigail.

29

EXT. HARBOUR BATHS - DAY 9
SAMMY, CHRISTIAN

29

Christian walks through the park towards the harbour. He sees Sammy sitting on the pool wall looking out across the water. He watches him for a moment, then walks across the grass to within a metre or so of him.

Sammy looks at Christian, says nothing, looks away.

CHRISTIAN

(angry)

What is wrong with you?

Christian steps forward and stands beside the sitting Sammy. Sammy looks straight ahead.

SAMMY

I don't know. I didn't want this to happen. It came out of nowhere.

CHRISTIAN

No, I mean... Who do you think I am? Why didn't you trust me?

Christian's voice breaks as he tries to say how hurt he is that Sammy has misjudged him.

CHRISTIAN

I robbed a servo Sammy. That's something to be ashamed of every day. This... how you're feeling... Isn't.

SAMMY

But it's not just whether I am... or not... It's about you. And if we're mates I can't... I don't know how to be around you so... So I... I should move out.

Sammy nods, it's the only the option. They're not going to be friends anymore.

CHRISTIAN

I've lived with you all year.

SAMMY

No one would probably notice if I moved in with Kat for a bit and then next year...

Christian sits down.

CHRISTIAN

Every [person in my life](#) has kicked me out or left me. And now you're trying to do the same. What do [you](#) want me to say Sammy? What do you want me to do?

*

*

*

SAMMY

I don't know.

Christian grabs Sammy by the shoulders and turns him until they are face to face. Time expands as they stare at each other, so close they could kiss right now.

Then Christian wraps his arms around Sammy and pulls them both fully clothes into the water.

Christian pulls Sammy to the surface, gasping for air.

CHRISTIAN

You are not going to ditch me
because you're confused. Right?

Sammy blinks through the tears and the water.

SAMMY

Okay.

30

EXT. HARBOURSIDE WALK - DAY 9

30

KAT, MYLES

Kat and Myles walk hand in hand along the harbour.

KAT

Laryngitis is too obvious. Tell the
press you had scurvy, it has that
swash-buckling sound.

Myles laughs.

MYLES

You've got advice for everyone. Who
do you confide in?

KAT

My friends. You.

He hands Kat an envelope. She opens it to find an airline ticket inside. Her eyes widen.

KAT

Darwin.

MYLES

A van, a map. No return date.

Kat looks at Myles in disbelief.

MYLES

You're right, I need to write some
songs I can be proud of. I just
have to work out what I want to
say.

KAT

Yeah but you totally stole my
dream.

A grin twitches at Myles' lips.

MYLES

I'm kinda hoping to share it.

Myles gestures at the ticket.

MYLES

That's yours. Come with me.

Kat looks at the plane ticket, shocked.

KAT

I can't...

MYLES

Why not?

Kat realises she can't think of one good reason.

MYLES

Just think about it... *But you
have to ask your folks, I don't
want Natasha hunting me down.*

*
*

KAT

Sure, I'll ask them.

*
*

Kat stares at the ticket, *a smile spreading over her face.*

*

KAT

Roadtrip. Every beach.

MYLES

Every music festival. Just you and
me.

Kat can't resist, she has to kiss this guy.

31

EXT. OBSERVATORY HILL - DAY 9

31

TARA, ETHAN, TARA (V.O)

Clouds floating across the blue sky. Tara lies flat on her
back, just staring into the deep blue sky.

TARA (V.O.)

*The thing about being out of your
depth is that there's a really good
chance you're just going to sink.*

A shadow crosses and she finds herself looking at a face
that's looking back down at her - it's Ethan.

ETHAN

How's the knee?

He lays down on the grass next to her.

*

TARA

You shouldn't have argued for me in
the audition.

*
*

ETHAN

Yeah I should've.

*
*

Ethan lifts up his hand, Tara meets his hand halfway and he hands her a four leaf clover. Tara is surprised he still has it.

TARA (V.O.)

*But if you reach up your hand,
someone might be there, to help you
keep your head above water.*

TARA

You kept it.

ETHAN

Got used to having it around.

They lay there in companionable silence.

ETHAN

You're the right dancer for Clara.
You **have** to fight for it.

*

Pull back on Tara and Ethan lying on their backs head to head their bodies stretched in opposite directions.

END OF EPISODE