

SECRET CIRCLE

Pilot

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SECRET CIRCLE

TEASER

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

A long winding street somewhere in small town, USA. The road is empty when a car FLIES by. Florida plates.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Behind the wheel is CASSIE BLAKE, 16, having a private moment with the STEREO. Singing her heart out. Something she'd never do around anyone else. But alone -- she's a rock star. An extremely off-key rock star. Ridiculously cute.

CLOSE ON HER FACE. A scrubbed clean natural beauty. She has that loner stare. All question and doubt.

She's startled by a HONKING HORN. Headlights blind. As a car WHIZZES by, passing her. She road rages.

CASSIE

C'mon. Really? Asshole.

But then -- her front wheel EXPLODES. A blowout. The car jerks and skids, careening off the road.

Cassie responds instantly. She lets off the gas, turns into the skid, and the car jerks and grinds to a stop.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - NIGHT

Cassie gets out, looks to her front tire. It's flat. Cassie groans in frustration. Looks around. Lots of trees. Houses in the distance. Not a lot of options. But then--

She sees a car IDLING half a block up the road. The same one that passed her. It just sits there. As if watching. She can't make out who's behind the wheel. She calls out.

CASSIE

Hey... Can I get a...?

The car quickly speeds away. Fuck you very much. Cassie goes back to her car, reaches in for her cell phone.

EXT. BLAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

A modest house in a modest neighborhood. Lights burn within.

INT. BLAKE HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

A small, comfortable home. Cozy is the key word. Eclectic is runner up. A phone RINGS. AMELIA BLAKE answers it. Mid-30's, effortless beauty.

She's cooking. Boiling pasta, sauce, salad fixings, etc.

CASSIE
(from phone)
I got a flat.

AMELIA
Where are you?

SCENE INTERCUTS:

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - NIGHT

Cassie pulls a spare from her trunk. A self-sufficient girl.

CASSIE
Three blocks away.

AMELIA
Who said you could take the car?

CASSIE
That's really not relevant right now.

AMELIA
Are you okay? Did you call AAA?

CASSIE
I can change a tire, mom.

AMELIA
You have to ask me before you take the car, Cassie.

EXT. BLAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

A car pulls up and comes to a stop in front of the house. It's the same car that passed Cassie in the road. Beat.

INT. BLAKE HOUSE - NIGHT

Back inside the house, Amelia continues with Cassie.

CASSIE
Can you wait til I get home to yell at me? This was a courtesy call.

CONTINUED:

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Cassie...

She turns to run... She takes one step and SLIPS on the wet floor. Her feet fly from under, she lands hard ON HER BACK. Her head CRACKS against the kitchen floor. She goes still. As the fire SPREADS. Up the walls, to the ceiling.

Amelia's eyes flicker open. She tries to rise up. Only semi-conscious. She rolls over and crawls to her knees. She's wet and her head is bleeding.

But she's determined. She half crawls, half stumbles to the living room where she knocks over a LAMP. Its BULB EXPLODES catching fire. The fire quickly leaps onto drapes nearby.

In seconds, the drapes and entire wall go up in flames.

ON THE MAN OUTSIDE

As he holds a burning match. He drops it. Then withdraws MANY MATCHES. He moves to strike them all at once.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Amelia, weak and horror-stricken, limps to the front door. She barely reaches it when the MATCHES IGNITE.

A moment of pure silence. And then, the house EXPLODES INTO FLAMES, ENGULFING Amelia.

ON THE MAN as he watches the house burn a moment. Then, he gets into his car and drives away. Beat.

INT. CAR - NIGHT - LATER

Cassie drives down the street, turning a corner. She hears SIRENS. Sees the FLASHING LIGHTS. The fire trucks. An OFFICER in the road stops her.

CLOSE ON CASSIE'S FACE. As the realization sinks in. The next moments are a blur as Cassie steps from the car. Sees HER HOUSE. The flames. The firemen at work.

Her knees buckle, she begins to sway...

She tries to speak... But all sound... All motion...

Everything comes to a horrifying halt. As Cassie Blake's world is destroyed.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

An AERIAL SHOT flies over the ocean coming upon land. An amazing vista of cliff, rocks, and crashing ocean below.

The CAMERA finds a lone car making its way down the winding road that traces the edge of the cliff.

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. CASSIE'S CAR - DAY

Cassie is behind the wheel. Her car is packed full of luggage and belongings. She takes in the view. Her eyes are still alive with curiosity. But there's a sadness that lives within her now.

The car passes a sign. WELCOME TO NEW SALEM, MAINE. EST. 1692.

EXT. NEW SALEM - DAY

Cassie's car drives through an impossibly charming town. She passes quaint, family-owned stores on MAIN STREET, a picturesque MARINA, a LUSH FOREST, and beautifully maintained COLONIAL HOMES.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - DAY

Cassie pulls up to an old two-story colonial house and parks. She checks the address, makes sure it's the right one. She gets out. Looks around. Takes it all in. This is her new home.

She sees a NEIGHBOR working in the yard nearby. She smiles and waves. But the NEIGHBOR just stares. Odd.

She hears a window open. Looks to the house next door.

From an upstairs window, she sees someone -- a FIGURE -- staring at her. She can't make out a face. It's eerie. Just then--

JANE

Cassie! You're here.

Cassie turns to see her grandmother, JANE BLAKE, come down the porch steps to greet her. Jane is a proper, New England dame in her 50's. She wraps Cassie in her arms and squeezes tight. Beat. As they both fight back their tears. When they finally break, Jane is composed and cheery.

CONTINUED:

JANE (CONT'D)

How was your trip? I wish you
would have let me drive with you.

They go to Cassie's car and start to unload.

CASSIE

You do not want to be in the car
with me for that long, Grandma. I
have road rage.

JANE

I was worried. I felt like I was
abandoning you after the service.
How ya doing?

CASSIE

At the moment. Good. Five minutes
from now. Who knows?

And Cassie means this. It's moment to moment with her. Jane
smiles. They share another moment, connected by sadness and
love and longing.

JANE

I'm really glad you're here.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - DAY

An old and elegant home. Full of history. Cassie looks
around.

CASSIE

So. This is where my mom grew up.

JANE

She took her first steps right
there. And just kept right on
going. I'll show you your room.

Cassie follows her grandmother up the stairs with her bags.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jane clicks on the light to reveal Amelia's bedroom -
untouched since the day she left. A shrine to a teenage girl
from the 80's. Cassie takes it all in, wide-eyed.

CASSIE

It's like a mom museum.

CONTINUED:

JANE

We can move everything out. I should have by now. It's only been... sixteen years.

Cassie runs her hand along an old STONE FIREPLACE. Ornate ETCHED PATTERNS carved in the stone. It's beautiful. Framed photos line the mantle. The photos feature Amelia and a TIGHT CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

CASSIE

There's so much about her I didn't know... why did she leave here?

JANE

She told you nothing at all.

This is more of a question. As Jane studies her. Cassie shakes her head.

CASSIE

I asked but she was always so full of non-answers. I gave up.

JANE

Things got difficult for her.

CASSIE

Is that code for pregnant?

Jane simply smiles. She doesn't confirm or deny.

JANE

I'll let you get settled. I'll be downstairs.

Jane leaves her. Cassie looks around. To the wall of photos. A beautiful RED-HAIRED GIRL appears with Amelia in most of the photos, but Cassie is drawn to ONE BOY in particular who is featured prominently.

Cassie stares at a photo of her mother. The hurt shows all over her face. This is a real pain that's not going away anytime soon. Beat.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Time has passed. It's night. The light is on in the upstairs bedroom.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie can be seen in the adjoining bathroom. She's brushing her teeth. She wears a night shirt. She finishes up and clicks the light and starts for her bed. She notices the curtain open.

She goes to the window -- looks out -- she can see into the house next door. Into a bedroom like hers. It's the same house from earlier. But now the light is on.

She can see a YOUNG MAN (NICK) staring at her. He doesn't wear a shirt. Just gym shorts. He's handsome. Good physique. And he knows it. He gives her a nod. Cassie closes the drapes.

Cassie opens a suitcase. She's unpacking. She takes some clothes and opens a dresser. Fills it up, all while HUMMING. She closes a drawer but it's JAMMED. She reaches in to see what's causing the problem and is surprised when she pulls out the culprit.

A SILVER NECKLACE with a CIRCLE PENDANT. It's made up of eight blue stones and connected by a CRYSTAL PATTERN. It's beautiful. Cassie puts it on, continuing to HUM when...

JANE (O.S.)

Your mom used to hum that.

Jane's standing in the doorway.

CASSIE

I stole it from her. She used to hum it all the time.

A shared smile.

JANE

Ready for your first day of school?

CASSIE

Is anyone ever?

JANE

If you have trouble sleeping, your mom used to count the stars. Night, honey.

Stars? Cassie's not sure what she means. Jane smiles, closes the door as Cassie crawls into bed, clutching her newly found PENDANT. She turns out the side lamp.

CONTINUED:

Falls back into bed. Staring up. As the ceiling ILLUMINATES before her eyes. As she discovers a GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SOLAR SYSTEM. She smiles. Now, she understands what Jane was referring to. There's something magical about it. She stares at it in wonder, feeling a little closer to her mom.

EXT. NEW SALEM - MORNING

A new day begins. Newspapers are delivered. Fishermen ready their boats. Crossing guards help kids to school.

EXT. NEW SALEM H.S. - CONTINUOUS

Establishing shot of a small town high school.

INT. NEW SALEM H.S. - CONTINUOUS

Cassie walks down the hall. She's nervous and avoids eye contact but can't shake the feeling that everyone's staring. And judging. She wears her mom's pendant.

DAWN (O.S.)

We're happy to have you, Cassie.

INT. NEW SALEM H.S. - VICE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Cassie sits across from the RED-HAIRED GIRL from her mom's photos - but 16 years older. Vice Principal DAWN CHAMBERLAIN, a strikingly beautiful woman in her late 30's.

DAWN

I'm Vice Principal Chamberlain.
It's so great to meet you. I knew
your mother.

CASSIE

Yes, I was looking at pictures in
her room last night. I recognize
you.

DAWN

Not my Sheena Easton period, I
hope? I guess she didn't talk
about me much.

Cassie feels badly for having brought it up.

CASSIE

She didn't talk about New Salem at
all.

This affects Dawn. She feels the loss too.

CONTINUED:

DAWN

Your mother holds a dear place in my heart. Whatever I can do to help with your transition.

There's a KNOCK at the door. SALLY WALTMAN enters. African American, 16. A never-changing expression of dubiousness.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Sally's going to give you a tour. Junior editor at the paper and knows this place better than I do.

INT. NEW SALEM H.S. - HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is full of STUDENTS. TWO GIRLS walk and talk. Both 17 and stylishly sexy. FAYE, can play the danger card, has sharp eyes. Sees everything. MELISSA, African-American, steely, disinterested.

MELISSA

Have you seen her yet?

FAYE

No, have you?

Melissa shakes her head. Nope. They reach NICK ARMSTRONG, 17, who stands with TWO PREPPIE FRESHMEN. He's the guy Cassie saw in the window. The freshmen slink off as Nick pockets a WAD OF CASH.

FAYE (CONT'D)

Five to ten by the time you're twenty.

NICK

Loosen up, Faye.

FAYE

So?

NICK

What?

FAYE

Your new neighbor. Did you see her?

NICK

She got in last night.

CONTINUED:

MELISSA

And?

NICK

(to irritate Faye)
Ugly. Real, real ugly. Unless
you're looking at her hot little
body or her sexy, cute face.

FAYE

Anything else?

Nick looks at Faye coolly. Shrugs. Off Faye, as Nick walks
away --

INT. NEW SALEM H.S. - ANOTHER HALLWAY - DAY

Cassie struggles to keep up with a bubbly Sally who walks
briskly through the crowded hall, pointing as she goes...

SALLY

Auditorium. Study Hall. One of
two blind spots in the questionably
legal surveillance system.

CASSIE

I hope the other one's the girl's
bathroom.

Sally registers the comment. Smiles.

SALLY

The cliques are pretty standard.
So no surprises there. I'm more
the artsy crowd. What about you?
Who do you gravitate towards?

CASSIE

The loner crowd are my people.

SALLY

That would be just you.

Cassie taps her head.

CASSIE

And the voices.

Sally stares at her, weirdly.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I didn't think that would
land.

CONTINUED:

Sally smiles. Cassie's oddly cool. She likes her. Sally stops in front of a locker, indicates --

SALLY
This one's yours.

Cassie takes out the combination, tries to open the locker.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(pointing)
Bitch clique incoming.

She's referring to Faye and Melissa who are coming down the hall, right towards them. As Cassie struggles with the lock--

SALLY (CONT'D)
Snobby, self-centered, and a little
creepy. Definitely unique.

As Faye and Melissa approach, they can't help but look Cassie up and down. It makes her uncomfortable. Cassie gives up on the lock.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Bad news. I'd stay clear. Your
first class is Econ. Down the
hall. Good luck.

As Sally walks away, Cassie turns to steal another glance at Faye and Melissa, only to find them walking straight up to her. Faye's stare is chilling.

FAYE
So you're the new girl.

CASSIE
I'm Cassie.

FAYE
Interesting.
(then, re: lock)
Try it again.

Faye walks away. Cassie tries the lock. It SLIDES OPEN. Weird. Off Cassie, what just happened?

INT. NEW SALEM H.S. - CLASSROOM - DAY

Cassie enters the classroom as STUDENTS take their seats. She sees a girl waving her over. This is DIANA MEADE, 18. Smart. Sexy. Not overly done up. More of a classic beauty.

CONTINUED:

DIANA

Over here, sit. I saved it for you. I'm Diana.

CASSIE

Cassie.

DIANA

I know. I live on your block. Two doors down. Your Grandmother told me you were coming. I'm so glad you're here.

CASSIE

You are?

Cassie stares at her. Finds Diana's friendliness infectious.

DIANA

Oh yeah, it just so happens I was in the market for a new friend. And Voila. Fate.

Diana smiles. It's genuine. Cassie likes her instantly. Across the room, Cassie sees DOUG, 17, a jock, spinning an up-ended FOOTBALL on his desk. He takes his hand away. The FOOTBALL keeps SPINNING.

Just as the football seems to be spinning a little too long of its own accord, Doug's eyes meet Diana's. The football wobbles. As Cassie takes this in --

DIANA (CONT'D)

What are you doing tonight? We all hang out at the Marina. Will you come? I'll introduce you around.

Cassie has a good feeling about Diana. She can sense she has a good heart. Cassie smiles, happy to have connected with someone. Her official "first friend."

EXT. MARINA - NIGHT

Cassie's car pulls up to the marina and parks in front of the BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL. She gets out and heads inside. As Cassie sees Diana through the window and waves, we're --

INT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Old wooden tables, sawdust on the floor. TEENS and OTHER PATRONS loiter about, eating, etc. It's the local hot spot.

CONTINUED:

Diana sits at a BACK BOOTH. Melissa, Doug, and Nick play pool in the b.g. Faye approaches Diana --

FAYE
How's the new girl?

DIANA
You should get to know her.

FAYE
I don't know if she's worth getting to know yet.

DIANA
She's a Blake.

FAYE
Every family has duds. Maybe we should nudge her, see what she's made of.

As Cassie enters and walks toward them --

DIANA
Her mom just died. Give her time.
(then)
I mean it, Faye.

Cassie approaches. Faye gives her a big smile.

FAYE
Hi, I'm Faye Chamberlain.

Cassie has no intention of kissing ass.

CASSIE
Yeah, we met. Sort of.

FAYE
And I'm sure you met my mother.
The Vice-Principal. Red hair?
Bitchy?

CASSIE
She seemed nice to me.

DIANA
Have a seat, Cassie. Faye was just leaving.

Cassie sits. Faye eyes her pendant.

CONTINUED: (2)

FAYE

That's a beautiful necklace.

She gives Diana a "knowing" look.

CASSIE

It was my mom's.

FAYE

I heard. I'm so sorry. How did she die exactly?

DIANA

Faye. Manners.

FAYE

Too soon?

CASSIE

There was a fire. Faulty wiring.

Diana shoots a disbelieving stare at Faye.

FAYE

And your father? Where's he?

Beat. That's always a tough question for Cassie.

CASSIE

I don't know my father.

DIANA

Stop badgering the new girl.

Faye looks at Diana. Cassie senses a power struggle between these two. But Faye relaxes. Smiles, warmly, changing her demeanor completely.

FAYE

I make a horrible first impression, Cassie. It's the cliché in me. Give me a chance, I turn into a real person. You'll see.

Cassie is completely won over by this honesty. It's so real and insightful.

FAYE (CONT'D)

You guys have fun.

Faye gets up and leaves but not before looking at Diana. "Happy?" Faye goes to join Nick, Melissa, and Doug, who are watching Cassie from the back of the tavern.

CONTINUED: (3)

CASSIE
They're all your friends?

DIANA
Depends on the day.

Cassie feels on display. She looks around, uncomfortably. Notices a MAN sitting at the bar, staring at her. This is ETHAN, late 30's, haggard. His intense gaze adds to her general feeling of uneasiness.

CASSIE
I'm sorry. I don't think I'm in the mood for being social, after all. It's been a long day and...

As Cassie starts to get up --

DIANA
At least meet my boyfriend. He's around here somewhere.

CASSIE
Next time. Promise.

Diana nods, very understanding.

EXT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Cassie exits the tavern.

INT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Faye is at the FRONT WINDOW, watching Cassie walk to her car. Melissa walks up beside her.

MELISSA
What do you think?

Faye doesn't answer. Just keeps watching Cassie.

EXT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cassie approaches her car. BEEPS the lock. Gets inside.

INSIDE THE CAR

She starts the engine when -- it just turns over. She tries it again. Nothing. Then again. This time something SPARKS. Under the hood. Then--

SMOKE BEGINS to blow out her AC VENTS. What the...?

CONTINUED:

Cassie reaches for the door. When the CAR'S DOORS LOCK BY THEMSELVES.

Suddenly, FLAMES IGNITE from under the hood. They seep out, rising up. Instant fear. Cassie loses it, begins to panic.

INT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

Faye is at the window, quietly watching, whispering...

FAYE

Put it out, put it out...

EXT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The hood of Cassie's car is completely engulfed in flames. Others have taken notice. Patrons come racing out of the tavern. A WOMAN yells --

WOMAN

Oh my God!!! Help!!!

INT. CASSIE'S CAR - NIGHT

Cassie BEATS and KICKS on the door. Why won't it unlock? She's freaking out. COUGHING. CHOKING. The inside of the car is full of smoke. She can't breathe. Pure horror...

A YOUNG MAN appears at the window. He's there to help her. As he pulls on the locked car door, he directs a RAISED HAND at the FLAMES, which seem to recede.

It all happens very fast, but as the Young Man stares INTENSELY at the car, the doors UNLOCK. Quickly, he rips the door open and pulls Cassie from the car.

He takes her in his arms and carries her several feet from the car and lays her down on the ground where Cassie's COUGHING subsides. Her eyes flutter open and she stares into her savior's face.

Handsome. Square jaw. Sexy dimple. Million dollar smile.

YOUNG MAN

Are you okay?

Off Cassie -- as she contemplates her answer.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - PARKING LOT - FEW MINUTES LATER

The car is no longer on fire. Some lingering smoke.

A CROWD surrounds Cassie. The handsome guy who saved her is still there too. ADAM CONANT, 19. Cassie tries to stand. Diana is there.

ADAM
Let me help you.

DIANA
Are you okay?

He takes her, helps her up. She's taken with this guy.

CASSIE
Thank you. I don't know what happened.

ADAM
Your car caught on fire.

CASSIE
I got that part.

Diana looks to FAYE and MELISSA who hang back from the crowd with DOUG and NICK. She's really unhappy with them. Admonishing them with her stare.

DIANA
Your engine must have gone kaput.

CASSIE
But the doors wouldn't open.

ADAM
Maybe you panicked and locked the doors when you were trying to unlock them.

CASSIE
No. They wouldn't open. And who put the fire out?

DIANA
It went out by itself. Thank God you're okay. But at least you met Adam.

Cassie looks at Adam. Smiles. Hi.

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Diana told me about you.

DIANA

Adam's my boyfriend.

Oh. Not what she wanted to hear. Cassie visibly deflates.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Diana's car pulls up in front of Cassie's house.

INT. DIANA'S CAR - NIGHT

Cassie is still a little shaken. She reaches for the door.

DIANA

I'm sorry about your car.

CASSIE

I just don't understand it.

DIANA

Maybe the mechanic will have an answer.

Cassie starts to get out when--

DIANA (CONT'D)

I know what it's like, Cassie. To lose your mom. Or at least what it's like to grow up not having one.

Cassie turns to her. Listens.

DIANA (CONT'D)

My mom died when I was little. I never even knew her.

CASSIE

What happened?

DIANA

It's a long story, but I'll tell ya sometime, just know...

(beat)

you're not alone here in New Salem.

Beat. As Cassie lets this sink in.

CASSIE

Thanks for the ride, Diana.

CONTINUED:

Cassie gets out and starts for the house.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cassie is filling Jane in on the events of the evening.

JANE

And the car just caught fire?

CASSIE

When I turned the ignition.

JANE

Maybe you blew the engine on the drive from Florida?

CASSIE

Maybe. Maybe, I'm losing my mind. The whole night was weird. The kids here. I'm not used to the small town groove yet.

JANE

Well, tomorrow's a new day.

Cassie nods. Starts for the foyer but turns.

CASSIE

Grandma, do you know my father?

This makes Jane stop in her tracks. She looks at Cassie.

JANE

Why would you ask that?

CASSIE

It's been on my mind, that's all. Mom said she didn't know him. She claimed it was one night and a bottle of tequila. Which is fine. I can accept that.

JANE

Better than I can.

Cassie tries not to tear up. But this is emotional stuff.

CASSIE

I can also accept she was lying. For whatever reasons. So if you know who he might be--

CONTINUED:

JANE

Oh honey...

CASSIE

You could tell me. I can take it.

JANE

Your mother never told me who he was, Cassie. I'm sorry.

Cassie nods. Appreciates her Grandmother's honesty.

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

MUSIC PLAYS. As TWO NAKED BODIES go at it, heatedly. They reach their moment and collapse onto each other. Beat. Then, the guy rolls out of bed. REVEAL NICK.

NICK

Not bad. I give it a 7. There was a lack of focus in your key moves.

FAYE

I give it a 6. You meandered.

NICK

I'm getting points deducted for stamina? There's a first.

Nick pulls on his shorts. Goes to the window.

FAYE

Can you see her over there?

NICK

Nope.

But Nick is lying. NICK'S POV -- he can see directly into Cassie's bedroom. He watches as she emerges from the bathroom, wearing just a towel.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie emerges from the bathroom. She's just showered. She has a towel wrapped around her as she brushes her hair. She moves about her room when she sees her CURTAINS are open. She goes to them. Sees Nick watching her.

Cassie pulls the DRAPES closed but not before giving Nick a "fuck off" look.

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Nick smiles at Cassie's dissing. Appreciates it.

NICK
You should be more careful with
her.

FAYE
Oh please... you sound like Diana.

NICK
Diana's not wrong. She's one of
us, Faye.

FAYE
Diana does things her way, I do
things mine. Anyway, from what I
saw tonight, Cassie's a waste of
time.

Nick doesn't agree. He continues to stare out the window.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cassie digs through a drawer and finds a tee shirt. She
drops her towel and pulls it on, then turns to find--

THE CURTAINS ARE OPEN AGAIN.

CASSIE FREEZES. As a chill races down her spine. But... how?
She races to the window. Sees Nick still staring. It's
beyond eerie. She pulls the DRAPES CLOSED again. Confused.
Did she close them? That moment of rational debate.

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT- CONTINUOUS

Now, Nick turns away from the window. He smiles at Faye.

NICK
How about I give you a chance to
beat our score?

FAYE
Why don't you practice by yourself.

As Faye gets up, dresses to leave.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie goes to her bed. It's been a very bizarre and weird
day.

CONTINUED:

A brief moment as she stares at her MOM'S PHOTO on the night stand. She CLICKS off the lamp and crawls under the covers.

She lies flat, staring up at the ceiling. There's something lost and pained about her face. As she stares at the GLOW-IN-THE-DARK-STARS above her. She begins to HUM her mother's MELODY when--

THE STARS BEGIN TO MOVE -- EMERGE MORE PROMINENTLY.

Cassie audibly GASPS. She stops HUMMING. The stars stop moving. Upon realizing--

She begins to HUM again. The stars begin to move again. Or is it an illusion? Cassie can't tell. Not sure she's seeing what she thinks she's seeing. She continues to HUM... nervously... curiously...

THE STARS BEGIN TO FORM A PATTERN. It's a SYMBOL. She stares at it long and hard.

Then, suddenly, she leaps up. Turns on the side lamp. She gets out of bed and goes to the fire place where she sees the SAME SYMBOL etched in stone.

She touches it. Presses on it. It moves slightly. She pulls on it. The stone moves. Cassie pulls harder, removing it from the fire place to find--

A secret hiding place. She reaches in and pulls out a VERY OLD BOUND BOOK. Verging on ancient. It's crammed full of papers, hand-written notes, drawings, pictures, etc. A record of the last three hundred plus years.

On its cover it says -- BLAKE.

CLOSE ON THE BOOK -- certain words and phrases are seen.

Spells... Potions... Herbs... Witchcraft...

Off Cassie's stunned expression--

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Shafts of sunlight stream through Cassie's window. As she sits on the bed with her FAMILY'S BOOK. Her face a mix of curiosity and disbelief.

CLOSE ON THE BOOK -- page after page of spells. Mostly handwritten. She comes across a picture of her mom and a MAN. She studies it. The face is familiar. (Ethan)

She sees writing -- THE CIRCLE, then names after it. John Conant, Rebecca Meade, Mavis Chamberlain, etc.

She continues to peruse the book, fascinated.

EXT. FISHERMAN'S WHARF - MORNING

The center of the town. Where the town dock and boardwalk, and marina create the heart of the town.

A CELEBRATION is in the works. A tent is being erected. A small stage built. A small town fair. A sign reads LOBSTER FESTIVAL. A yearly event.

Faye and Melissa are exiting the coffee shop with their caffeine fix when Diana approaches.

DIANA

What was up with that little stunt last night?

MELISSA

Hi, Diana. Nice to see you too.

FAYE

Why do you just assume I was the one who did it?

MELISSA

Yeah, how do you know it wasn't me?

Faye rolls her eyes.

FAYE

Because you can't flat iron your own hair.

DIANA

(to Faye)
Did you do it?

CONTINUED:

Faye shrugs and smiles. Kind of smugly.

DIANA (CONT'D)

It was stupid and reckless.

FAYE

We all wanted to know, Diana. I cut to the chase. What's the big deal? No one got hurt. That's the rule, right?

DIANA

The rule is we don't act alone. We don't do anything that could risk exposure.

FAYE

That's a lot to remember.

She's fucking with Diana who's not amused.

DIANA

Are we going to have a problem?

FAYE

We've had a problem since the third grade, why stop now?

DIANA

We all made a pact and if you break the pact--

FAYE

What Diana? If I break the pact-- what are you going to do?

Faye and Diana face off. It's intense.

DIANA

Don't push it, Faye.

Off Faye as Diana walks off.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Cassie enters the kitchen. Looks around. Sees a note on the fridge. AT MARINA. JOIN ME. With a smiley face.

Cassie opens her MOM'S BOOK. Reads from it.

CASSIE

(reading)

Spell... let's see... boil water.

CONTINUED:

Cassie has a sense of humor about this. As she finds a small sauce pot. She fills it with water and sits it on the stove.

She reads more --

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Water... Fire...

Cassie grabs some matches from the stove and lights one. She holds it in her hand as she recites from the book.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
(reading)
Lazerth, ointe, sette, foah...

Cassie repeats this several times, eyeing the water. But nothing happens to it. The match burns to her fingers. She drops it. Lights another. She tries it again. But still nothing. Beat.

Finally, she laughs at herself. She can't believe she's actually trying to boil water. She blows the match out, grabs the book, turns to exit when she sees...

Dirty dishes in the sink. And then -- Cassie's eyes widen to discover a glass of water -- SIZZLING. She reaches down to touch it. But she already knows -- it's boiling hot.

Cassie GASPS, shaken. A long, sustained moment. Then Cassie grabs the book and races out.

INT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - DAY

Cassie enters the empty tavern, looks around. Sees no one. They're not open yet. She hears a NOISE in the back.

CASSIE
Hello?

She ventures to the back of the bar. Sees a swinging door. Does she dare? But before she can decide --

IT BURSTS OPEN. Cassie jumps. As ETHAN CONANT, plows through. Rugged and worn. Adam's dad-- the man who was staring at Cassie last night. He's drunk. And it's early in the day. That sums him up.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I was looking for
someone.

Ethan stares at her a moment. As if he's seen a ghost.

CONTINUED:

ETHAN

My god, girl. You look just like her.

CASSIE

I'm sorry?

ETHAN

Amelia. I can see her in you.

Cassie begins to put it together.

CASSIE

Did you know my mother?

Beat. As Ethan nods, full of regret.

ETHAN

Yes, I knew her.

Ethan heads behind the bar, to pour himself a drink. Cassie turns to him, wanting to know more.

CASSIE

You were friends?

Ethan looks at her. How should he answer? And then--

ETHAN

That's one way to put it.

(then)

I loved your mother very much.

Before Cassie can ask anything else -- Adam enters from the back, carrying cases of beer. He sees Cassie.

ADAM

Hey, Cassie? What's up?

CASSIE

I didn't see my car outside...

ADAM

Your grandma came by earlier, had it towed to the station.

Oh. Cassie nods. That explains it.

ETHAN

She's pretty, son. And I sense a big heart. Just like Amelia.

(to Cassie)

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Your mom and me were meant to be together--

ADAM

Okay, dad, you're talking too much. We gotta open soon. Why don't you go clean up?

Ethan eyes Cassie, intently. Adam helps him through the swinging door. Adam looks to Cassie, apologetic.

CASSIE

It was nice to meet you, sir.

ADAM

Sorry about that.

CASSIE

It's okay.

Silence. An awkward tension. It's felt by both.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Do you know where Diana is?

ADAM

Did you check the wharf? The Festival's today.

Cassie nods. Cassie starts out but stops--

CASSIE

Question. My car last night? How did the fire go out?

ADAM

It just went out.

CASSIE

You looked at it and it went out.

ADAM

I looked at it when it went out.

CASSIE

And how did the doors unlock?

ADAM

I dunno. How did they lock in the first place?

CASSIE

Got it. Thanks.

CONTINUED: (3)

An annoyed Cassie starts out. But now Adam stops her.

ADAM
What do you think happened?

Cassie turns back -- challenging.

CASSIE
Gee, I don't know. A shot in the
dark. Witchcraft? Seeya later.

Cassie exits to great effect. It catches Adam off guard. He
races after her.

EXT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Adam chases Cassie out the door.

ADAM
Whoa, whoa, whoa... why would you
say that?

CASSIE
Why would you chase me out the door
after I said it? I can play this
game all day.

ADAM
I just wanna know why you would go
there.

Cassie stops. Turns to him. She's done talking in circles.

CASSIE
And I just wanna know why you're
not being straight with me.

Beat. As Adam studies her face.

ADAM
What is it you think you know?

Finally, Cassie unleashes.

CASSIE
The car last night... and other
things. Something is going on
around here.

Adam's not sure how to respond. Cassie digs in her bag and
pulls out her MOTHER'S BOOK.

CONTINUED:

CASSIE (CONT'D)

I found a book that belonged to my mom. About witchcraft. A spell book. She wrote about a secret circle. Listed their family names. Conant, that would be you. Meade, that would be Diana, and Faye's family and Melissa...

Adam grabs the book, covers it up, looks around, makes sure no one is watching. They're alone. He hands it back to her.

ADAM

Put it away. Before someone sees it.

He's deadly serious. Cassie's tough wall comes down. She's at a loss. This is all too real for her.

CASSIE

Please. I don't understand.

Adam sees her fear. How confused she is.

ADAM

Okay, but not here.

He starts off, motioning for her to follow him.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Adam leads Cassie down a path in the forest. Rich and lush. The sun breaks perfectly through the trees, bathing them in shafts of light.

CASSIE

Where are we going?

ADAM

Is everything a question with you?

CASSIE

Around questionable people.

ADAM

Here we are.

He leads her to a small clearing.

CASSIE

What's special about this place?

CONTINUED:

ADAM

It's in the center of the forest.
Nature is important to us.

CASSIE

Us? Are you going to start talking
in creepy "we" speak? Like a cult?

He smiles. Understands her trepidation.

ADAM

Seven families escaped Salem in
1692, they relocated here. In New
Salem, Maine. Your family was one
of them.

CASSIE

The Salem witch trials.

ADAM

The practice of witchcraft was
passed down through the years.

CASSIE

You're saying I'm a witch. My mom
was a witch.

ADAM

Crazy, huh?

CASSIE

Oh yeah.

ADAM

We just try to keep a straight face
about it all.

CASSIE

A real witch?

ADAM

Yep.

CASSIE

Diana, Faye, Melissa...

ADAM

There're six of us. You would be
seven.

Cassie catches his implication.

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM (CONT'D)

But we have to keep it secret, Cassie. It's forbidden. Things got out of hand in the past and the families decided to abolish all witchcraft. They feared modern times. Discovery. Persecution. Hurting others, themselves. That's why you can't tell anyone, Cassie. Not your grandmother, friends, no one can know about us.

CASSIE

Who would believe me? I don't believe it.

ADAM

Sure you do.

CASSIE

No, I don't.

Adam smiles. Knows better.

ADAM

Yes, you do. You're already awakening. Inside. You feel it.

Cassie goes silent. Yes, she senses something.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Come here. It's okay. Don't be afraid.

She joins him in the center of the field. Where he has picked up a leaf. He opens her palms and SETS DOWN THE LEAF. There's water in it and he's careful not to spill any.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Close your eyes.

(she does)

Concentrate on how your hand connects with the leaf, then how the leaf connects with the water.

She tries.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Say "a drop of water, as light as air" and keep repeating it.

CASSIE

Shouldn't it rhyme or something?

CONTINUED: (3)

ADAM

It's a way to get your brain
focused on what you're trying to
do. But yes, sometimes it's easier
to remember if it rhymes. Try it.

She closes her eyes again.

CASSIE

A drop of water, as light as air.
A drop of water, as light as air.
(beat)
I can't feel anything.

He puts his hands under hers. She can feel his warmth.

ADAM

Can you feel tingling where my hand
is touching yours? It's your
energy connecting to mine.

Cassie lets his words sink in. She concentrates on what
she's actually feeling. She begins to FEEL SOMETHING.

ADAM (CONT'D)

A drop of water, as light as air...

CASSIE/ADAM

A drop of water, as light as air.

Their voices melt into each other. Their bodies draw closer
together. The INTIMACY BETWEEN THEM IS INTENSE. Incredibly,
the WATER IN THE LEAF BEGINS TO RISE IN THE AIR.

ADAM

Open your eyes.

She does. And is AWESTRUCK WHEN SHE SEES THE WATER. She
looks at Adam. They LOCK EYES and the rest of the world
becomes a blur.

Then all around them, HUNDREDS OF WATER DROPS START TO RISE
IN THE AIR. From the tops of branches and rocks, tree tops
and grass. LIKE FLOATING DIAMONDS, they reflect the orange
and red light from the sun. It's like Cassie and Adam are in
a CRYSTAL FOREST. It's breathtaking.

CASSIE'S STUNNED. Her expression is full of wonder. Tears
well up in her eyes. It could quite possibly be the most
beautiful thing she's ever seen.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Deep in the woods -- sits a huge abandoned house. Decaying. Overgrown yard. Ominous. Adam leads Cassie up the steps.

CASSIE
You're kidding me, right? You think I'm going in there?

ADAM
It just looks creepy. We usually meet during the day... since there's no electricity.

CASSIE
There's no lights?

ADAM
Just rats and snakes.

Cassie heads the head other way. He stops her, LAUGHS.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I'm joking.

She can't help but smile.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I like that. Keep smiling.

CASSIE
Why?

ADAM
It's important to keep this all balanced. With some humor. It can get overwhelming sometimes.
(then)
And you have a nice smile.

Beat. They look at each other. They have a connection. It's innocent... but it's there.

ADAM (CONT'D)
C'mon, they're waiting for us.

He leads her up the porch steps.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Candles have been lit. They illuminate the surroundings. Peeling wallpaper, torn furniture, dust and such...

Adam and Cassie enter and start up the staircase.

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM -NIGHT

A large room. With high arched ceilings. Broken windows.

Candles are everywhere. Cassie and Adam enter to find --

Faye and Melissa. Nick and Doug are outside, on a veranda, smoking a joint.

ADAM

You know Melissa and Faye...

CASSIE

Hi.

FAYE

(to Adam, suggestive)

I'm impressed. I couldn't get a rise with a burning car, what did you do? Wait, let me guess...

Cassie reacts. Faye *made* the fire happen?

DIANA (O.C.)

Cassie came to it on her own. She found her mother's Book of Shadows.

Both Melissa and Faye are shocked by the statement.

Cassie turns to see Diana enter. She smiles at Cassie. A warm, comforting smile.

DIANA (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're here.

MELISSA

Can I see it?

Cassie withdraws the book. Melissa takes it and feverishly looks through it. Faye eyes it too. Adam explains.

ADAM

Our families hid them from us. So we wouldn't know who we are.

CONTINUED:

Cassie doesn't like how Melissa is handling her mom's book. She takes it from her.

MELISSA

Diana's the only one who has one.

FAYE

Not anymore.

The pleasure she gets from this new reality isn't lost on Diana. Adam breaks the moment. Gives Diana a kiss.

ADAM

Thanks for calling everyone. I wasn't sure what to do.

Diana understands. Cassie looks around. Sees herbs and pots and all sorts of objects. It's unsettling.

CASSIE

What goes on here? Is this where you practice black magic?

DIANA

It's not like that.

FAYE

No, Diana has lots of rules to make things less fun. More wholesome.

DIANA

Faye--

Doug and Nick enter from the deck -- they eye Cassie. Doug walks straight over to Cassie. Introduces himself.

DOUG

Hi, I'm Doug, we haven't met.

NICK

Cassie. Always a pleasure to see you.

He gives her a knowing look. It makes her uncomfortable. She backs away. Looks to Diana, then Adam.

CASSIE

Listen, I'm sorry for getting you all out here, but I don't think this is for me. I'm not really into groups. Glee clubs, magic covens, any of them.

CONTINUED: (2)

FAYE

Get over it. You've been signed up for this since before you were born. This is who you are.

CASSIE

Setting people on fire? I don't think so. My mother left here and I'm starting to guess it's because she wanted no part of this.

DIANA

What Faye did was a mistake.

She glares at Faye. Silently demanding an apology.

FAYE

I meant it as a gentle nudge... But may have gotten carried away.

It's not much of an apology. And Cassie doesn't accept it. Diana tries to answer her fears. Carefully.

DIANA

Your mom... with the rest of our parents... took things too far. That's not going to happen with us. We're careful. We're still learning and we're taking things slowly.

ADAM

We use magic to help each other.

DOUG

Last year I was a third string quarterback on a losing team. This season I've led us to an 11-1 record.

NICK

If only we knew the ego we were about to create--

MELISSA

I got a B in Chemistry. Which I failed first semester.

CASSIE

You do magic to cheat at school?

CONTINUED: (3)

DIANA

No cheating, stealing or hurting others--

FAYE

Those are just some of the rules. Diana will carve them into tablets for you--

DIANA

We blended a spell to help Melissa open her mind to chemistry and understand it.

ADAM

We found a spell that would help enhance Doug's natural ability in sports.

DIANA

We use our craft to help each other be the best that we can be.

FAYE

But the more of us there are, the more powerful the spells.

MELISSA

In the old days circles had one member from each of the original seven families.

FAYE

You're our magic number seven.

DOUG

You joining might really help us step up our game.

They all look at her, expectantly. It's too overwhelming.

CASSIE

Sorry. You've got the wrong girl.

ADAM

In the forest... That's who you are. I saw it. We both did.

DIANA

No, it's okay. Take your time. Think about it. We're here for you, Cassie. We're your friends.

CONTINUED: (4)

CASSIE

If you're worried I'm gonna tell.
I won't. I'll keep your secret,
but I don't want any part of it.

And with that Cassie takes her FAMILY BOOK and exits. Adam looks to Diana. Faye simmers.

EXT. THE WHARF/MAIN STREET - NIGHT

The Festival is underway. The entire town of New Salem has turned out for it. PEOPLE line the streets and sidewalks. Lights have been strung from building to building.

Carnival games and food stands line the wharf as PEOPLE dance in the street to a LIVE BAND.

EXT. WHARF - FESTIVAL - NIGHT

Vice-Principal Dawn Chamberlain is manning the CLAM CHOWDER TENT when Jane Blake approaches.

JANE

Hello, Dawn.

DAWN

Jane. How are you?

JANE

A little concerned, actually.

Dawn moves closer. So they can talk privately.

JANE (CONT'D)

It's Cassie. Her car caught fire last night.

Dawn pauses upon hearing this. It's news to her.

DAWN

Is she okay?

JANE

She's fine. It's what caused the fire I'm concerned about.

DAWN

What did?

JANE

We don't know.

(beat)

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JANE (CONT'D)

I seem to recall a similar thing happening years ago. Some teenagers having fun. You included.

Dawn sees where she's going with this.

JANE (CONT'D)

Are the children practicing?

Dawn's face falls some.

DAWN

It's impossible. They don't even know the history. It's too buried.

JANE

They're teenagers, Dawn. You better than anyone, would know how resourceful they can be.

Dawn takes this extremely serious.

DAWN

I'm the Vice Principal, I'm around these kids every day. If they were practicing, I would know.

JANE

Would you? Maybe, we've gotten too lax. It is conceivable. They could be doing it in secret.

DAWN

How would they know what to do? They wouldn't even know where to start.

JANE

Cassie's an innocent. Amelia told her nothing. I want to keep it that way.

DAWN

I'll keep my eyes open, but it's not possible. I assure you.

But Dawn can't help but be suspicious. She shares Jane's concern.

EXT. STREET DANCE - NIGHT

The road has been blocked off for a street dance. A band plays. As a crowd dances and parties under the stars.

Through the crowd, the CIRCLE appears. Diana, Adam, Faye, Melissa, Nick, Doug -- they lock eyes on Cassie who is walking through the sights with Jane.

EXT. WHARF - ARTS TENT - NIGHT

Cassie and Jane.

JANE

So what do you think of our town?
Are you making friends?

CASSIE

A few. It takes time.

JANE

If I leave early will you be okay?

Cassie smiles. Of course, she can. Just then, Faye comes up behind Cassie and steals her away.

FAYE

She's in good hands, Mrs. Blake.
I'll get her home safely.

Faye pulls Cassie away, playfully.

EXT. BOARDWALK - NIGHT

Adam steals Diana away from the others for a private moment.

DIANA

Where are we going?

ADAM

There's something I need to tell
you.

Diana eyes him. Yes?

ADAM (CONT'D)

In the woods. When I showed Cassie
the spell. I felt her energy.

DIANA

And?

CONTINUED:

ADAM

She's different, Diana. Stronger.
Unlike anything I've felt. There's
something special about her.

DIANA

What do you mean?

ADAM

I don't know what I mean. I just
thought I should tell you.

Diana nods, of course. But it only confuses her.

EXT. GAME TENTS - FESTIVAL - NIGHT

At the FOOTBALL TOSS, Nick and Doug toss balls. Melissa, Faye, and Cassie watch. Doug keeps winning. Finally, Nick steps aside. He sidles up next to Cassie, all friendly.

NICK

I get your resistance, Cassie. I
hold the loner crown. But this
little group works for me. And I
don't even like 'em.

(smiles, then)

You don't wanna be in it alone.

Faye pulls Cassie away. Enough.

FAYE

Way to sell it. There's a car
dealership in your future.

(to Cassie)

Let's just have some fun.

Faye leads Cassie off alone. They stop and peruse a stand of
HAND CRAFTED JEWELRY. Faye places several pieces on Cassie.

FAYE (CONT'D)

Dreck. Dreck. This too. Arts and
crafts should be outlawed.

They LAUGH. Faye is being her most "endearing" self.

CASSIE

I know what you guys are doing.

FAYE

Is it working?

CASSIE

Maybe... a little.

CONTINUED:

FAYE
The night's young.

Cassie holds up a bulky turquoise necklace.

CASSIE
What about this?

FAYE
If you're going for hideous.

SALLY (V.O.)
I made that one.

They turn to find Sally behind them. Stone-faced. It's her booth. Cassie removes it, doesn't want to be rude.

CASSIE
Hi, Sally. It's nice, just too big
for my neck.

FAYE
It's okay, Cassie, she knows it's
ugly. It's obvious, right?

SALLY
I had you in mind when I made it.

FAYE
Ouch. Almost.

Faye walks away, tugs at Cassie to join her. Who does so, apologetically. They move through the crowd, coming upon--

Diana and Adam -- and an OLDER MAN who is now with them.

DIANA
Hey, there you are. I want you to
meet my Dad.

Diana's father, THOMAS MEADE, 40, greets Cassie.

THOMAS
Hi, Cassie, welcome to New Salem.

Thomas is an attractive man. With piercing blue eyes. Pale skin. Eerie beautiful. He looks extremely familiar. But not to Cassie. She has no idea THIS IS THE MAN WHO KILLED HER MOTHER.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. WHARF - NIGHT

Right where we left off. Diana's father.

THOMAS

Are you kids having fun? How about you, Cassie? Are they treating you okay?

CASSIE

Yes, sir.

THOMAS

And I'm sorry about your loss. I knew your mom growing up. She was a great woman.

CASSIE

Thank you, Mr. Meade.

THOMAS

You kids stay out of trouble.

Diana's father walks off into the crowd. Cassie turns to the others -- says her good-byes.

CASSIE

Well, I think I'm gonna go. Seeya around, guys.

DIANA

I'll give you a ride.

CASSIE

It's okay, I can get home.

Cassie walks away. Faye looks at Diana.

FAYE

Well, you handled that well.

Faye walks off.

EXT. WHARF - FESTIVAL - NIGHT

Faye pushes through the crowd when Nick approaches.

NICK

Hey, wanna get drunk?

CONTINUED:

FAYE

Go away.

NICK

Why are you so angry?

FAYE

Disgruntled youth. No father figure, domineering mother, bad sex life, take your pick.

NICK

Thanks for getting me in there.

FAYE

Anytime.

Faye turns to go and CRASHES into Sally.

SALLY

Excuse you.

Sally's a little snotty for Faye's taste. Sally walks on. Faye turns and watches her go, quietly WHISPERING something to herself. It's inaudible.

ON SALLY as she moves through the crowd. Suddenly, a WOMAN BUMPS into her. Then, a MAN does the same thing.

WOMAN

Excuse you.

MAN

Excuse you.

Then, a TEENAGED BOY does it. Then, a SMALL GIRL. It happens repeatedly as Sally makes her way all the way through the crowd. Faye can't help but smile. Until she sees Diana watching her.

Their eye lock says it all. Finally, Faye turns and walks away. But Diana catches up to her.

DIANA

Are you just asking to get found out?

FAYE

Screw you.

DIANA

I'm done. You're out.

CONTINUED: (2)

FAYE
You can't kick me out.

DIANA
I just did.

FAYE
You don't own the circle.

Diana starts to walk past her, but Faye blocks her.

DIANA
You don't want to pick a fight with me, Faye. I'm stronger than you.

FAYE
Why? Because you have a precious Book of Shadows? Well, I've been practicing, Diana, on my own. You'd be surprised at what I can do.

DIANA
You're out of control.

FAYE
You haven't seen out of control.

Faye turns and marches off. Diana stares after her, worried. Slowly, the CAMERA RACKS FOCUS to REVEAL Dawn Chamberlain watching from a distance. Suspicious of what just transpired.

EXT. FESTIVAL - BEER BUST - NIGHT

There's a beer tent where the adults hang and drink. Cassie walks around it, to avoid the crowd when a FIGURE STUMBLES from behind the tent. It's Ethan (Adam's Dad). Cassie jumps, startled.

CASSIE
Hey, Mr. Conant.

He looks at her drunkenly, stumbling some more.

ETHAN
It's... Amelia's girl.

Cassie nods.

CASSIE
Hi, Mr. Conant. You okay?

CONTINUED:

ETHAN

I haven't been okay in many years.
Not since I lost your mother.

CASSIE

What do you mean?

Ethan gets lost in a drunken memory. As he talks THOMAS MEADE appears behind Cassie -- he OVERHEARS Ethan.

ETHAN

Our families are aligned in the
stars. We were meant to love each
other. Just like you and Adam...

Cassie pauses. She's not sure she heard correctly.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

But then your father came along...
just swept her off her feet.

CASSIE

You knew my father?

Ethan bends down, reaches for his drink.

ETHAN

Oh yeah, I knew your father--

THOMAS

Evening, Ethan.

Thomas quickly injects himself.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You need some help home?

ETHAN

I can get there, Tommy.

He waves Thomas off and starts out. Cassie doesn't want him to go but also knows he's extremely drunk.

CASSIE

I'll see you soon, Mr. Conant.

Ethan MUMBLES as he disappears. Thomas looks at Cassie.

THOMAS

That man can sure drink.

EXT. TOWN DOCK - NIGHT

Faye moves down to the end of the dock. She looks out at the dark horizon. She looks up to the sky.

FAYE

Please sky, quench my thirst.
Please sky, quench my thirst.

Faye stands there, CHANTING...

As RAINDROPS begin to hit the water around the dock.

As CLOUDS FORM IN THE SKY ABOVE. In moments, a light shower becomes a steady pour of rain.

Faye OPENS HER EYES and looks around. Stunned by her own power.

EXT. WHARF - FESTIVAL - NIGHT

As it begins to RAIN DOWN on the Festival. Everyone begins to run for cover. It's a full on DOWN POUR.

Cassie races for cover when she looks to the water -- sees Faye standing at the end of the dock -- in a trance.

EXT. WHARF - NIGHT

As PEOPLE duck for cover, Diana comes upon Adam.

ADAM

What's going on?

DIANA

I don't know.

Off their worried faces--

EXT. TOWN DOCK - NIGHT

Cassie races down the dock, shielding herself from the rain. She reaches Faye -- she's almost trance-like. Cassie begins to realize what's happening. It frightens her.

CASSIE

Faye... Faye...
(beat)
Are you doing this?

Faye turns to Cassie -- full of wonder and disbelief. She smiles. *Yes, I am.* This frightens Cassie.

CONTINUED:

FAYE

Don't be afraid. It's beautiful.
Here. Gimme your hand.

Faye GRABS Cassie's hand. Cassie can't help but feel the energy move through her.

A CRACKLING OF THUNDER. Followed by LIGHTNING illuminating the sky. Both girls watch in amazement -- as the rain pours down, drenching them.

ON THE HORIZON

Lightning STRIKES DOWN in the distance. Both beautiful and frightening.

Cassie gets scared -- she tries to break her grip but Faye holds her close.

Just then, Diana battles the rain and races down the dock.

DIANA

Faye -- stop it.

Diana grabs Faye -- shakes her.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Stop it.

Faye looks at her--

Suddenly, a BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRIKES A BOAT TIED TO THE DOCK.

It CRACKS the mast -- it comes SMASHING DOWN ON THE DOCK.

RIGHT AT DIANA -- KNOCKING HER INTO THE WATER.

Cassie SCREAMS, pulling away from Faye -- breaking her from her spell. She goes for Diana -- but Adam is there. He dives in and quickly helps Diana to the docks.

As Faye SNAPS out of her spell, terrified at what she's done.

OFF CASSIE -- even more so.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. WHARF - FESTIVAL - NIGHT

The RAIN has subsided. And so has the Festival. The CROWD has thinned out. The MUSIC has stopped.

Cassie and Adam sit with a wet and shivering Diana.

CASSIE

Are you going to be okay?

Faye approaches, hesitantly. Tears in her eyes.

FAYE

I'm sorry, Diana. I would never hurt you.

Diana cuts her a look of raw anger.

FAYE (CONT'D)

I don't know what happened. It got out of control. I touched Cassie. The energy got too big.

Adam cuts a look at Diana. Cassie?

DIANA

Let's talk about this tomorrow. I just wanna get home.

Adam helps her up.

ADAM

C'mon, I'll take you.

They all gather to leave, except Faye -- she's unable to move. She's too full of regret.

INT. BOATHOUSE BAR & GRILL - LATE NIGHT

The tavern is empty. Dark. The party is long over. Just the drunken form of Ethan Conant as he reaches for his drink. He has trouble steadying it in his hands.

Behind him, the door opens. A FIGURE APPEARS. Ethan turns.

ETHAN

We're closed.

But then, THOMAS MEADE comes into view. Beat.

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

We have a problem, Ethan. You're ruining things for me.

ETHAN

Huh? What?

A drunken Ethan stares at him, confused.

THOMAS

You drink too much, which makes you talk too much. And I can't have that.

ETHAN

What the hell you doing here?

THOMAS

What would happen if you slipped and fell off that dock outside? You would drown. No one would find your body for days.

Ethan stares at him.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You know what drowning is like? That feeling of not being able to breathe... grasping for air...

Ethan begins to GAG... COUGH... CHOKE... he can no longer breathe. He falls over, unable to find air. Just then, he COUGHS UP WATER... it pours from his mouth.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You panic as your lungs fill up with water. It's a horrible death.

Thomas has spelled Ethan. He's DROWNING. Ethan's eyes roll back, he falls back against the bar. Thomas watches as Ethan takes his last breath. His eyes as cold as death.

EXT. JANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jane's house looks peaceful in the moonlight.

INT. JANE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cassie enters to find Jane sleeping on the couch. She pauses for a beat, wanting to wake her grandmother, talk to her, ask her advice...

CONTINUED:

But she can't. She made a promise. Cassie turns and goes up the stairs.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie enters her room, drops her backpack on the bed.

She slides the Book of Shadows from her backpack, then looks up to find Nick at his window.

Nick holds a piece of paper up to the window. Cassie walks over to read: "R U OK?"

A beat as Nick and Cassie look at each other. Touched, Cassie nods. She's okay. Nick smiles quietly, moves away from the window.

A beat, then Cassie returns to the Book of Shadows. It's time to return it to its hiding place. She moves to the fireplace, then glances over her shoulder to the window.

The drape is closed. Cassie smiles.

She removes the tile on the fireplace, revealing the hidden compartment. As she puts the Book of Shadows away, her hand settles on a SMALL ENVELOPE tucked at the back of the compartment.

She pulls it out, sees "Cassie" written in her mother's handwriting.

AS Cassie stares at the envelope--

INT. CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

Dawn puts a kettle on the stove, reaches for the knob to turn on the gas burner.

But before she can even touch it, the BURNER FLAMES TO LIFE.

Instead of reacting with fear, Dawn just turns... to find Thomas, standing behind her.

DAWN

You and your tricks.

THOMAS

They come in handy.

DAWN

Ethan?

CONTINUED:

THOMAS

Taken care of.

DAWN

Good. We were right to bring her here. She's got the gift.

THOMAS

(yes, she does)
She's her father's daughter.

DAWN

Unfortunately, she's her mother's daughter too.

THOMAS

Are you sure you can get Cassie to do what we need?

DAWN

I don't have to get her to do a thing.

(beat)

The Circle will take care of everything... without even knowing it.

OFF Dawn and Thomas, plotting--

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie sits on her bed, her mother's letter on her lap.

AMELIA (V.O.)

My sweet Cassie. You finding this means I'm gone and for that I am so sorry. I didn't want you to have this life. I didn't want it for myself either, but destiny's not easy to avoid...

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Adam is parked in front of Diana's house. They're kissing good-night. Beat. As Diana gets a TEXT MESSAGE.

DIANA

It's Cassie.

AMELIA (V.O.)

I thought keeping you in the dark would keep you safe, but all I've done is left you unprotected...

EXT. DOCK - NIGHT

Faye stands at the dock where Diana was hit. Still stunned by the havoc she unleashed. She gets a TEXT MESSAGE.

AMELIA (V.O.)
As daunting as the truth may be,
hiding from it is far more
dangerous.

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nick finishes rolling a joint. He goes to light it when he gets a TEXT MESSAGE.

AMELIA (V.O.)
You have incredible power inside
you. I wish I'd helped you
discover it.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A camp fire BURNS in the night. The surf rages in the distance. FIGURES comes into view. Melissa, Doug, Nick, Adam, Faye, Diana -- they take their place around the fire.

AMELIA (V.O.)
I hope you find someone who can.

As they begin to CHANT...

ALL
*Take the flame into the night, take
the flame into the night...*

Over and over again -- until the FLAMES of the campfire EXPLODE into the sky -- at least twenty feet.

The FLICKERING FLAMES illuminate their surprised faces. CASSIE APPEARS on the edge of the circle.

AMELIA (V.O.)
I ran. Don't make the same
mistake. Find a place where you
belong. A place that gives you the
strength to believe in yourself.

CLOSE ON CASSIE

As she takes her place amongst them, completing the CIRCLE.

END OF ACT SIX