

(S) H E

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We open on about twenty girls, all around 15, in black and blue swimming costumes, heading out of the change room on their way to the swimming pool.

Some already have their swimming caps on. Others are still putting them on.

We then focus on two of the girls; RYANN, mildly androgynous, and her best friend, ZOE, her plats hanging loose.

RYANN

I can't. I want to watch Missy Franklin in the freestyle.

ZOE

Missy Franklin in the freestyle? Why?

RYANN

What do you mean why?

ZOE

That's what I mean. Watching swimming on TV is so boring.

RYANN

How are we friends?

ZOE

I don't know. Maybe because I'm really funny.

RYANN

You're definitely not funny.

ZOE

Yes, I am.

From behind them arrives SHEY, still trying to put her swimming cap on.

SHEY

Hey guys.

RYANN

Hey.

ZOE

Where've you been?

SHEY

My dad dropped me off late again.  
It's so annoying.

ZOE

It's PE. You really didn't miss out  
on anything.

MISS HART, the swimming coach, 30s, hair tied back and  
whistle around her neck, waits for them on the sidelines of  
the pool.

MISS HART

Come on girls. I know this is P.E.  
but it doesn't mean it's a free  
period.

The girls quickly gather in front of Miss Hart.

MISS HART (CONT'D)

And why aren't you all wearing  
swimming caps?

The girls don't answer.

MISS HART (CONT'D)

From next practice I want you all  
to have your swimming caps, okay?

All the girls chime in, echoing each other, with something to  
the effect of, 'we know'.

MISS HART (CONT'D)

Good, now let's get warmed up.  
Everyone line up, four at a time.

The girls begin to line up.

MISS HART (CONT'D)

Let's start with some *breaststroke*.

Miss Hart blows her whistle and the first four girls dive in.  
Ryann, Zoe, and Shey wait for their turn.

2

INT. CUBICLE/CHANGING ROOM - DAY

2

Ryann is alone in the cubicle. She finishes getting changed  
into her school uniform - a blue collared dress. Then peers  
into Zoe's cubicle.

RYANN

Hey Zo, did you finish that history  
homework?

ZOE  
What history homework?

RYANN  
That stuff on civil resistance.

ZOE  
No. Is that for today?

RYANN  
Yeah.

ZOE  
Wasn't it for Friday?

RYANN  
No, the gala is on Friday remember?

ZOE  
Shit.

RYANN  
I didn't finish it either.

She steps out from her cubicle into Zoe's.

SHEY  
I don't know why you guys stress so much.

RYANN  
Maybe because Mrs. Burke has a fit every time we don't do our homework.

Suddenly Miss Hart enters the change room.

MISS HART  
Ryann... Ashley...

Ryann turns to face Miss Hart, with ASHLEY, who has an air of popularity about her, in her eye line.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
... I want to chat to you two about practice this afternoon before you go to class, please.

Ryann and Ashley share a neutral glance, then turn back to their friends.

ZOE  
Ooooh, Sounds serious.

RYANN  
 (playfully)  
 Shut-up.

3 INT. MISS HART'S OFFICE - DAY

3

Ryann and Ashley enter to find Miss Hart unpacking various framed certificates, swimming trophies, and books from boxes.

MISS HART  
 Hey girls. Come on in. Sorry about the mess. Still getting settled. How you doing?

RYANN  
 Good.

MISS HART  
 And you, Ashley?

ASHLEY  
 I'm okay. Just a little stiff.

MISS HART  
 Okay, well, we do have practice this afternoon, so try not too push yourself too hard, okay?

ASHLEY  
 Okay.

MISS HART  
 So, the reason I wanted to see you girls is because I want you to switch up your strokes.

Miss Hart finally pushes the empty box aside and faces the girls.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
 (to Ryann)  
 I want you to swim *fly*...  
 (to Ashley)  
 ... and you to swim *backstroke*.

Ryann's eyes light up a little until she sees Ashley's reaction.

ASHLEY  
 What? Why?

MISS HART  
Because Ryann's *fly* is much  
stronger than yours.

ASHLEY  
But *fly* is my stroke.

MISS HART  
Ashley, I'm sorry, but this isn't  
up for discussion.

Ashley looks away, sulking.

ASHLEY  
(mutter)  
This is such bullshit.

MISS HART  
Excuse me?

ASHLEY  
Nothing.

Miss Hart stares Ashley down.

MISS HART  
Ryann, you can go to class.

Ryann leaves Miss Hart's office, staring in through the  
window until she disappears.

4 INT. SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

4

Ryann enters, disrupting MRS. BURKE, 50s and everything you  
would expect a history teacher to be - old and grumpy and  
organized.

RYANN  
Sorry I'm late, Mrs. Burke.

MRS. BURKE  
Miss Kemp, where have you been?

RYANN  
Miss Hart wanted to see me.

MRS. BURKE  
I see.  
(beat)  
Next time you bring a note. Is that  
understood?

RYANN  
Yes, Mrs. Burke.

MRS. BURKE  
Go take your seat and take out your notebook. I'll come and check your homework in a minute.

Ryann sighs, then makes her way to her seat, behind Shey and opposite Zoe.

**Note: Mrs. Burke's lesson will continue as we stay with Ryan, Zoe, and Shey.**

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
So, yes, there have been times when people have resisted the status-quo...

Ryann takes out her history notebook, watching Mrs. Burke continue on her rant.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
... because they have felt deeply about some kind of political or social issue but THAT... is what makes their cause so powerful.

Zoe stealthily leans toward Ryann, and tosses a note onto her desk. Ryann looks at her, then proceeds to open the note and read it - *What did Miss Hart want to talk to you about?*

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
Now, there are two kinds of categories when it comes to resistance. Can anyone tell me what they are?

Shey puts up their hand, while Ryann writes back to Zoe - *She wants me to swim fly at the gala!!! :) I feel bad for Ashley. It's her stroke.*

SHEY  
Violent and non-violent protests.

MRS. BURKE  
Yes. Good. Now, with that in mind...

Mrs. Burke turns to the chalk board and begins to write across it - *It's not where you're from; it's not where you're at; it's what you do.*

Ryann then tosses her note to Zoe, who opens it up and reads it. Smiles and begins writing, again.

And just as Mrs. Burke turns back to face the class, the classroom door opens and Ashley enters, carrying a note.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

Miss Duncan, so lovely for you to join us.

ASHLEY

Sorry, Mrs. Burke.

Ashley hands Mrs. Burke the note. She looks at it. Then back at Ashley.

MRS. BURKE

Go take your seat.

Ashley makes her way to her seat, gazing at Ryann as she passes her.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

Now, within the context of violent and non-violent protests, how does this quote - *It's not where you're from; it's not where you're at; it's what you do...*

Zoe folds the note back up and tosses it back to Ryann.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

Miss Dlamini and Miss Kemp, I've had just about enough of your note throwing.

Mrs. Burke approaches Ryann with her hand out.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

Hand it here.

Ryann looks at Zoe. Then back at Mrs. Burke.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

I'm waiting.

The class watches as Ryann reluctantly hands the note to Mrs. Burke. She opens it up and reads aloud...

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)

*That's awesome! And who cares about Ashley. She's a cow! Wink with a smiley tongue.*

Ryann shares a glance with Ashley as some light banter erupts in the class.

5 INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY 5

Ryann, Ashley, and two other swimmer are already in the pool. Miss Hart follows along side them.

MISS HART  
Go, go, go!

Their strokes are effortless... especially Ryann's *butterfly*.

As soon as they reach the other side of the pool, Miss Hart checks her watch, then gives a double BLOW on her whistle.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
Okay, that's it for today.  
(to Ryann)  
Nice work, Ryann.

Ryann smiles, then glances over at Ashley who pulls off her swimming cap and gets out of the pool.

6 EXT. SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY 6

Ryan exits the school with the other swimmers, making their way into the parking lot.

She gazes over at Ashley a beat. Then heads over to her.

RYANN  
Hey.

Ashley looks at Ryann, then turns away.

RYANN (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry about today.

Still, Ashley ignores her.

RYANN (CONT'D)  
Ash.

ASHLEY  
What Ryann?

RYANN  
I'm trying to say I'm sorry.

ASHLEY  
For what? Taking my stroke or  
calling me a cow?

RYANN  
That's unfair.

ASHLEY  
Is it?

RYANN  
A little.

ASHLEY  
Well, if you're so sorry, you'll go  
to Miss Hart and tell her to give  
me back my stroke.

RYANN  
No.

ASHLEY  
Then you're not sorry.

RYANN  
I am --

Ashley sees her mother arrive.

ASHLEY  
Whatever, Ryann. My mother's here.  
I gotta go.

Ashley heads off leaving Ryann amongst the other girls.

7 INT. BAKKIE - DAY

7

Ryann sits beside her dad, PAUL (also known as Mr. Kemp),  
40s, a hard but warm face, tuning in the radio.

PAUL  
How was school?

RYANN  
It was good.

PAUL  
Just good?

RYANN  
Mhmm.

PAUL  
Okay, then... how was swim  
practice?

RYANN  
Also good.

PAUL  
Also good? Well, do you want to  
hear about my day?

RYANN  
Sure.

PAUL  
Let's see. Dropped my daughter off  
at school. Went to work. Picked my  
daughter up from school. That's  
about it.

RYANN  
(sarcastically)  
That's funny.

PAUL  
Tell me something. I don't care  
what it is. It could be what you  
read about in English.

Beat. Then...

RYANN  
I'm getting to swim a new stroke.

PAUL  
Now we're getting somewhere.

Ryann shakes her head, smiling, thinking her dad is making  
fun of her.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Hey, I'm being serious. What  
stroke?

Ryann looks back at her dad.

RYANN  
*Butterfly.*

PAUL  
You've wanted to swim that for a  
while now, right?

RYANN

Yeah.

PAUL

That's good, then.

RYANN

Yeah. It's good.

Ryann shares a smile with her dad, then turns her gaze to the passing shrubs.

8

INT. RYANN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DUSK

8

Ryann enters with her notebooks and pencil case, setting up at the kitchen counter. Her mom, MAREE, (also known as Mrs. Kemp), late 30s, fun but pragmatic, is busy with dinner prep.

RYANN

Hey mom.

MAREE

Hey.

RYANN

What you making?

MAREE

Spazgetti Bolognese.

RYANN

Again?

MAREE

Yes, again.

RYANN

Well, I'm sure Dad will be happy.

MAREE

Why do you think I'm making it?

(beat)

So, what homework you got?

RYANN

History.

MAREE

(sarcastically)

Your favourite.

RYANN  
I'm actually really enjoying what  
we're doing at the moment.

MAREE  
Yeah?

Ryann flips the pages of her notebook.

RYANN  
Yeah, it's about civil rights and  
activism and... protest campaigns.

MAREE  
You know, the first time I saw your  
father was at one of those  
protests.

RYANN  
Dad at a protest?

Maree smiles as she reminisces about her's and Paul's first  
visual meeting.

MAREE  
Yeah.

RYANN  
Okay.

MAREE  
I was still at University and I had  
a lot of friends who were very  
politically active at the time and  
were always going to these protest  
rallies.

RYANN  
So you went with?

MAREE  
I did and when we arrived I saw  
this very rugged looking man  
standing above everyone on this  
wall covered with graffiti.

RYANN  
Dad?

MAREE  
Yes, dad... and he was shouting at  
the top of his lungs, trying to get  
everyone's attention.

(MORE)

MAREE (CONT'D)

And then as soon as he saw me, he went speechless.

Ryann looks at her mom suspiciously.

RYANN

No, he didn't.

MAREE

He did.

Paul enters, his hands covered in oil.

PAUL

What did I do now?

RYANN

Mom said you went speechless the first time you saw her.

PAUL

It was your mom who was speechless.

MAREE

No, it was--

Maree suddenly becomes aware of Paul's greasy hands.

MAREE (CONT'D)

Where do you think you're going with those hands?

PAUL

Oh, these? I was thinking of coming over and rubbing them all over you.

Paul moves closer to Maree, his hands out like he is about to catch his prey.

MAREE

Don't you dare...

Maree edges back.

MAREE (CONT'D)

Don't you dare!

Ryann smiles, watching her parents be a fun-loving couple, chasing each other around the kitchen counter.

9

EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

9

Swim practice happens very much like it happened previously; Ryann and the rest of the girls swim their hearts out - *this is what it takes to be in the first team.*

Finally Miss Hart checks her watch, then gives a double BLOW, signalling the end of practice.

Ryann and the other girls climb out of the pool, taking off their goggles and swimming caps, then begin to make their way toward the changing room.

MISS HART

Ryann...

Ryann turns to Miss Hart.

MISS HART (CONT'D)

Do you have a minute?

RYANN

Sure.

Miss Hart waits for the rest of the girls to trail out.

MISS HART

How are things?

RYANN

Good.

MISS HART

And with the other girls?

RYANN

Fine.

MISS HART

Are you sure?

RYANN

Yeah, I mean, Ashley's a little upset about me taking her stroke but other than that fine.

MISS HART

Okay, well...

Miss Hart struggles with her words, contemplating on how best to put this.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
 ... Ashley's parents have called  
 me.

RYANN  
 Okay.

MISS HART  
 They no longer feel comfortable  
 with you on the swimming team.

RYANN  
 Why?

MISS HART  
 Because your body is different from  
 the other girls.

A long beat as Ryann tries to comprehend what Miss Hart is  
 saying.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
 Ryann, do you understand what I'm  
 saying?

10

INT. SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

10

Ryann enters the class to find her class watching a protest  
 video of the historic 1956 women's march to the union  
 buildings being projected onto the board.

PROTEST VIDEO AUDIO  
 But all these laws that were  
 impacting woman and preventing them  
 from moving around freely. We  
 wanted to change that...

She heads for her seat and sits down behind an enthralled  
 Shey and a comatose Zoe.

PROTEST VIDEO AUDIO (CONT'D)  
 ... and so at the march we sang the  
 song, 'Wathint` abafazi', which  
 says you've struck the woman,  
 you've struck the rock...

Ryann's gazes at Ashley for a beat, then turns her attention  
 back to the projection, losing herself in the images.

PROTEST VIDEO AUDIO (CONT'D)  
 ... and then all those woman,  
 dignified woman, courageous  
 woman...

(MORE)

PROTEST VIDEO AUDIO (CONT'D)  
 they marched up those steps at the  
 union building.  
 (beat)  
 ... I felt a lump in my throat. I  
 don't think words can express how I  
 felt.

11 INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

11

Ryann walks behind Zoe and Shey, as they make their way out  
 of the class into the hallway.

ZOE  
 I don't think it was that good.

SHEY  
 What are you talking about? You  
 were asleep the whole time.

ZOE  
 Not the whole time. Ry, what did  
 you think?

Ryann is in a daze.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
 Ry, you okay?

RYANN  
 Yeah. Just was thinking about some  
 stuff.

ZOE  
 Okay, so what did you think?

RYANN  
 (despondent)  
 Yeah, it was good.

Ryann's gaze turns toward Ashley and her friends, as she, Zoe  
 and Shey pass them.

SHEY  
 See, Ryann agrees with me.

ZOE  
 Whatever.

SHEY  
 Yeah, whatever. Oh...

Shey zips open her bag and pulls out some black-and-white  
 photographs.

SHEY (CONT'D)  
Wanted to show you the photographs  
I took last weekend.

Shey hands Zoe the photographs. She begins to flip through them as Ryann stops behind them and makes her way over to Ashley.

ZOE  
Ah cool. This one was so funny. You  
guys almost dropped me.

SHEY  
Yeah, that was a cool one.

Zoe's and Shey's conversation trails off.

ZOE (O.S.)  
Ah, and this one! I have to have  
it.

SHEY (O.S.)  
Wait, I actually think I have two  
of that one!

Ryann now stands behind Ashley and her horde of four friends.

RYANN  
Ashley, I want to talk to you.

Ashley is strong in her resolve to ignore Ryann, but Ryann grabs hold of her arm and tries pulling her aside. Ashley pulls away.

ASHLEY  
What are you doing?

In the distance, Zoe and Shey turn back to see the commotion between Ryann and Ashley. They come to join her.

RYANN  
Why did you tell your parents that  
you don't feel comfortable with me  
on the swimming team anymore?

Ashley feels everyone's eyes on her.

ASHLEY  
I didn't.

RYANN  
Then why did they phone Miss Hart  
and tell her that you did?

ASHLEY

I don't know. Why don't you ask her?

RYANN

Because I'm asking you.

ASHLEY

I already said I didn't, so why don't you go bug someone else.

Ashley turns away from Ryann back toward her friends. But Ryann stands her ground.

RYANN

Why are you lying?

Again, Ashley tries to ignore Ryann.

RYANN (CONT'D)

Ashley!

Finally, Ashley turns back to Ryann.

ASHLEY

What Ryann?

RYANN

Why are you doing this?

ASHLEY

I'm not doing anything.

RYANN

Yes, you are!

ASHLEY

No, I'm not. And if you feel uncomfortable with your body because you basically have a penis, that's not my problem.

Everyone shares a **hard beat**.

Ryann suddenly pushes Ashley. Ashley then grabs onto Ryann, pushing and pulling at each other.

The school bell RINGS.

Their friends try to tear them apart.

Then, Mrs. Burke finally arrives on the scene.

MRS. BURKE  
Excuse me... Excuse me!

Suddenly and gradually the fight dies down. And the girls let go of each other.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
(to Ryann and Ashley)  
You two. Stay. The rest of you go to class.

The rest of the girls scatter and disappear, leaving Ryann and Ashley alone with Mrs. Burke.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
Tomorrow afternoon the two of you are with me in detention.

ASHLEY  
But Mrs. Burke I have swimming practice.

Mrs. Burke cuts Ashley off...

MRS. BURKE  
That's just too bad. Now go to class.

Ryann and Ashley head down the hallway. Ashley turns toward a classroom, opening the door. Ryann keeps walking. Ashley watches her for a beat, then enters.

12 INT. SCHOOL - BATHROOM - CUBICLE - DAY 12

Ryann enters the bathroom, making her way into a cubicle, closing the door behind her and locking it.

She then sits on the toilet, pulling her knees up into her chest, trying to hold back from crying... but she can't. So, she lets it out.

Her phone begins to vibrate. She pulls it out of her bag and reads - *Where are you? Are you okay?*

Ryann texts back - *Bathroom and no.*

MOMENTS LATER...

Ryann HEARS footsteps. Then...

ZOE (O.S.)  
Ry? Please let me in.

Ryann is hesitant. But then leans forward, unlocking the door and pulling the door open.

Zoe enters and slides down onto the floor right next to Ryann. Then takes hold of her hand.

SHEY (O.S.)  
Ry? Zo?

ZOE  
We're in here.

She enters and tries to sneak right in there with them. The three of them share in the very small and quiet space, not needing to say anything.

13 EXT. RYANN'S HOUSE - PATIO - DAY

13

Ryann and Zoe sit on the patio not saying much. She comes outside carrying three peaches.

SHEY  
Your dad just left. He said he would be back in a couple hours.

RYANN  
Cool. Thanks.

She offers Ryann and Zoe a peach.

SHEY  
Want one?

RYANN I'm okay. ZOE Yes, please.

She then sits down beside them.

SHEY  
So, when are you going to tell your dad?

RYANN  
He probably already knows. Just didn't say anything because you guys are here.

ZOE  
What do you think he's going to say?

RYANN  
I don't know.

ZOE  
And your mom?

RYANN  
She'll probably just bring up the  
operation stuff again.

SHEY  
You mean to have it removed?

RYANN  
Yeah.

ZOE  
Does your dad want you to do it?

Ryann shakes her head.

RYANN  
But I think deep down he wishes I  
was just normal.

ZOE  
Ry, you are normal.

RYANN  
Thanks Zo.

ZOE  
I'm serious. Just think of it as an  
extra freckle or something.

SHEY  
Yeah.

RYANN  
Except no one gets kicked off the  
team for having an extra freckle.

SHEY  
Well, I'm sure when your parents  
speak to Miss Hart they will figure  
something out.

RYANN  
(doubtful)  
Yeah.

14 EXT. RYANN'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

14

It's late afternoon. Paul watches as Ryann walks Zoe and Shey  
down the driveway.

ZOE  
I'll speak to you later.

RYANN  
Yeah. Thanks for coming over today.

SHEY  
Always.

ZOE  
Hey Ry, don't worry about anything.

RYANN  
Yeah.

Ryann opens up the gate for Zoe and Shey...

PAUL  
Bye girls.

SHEY  
Bye, Mr. Kemp.

ZOE  
See ya, Mr. Kemp.

... then closes it behind them. She then turns to her dad. They lock eyes, not having to say anything to know what the other is thinking.

CUT TO:

Ryann and her dad are sitting on the back of his bakkie.

RYANN  
It's just so unfair.

PAUL  
I know it is.

RYANN  
Just because I'm intersex and my body is a little different to the other girls--

PAUL  
Hey... I want you to listen to me...

Ryann grits her teeth. Looks up at her dad.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You are different. But there's nothing wrong with that... okay?

Ryann nods in disbelief.

PAUL (CONT'D)

All it means is that your life is going to be a little harder than everyone else's.

RYANN

But why?

PAUL

It's just the way it is. But it's not a bad thing because in the long run, you will be much stronger than everyone else.

RYANN

I don't want to be stronger than everyone else, Dad. I just want to be who I am and normal.

15 EXT. RYANN'S HOUSE - SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

15

Ryann swims lengths in her pool, working off some of the hurt, finally coming to a stop.

She then gets out of the pool and wraps herself with her towel. As she approaches the patio, she SEES and HEARS her parents talking.

She makes herself invisible but continues to eavesdrop.

PAUL

Don't do that. Don't make it about the other girl.

MAREE

I'm not making it about the other girl.

PAUL

Yes, you are. And it's not fair to Ryann.

MAREE

All I'm trying to say is that maybe it's just a misunderstanding.

PAUL

You know what Maree, I hope that's what it is. I hope it's just one big misunderstanding that this girl's parents want Ryann kicked off the swimming team because she's different.

MAREE

But she is different, Paul.

PAUL

I know that. But that doesn't mean she has to be ostracized for it. And why has it suddenly become a problem now?

MAREE

I don't know. But it is. And Ryann being taken off the swimming team is a reality we just might have to face.

Ryann is suddenly standing front and centre, wrapped in her towel, privy to the entire conversation.

16 EXT/INT. RYANN'S HOUSE - BATHROOM/BEDROOM - NIGHT 16

Ryann enters her bedroom in her towel - posters of swimmers, trophies and medals and colours for swimming fill her room.

She plugs her phone into the speakers and hits play - *Sparklehorse's 'Wish You Were Here' comes on.*

Ryann makes her way over to the mirror. Drops the towel, clearly nude.

**Note: there will be no actual nudity.**

She stands in front of her mirror looking at herself, losing herself in her reflection... until she breaks eye contact.

17 INT. MISS HART'S OFFICE - DAY 17

Ryann and her parents sit across from Miss Hart.

MISS HART

I want to thank you for coming in.

PAUL

Sure.

MAREE

Thank you for calling us in.

Miss Hart looks over at Ryann, then back at her parents.

MISS HART

Would it not be better if Ryann waited outside?

Paul gazes over at Ryann, then back at Miss Hart.

PAUL

I think she deserves to hear why she can't be on the swimming team anymore.

Miss Hart can tell there's no room for negotiation here, so she gets on with it.

MISS HART

Well, as I explained to you over the phone, Ashley's parents no longer feel comfortable with Ryann on the swimming team.

PAUL

I think we're all aware of that fact.

MAREE

Paul.

MISS HART

Mrs. Kemp, it's fine.

Paul gathers himself. Then proceeds with his line of inquiry.

PAUL

I want to know what's being done to resolve this matter.

MISS HART

Right now, a formal hearing with the principal and the school governing body is being set.

PAUL

A formal hearing?

MISS HART

Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, I understand that this must be difficult for you both but if this isn't handled properly, it could get worse.

PAUL

What does that mean, 'it could get worse?' Is there something you're not telling us?

Miss Hart takes a breath.

MISS HART

There is something else... there is talk of Ryann being asked to leave the school.

Suddenly Ryann gets up and storms out. Paul turns, ready to follow.

PAUL

Ryann...

MAREE

I'll go after her.

Maree gets up and goes after Ryann.

18 EXT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

18

Ryann makes her way to the empty swimming pool, lingering on the edge as if she's contemplating jumping.

Maree catches up with her, easing toward her, joining her on the edge of the pool.

RYANN

All I want to do is swim.  
(beat, then begins to tear)  
Maybe I should have just listened to you. Maybe I should have just had the operation.

Maree takes hold of Ryann's hand.

19 INT. RYANN'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

19

Ryann is asleep with her head on her mom's lap, while some old movie on TV plays. Her dad is lying down on the adjacent couch.

Suddenly Maree begins to tear. Then sniff. Paul looks over at Maree.

**Note: the following conversation happens in a whisper between Paul and Maree.**

PAUL

Hey, are you okay?

Maree shakes her head.

MAREE

The only reason I ever wanted her to have the operation was because I never wanted anyone to look at her like she was different.

PAUL

Hey...

Paul sits up and takes Maree's hand.

MAREE

And when she told me today that I was right, that she should have had the operation, I thought I would be relieved. But I wasn't. I was so angry at myself for wanting to change her.

PAUL

Look at me... at the end of the day it's always going to be her decision, whether she decides to have the operation or not.

Maree nods, wiping away her tears.

PAUL (CONT'D)

But that's not what is important. What is important is that she will always have us by her side. Okay?

Again, Maree nods.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Us and her two musketeers.

Maree lets out a small giggle through the tears.

20

EXT. SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY

20

Ryann sits with Zoe and Shey eating their lunch amongst the other girls scattered across the courtyard.

RYANN

It's just such bullshit, you know?

ZOE

But how can they do that?

RYANN

I don't know. But they can.

SHEY

So, what are you going to do?

RYANN

Nothing.

ZOE

You can't do nothing.

RYANN

What am I supposed to do, Zo?  
Protest the gala or something?

Zoe thinks about it a beat.

ZOE

Yeah.

RYANN

What? Go stand there with placard  
saying, "let me swim"?

ZOE

No. We'll do what they did at the  
woman's march.

RYANN

Zo, you're not being serious.

ZOE

I am being serious. If you're not  
swimming, then neither am I.

SHEY

Me neither.

RYANN

That's not going to solve anything.  
It's just going to make it worse.

ZOE

How is it going to make it worse?

RYANN

Because they'll blame me for you  
and Shey acting out.

ZOE

Fine. What if there were more of us  
then?

RYANN

What?

ZOE  
More of us who didn't swim.

SHEY  
Then they would have to blame all  
of us.

RYANN  
But what is it going to achieve?

ZOE  
Maybe something. Maybe nothing. The  
point is that you did something.

Ryann muses over their argument. Then...

RYANN  
I hate you guys. I really hate you  
guys.

ZOE  
We hate you to.

SHEY  
Totally hate you.

21 INT. SCHOOL - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

21

Ryann and Ashley sit a desk apart from each other in front of Mrs. Burke, who is busy reading a book entitled, '*The Social Outcast*'.

She suddenly begins reading aloud--

MRS. BURKE  
*She felt just like that girl in  
that book with the letter 'A' on  
her chest. She was an outcast, cast  
out by her peers, who feared to  
never understand what it truly  
meant to be different.*

She then looks up from her book and closes it, removing her glasses too.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
Oh yes, I know exactly what is  
going on between the two of you.  
And quite frankly I think it's  
disgraceful.

Mrs. Burke gazes at Ashley.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
 (sharply)  
 Hmm.  
 (normal)  
 And I would have thought we would  
 have grown out of that kind of  
 behaviour by now.

Ashley begins to tear but does her very best to hold it back,  
 sharing a quick glance with Ryann, then turning away.

MRS. BURKE (CONT'D)  
 But what do I know?

Mrs. Burke then puts her glasses back on and returns to her  
 book.

22

EXT. RYANN'S HOUSE - GARDEN - NIGHT

22

Ryann, Zoe, and Shey sit at the dinner table with Paul and  
 Maree.

RYANN  
 Thanks mom.

ZOE  
 Yeah, thanks Mrs. Kemp. It  
 was delicious.

SHEY  
 Yeah, thank you.

MAREE  
 It's a pleasure.

PAUL  
 So, what do you girls have planned  
 for the rest of the evening.

Ryann, Zoe, and Shey share a glance.

RYANN  
 I don't know. Just hanging out I  
 guess.

MAREE  
 Well, before you girls disappear,  
 who wants dessert?

ZOE  
 Yes, please.

MAREE  
 Ry, do you want to help me?

RYANN

Sure.

Maree and Ryann get up from the table and head into the kitchen.

Paul's, Zoe's, and Shey's conversation trails off.

PAUL

So, Zoe, do you also get a lot of detention?

ZOE

Sometimes... but it's mostly because the teachers really like my company.

Paul chuckles.

PAUL (O.S.)

Is that right?

ZOE (O.S.)

Yup.

SHEY (O.S.)

No, it's because you never do your homework.

23

INT. RYANN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

23

Maree pulls the chocolate mousse from the fridge...

RYANN

Mom?

... and takes off it's plastic lid.

MAREE

Yeah.

RYANN

I've decided I'm going to go to the gala tomorrow.

Maree puts down the chocolate mousse.

MAREE

Okay...?

RYANN

I know all of this stuff is going on, but I think it's really important that I go.

MAREE

Ry, I'm just not sure if it's such a good idea. Maybe--

RYANN

I know you don't, but that's why I'm telling you. Because I love you. And because I need to do this.

Ryann and Maree HEAR Zoe and Shey LAUGH from outside.

MAREE

To support your friends.

RYANN

And for them to support me.

24

INT - RYANN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

24

Ryann lays her swimming costume over a chair. Zoe sits cross-legged on her phone. And Shey is already snuggled up in bed, watching Zoe.

ZOE

Okay, Steph, and Malaika said they won't swim either.

RYANN

So, that's it. That's all of you.

ZOE

That's all of us. When Miss Hart blows the whistle. We're just going to stand there.

SHEY

(enthusiastic)

You guys are really doing this.

Ryann looks up from her swimming costume at Zoe and Shey.

RYANN

What if I swam?

ZOE

What do you mean?

RYANN

I mean what if, when you guys  
didn't jump in... I did.

Zoe glances at Shey. Then back at Ryann.

ZOE

I'd say... yeah... do it.

RYANN

Yeah?

ZOE

Yeah.

SHEY

I'm totally going to cheer for you  
to do it too.

25 INT. BAKKIE - DAY

25

Paul looks over at Ryann. Then glances in his rearview mirror  
at Zoe and Shey on their phones.

PAUL

You girls have been awfully quiet.

ZOE

We're just super excited about the  
gala.

Beat.

PAUL

(to Ryann)

Hey, you doing okay.

RYANN

Yeah.

Beat.

PAUL

I'm proud of you... I want you to  
know that.

Ryann subtly nods, acknowledging what her dad is saying.

26 INT. SWIMMING POOL - DAY

26

The stands are packed; everyone with their respective colours  
and team names fill the pool area.

Ryann sits with Zoe and Shey in the front stands covered in BLUE war paint. She looks across at the adjacent stands where Ashley sits in YELLOW war paint. Zoe's gaze follows.

ZOE  
(to Ryann)  
Hey, are you ready for this?

RYANN  
I don't think you're ever ready for something like this.

ZOE  
Everything is going to work out. I promise.

Miss Hart stands on the sidelines of the pool, across from Mrs. Burke and another teacher, and speaks into the microphone.

MISS HART  
Well done to Jackie Van Eerden for under fifteen *breaststroke*.

The crowd cheers and applauds as Jackie and the rest of the girls who swam breaststroke get out of the pool.

MISS HART (CONT'D)  
Next up, we have under fifteen *backstroke*.

ZOE  
Here we go.

Zoe gets up, taking off her T-shirt and shorts.

RYANN  
Zo... no matter how this turns out...

Ryann glances at Shey, then back at Zoes.

RYANN (CONT'D)  
I love you, guys.

ZOE  
Love you too.

SHEY  
Always.

Zoe heads on over to the starting spot where Steph, Malaika, and Ashley are standing.

MISS HART

Take your mark.

The girls take their mark - Zoe, Steph, and Malaika sharing a confidential look.

Miss Hart raises her arm up in the air. And FIRES!

Ashley is the only one who jumps in. Zoe, Steph, and Malaika stand back up.

Ryann watches the crowd as a murmur begins to build... everyone is very surprised.

Ryann continues to watch as Ashley comes up from the water. Then turns her gaze to Miss Hart talking to the girls.

Suddenly, Ryann gets up and heads down the sidelines of the pool, beginning to take her clothes off, revealing her costume underneath.

SHEY

SWIIIM RY!

Ryann looks back over her shoulder at Shey. Shares a smile. Then faces forward to see Miss Hart turn to her and begin her approach.

ZOE

SWIIIM!

The other girls at the starting point begin to chant - *SWIM... SWIM... SWIM...* as do the rest of the crowd. Ryann looks around in awe.

Finally, Miss Hart is on Ryann.

MISS HART

Ryann, what are you doing?

RYANN

I'm going to swim.

Miss Hart can see Ryann's resolve to go through with this.

MISS HART

Don't do this. It isn't the right way to go about it.

RYANN

What would be? Wait to be told how different I am again? Wait to be asked to leave the school?

MISS HART  
You don't know that will happen.

RYANN  
Yes, I do, Miss Hart. That's how  
the world works.

Ryann gazes at the water...

RYANN (CONT'D)  
There's this quote I learned the  
other day. *It's not where you're  
from; it's not where you're at;  
it's what you do.* And I have to do  
this. Not because I want to.

... then back at Miss Hart one last time.

RYANN (CONT'D)  
But because it's the only thing I  
can do.

Still the chanting continues as Miss Hart takes a step back,  
giving Ryann the space she needs. She takes in a deep breath  
and lets out an even bigger sigh.

Then dives into the pool, staying under for a beat... crying  
and laughing... finally coming up for air to a roaring crowd.

27 EXT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

27

Ryann, still mildly wet from the pool, sits with Zoe, Shey,  
Steph, Malaika, and Ashley outside of the principal's office.

We can HEAR inaudible screaming coming from inside from the  
principal and Miss Hart.

Ryann, Zoe and Shey take hold of each other's hands and  
smile.

**THE END**