HUGE
(pilot)

Teleplay by
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Based on the novel "Huge" by Sasha Paley

January 12, 2010
FADE IN.

A CHEESY VIDEO BROCHURE: happy, hugely smiling overweight CAMPERS play volleyball, canoe-- WE HEAR A WOMAN’S VOICE:

    DR. RAND (V.O.)
    This summer-- become the person--
    you are inside.

REVERSE: AMBER, 16, pretty, plump, watches this mesmerized on a school library computer, glancing around furtively to make sure no one’s looking.

BACK TO: THE VIDEO: THE FAT CAMPERS run a challenging obstacle course as--

    DR. RAND (V.O.) (CONT’D)
    The person-- you’ve always known you can be.

REVERSE: IAN, 16, overweight, adorably awkward, under the covers with his laptop, watches the same video...

SOMEONE POUNDS ON HIS BEDROOM DOOR, he grips the laptop protectively, yells out--

    IAN
    I’m doing homework!

IAN turns back to the screen:

CAMPERS pass the finish line, hug, cheer--

    DR. RAND (V.O.)
    Break free from your past-- and take hold of your future.

IAN’S POV: CLOSE ON A GIRL CAMPER’S BREASTS BOUNCING as she cheers and high fives her friends. DR. RAND enters this scene: a slim, type A disciplinarian in her 40’s.

    DR. RAND (CONT’D)
    Great hustle, Monique!

She turns, addresses the camera--

    DR. RAND (CONT’D)
    Hello, I’m Dr. Dorothy Rand, director of Camp Victory, where we help teens gain confidence as they shed unhealthy pounds-- and attitudes.

REVERSE: WILLAMINA (WILL), 16, sardonic, fat, watching this on TV in her luxurious, messy bedroom, HER FACE UNREADABLE.
DR. RAND (CONT’D)
(attempts warmth)
We’re proud to offer a summer of
health, self esteem, and most of
all--
(tries to smile)
fun.
(dead serious again)
That is my promise. To you.

As the CAMPERS BEHIND HER jog off. Rand motions to viewers--

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
So come on. Join us.

REVERSE: AMBER’S FACE-- SEEING GOD.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
What have you got to lose?

Rand jogs jauntily off.

REVERSE: WILL, INSCRUTABLE, clicks off the video.

WILL
Eat me.

IN THE NOW BLACK TV SCREEN, WE SEE HER REFLECTION AS SHE RIPS
OPEN A BAG OF CHIPS, SHOVES A FEW IN.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - WEIGH-IN TENT - DAY

CAMPERS in bathing suits, lined up: boys in one line, girls
in another. Kids self consciously adjust themselves--
covertly tug at their waist bands, hold in their stomachs--
in general try to pretend they’re not dying of embarrassment.

One by one, A MALE AND A FEMALE COUNSELOR stands each camper
in front of a backdrop, snaps their photos, mug-shot style.

ON: WILL. The only camper not in a bathing suit. She wears
her usual uniform: baggy boys’ shorts, and a punked-out tee.
She regards the scene around her with disbelief.

WILL
Can we like take a moment and just
ponder how sick this is? Just get a
bunch of fat kids, stick ‘em in
bathing suits, and-- add cameras!
Wasn’t this like outlawed by the
Geneva Convention?

The girl next to her in line, BECCA, painfully shy, looks up
from reading ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SOLITUDE...
WILL (CONT’D)
But I get it, I do-- cause maybe we
don’t feel bad enough about
ourselves. What if we’ve thus far
retained some shred of dignity?
(before Becca can speak)
I said “thus far.” That’s how upset
I am.

BECCA
They just-- can I say something?
(off Will’s look)
They do this so you can compare the
pictures at the end and see how
much weight you lost.

WILL
Whatever. They can’t make me lose
weight.

FIND: ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BECCA-- CAITLIN AND CHLOE. Two of
the thinnest girls at camp. Both look up, overhearing this.

WILL (CONT’D)
I won’t do it. In fact--
(mocks Rand’s delivery)
--that is my promise! To you.

Caitlin leans over to Will.

CAITLIN
Um, they don’t let you do the
picture with clothes on.

WILL
Oh my God, I would never have
guessed that, thank you.

Caitlin turns back to Chloe-- “do you believe her?”

WILL (CONT’D)
(for Caitlin to hear)
In fact, this could be my summer to
gain weight! I feel like-- inside
me? There’s an even fatter person
trying to get out.

Becca pushes herself to say... something.

BECCA
It’s not that bad here once you get
used to it. This is my second time.
I lost twenty six and a half
pounds. Then I gained some of it
back. Basically all of it.
For some reason, Becca now can’t stop talking.

BECCA (CONT’D)
But you meet people. People hook up
a lot. Not everyone, but-- it’s
kind of like Bizarro World. Cause
everyone’s overweight. So the
playing field is more-- like, there
is one.

WILL
(has to admit)
That’s somewhat cool.

WILL’S POV: THE BOYS LINE. Specifically, TRENT (a chunky yet
hunky jock type) who stands with his TWO HEAVY SET JOCK PALS.

TRENT seems to look back at her with interest. Then she
realizes he’s looking past her. She follows his gaze to

AMBER. The thinnest girl present. Will turns back to Becca,
who has witnessed this.

BECCA
Okay, it’s not that different from
the real world.

Will’s still staring at Amber--

WILL
What is she even doing here?

ON: AMBER, watching Caitlin and Chloe gab. Focused on the
DIAMOND BRACELET sparkling on Caitlin’s wrist. Then she looks
self-consciously at her frayed friendship bracelet. She slips
it off, lets it fall. She glances around, suddenly sees

TRENT, checking her out. Amber immediately sucks in her
stomach, both uncomfortable and pleased with this attention.

CAITLIN AND CHLOE approach her.

CAITLIN
Hi, we hate you. Just kidding.

AMBER
Oh. Okay.

CAITLIN
Cute suit.

CHLOE
I tried that one but it gave me
back rolls.
AMBER
Oh, I totally feel you.

She twists around to show them her back.

IN THE BOYS LINE, ALISTAIR (sweet, odd, very heavy, wearing sandals and socks) studies various people’s feet. Flustered, he spots CHLOE, across from him in the girls line. He tries subtly to get her attention--

ALISTAIR
Hey-- umm--

Chloe pretends not to notice him, focuses on Amber...

CHLOE
Are you kidding? You are so thin.

CAITLIN
Yeah, look around! You’re totally the thinnest girl here!

AMBER
That can’t be true.

But she’s realizing: It could be true.

ALISTAIR
(sotto voce, to Chloe)
Are we supposed to take our shoes off?

Chloe glances at him; blatantly ignores him.

AMBER
I mean, look at me.

CHLOE
Look at me!

CAITLIN
Okay, by the end of the summer, we’re all gonna be so hot it hurts.

Caitlin notices Amber’s ex-bracelet. Picks it up.

CAITLIN (CONT’D)
Is this yours?

AMBER
No.

Caitlin slides it on next to her diamond bracelet.
CHLOE
Ew, it’s dirty.

CAITLIN
It’s good luck.

Amber and Caitlin share a smile. A friendship is born.

CAITLIN (CONT’D)
I’m Caitlin, she’s Chloe.

AMBER
Amber.

Chloe, not listening, is staring at the boys’ line.

CHLOE
Check out the blue shorts.

She points subtly. Amber and Chloe look; burst into GIGGLES--

AMBER
Oh no!

ON: IAN. In blue shorts. He notices the group of girls looking at him, giggling. Are they interested in him? Flustered, he pretends to clean his glasses.

BACK ON AMBER AND COMPANY:

AMBER (CONT’D)
I would die. Someone should tell him.
(they look at her)
No. No!

They all GIGGLE more.

ON IAN: Aware of Amber approaching. He struggles for cool.

AMBER (CONT’D)
Um, hi...

IAN
Hey.

AMBER
I just thought you should know you have a hole in your bathing suit.

Ian turns red, looks down for the hole--

IAN
Oh, crap. Uh--
AMBER

In back.

Ian covers his ass with his hands. AWKWARD.

IAN

Thanks.

AMBER

You’re welcome.

Amber walks back to her amused new friends. As Ian watches her go, wanting to die...

DR. RAND appears, moves through the crowd, greets campers...

DR. RAND

Hey there-- good to see you. Hello--

Rand comes to a stop in front of Becca and Will.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)

Becca, good to see you again!

BECCA

(blurts out)

I gained back the weight.

DR. RAND

Well, I’m proud of you for coming back. And welcome--

(reads Will’s name tag)

Willamina. I’m Dr. Rand.

WILL

I prefer Will.

DR. RAND

Noted. I just wanted to say welcome, and remind you that all campers need to be in their bathing suits for the Before Picture. No street clothes. No exceptions.

WILL

Why?

DR. RAND

Because, Will, this is the beginning of an important journey.

The campers nearest Will are following this with interest.
DR. RAND (CONT’D)
And we ask you to begin this journey by taking an honest look at yourself.

WILL
That sounds so great, but-- I lost my bathing suit.

DR. RAND
I see. No problem. You can use the community suit.

At the words “community suit” the campers within earshot react with dread. Becca signals a vigorous “no” to Will.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
Just be sure to leave your underwear on.

Cornered, Will pulls at the neckline of her t-shirt--

WILL
Oh! You know what? I found my suit! This is weird. It was on my body!

DR. RAND
Good.

Rand remains there, waits for Will to disrobe.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
Well--?

Everyone’s now staring at Will. The pressure’s on, and Will, desperate to hide her discomfort, shrugs her t-shirt off one shoulder in a parody of sexiness. There are A FEW GIGGLES. Encouraged, she starts to hum “Big Spender” as she swings her hips, performing a cheesy striptease. Now people are riveted. HOOTS AND WOLF WHISTLES. Becca is entranced-- by Will’s boldness. Amber, Caitlin and Chloe are also riveted.

CAITLIN
(sotto to the other two)
Okay, nobody wants to see that.

CHLOE
Seriously.

AMBER
We’re lucky. It could be so much worse.

AMBER watches Will with a mixture of disgust and fascination.
ON WILL: Deep into it now. Kids start to CLAP ALONG as she whirls her shirt over her head and tosses it to the crowd, then drops her shorts and slaps her own butt. People CHEER WILDLY. Rand watches, impenetrable. Will stops dancing, looks at Rand: a challenge. Rand stares back for a suspenseful beat. Then, as if nothing happened--

DR. RAND
Chloe-- good to see you again!

Rand moves on. Some KIDS CLAP. Will bows, goes back to Becca--

WILL
(sotto voce)
Oh my God, why did I just do that?!

Will LAUGHS at herself. Becca’s blown away.

IN A SERIES OF QUICK POPS, the “before” pictures are snapped: Alistair gives two thumbs up; Becca blinks; Ian is caught in mid glasses-push; Will points a finger-gun at her head; Amber strikes a would-be sexy model pose, then, after the flash:

AMBER
Wait-- can we do one more?

INT. CABIN - DAY

Will, Becca, Amber, Caitlin, Chloe, and THREE OTHER GIRLS enter the cabin. Their counselor POPPY (20, way too perky) greets them.

POPPY
Hi! I’m Poppy. Welcome to the first day of the rest of your lives! So find the bunk with your name on it!

ON WILL AND AMBER: finding their shared bunk at the same time. They try to be cordial.

AMBER
You want the top?

WILL
You can have it.

Will puts her stuff on the bottom bunk. Amber gets on top and takes out a folder of magazine cutouts of skinny models. Will watches as Amber tapes up the pictures around her bunk.

POPPY
Okay, so the first thing we’re gonna do is-- contraband check!

Caitlin and Chloe groan--
POPPY (CONT’D)
I know, but we’ll feel so good after!

Poppy drags a trash can to the middle of the room.

POPPY (CONT’D)
I’m gonna come around and look through your bags. If you have anything that’s not allowed, just throw it out now, no questions asked. That means any kind of food, even gum.

CHLOE
What if it’s sugar free?

POPPY
Is it gum?

Chloe sadly throws her gum in the trash.

POPPY (CONT’D)
(consulting a manual)
This also includes cigarettes, breath mints, lozenges, certain forms of lip gloss...
(looks up, spots Amber)
What’s that?

AMBER has a toothpick in her mouth. Hastily removes it, as...

AMBER
Toothpick.

POPPY
Is it flavored?

WILL
(close to losing it)
It’s wood! It’s wood flavored.

Troubled, Poppy consults her manual. Finally--

POPPY
I guess it’s alright.

Poppy goes bunk to bunk, inspecting luggage. Meanwhile--

Amber runs out of tape, hops down from off her bunk and crosses to Caitlin, who also tapes up decorations--

AMBER
Hey, can I borrow some tape?
CAITLIN
Go for it.

Amber takes the tape, looks at the paper in Caitlin’s hands: a handwritten affirmation, decorated with doodles and sparkles, that reads “BEAUTY COMES FROM WITHIN.”

CAITLIN (CONT’D)
I always bring this with me so it’s the first thing I see when I wake up.

She tapes it above her bunk.

AMBER
That’s cool.

Chloe moves past them, and almost bumps into Becca.

BECCA
Sorry--

Noticeable tension between them. Becca approaches Will--

WILL
Hey.
(then)
What’s wrong?

BECCA
The girl behind me? She and I--
(Will starts to turn)
Don’t look! She and I were really good friends last summer. Then she lost a bunch of weight and started hanging out with the popular girls.

WILL
(feels for her)
Uch-- that makes me want to set someone on fire.

Becca notices the WALL OF MODELS. Will follows her gaze.

WILL (CONT’D)
Don’t look at them too long-- they’ll take your soul.
(Becca LAUGHS)
Don’t laugh. These are her only friends.

Amber returns to the bunk just in time to hear this. Tension.

AMBER
They’re thin-spiration. And you don’t have to look at them.
WILL
Actually, I do, because they’re here and I have eyes.

AMBER
Well, you can decorate your bunk how you want.

They glare at each other. Poppy pops in.

POPPY
Hi!
(to Amber)
Willamina?

AMBER
She is.

POPPY
(to Will)
Oh! Hi! Can you just open your suitcase for me?

Will does, waits, impatient, as Poppy searches her bag.

POPPY (CONT’D)
What do you think of camp so far?

WILL
It’s really something.

Poppy doesn’t pick up on the sarcasm, continues to dig--

POPPY
I totally have this shampoo!

WILL
Mm.

Suddenly Poppy stares into the bag, her face darkens.

POPPY
Wait-- what’s this?

A FLICKER OF PANIC crosses Will’s face. She swallows hard. Poppy reaches in, pulls out-- cough drops.

POPPY (CONT’D)
Cough drops count as lozenges. Do you have a cough? You can totally go to the nurse!

WILL
(relieved)
I’m fine.
Poppy tosses the cough drops.

    POPPY
    Congrats Willamina, you’re clean!

    BECCA
    She prefers Will.

    POPPY
    (winks)
    Got it!

Poppy moves on. Will crouches down; the lid of her suitcase blocks her from view. She unscrews her giant shampoo bottle to REVEAL: IT’S FULL OF M&Ms. She covertly pops one, smiles like the cat that caught the canary.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO:

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

Campers line up, in sweat clothes as Dr. Rand addresses them:

    DR. RAND
    You’ll be getting at least three hours of exercise every day, whether it’s through team sports, games, or working out at the gym. We also offer classes in Tae-bo, yoga, waterskiing...

ON WILL AND BECCA: Whispering to each other.

    WILL
    So what’s Dr. Rand allegedly a doctor of?

    BECCA
    I guess— nutrition?

    WILL
    Fat-ology. With a minor in Chub-onomics.

ON DR. RAND:

    DR. RAND
    Now let’s meet your fitness coaches.

SHAY, a late 20s Jillian Michaels type, steps forward--
Hi, I’m Shay, your worst nightmare. I’ll be whipping you into shape this summer!

(the returning kids CHEER)

You will beg for my mercy!!

The kids CHEER louder. ON WILL: totally freaked out by this.

FIND: AMBER, CAITLIN, AND CHLOE-- Amber chews a toothpick. Caitlin holds her hand out. Amber automatically puts another toothpick into Caitlins hand, as--

CHLOE
She lives to make people cry; I love her.

Suddenly Amber’s mouth drops open, her TOOTHPICK FALLS OUT-- WE FOLLOW HER STUNNED GAZE TO:

GEORGE, 20. An adonis. Dr. Rand moves over to him--

DR. RAND
And I’m pleased to introduce our new assistant fitness coach--

GEORGE
Hey, I’m George.

ON AMBER: Struck dumb. Totally smitten.

George THROUGH AMBER’S POV: Close on his sweaty BICEPS and full LIPS, his HAND, pushing back his hair.

Amber exchanges a “OMFG” look with Caitlin and Chloe.

EXT. JOGGING TRAIL - A LITTLE LATER

George leads the campers in a run. The kids PANT, MOAN...

GEORGE
Just a few more laps, guys! You can do it!

A determined Amber pushes through the crowd until she gets to the front next to George. As she runs she tries to wipe her sweat and fix her hair a little--

GEORGE (CONT’D)
Hey, check you out! What’s your name?

AMBER
(winded, can barely speak)
Amber.
GEORGE
Keep it up, Tara! You’re doing great!

Amber tries to be thrilled.

FIND WILL, struggling. She sees BECCA, NEARBY, IN TEARS--

BECCA
I can’t do any more!

Shay bears down on Becca, roars like a jungle beast--

SHAY
THERE. IS. NO. "I CAN’T" Do you hear me?!
(Becca can’t talk)
DO YOU HEAR ME?!!?

Will, seeing Shay busy with Becca, takes this moment to bolt--

BECCA
(upset, to Shay)
Yes!

SHAY
Don’t let me EVER hear you say that again! UNDERSTAND?!

BECCA
Yes!

SHAY
Now GIVE ME TWENTY JUMPING JACKS!

Becca starts jumping. We move past this spectacle to

THE BACK OF THE LINE, WHERE THE STRAGGLERS, including Ian and Alistair, stumble forward, drenched in sweat.

IAN
Oh God, my lungs are trying to escape my body--

Alistair struggles to keep his game face on:

IAN (CONT’D)
I should’ve just gotten that lap band thing.

ALISTAIR
(breathing raggedly)
I know a guy who got that. His Dad had to get a second mortgage, to pay for it.

(MORE)
ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
His stomach was the size of a walnut but he kept eating and he stretched it back out. And put back all the weight. And they lost their house.

IAN
Great story. Tell it again.

Alistair suddenly stops, doubles over. Ian stops short.

IAN (CONT'D)
You okay man?

Alistair plops down on the ground, pulls out an inhaler and starts breathing into it. Ian stands there, concerned.

UP AHEAD the group disappears around a bend.

IAN (CONT'D)
Don’t die, okay? They’ll think I did it.

Alistair’s BREATHING normalizes, he removes his inhaler--

ALISTAIR
(weak)
I smell-- chocolate--

IAN
Isn’t that the first sign of a stroke?

WILL POPS out of a nearby bush. She’s eating a candy bar.

IAN (CONT’D)
Uh-- Hi.

The boys stare dumbstruck at Will’s candy bar. Until--

WILL
Um. I have another one.

IAN
Is this a trick? Are you like a plant that the camp set up to see how we react?

WILL
Yes. I’m actually a robot, built by Dr. Rand.

(they’re staring at her chocolate)
Sorry-- nevermind.
IAN
No, wait--
(to Alistair)
You wanna split it?

Alistair hesitates, then shakes his head no. Ian looks back to Will. She produces a second bar. He takes it, digs in.

IAN (CONT’D)
My last chocolate for eight weeks.
(then)
What’s your name, mysterious stranger?

WILL
Will.

IAN
I’m Ian.

ALISTAIR
Alistair.

Alistair wipes off his sweaty hand, holds it out to shake.

WILL
Cool name.

ALISTAIR
Thanks, I hate it.

IAN
So are you trying to get kicked out of camp, or what?

WILL
My parents said if I get in trouble here they’d send me to one of those boot camps you see on Jerry Springer. Trust me, I do not intend to get kicked out. Nor do I intend to lose weight. I said nor, something’s wrong with me.

Alistair suddenly sees something terrifying in the distance:

ALISTAIR
She’s coming back!!

REVEAL: Shay. Coming towards them. All three of them leap up in fear, start desperately jogging again AS WE HEAR:

SHAY (O.S.)
Slackers will suffer! That means YOU!
INT. THE CAFETERIA - DAY

Will stares at a little menu sign labeled DINNER:

WILL
"Poulet à la Basquaise in rosemary-basil glaze with steamed vegetable pate and whole wheat focaccia."

She looks down at the teeny portion of unidentifiable food on her tray, unable to reconcile it with the description.

ON DR. RAND at the head of the room. With her is JOE SALZNIAK, 70s, curmudgeonly. Not slender.

DR. RAND
Attention, new campers, I’d like you to meet our resident chef, Joe Salzniak, who carefully plans and executes every meal.

SEVERAL RETURNING CAMPERS HOOT:

RETURNING CAMPERS
Whoo!!! Salty!!!

DR. RAND
Chef Salzniak is dedicated to creating well balanced, low fat, sustainable nourishment.

SALTY
No seconds.

He shuffles back into the kitchen.

Will sits down at a table where the other girls from the cabin are deep in conversation:

CHLOE
My mom makes these incredible mashed potatoes with white cheddar and garlic... I miss those potatoes more than I miss her.

Will tastes a bite of camp food, reacts with disgust, as...

CAITLIN
Here’s what I do: Cookie dough ice cream. Microwaved. Then peanut butter on top. And then, Captain Crunch.

A few of the girls MOAN.
CHLOE
Ewww!

CAITLIN
No, it’s so good.

ANOTHER CABIN GIRL
(to Amber)
Okay, your fantasy meal. Go.

AMBER
Honestly, this is it.

Will SNORTS. Louder than she meant to.

AMBER (CONT’D)
Cause there’s no guilt. Like, it doesn’t taste good for real, but it tastes like, the sweetness of being thin later.

WILL
(sotto to Becca)
That was deep.

AMBER
I might actually skip my dessert.

WILL
I’ll take it.

AMBER
You really think that’s a good idea?

Oh snap!

WILL
Absolutely. If I’m gonna gain weight here I need to fully commit.

Only Becca grins. Amber thrusts her dessert at Will--

AMBER
Whatever.

INT. ANOTHER AREA IN THE CAFETERIA - A LITTLE LATER
As Will exits, Caitlin grabs her--

CAITLIN
Hey. I heard you’re holding.

WILL
What? What do you mean, I don’t--
CAITLIN
Relax. I don’t want to bust you. I want to buy some.

This hadn’t occurred to Will.

WILL
Oh.

CAITLIN
Come on. Please?

WILL’S FACE: She can’t think of a reason not to.

MONTAGE:
WILL pours M&Ms from a shampoo bottle into a plastic baggie, then hands the baggie to Caitlin, for a wad of cash.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - DAY
The campers play volleyball on the sand. George has his arm around Amber showing her how to serve. He’s professional, but she’s into it on a whole other level.

ON WILL, away from the game, building a sand castle.

INT. THE CABIN - DAY
Will waits impatiently for her turn at the sink while Amber painstakingly blow-dries her hair in front of the mirror. ANOTHER CABIN GIRL tugs Will’s sleeve, she turns--

CLOSE ON Will’s hands:
-Opening a maxi pad box-- filled with snack cakes.
-Pulling marshmallows from a bag of cotton balls.
-Lifting the false bottom of her suitcase to reveal a cornucopia of junk food: Chips, jerky, cheese whiz, etc.
-Counting up her cash.

INT. CAMP OFFICE - DAY
Will and Becca giggle, Xerox unseen images from an ART BOOK.
EXT. THE CABIN - DAY

Another candy transaction, with THREE CAMPERS this time (one of them is Caitlin.) Will flips through a huge wad of cash, looking like a total drug dealer with sunglasses and a lollipop sticking out of her mouth like a cigarette.

INT. GYM - DAY

Campers practice Tae-bo moves on one another in a class: Will and Becca next to Ian and Alistair.

IAN’S POV: AMBER, a few yards away, practicing with Caitlin.

Distracted, Ian accidentally kicks Will. She playfully retaliates.

INT. THE CABIN - LATER

Amber is shocked and furious to find that the models in her wall collage have been pasted over with voluptuous women from classical paintings. She glares at Will and Becca, who barely contain their giggles before totally losing it.

Amber snatches down the art pictures angrily--

INT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

While the others sleep around her, Will munches a candy bar in the bottom bunk. We pan up to AN IRRITATED AMBER in the top bunk, wide awake, forced to listen to her CRUNCHING.

EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS -- DAY

A co-ed group of campers sit in a circle, sharing feelings. Ian is mid-share.

IAN
You know that Doors song “People Are Strange?” I feel like that all the time. Like I’m looking at the world through this like-- haze. Of-- ugliness. I mean, for a long time I didn’t see myself clearly. I knew I was big, but--

Will stares at the ground with intensity, riveted to Ian’s every word but so uncomfortable that she can’t look at him. Alistair nods, empathic.
IAN (CONT'D)
There was this kid-- Kyle Biederman. He was like-- the fat guy. In our school. And I like clung to that. I would always look at him, and think-- at least I’m not him. And then one day, after P.E., we were at the sinks at the same time.

TRENT and his buddy are focussed, grinning, on something in the grass-- they LAUGH and nudge each other.

IAN swallows, nervous, glances over to AMBER, who is distracted by Trent.

IAN (CONT'D)
I could see us both in the mirror. And I was as fat as him. Maybe fatter. It kind of shocked me.

TRENT LAUGHS OUT LOUD. Ian stops himself from saying more.

DR. RAND
Trent, is there a problem?

TRENT
Sorry. We found a caterpillar!

Amber, Caitlin, Chloe and a few others GIGGLE. Rand glares.

TRENT (CONT’D)
(abashed)
Sorry.

DR. RAND
Thank you for sharing, Ian.

Rand looks over at Will.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
Who’s next. Will?

WILL
Pass.

DR. RAND
You don’t have to say much, just tell us a little about what brought you to camp.

WILL
My parents.
DR. RAND
And how do you feel about that?

WILL
Whatever. I’m used to them being jerks.
(beat)
Look, I’m down with my fat. Me and my fat are like-- BFF.

Amber’s look says “Bullshit.”

WILL (CONT’D)
Who says fat has to be this horrible thing? A few hundred years ago, this was the hottest look on the block. In some parts of the world, it still is. It’s our culture that’s screwed up, not us.

Amber whispers something to Caitlin that we don’t hear.

DR. RAND
I agree, it’s hurtful to put pressure on people, to conform to a certain look. But there’s also the question of health.

WILL
Oh right, health. You want to tell me she’s here for her health?
(points at Amber)

AMBER
Don’t say what I’m here for, you don’t know me!

DR. RAND
Girls! Okay. There’s obviously a lot of emotion here. Which is why--

Rand passes around small notebooks, they each take one, as...

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
--I want you all to start keeping a journal. Every day. It’s important to get your thoughts and feelings out. So you can face them.

WILL
Will you be checking these?

DR. RAND
No. They’re just for you.
WILL
So really, we could not write in them and you wouldn’t know.

DR. RAND
The choice is yours.
(beat)
Like all the choices you make.

Will frowns. Rand looks around, addresses the group.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
So-- nobody’s mentioned what it’s like to go without your favorite foods. How’s it feel?

Silence. Then... Caitlin raises her hand.

CAITLIN
It feels really good.

EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS -- A LITTLE LATER

Sharing’s over, kids disperse in twos and threes-- Chloe chats up Trent and his friends, then looks up to see:

CAITLIN AND AMBER head off together. Chloe turns back to the boys, struggling to shake off the rejection.

EXT. WOODS -- DAY

Amber and Caitlin walk back to the cabin...

AMBER
How can they expect us to get that personal, in front of everyone? I’m just gonna make stuff up.

CAITLIN
No, you should be honest. People are really supportive here. I mean, this is like-- the only place where I feel like people actually care. At home my mom just rides me about how fat I’m getting.

Amber looks at her-- empathic. Caitlin lightens the moment.

CAITLIN (CONT’D)
So next time we share, you have to say how you’re in love with George.

AMBER
Oh, like you’re not!
CAITLIN
Hey, if you like 'em older, you can have Salty!

Amber swats Caitlin, who LAUGHS, runs away, Amber follows.

EXT. LAKE FRONT - LATER THAT DAY

Will wanders out onto the dock, studying her cell phone, trying in vain to find reception...

WILL
(under her breath)
Come on... gimme one bar!

Frustrated, she snaps it shut, shoves it in her pocket. All at once, she realizes she's hearing FAINT MUSIC-- A simple acoustic melody. She looks around, confused, then kneels down, leans over the edge of the dock--

REVERSE: WILL’S UPSIDE DOWN FACE peeks under the dock--

HER POV: IAN, strumming his guitar, in his own world.

Will watches him: Curious, awed, scared to interrupt. He looks up-- stops playing.

IAN
Hey.

WILL
Sorry. I didn’t mean to--

IAN
No worries.

She jumps down off the dock, approaches him--

WILL
How long you been playing?

IAN
Just like twenty minutes.

WILL
I mean how long--

IAN
I know. Three years.

WILL
You’re good.
IAN
No I’m not. This isn’t even my good guitar.

WILL
It looks like the one Frank Black plays.

Ian lights up.

IAN
I can’t believe-- I’m so happy you know that.

WILL
I’m obsessed. I saw them play in London last year--

IAN
What?!! What?! Ohh, I hate you!! I don’t hate you. That must have been--

WILL
It was, Frank’s sweat was literally dripping on me.

IAN
Wow.

WILL
I know. Stiff Little Fingers opened. I really like them too.

IAN
I only know that one song--
(SINGS)
“Something, something-- barbed wire love--”

WILL
(SINGS)
“All you give me is barbed wire love--”

IAN
For so long I thought they were saying “barber love.” Like the love you have for your barber.

They LAUGH a little. Beat. He looks at her.

IAN (CONT’D)
You’ve been to London?
EXT. CAMPGROUND - LATER

Will and Ian walk back to the cabins, deep in conversation--

IAN
I can’t believe I was scared to talk to you.

WILL
(LAUGHS)
What?!

IAN
No, I just thought-- you were too cool, or whatever.

WILL
Why would you ever think that?

IAN
(overlapped)
Well you did that-- dance thing. The first day. That was like-- balls.

WILL
What can I say. I am too cool. Maybe you should walk a few paces behind me.

But Ian is distracted by-- AMBER. Coming towards them.

IAN
Do you know that girl?

Will notices the way Ian is looking at Amber.

WILL
Sort of. Why?

IAN
Just wondering.

His interest is obvious. ON WILL, swallowing disappointment. Amber comes right up to them. Ignores Ian and glares at Will.

AMBER
Dr. Rand’s looking for you. She wants you in her office.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE:
INT. DR. RAND’S OFFICE – DAY

Will faces down a stern Dr. Rand. Will tries to play it cool, but she’s a little intimidated in spite of herself.

DR. RAND
Any idea why you’re here, Will?

WILL
Actually, I’ve been thinking about it? And I prefer Willamina.

DR. RAND
(tries not to strangle her)
We try to create a controlled environment here when it comes to food, Willamina. But there are always some campers who feel the rules don’t apply to them. Who try to have their cake, and eat it. So to speak.

WILL
What kind of cake?

DR. RAND
You tell me.
(beat)
What if I were to say I had received a letter. From my Uncle Hershey?

WILL
Who?

DR. RAND
It’s a code. A secret language for buying and selling contraband food.

WILL
Okay...?

DR. RAND
I’ve heard some troubling rumors. Which is why we’ll be performing random cabin checks throughout the week. Anyone caught with food will face serious consequences. I trust you understand that.

WILL
Yes ma’am.
DR. RAND
I prefer Dr. Rand.

INT. REC ROOM - NIGHT

Trent and his posse are seated on the couch opposite the TV, watch a football game. Nearby, Will and Becca play foosball. Becca watches the clock on the wall anxiously--

WILL
So-- somebody ratted me out. Probably someone in our very cabin.

BECCA
Who?

WILL
I don’t know. Yet.

Becca gives another anxious glance to the clock.

BECCA
It’s almost on.

WILL
Just ask them!

BECCA
I can’t-- they’re already--

WILL
It’s easy, watch!

Will strides over to the guys, who don’t look up.

WILL (CONT’D)
Uh, my friend is really into Battlestar Galactica, and it’s on in like three minutes?

Will waits. The jocks glance at her, then at each other. Before they can respond--

Amber, Caitlin and Chloe enter. Caitlin leans flirtatiously on one arm of the couch towards Trent.

CAITLIN
Hey-- are you like, watching this?

TRENT
Uh, sorta.

CAITLIN
Cause there’s this thing? That we seriously need to watch?
CHLOE
Yeah, it’s serious.

ON WILL: In disbelief.

WILL
Uh, excuse me? We were here first.

BECCA
(tugs her, uncomfortable)
It’s fine, I’ll just get my Mom to describe it to me...

Trent looks from Caitlin to Will, shrugs lamely:

TRENT
Sorry.

Trent hands the remote to Caitlin. The other guys make room on the couch. Caitlin and Chloe sit down, but there’s no room for Amber. She stands there, awkward, until--

TRENT (CONT’D)
Come here--!

He pats his lap. Amber hesitates. Is he serious?

TRENT (CONT’D)
Come on, best seat in the house!

As Caitlin clicks channels, Amber cautiously lowers herself into Trent’s lap, trying not to rest her full weight on him. She looks at him covertly, checking to make sure he’s okay. He smiles. She starts to let herself enjoy this moment.

Will watches this, furious. Becca: Longingly.

Meanwhile, Caitlin finds what she’s looking for:

ON THE TV SCREEN: THE OPENING OF A REALITY SHOW.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
One beefy bachelor! Fifteen large and luscious ladies! All stuffed into one super sized villa! Who will find the love of their dreams-- and who will be sent packing?

ON SCREEN: A MONTAGE OF SCENES FROM THIS FAT REALITY SHOW--plus size women sob, frolic in the surf, receive roses...

CAITLIN AND CHLOE clutch each other in excitement. AMBER is also riveted. Will watches this like it’s a train wreck.

TRENT
What is this crap?
CAITLIN
Shut up!

ON THE TV:

NARRATOR (V.O.)
It all. Happens. NOW. On Love Handles.

Ian and Alistair walk in, cross to Will and Becca.

IAN
Hey-- oh, my mom loves this show.

Will closes her eyes in agony.

ON THE TV: A plus-size HOST addresses the contestants.

HOST
There are twelve of you left. And the competition is about to heat up because tonight... your date... will take place... in a sauna.

ON SCREEN CONTESTANT (COCO)
When I heard the date would be in a sauna, I started to sweat.

WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THE SHOW IN THE b.g. as--

WILL
This is unwatchable.

INT. REC ROOM - FORTY FIVE MINUTES LATER

MORE CAMPERS are now gathered around the TV, totally absorbed in the show. Will stands exactly where she was, watching.

ON THE TV: An elaborate elimination ceremony.

BACHELOR
There are eleven onion rings in this basket. When I call your name, please step forward. Shasta.

SHASTA steps forward. The Bachelor hands her an onion ring with grave solemnity. She tears up.

TRENT
I can’t believe he didn’t pick Albany first.

AMBER
Wait.
Ian, off to the side near Will, Becca and Alistair, can’t stop staring at Amber. Will notices this, as...

BACHELOR (O.S.)
The next name I’m going to call is... Albany.

All REACT. Becca SQUEALS involuntarily. Will turns to her in disgust. Ian watches as Trent high fives Amber.

TRENT
You called it!

Will can’t take anymore, stalks off.

EXT. GIRLS SIDE OF CAMP -- A LITTLE LATER

Amber, Caitlin and Chloe walk back to their cabin. Amber is beyond hyped--

AMBER
You guys-- oh God, I’m shaking--

CAITLIN
Your teeth are chattering-- come here--

Caitlin offers half of her hoodie. Now they’re walking like Siamese twins. Chloe tries to appear not left out.

AMBER
Thanks.

CHLOE
When Coco passed out in the hot tub... do you think that was fake?

AMBER
You don’t understand-- I was on his actual lap! I just-- have never done that before! Ever!

CHLOE
(to Caitlin)
Remember last summer when you sat on Mike Duffy’s lap at movie night?

CAITLIN
Mike Duffy was so gay!

AMBER
And he smelled amazing. I’ve never smelled a guy like close up before.

(MORE)
So— was I okay? Did I seem like a normal person?

CHLOE

Sort of.

AMBER

Why, should I have flirted more?

CAITLIN

You were great! Just— don’t get tied down the first week. Remember, this isn’t like the real world. You could seriously have any guy here.

AMBER

(it’s hitting her)

Oh my God. This is so huge.

INT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

All prepare for bed. Chloe, in pj’s, reads aloud the table of contents of a teen magazine while Caitlin paints her nails. Amber studies her body in the mirror; turns sideways, sucks in her stomach.

CHLOE


CAITLIN

That one.

AMBER

Do I look any thinner to you guys?

CAITLIN

I can’t tell.

CHLOE

(overlapped, reads)

“When you glam up for a night out, do you reach for A) a thick eye crayon in bad girl black...

ON WILL: Watching Amber tug at the waistband of her shorts.

CHLOE (CONT’D)

B) a dewy shimmer, hold the mascara or C) long false lashes, the wilder the better!

Will appears in the mirror behind Amber, staring her down.
AMBER
What.

WILL
You been talking about me?

AMBER
No.

Caitlin and Chloe put down the magazine to watch this--

WILL
Then why does Rand think I’m selling food?

AMBER
Uh, maybe ‘cause you are.

WILL
Or maybe someone has a problem with me. Which they should take up with me instead of tattling.

AMBER
I didn’t say anything. Get over yourself. I don’t care what you do.

Will doesn’t know whether to believe her. Neither do we. Amber pointedly turns her attention back to the mirror. Will retreats.

AMBER (CONT’D)
I just feel like nothing’s happening.

As Will watches Amber from afar, she gets an idea...

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Will takes wet clothes from the washer as Becca tapes up A FLYER: “Interested in LARPing? See Becca, cabin 4!!”

BECCA
What exactly did Rand say to you?

WILL
She wanted to buy some Mallomars off me. There was like begging, and tears... it was sad, really.

During the above, Trent walks by with a basket of clean laundry, stops to read Becca’s flyer. Becca lights up expectantly. Trent exits. Crushed, Becca turns back to Will.
BECCA
No, really, what happened?

Will shoves her wet clothes into a dryer, as--

WILL
What do you think? “Troubling rumors, serious consequences... we’re here to help...”

BECCA
Well, but-- she is.

WILL
Right. She’s making money off us being here-- she’s never gonna tell us we’re fine the way we are!

Becca squelches her real feelings, per usual. Will holds up a pair of wet, pink shorts--

WILL (CONT’D)
(sing song)
Look what I stole!

BECCA
Are you sure this isn’t too mean?

Will ignores her, throws the shorts into the dryer-- and turns the DIAL TO EXTRA HOT.

WILL
No, it’ll be hilarious, just--

She clams up as CAITLIN enters. She and Caitlin share a look.

EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS - A LITTLE LATER
Caitlin follows Will--

CAITLIN
How much further?

WILL
Look for two big branches, next to a rock-- oh, here we go--

CAITLIN FOLLOWS HER GAZE: Two branches and a rock on the ground. Will moves them aside, digs with a serving spoon. Caitlin waits awkwardly as Will unearths a plastic bag, brushes off the dirt, and pulls out a shampoo bottle.

WILL (CONT’D)
How much you want?
CAITLIN
I’ll take the bottle.

Caitlin puts it in her backpack, and hands Will the cash.

WILL
So does Amber know that you partake in the black market?

CAITLIN
Yeah. She does. I know her, she’s not a snitch.

WILL
Come on.

CAITLIN
Whatever, you just don’t like her. (then)
I mean, I get it. Her whole “I’m so fat” thing can be kind of annoying.
It’s like, if you think you’re fat, what am I?

The irony that she’s saying this to the much-heavier-than-her Will is lost on Caitlin, but not on Will.

WILL
Right.

CAITLIN
But she’s a good person. She wouldn’t do that. Even to you.

She exits the clearing, leaving Will alone.

INT. CABIN - DAY

Amber struggles to zip her shrunken pink shorts. Will lies on her bunk, peeking at Amber covertly, a smug grin on her face. Becca watches from her own bunk, worried.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - DAY

George is leading today. An obstacle course has been set up.

GEORGE
Okay, listen up guys! This is one of the races you’re gonna be doing for the color war at the end of the summer. So form a line-- I’ll be timing you-- you’re gonna run through those tires and over the climbing wall.
ON WILL, zoned out, iPod earbuds in her ears.

WILL’S POV: George’s mouth moves, but all we hear is Riot Grrl music. Suddenly Ian pops up in front of her. She takes her earbuds out.

IAN
Dude. That mix is amazing.

WILL
Oh, good. I tried to pick stuff you wouldn’t already have--

As they start to get into line with the other campers--

IAN
The last song? “All My Friends Have Been Replaced By Cities”?

WILL
Right?

IAN
So good. Now I have to make you one, pressure’s on.

WILL
It better be perfect. None of your Taylor Swift nonsense--

IAN
(over her, laughing)
Shut up, you cannot make fun of me for that!

ON GEORGE:

GEORGE
Don’t worry, I’ll be right there to make sure you don’t fall. Okay, on your mark, get set-- Go!

The first KID takes off through the course, his FRIENDS cheering him on. Amber is the next in line: tugging surreptitiously at her too-tight shorts.

AMBER
I’m having some serious muffin top issues right now.

CHLOE
Please don’t mention muffins.

AMBER
I can’t be gaining, that’s not possible, right? Where’s Caitlin?
CHLOE
Probably playing sick.  
(trying to be a friend)
Maybe it’s a metabolism thing.  
Cause-- if you’re suddenly burning  
so much more calories, maybe your  
metabolism like, got confused.

AMBER  
Is that a real thing?

CHLOE  
I don’t know, I’m not a scientist!

The kid tags Amber’s hand and Amber takes off. When she gets  
to the climbing wall, she’s a little daunted, but George is  
right there to guide her--

GEORGE  
Make sure you grip the handholds--  
that’s it; you’re doing great.

AMBER  
I have a thing about heights--

GEORGE  
Don’t worry. I’ve got you.

He smiles at her and she melts a little... But her pleasure  
turns to panic when he puts his hands lightly around her  
waist. She keeps climbing.

GEORGE (CONT’D)  
There you go, one step at a time--

Suddenly Amber’s shorts RIP, revealing embarrassing granny  
panties that say “Tuesday” on the butt. The campers react--  
some laugh, some (like Ian) wince.

ON WILL AND BECCA: Becca can’t help herself-- SNORTS with  
laughter. But suddenly it’s not so funny to Will.

ON AMBER: Freaking out. Dying of embarrassment.

AMBER  
Let me down--

GEORGE  
Uh, okay, just lower your foot--

AMBER  
Let go!

George lets go of her waist and Amber scrambles down, taking  
a little tumble to the ground.
GEORGE
Oh my God, are you okay?

But she’s already getting up, unable to face him or anyone--

AMBER
I’m fine!

She runs away. George is unsure of what to do--

GEORGE
Okay guys, just-- uh--
(checks his watch)
--head back to your cabins, and
I’ll see you tomorrow.

He takes off after Amber.

ON WILL: racked with guilt.

EXT. EXERCISE BUILDING - DAY

Amber leans against a building-- she sees

GEORGE, winded, obviously looking for her. Amber tries to
walk in such a way that the split in her pants is concealed,
which isn’t easy. Or possible. George sees her, calls out--

GEORGE
Tara! Wait!

ON AMBER-- caught. Humiliated, she reluctantly stops. George
catches up to her. She can’t look at him.

GEORGE (CONT’D)
Tara, I’m so sorry.

He’s so sweet, she can’t bring herself to correct him.

AMBER
It wasn’t your fault.

GEORGE
Well, let’s face it, I’ve still got
a lot to learn.

Despite everything, Amber starts to relax slightly--

AMBER
You do?

GEORGE
Yeah! This is my first time
actually working at a camp.
Neither knows what to say. Amber self consciously adjusts her shorts. George takes off his hoodie, holds it out.

GEORGE (CONT’D)
Here-- maybe tie it around your waist.

Amber, blown away by his chivalry, takes the hoodie, ties it around herself...

AMBER
Thanks.

GEORGE
Listen, don’t be embarrassed, okay?

AMBER
How can I not be?

GEORGE
I swear to you, every person here has had embarrassing stuff happen. Probably this week! If I told you some of the stuff that’s happened to me--

AMBER
Like what?

GEORGE
Well-- okay. I’m deaf in one ear.

AMBER
Oh.

GEORGE
So there’s stuff I miss. Like senior year-- I was at this party, and this girl kept turning around and looking at me. And finally she said: “Wanna make out.” And I was like: “Whoa, I mean-- sure!” And she gave me this weird look. And it turned out she was saying: “You’re on my coat.”

AMBER
Wow.

GEORGE
Yeah. So-- you’re not the only one.

(he leans in, solicitous)
Just remember, you’re a really cool girl, Tara.
AMBER
(can hardly talk)
Thanks.

He smiles down at her for a beat too long. She finds herself leaning closer, to be kissed. Then George gets a grip--

GEORGE
I better--

AMBER
Yeah--

Both get up, uncomfortable.

GEORGE
Shay’s gonna freak when she finds out I sent those guys home early.
(beat)
I’ll see you later.

He lopes off, leaving Amber to process what just happened.

EXT. CAMPGROUND - SAME TIME

IAN
Wow. That was epic humiliation. And I could not stop staring at her ass. I can still see it! I’m a horrible person.

Ian realizes that Alistair has stopped walking. He stops too.

ALISTAIR
You have to help me.
(beat)
I bought all this crap from Will. Chips and jerky and-- snack cakes. And I know I’m gonna eat it. You have to take it from me. Okay?

IAN
No! Then I’ll eat it!

They look at each other. Now what?

INT. THE CABIN - MINUTES LATER

Amber enters, upbeat, still wearing George’s hoodie, to find THE OTHER GIRLS, crowded around an uncharacteristically somber Poppy.
CHLOE
What do you mean, what happened--

POPPY
I’m sorry, I’m not supposed to discuss it.

Amber now sees:

CAITLIN’S NOW EMPTY BUNK, stripped of its sheets.

AMBER
What’s going on?

CHLOE
Caitlin’s gone.

AMBER
What?! Why?

POPPY
Her mom came to get her.

AMBER
Oh my God--

POPPY
I’m really not supposed to discuss details yet, Dr. Rand’s coming by later, to talk to you.

AMBER
Wait, is she okay? What happened?

CHLOE
(angry)
We have a right to know!

POPPY
(uneasy)
Yeah, she’s okay. Um-- I heard her throwing up.
(beat)
I thought maybe she was just sick, but then I found out-- she’s done it before. I had to go to Dr. Rand.

WILL
So they kicked her out?

POPPY
I know this is upsetting, but I think we should wait til Dr. Rand gets here. I’ll see if she’s in her office-- just stay here, okay?
Poppy exits the cabin. The girls stand there, some sit down on their bunks. The mood is somber. Will breaks the silence:

WILL
I can’t believe they kicked her out.

AMBER
That’s so screwed up! I thought this place was about helping us, they could have given her counseling or something!

BECCA
It’s a liability. If she hurt herself, her parents could sue the camp.

CHLOE
So who told Poppy she’d done it before?

She glances at Becca.

BECCA
Why are you looking at me?

WILL
Wait, did everyone know she was--?

AMBER’S FACE: She knew. The other girls exchange glances.

ONE CABIN GIRL
I didn’t.

ANOTHER CABIN GIRL
I thought maybe. (beat)
You ever look at her fingers? Right here? That’s where the teeth hit when you--

She mimes putting her fingers in her mouth.

BECCA
We were in the same cabin last year, you kind of couldn’t not know.

Chloe turns on Becca:

CHLOE
So did you tell on her?

BECCA
No, but I’m glad someone did!
AMBER
Why?!
(getting emotional)
So she gets kicked out?

Will jumps to Becca’s defense--

WILL
(to Amber)
Cause it’s the right thing! At least she can get help now.
(including Chloe)
Didn’t you ever think you should say something? You’re supposed to be her friends.

CHLOE
I was being a friend! You don’t know anything. Home is the last place she should be.

AMBER
(to Will, furious)
You’re the one who gave her all that crap to eat. What did you think was going to happen?!

This is like a punch in the gut to Will. She doesn’t know how to respond. Amber turns to Chloe. Will stands there, facing Amber’s “thin-spiration” wall. She scrambles up Amber’s bunk-- and starts tearing the pictures down.

AMBER (CONT’D)
Hey!

WILL
And you’re the one who made her LOOK AT ALL THIS CRAP!

Amber tries to pull Will down, punching her legs-- Will tumbles to the floor, knocking Amber over. Becca GASPS. Chloe tries to pull Will off of Amber. The other girls SHRIEKING-- Poppy returns with Dr. Rand--

POPPY
Oh no--!

DR. RAND
Amber! Willamina! Stop this immediately!
(yanks them apart)
Physical violence will not be tolerated.

Will, shreds of thin-spiration still in her hands, rushes into the bathroom. Becca follows her. Rand turns to Amber.
DR. RAND (CONT’D)
Alright-- what happened.

AMBER
Nothing.

INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - SECONDS LATER
Becca tries to put her arm around Will-- she shakes it off. Becca’s hurt. A beat.

WILL
Do you know how to get to the main road from here?

BECCA
What? Yeah, why?

WILL
I’m busting out of here. Tonight.

END OF ACT 3.

ACT 4:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT
Will sneaks through the bushes lugging her duffle bag, followed by a paranoid Becca.

BECCA
You can’t just bolt like this.
(beat)
At least stay til the morning, then you can ask to leave.

WILL
I can’t deal with Rand-- I’m gonna hitch a ride to my uncle’s place.

BECCA
Hitch?! You can’t! I won’t let you. I’ve watched too many specials about serial killers!

WILL
Becca, I’ve done it a million times.
(then)
I’m not staying here another night.

She plows ahead. Becca stops walking. Stands there, upset.
BECCA
I’m really gonna miss you.

This gets to Will, even if she doesn’t know quite what to say in return. She turns around.

WILL
Come on, this isn’t the end. We’ll talk on Facebook.

She awkwardly hugs Becca. Suddenly the SOUND OF SOMETHING--

BECCA
What was that?

The sound gets closer. Both girls are terrified-- until Ian emerges from the woods.

IAN
There you are!

BECCA
Shh!

WILL
What are you doing here?

IAN
Alistair said Becca said you were leaving. I can’t believe you weren’t even gonna say goodbye, jerk!

WILL
I’m not that good at goodbyes.

IAN
Well, I wanted to give you this before you go.

He hands her a mix CD decorated in sharpie. Will is touched.

WILL
Thanks. This is-- thanks.

IAN
I wrote my email on there too. You better write me.

This goodbye is getting harder for Will.

WILL
I’m gonna write! To both of you. I promise.

(afraid to linger)
I gotta go.
IAN
Good luck.

Ian and Will move in for a hug and a handshake respectively, and end up in an awkward half-hug.

WILL
Bye.

BECCA
Bye.

Will waves one last time, then turns and walks out of the woods onto the main road.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT
Will walks down the side of the road with her thumb out. A car slows and then stops. She hops in.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT
Amber sleeps. We hear MUFFLED CRYING from OS. Amber cranes her neck to see where it’s coming from and sees the empty bunk beneath her.

INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT
Amber tiptoes in, following the sound of the crying, and finds Becca on the floor.

AMBER
Hey.

She grabs a roll of toilet paper and offers Becca some. Becca blows her nose.

AMBER (CONT’D)
What’s wrong? (sensing it’s related)
Where’s Will?

BECCA
She left.

AMBER
Like, left left?

BECCA
She’s hitchhiking to Montera.
AMBER
To where?
(Beat)
Nevermind. I don’t care.
(Beat, can’t leave)
That’s a really stupid idea.

Amber reels. Sits down next to her.

BECCA
And it’s partly my fault. I told Rand about her stash.
(off Amber’s surprise)
I didn’t want to get her in trouble, I just couldn’t take having that stuff around anymore.

AMBER
Look, she hated it here. It’s better that she’s gone.

BECCA
I’m a horrible friend.

AMBER
No. I am.
(Beat)
I told on Caitlin.

BECCA
Oh.

AMBER
I didn’t know they could kick you out for that. I’m so stupid.
(Beat)
You can’t tell anyone.

BECCA
Neither can you.

Amber nods. They sit there in silence.

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - NIGHT

Will sits in a booth, orders from the WAITRESS--

WILL
I’ll have the disco fries. Extra gravy. And a chocolate shake.

The Waitress goes off. Will pulls out her CD player, pops Ian’s CD in, puts in earbuds. We hear A MELANCHOLY SONG as she looks around the diner, noticing the LONELY LOOKING PEOPLE around her. All eating.
Suddenly Will does a double take, yanks out her ear buds--

WILL’S POV: DR. RAND! In a booth, engrossed in a book and a salad, across from Salty, equally engrossed in his chili and newspaper. Salty glances up from the paper to Rand--

SALTY
That Beyonce-- she’s everywhere.

Will ducks behind her menu; peeks out at Rand, who doesn’t yet see her. Will starts to sneak towards the door. The WAITRESS’S VOICE rings out--

WAITRESS
Where ya goin’ sweetie?

Everyone (including Rand) looks up. Will freezes.

WAITRESS (CONT’D)
I got your fries here!

Will stands there, no idea where to look.

WAITRESS (CONT’D)
You want them or not?

Rand crosses briskly to Will.

DR. RAND
She does.

She escorts Will back to her booth. The waitress sets down Will’s food. Rand sits down opposite Will. RAND’S GAZE moves from the shake and fries to-- Will’s DUFFLE BAG.

DR. RAND (CONT’D)
I’d hoped that you’d be able to take advantage of what we offer here. That you might face some personal issues, and grow.

WILL
You mean shrink.
(beat)
So- what happens now?

DR. RAND
Well, I know your parents are in Europe for the summer-- there’s a relative they mentioned--

WILL
(can’t look at her)
My uncle.
DR. RAND
Right. I have his contact information. We’ll call him as soon as we get back to camp.

(beat)
It’s funny, isn’t it. The way--

She breaks off, because SALTY is standing there. He puts Rand’s salad and her open book down, in front of her. Salty looks briefly at Will, then--

SALTY
I’ll be in the truck.

He exits. Will glances into Rand’s open book-- a line of print jumps out at her:

“Faith has to work twenty four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.”

Before she can read more Rand shuts the book, shoves it away. A beat, then...

WILL
You said something was funny--?

DR. RAND
Oh. Yes. Well, the last train’s come and gone; there’s no bus service on Sundays. So you were probably planning to hitchhike. Which means-- you’d rather risk your life than change it. Not so much funny as sad, really.

(chews, swallows)
Your fries are getting cold.

WILL
I don’t want them.

DR. RAND
Go ahead-- you’re not a camper anymore.

WILL
I’m not eating them in front of you, okay!? And no, I don’t want to change! Why should I? Just cause my parents are ashamed of how I look?!

Silence. Dr. Rand stops eating. Looks hard at her.

DR. RAND
I should have realized this wouldn’t work out.

(MORE)
DR. RAND (CONT'D)
The campers who get something out of our program are here because they want to be.
(beat)
Listen to me, Willamina--

WILL
Will.

DR. RAND
(almost smacks her, but--)
I know why you’re running away, I know you’re scared--

WILL
I’m not scared! I just think everything you stand for is crap. No offense.

Rand takes a moment, then turns to the waitress.

DR. RAND
Check!

INT. THE CABIN - NIGHT

Everyone’s asleep. Except Amber, rifling through Will’s stuff with a flashlight. She unscrews a shampoo bottle, turns it over into her palm— it’s shampoo! Damn. Suddenly she hears LOW VOICES from outside.

EXT. THE CABIN - SIMULTANEOUS

Dr. Rand walks Will to the cabin steps.

DR. RAND
Get some sleep. We’ll call your uncle in the morning. If he can’t come and get you I’ll speak with your parents and arrange something.

Will isn’t listening. She’s staring at:

INITIALS, NAMES, AND DATES, CARVED INTO THE WOOD RAILING OF THE PORCH. The dates go back to the nineteen sixties. Will touches one of them. Then, without looking at Rand...

WILL
I want to stay.
(turns)
I mean as long as I started this thing I should finish it. Right?
(beat)
So can I? Stay?
Silence. Will realizes there’s something she needs to say.

WILL (CONT’D)
It was messed up for me to sell
food. But I vow. That I will never
do it again. Ever. I said vow,
that’s how serious I am.

Rand looks back at her, impassive.

INT. THE CABIN - SIMULTANEOUS

Amber listening to this at the window. Then, she hears
footsteps, scurries back to bed.

EXT. LAKE -- DAWN

In the dim light, WE SEE A RIBBON OF SMOKE. FIND:
IAN AND ALISTAIR standing at a small contained fire at the
waters edge. Alistair empties a bag of chips into the flames,
WE WATCH THEM BLACKEN...

INT. CAFETERIA - THE NEXT DAY

As the other cabin girls CHATTER and finish breakfast, Will
captivates Becca with her story:

WILL
So she refuses to call my uncle--
and she’s all like: What are you so
afraid of, Willamina? Then she
drags me back here, in this really
gross truck.

ON AMBER: Listening in. Knowing the truth.

WILL (CONT’D)
I gotta give the woman credit for
how committed she is to ruining my
summer.

BECCA
Well, to be selfish, I’m glad
you’re back.

Chloe glances across the table at Amber, who avoids her gaze.
Chloe offers an olive branch.
CHLOE
Wow. Amber.
(Amber turns to her, distrustful)
Your face really looks thinner.

AMBER
(lights up)
Really?

CHLOE
Totally.

Amber and Chloe share a tentative smile. Will observes this.

WILL
How about me? Do I look any fatter?

Before they can respond, George appears at their table.

GEORGE
Uh, hi.

It takes Amber a few seconds to realize he’s addressing her.

GEORGE (CONT’D)
You wanna walk with me to the Life Saving Demonstration?

The girls at the table: OMG! (Even Will, though she covers it.) Amber can’t speak. Chloe nudges her into saying:

AMBER
Sure.

Amber stands, exits with George. Becca stands, turns to Will.

BECCA
Let’s go. I wanna change my shoes before the Life Saving thing.

WILL
I’ll meet you. There’s some stuff I gotta do first.

EXT. PATH TO THE LAKE - DAY

Amber and George walk. Amber’s hyper aware of him near her.

GEORGE
So-- look. I feel really stupid--

AMBER
Oh my God, me too!
George stops walking.

GEORGE
Wait, why do you?

AMBER
(panics)
Uh... why do you?

GEORGE
Cause I just found out I’ve been calling you the wrong name all this time.

AMBER
(relieved)
Oh, that’s okay--

GEORGE
No it’s not-- your name’s Amber!
(insecure)
Right?
(she nods, transfixed)
Anyway. I will never call you Tara again. So-- wait, why did you feel stupid?

AMBER
I don’t.
(them)
Just cause-- I should’ve said something.

GEORGE
No, it was my responsibility. I’m the counselor here.

Amber had almost forgotten.

AMBER
Right.

GEORGE
If I ever get something wrong like that again, just yell into my good ear. Which is this one--
(points)
Okay?

Amber nods, crushing hard. As they both turn, start walking--

GEORGE’S POV: DR. RAND, at the lake shore, observing George and Amber together as CAMPERS GATHER NEARBY.

Self conscious, George breaks into a run toward the assembly. This pops Amber out of her love-fog. She runs after him--
EXT. CLEARING IN THE WOODS - DAY

Will stares down at:

THE MOUND OF DIRT WHERE SHE BURIED HER CONTRABAND. THE TWO CROSSED BRANCHES; THE ROCK NEXT TO THEM.

Will hesitates, then-- grabs the branches, hurls them along with the rock into the woods, kicks at the dirt mound until it blends into the ground. Then she breaks into a run, as--

PRE-LAP: CAMPERS VOICES, SINGING THE CAMP SONG

CAMPERS
All hail to Thee,
Camp Victory,
Sing praises loud and clear

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Campers stand in a circle holding hands along with counselors and Dr. Rand. All sing--

CAMPERS, COUNSELORS AND RAND
For though the summer sun may set,
We promise we’ll not soon forget
The courage and the friendship we found here.

WILL ARRIVES, breathless, tries to slip unobtrusively into the circle next to Becca, she sees

RAND, looking at her. Will avoids her gaze, starts singing...

CAMPERS, COUNSELORS AND RAND (CONT’D)
So here’s to thee
Camp Victory
Where hope shines like a star
And when our summer days are gone
Within our hearts you will live on
Camp Victory
How wonderful you are.
INT. GIRLS CABIN – THAT NIGHT

Girls get ready for bed, brush teeth, put in retainers, pop prescription pills. Will, on her bunk, writes in her journal.

    WILL (V.O.)
    So this is me. Actually trying.
    What have I got to lose? HA. It’s not like my life can get any worse. I don’t want to become a superficial weight obsessed freak, like-- some people. So what do I want to get out of this?

Will looks over at Amber, on Caitlin’s old bunk, toothpick in mouth, wearing George’s hoodie. Sewing the shorts she split.

    AMBER
    These are never gonna look right again.

    WILL
    Sorry.
    (Amber looks up)
    I mean-- that sucks. I mean, it must’ve sucked. When it happened.

    AMBER
    (removes the toothpick)
    Whatever.
    (can’t resist saying)
    George gave me his hoodie.

She snuggles it around herself. After a beat--

    WILL
    Got any more of those?

Amber wordlessly hands Will a toothpick.

    WILL (CONT’D)
    I’ve only been off sugar twenty four hours and I already feel like defacing public property.
    (hard to ask)
    How do you do it?

    AMBER
    The first few days are the worst.

    WILL
    And then it gets easier?
Amber hesitates, not sure how to describe it.

WILL (CONT’D)

Great.

Amber hands Will a whole pack of toothpicks.

AMBER

Here. I’ve got tons.

Amber spots something peeking out from behind the bunk frame--pulls out Caitlin’s now torn and dusty “BEAUTY COMES FROM WITHIN” sign. Holds it in her hands.

WILL

You miss her, huh.

AMBER

(doesn’t look at Will)

Yeah.

Amber dusts off the sign, puts it among her things.

POPPY

Lights out ladies! Sleep tight!

The girls climb into their bunks. THE LIGHTS GO OUT. Amber and Will lie in their bunks, in the dark. They whisper.

AMBER

It’s not that it gets easier... but you start wanting it.

WILL

I won’t.

(beat)

I’m so damn hungry. That toothpick made it worse!

AMBER

(not unkindly)

Shut up.

WILL

I should have had that shake, when I had the chance. I had a double chocolate shake right there, in front of me.

Silence. Around them, girls are falling asleep. Amber seems to be too. Until--

AMBER

You mean, like extra large? Or double scoops of regular chocolate?
WILL
Both.

CABIN GIRL
(calls out from her bunk)
Shush!

Will and Amber go silent. Then... very quietly...

WILL
The chocolate ice cream itself was like-- double.

AMBER
Go to sleep.

WILL
Plus the chocolate syrup.

AMBER
I’m not listening!

WILL
I know.
(yawns, then, softly)
I ordered fries too. The curly kind.

As Will snuggles into sleep, WE PULL BACK, UNTIL
WE CAN SEE THEIR LITTLE CABIN, IN THE WOODS.

FADE OUT.

THE END.