



rain

POLO

Written by

Nika Burnett

RAIN
Matt Rosen

UNDERWATER - COMMUNITY POOL - SUNRISE

Empty blue water and black lines in a pool. Untouched for a moment, until-- JULES, (24), crashes down to the bottom. She sinks, as her hands and feet are bound by weighted ropes. She attempts to get loose with strict economy of movement.

She unties her hands-- the rope floats to the top of the pool above her. She bends down to untie her feet, and then pulls herself to the surface, leaving the weights below.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - THAT MOMENT

Jules gasps for air, and steadies her breath. She looks to the PACE CLOCK on the wall, and a smile begins to form.

The second hand on the pace clock rolls through the top.

TITLE CARD

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Jules walks toward her car from the pool deck. She has wet hair pulled back tight and is clad in a parka and sweat pants that warm her cold body.

A group of 7 twenty-something women, THE BULLDOGS, and their COACH approach.

ONE PLAYER (20s) gasps as a SECOND PLAYER (20s) throws a WATER POLO BALL at her tired body while she lags behind the group. The first player runs away, just around Jules, contorting a bit to get around her. The second follows immediately afterward.

A few of the other players stare at Jules as she passes by-- Jules keeps her head down.

EXT. TOWN STREETS - DAY

Jules drives an old Honda through her small town as the morning sun breaks through. The empty street leads her to BRADLEY GREENS, a local farmers market type grocery store.

EXT. BRADLEY GREENS - PARKING LOT - DAY

She parks and heads inside to work.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS OFFICE - DAY

The office contains a large window, a sink, two filing cabinets, and a neatly organized desk with an old computer.

Jules is seated at the desk. She unties her wet hair and begins to open book-keeping files. She grabs her orange beanie from her pocket to warm her cold head.

STEVE BRADLEY (late 50s), tall with graying hair and the imperfect posture of a relaxed California man, enters. He wears a sweatshirt and dirty Levi's. He plops down in the chair across from Jules.

STEVE

Good morning sweetheart.

Steve drops two bananas on the desk. One for her and one for him, which he opens and eats.

JULES

Nice of you to show up father boss.

STEVE

That's Mr. Father boss to you.

JULES

Where were you at?

STEVE

Not all of us wake up to swim a casual couple of miles before dawn.

JULES

You could do it. You wouldn't finish by sunrise, but you could do it.

STEVE

How was it? Make any friends?

She gives him a look, a "No I did not make any friends underwater before sunrise" look.

JULES

It was fine. Water was wet, air was cold.

STEVE

Excellent.

Charmed, Steve exits, until she calls him back--

JULES
Hey, I'm going to be late tomorrow.

STEVE
Why?

JULES
Just... is that okay?

STEVE
Yeah.

Weird. Quiet.

JULES
I just want to stay at the pool a little bit longer. That's okay?

STEVE
That's okay.

Still weird, Jules type-type-types, avoiding him.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Can you scan the receipts from the last three tomato orders and e-mail them to me? We have a weird amount of tomatoes that just came in.

JULES
You got it.

STEVE
I left a daily commuter in your top drawer. Took me 7 minutes 20 seconds.

After he leaves the room, Jules smiles and opens her top drawer to an empty crossword puzzle and pen. She closes the drawer and returns to work.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - NIGHT

Jules lays awake in her dark bedroom. The clock says 2:12 am. She turns on the lamp and grabs her phone. She starts the timer. She quickly grabs the crossword and pen to play.

INT./EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - MORNING

Jules swims. The sun begins to rise. She is focused and entranced by the rhythm of her swim. Stroke, Stroke, Stroke, Breath. Stroke, Stroke --CRASH--

The BULLDOGS from yesterday have jumped into the pool. Three bodies sink around Jules like grenades.

COACH AMY (30s), the athletic and energetic leader with the spunk of a young woman and the patience of an older one, throws balls from a ball cage into the pool.

Jules rushes to the edge and slips out of the pool. She passes MACEY, (24), the team captain with a hard maturity to her gaze, who stretches poolside.

Macey watches Jules hustle off of the pool deck.

EXT. CHURCH - PARKING LOT - LATER

The church bell rings, it's cold outside.

Jules looks around aimlessly, lost in thought. TAYLOR (30s) approaches, a sporty woman with an electric energy that could explode at any moment. They both wear black.

Taylor walks toward Jules and pulls out a pack of cigarettes.

TAYLOR
Got a lighter?

Jules turns, startled at first.

JULES
No.

Taylor searches her pockets for a lighter for a little longer than is comfortable, Jules watches attentively.

TAYLOR
Well, probably shouldn't smoke at church anyway.

It's awkward.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Was he even religious?

JULES
I saw him pray a lot actually.

TAYLOR
You serve with him?

Jules finds Taylor's eyes for the first time. They are commanding and focused, Jules thinks for a beat before engaging with her, then-- nods her head yes.

JULES

I'm Jules.

TAYLOR

Bradley?

Jules shy's away again, nervous.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Sorry, that's weird. You know how it is here, people talk.

JULES

About what?

TAYLOR

About talent. I heard you can swim.

JULES

What are you doing here?

TAYLOR

I'm Taylor, I coach The Wolverines.

JULES

I don't know what that is.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

How long have you been back?

JULES (CONT'D)

Sorry, go ahead.

TAYLOR

Wait, what?

JULES

I don't know what Wolverines is.

TAYLOR

The regional water polo team. Girls over 18.

JULES

Oh. Yeah. I think I saw your team at the pool this morning. I swim there before work.

Taylor fishes through her bag as she talks, rambling a bit on her hunt for a lighter or a rogue match.

TAYLOR

No, that's Amy's team. The Bulldogs. They're leftover players who didn't make it to college. It's basically a rec league.

(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

I pulled up their two best players a few years back but they couldn't swing it. I can teach technique, but I can't teach intensity. You either have that in your blood or you don't.

She has found a matchbook. She lights her cigarette.

JULES

But it's like high school girls?

TAYLOR

It's over 18. My girls all transfer in to schools, onto teams, most of them get scholarships. Could be a good path for you if you're thinking about school.

Jules thinks, unwilling or unable to answer.

JULES

What are you doing here?

Taylor backs off and checks back in to her environment.

TAYLOR

Aaron is my cousin. Was.

The church bell rings.

JULES

I'm sorry.

Taylor nods, getting emotional.

JULES (CONT'D)

We played a lot of cards together. I always beat him. Every time, every game.

Taylor loses her composure. Jules offers a story to meet her emotional state.

JULES (CONT'D)

There are crazy stars out there, when you're at sea, you know? And, uh, he knew a lot, everything about them. He gave me some astronomy books that he brought and we used to... to read them... to relax, kind of.

(MORE)

JULES (CONT'D)

Like, last time when our route extended, or-- the stars made it... smaller. Which helped. He helped, me, he helped me a lot.

A small smile twitches up on Jules face, for Taylor. Taylor returns with a smile of her own. The church bell rings again.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS OFFICE - DAY

Jules enters the office in her blacks from the funeral. She takes off the black shirt, down to her black bottoms and a vibrant sports bra. She throws on an old swim meet t-shirt, quickly. She shoves it in her swim bag just as Steve enters.

STEVE

That was a long workout.

Jules grabs the daily commuter out of the top drawer and puts it on the desk toward him. She sits down to adjust spreadsheets on the computer, hiding her eyes from his.

JULES

6:58

Steve takes a look at it but has another agenda. He takes his time to say what is on his mind. She keeps her eyes on her computer work, barely looking at him.

STEVE

What do you think about going by the VA?

JULES

Are you sick of me already?

STEVE

No! God no, I just--

JULES

I'm kidding, dad.

STEVE

I know, I mean-- I just don't know the programs and the-- I'm sure they have information about college if you want to do that, stuff like that.

JULES

Yeah, there are reserves officers and like, post-war-counselor people, I'm not sure either really.

Jules is typing, eyes on the computer. He's waiting for more and getting nothing.

STEVE
I can go with you if you want?

Beat.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Jules?

JULES
I'm good. Was that the question?
I'm good.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jules is awake in her dark bedroom. The room is spotless, and the bed seems like it is made even though she's in it. She reads a book by lamp-light. A finished crossword lies upon her nightstand. She turns to look at the clock, 4:18 a.m.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

The living room has an odd 1970s cabin vibe, warm and comfortable.

Steve reads a BOOK on the couch and wears a goofy old orange beanie with a blanket wrapped around his long, outstretched legs. Jules enters.

JULES
What are you doing up?

Steve closes his book and smiles up to Jules.

STEVE
Couldn't sleep.

JULES
Want to swim?

STEVE
I'll come watch?

Jules nods and heads to the door. Steve follows.

JULES
You're gonna need a sweatshirt.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - EARLY MORNING

Jules swims in the far lane. Steve shivers a bit, and folds his arms over his "49ers" sweatshirt. He sits in the bleachers and reads a book.

SEQUENCE BEGINS:

-The Bulldogs enter with Coach Amy. Macey, Coach, and REBECCA (25) watch intently. SARAH (23) and BRIE (25) stutter to a stop behind them, the rest of the team (7 total) follows in, tired.

-Jules finishes her lap and flips into the next fifty meters. She begins to sprint.

-Coach watches Jules and checks the giant pace clock on the wall. JACKIE (19) and OLIVIA (19) sit down on the ground. HOLLY (22) texts and stretches.

-Jules flips at the other end.

-Sarah and Brie join Macey, Coach, and Rebecca, who begin to notice how fast Jules is.

-Steve see's The Bulldogs watching.

-Jules finishes and checks the clock.

-Macey checks the pace clock and turns to the girls.

-Steve turns to the girls and smiles.

END SEQUENCE

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - CONTINUOUS

COACH
Is that your swimmer?

STEVE
Daughter.

JACKIE (18) emerges from the back of the group.

JACKIE
She'd beat every single one of us.

BRIE (23) the goalie, stands out as the tallest girl.

BRIE
Speak for yourself.

REBECCA (24) chimes in.

REBECCA

Oh Please Brie, you swim less than
a baseball team.

OLIVIA

You guys that's Jules Bradley. My
sister used to race her.

Jules has resumed swimming. Macey watches on. Coach
approaches Steve.

COACH

How old is she?

STEVE

Who are you?

COACH

I'm Amy, I coach the over eighteen
girls club here in town.

STEVE

She's 23-- 24. She's 24 now.

SARAH

She looks way older.

REBECCA

Dude.

STEVE

(in jest) Bad genes.

COACH

Any interest in polo?

STEVE

I don't think she knows the game.

COACH

She could stay and work out with
us? Learn the ropes?

STEVE

That's a Jules question, not a dad
question.

COACH

I'm Amy.

STEVE

Yeah, you said that. I'm Steve.

Coach goes to shake Steve's hand, he has a strange look on his face. Macey follows quickly.

MACEY

I'm Macey!

Steve shakes Macey's hand.

ON JULES: At the wall, she pulls up her goggles and watches the team mingle with her dad.

COACH

Okay, its 6:40 ladies, get in the pool.

The Bulldogs peel off to the right and Jules gets out of the pool and walks left to avoid any crossover.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS - DAY

The store is empty.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS OFFICE - DAY

Steve sits at the desk with his feet up. Jules sits across from him. They work on a crossword puzzle.

STEVE

Six letters, "type of acid"

JULES

AMINO

STEVE

SIX letters, genius.

Jules counts on her fingers and smiles.

JULES

CITRIC

STEVE

Yeah I'll buy that.

The bell on the store's entrance door rings signifying a customer has entered.

Jules and Steve both turn at the sound.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS - CONTINUOUS

Macey walks through Bradley Greens. She looks around slowly and wanders through the aisles.

Steve enters the shop and Jules lingers behind in the doorway of the office.

MACEY
Oh, hi Mr. Bradley.

STEVE
Hi.

MACEY
I'm Macey.

STEVE
Yes, I remember.

Steve turns around to find Jules. She comes out of the back.

MACEY
Hey.

JULES
Hey.

It's an awkward moment as they greet each other. Macey starts to approach, Jules doesn't move.

MACEY
Can we talk?

JULES (CONT'D)
Let's go outside.

Jules has an urgency to her, interrupting Macey. She does not want to have this conversation in front of her dad.

EXT. BRADLEY GREENS - PARKING LOT - DAY

Jules and Macey are seated in two folding chairs out back near a huge wall of tomato boxes.

Macey has wet hair. Jules' has dried by now. They are dressed similarly-- t-shirts, workout pants, and running shoes.

There are only a few cars in the lot. The wind blows.

JULES
Are you out?

MACEY
Of school?

JULES

Yeah.

MACEY

Yeah. I just got my AA, but yeah. I work for my Dad too actually.

JULES

Doing what?

MACEY

He's an accountant. A lot of office work and stuff, I might study for the CPA exams, go back to school I guess... I don't know yet.

JULES

I get that.

Jules nods her head and looks out. They comfortably share some silence.

JULES (CONT'D)

I don't know how to play.

MACEY

You'll pick it up quick.

JULES (CONT'D)

Oh sorry, go ahead. No, nothing.

MACEY (CONT'D)

What's up?

MACEY (CONT'D)

Honestly, The Bulldogs are pretty recreational.

JULES

So it's separate from the Wolverines stuff?

This triggers Macey. She snaps back to Jules.

MACEY

What? What do you know about the Wolverines?

JULES

Nothing. I just... I've heard of them. I don't know about any of it.

Macey gets a hold of her anger, she simmers down.

MACEY

Well yeah that's a whole different level.

(MORE)

MACEY (CONT'D)

They're a regional team, they compete state wide, it's a different game, total animals. Girls who have played their whole lives. With us it would kind of just be for fun.

JULES

Fun?

MACEY

Yeah, what's that like, right?

This softens Jules, and Macey takes the win to leave on a high note. She closes her folding chair and walks out to her car. Jules follows Macey's lead.

MACEY (CONT'D)

Put your number in my phone and I'll text you when we practice. You can come anytime.

Macey hands her phone to Jules as they reach her car. Macey has a "SEMPER FI" sticker on the back.

JULES

Marines?

MACEY

My older brother was a Marine.

Jules falls quiet with sympathy. She puts her number in the phone and hands it back to Macey at the door.

JULES

I just got home from my second tour with the Navy.

Macey takes her time with that.

MACEY

I think it would have been good for him to be on a team.

Macey gets in the car. She starts the engine and a loud song comes on. She drives away. Jules watches.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Not sleeping, as usual-- but this time Jules watches water polo instructional videos on her phone.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - EARLY MORNING

Jules lifts herself onto the pool deck and sits, feet dangling in the water. Undecided.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - CONTINUOUS

Coach enters with the Bulldogs behind her. Her face lights up when she sees Jules.

The girls talk amongst themselves when they notice Jules, and head over to her as a group. Jules decidedly stays put, passively allowing their approach.

COACH
Good Morning.

JULES
Morning.

SARAH
Are you staying?

Jules looks to Macey.

MACEY
Come grab the goal with us.

Macey, Holly, and Olivia, wear their Parkas and sweat pants as they walk to the Equipment Closet.

Jules gets out of the pool and walks with them across the pool deck. She takes her cap and goggles off quickly and tucks them into the hip of her suit.

Jackie, Rebecca, Brie, and Sarah dive into the water and unhook the swim lanes, transforming the pool into a water polo court. Jules looks back as each girl crashes into the water.

HOLLY
I'm Holly.

OLIVIA
Olivia.

JULES
Hey. Jules.

HOLLY
Where did you play polo?

SARAH (CONT'D)

You move your feet in alternating circles and skull your hands on top like this.

Jules looks to Macey, then to Coach Amy, then back to Macey.

JULES

You didn't tell them?

SARAH

Tell us what?

MACEY

I didn't tell anyone.

SARAH

Tell us what!

JULES

Oh, no I-- I'm. Thanks for the-- never mind.

REBECCA

She was in the Navy, she doesn't need your stupid egg-beater lesson.

SARAH

What do you mean *in the Navy* like at war??

MACEY

Okay, I told Becca.

COACH

Do you have a cap?

Jules pulls her cap out of her hip pocket to show Coach.

COACH (CONT'D)

Go on then.

JULES

Oh, just get in?

SARAH

We do play water polo in the water here.

Jules swipes her cap on and jumps in the pool.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - UNDER WATER - THAT MOMENT

BEGIN SLOW MOTION:

Incredibly blurry, dozens of legs do "Egg-beater", treading and circling in syncopated time.

Jules rises toward the surface as--

END SLOW MOTION: A water polo ball crashes right in front of her. Jules flinches and jumps back.

Coach blows her WHISTLE.

COACH

Alright ladies, grab a partner and start passing. We finally have an even number!

MACEY

I'll explain as we go.

REBECCA

It's catch Macey, she's not an idiot.

OLIVIA

She doesn't know how many hands you can use.

JULES

How many?

BRIE

You can only touch the ball with one hand. Except me.

SARAH

Because she's the goalie. Not because she matters, or is good, or anyone cares.

Brie throws a ball at Sarah.

COACH

Girls, I don't see any passing going on!

MACEY

Yeah so back up, I'll throw to you, as we warm up we will get further and further back. Throw hard, but aim is more important than strength for now.

JULES

And catch with one hand.

Macey smiles.

MACEY

And catch with one hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - LATER

Brie is in the goal. Macey sets up as hole-d to defend Rebecca in the set. Sarah swims beside Jules.

SARAH

Rebecca is set, Macey is hole-d.
Set is the offensive center
position. Hole-d is the defensive
center position. It's always the
two best players on a team. Best
spots in the pool.

The rest of the Bulldogs form two lines facing the center. Sarah pulls away and sets up. Jules follows. The girls in line float on the balls as they wait for the drill to start.

COACH

All of these should be goals! Brie,
none of these should be goals!

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

- Jules watches Rebecca and Macey fight in the hole.
- Jackie passes the ball into set.
- Macey reaches from behind Rebecca across her neck.
- Coach blows the whistle once to signify a foul. Macey smiles and backs off.
- Rebecca quickly tosses the ball out to Jackie, who passes it across to Sarah, who shoots. Brie stops the ball, the play resets.
- Jules is up with Holly. Holly passes the ball into the set, Rebecca passes it back out to Jules. Jules gets up high and takes a fiery skip shot and she scores.

END SEQUENCE.

The Bulldogs hold the drill and stare at Jules.

REBECCA

How do you know how to skip shot?

JULES

Is that not allowed? I just...

COACH

Okay girls, next up! It's good
Jules, real good.

Bulldogs still stare, there is a shift that has happened to isolate Jules a bit. She came in hot and the threat looms.

INT. LOCKER ROOM SHOWERS - LATER

Jules is the only one in the showers, head hung, eyes dead, overwhelmed, alone.

The water beats upon her head. Her feet part the stream that rushes toward the drain. She braces herself upon the wall, for support.

MACEY (O.S.)

Jules, hurry up!

Jules turns off the shower and exits.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jules walks in and Sarah hands her a phone.

SARAH

Put your number in there, I'll add you to the group text.

HOLLY

We're having a pasta dinner at my house tonight.

JULES

Should I bring anything?

REBECCA

Just your Dad.

BRIE

Ew Becca, shut up.

REBECCA

What? He's hot, like old man hot.

SARAH

You're disgusting.

The two conversations carry on simultaneously.

MACEY
 Yes, families are invited.
 It's a carbo-load tradition
 thing we do before games and
 scrimmages.

OLIVIA
 I'm baking cookies!

JULES
 There's a game? I'm coming?

REBECCA
 That's sugar not carbs.

HOLLY
 Yeah it's at my house.

OLIVIA
 Flour is carbs you wiener.
 (to Jules) You don't have any
 allergies do you? Nuts?
 Dairy? Cinnamon?

JULES
 No.

SARAH
 Shut up, Bec you're gonna eat
 them.

BRIE
 (to Jules)
 Olivia is the best baker.

JULES
 Am I coming to that game tomorrow?

HOLLY
 It's a scrimmage, not a game.

SARAH
 Same shit.

JACKIE
 Bad part of joining on a
 Thursday.

MACEY
 I have a suit you can wear. I'll
 bring it tonight.

SARAH
 You're already better than Holly
 and Olivia.

HOLLY
 Eat me.

OLIVIA
 It's probably true.

Coach Amy peeks her head into the dressing room.

COACH
 Jules, can I speak to you for a
 second? When you're done.

Jules looks around, none of the girls give it a second
 thought. She gathers her things and heads outside.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - CONTINUOUS

Jules exits the locker room and walks to the bleachers, where Coach waits for her.

She approaches, shy but alert.

COACH
What'd you think?

JULES
Oh, I'm not sure.

COACH
There is a scrimmage tomorrow, I think you should try a game before you decide.

JULES
I don't even know the rules. I... I mean--

COACH
I'm trying to bring some intensity to the team this season. I think it would be great to have someone with your focus.

JULES
Why?

COACH
Because you'll keep the girls--

JULES
No I mean-- sorry I didn't mean to interrupt.

COACH
No, go ahead.

JULES
Why do you want intensity?

COACH
I-- Well. To be honest with you, whenever we get good players on the team, they get poached by better teams. Then the college scouts go see the better teams play, and not us. Some of my girls in there could play on a Div 2 or Div 3 team, transfer in, get out of this town. I want to give that to them.

(MORE)

COACH (CONT'D)

And the level of play won't go up until the focus and commitment in practice goes up.

Jules nods. These are things she understands.

COACH (CONT'D)

Pressure isn't on you to make that happen, it's on me. I'm starting by asking you to join us. Think about it. The game is just a scrimmage. We have pre-season and tournaments coming up, you can take it step by step.

Beat.

COACH (CONT'D)

Did you like it?

Jules thinks, showing a sliver of interest now.

JULES

I don't know. I like to take orders I guess.

They laugh.

COACH

Great. Then come to the dinner tonight. Get to know them. Take your time to decide, but stay open to it. That's an order.

Jules finally breaks into a small smile. The street lamp above them turns off, the sun has arrived, but the sonic buzz lingers. Jules looks up at it...

INT. BRADLEY GREENS - DAY

SOUND: The buzz continues on an open clear fridge door [think dairy items case] in Bradley Greens.

Steve restocks some yogurt. Jules brings a final box and stacks it beside him. But she lingers. He stocks for a bit longer, eyeing her out of his periphery.

STEVE

What is it weirdo?

JULES

What should I do?

STEVE

Can you be more specific?

She can't. He watches her think. He puts the boxes down and gives her his full attention.

STEVE (CONT'D)

If you mean in general... we can start looking at colleges and your VA benefits. I don't want to rush you, there is no rush, but I--

JULES

That's not what I meant.

She shuts down, but doesn't leave. He takes a moment and tries to access her.

STEVE

Okay... If you mean tonight, I think you should go to the team dinner. You don't have to commit yet, but get your toe wet, you know? Food makes socializing easier, you can hide in your pasta.

JULES

Will you go with me?

STEVE

Sure.

INT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

There are about 20 shoes by the door, Jules and Steve follow suit, taking off theirs. Steve holds a bottle of wine and tomatoes from the shop. The music and voices come from the open kitchen and dining area.

There are 4 tables of different shapes and sizes lined up banquet style. Various FAMILY MEMBERS hang around, drinking and eating appetizers. There is a lively, holiday-like buzz to the room.

Holly, her BROTHER (15) and her MOM (50) are in the kitchen cooking. Holly's DAD (50) is handing out DRINKS to people. Olivia hands them some BAKED GOODS she's made.

REBECCA

Jules is here!

The crowd turns and welcomes Jules and Steve with excitement.

JULES
This is my Dad, Steve.

STEVE
We brought wine.

HOLLY'S DAD
I'll take that!

STEVE
And tomatoes!

HOLLY
I'll take those!

BEGIN MONTAGE:

- The Bulldogs and FAMILY MEMBERS shuffle through a buffet line with bowls of pasta, garlic bread and salad.

- Coach and Macey sit on either side of Jules at the busy table and explain 6 on 5 defense with broken pieces of bread and grapes. The Bulldogs lean in from various directions to participate in the demonstration with the little bread balls as offense and grapes as defense.

- Rebecca slides in next to Steve and gives him a big smile.

END MONTAGE.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Jules sits outside in the backyard. She listens to the crickets and the frogs.

Behind her, inside, people sit and eat. Blended noise trickles out and the warm light kisses the back of her neck.

A loud grinding noise screeches, Jules flinches and darts up to stand and look.

Macey has opened the sliding glass door. She stops when she see's Jules is uneasy.

MACEY
Hey, sorry.

JULES
Oh, no, my bad.

It's weird, but Macey does not leave. She sits on the step where Jules was.

MACEY

I thought you were smoking.

JULES

Did you want one?

MACEY

You smoke?

JULES

No, I don't.

MACEY

My brother smoked. Only after his second tour though.

JULES

Lots of downtime when you're over there.

Jules' body begins to relax. She sits down next to Macey.

JULES (CONT'D)

I almost started, just so I could go outside alone and it wouldn't be weird.

MACEY

Probably not worth the cancer.

Macey jokes, Jules is right with her.

JULES

Maybe though.

They laugh, growing more comfortable around each other.

JULES (CONT'D)

I'm gonna have to play tomorrow, aren't I?

Macey nods.

JULES (CONT'D)

Great.

MACEY

They want you to sprint.

JULES

I mean-- yeah that's the only part
I know how to do. Swim hard.

MACEY

No... no. Sorry, like *the* sprint.
It starts the game, like a jump
ball type of thing.

JULES

Ah. Coach said this?

MACEY

Mostly Becca and Jackie, because
they usually do it and usually lose
it. You're gonna be way faster than
anyone in our league.

Jules looks out, concerned and increasingly overwhelmed.

MACEY (CONT'D)

So when we get to the pool tomorrow-

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

BEGIN SLOW-MOTION

- The Bulldogs finish up their swim set, with the final few girls coming into the wall in the shallow end. They throw their goggles out toward their pile of bags. The others stand up in the water, stretching. Jules and Macey pass a ball.

MACEY (V.O.)

. . . We'll stretch and warm up
with a swim set.

- The Bulldogs pull themselves out of the water and line up at attention. They put their hands out in front of them and the ref comes down the line for nail check.

MACEY (V.O.)

Nail check right before we start,
make sure you cut your hands and
toes short before tomorrow.

- The Bulldogs jump in and hang on the gutter as they stare up at Coach. The starters break to get into position: Rebecca, Macey, Brie, Olivia, Jackie, Sarah and Jules.

MACEY (V.O.)

We'll huddle with Coach and the starters will get in. You'll line up closest to the Ref, and Jackie will be right behind you.

-The team lines up for the start of the game. Jules ducks underwater and swims out to the lane line. She comes up and leans her head back for her starting position as sprinter.

MACEY (V.O.)

Your cap has to be touching the end lane line, ready to swim on the ref's whistle.

-Coach throws the team-side REFEREE the game ball. The Referee bounces the game ball.

- Jules slips her head back to graze the lane line.

MACEY (V.O.)

On the refs call, you sprint to the middle, where they'll drop the ball. If you get there first, pass the ball back to Jackie, and then swim up the line.

-The Referee lifts her hand and...

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

END SLOW MOTION.

BEGIN GAME SEQUENCE:

- The Ref blows the whistle and swipes her hand down to start the sprint, full speed.

Jules beats the PLAYER on the other team, by a lot.

She passes the ball back to Jackie, and swims up to the wing... A deer in headlights too afraid to stop. She follows her instincts but has no idea what she is doing.

- Steve cheers from the crowd. Surrounding him are a few PARENTS in the bleachers.

The ball is stolen by the other team after the Bulldogs try to advance. The girls swim back to defend.

The other team passes the ball around to the player that Jules defends. Jules reaches up and intercepts the ball.

Jules swims with the ball to the outside as the players transition to offense. She doesn't quite know what to do, and passes it long, up to Macey.

Macey passes it towards Olivia on the left, but the ball is intercepted.

- The opposing team quickly transitions, with the set beating Macey in the swim. The other team scores.

- The Bulldogs advance, the ball is stolen, the other team transitions quickly, again. Macey is beat swimming back, again, and the other team scores, again.

Brie (goalie) is visibly angry now.

- The whistle blows at the quarter.

END GAME SEQUENCE 1.

At the edge of the pool, the starters stay in and look up to Coach who squats at the edge and talks to them. The girls on the bench huddle behind her, all in it together.

COACH

Girls, their fast break is killing us. Macey, hang back. Even on offense, we can't have you much further than the half if they're going to out swim you. Jules, you're beating them to the ball every time, don't be afraid to hold on to it for a while. Go with your gut. Let them press you. Take the foul. Shoot it for god's sake.

The game resumes.

BEGIN GAME SEQUENCE 2:

- Macey swims head-down to make it back, but the player she is defending scores, again.

- Jules intercepts the ball and passes it off immediately to Rebecca in the set, who cannot fight her way to get it. She is beaten by their hole-d every time.

- Jackie reaches to defend a shot, misses, the other team scores, again.

- Jules drives in from the flat position, gets a pass from Rebecca, shoots, the opposing GOALIE stops it.

- The player that Sarah is supposed to defend scores, again.

END GAME SEQUENCE 2.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - LATER

Coach stands in front of the sun. The Bulldogs sit on the ground, wrapped in towels. They stare up at her, exhausted, defeated. They all wear official Bulldogs suits, except Jules who is in a plain black one borrowed from Macey.

COACH

Pre-season starts in 3 weeks, and you guys were out of breath in quarter 1? We should have creamed these girls. There's no aggression, no anticipation... you have to be ready for every move they make and I saw none of that. Jules is the only one driving, and she's never played the damn game before. And we can't drop the ball into set if Rebecca is being out-muscled. What is she going to do?

Beat.

COACH (CONT'D)

Starting Monday, first half of practice will be in the weight room. Second half will be swim conditioning.

Coach storms off toward the bags. The girls slowly get up, they are sore and tired. Jules remains seated, playing with her swim cap in her hands.

COACH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Jules!

Jules gets up to stand at attention out of reflex.

Coach walks back from the bench with something in her hand. She hands Jules an official BULLDOGS SWIMSUIT.

COACH (CONT'D)

Good game today.

Coach, still in a bad mood, storms off.

Jules stands alone, with the new suit in her hand.

INT/EXT. JULES CAR - DAY

Steve is in the drivers seat of Jules' car.

Jules opens the back door passenger side and throws her bag into the back. She gets into the front passenger seat.

Jules stares at him. He's excited for her.

STEVE

What is it, water polo star?

JULES

Can I show you something?

STEVE

Yes!

Jules quickly dives to the back seat and pulls out the BULLDOG SWIMSUIT. She holds it up and stares at it.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Jules back in uniform! Pretty cool sweetheart, pretty cool.

She looks at him, considers this for the first time. He starts the car.

EXT. WEIGHT ROOM - NIGHT

Before sunrise, Jules sits along the wall and does a crossword puzzle. Sarah leans against her shoulder, asleep. Macey leans against the wall standing, dozing off. Holly is alight from the glow of her phone.

Coach approaches, with the rest of the Bulldogs trailing behind her. She unlocks the weight room door.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's dark and Coach flicks on the lights which have a classic fluorescent delay.

COACH

Alright ladies! Good morning!
Welcome to Hell Week Round 2
because clearly Hell Week Round 1
was too easy. My apologies, I will
not make that mistake again! So,
are we ready to work?

The Bulldogs are silent. Jules looks around.

COACH (CONT'D)
 "Yes Coach!"

The Bulldogs repeat with very low, sleepy, energy.

COACH (CONT'D)
 Don't make me ask twice.

The Bulldogs yell in unison "YES COACH".

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - LATER

The sun has just risen, and the girls come out from the locker room in their swimsuits now. They grab their goggles and caps and head into the pool. The pool is set up for swimming, not for water polo. Each girl has their own lane.

Rebecca looks around embarrassed. Jules understands right away and grabs an extra pair of goggles from her bag.

JULES
 Hey, Rebecca.

Jules tosses the goggles to Rebecca. The Bulldogs jump into the pool and line up along the wall. They turn to look up at Coach for direction.

COACH
 We will start with ten 100s on the
 1:40

BRIE
 We're STARTING with that?

COACH
 That should be easy. We are
 starting with that every day. Up on
 the blocks.

Sarah asks a question from the water.

SARAH
 Why the blocks? We never do that.

MACEY
 Take the dive so you can make the
 set.

They lift themselves up out of their lanes and walk up onto their DIVING BLOCKS. They are cold and annoyed.

SARAH

Oh yeah because I was the one beat
by my player every single time
yesterday?

The Bulldogs have a varied amount of experience at this, Macey, Rebecca, and Jules are the only ones in proper form on their diving blocks. Ready, set...

Coach blows the whistle, and the Bulldogs all leap off of their blocks into Hell Week.

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Rebecca does a heavy squat with the SQUAT BAR. She grits her teeth as she goes deeper, and springs up with a yell.

She crumbles to the ground to regain her breath.

EXT. BRADLEY GREENS - DAY

Jules walks along the back of the building with a big BOX OF TOMATOES hoisted upon her shoulder, she handles the weight with ease.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

*The team stands around watching a race, they are smiling and excited. It looks as if practice has just ended by their mix of suits, towels, sweatshirts, and messy damp ponytails. Holly and Olivia each have a phone out, filming.

Sarah is up on a block. Macey guides her hands and shows her a better diving form.

Jules is in the water, ready to burst off the wall. Rebecca blows a whistle and they are off.

*(continued portions of this race marked * for interspersion throughout Hell Week sequence)*

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Brie and Holly sit back to back, and they pass a 25 pound MEDICINE BALL to each other in an ab twist.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

*Sarah and Jules race. Sarah does a flip turn. Jules does a flip turn.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - DAY

Jules hangs from the handles of a PULL UP BAR and kicks her leg up to her face. She grunts through the ab work out.

Brie pulls out her PHONE from her sports bra and subtly start filming Jules. Jules notices and breaks into a big smile and laughs, embarrassed.

JULES

Taking notes?

REBECCA

Brie is your biggest fan.

BRIE

You looks like a crazy person, this needs to be documented.

Jules jumps off and makes a monster face into the camera.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

*Sarah and Jules race. Jules closes in on her.

EXT. SUBURBAN ROAD - DAY

The Bulldogs jog through the small town, passing Bradley Greens. Steve stands outside and hands the girls mini water bottles as they pass.

Jules leads the pack by a long shot.

Rebecca and Brie struggle in the back. Brie drops her head between her knees to regain her breath as Rebecca walks in circles with her elbows above her head.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

Just after practice in the morning, the girls stand together with wet hair around 2 cardboard boxes. Coach opens them and starts handing out new "Bulldog Water Polo" T-SHIRTS.

Jules walks out of the locker room and watches the Bulldogs crowded around the boxes. Macey grabs a second shirt and tosses it to Jules.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

*Jules is less than a body length behind Sarah now, and we watch her sprint as hard as she can to catch up.

She does it. Jules wins the race by a moment. They both pop up their heads, panting. Sarah looks over to Jules, humiliated and angry.

The Bulldogs on the deck scream and cheer Jules on for winning. Everyone is in good spirits and enjoying the fun, except for Sarah.

Jules reaches to shake her hand and Sarah gets out and walks away soaking wet to the locker room.

END SEQUENCE

INT. LOCKER ROOM SHOWERS - LATER

All of the showers are on and full. Each of the Bulldogs stand in their respective stalls, unmoving and exhausted, like Jules did on her first day.

Jules is fine, thriving in this intensity. She turns off the shower and exits, leaving the Bulldogs behind.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - MORNING

The clock ticks inside the weight room. Coach stares at it. 6:55. She opens the door to rejoin...

EXT. WEIGHT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

...Jules and Macey in the rising blue light.

The three women look around to the empty space around them. The rest of the Bulldogs have ditched.

COACH

Either of you have an extra suit?

CUT TO:

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY - LATER THAT MORNING

Coach is in the water with Macey and Jules. They pass a ball in a triangle during their conversation.

MACEY

You *could* play with us, right? It's technically an over 18 league. They don't specify how *far* over.

COACH

Hey, I'm not *that* old!

JULES

There was a woman in my boot camp class who was 36 and kicked all of our ass in training. She was a beast.

COACH

When were you in boot camp?

JULES

Oh, um-- right after high school. So, I don't know, I guess 6 years now?

COACH

Did your parents serve? Or-- your dad, I guess? Sorry--

JULES

It's all good. She, it's-- yeah. I don't-- No I'm the first.

Beat.

MACEY

Why don't you want to talk to us?

COACH

May.

MACEY

I mean, your like whole life is a secret, no mom, no friends. Like who else are you going to talk to? It's just dumb--

COACH

Stop.

MACEY

You started it.

COACH

Yeah, I did. I have questions too.
She can talk to us when she's
ready.

JULES

You can ask me questions.

MACEY

You're not really going to answer.

COACH

What's up with you?

MACEY

I'm not sympathetic to silent
suffering. Not anymore.

JULES

I'm not suffering.

Beat.

MACEY

I read about your ship.

Jules misses the pass from Coach and the ball flies past her
as her eyes are fixed on Macey.

Jules turns to swim and retrieve the ball. Macey and Coach
share a look, when suddenly...

CUT TO:

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY - THAT MOMENT

The remaining 6 Bulldogs enter the pool area.

Coach swims to the edge and gets out of the pool. She
approaches the women, sopping wet, clapping her hands.

COACH

Nice of you to join us princess
brigade!

Rebecca leads the pack with Sarah, the rest of the Bulldogs
follow behind.

They avoid eye contact with Coach and start to put down their
things to prepare for a swim set.

Jules swims to the edge and gets out. Jules stands behind
Coach, watching this altercation go down.

COACH (CONT'D)

No way. You aren't getting in my pool.

REBECCA

We have done so much lifting Coach, we don't want to do that anymore.

SARAH

Holly is hurt, Brie and I want to focus on our swimming.

Macey gets out and joins on the side of Coach and Jules.

COACH

Oh, you want to swim? Did you hear that May? They want to swim! Great. I'll swim you. Jules, Macey, go get 6 folding chairs out of the equipment room.

Jules and Macey stand behind Coach, unmoved. In response to their silence, Coach whips around to face them.

COACH (CONT'D)

Do you guys really want to play with me right now?

Macey hangs her head down. Jules lifts hers up instead.

JULES

I'm doing whatever they're doing.

Coach does not relent.

COACH

Eight chairs, then.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY - LATER

Jules and Macey lead two lines. Each girl in line holds a FOLDING CHAIR above their head as they tread across the pool.

Coach sits on the deck, the Bulldogs inch closer and closer to the edge as Coach stares at them with daggers.

They finish the exercise and throw their chairs on the pool deck. The clang of the chairs on the concrete echo.

Rebecca drops hers, it sinks to the bottom of the pool.

Holly rolls herself out of the pool. Jules gets out and plops to the ground to be seated. Olivia coughs into the gutter.

Brie and Sarah are the last ones to finish the exercise, Jules jumps up as they near the edge-- she reaches to grab their chairs and helps each of them out of the pool.

The water stills as the team recovers. The breathing gets louder until it is cut off by...

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

...a locker slams. The girls get ready to leave. As Coach comes in and takes a seat on the bench, Rebecca stands just outside the door to the showers in her suit and towel. The Bulldogs are in various states of showered and dressed.

COACH

Tomorrow we are going to be working on 6 on 5, wet shots, and fast breaks. Brie you'll be with me working on your long ball. No weights in the morning.

The girls don't look at Coach, they continue to get dressed and gather their things.

COACH (CONT'D)

Starters for Friday: Brie in goal, Macey in hole-D, Holly and Jackie flats, Olivia left wing, Rebecca right wing, Jules in the set.

Coach walks toward the door. Silence fills the room like smoke. The girls stop moving, and slowly turn their heads to Coach as she exits.

SARAH

What?

Coach snaps and turns around to respond.

COACH

I am not messing around. Nobody be late tomorrow. I swear to god I'll start the game on Friday with 2 girls in the pool.

Coach exits.

Jules beelines to Coach who rolls in to the...

INT. EQUIPMENT ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Coach descends into the depths of the concrete equipment closet, daylight bursts in through the open door.

She rolls the BALL CART toward the back.

Jules enters.

JULES
I'm not taking their spots.

COACH
That's not up to you.

JULES
I don't even know how to play set.

COACH
I'd bench all of them if I could.
Nobody blows off my practice like that.

JULES
I don't want it.

COACH
I don't care what you want. I don't care what they want. *I want to win, it's my team.*

Jules is not sensitive to yelling, but this is a new kind of aggression from Coach she hasn't seen yet, she's taken aback.

JULES
I thought this was a "rec league."

COACH
I thought you "like to take orders?"

Coach sits on a chair and begins to string up the caps on the cap ring, not wasting her gaze on Jules any longer.

Jules stares at Coach, surprised, at a loss.

JULES
Yes ma'am.

Jules exits. Coach stops what she is doing and hangs her head for a moment.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hey, can you... Just please don't...The stuff Macey said about my ship... I don't want, I don't know, it's not--

COACH

I'm not going to force you to open up. You have to want to be better. All of you have to show up for yourselves.

Jules lets that land and exits.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Steve pours his morning coffee as he hears Jules come in.

Jules came straight from practice to the house, backpack still on. She walks right up to her dad at the kitchen sink and gives him a long hug. She starts to cry.

Steve is surprised but on duty right away.

JULES

I don't know what I'm doing.

STEVE

That's okay baby. Nobody does. Go lay down, you need some sleep.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LATER

Jules comes in to the kitchen again, just awake from her nap. Steve does a crossword puzzle at the table.

JULES

Good morning again.

STEVE

Good afternoon in fact.

Jules watches him. He's being weird. Almost... giddy?

JULES

What's up weirdo?

Steve smiles big at her and turns back to his puzzle.

STEVE

Nothing.

Steve looks back at the clock.

JULES

What is it?

STEVE

I have something coming for you.

JULES

Coming? Here?

STEVE

Yeah someone who wants to talk to you. It'll be really good. Really good for you two to talk.

JULES (CONT'D)

Talk about what?

Jules hardens and stands up, clear shift for her.

JULES (CONT'D)

Talk about what? Did Coach Amy call you?

Steve, still doing the puzzle, doesn't sense her paranoia...

STEVE

You're gonna like him, he's really easy to talk to.

Jules storms off.

JULES (O.S.)

What the hell dad?

Steve looks up now and gets up to chase her.

STEVE

Wait, what?

JULES (O.S.)

I don't need to talk to anyone!

INT. BRADLEY HOME - VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

Steve is confused. He looks around and he can't find her.

STEVE

Jules? It's going to be good sweetie, trust me. You'll like him.

The phone begins to ring.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Jules! He's calling, come on!

Steve walks back toward the living room and grabs his phone off the coffee table, he answers it.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Hey Mike, hey, yeah I'm so sorry
but now isn't a good time.

Beat. The bathroom door SLAMS shut.

STEVE (CONT'D)
No it was today, I know-- Yeah, I
thought so, but she's not-- yeah,
she's-- she must be at practice
still.

Beat.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Yeah a campus tour when you're done
with the quarter. Great. Okay, bye.

Steve hangs up the phone. Frustrated, he walks to the bathroom. He opens the door.

Jules sits in the bath tub. The curtain is closed and her feet hang out.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Do you know who that was?

Jules says nothing.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Doctor Mike Lucido. Professor at
Sac State. Wanted to give you a
tour. Talk to you about next steps.

Steve approaches and rips open the curtain.

Jules is shaking, she has lost control of her breath. Steve shifts from angry to concerned.

STEVE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, hey, wait, I-- I thought
it would be a nice surprise.

Jules looks up at him, silent, and exits.

Steve is left in the bathroom alone.

PRELAP: Macey's voice echo's through the gutter as we begin to hear the Bulldogs cheer...

MACEY (O.S.)
BULLDOGS ON THREE.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

MACEY
ONE - TWO - THREE

ALL GIRLS
BULLDOGS.

Sarah gets out of the pool and pulls a chair comically far away from Coach to sit and pout.

There is one set of bleachers, dotted with parents and friends, including Steve.

The game begins, Jules wins the sprint.

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

- Jules easily dominates in the set, and the girls play at a good pace. It's an even match with the other team.

- Jules receives a pass in the set, pops it out to Rebecca and she scores.

- Macey fails to defend in the hole, being outmuscled by the SCRIMMAGE PLAYER. The other team scores.

- Jules scores a goal by spinning the hole and taking a skip shot. She looks out to Steve, who cheers. Score goes up from 5-3 to 6-3.

- Macey gets spun by the other set, they do to her what Jules did to their hole-d. The other team scores.

- Rebecca steals the ball on defense and Jules swims up the center with her on a breakaway. Only one player defends between them, Rebecca pumps for a shot, then passes to Jules who SLAMS the ball into the goal for a final point. 7-3.

- Sarah stands up and cheers from the bench. Macey is disappointed in herself but works up a smile.

- The girls get out and smack hands in two opposing lines for "good game."

END SEQUENCE

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The opposing SCRIMMAGE TEAM finishes up in the second aisle, and the Bulldogs are in the first, vibrantly chatting.

Jules walks in and the Bulldogs cheer.

REBECCA

4 goals? Who are you?

HOLLY

I thought you didn't know how to play water polo?

SARAH

(in jest) Okay, she's fine, we get it. Who's house are we doing this at tonight?

MACEY

Not me, my mom's home and will talk to us the whole time.

REBECCA

Jules can you do it?

JULES

Do what?

SARAH

I can drive the Yukon so everyone can fit if you guys want. Then I can take us to the game tomorrow.

BRIE

I'll meet you, I'm gonna grab some stuff.

JULES

I thought it was just the scrimmage today?

MACEY

Me too I've got to go home for a minute.

OLIVIA

The showcase tournament in Sac. Coach didn't tell you?

REBECCA

Mace, I'll go with you. Jules just text us your address.

MACEY

Wait, Jules, is your house okay?

JULES

Tonight?

HOLLY

We'll all bring sleeping bags and pillows.

REBECCA

And booze!

Coach enters.

COACH

Great job today girls. We have some things to work on, but it'll be an easier week after the Sac tournament tomorrow.

JULES

I didn't know we had a--

MACEY

We signed up months ago, it's not part of the league it's a separate thing.

REBECCA

Can she play?

COACH

I'll call them, it should be fine.

REBECCA

Can you come?

JULES

I should be-- I don't know, it's--

JACKIE

It's great. Teams that are way way better than us kick our ass every year, so we never have to stay until Sunday.

The Bulldogs chime in with affirmative chatter.

COACH
Nice, Jack.

JACKIE
Tell me I'm wrong.

SARAH
You're wrong.

OLIVIA
We've got Jules now, it's going to be different.

Jules feels the pressure and shuts down.

Coach stands up to give final remarks.

COACH
We are going to be lifting Mondays and Wednesdays and conditioning Tuesdays and Thursdays for the first half of practice, through the season, starting now.

SARAH
You mean starting Monday.

COACH
Yes, smart ass. Starting at our next practice which is Monday, you know what I mean.

Coach exits.

From the other aisle of the locker room, the opposing team starts to leave. One of the OPPONENTS smashes in to Rebecca's shoulder upon exiting.

REBECCA
Watch it.

OPPONENT turns around and 3 TEAMMATES behind her join.

OPPONENT
What was that?

Rebecca doesn't take aggression lightly and steps at her.

REBECCA
Don't be a sore loser, it's ugly.

The Bulldogs slow down a little behind her. Macey and Brie step up behind Rebecca. Jules walks over too.

OPPONENT

Did you even play in that game?

REBECCA

Yeah I was the one stealing the ball from your ass.

Opponent takes off her backpack and drops her towel. She goes to step in Rebecca's face and Jules steps in between with force, backing the girl off.

JULES

Hey, hey, alright, cool it.

OPPONENT

Oh, have to get your star player to fight for you again. No surprise.

BRIE

Back off.

MACEY

Get out of here dude.

Opponent shoves Jules off of her to get to Rebecca. Jules holds her ground, not hitting back.

REBECCA

Don't fuckin touch her!

OPPONENT

Get out of my face.

REBECCA

You're pathetic!

Jules steps in between them again.

OPPONENT

I'm pathetic? I'll kill you!

Opponent grabs Jules' shoulders to get her out of the way, and **the Opponent SWINGS at Jules.**

She dodges the punch and shoves Opponent backwards and up against the wall.

JULES

You're gonna *kill* her? How? With a gun? What kind of gun? With your bare hands? Do you know how long that takes? Try to kill her, go ahead. I dare you.

Opponent picks up her stuff and leaves. Jules is still in a fugue state, on attack. The Bulldogs stand frozen behind her, whispers rise...

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah, Jackie, Olivia, and Holly sit around the living room and whisper.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - JULES' ROOM - NIGHT

Jules is in her room, alone. She has stacked everyone's pillows in an organized pile, sleeping bags coiled in a row, and duffles neatly in a line against the wall. She sits on the ground and stares at them.

Steve walks in to a seemingly empty room, and he sees the top of Jules' head just over the bed.

He walks around to her and Jules looks up to him. He slowly sits down on the ground. He notices the folded piles.

STEVE

I picked up some frozen pizza. Help yourselves to anything in the pantry or fridge.

Jules has returned to the piles.

JULES

Thanks dad.

STEVE

Do you want me to stay?

JULES

Yes.

He laughs.

STEVE

Okay, well I'm not gonna stay. We've got the cot in the shop for a reason. You should enjoy it without dad lingering in the back.

She is fixated on folding a blanket.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 You'll be okay. Don't drink too
 much. I can't imagine water polo is
 any fun hungover.

He continues to try to get a smile from her. If she smiles,
 he can leave without worry.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 Maybe drink a little to chill
 yourself out.

She smiles.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry about the call. I
 thought, after you said--

JULES
 I don't want to talk about that.

STEVE
 Okay. Text me if you need anything.

He exits.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - THAT MOMENT

Steve walks into the living room where SARAH, OLIVIA, HOLLY,
 and JACKIE are whispering on the couch. They are silent as he
 enters the room.

STEVE
 Bye girls, help yourselves to
 anything, be good! She'll be out in
 a second.

SARAH
 Thanks Mr. Bradley.

JACKIE
 Thank you!

OLIVIA
 Bye.

HOLLY
 Bye, Thank you!

On Steve's final exit, they turn back into each other to
 whisper again.

SARAH
 Didn't your sister know her?

OLIVIA
 Kind of, they swam against each
 other in club.

HOLLY

What did she say? Was she like
always scary and weird or what?

JACKIE

She's not scary.

SARAH

She's kind of weird.

HOLLY

It's obviously the war stuff.

OLIVIA

She said she was really good and
super shy. They didn't swim
together so I don't know.

SARAH

I like her a lot I just think
everything is intense and
complicated now, you know? It's not
like I blame her for today but it
obviously wouldn't have happened if
she weren't here.

JACKIE

Coached benched you, not Jules.

HOLLY

The fight?

OLIVIA

Wait, what are you talking about?

SARAH

The lineup.

OLIVIA

Oh.

SARAH

I just hope she doesn't go all
psycho killer against *me* when I
take my spot back.

Sarah is alone in that thought, an awkward pause hangs. Sarah
tries to break it with some laughter--

Macey and Rebecca enter without knocking, with a burst of
energy. Rebecca holds a BOTTLE OF VODKA. Macey holds a 12
pack of Smirnoff ice.

REBECCA
What's up bitches?

Jules re-enters the room from down the hallway. Macey and Rebecca throw their belongings against the wall carelessly. Jules walks up to grab them and bring them to her room.

MACEY
As soon as Brie gets here we are
taking shots, no exceptions!

Brie walks in with a bag of red cups through the open front door behind them.

BRIE
Aye aye, captain!

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

The kitchen and dining area is covered with Bulldogs in pajamas. Lots of simultaneous chatter, along with music that comes from a speaker that Macey and Holly hover over.

- Olivia teaches Brie and Jules how to bake something. Along the counter Olivia guides Jules in using a manual WHISK in a BOWL of dough and Brie cracks EGGS into the mix.

- The song changes.

- On the kitchen floor, Rebecca and Sarah help Jackie do a back bend. Jackie is on the ground with her elbows up and palms flat, nervous, but hoping to rise.

-Shrieks and cheers come from the trio as Jackie gets into the backbend.

END SEQUENCE.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

Jules brings two cooked frozen pizzas out to the table which create a cheesy delicious mess. The Bulldogs sit and play Kings Cup.

Olivia slides a TRAY OF COOKIES into the oven and runs to the table to grab a seat.

Holly pulls an Ace:

REBECCA
"Until the next Ace is pulled!"

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

The Bulldogs are sprawled across the living room couches and the floor in their sleeping bags. Macey drifts off to sleep as the rest play "Never have I ever/10 fingers."

Olivia comes in with more cookies. Sarah follows her with three beers, which she doles out to Brie and Rebecca. The rest of the Bulldogs are nursing cups of vodka mixed drinks.

Jules sits toward the outside edge. She drinks the rest of her drink and notices it is empty. She grabs the vodka bottle and fills her cup. Macey has her eyes open on her sleeping bag and watches Jules pour... Jules takes a long swig.

SARAH
Okay, sorry, who's turn?

OLIVIA
Me! Sorry! Cookies.

She puts down the plate of cookies and the girls circle up a bit tighter, eating and enjoying.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Okay okay, never have I.... Never have I ever been ejected from a Bulldog game.

The Bulldogs who have been ejected clap and take a swig of their drink, everyone but Holly and Brie.

HOLLY
You and me Liv!!

REBECCA
That is ridiculous.

SARAH
That's not a good thing.

BRIE
Hey, me neither!

REBECCA
That doesn't even count as goalie.

BRIE
You should drink double for how
often you get ejected.

REBECCA
Hey, I've gotten better.

JACKIE
That's true, it was the worst when
we were like fourteen.

BRIE
Lil angsty Bec.

SARAH
(to Jules) You should have seen her
when they played up on the
Wolverines.

BRIE
The great betrayal.

Brie smacks a still half-asleep Macey with her pillow. She
pushes Brie off and sits up to join the circle.

REBECCA
Oh Jesus you guys, we came back.

SARAH
I watched ONE of your guys' games
and you got kicked out three times
before the half.

Rebecca turns to explain to Jules.

REBECCA
Macey and I played up on the
regional team for two seasons.

MACEY
"Played" is relative. They took us
up and then benched us.

REBECCA
Benched you! I played.

SARAH
Until you got kicked out every
second.

JULES
Yeah I heard about that.

HOLLY

What?

REBECCA

How did you hear that?

Oops.

JULES

I know Taylor.

BRIE

Like, sexually?

The girls laugh.

BRIE (CONT'D)

Hey, don't laugh! I've got follow up questions!

JULES

No, I just... I know her.

REBECCA

Those girls are all psychos. It's not even worth it.

SARAH

They've been a team for like 100 years but never have the same girls because of all the turnover to schools and stuff.

HOLLY

That's not even a team. No fun in that.

OLIVIA

I would hate that.

MACEY

(to Jules) Why do you know Taylor?

Jules continues to avoid the question, Macey and Jules share eye contact here.

REBECCA

And they train like freaking Mongolian Oxen.

MACEY

Jules, why do you know Taylor?

Jules shifts uncomfortably-- then feels something behind her-- a Smirnoff ice waiting behind the pillow.

JULES

Oh shit.

The Bulldogs erupt into excitement and heckle Jules to drink it immediately. Rebecca raises her hand to claim the damage.

REBECCA

That was me! I wanted you to drink it when you woke up.

Jules pops the bottle cap and her mood lightens, she throws it at Rebecca. The Bulldogs chant "ON YOUR KNEES. ON YOUR KNEES. ON YOUR KNEES."

She reluctantly gets up on her knee to chug the drink. She is in front of the girls with the dark family room behind her, almost on a stage, alone.

She has a smile at first and that fades. The drink is cold so it makes her eyes water.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Jesus.

SARAH

Still showing off somehow.

BRIE

Drinks like a fish!

HOLLY

It's her sailor training.

OLIVIA

Be nice you guys, jeez.

REBECCA

Tell me you got it on with hot sailors.

HOLLY

Do they actually call you a sailor?

BRIE

Seamen.

The girls burst into laughter and chatter at "seamen".

REBECCA

SEAMEN. STOP IT.

OLIVIA
You guys, come on.

HOLLY
That is hilarious.

BRIE
Such a gross word.

Jules finishes the drink, comes up for air, and wipes her eyes. She's even more intoxicated than she already was, eyes glazed over, something has shifted.

Sarah, also drunk, crawls across the room and looks through the Bradley's vinyl collection. Jules watches this intently through the following dialogue.

OLIVIA
Is a girl is called a seaman too?

REBECCA
Who's turn is it? Never have I ever banged a sailor! How many Seamen were you with Bradley????

JULES
338.

Jules' fun-drunk is gone, she is dark now. The girls feel the shift in that answer.

JULES (CONT'D)
Came home with 328.

Sounds shift, every swish of a sleeping bag echoes in her ears. The gaze of the girls are felt hard upon Jules now.

MACEY
Alright, maybe we move on.

Jules laughs... in her own world now.

JULES
We just got unlucky. *They* did I should say. Why do I keep saying that? "I should say." "I do say." "Should I say."

Jules fixes her drunken eyes on Sarah and slurs through her confession... The Bulldogs watch her, unsure what to do.

JULES (CONT'D)

"Unlucky" in official language is "poor communication between the two ships, and the bridge crew lacking *situational awareness*." Or, no, actually, that was the private investigation by the lawyers. The Navy's report was "an avoidable accident resulting primarily from complacency, over-confidence, and a lack of procedural compliance."

The girls are shocked, as one is when unfamiliar with death.

Sarah is the only one not listening. She picks up a record, drops it flat into a messy pile, and continues.

Jules watches her, the sound quiets, except for the soft tap of one record lying flat upon the next.

The room slows for an excruciating beat, broken by a--

CLAP of Jules' hands. Far gone and laughing, she unloads:

JULES (CONT'D)

Anyway! My turn?? Never have I ever drowned in my barrack because a boat crashed into it. See, I was *supposed* to be asleep in there, but I *wasn't* sleeping. Me and Aaron were out-- up-- on the deck. Looking at the stars. "Lacking *situational awareness*."

She reaches for her other drink and pours the rest of the vodka into it, the bottle is empty now.

She claps again and looks around.

JULES (CONT'D)

No one done that??

She claps again.

JULES (CONT'D)

Sarah.

The Bulldogs share looks around, except for Sarah, still in her drunken fixation.

JULES (CONT'D)

Sarah!

Jules throws the bottle just to the side of Sarah's head. The bottle hits the wall and shatters glass on the floor.

REBECCA Jesus Jules, what the hell!
OLIVIA Oh my god.

HOLLY
I'll get a broom.

BRIE
I saw one in the kitchen.

Macey gets up and runs to Jules to hold her back. Sarah turns, drunk & slow, furious, daring Jules to make another move at her.

SARAH
What the hell is wrong with you?

JULES
You can't leave them flat! They'll warp! They'll never play the same!

Brie holds Sarah back as she darts up to charge at Jules. Macey has Jules back by the arm.

BRIE
(whispering) Let it go, she missed, it's fine. We'll talk to her.

SARAH
You trying to kill me, freaking psycho?!

JULES
Stop calling me a psycho! Don't use that fucking word! I'm not crazy!

SARAH
Don't hang out with normal people if you're not gonna be normal!

Sarah walks out the door, Brie chases behind her, it SLAMS.

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - MORNING

In the blue light of early morning, the sleeping girls are scattered around the living room.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - KITCHEN - THAT MOMENT

Jules sits at the kitchen table with a dish towel draped over her shoulder. Jules has a finished crossword in front of her and she drags her pen around in circles, making dark impressions on the page.

The kitchen has been cleaned. The counter has a bunch of CUPS freshly washed, upside down and drying.

Broken glass rests in a brown grocery bag by the trash can.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - LIVING ROOM / FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Steve comes in with a COFFEE TRAVELER and BAGS OF BAGELS. He smiles to Jules and closes the front door quietly. He tiptoes past the sleeping girls and into the--

INT. BRADLEY HOME - KITCHEN - THAT MOMENT

Jules' stoicism cracks, trembling for but a moment. Steve comes in the kitchen and kisses her on the forehead.

STEVE

Did you have a good night
sweetheart?

Jules nods her head and looks back to the living room. Macey is awake and stares right at her.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL - DAY

The next day, the third quarter buzzer goes, and the Bulldogs swim over to Coach for instruction. They are behind, 15-3. Nobody looks up. Coach squats down to their level. In a hushed and languid voice she tries to get their spirits up.

COACH

I know we are tired, I know they
are fast, but we've got to press up
on offense. We will never score if
three of you are back at the half,
okay?

Brie cries, blaming herself for the 15. Rebecca has her head in the gutter. Jules watches the faces of the girls.

COACH (CONT'D)

We are going to move a few of you around-- Sarah go up on left wing, Rebecca you're back in set, Olivia take a break. Macey on the other wing, Jules drop into Macey's spot in the hole.

The whistle goes for the game to resume. Jules looks to Coach, shocked-- then whips her head to Macey with concern. Jules just took her spot.

Macey keeps silent, ducks under water, and pushes off the wall to line up. The girls do not cheer.

CUT TO:

INT. TOURNAMENT POOL - DAY - LATER

Macey shoots and the shot is blocked, the other team is fast breaking. Jules sprints, head down, back to defend.

The ball is chucked in from the other GOALIE, landing outside left. The PLAYER lobs it to a TEAMMATE who is open in the center.

Jules has to guard both, none of the Bulldogs swam back on defense. Jules gets there just after the open TEAMMATE catches it. Jules puts her hand up and blocks a hard shot.

Jules quickly throws the ball all the way across the pool to Macey, who is still on the other end. Macey grabs the ball, pumps it twice, and scores a beautiful goal.

Coach cheers. Steve cheers. Macey looks to Jules, guilty from slacking off and grateful for the pass. Jules receives the look for a moment but swims back to center, head down.

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL - LATER

The Bulldogs gather their belongings and begin to change at the side of the pool deck. Throughout the scene they dry off and put sweats/shirts/shoes on over their suits.

Coach talks to Taylor, from the funeral, who is wears athletic clothes and a "WOLVERINES" t-shirt. Coach listens and nods her head, less than friendly, all business. None of the Bulldogs notice.

Coach and Taylor approach the Bulldogs.

TAYLOR
Good game ladies. Macey, Becca. Way
to fight.

Macey and Becca give looks of acknowledgment. Taylor
approaches Jules and puts out her hand for a handshake.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
You learned fast, eh?

Jules looks up, smiles, and shakes Taylor's hand. Whistles
blow, players yell, there is an animalistic rhythm that
echoes beneath.

JULES
I guess.

TAYLOR
Let's talk soon?

COACH
Taylor?

Taylor hears this, smiles at Coach, and leaves. The tension
does not leave with her.

The noise around them rings, "Swim" & "Go" are echoed by
whistles and buzzers.

REBECCA
The hell does she want?

Coach chooses to ignore this and sticks out the cap ring for
the caps to be put away.

Rebecca searches for answers on Jules' face. Jules feels her
gaze and shy's away. Macey approaches.

MACEY
You've got to talk to Sarah.

Sarah overhears that.

SARAH
She seems too busy talking to
Taylor.

Jules takes a breath and steps up to apologize.

JULES
I was really drunk, I don't know
what happened.

SARAH
Whatever.

JULES
Whatever like we're cool?

SARAH
Whatever like I don't trust you for
a fuckin second.

MACEY
Dude.

SARAH
You guys will see eventually.

Jules, Rebecca, Macey, and Brie are all cowering at Sarah's serious tone. Sarah contemplates her power here.

SARAH (CONT'D)
You're good in the pool. I
appreciate that, but you've got
some real shit to figure out.

JULES
I'm sorry.

SARAH
Yeah. Fine.

Jules tenses and hangs her head. Sarah holds her ground. The others are uncomfortable, Brie breaks it--

BRIE
Let's go do something.

MACEY
Mall?

SARAH
Yeah, mall.

BRIE
Food Court first then clothes.

REBECCA
I'm so hungry.

SARAH
I'm so hungry.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Jinx - you owe me some ZA!

SARAH
In your fat ass dreams.

BRIE

Jules?

They look to her. Jules waits for Sarah's eye contact.

JULES

You're cool if I come?

SARAH

Pizza's on you.

JULES

Done.

SARAH

And you've got to buy some real clothes. You cannot live in this outfit at all times.

JULES

Is this not the look?

Jules has on sweat pants and a t-shirt, she looks up and flirts her eyebrows at the Bulldogs who laugh. The tension is not fully expunged but forgiveness reigns, for now.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - HALLWAY - DAY

Jules, Macey, Sarah, Rebecca, and Brie walk into the dressing room hallway, lined with STALLS on either side and capped by a 3-WAY MIRROR at the end of the room.

The Bulldogs have CLOTHING draped over their arms - the group is wearing various summer casual outfits, finally out of their sweats. Except Jules, who still rocks athletic clothes.

Their chlorinated hair has dried, but has not been washed. No makeup covers their sunburnt and tired faces.

They walk into their respective stalls.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - STALLS - THAT MOMENT

INTERCUT BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DRESSING ROOMS.

- Jules tries on a BLAZER that is too tight across her shoulders.

- Brie has JEANS that she struggles to shimmy over her thighs.

- Sarah has a DRESS on that is completely unzipped on her back, exposing her massive tan lines. She helps Rebecca clasp a SHIRT which does not reach around her muscular back.

SARAH

It's not even you, it's the shirt.

REBECCA

It's my incredible strength.

Rebecca makes dramatic body builder poses. Macey pulls open their stall and wears a LONG SLEEVED SHIRT.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I like that!

SARAH

Wow, what, I want it.

Macey deadpans and lifts her arms straight out in front of her. The sleeves are measurably too short.

Brie opens her stall, just behind Macey and shows off the jeans. They are way too tight on her thighs. Her face shows her distaste as she turns to the side and reveals how large the waistband is on her trim torso.

REBECCA

Yeah story of my life.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Story of my life.

The girls immediately notice their jinx again and bombastically yip to call it first.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

PIZZA!

SARAH (CONT'D)

Jinx!!!

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I said it first!

SARAH

You said pizza!

Macey rolls her eyes at the fools, and turns to Brie. She approaches closely.

BRIE

Arms too short?

Macey flaps up her arm to show. Then a serious transition.

MACEY

Should we talk to Jules?

BRIE
About the bottle or about her boat?

MACEY
Both.

BRIE
She was so drunk dude. And, it was almost like her finally opening up to us.

MACEY
I don't buy that. Coach said there's no excuse for violence and we have to--

BRIE
--You told Coach?

MACEY
Yeah after the game. She saw them arguing.

BRIE
It was pretty private stuff, that's kind of messed up.

MACEY
She could've hurt Sarah really bad.

BRIE
What did Coach say?

MACEY
She said she'll kick her off if that's what we want. And I need to talk to Jules or she will.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - JULES' STALL - CONTINUOUS

Jules buttons a SHIRT that barely reaches across her sports bra. She see's Brie and Macey's legs in the hallway at the bottom edge of her mirror.

Two more sets of feet join them, Sarah and Rebecca. Jules scoots up to the door to listen.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

In a whisper, Rebecca and Sarah get involved.

SARAH

I have been cool to her today, but I could have *actually* died.

REBECCA

Yeah from all the alcohol you drank.

MACEY

Why does she know Taylor?

BRIE

I met her on Tinder, maybe Jules is gay.

MACEY

Wait what?

BRIE

It's statistically strange I'm the only lesbian out of the 8 of us.

REBECCA

No way.

Brie yells.

BRIE

Yes it is! Tons of people are lesbians!

A SHOPPER walks out of the dressing room and stares at Brie. The girls wait for her to cross through the 4 of them.

The whispering resumes.

SARAH

Tons of *women* are lesbians.

BRIE

I will smack you.

REBECCA

I meant "no way" like no way you met Taylor, Wolverine overlord, on Tinder.

BRIE

First of all, Taylor is super hot. And we didn't *do* anything. We realized we were in way too close of circles. Tiny damn town.

REBECCA

And she's old.

BRIE

You're one to talk Miss *I'm in love with people's dad's*.

REBECCA

I don't believe I'm the only one who thinks Mr. Bradley is hot, that's impossible.

MACEY

You know that she like sabotaged Coach's chances at playing up and Coach just stopped playing after high school because of that--

REBECCA

--I don't buy that story.

MACEY

Why not?

REBECCA

I mean, if Coach was good enough, she would've played up.

Sarah interjects with a strained loud-whisper.

SARAH

I don't care about stupid Taylor, or numbers of lesbians per capita, I care about bottles flying at my head. I tried today. *(to Macey)* You're the captain. You say something.

Jules comes out of her dressing room in an awful tope blazer and a button up shirt that is way too big, and the girls turn. She looks at them and does a show-girl spin. The outfit is almost Annie Hall charming. *Almost*.

The girls have stone cold looks on their faces.

JULES

That bad? I kind of liked it.

SARAH

Macey wants to talk to you.

Macey and Jules lock eyes, it is a loaded stare. Jules shifts out of her playful air and falls vulnerable, she knows the girls are about to pounce.

Macey turns to the girls who don't move.

MACEY
Let's go in there.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - JULES' STALL - CONTINUOUS

Both girls are waiting for the other to start.

JULES
I didn't ask to play hole-d.

MACEY
That's not.. I'm not.. It's *my*
team, I'm not going anywhere.

Macey controls her anger and focuses again.

MACEY (CONT'D)
Why do you know Taylor?

Jules gets defensive, sick of this. She stands her ground.

MACEY (CONT'D)
If you go up to the Wolverines
they'll never let you play.

This pisses Jules off and she bites back.

JULES
Why, because they didn't let *you*
play?

MACEY
This is not about me.

JULES
What is it about then?

MACEY
You threw a bottle at my players
head. Coach and Sarah both want to
kick you off the team and I'm
trying to--

JULES
You told Coach?

MACEY
They said if I don't talk to you--

JULES
--When? Before the game?

MACEY

Are you seeing someone? I know you were drunk but the stuff you said last night about the--

JULES

--Oh come on. I'm not--

MACEY

--Just let me finish dude, Jesus! When my brother came home, he was drunk and angry and working out all the time and keeping secrets about his dead friends and then my mom found him in the garage with a tube in the exhaust when we came back from one of my games.

--A cell phone rings.

Macey looks at Jules for a few more moments, Macey's story lingers, Jules has a choice to make.

She grabs her phone. She exits.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

JULES

Hello?

Jules walks toward the 3-WAY MIRROR at the end of the hall.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hey Taylor.

She looks up to see the Bulldogs blurred far behind her in the mirror. The dressing room doors begin to slam shut. The Bulldogs pack up to leave. The slams echo.

SLAM. SLAM.

Whispering now.

JULES (CONT'D)

Okay, Monday.

SLAM.

JULES (CONT'D)

Yes Ma'am. Thank you.

Jules catches herself in the mirror and instantly averts her eyes. She looks down the hallway, the Bulldogs are gone.

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - BATHROOM - NIGHT

In the bathroom, the shower steam fills the room. Jules stands in front of the mirror with a towel around her.

Her skin is sunburnt, with prominent swimsuit tan-lines tracing the curve of her shoulders.

The mirror is fogged. She cannot see her reflection.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRADLEY HOME - NIGHT

Jules is on the back porch, which is small with sparse placement of outdoor furniture and pots, decorated aimlessly by a bachelor.

She is calmer than we have seen her yet. She looks at the stars-- when the loud scratching sound of the sliding door interrupts her.

Steve appears with a BLANKET and a CROSSWORD PUZZLE. It is the one she drew on at the sleep over.

STEVE

Are you shielding your answers so I don't cheat?

He sits and puts her arm around her. They both look out to the stars for a beat.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Did you talk to Macey about it?

Jules shakes her head no.

JULES

It's none of her business.

STEVE

I know why you're conflicted.
But... I think you've got to pick just one team.

Jules looks down, she is frustrated and tired.

JULES

I don't want to-- I don't want to do this right now.

He treads lightly, but has to take a stand, he stares at her, contemplating how far he can push this. Her eyes turn to the night sky.

STEVE

Look, adding two and a half more hours of practice a day--

JULES

--Did you know Saturn would float if you put it in water?

Steve pauses and looks up.

STEVE

Really?

JULES

Least dense, most beautiful.

STEVE

Classic.

They chuckle. She gets emotional, and he can feel that. He is too scared to do anything, but too scared to do nothing.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I just want you to take your time with this, it's all new.

JULES

And it has 62 moons. Almost as many as Jupiter.

She is fighting tears now. Steve watches her.

JULES (CONT'D)

And it's only one of 5 planets you can see without a telescope.

STEVE

How do you know all this?

Jules talks right at Steve as she tries to hold it together.

JULES

My friend Aaron taught me. We worked night shifts together a lot and he's really into astronomy.

(MORE)

JULES (CONT'D)

This new coach, Coach Taylor, the Wolverines, is his cousin.

Steve is excited that Jules has finally let him in. He tries to keep his cool.

STEVE

That's great! Wow, a guy from your ship lives here?? We should have them over for dinner. I would love to meet him.

Jules turns back to the stars to avoid his eyes. She rambles for comfort through anxious near disassociated breath.

JULES

He hung himself last month, so he can't come, but maybe Taylor can - you're gonna like her. She's a good coach and I think she thinks I could play at a college. Like a D3 team, but still, that could be great. I can talk to that Professor guy you wanted me to meet. Maybe I could walk on next year, or the year after. I'll have some money from the accident, the settlement... (beat) I think I'll do... I think I'll do both teams, for now. This game has been good for me. I think I'd like to do that - if you're with me?

Jules looks to Steve. Her eyes devastate him. He nods. He will always be with her.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL POOL - DAY

Jules walks up to the Wolverine pool deck, and approaches.

Twelve WOLVERINES (20s), none shorter than 5'7", stretch their strong muscles, do arm circles to warm up. They look at Jules but do not say anything. They are big, broad, and tan. Wolves.

Taylor walks out of the supply closet, leading the 13th player, who pushes a cart of polo balls. Jules makes 14.

TAYLOR

Alright, on the wall.

The girls quickly break off and jump in to the pool and all turn to the pace-clock.

They all have goggles on for swim conditioning. Jules goes to join them, but has to turn back around to go get her goggles from her bag.

The clocks round 60 and they all sprint away, fast.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL POOL - DAY

Jules, with a bright red face that is drenched in sweat, catches her breath against a wall. She wears a light gray "Navy" shirt.

The Wolverines are revealed around her in a "wall sit" exercise. The Wolverines each wear uniform darker gray "Wolverines" shirts.

INT. BRADLEY GREENS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Steve, alone in the office, searches for a pen on the desk. He opens the drawer to see 5 crosswords stacked, untouched. He is disappointed, grabs the pen, and closes the drawer.

INT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

The Bulldogs and Jules do egg beater jumps. The Bulldogs are in two horizontal lines, facing the edge of the pool. Every time the whistle blows, they jump up and clap their hands. Whistle. Clap.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL POOL - DAY

The Wolverines and Jules are doing egg beater jumps. Taylor is on the pool deck behind their backs. Whistle. Clap.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BULLDOGS AND WOLVERINES.

Coach is on the other side of the pool deck that Taylor was.

Jules is in the middle of both formations in the water. We slowly creep in towards her from a tableau of the pool and the girls around her. Every time the team claps we switch to see the other team, both Coaches are seen behind them.

Whistle. Clap.

Creeping in towards Jules' face, her emotions are gone, she is a soldier.

Whistle. Clap. Whistle. Clap. *Whistle...*

END SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL POOL - DAY

...*Whistle* into the Wolverines scrimmage. The score is 11-2, Jules passes for an assist and the Wolverine scores immediately to make it 12-2. A very tired Jules loafs back to the center.

The whistle blows to restart the play. Jules, who barely made it back, turns late to be **hit in the face** by the start pass.

Jules' tired breath turns into a desperate wheeze and her nose drips blood. Fear and shock keep her still, as the game goes on around and past her.

Jules swims to the edge of the pool with a stream of BLOOD down her face. She rolls out onto the deck and a Wolverine runs up near her. Instead of helping, the Wolverine slides into the pool to take Jules' place.

Jules crawls to the bench. On the ground, she bleeds. She grabs a white towel and covers it in her blood.

The Wolverines and Taylor around her erupt into a cheer. They jump up and celebrate as another goal is scored.

CUT TO:

INT. BRADLEY HOME - NIGHT - BATHROOM - SHOWER

With her head hung, water beats upon Jules' dark hair and the aching shoulders that convexly brace her up from falling to her knees.

Jules lifts her face into the shower. Her nose is black and blue, and blood has spread under one of her eyes from the injury.

She turns off the shower. She stands there, dripping, exhausted. She goes to wipe her face with her hands, her hands shake, she can't even touch it.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - NIGHT - LATER

A wet haired, bruised face Jules sits at the dinner table with Steve. She inhales her food, without looking up.

STEVE

Want to go golfing this weekend?

Jules looks up and looks down again.

STEVE (CONT'D)

We can go early, I'll rent you some clubs. We could buy you a set if you want to get into--

JULES

--I've got games this weekend, don't have time.

STEVE

Just the driving range then?

JULES

No.

STEVE

Oh come on, we haven't been in years. Last time must've been when you were in middle school?

Silence. Jules resumes eating. More silence. Steve is annoyed at her attitude.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Have you talked to anyone at the VA yet?

He knows exactly what he is doing. Jules looks up.

JULES

I just told you I'm busy.

They lock eyes. Neither backs down.

STEVE

You said you have a reserves advisor to talk to.

JULES

Yeah.

STEVE

What have you decided?

JULES

I meant yeah I have one, not yeah I have talked to her.

STEVE

So you haven't talked to her.

Jules drops her fork and exits. Steve follows her.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Jules. Jules!

Steve approaches her, angry, but he keeps his voice down.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Go back to the table.

Jules keeps walking.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Jules!

Jules stops and turns around, she does not look at Steve. He continues, but controls his volume again, approaching closer. His patience has run out, this is not the daughter he raised.

STEVE (CONT'D)

This is exactly what I was talking about. You don't get to disrespect me because you're "busy." If you can't handle being on two teams, figure it out.

JULES

Can't handle it?

STEVE

I don't want to discuss this further. Cut the shit, go back to the table.

JULES

Sorry to have brought it up. Oh wait, *I didn't*. I didn't want to talk about *anything*. Why can't I just eat some dinner without being bombarded during my one hour on land!

Steve's frustration turns into laughter.

JULES (CONT'D)

Laugh, yes, that's great.

He grounds himself and reaches out to her. He is desperate now, exhausted, and at his end. He gives a final plea.

STEVE

You can't box me out Jules. You
have to talk to me. Or someone.

Jules rolls her eyes, passes him to grab her car keys, and exits the house.

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - NIGHT

The weight room is empty except for Jules. Many of the light panels are off. The ones above her reveal Jules doing endless squats. She breathes and counts rhythmically. She does not wince, her focus is stone cold.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - NIGHT

Later that night, Steve opens the door to Jules' room and her bed is perfectly made.

INT. JULES CAR - SUNRISE

Jules sleeps in her car. The windows are a bit fogged. She is in the drivers seat. The sun shines through the passenger window onto her face.

BANG.

Jules darts awake.

BANG. BANG.

Macey is at the window, shaking the car. Jules did not find that funny. She gives Macey a dirty look, grabs her bag from the passenger seat, and opens the door.

MACEY

What's up? What happened to your
face?

Black and blue in the face still, and furious, Jules blows past Macey. Macey stands and watches her stomp off.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - MORNING

The Bulldogs warm up for their morning scrimmage. The other team is in the pool, there is one REFEREE, but no crowd. Just a scrimmage.

Steve storms onto the pool deck, he has a fearful impatience to his gait. He looks unkempt, unshaven, as if he did not sleep all night.

He see's Jules warming up and immediately snaps from concerned to angry.

Steve rounds the deck and he approaches Coach.

STEVE

I'd like to speak to you.

Jules receives the ball and see's her dad.

JULES

Dad?

Steve turns to Jules and then back to Coach.

COACH

Keep going ladies.

Coach leads Steve to the locker room. Jules is confused and watches the two of them walk away. Steve's hands are in his sweatshirt pocket, he is uneasy.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Coach opens the door and lets Steve in. Their voices echo.

STEVE

There's no one in here, right?

COACH

No, they're all warming up. What's going on Mr. Bradley?

He is raw, scared, edging on desperate.

STEVE

Yeah, I just want to know if Jules has talked to you.

COACH

About what?

STEVE

About anything.

COACH

Aren't you guys close?

He snaps back to her.

STEVE

So she hasn't talk to you?

COACH

About what, Steve?

STEVE

About anything! She's never home, I don't know what's going on, I told her this was a bad idea, but she doesn't listen to me anymore.

Coach doesn't take this personally and redirects.

COACH

Is she seeing anyone?

STEVE

She is supposed to but she isn't going. She mailed in some "sleep questionnaire" which I'm sure she lied on.

COACH

Are *you* seeing someone?

STEVE

Me?

COACH

You're allowed to be having a hard time with her back.

STEVE

Excuse me?

COACH

I watched it happen with Macey's parents too and you've got-

STEVE

You don't know what the hell you're talking about. I waited for the day she'd come back since the second I dropped her off at boot camp.

COACH

That's not... I'm not saying that at all. I just mean-- It's a transition for you too. A lot happened to you both. She became a soldier, and she's also become a woman. You weren't there for that. It's a lot for you to handle.

(MORE)

COACH (CONT'D)

That's all I mean. You're allowed to feel that.

This shifts Steve, vulnerable now. Tired.

He finally simmers down a little bit. He has never needed help as a parent before. He has never had anyone to help him.

STEVE

She needs to pick a team. I don't think she should be on both. What is she going to do?

News to Coach.

COACH

What do you mean?

STEVE

She works so hard, you know? She is so committed to both of the teams. I don't want to make her quit. Maybe this is what she needs to deal-- I don't know what it's like to watch my friends die. I-- I'm scared for her but I'm also scared of her.

Jules bursts into the room, soaking wet. She still has both her swim and game caps on.

A massive shift in the room, from 0 to 60. The gentle and sensitive stillness with which Coach and Steve opened up has been shattered with the swing of the door.

JULES

What are you doing here?

STEVE

(to Coach) Will you give us a minute?

JULES

Why? You already told her I can't keep playing, right? So why don't you two tell me together. Go ahead.

COACH

We just want to talk to you.

JULES

You want me to quit.

COACH

No. I really, really don't.

JULES

Macey told me you do. She told me already. *(to Steve)* And you, you are coming to meet with her because you think I'm so crazy? That's why you're here? Stop begging me to talk to you! I don't want to talk to you!

Jules has lost control of her breath.

COACH

We just want to help you figure this out Jules. It's a hard time for everyone.

JULES

Oh you mean Sarah? And Rebecca? So hard for them. Losing their spot because they're insubordinate.

COACH

Hey, watch it. These girls have opened up their team and their lives to you. You owe them a little respect in return.

Jules tries to untie her cap. Steve loses his patience.

JULES

Those girls don't respect me. They talk about me when I'm 10 feet away and run to tell you about anything I do.

STEVE

You don't get to act like this, Jules.

JULES

Act like what? Act like what? What am I doing that's so crazy?

Jules pulls on the strings under her chin, still working to untie her cap.

STEVE

God damn it Jules I don't think you're crazy, I think you're tired!

Jules yanks and yanks to untie her water polo cap, but her hands are shaking and she can't get it.

JULES

I am tired! I'm tired of trying to prove I am a normal person. People talk about me like I'm already dead!

Steve approaches as Jules is yelling and puts his hand out toward Jules' neck. Jules flinches back, hard, and slams her head against the wall behind her. She bounces up, still shaking, eyes glazed.

Coach runs up to steady Jules. She slowly brings her hands up and unties the cap.

COACH

Jules. Hey, Jules. Look at me?

Jules' eyes are blank. She slows her breath as Coach approaches again. The women connect eyes.

JULES

We have to go. We have to go. The game. The game.

Steve watches, scared, concerned, helpless. He starts to talk to Jules, but the sound is warped.

STEVE

Sweetheart, let's go, it's okay, it's okay.

SLOW-MOTION: The whistle blows outside. Jules turns her head to the door and walks out of the locker room.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

SLOW MOTION CONTINUED: Jules walks out of the locker room, strides to the pool, where the BULLDOGS and the OPPOSING TEAM have their heads in the gutter, about to play.

She jumps in and swims to her starting position as the sprinter.

The Bulldogs look around, unsure of how to proceed. They head to their starting positions.

Coach and Steve run out of the locker room and up the pool deck toward the game as the REF raises their hand and...

WHISTLE.

SLOW MOTION END: Jules she sets off for the sprint. Head down. Ruthless.

Jules wins the sprint, passes it back to Rebecca, and makes a break up the pool.

Rebecca lobs the ball up to Jules, who swims it up and takes a killer shot in the corner. Goal. In the first 11 seconds.

The play resets. The OPPOSING TEAM starts the play. They push up into offensive formation.

Jules guards the player up top, and the ball comes to them. Jules edges out the PLAYER she is guarding with her chest. Further, and further, the player doesn't stand a chance, not without drawing a foul.

The PLAYER tries to whip around and serves Jules an illegal elbow to the eye, hard. PLAYER gets the pass off to her teammate. No foul call from the ref.

Jules' eyebrow has split open and bleeds down her face. After a very short moment to collect herself, she brings her head back up and swims up to the formation to defend--

The ball is lobbed out to her PLAYER again, and Jules steps up to defend. Blood continues to spill down her face. The player starts screaming at Jules.

PLAYER

What the hell? Get off of me!

Jules continues to use her chest to box the girl further away. The player turns with her back to Jules and keeps the ball in front of her while looking up to the REF and yelling for help.

PLAYER (CONT'D)

She's bleeding! Get her out of here!

The ref blows the whistle three times to pause the entire game. Jules keeps going, steals the ball and sprints with it.

The ref blows a long whistle to get Jules' attention and she finally slows to a stop.

Jules looks around, she is the only player on the other half of the pool besides the OPPOSING GOALIE.

Blood drips onto the ball and into the water. She touches her face and sees the blood on her hand. She swims slowly toward the edge of the pool. Coach and Steve run up to the edge, next to the ref.

Jules scoops water into her mouth and spits out the blood that had dripped. She wipes her face and smears blood along her cheek onto her cap.

JULES

Am I good?

INT. BRADLEY GREENS OFFICE - LATER

Jules secures tape around a piece of gauze over her eyebrow. Steve walks in with a bag of FROZEN PEAS.

JULES

Thanks.

STEVE

I just didn't know where you were.
I had to, I didn't know--

JULES

It's okay. I shouldn't have done that. I won't do that again.

Jules leans against the wall behind her and cracks a smile, they have forgiven each other, as you do.

JULES (CONT'D)

Bloody eye from a Bulldogs game.
Who would have thought.

STEVE

Yeah it goes nicely with the
Wolverine nose bruise.

She laughs.

STEVE (CONT'D)

What did you say to them when you
showed up black and blue in the
face?

JULES

I'm remarkably skilled at avoiding
peoples questions.

They are both loose, for the first time in a while.

STEVE

I'm impressed Amy hasn't told them.

JULES

Amy doesn't know.

Oops.

STEVE

Yes she... wait, yeah she, I--

There goes that moment of connection.

JULES

--You told her??

Jules slams down the peas, grabs her keys, and storms out.

EXT. CORPORATE PARKING LOT - DAY

Jules leans against her car, parked in a corporate lot.

Coach Amy comes out from the building in a pencil skirt and button up shirt.

COACH

Hey, I only have a few minutes.

JULES

This is where you work?

COACH

Yeah, believe it or not, there's not much money in adult water polo coaching.

JULES

What do you do?

COACH

We create programs and structure for people after they get out of rehab. The boss is really nice to me when I need to adjust hours for Bulldog stuff.

JULES

I guess I didn't really think about your life outside of polo. Sorry.

COACH

Don't be. Not as exciting as yours.

JULES

I don't know if I'd use the word exciting.

Beat.

COACH

You've got a lot of choices to make.

JULES

Yeah, I.. I can't seem to get my head around that. I thought I did it already, but... I don't know. Sorry.

COACH

You've got to stop saying sorry.

JULES

That's not why I came.

JULES (CONT'D)

I wanted to tell you myself. I'm just practicing with them for now and maybe playing in a few tournaments. While I figure it out, and the Wolverines could be a path to school.

COACH

Taylor talks big talk, but you can't put all of your focus on the sport. You need to figure out where you want to be and what you want to do. She can't give you that.

JULES

What happened with you and Taylor?

COACH

Nothing. It was a million years ago now.

JULES

Please?

Coach gives in, opens up.

COACH

She wanted to play in college. I was standing in the way of that. That's how she saw it. We both got pulled up to the regional team, but she convinced the Coach to get rid of me. And then, she got scouted, played in college... but guess what? Now we're both back here, both coaching.

(MORE)

COACH (CONT'D)

And I started the Bulldogs for girls who still wanted to play, even if they didn't get to regional ball or college ball. And I'm really proud of that. She can't keep a team together for more than a year, and we have a family.

Jules is crushed by her guilt, by Coach's vulnerability.

COACH (CONT'D)

But look, its hard to lose over and over again. You inspired me to get focused, serious... and I took it too far. It's not who we are. It's not what we are doing.

JULES

Did you tell the girls I'm playing on both?

COACH

That's got to be you.

Jules nods.

COACH (CONT'D)

Are you coming tonight?

JULES

I've got practice.

COACH

I'd like you to come after. Tell them. Tonight.

JULES

Okay.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL POOL - DAY - LATER

Wolverine practice has just ended. Jules sits on the pool deck as the girls clean up around her. She's putting on some new gauze with the front camera of her phone as a mirror.

She finishes the tape and looks around to the Wolverines who put on their sweats and parkas, no talking.

Taylor comes up to Jules.

TAYLOR

Hey Jules, if your eye is all good,
you'll be a starter at the
tournament tomorrow.

JULES

Oh. Yeah, I'm cool. Thank you.

TAYLOR

You earned it.

To the whole group now:

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Great work today girls. Carb up
tonight and get some sleep. 7:30 in
the pool, warming up. Not 7:30
parking and stretching and taking
off your sweats. In the water.
There will be at least two scouts
from UCs on the deck.

Taylor walks away.

Jules awkwardly lingers, and then works up some courage. A
few of the Wolverines start to file out.

JULES

Um, I was just wondering-- do you,
are you guys doing a pasta dinner
thing...?

Two of the Wolverines pay her a sliver of attention.

WOLVERINE 1

What are we U-10?

WOLVERINE 2

Yeah bring some orange slices for
half time too.

They laugh and Jules turns to walk away, alone.

INT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Most of the Bulldogs are here for pasta dinner. There are
tables strung together and a buffet starting to build on the
kitchen counter.

Macey, Sarah, and Jules have not arrived yet. Rebecca looks
down to a new text.

REBECCA

Macey said she and Sarah are on their way.

OLIVIA

What about Jules?

JACKIE

Maybe she thinks it's off because we had the scrimmage today?

HOLLY

No, I told her it was at my place when the game ended.

OLIVIA

I didn't even see her after the game.

Coach looks around, anticipating Jules' arrival.

BRIE

Did anyone call her?

COACH

Don't.

The Bulldogs look up and enclose on Coach, the chatter holds, the cooking slows.

REBECCA

Why not?

HOLLY

Is she okay?

OLIVIA

Is it her eye?

BRIE

Is she coming to the tournament tomorrow?

COACH

We'll see her there.

Rebecca has caught on.

REBECCA

Wait, what does that mean?

Rebecca looks at Brie and they share a moment of discovery...

BRIE

No way.

The door opens. Jules and Steve walk in with a BOTTLE OF WINE and a BAG OF PRODUCE. They enter to silence and stares.

Jules looks exhausted. She has wet hair under her orange beanie. Her eyes are red, her face is black and blue. A rainbow of discontent.

Holly's Dad tries to break the awkwardness by leaving the kitchen and grabbing the wine.

HOLLY'S DAD

Hey, welcome you guys.

As he walks out towards Jules and Steve, Brie stops him.

BRIE

No. What's going on?

REBECCA

Jules?

Jules looks around, feeling they all know. Steve does the same and puts his arm around her. Jules looks to Coach.

COACH

Jules lets take a second outside.

Rebecca watches Coach get up to approach Jules and jumps in.

REBECCA

No! Say it! To our face Jules, say it.

Macey and Sarah enter through the door.

SARAH

Ladies!

MACEY

Woah, what's up in here? How's your eye?

REBECCA

Jules was just about to tell us she's playing Wolverine ball.

Jules looks at Rebecca, then to Macey, then averts her eyes. The tension in the room rises with noise instead of silence.

BRIE

I don't understand.

JULES
I'm doing both until season starts.

SARAH
What?

Jules starts to pick at the gauze-bandage on her eye.

JULES
I'm doing both.

REBECCA
What about the tournament tomorrow?
You were just gonna change suits
and hop over to the next pool??

BRIE
That's insane.

HOLLY
And then you're leaving for season?

JULES
I haven't decided about the season.

SARAH
You're going to play with us in pre-
season and then bail? I saw today
you've decided to stop *passing* the
ball but now that makes sense.

Jules rips off the rest of the tape and gauze. Her wound is exposed. In her hands, under the noise of the shouting, she escapes into the galaxy of dried red blood and yellow residue on the white gauze.

BRIE
What are you even doing it for?

REBECCA
We told you about them dude and yet
you still want to join?

SARAH
They'll never let you off the
bench.

BRIE
How long have you lied about it?

Macey, betrayed, quietly speaks to Jules through the crowd.

MACEY
You should leave.

Jules lifts her head to look at Macey for the first time.

MACEY (CONT'D)
I'm not helping you anymore.

Jules leaves. Steve looks at Macey, shocked, and follows Jules out.

INT. BRADLEY HOME - JULES' ROOM - DAY

Jules pulls the BULLDOG SUIT out of her SWIM BAG and puts in the WOLVERINE SUIT. Steve stands in the doorway.

JULES
I can drive myself, you don't have to come. It might be a 3 game day.

STEVE
Hey, I'm going. No question.

She looks at him and heads toward the door.

INT. JULES CAR - DAY

Steve drives. Jules is fried, messy hair, hood up in an old sweatshirt, sunburnt face, bruised, exhausted.

STEVE
You in the mood for tacos?

JULES
What?

STEVE
I figure if we turn around now, just blow it all off, we can make it to Mexico by dinner.

Steve tries to get her to smile. She does not.

Jules leans against the window and closes her eyes. She grabs her nose, which is still purple and green. She is in pain.

STEVE (CONT'D)
I'll take you home right now if you want. You don't have to do this.

Jules verges on tears and shakes her head no.

INSERT:

TOURNAMENT STANDINGS

In a bracket of 16 the standings move

- The Wolverines vs. The Force. A hand moves The Wolverines forward, winners.

- The Wolverines vs. The Dolphins. A hand moves The Wolverines forward, winners.

- The Bulldogs vs. The Mustangs. A hand moves The Mustangs forward. Bulldogs out of tournament.

- The Wolverines vs. The Rage in the semi finals.

END INSERT.

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL DECK - DECK - DAY

The Bulldogs head toward the exit of the pool deck in their sweats, defeated.

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL DECK - GAME POOL - DAY

Jules is in the pool with the Wolverines, they warm up.

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL DECK - DECK - CONTINUOUS

Steve is in the bleachers. He sees the Bulldogs walking by, in post-game garb, and jumps up.

STEVE

Hi girls! How was your game?

The Bulldogs wave and continue to walk by. Macey and Coach are at the back of the pack.

COACH

Hi Steve.

Macey is reluctant, but hangs with Coach and Steve.

STEVE

How'd it go?

Coach and Macey take a moment, not sure how to engage here.

COACH

It was over quickly at least.

Beat.

STEVE

I'm sorry.

Bitter and with great attitude, Macey chimes in.

MACEY

It's not *your* fault.

COACH

Alright May.

MACEY

She's a liar.

STEVE

She needs this.

MACEY

Needs what? A bloody face and a double life?

STEVE

Everyone tells them to "join a community" and "find a routine" when they get back. She just took it too far. She needs you.

Macey considers this, but walks away. Coach is disappointed in Macey and takes a seat next to Steve to watch Jules.

A few moments later, Macey joins them on the bleachers, with the rest of the Bulldogs by her side.

EXT. TOURNAMENT POOL - DAY - LATER

The Wolverines huddle with Taylor at the edge of the pool. There is no referee yet.

In the huddle, Taylor psyches them up.

TAYLOR

This team plays dirty, we know that, but they play dirty because they can't keep up. Play our game and we'll be in the finals tomorrow.

The Wolverines stink-eye Team Rage across the pool. There is a palpable energy in the huddle.

WOLVERINE 1

Where are the refs?

Taylor looks at her watch, she is impatient and angry.

TAYLOR

Go line up.

WOLVERINE 2

What, we aren't going to nail check?

WOLVERINE 1

Does that mean no ejections?

TAYLOR

Go. Line. Up.

WOLVERINE 2

WOLVERINES ON THREE. ONE, TWO, THREE.

WOLVERINES

WOLVERINES.

The starters, Jules included, swim out to line up.

Taylor walks across the deck to the RAGE COACH.

TAYLOR

So we're going to play with no ref, no nail checks, no captain meeting? Should we just throw three balls into the pool and tell them to enjoy?

Coach Amy sits in the stands with The Bulldogs and checks her watch, she see's what is going down.

A TOURNAMENT REF runs up, late. They come and give the RAGE COACH a hug and friendly greeting.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Nice! Phoned a friend. Where's the second ref? Maybe you should just call the game, that'll be fair.

TOURNAMENT REF

The schedule is a little tight, we will get a second ref as soon as possible. Let's get going for now.

Taylor walks away in blatant fury.

The game begins with the sprint, which Jules wins. As she turns forward after passing the ball back, she is hit very quickly by the elbow of the Rage sprinter, MICK (23).

BEGIN SEQUENCE:

- Mick follows Jules around the pool and antagonizes her continually.
- Jules goes to drive, Mick literally puts her hand on Jules face. Jules throws it off and looks around, almost with humor.
- The single REF continues calling the game in the Rage's favor.
- Mick picks the ball up again and grabs Jules' neck to get room to pass it.
- On the bench, the Bulldogs can't help but get into the game. Although they aren't cheering yet, they are focused and watching, noticing the skew in the referee's calls.
- Jules is on offense and drags herself around Mick by grabbing Mick's shoulder and violently pulling Mick backwards to get momentum to drive in. Jules receives the ball, wet, from the set, and scores a goal.
- Bulldogs on the bench, not in full support yet, but they clap for the goal.
- Underwater, both teams participate in violent and illegal suit-holds. They kick off of girls' torso's in order to swim to the other side. This is not Bulldog ball.
- On offense, Jules is on the wing without the ball, and Mick jumps behind her to gets her in a near choke-hold, asphyxiating Jules. The ball comes to Jules and she maneuvers, violently, to get Mick off of her and dunks Mick under water. The ref calls the foul against Jules.

Taylor jumps up.

TAYLOR

Are you kidding me?? Can you even
see my player? She's the one under
her chokehold!

- The Bulldogs, including Rebecca, Sarah, and Brie, get up and yell from the bleachers to echo Taylor's sentiments. They are in it and angry. They are back on Jules' side, passionately.
- The next play-- Jules shoots and Mick catches up enough to swipe Jules' arm, also hitting her in the head. Jules recovers quick to pick the ball up and score, but she turns to Mick, enraged.

JULES
Back the hell off!

Mick gets the ball from the goalie and shoots Jules a dirty look as she swims past to reset the game.

Steve and the Bulldogs watch intently. Unsettled to see to Jules lash out, knowing how intense it could become... Steve starts clapping as the tension fades, and tries to put the group in the bleachers at ease.

STEVE
It's okay, she scored, she scored.

- The play resets. It's nearing the end of the second quarter and the score is already 5-1 Wolverines. Jules is up on the line, waiting for the Rage to pitch the ball back and begin the play. After the pass, Jules immediately blitzes the girl with the ball, steals it, and breaks away toward the goal.

The Bulldogs get up to cheer, excited and nervous.

Mick pounces onto Jules' legs mid-stride, claws down her legs and pulls Jules under water.

UNDERWATER: Mick has a grip on the side of Jules' swimsuit. Jules' leg is cut and bleeding by Mick's unchecked fingernails.

ABOVE: Jules holds possession with her shooting arm cocked.

UNDERWATER: Mick kicks off of Jules' hip with incredible force, without letting go of the grip, and rips Jules' swimsuit.

ABOVE: Jules eeks out a shot, lots of force but right at the goalie.

The GOALIE catches the ball, but is clearly behind the goal line, which should count as a goal.

The family and friends in the bleachers jump up.

Jules realizes the goalie is in the goal, but the ref does not count it. She looks at the shot clock. The score board. Infuriated, she turns to the referee and starts screaming.

JULES
That's a goal! She's in the goal!

The ref blows their whistle to continue the play.

JULES (CONT'D)
Are you kidding me?

The Bulldogs and Steve hold their breath, they know Jules is about to lose her cool.

Jules turns to the goalie, ablaze, and charges her. The goalie sees' this, and backs up into the goal. A Wolverine, jumps in to physically block Jules from attacking the goalie.

GOALIE

What is wrong with you, psycho.

WOLVERINE 1

Jules holy shit back off.

The ref blows the whistle and signals their hands as to eject Jules - kick her out of the game.

Jules pulls off her cap and sprints straight to the referee's edge of the pool, not the kick-out area.

JULES

You're kicking ME out?

She gets out of the pool and follows the ref, who blows the whistle to start the next play and is walking down the edge of the pool to follow the ball.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hey!

Jules pulls herself up and starts to scream at the ref. Suit ripped. Eyes bloodshot. Blood drips down her leg. She passes the big red neon shot clock which counts down to from 30.

JULES (CONT'D)

For what? For scoring a goal?

The ref turns away from Jules to keep walking.

TOURNAMENT REF

Control your player, Coach.

JULES

Me? I just scored a goal! You didn't call it! That girl ripped me open and you didn't call anything!

The crowd is shocked and scared. Olivia covers her eyes. Steve takes a step down off the bleachers. Macey rips off her parka and hands it to Coach, who bursts up and heads round the pool towards Jules.

Two girls on the RAGE bench are filming on their phones - laughing.

Taylor and the Wolverine bench watch on, not sure what to do. Blood drips down Jules' quickly-bruising leg.

JULES (CONT'D)

I'm being attacked! They're insane!
They're coming after me! They're
coming for me! Your job is to be
here and to stop me from being
attacked!

The pool has stilled. The players, the bench, the audience are all watching Jules, who shakes in anger and panic.

Coach runs up and envelops Jules' shoulders with Parka.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY - LATER

The locker room is full of tall red lockers. The showers are all on. They turn off one by one during the following conversation.

Jules sits on the ground leaning back against them with the parka around her shoulders, she shakes still but works to calm down. Coach stands against the lockers across.

Steve runs in looking for Jules. When he spots Coach standing he walks toward them. Coach leaves to give them time alone.

Steve pulls a BOTTLE OF WATER out of his back pocket as he sits down. He offers it to Jules and she reaches out to take a sip. She coughs a bit, and then has some more. She avoids looking at him.

JULES

Is the game over?

A beat.

STEVE

Jules?

Her composure hangs on by a thread.

JULES

It was a goal, you know? I can
fight. That's fine. I was mad but
kept playing, but then the ref
didn't give me the goal and I, I
just, I...

STEVE

I know. You were right. But that's not always the point.

Still on the edge of breath, her head hangs. They sit in that for a long beat as she tries to find equilibrium.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You know... I was reading about Saturn.

Jules looks up. He takes his time with this... tries to get to something bigger neither of them want to say.

STEVE (CONT'D)

And the rings. And, there are a lot of-- well, some scientists think the rings of Saturn are made from broken moons.

Jules looks up and lets that hit her.

STEVE (CONT'D)

And that's the best part.

They sit together for a beat.

STEVE (CONT'D)

It's not a burden to share your feelings with people you love, even if they're tough ones. It's actually an invitation for closeness. And not sharing those beautiful broken moons, it actually takes something away from the people who want to care for you. You follow me?

She nods again. She sits forward and leans her head on his knee. Relieved to have him, so relieved.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You've got to treat your injuries. You know what I mean? All of them.

He rubs her back for a beat and then pivots for some levity.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Speaking of which, let me see that leg.

Jules stands to show the bruise on her upper thigh. She wipes away her tears with some laughter.

STEVE (CONT'D)
That's a pretty one.

JULES
It's so purple already.

A small group of girls walk in off screen to use the locker room. A girl scolds Steve for being in the ladies room.

WATER POLO PLAYER (O.S.)
You can't be in here.

Steve covers his eyes.

STEVE
Sorry! Sad daughter! We're leaving!

Steve and Jules head to the exit. He puts his arm around her and she leans her head on his shoulder. They walk toward the open door, together.

INT. WAITING ROOM - DAY

Jules sits alone in a waiting room. She wears her Annie Hall-esque outfit from the mall.

PROFESSOR LUCIDO (O.S.)
Ms. Bradley?

Jules looks up and walks to meet...

PROFESSOR MIKE LUCIDO (50s) who outstretches his long burly arm to shake her hand.

PROFESSOR LUCIDO (CONT'D)
I've heard a lot about you.

JULES
Don't believe a word of it.

They smile and shake hands.

PROFESSOR LUCIDO
Should we take a tour?

JULES
I'd love that, thanks. Umm.. I just-
- I'm not sure what I'm doing yet.
But I'm here to just, to try.

PROFESSOR LUCIDO
That's all I ask of my students.

She smiles, relieved. They walk off together.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

The next morning, Jules and Steve walk on to the pool deck.

They approach the Bulldogs who are in their suits by the water. She walks up in her sweats, suit on under, back pack on, bruised, nervous, but with a new peace to her.

The Bulldogs are surprised to see her, they turn and watch her approach.

SARAH
(to Jules) You're here?

Jules makes a joke, looking to Steve.

JULES
Yeah he missed Rebecca.

That eases the tension quickly as the girls laugh.

COACH
You're late.

The girls laugh again.

JULES
Yeah, sorry, I was looking for some
courage...

They're with her, it's nervous and emotional. Jules futzes with her bag and settles into an apology. Her voice shakes.

JULES (CONT'D)
I just... Thanks for staying to
watch the game. I'm sorry I ran off
after. I'm sorry about the other
day.

Small peanut gallery comments ensue, but we stay with Jules.

REBECCA
Oh my god, stop.

BRIE
Don't be sorry.

OLIVIA
Not at all.

HOLLY
Jules.

JULES

I'm not good at this, and I'm trying to figure out how to be better at everything, but I just... Thank you guys.

The Bulldog's faces are moved, emotional, captivated.

JULES (CONT'D)

Thanks for getting it and waiting for me and teaching me everything and I'm... Umm, and if it's okay with you (motions to Coach) and everyone, I want to keep playing. Just with you guys. If that's okay?

The Bulldogs look on and wait, after a moment, they burst into laughter and various "of course" "duh" "obviously" affectations. They approach Jules for a big group hug.

Brie and Sarah swiftly peel off her backpack as laughter and energy BURSTS through the group hug and The Bulldogs pull them all into...

UNDERWATER - COMMUNITY POOL - THAT MOMENT

The big group of the Bulldogs, Jules, and Coach plunge down into the blue. Together, they fall. Together, they rise, to the surface.

Jules, in her sweats, soaking wet, emerges. She looks around and a smile appears on her face. Finally above water.

THE END.