

Cheese & Crackers

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&

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EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Malia guides **Jade** through the tree-covered trail. Both are giggling, with not a care in the world besides this moment.

MALIA

Close your eyes.

EXT. PICNIC AREA - SUNSET

There's a beautifully laid picnic; filled with cheese, crackers, meats, fruits, wine, flowers, and a strawberry birthday cake.

JADE

Malia.

MALIA

Shh just keep them closed.

Malia adjusts a few things.

MALIA

Okay, now open them.

Jade is speechless. **Malia** puts their arm around **Jade** and **Jade** playfully pushes them off. They both sit down and enjoy the picnic, beginning with eating cheese and crackers. **Malia** pulls out an old yearbook. They turn through the pages together.

JADE

I'm in this photo!

MALIA

The pre-brace face.

JADE

What?

MALIA

You used to look so cute with your little gap. Now you're alright, I guess.

Jade blushes.

JADE

Okay but what about you in your Christian Girl Autumn faze.

MALIA

We must never speak of that.

They both giggle, inching closer to one another. They look each other in the eyes, for what feels like a lifetime. **Malia** reaches over for **Jade's** hand. Their warm embrace is only present momentarily until **Jade** pulls away.

JADE

We shouldn't do that.

Malia is stunned for having misread the situation.

Silence. **Jade** eats a grape with their back towards **Malia**. They look back and reach for **Malia's** hand. **Malia** hesitates, but eventually holds **Jade's** hand.

JADE

I told my parents. They're still giving me the silent treatment.

MALIA

Oh Jade, I'm so sorry-

JADE

It was unavoidable.

Silence.

MALIA

I know it's been awhile since we talked but-

Jade cuts her off.

JADE

What is all this?

Jade searches **Malia's** eyes. **Malia** struggles to make eye contact, then her anger begins to surface.

MALIA

I missed you. Is that really so hard to believe?

Jade takes her hand away and Malia reaches back for it, holding it tightly, desperately.

MALIA

You left and then you just...stopped being there. Stopped responding,

calling, and I had no idea why. You broke my heart, Jade, and yet I'm here trying to bring us back together and-

Jade kisses **Malia**.

JADE

I love you.

They separate for an instant - both looking at each other in shock.

JADE

I was scared, but-

A genuine smile comes from Malia, and a mix of laughter and tears fills the space between them as she pulls Jade in for another kiss.

MALIA

I love you.

The kisses gradually turn into a passionate hug. Embracing each other as if it were a dream. **Malia** grabs **Jade** by the cheeks, kissing their forehead.

MALIA

You're everything to me.

JADE

As you are to me.

They rest their foreheads on one another happily.

THE END.

AUTHOR'S NOTE FOR MAGIDSON FAMILY

As an actress, filmmaker, and writer I've found myself passionately in love with the creation of art in multiple mediums. I truly believe in the ability to create and promote change within art, and strive to be a part of that pursuit. I am a low-income, self-funded independent, first-generation, theater major and film minor student. In many ways I have no right to be pursuing a degree in art - I obviously don't have the financial background to support it.

But I love it. And I know the hard work it takes, and I am willing to put that in and more every single day. Thank you.