

The Castle

By

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EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

OLIVIA is sitting in the sand. She is devastated. She looks around at the open space around her, unsure of what to do. She begins to dig.

EXT. BEACH - DUNES - DAY

The reeds are moving gently in the wind. A few in the background shake more than the rest.

EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

Olivia looks toward the dunes warily, but sees nothing. She has dug an enormous moat and is now building her sandcastle. She builds.

EXT. BEACH - DUNES - DAY

The reeds are moving unnaturally. There are four distinct tracks leading into the reeds, spaced very far apart.

Below the reeds a painted hand reaches ahead into the sand.

A pair of feet walk purposefully.

A patch of reeds is parted down the middle.

A hand and knee are planted forcefully in the ground.

EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

The walls are rising slowly, methodically.

EXT. BEACH - DUNES - DAY

The reeds all around are moving more than they should. Below them, FRANCES, camouflaged in the sand and reeds, slides through the sand.

(OLIVIA BUILDS)

A few feet away CLAIRE, painted in pure white, stealthily and fluidly moves between patches of reeds.

(OLIVIA BUILDS)

(CONTINUED)

On the other side of them, JULIA, painted in eclectic and jarring colors, crawls almost robotically on hands and knees.

(OLIVIA BUILDS)

Finally, SPENCER, in the middle, painted in the likeness of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, gold, silver, brass, iron and clay.

(OLIVIA BUILDS, UNAWARE OF THE IMMINENT CONFRONTATION)

The four converge at the base of the highest sand dune. Spencer leads the way up.

EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

Olivia is putting the final touches on the walls. She begins to decorate with shells and etches out nooks and designs.

EXT. BEACH - DUNES - DAY

Spencer slowly brings her head above the top of the dunes. Looking at Olivia.

A few feet away, Frances does the same, followed by Julia, then Claire.

All with war painted faces and looking prepared for battle.

EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

Olivia is now fortifying the castle and digging into the ground inside. She is digging ferociously.

EXT. BEACH - DUNES - DAY

The four girls are at the peak of the dune, looking down upon Olivia.

EXT. BEACH - SANDCASTLE - DAY

Olivia is now chest deep inside her castle. As she is scooping a handful of sand, she looks towards the water and sees a MAN, dressed in deep blue, approachable.

She can't help but stare.

Their eyes meet. He smiles. She is intrigued.

(CONTINUED)

He stops. He looks behind her.

She turns to see what he is look at.

The four girls have surrounded her on either side. She looks up, scared to death.

The girls look at the man, he nods.

Olivia is confused and terrified.

Suddenly, all four girls begin to destroy the castle. Sand is flying everywhere. Olivia frantically tries to stop them, but to no avail. She looks over at the man, but he's gone.

After realizing that resistance is futile, she lays down in her castle, devastated. Sand is flying all around her.

Finally, the four girls grab Olivia by the limbs and drag her. She desperately tries to get away, struggling as much as she can.

They arrive at the water and wade out, waist deep.

They shove her head under water, she flails about, viciously grabbing at anything she can.

The struggle ends, she can no longer fight.

She reaches out one last time. A hand grabs it and yanks her out of the water. She is staring the man in the face. No one else is around.

Afraid and confused, she looks him in the eye, he looks back, comforting her.

She is content.

ALTERNATE ENDING

She reaches out one last time. A hand grabs it and yanks her out of the water. She opens her eyes, no one is there.

Afraid and confused, she takes in her surroundings, an air of relief and acceptance overcomes her as she lays back in the water and gazes into the sky.