

Celeste Sides

Scene #1 41.

INT. ROOM. NIGHT. *

Preparations are again underway. As before, make-up is laid out fetishistically on a tray. Lipstick. Eyeliner. Blush. *

Scalpel. Needle and thread. *

The clean hand saw alongside the rest of the tools. Gloved hands wrap everything in black cloth and place them in a bag. *

INT. YACHT. LOTUS PARTY. NIGHT. *

Riley is looking around at all the decadence, feeling out of place. She looks toward the entrance, thinking of leaving. She hesitates, then starts for the door... *

A GORGEOUS FIGURE enters, in stilettos and a mask revealing smoky eyes. Riley is about to pass her when the figure hooks an arm around her waist and re-directs her back into the party. Riley realizes it's Celeste... *

Celeste takes a glass of Cristal from a tray, hands it to Riley, and takes one for herself. Celeste leans forward, kisses Riley on the mouth, lips lingering. Then pulls back and raises her glass in a toast. Celeste drains the entire glass. Riley does the same. *

INT. BOOTH. YACHT. LOTUS PARTY. LATER. *

The girls now a couple of drinks down, the party close to being in full swing. *

Celeste takes two pills from her bra and passes one to Riley. *

Start →

CELESTE
A little something to help us relax. *

Celeste takes hers with a sip of champagne. *

RILEY
I'm okay, thanks.

Riley looks around at the clientele, a rabbit in headlights. Celeste slips the pill unseen into Riley's champagne. *

RILEY (CONT'D)
So now I'm here - where am I?

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Scene #1

42.

CELESTE

Well Alice, you've stepped through
the looking glass into a very
exclusive, very private club...
Welcome to Lotus...

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Riley looks around. It's like EYES WIDE SHUT. In the darker
corners, people are making out and more, limbs intertwining.

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RILEY

So what... It's like a swingers
club?

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CELESTE

(laughs)
Lotus is whatever you want it to
be. Its history intertwined with
the history of the Greek system. Of
course they've moved with the times
- there's an app. In addition to
these parties, like minded people
can meet online, maybe meet in
person if all goes well...

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RILEY

Tinder meets the Porcellian.

CELESTE

Compared to Lotus, the Porcellian's
as exclusive as Costco.

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Riley sips her Champagne. Eying the room. Celeste can tell
that at least part of Riley is intrigued by all this...

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*

One booth hosts some kind of Japanese rope bondage
performance - largely obscured by the crowd of spectators.

Groups and couples lead each other into and out of various
rooms like a bordello carousel.

CELESTE (CONT'D)

You have to be invited - punched -
by five existing members. You get
rated by other users, and it's
anonymous. No one knows who the
other members are, except for when
we meet in person. Even then, we
use an alias.

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*

Riley looks around her. The boat is populated purely with the
most beautiful people Riley has ever seen. She drinks more
Champagne, loosening up...

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*

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Scene #1

43.

RILEY
Why me?

CELESTE
If it wasn't such a cliché, I'd say
you reminded me of me when I first
got here. I guess Carter and I both
saw something in you. Or rather,
something missing. Something you're
searching for, perhaps?

Riley stares into her champagne. Affected by this...

CELESTE (CONT'D)
Haven't you ever wanted to be
someone else for a little while? To
try things you usually wouldn't??

Celeste looks at Riley. Torn between desire and doubt...

CELESTE (CONT'D)
You've got to get out of your head
and follow your instincts. Take
things slow, see how it goes, and
have fun...

CARTER (O.S.)
You might surprise yourself.

End

~~Carter appears, in a Phantom of the Opera mask, holding a
fresh bottle of Champagne. He tops them all off.~~

~~CARTER (CONT'D)
I did kind of beg Celeste to invite
you. If you're uncomfortable, it's
my fault... I forgot these things
can get a little crazy...~~

~~RILEY
No, it's...~~

~~Riley doesn't know what it is.~~

~~CARTER
In that case, come with me.~~

~~Carter takes Riley by the hand. With their chemistry, the
champagne, the atmosphere, Riley's already spellbound.~~

~~SERIES OF FRACTURED IMAGES: Carter leading Riley through the
increasingly sexual party... Riley's eyes linger on all the
tight young flesh in various couplings... The moon shines
bright above, reflecting off the rippling water as Carter
leads Riley around the deck of the boat...~~

Celeste Sides

Scene #2 60.

Start →

CELESTE

As you can see, the media have figured out both Isabel and Laura were Delta Phi. But if we all keep our mouths shut, they'll go away...

(grows emotional)

We've lost two sisters, girls... I know most of you still can't believe it... I can't either... I'm sure a lot of you are afraid. That's why I've tapped into our discretionary fund to make sure we have an armed security guard on the premises around the clock. There is no safer place to be on campus right now than Delta Phi...

Celeste looks around at the girls, plenty of whom look doubtful...

CELESTE (CONT'D)

Anybody who wants to leave, should leave... Don't stay here for my sake. All I can say is... We're stronger than this killer. Delta Phi was here before us, and it will be here long after we're gone. For the sake of our sorority, for the sake of our sisters Isabel and Laura... I'm not going anywhere.

The girls take this in. Glancing at one another, wondering who will stay, who will go. Celeste meets Riley's gaze...

CELESTE (CONT'D)

And for you pledges... This is the ultimate initiation... You stick with us through this, you're in.

Celeste lets that hang in the air...

CELESTE (CONT'D)

Now I don't know about you guys, but I could use a drink.

End

ANOTHER ANGLE - A BIT LATER

Most of the girls are still here. Drinking. Talking in small groups. The atmosphere subdued.

Riley goes up to Celeste, who is talking to Blair and Maya.