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Like

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I pulled the sliding glass door tot he basement open as Tawny and I stumbled in and collapsed on the floor, dying of laughter. We were both dripping with water, soaking the floor underneath us, but we couldn't stop laughing."

Cover Page Footnote

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Skye Drey

I pulled the sliding glass door to the basement open as Tawny and I stumbled in and collapsed on the floor, dying of laughter. We were both dripping with water, soaking the floor underneath us, but we couldn't stop laughing.

"Next time," Tawny gasped through her laughter, "We'll beat them!"

"Yeah, right! They'll kick our asses if we try to take them on again!" We had just escaped from a vicious water battle, in my neighbor's pool, with the little kids that run my neighborhood. Ten on two and we lost miserably. I looked over and Tawny was still lying on her back trying to calm her laughter. Her strawberry blonde hair sat like sleeping snakes around her head. Her chest was trembling as it shallowly moved up and down. The white shirt she wore over her red bikini had melted onto curves of her pear-shaped frame and was transparent enough to reveal the peach color of her skin. This was the first time we'd hung out since we became friends about a month ago. We've talked a lot since then, almost every day about everything. She knows about me, but do I really know about her?

She stopped laughing when she noticed that I wasn't anymore and rolled over onto her stomach. We were inches away from touching. "What's up?"

"Nothing. I was just thinking." I turned away and stared at the tiny drops of water that were dripping from my soaked hair.

"What're you thinking about?" I looked up at her. Her eyes smiled at me and seemed to say what I wanted, but maybe it was just what I wanted to see.

"I'm really glad we got to hang out today."

"Me too. It's nice to see you outside of school."

"Yeah," I looked back down at the ground. I thought about how we've been for the last couple of weeks and I couldn't help but let a chuckle escape.

"What?" Tawny said, eagerly.

"Oh, nothing. It's nothing," I said. I tried to pick myself up off the ground, but Tawny grabbed my arm and pulled me back down.

"Addi, tell me!" she yelled, playfully. I pulled free of her grip and managed to get on my feet, but not even half a second later I felt Tawny's weight on my back and we fell to the ground and began laughing again. I kept trying to get away from her, but I could only get so far before she would pull me back. We wrestled for a while, water flying from our hair and swimsuits and laughter erupting from our bellies, until she finally pinned me to the ground.

Like (cont.)

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I felt her weight on me and the wet fabric on my bare stomach. One of her legs had fallen between mine and our hips had landed on top of each others. She had a firm grip on my wrists and had all but strapped them to the floor next to me. Our laughter died and so did the vibration running down our bodies.

"What were you laughing at, Addi?" Tawny asked.

"I'll tell you if you let me breathe." She sat back on her knees and let me sit up straight. My legs were still placed between hers and she had let go of my wrists, but now her hands rested on my thighs. "I just made a funny comparison, is all. I mean we've been talking every day for a like a month and this is the first time we've really hung out. It's kind of like how people internet date. You know, they meet on a Website and talk for ages and then finally decide to meet. I was just thinking that this is kind of like that for us. Almost like a first date." Tawny looked down and thought about it. I thought about it too for a moment and without willing it to, my hand had moved over and grasped hers tightly.

She looked over at our hands, then up at me. Our faces were so close. I could feel her breath on my chin as it came out a tiny bit scattered. Her brown eyes stared into mine, shocked. My hand reached up and slid itself into her wet hair. I pulled our faces close. Her lips were cold from the dried water, but they were soft on mine. Her lips followed mine as I pulled her deeper into me. I felt her curves against mine and her heartbeat through her chest. I traced her bottom lip with my tongue. I heard Tawny inhale quickly before she pulled away.

"Addi..." she whispered.

I looked up at her. Her expression was one of confusion. Did...did I push things too far?
"Tawny, I'm sorry..." I hung my head and my body seemed to sink with it.

"Addi...Addi, what does this mean?"

I looked back up at her. "What?"

"What does this mean...for us?" I saw the corners of her mouth turn up into a smile. A weight lifted itself from my body. I reached up and pulled her face towards me again.

"It means that I like you, Tawny." I said it as strongly as I could.

"I like you too, Addi." I pulled our lips together. Her kiss tasted sweet in my mouth. Tawny cupped my chin in her hands and stood up, gently guiding me up with her.

"Come on," she said. Her lips touched mine as they formed the words. "Let's go change out of these wet clothes."