DEBUT

Written by

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Photograph: Balázs Mohai/EPA



INT. GIRLS' CHANGING ROOM - HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

ANA and ELISA (both 18, both dressed in long, white gowns, and both much more nervous than they're showing) apply last touches to make-up in front of a mirror, side by side.

Elisa studies Ana in the mirror.

ELISA

Beautiful.

Ana smiles, dabs on the last of her lip gloss.

ANA

Aren't we all?

Behind them, other girls of the same age go through the same routine: dress, hair, make-up, deep breath...

INT. GYMNASIUM - HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

The space is decked out to sparkle, with a stage and a traditional band at the front, plastic seats lining the walls all the way to the back and its non-alcoholic bar.

Tight, two-person knots waltz around the room, girls in their bleached innocence and boys in their dinner jacket pageantry.

Elisa spins in the arms of her 18-year-old chaperone, eyes out on the rest of the room.

Ana spins in the arms of her 19-year-old chaperone, eyes out looking for Elisa.

INT. GIRLS' CHANGING ROOM - HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Ana and Elisa stand beside one another in front of the mirror and remove their spent make-up in wet, thankful smear.

They're alone now: all the other girls have been danced away.

Ana leans over to Elisa, touches her forehead to Elisa's bare shoulder, grins.

Elisa stares at Ana, at this girl's face pressed into her, at that smile sneaking through.

ELISA

Time to go home now?

Ana nods: time to go home.