

## OCEAN

### Outline

Tom and Iben have had a secret relationship. Tom ends the relationship because he says his feelings for her will become too strong otherwise. Iben realizes this isn't the first time Tom has cheated on his wife. He denies it. They're suddenly interrupted – something serious has happened to Tom's daughter, Becki.

A waitress welcomes the audience to Ocean.

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Becki, a teenager, chats with a friend online. The friend asks her if she has a memory she'd never want to forget, and Becki replies it would be the time she stood by the ocean with her grandmother. Her grandmother, an Auschwitz survivor, told Becki a wonderful story about underwater worlds and turtles. Becki's friend continues asking her questions.

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Firus, a teenager, asks the audience if they're the police.

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Ronda, Eriksson, and Lennart have a meeting at their cohousing. Ronda and Eriksson discuss their relationship. Lennart is going on a date with Lotti. Tom enters with Marta who is in a wheelchair. Marta is Becki's grandmother, and she's going to die soon. Her last wish is to show Becki something one last time. The others promise to help her arrange it. Tom and Marta find it difficult to show affection to each other.

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Lotti mentors an eight-grade class. She tells them there have been some problems in their class. She has found a book during a sex education class, and its contents have shocked her. Lotti implies something has happened that she can't talk about because of confidentiality. She lets the audience have a discussion with the class.

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Miguel and Hanna, two teenagers, are on their way home from a party. Miguel shows Hanna some photos on his phone which upset her.

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The students in Lotti's class—John, Miguel, Hanna, Firus, and Kisser—are asked about intimacy. The conversation wavers between playful digs and serious topics, covering everything from dick pics and sexual harassment to everyday intimacy and romance. Hanna has seen something which has made her very upset. She says she knows something serious has happened, but she can't say what it is. Becki is also in

Lotti's class, but she's been absent for two weeks. Something has happened between Hanna and Miguel at a party. John is jealous and also seems obsessed with porn. Miguel thinks they should get advice instead of questions.

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Katja records audio description for an adult film.

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A group of parents who patrol their neighborhood at night—Iben (Kisser's mother), Jaime (Miguel's father), Robban (John's father), and Daniela (Becki's mother)—introduce themselves to each other. Jaime praises Becki's special project about the Holocaust. He and Daniela talk about the allure of fascism and the responsibility of those who've witnessed it. Katja (Hanna's mother) enters, late to the gathering. The conversation turns to the book that Lotti has found in the classroom. Lotti has told the class that something very serious has happened to a student, and the book contains some sort of confession. Daniela, Becki's mother, says she might know what's happened.

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Daniela tells the audience about the night she came home to a silent apartment. When she entered Becki's room to give her an orange, she was met by a strong, sweet-sour smell.

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Becki and her friend chat online. Her friend says he has trouble trusting people after being let down by someone. He asks Becki if she could forgive someone if they lied to her. Becki says they call her ugly and weird at school. Becki's friend says he thinks she's smart and cute.

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In a room at the cohousing, a support group for people with sex-related addictions has gathered. The group is led by a therapist, Steven. They say the Serenity Prayer together. It's Tom's first meeting. Iben, Christina, and Lennart have attended before. Christina tells the group how relieved she felt after her confession at last week's meeting, but it then drove her immediately back into her sex addiction. Lennart introduces himself as a porn addict who has been sober for two years. His addiction began when his wife asked for a divorce, and when, shortly after, he was forced into early retirement from his job as a school principal. Tom tells the group he sought them out after something serious happened to his daughter, and because his mother is sick. He wants to work on his issues. He asks if it's appropriate that he and Iben are in the same group. The therapist asks Tom to try to be honest with himself.

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A continuation of scene 1. Iben is still in the restaurant after Tom has left. Katja enters. She warns Iben about Tom. Iben and Steven, the therapist, exchange looks. When Iben leaves, Steven follows after her.

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## INTERMISSION

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Tom is a sex addict. He tells the audience that, in addition to the relationship with his wife, he wants to have two or three relationships at the same time, so he can have control and feel safe. Iben sees herself as a love addict. When she begins to feel safe in a relationship she can't accept it. She doesn't think she's worth it. Iben constantly looks for destructive relationships in which love is a struggle. Steven interrupts Tom and begins to talk about the myth of Narcissus and how someone who hasn't seen their own reflection as a child needs to mirror themselves in others later in life. Iben says, "If no one has told you they love you." Tom whispers something in Iben's ear.

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Lennart and Lotti are on a date. Lotti is delighted to be going on a date with Lennart, but she's not ready for a relationship. She mostly wants guidance from her good friend and former supervisor, principal Lennart. Lotti tells Lennart that Becki has tried to kill herself, and she wants advice on how to handle the situation with the class and their parents. She also shows him the confession in the back of the book. Lennart's grandchild, John, is mentioned in the confession. Lennart promises to speak with John and takes the book.

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Hanna and Kisser resolve an old conflict. Hanna pretended she was drunk at a party so she'd get the attention of the boys, but Kisser also believed Hanna's act, which hurt Kisser's feelings. John and Hanna have an on-and-off relationship, and when Hanna tried to make John jealous by making out with Miguel, John got angry and "gave" her to Miguel, which hurt Hanna deeply. Hanna tells Kisser about the photos that Miguel showed her, photos of Becki. Firus enters. Perhaps not altogether seriously, the girls suggest that Firus should call Becki. John enters and the girls fall silent. John tells Firus not to talk to the girls.

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John is at the cohousing, waiting for his grandfather, Lennart. He watches porn on his phone while he waits. Ronda enters and asks what he's watching. She asks him to show her what he's watching. They talk about porn and intimacy. The porn has audio description read by Katja.

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The group of parents who patrol their neighborhood at night are called to a meeting. Robban, Katja, and Jaime arrive first. Robban wants to know why they've been called since they have nothing to do with Becki's suicide attempt. They think Daniela and Tom should have noticed something not being right with Becki earlier. Iben and Daniela enter. They talk about intimacy, their love for their children, and how they view the relationship between sex and intimacy. Robban says sex and intimacy are closely connected in his mind. Daniela says they're two separate things.

They're asked if intimacy is always a positive thing. Everyone has a different opinion about it. Daniela and Katja believe it's absolutely not always a positive thing, like, for instance, a perpetrator's relationship to their victim, destructive relationships, and so on. They're asked about how they talk with their children about intimacy. Iben says she tells Kisser everything, tries to inspire her, and tells Kisser she loves her. Jaime says he often talks with Miguel about humanism and the importance of standing up for one another. Robban has talked about condoms with John. Katja says it's difficult to reach Hanna because of her constant texting and chatting on her phone. Robban says John gets angry if he's interrupted in the middle of a game "or whatever it is that he's watching." Everyone laughs.

Daniela interrupts the discussion and asks if this is what they've gathered for. She wants to know what kind of confession the book contained. The other parents accuse Lotti of being irresponsible, saying they haven't been allowed to read the book, so they can't say anything about it, and that it's ultimately the school's responsibility to deal with these things. Robban says it's up to each parent to give their child security and love. Iben says a parent has to talk to their children, teach them to set boundaries, so they don't go through what Becki did. Daniela starts crying and tells the others about how she found Becki and had to resuscitate her. She also tells them Becki doesn't want to say why she tried to commit suicide. The other parents are supportive and comfort Daniela, appearing to be good fellow human beings. When they've said goodbye to Daniela they all go to a karaoke bar.

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Miguel goes to see Lotti who is correcting exams. He asks her where the line goes between rape and not-rape, if you're guilty even if you just don't stop somebody else from doing something, and if it's rape if you pretend to be someone else and don't touch the other person.

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Becki chats with her friend online. We now see that the friend is Firus. He says he's got a crush on Becki, which makes her very happy. Firus wants her to send him a photo of herself undressed. When she hesitates he says she can forget about it. He asks her if she's just toying with him. Becki says she's not and sends him a photo of herself topless.

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Tom tells the audience about his mother, Marta, about how she sometimes disappeared for several weeks without him knowing where she was. Sometimes Marta showed Tom affection. Other times she would be distant to him and make him sleep in the fishing shed. Tom never knew what mood she'd be in. Marta never told him

about the war or where she'd been. She'd only tell him a story about underwater worlds and turtles, but Tom never believed in the story. He asked his mother, "Please, tell me where you've been."

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Firus, Becki, and Kisser study psychology together. They read about different Freudian terms, like projection and self-destructive behavior. Firus asks Becki how she's doing and unwillingly reveals he knows about her grandmother being sick.

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Katja is at the restaurant, alone. Hanna calls. Katja asks Hanna to put her cousin, Simon, who is staying with them, to bed. Firus, Miguel, and John enter. They're excited about shocking photos on Firus's phone and the fact that whoever sent the photos wrote, "Do you want me to kill myself?" Katja thinks the photos are of Hanna, making her furious. She scolds John and says Hanna is tired of him, which upsets John who runs out of the restaurant.

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John shows the sex book to Hanna. He confesses that he's done something stupid, something described in the book. John forced Firus to ask Becki for photos of herself undressed, and then he took over the chat and pressed Becki to send him increasingly provocative photos. John says his grandfather told him that Becki tried to kill herself. Hanna says her mother already told her about it, and she knows John was behind it, because he's asked her to do the same perverted things for him. John says he loves Hanna, but she doesn't seem to hear what he's saying. He says she's a great dancer. She says she knows she's good.

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At the cohousing, the residents talk about intimacy and shared moments of joy. Ronda and Eriksson have a shared memory of the clown Charlie Rivel. Firus enters. He's looking for Becki. Becki enters and says she's read the book with John's confession in it. It's as if there was an invisible ocean between them. Becki says that it might remain between them for a while, but she also asks Firus to think of a memory he'd never want to forget, just like she was asked to do by her online friend.

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Becki, Tom, and Marta go to the beach. Becki tells the story Marta once told Tom, the one Tom has passed on to Becki, the story about how Marta was once on a deserted beach, a windless beach even though it was a windy day, and how she was there to guard tiny turtle eggs, and how she slept like a baby there, and how she woke one morning to the sound of the eggs cracking and saw the small baby turtles hatch and crawl out into the ocean.

crawl out into the ocean.