

Scene Summary:

As usual, Liam's caused a stir. Hitting yet another rock bottom, a sensitive, contemplative Liam emerges.

It's the person he always set out to be, making the kind of heartfelt music he always intended. Riddled with insecurity, the new Liam is a hidden endeavour; he's been making music under the alias 'BD'.

Rumours circulate that BD is coming to town for a fundraiser, Liam's been acting strange, Belle suspects he's envious of BD's success, and fallen from sobriety.

Unable to reveal himself to accept his newly found praise, and simultaneously being vilified yet encouraged to behave badly, Liam is torn.

1. EXT. BEACH - DAY

Liam is sitting alone at the beach, wearing sunglasses and playing guitar. Belle approaches him.

BELLE

What makes you think you can get away with this?

Liam carries on as though he did not hear her, Belle is frustrated.

BELLE (CONT'D)

I know what's going on. Did you really think you could fool me?

Still no response from Liam.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Liam, you've been living a lie! And yeah, you do owe the public the truth, you owe it to me, and you owe it to yourself.

He pauses, looks at her for a second, then continues to pluck at his guitar.

BELLE (CONT'D)

Oh great, the silent treatment. I forgot, communicating with people is beneath you now.

Liam still shows no interest in responding, Belle starts to leave.

LIAM

Wait.

Liam lifts his sunglasses to reveal his eyes for the first time in weeks. They are softened with sadness and there's an honest look of surprise in his face.

LIAM (CONT'D)

I always think I say too much.

Belle shakes her head.

LIAM (CONT'D)

Well, I suppose I've got some explaining to do.

Liam stretches his hand out, Belle takes it and sits next to him. He begins playing a song on his guitar.

BELLE

That's BD's song.

LIAM

In honour of the man everyone came to see.

BELLE

I really don't think BD is going to make it to Summer Bay.

Liam smiles.

LIAM

Right, it was a myth. They made a folktale out of the guy that sings about folktales.

BELLE

I know, it's been hard on you.

LIAM

All this commotion and he's just a guy who writes songs. I mean, sure, he's good at it, but only because he spends all day fumbling with his guitar.

(Pause)

Most people spend their time fumbling over nothing at all.

BELLE

Fumbling? No, Liam, you're talking in rhymes, you've got to be honest with me. I can't help you otherwise.

It dawns on Liam that they are talking about different things. He shakes his head.

LIAM

BD, he's just a guy you know?
He's flesh and bones and bound to
this earth, just like you and me.

BELLE

He's really gotten to you hasn't
he? You've been a bit of a jerk
lately, but I know you're just as
good as he is. Or at least, you
could be...if...

Liam laughs a sigh of resignation before composing himself
again.

LIAM

People only see what they want to
see, Belle. They keep trying to
find someone to answer their
questions, someone to ease their
anxiety. They keep looking to
celebrity, trying to unearth
another God. When will they
realise? We're all saints.

Liam pauses his thoughts and plucks out a little more on
his guitar.

BELLE

You haven't... relapsed have you?

Liam shakes his head in sadness.

LIAM

But we're all sinners too Belle.
Everyone has the potential of
greatness. But even the great
still cry themselves to sleep
from time to time.

BELLE

You? You're BD...?

Liam pulls his sunglasses down over his eyes and keeps
playing his guitar.