

The prospect of facing her friend is much harder than she imagined. She can't do it. As she pulls an about face...

The door opens. It's Cheri.

                  CHERI  
Alana!

                  ALANA  
Hi, Mrs. Hamilton.

                  CHERI  
I'm so glad you made it.

                  ALANA  
          (flatly)  
Me too.

                  CHERI  
She's awake now. You can go in and see her.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Alana reluctantly enters.

                  ALANA  
Bethany?

                  BETHANY  
'Lana? Hi.

Bethany smiles. Alana struggles to find something, anything to say.

                  ALANA  
The whole class made you a card.

She holds up a giant construction paper get well card signed by the students. Bethany looks at all the signatures, and paints on a weak smile.

                  BETHANY  
Thanks. Doctor says I might be able to go home and be back to school in a few days.

A beat as Alana looks at her best friend's condition. The bandage, the missing limb.

                  ALANA  
That's good...

BETHANY

I saw on the news, there's seven footers out there today. If I wasn't stuck in here, I'd --

Bethany's voice trails off. Keeping up a stiff upper lip has its limits. Alana breaks off eye contact, not knowing what to say. Then...

ALANA

It's won't be the same without you...

The line sinks in, choking up both girls. Just then TWO NURSES come in cutting Alana off.

NURSE

Time to change the dressing.  
(to Alana)  
I'm afraid we'll have to ask you to leave.

ALANA

(shaky)  
Oh, okay... I'll see you later, okay?

HOLD ON BETHANY as Alana exits. Speechless. Emotionally cast adrift by Alana's statement.

INT. WILCOX MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - BETHANY'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's 3 a.m. We find Bethany, completely alone and wide awake, staring out at the full magnesium moon. Pondering what her new life will be like.

INT./EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Tom wheels Bethany out in a wheelchair, joined by the rest of the family. Also with them is Bethany's coach, Russell.

As soon as they set foot outside the hospital door, they're overwhelmed by hot lights, flashing cameras and dozens of REPORTERS shouting questions.

REPORTERS

Bethany! Did you see the shark?/  
How big was it?/ Have you seen  
Jaws?/ Will you ever surf again?

It's a heartless media feeding frenzy.