

CYGNETS



Chloe Wallace FMP

when I struggle for inspiration - I always lean into music to help. some of these songs capture the feeling and some are songs that I plan to write in to the film. music is a key factor in capturing nostalgia, especially in a specific time period.

USING

VT

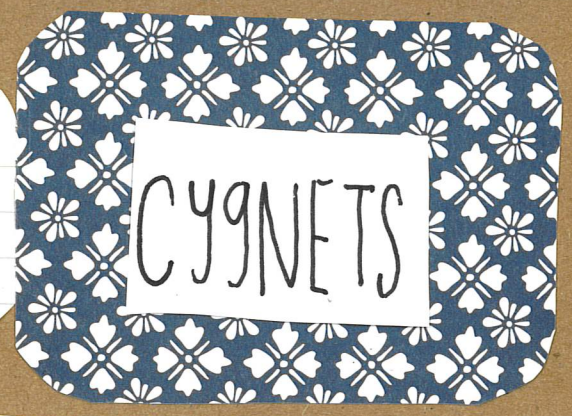
- * get busy living and get busy dying - fall out boy
- * cars and telephones (unreleased) - arcade fire
- * resistance - muse
- * when - dodie (acoustic)
- * slipping through my fingers - dedan mckenna (R1)
- * all i want - kodakline
- * iris - goo goo dolls (specifically live in NY 7/4/04)
- * ophelia - the lumineers
- * take plastic trees - radiohead
- * feels so good - sonique
- * feeling good - muse
- * fade into you - muzzy star
- * sick of ^{losing} ~~losing~~ soulmates - dodie
- * no surprises - radiohead
- * sunburn - muse
- * do i wanna know - hozier R1 live lounge
- * lacy - olivia rodrigo
- * let down - radiohead
- * one day like this - elbow
- * SOS - Arctic monkeys
- * all that i have - snow patrol
- * a thousand trees - stereophonics
- * cant stop - R1CP
- * please please please, let me get what I want - the smiths
- * dakota - stereophonics
- * losing my religion - R.E.M.
- * mishapes - pulp
- * spitting games - snow patrol

* scan for playlist
on Spotify *

WEEK ONE - 16/1/25

Thoughts from this morning ^{at about 3:30am from a dream?}

- ~ something about the Norfolk broads
- ~ If I need to write the characters based on people I know - thats ok.
- ~ something with baby swans
↳ metaphor?



BUILDING THE "WORLD"

- ~ DANIEL LIV
- ~ JAMES MUCH
- ~ boathou

- ~ doesnt have to be the broads - just a vague english countryside town that has rivers + marshland
- ~ mikes hard cider and fall out boy in the summer evenings
- ~ group of guys threatening to set the local are murder on the main character because he's queer?
- ~ its obviously going to be gay because its me writing.

FIRST THOUGHTS - PRE-DEVELOPMENT

general story thoughts

- ~ two teenage boys (17) under UK legal drinking age but over driving age
- ~ set somewhere remote, in the mid 2000s (thinking 2007) so pre-proper modern technology but not totally cut off
↳ really want to lean into the nostalgia.
- ~ house party scene (think S-club 7).

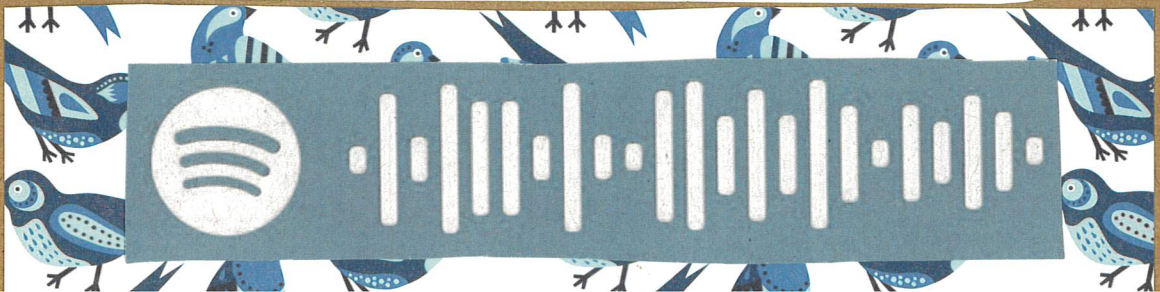
What happened at the party?

there has to be some sort of emotional pinnacle for the story here - what actually happens that makes their journey so intense.

my ex boyfriend just came out as gay - his parents arent accepting, what can I do to kind of use this experience to adapt my idea.
+ I found out an holiday to the broads so I feel for the sake of processing that, this should be the main inspo.

CYGNETS*

- ~ A baby swan
- ~ A homophone for Signet (a gem encased in a piece of jewellery).
- ~ often victims of larger prey when left unsupervised



ITS BETTER TO CREATE SOMETHING - 1ST TAKE (the first full story plan)

BACKGROUND: Daniel lives in a run-down single story 'riverside' home on the broads. He'd grown up there, gone to school and has now left school. He and his alcoholic mother share a car, and he learnt to drive from a friend. James has grown up elsewhere (unclear where, just that he has money) and is on holiday with his family (mum, dad, younger sister) on the broads. They occupy the house next to Daniel's, for the two weeks that they're on holiday. June 2006. Daniel notices the family arriving, watches them unpack their car.

1. **TUESDAY AFTERNOON/FIRST MEETING:** Daniel has lived on the broads his whole life, and thus has a solid knowledge of boats, mooring and maintenance. During a storm one evening, Daniel notices James's family haven't moored their boat properly, so he sneaks out to help despite his mother's strict rules. James hears Daniel fall on the boat and cut his arm, so he comes out into the rain to help. James helps Daniel bandage up the cut. Daniel is reluctant to speak to James at first, he doesn't want to wake up their family or his mother, but they sit under the canopy and wait for the rain to pass. James can't understand Daniel's life, and Daniel cannot understand James's.

2. **WEDNESDAY MORNING/DANIEL AND JAMES'S STORY BEGINS:** Daniel sits on the edge of the dock, feeding the swans. There are two swans and two cygnets. His mother has gone to work, he thinks. The calm after the storm has unsettled the area. James's mum comes out and begins to talk to Daniel, but he isn't very responsive, so she begins to talk about the cygnets and about how somebody had re-moored their boat in the storm. Daniel admits to it, with a sort-of apprehension. Noticing how thin Daniel is, James's mum invites him over the fence to join them for breakfast, as a thanks. Daniel is overwhelmed with how much of a 'family' they are, until James's sister has a meltdown and the two boys are once again left alone at the breakfast table. This time, James is the quiet one. Daniel excuses himself to go to work.

3. **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON/DANIEL'S FRIENDS:** Daniel works at a boatyard, helping clean the boats for holiday makers. He works for a family who owns the yard, who happen to have a teenage daughter, Rachel. Daniel and Rachel went to school together. Whilst they are cleaning the boat that day, Rachel invites Daniel to a party on Saturday. Rachel's older brother Michael goads Daniel into agreeing to go. Daniel has always had a slight infatuation with Michael, and Michael seems to know this. The sibling's father tells them to get back to work.

4. **WEDNESDAY EVENING/THE BBQ:** When Daniel gets home from work his mother is out, he presumes at the pub, judging by the note she has left for him. Daniel goes out the garden to feed the swans again. James family are having a BBQ, his parents are drinking but only a little. Daniel listens from his side of the fence. He talks quietly to the swans. James mum sticks her head over the fence and asks Daniel if he's had dinner, to which Daniel says he's not hungry. She invites him over, and he goes after some convincing from James. He watches as the family eat, drink, laugh and play games. They ask him he'd like to play a game of rounders with them, and he does. James tackles Daniel at first base and they lay in the grass together. James asks if he can come over the next afternoon when they get back from the zoo, and Daniel agrees.

5. **THURSDAY AFTERNOON/THE CYGNETS:** Daniel and James sit in comfortable silence feeding the cygnets. James asks Daniel if both of them will survive to adulthood, Daniel replies that he often sees two cygnets born and then the next day only one left. As they sit, Michael approaches in his car from the little road behind Daniel's house. He calls out the window to Daniel and James, asking them if they want to join him. James looks towards his rental house, and says to Daniel he can't without telling his parents. Daniel agrees to go with Michael. James watches him get in the car, and keeps feeding the swans.

6. **THURSDAY EVENING/WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN MICHAEL AND DANIEL:** Michael is 19. Daniel is 17. Michael drives a 2001 VW Golf. Michael leans over and opens the door for Daniel, who is shy. Daniel and Michael drive aimlessly around the lanes, as the sun sets. Michael tells Daniel he knows he has a crush on him. Daniel stutters, so Michael tells him to forget it. They go to the corner shop and pick up beer and cigarettes, with Daniel having to wait in the car due to being underage. They swing past Rachel on the way back and she joins them with her friend Emily. Rachel and Emily seem awfully close, and Daniel can't take his eyes off of them. They chose a field behind both the houses and light a fire. It's unusually warm for a June evening. They have a speaker with them and they listen to Muse. They sit and drink beer and Daniel smokes a cigarette for the first time. He gets dizzy, Michael helps him up. Rachel and Emily are kissing. Michael tells Daniel he has something to show him, a cool ruined house he found just off into the trees. Daniel is drunk and follows him. Once in the trees, Michael again tells Daniel that he knows he fancies him, and offers to let Daniel 'try him out'. Daniel is too drunk to consent, yet Michael forces himself on him. Daniel and Michael return from the woods, and Daniel says he needs to go home and begins to walk in a daze.

7. **THURSDAY NIGHT/AFTER MICHAEL:** When Daniel unlocks his front door he sees a mess. His mother had been obviously drunk, and had broken a swan sculpture that Daniel's grandma had given him. He finds her passed out on the sofa, a lit cigarette hanging loosely from her fingers, which he takes and puts out. He closes the living room door slowly and exits out onto the mooring. The swans come to see him again, he feeds them bits of bread scattered on the lawn. He begins to cry. That's when James pops his head up from the other side of the fence, and climbs over. They talk about what happened, Daniel asking James if he can trust him. James says it's a crime. That Daniel doesn't deserve this treatment just because of his sexuality. James puts his arm round Daniel and lets him cry. Daniel's mother emerges, still drunk, from the house and tells Daniel to get back inside. James sees the fear in his eyes, but is powerless to do anything.

8. **FRIDAY MORNING/JAMES LOOKS FOR DANIEL:** James comes out of his house and looks for Daniel, tentatively knocking on the front door of his house, to which his mother answers. His mother explains to James that Daniel is a mess, a fuck up and that he needs to leave them alone. She's obviously drunk again. She tells James that if he's that desperate, Daniel is at work at the boathouse. James unhooks the boat himself, looking back once to the house, and begins to sail down the river towards the boathouse. When he pulls up to the boathouse he sees Daniel and Michael behind the shed. Michael is up close in Daniel's space. James moors the boat and jumps out, walking up to them cautiously. Michael asks Daniel if James has come to 'save him', like he's a damsel in distress. Daniel begins to cry. James tells him to fuck off, and Michael slaps him hard round the face as a response. Michael's father spots them and tells Daniel and James to go, before leading Michael away. Daniel goes to James, and leads him to the boat where Daniel checks over his eye and apologises for getting them into this mess. James says there is no need to apologise. They almost kiss here but are interrupted by Rachel who has come to apologise to Daniel, and to tell him about Emily, and beg him to come to the party still. She invites James too, feeling sorry for him. He says he's there on holiday, but will ask his parents. They sail back to the houses in relative quiet, followed by the swans.

9. **FRIDAY AFTERNOON/JAMES AND DANIEL GO BACK TO JAMES'S:** James and Daniel get back to James' rental house where the family have gone out. They have left a note for James to let them know that they have gone out for lunch, but that his mum had cooked some pasta for James to eat. James asks Daniel what it was like to be drunk, and Daniel says they could find out. James and Daniel decide to have a drink from the cabinet, they only have peach schnapps and no ice, which they drink together on the kitchen counter.

They begin talking about Daniel's mum, and he admits that she's been like that since his Dad left her. She gets money from her parents to support them but Daniel has to work to pay for his own food. James asks Daniel if he'd come to his house back home one day. Daniel says he would, but not until he's 18 and able to make choices by himself. They do kiss then, they also begin to explore sexually. With James hiding Daniel in his wardrobe when his parents get home. Daniel stays the night with James, and they reassure each other that this is love.

10. **SATURDAY MORNING/THE MORNING AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE:** When James wakes up, he's alone. He has a brief panic, his mum comes to wake him up, at which point we switch to Daniel who is back at the boathouse working on a boat with Rachel. Rachel and Daniel have a chat about Daniel and Michael and Daniel tells her the truth, and tells her about James. Rachel almost confirms what his mother had told James, that James will go home and he and Rachel will always be stuck here. Daniel disagrees, but he does know.

11. **SATURDAY EVENING/THE JOURNEY TO THE PARTY:** Daniel hasn't seen James all day, but gets ready for the party anyway. His mother sees him doing so, and begins to berate him for the way he looks. He admits he's taking James, and she tells him that his 'little crush' on the rich boy next door will end with James leaving. Daniel argues with her, and she calls him homophobic slurs before he leaves the house. He waits under the shelter of his own little boat. James comes out to find him, it's raining again. They begin the journey to the party, in the boat house at Daniel's workplace.

12. **SATURDAY NIGHT/THE PARTY:**

13. **SUNDAY EVENING/THE NIGHT BEFORE GOODBYE:** Daniel knows his time with James is coming to the end. They leave in the morning. James promises to stay until the very last night minute, to say a proper goodbye. To write. Anything. Whispers suspended like fireflies in the sky.

14. **MONDAY MORNING/THE GOODBYE:** Daniel wakes up the next morning, expecting James to still be with him. When he realises that he isn't, he begins to panic. He leaves the room, climbs the fence to the house next door and realises that the house is empty and being cleaned. The cleaner stops to ask Daniel if he's okay, and Daniel breaks down. He runs out of the house and down the road, surrounded on both sides by fields.

THE PARTY - THE CLIMAX

what changes at the party for D + J?

possibilities

~ they get caught by M+R (but R is happy and M is bullying)

↳ watch back skins when Maxxie is outed → what actually happens here?

~ James 'comes out' to Daniel - who thinks it's been pretty obvious the whole time.

~ someone gets seriously hurt - maybe someone queer gets pushed in the canal accidentally
↳ possibly Emily? would make sense as this is Daniel's first introduction to a queer relationship.

THE INCIP

* this isn't this even main story

* Emily and who goes off at the for being Daniel and don't get Emily the and they're devastated, her girlfriend steal a boat to look for

OPEN ME!

how do I want to end the party scene

* ending the party with a death is the right way to do it. But the chaos of the search for Emily has to happen to bond Daniel and James.

↳ I want them to find her safe well, very shaken but alive - perched on a ladder from a mooring? ↳ the current is strong in the broads so it's not out of the picture.

* when they find Emily, they call the police to report the crime, the police aren't interested but say they'll come out to take Emily home.

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Brainstorming the Party

James and Daniel attend the party together. It's being held in one of the boat sheds where Daniel, Rachel and Michael all work. James and Daniel get *shitfaced* on cheap wine from boxes and they dance together, eventually they sneak outside to get some alone time. The stars are out, the first clear night since James arrived.

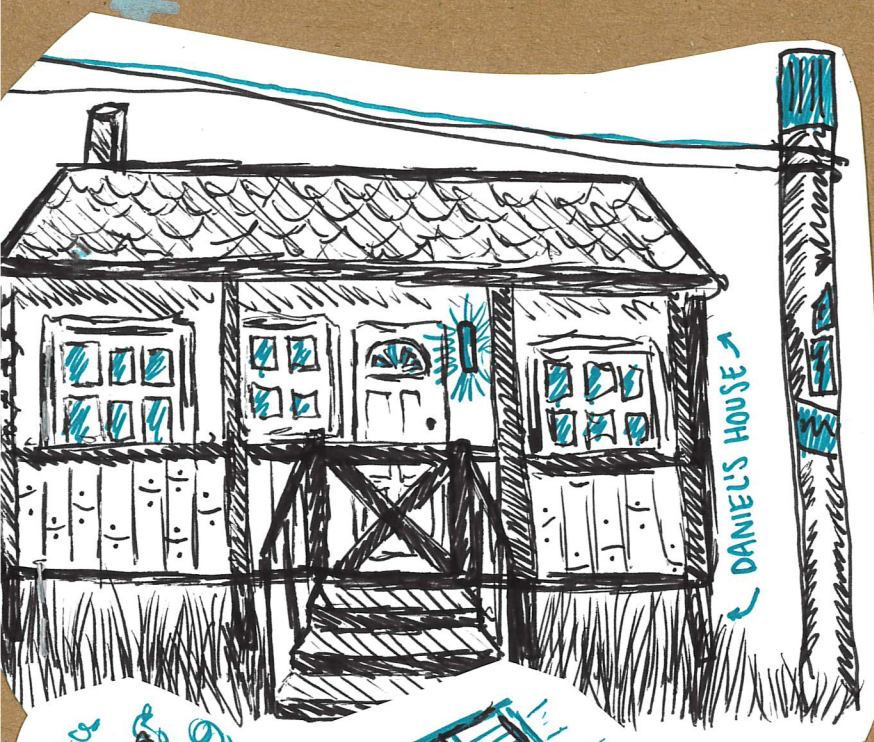
As they sit, Rachel and Michael, along with his friends, emerge from the party. Michael has caught Rachel and Emily kissing and is being all sorts of homophobic to her. Daniel and James hide behind the life jacket box, and they hear Emily come out of the party to help Rachel.

Michael and his friends all gang up on Emily as one of them keeps Rachel in a 'hug' to stop her from helping. Daniel begins to cry at this, James covers his mouth. The fight is getting closer to the edge of the water, Emily slips/or is pushed in and goes under. Rachel begins to scream and is pulled back inside by the gang who run away from the scene, unaware that Daniel and James have witnessed the entire thing.

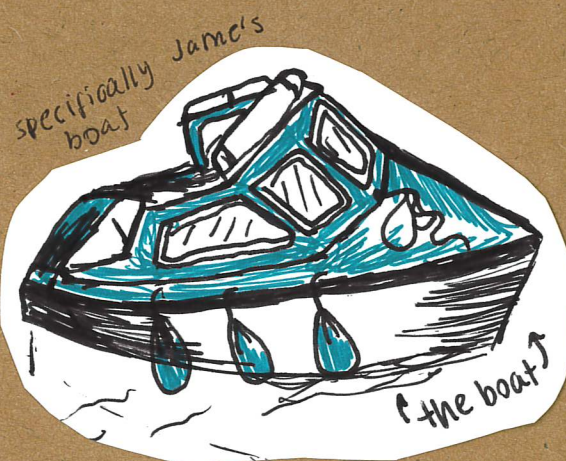
They run out to Daniel's boat which is moved down the way, going after Emily, who is presumed to have been taken down stream (the current is strong in the broads in early June). Daniel is behind the wheel, and James is straining to see Emily in the light of the boat. They find her down stream, hanging onto a ladder, too exhausted and cold to climb up it. James gets in and rescues Emily, hanging her over to the boat where Daniel pulls her in.

Emily begs them not to call the police, confessing that her parents don't know about her sexuality and that it wouldn't go down well in their tight-knit community. Daniel agrees immediately, but James is sure they should call the police. They argue, with Daniel ultimately saying that James has never lived here, he can't know what it's like. So they decide to drop her home.

LOCATION CONCEPTS ★



using my references I created some 'concepts' based on how I think each key location will look.

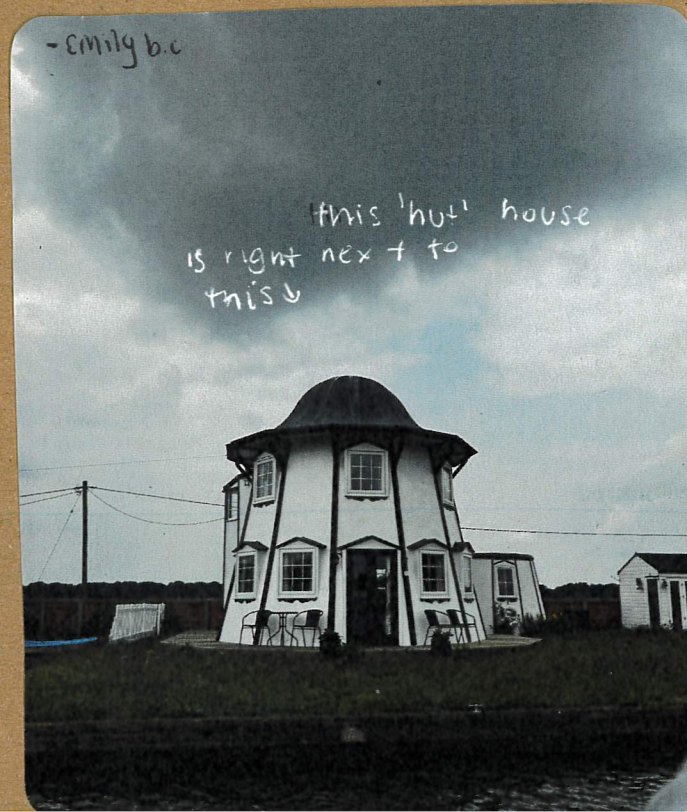
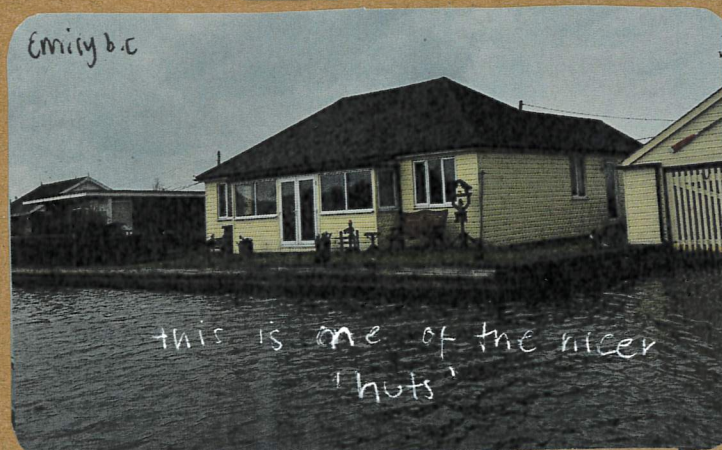
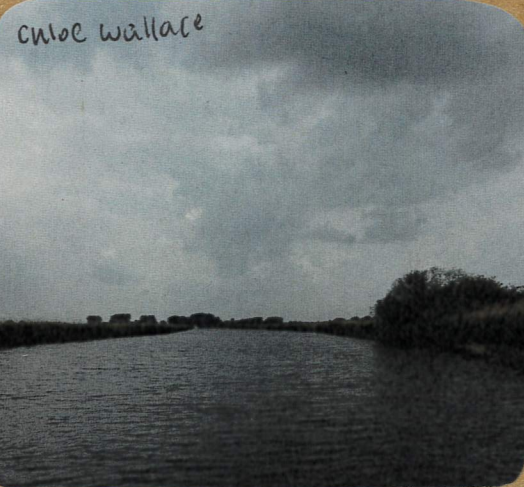


↑ based off of a concept of a swan carrying a cygnet for safety ↑

LOCATION REFERENCES.....

(a mood board of collected images)

it happened that the day we were on the broads, the June weather was exactly the same as the weather that I had in my head for the story



the weather here in early June was warm yet there was a storm.

