

Secrets of the Altamaha

By

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Excerpt from multi-episode series following a gang of teenagers investigating mysterious disappearances linked to an old myth.

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2 EXT. AVERY'S DRIVEWAY DAY

A car pulls into AVERY'S DRIVEWAY and EVAN climbs out of the front seat.

EVAN  
Ready to go?

AVERY  
Yep! I've got everything we'll need in here.

KATIE  
I've got our research in here.

KATIE gestures to the grocery bag she was carrying.

AVERY  
Then let's get going.

EVAN calls out to DAMIAN as he sees him walking slowly across the street.

EVAN  
Damian? What're you waiting for.

Breaking from his train of thought, he hurries over to the van. Evan and Katie sit comfortably in the front seats so he slides in next to Avery in the back, an all too pleasing coincidence.

DAMIAN  
Well, what're we waiting for?

3 INT. EVAN'S CAR DAY

DAMIAN slams the car door, as EVAN backs impatiently out of the driveway before Damian can untangle his seatbelt.

AVERY  
You have our research, right?

DAMIAN  
Four incredibly boring pages about fish at your command.

DAMIAN dramatically hands the manilla folder over to AVERY, who shoots a small smile his way, a surprising response for DAMIAN. KATIE smirks at the scene from the front.

KATIE

If you two are done, I brought some bagels for us.

KATIE pulls out a small bag and passes bagels to AVERY and DAMIAN, but doesn't give one to EVAN.

DAMIAN and AVERY's responses over lap as they each receive a bagel.

DAMIAN

Sweet.

AVERY

Perfect.

EVAN

Finally, some food.

KATIE

I don't think so. You're the designated driver.

EVAN

Is this how it's going to be the whole time?

KATIE

Of course.

EVAN

Alright, I'm pulling over, someone else gets to drive. I want my bagel...

4 INT. EVAN'S CAR DAY

EVAN drives, joking around with DAMIAN who sits in the back next to AVERY. KATIE is curled up next to the window in the passenger seat engulfed in one of her mystery books. AVERY listens quietly to DAMIAN and EVAN's conversation.

DAMIAN

Come on Evan, you know she always hated me!

EVAN

Hmm...I can't imagine why a professor

would hate you.

DAMIAN

Well...

EVAN

(cutting him off)

Oh, wait. Maybe it's because you lie all the time, or never do your homework...

DAMIAN

(interjecting)

I usually do my homework...

EVAN

...or never pay attention. So you're right.

(sarcasm)

I have no idea why a teacher would hate you.

DAMIAN

Fine, but how come all the teachers like you then?

EVAN

Hmm... I dunno...maybe because I actually do the work I'm supposed to do?

DAMIAN

Alright, alright, I get the point.

He turns his gaze over to AVERY, her bottom lip trembles as she hugs her legs into her chest.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Avery, you ok?

AVERY

What? Oh, yea, just cold.

DAMIAN

You have a jacket on...

AVERY responds somewhat teasingly.

AVERY

So wearing a jacket means I'm not allowed to be cold?

DAMIAN  
Well, no, I-

KATIE  
(without lifting her gaze)  
She's kidding, genius.

DAMIAN  
Well how was I supposed to know that?

AVERY  
Hmm...I think there's something  
called...what is it... *listening*.

AVERY smiles at her own humor and EVAN and KATIE chuckle quietly from the front. DAMIAN smiles playfully.

DAMIAN  
Oh but see, I opt for a more advanced  
style called *selective* listening.

AVERY  
Oh do you now?

DAMIAN  
Yeah, it tends to get in the way when  
people talk about boring things.

AVERY  
So me being cold is boring?

DAMIAN  
Oh of course.

AVERY  
Ah, I see.

DAMIAN  
Fine, you know what, here.

DAMIAN reaches in the back and pulls out a blanket, throwing it teasingly at AVERY. AVERY smiles, but tries to protest.

AVERY  
Well, see, if me being cold is so  
boring, then why-

DAMIAN  
Just take the stupid blanket.

The AVERY smiles playfully, tossing the blanked over her

legs. KATIE chuckles from up front and DAMIAN smiles at his own humor. EVAN, however, is focused on driving.

EVAN

Oh, perfect timing you two.

DAMIAN

What's that supposed to mean?

EVAN

It means we're here.

The few bits of humorous attitude left in the group cease at EVAN's surprisingly serious voice. They look out the window to see the almost entirely deserted parking lot, with a few eerie buildings and tattered, broken down signs hung on the buildings surrounding the parking lot, and an old, tattered banner reading '*Welcome to the Darien, Georgia, Home of the Altamaha Monster*'.

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