TETAS 🥥🥥🥥🥥...I told y'all that was it… that's the Analysis! 😂😂😂

BAHAHA, I'm just fuckin' with y'all! 😂😂😘😘 Let's dig into this baby!

BhAhahahaha 🤣🤣🤣🤣🤣🤣...that stunned look on both their faces 👀👀👀- these two are frozen in time with the *does not compute* look on their faces! Just like that time in the club when Poppy said "What about *under* you?" 😂😂😂 and then immediately realized what she said. And in this next panel, we see Tora's frontal lobes 🧠🧠 came back online after short circuiting over tetas 🥥🥥… Honey, boo, she's like a hair trigger for your feral self, just embrace it! 😉😉

Seriously though, I love this little awkward moment between them where they are too embarrassed to face each other or say anything.😍😍😍 BADUMP INDEED! I also love that we see this shyness from Poppy's perspective- I think that's crucial so people don't get the wrong idea about her reaction toTora's hungry comment. It's important because it tells us that Poppy hasn't been clueless to Tora's advances this whole time as well 😉😉. I know some in the fandom speculated if she understood them, but trust me, it's clear as day y'all. I love that this became validation in Poppy's choice to be herself. Because Tora has seen her dressed down 👕, dressed up 💃, dressed cute 🐰, and now stripped bare 😍. The clothes don't make the woman- he's here for it ALL. 🙌🙌🙌

Ah, but this moment of hesitation- the "shit did I go too far?" 😬😬 I think many of us ladies have been there; gotta love societal shame ingrained in us from an early age 🙄🙄🙄🙄🙄*worlds biggest eye roll* And just as Poppy is about to head back upstairs to change, our boy ain't having it!! 🙌🙌🙌 "Just wear whatever ya feel comfortable in." THANK YOU!! 👏👏👏I know

this is a small moment, but it's significant- especially for Poppy, who's been told for the last six years how she should look, act, and feel.

OOOOOOF. 😩😩😩😩 This next question- "did he ever...to you.." My heart dropped to my ass y'all...not because I thought Poppy had been assaulted (we can infer that she wasn't since episode 1 that Julri never forced himself on her in that way). No, it was the idea that this was the first thing that came to Tora's mind when he saw her shrink away in self-doubt 🥺😭🥺😭. And I'll be real, given his comment, my mind went there too (occupational hazards and all, like Tora brings up later). But notice Poppy doesn't completely understand right away- that's another good indication this has never happened to her- it wasn't her first thought. So even if she didn't verbally set the record straight, I think we could take comfort in knowing she's okay. 🙏🏻

Poppy does spin off in understandable self-doubt again. It's hard to break that habit of taking responsibility for the actions of others when she was so used to enduring it for so long 🥺🥺🥺. But I do so love this awkward tension 😩🙌🏻💜- it feels realistic between them. As they get closer and new things are discovered, there's bound to be some discomfort, if nothing more for the fact they've led very different lives and don't completely understand each other's worlds.

Something I noticed about the body language in these panels (and this continues throughout the episode)- this theme of half open, half closed is perfect for these interactions 🙌🏻🙌🏻 (which I'll dig into more later). Their stances and arms are open, even with the awkward tension- to me this reads as them being willing to push through the discomfort of the conversation and be honest with each other 😩💜🙌🏻🙌🏻. But they're not quite yet ready for the full monty, so to speak 👀👀- look at their hands stuffed in their pockets. To me, that represents the cards they're not showing yet in this game of emotional poker 🃏🃏. That's gonna take some time and character development of course. Also, I don't know about y'all, but standing with my hands just hanging free feels so uncomfortable 😖😖, especially during awkward conversation. Like I NEED to do something with these damn things!! 😅😅

Anyway, I digress…

The moment of tension continues as Tora turns away from Poppy again, talking about the realities of his work. And while obviously Tora and I don't share the same profession, it punched me in the gut to hear him say 😩😩😩 "I've seen and heard some shit in my line of work. Messes with my head sometimes." OOOOF. I'll be the first to say, I've never "seen" the shit he has, but hearing the stories can be difficult too, so I really empathized with Tora here. 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻 Holding onto those stories paints reality in a different light and sometimes, yeah it does fuck with us 😞😞. Maybe we're a little more cautious than most, a little more distant. That's the hard reality of seeing the ugly side of humanity. And given that Tora was exposed to this from such a young age and throughout his formative years it shaped how he sees the world and the people in it. That's why Poppy takes him so off guard- she doesn't fit the mold and he can't understand why she wants anything to do with him. 🥺🥺

And before I move onto the next scene, something that really caught my eye was that Poppy isn't interjecting while Tora is talking 😩🙏💜. She's standing there, patiently listening. Poppy genuinely wants to understand Tora, she said as much not that long ago at the gas station. Poppy asks herself a lot of questions internally about Tora's world that she's not quite ready to ask out loud (though I think we're getting close y'all! 🙌🏻🙌🏻), so when he does offer something about himself, Poppy is all ears 👂🏻 👂🏻 . There she is, returning some of that silent validation. 🙌🏻🙌🏻

Now we have the meat of what Tora was trying to get at, "And I'm not like ya fuckin' ex. I at least have that much self-control." For a moment, I thought maybe Tora was speculating again if Julri had ever been violent with Poppy, but I think here, he really means emotional abuse via body objectification. Much of what Julri did was control what Poppy did with her body- asking her to wear certain clothes, how to wear her makeup, pressuring her to have sex with him. And so I also believe Tora reaffirming what he said so many moons ago in the car outside the grocery store- that he won't coerce her into having sex with him 👏🏻👏🏻👏🏻👏🏻. (Also, props to our thirsty man-hoe Pinky for also being respectful! 👏🏻👏🏻)

"I know I talk shit a lot. But most of the time I don't mean any of that crap." I think this is Tora's way of letting Poppy know his pervy jokes are just that- pervy jokes. What I'm surprised by with Tora's response here is that he maybe doesn't believe that his actions are speaking for him enough? 🤔🤔🤔 If we look back over their time together, the only real questionable thing he did was take a picture of her cleavage and even that was accidental. I can't help but wonder if he is still beating himself up for that picture, even after his apology. 😩😩😩😭😭😭 GAH! He wants so desperately to be the regular guy that Poppy says he is!

"Well...it's fine if you mean it… some of the time…"

⚡⚡⚡*RECORD SCRATCH* ⚡⚡⚡

WAIT...WHAT?! 👀👀👀 Did our Poppychu just bust a move?! 💃🏻💃🏻A non-alcohol induced bonafide MOVE on our tiger?! 🤯🤯🤯🤯 I think my head exploded about the same second after my brain calculated what happened! 😂😂😂 Tora in his head is probably anticipating her response of something like "Thank you for the apology, please don't say those things anymore." and he had his "Of course, I'm sorry" at the ready… BUT THIS?! This did not register as a possibility. 😂😂😂😂😂😂

OH SHIT!! 🕵🏻🕵🏻 Did y'all see the hands are out of the pockets now?! Y'all know what this means… we about to get some dead on full honesty. 👏🏻👏🏻👏🏻👏🏻WOOO LAWDY! I know that was a hard conversation, but this is Lily's way to remind us that we're supposed to feel horny like the frogs 🐸🐸🐸 outside Poppy's house! 😂😂😂 And this dance back and forth of when one person speaks, they look away, but the other person looks up to see them. Poppy and Tora are both putting themselves out there, but DAMN if I don't love this exchange! 😍😍😍🙌🏻🙌🏻🙌🏻

EXCUSE ME...MA'AM. 👀👀👀👀👀👀👀

MA'AM.😮😮😮😮

M'AAAAAAM! 🤯🤯🤯🤯🤯🤯

I see you with that not so subtle hand stroke of the stair post 😏😏😏. What else would you like to stroke with that hand Ms. Poppylan?! 😘😘😘 Hmmmm??? But uh...honey, I have a feeling, you gonna need BOTH hands 👋🏻. Just sayin'... 😏

ANNNNNND the discomfort settles back in! 😅😅😅 It's dinner time baby! 🍆🍑Oh wait, nevermind, You actually meant dinner 🍽️😅 Poppy...my bad! 🤭🤭 And OMG that look on Tora's face like "wait, what the fuck just happened?" 🤭🤭😂😂 Umm.. you just got low key propositioned, boo boo, THAT'S WHAT! 😆😆 I almost feel like this expression is a little bit of introvert panic too...like he did not calculate for the sexy times outcome. WHOOPS! Guess we'll have to see how this plays out… 🤭

So before we move on to this next scene, I had paused my writing of this analysis for real life and that's when it dawned on me. This is still the Monday after the big birthday party over the weekend 🤯🤯. And it led down a path of wondering how Poppy is feeling and what might have changed for her over the last few days 🤔🤔🤔. Because at the club, she was hesitant for things to move forward, hesitant about their sexual encounters being more than casual.

It made me think about everything that happened in the short time span that followed the birthday party & how Tora has shown he's reliable 🙌🏻🙌🏻. We know that she and Tora had a run in that same weekend and they worked well together against those thugs. Tora showed a lot of concern coming all the way to Moonbright (and a reason which he hasn't shared with Poppy 👩🏻‍🔬), he supported Poppy through a very tumultuous final break up with Julri, and insisted that he stay to keep her safe.

And now, here they are in her home and Poppy is making moves on Tora. 😍😍😍 Could it be that his history of steadfastness, of being "a nice guy" as she put it on the train, might have created a change of heart for her? 🤩🤩 Now don't get me wrong, I don't think she's ready for facebook official relationship status ❌, but I do think she wants to casually explore their relationship. 😏😏

Which is why these next scenes are pivotal. They're out on the back porch, having light conversation and then Poppy poses a question about what it would've been like to know each other in their youth. Did y'all see Tora's eyes bug the fuck out? 👀👀👀👀👀 Because I did. Before Poppy came downstairs, Tora was looking at those picture frames pretty damn intently.👩🏻‍🔬👩🏻‍🔬 And now that she poses this question and he shows that reaction, it makes me wonder what he saw. 🤔🤔 Did he perhaps recognize Poppy or one of her relatives? 👩🏻‍🔬👩🏻‍🔬 Does he know the deep dark secrets of Poppy's mom? 👩🏻‍🔬👩🏻‍🔬Is Strawberry Girl Poppy's mom? 🤯🤯(I'm totally fucking joking you guys, don't run with those! 😆😆😆)...

Anyway, taking a look at the next panel, Tora looks like he's seen a damn ghost. 👻👻 Not exactly the reaction you'd expect from such a casual question. 🤔🤔 When he says "you wouldn't have liked me much, I was kind of a jerk," while I find that it's an honest answer, I fully believe this was a pivoted answer. This question opens up a can of worms that he may not be ready to deal with yet. I'm just wondering what's inside that can y'all. 🕵🏻🕵🏻🕵🏻

Sidebar appreciation for Poppy calling Tora out for minimizing his jerkish ways.😂😂😂 Oh I'm sure he was more than King of the Jerks, more like Emperor 👑👑👑 if how he treated poor Quincey was any indication! 😂😂😂 I do also like that Poppy doesn't judge him too harshly for this. 🙌🏻🙌🏻

Back to the scene, Poppy leads them out to the edge of the pier. I swear this girl loves hanging from a ledge 😅😅...Tora, honey I think you're right- your boo has a death wish 😂😂😂. I'll get into this more in a bit, but I have some thematic parallels that caught my eye with this. But before I get too ahead of myself, as Poppy is heading to the edge of the pier she all but says she was Queen of the Nerds 👸🤓. Honey, I don't think you have to worry- this King of the Jerks is completely here for your nerd ass 🍑🍑...among other parts of you. 🥥🥥🥥 😏😏😏

But rather than crack a joke about Poppy talking nerdy to him, he asks if she liked strawberries as a kid. 🤯🤯🤯👀👀 HOLY SHIT Y'ALL. 👀👀👀 UMMM...well...that makes me think Tora definitely saw something in those photo frames 🕵🏻🕵🏻, something he recognized. And it made me think all the way back to episode 10 where we see the mysterious girl in the Ares Street Kingz photo. I hope y'all have affixed your tin foil hats🎩🎩, because we have some options to consider with the mystery of Strawberry Girl… 🕵🏻🕵🏻🕵🏻

The first thought I had upon Poppy's response that she was more of a cookies & cream girl was that perhaps she's not a fan of actual strawberries. I mentioned this on patreon earlier, but there's a huge difference between actual strawberries and strawberry *flavor* that's found in things, like say, *strawberry juice*. This is my "keep hope alive, they knew each other" 🤞🏻🤞🏻🤞🏻 theory. The only real "evidence" I have to back this one up is Tora is still wigged out by the childhood question combined with whatever he saw in those photos...which brings me to my next theory…

Maybe Poppy is strawberry girl and the girl in the Ares Street Kingz photo is someone else entirely 👀👀. Perhaps Tora has seen Poppy somewhere else before and just never realized it. I mean, there's never been any confirmation other than the white van that we see in the photo and the flashback to connect Poppy to this van 🤔🤔. But we don't see the girl's face and the white van could have nothing to do with Tora. They could be misleading clues for all we know- Lily's been known to leave bread crumbs to trick us before. 😆😆

And the last possibility is that Poppy is neither Strawberry Girl, nor the girl in the photo. That perhaps this mythical little girl is someone of fond memory for Tora. Would I love a Red String of Fate kids meet again in adulthood and have a romance? 😩🙌🏻💜 Absolutely. But I'm not sure if that's what we're getting here. There's still so much we don't know about Poppy's childhood,

Tora's childhood, any path crossings that I'd go cross eyed 😵😵 if I tried to figure it all out. So basically, this is my long ass winded way of saying we need more intel y'all. I'm in camp "wait and see." ⏯️

I also find the location of this conversation to be poignant. They're outdoors, there's a single light on out back (that I'm still drawn to in these panels 😍😍) and Poppy bringing up fireflies seems significant. 🤔🤔 Fireflies, of course, bring about summer memories with their magical little sparks of light ✨✨- a mating dance if you will. So not only do we have the frogs 🐸🐸 egging these two on, but now the fireflies? Methinks we have big things coming ladies and gents. 👀👀👀👀

But there's more to this firefly stuff- I looked up the meaning of fireflies and I found they represent "hope, guidance, inspiration, and *awakening*." That last one gets me 👀👀- awakening could mean Poppy's transition over the last few episodes. She's shed old people, old ideas, old insecurities 🗑️🗑️. She's also accepted her sexual desires in the last couple episodes (AND FUCK YAASS GURL GETCHU SOME 🙌🏻🙌🏻🙌🏻), which before, she'd been hesitant to connect with. I think this answers my question about Poppy's change of heart- she is ready for the next stage of womanhood, which includes embracing her sexuality. 🔥🔥🔥🔥🔥

Then we have the theme of these two sitting on yet another ledge. Each time a major milestone has occurred in Tora and Poppy's relationship, some sort of cliff/ledge has been involved 🤔🤔. Poppy's balcony for the hand holding scene, Poppy's rooftop for the first kiss, Regina's Peak for their heart to heart & that hug, and if we're getting technical that second kiss that occurred 6 flights up in Tora's apartment. Each moment was a crossroads for Tora and Poppy's relationship and each time, they dove over the cliff together in a leap of faith 🙌🏻🙌🏻😩😩💜💜. And since the last literal cliff they were hanging off involved Poppy baring her soul...now it's Tora's turn. 👀👀

Annnnd of course Tora has to cut the tension with a joke,😂😂 but it's effective..look at the sexy ass grin on Poppy's face 😍😍😍! Love that panel of her! Yes Tora, we know you're a damn Greek god, you don't need to fish for compliments sir! 😂😂😂

But Poppy's not deterred...she goes straight for the gut and points out there's so much about Tora that she doesn't know. We ain't at HEA yet y'all ⏯️⏯️, that's a ways out and she's right, this is relationship foundational stuff she's asking. So what does Tora do? Channel his inner Millenial and make the world's corniest reference to AOL ever! 🤣🤣🤣🤣🤣 How do I feel so simultaneously seen and attacked?! 🤣🤣 Sorry Tora, but you're clearly as ancient as me! I haven't heard Age/ Sex/Location since my chat room days 🤭🤭. Tora cracks his joke about that being more than one fact, but Poppy's not having that response and she *knows* this is some serious deflection via humor.

Then we pause on a fireflies panel- the still lake, the city's glow in the distance reflecting off its surface. We are SETTING THE MOOD PEOPLE! 💜💜💜💜 Intimacy and romance, ALL ABOARD!!!🚂🚂🚂

And what do we get in the very next panel? Tora spread out on the deck, staring at the stars as he gets real with Poppy 😍😍😍. This position fascinates me because it's both avoidant and vulnerable at the same time. Tora's arms are stretched behind his head, leaving his chest, his heart wide open. And yet, he can't look at Poppy as he speaks; it's too intimate for what he has to say. This tells me there's some part of him that's holding back, that's afraid of her next question. 🥺🥺🥺

Tora is right though, there is a natural rhythm to discovering things about your friends and love interests over time. At the same time, Poppy is naturally curious because Tora is so close to the chest with details about himself. She recognized this at the gas station when Tora didn't elaborate on why or how he found her. Poppy feels the need to be direct and ask here, because it's not like Tora is going to freely offer information. 🤷‍♀️

For that reason, I think Tora is stalling with this comment. Poppy is picking away at his emotional armor 💪🏻💪🏻 and he can't decide where his boundaries are with her 😬😬. This is also why I believe Tora, while DTF 🍆🍆 on the surface, isn't emotionally ready for the consequences of having sex with Poppy. He's already hella attached and sex with her would open his soul in a way he's never given to anyone before. For the first time in his life, his heart can be broken 💔. I'm reminded of Alice's comment so long ago: "You don't think he's fragile?"

OH BUT LOOK AT THIS!! 🕵🏻‍♀️🕵🏻‍♀️🕵🏻‍♀️🕵🏻‍♀️ Y'all, Poppy's body language in this panel "That's shockingly sentimental for a thugish brute! Colour me impressed!" While she's pulling this joke, Poppy's arms are wrapped protectively around her knees. So even though she's laughing, this tells me Poppy is hiding what she's really curious about. That humor deflection gives away their discomfort every single time.

But I love that she tests the waters a bit curiously "In a way you're right though. I feel like I know so little, but so much about you at the same time. Is that weird?" Woooo lawdy 😅😅, let's break this thought down. What's interesting about this comment is that it is absolutely accurate. These two have known each other for about a month, but they've been in such close proximity and under such dangerous circumstances that they know things about each other no one else does. How much has Poppy told anyone about Julri? Or Tora about his childhood and real feelings about mafia life?

And Tora hits the nail on the head here "Maybe cos there's more to us than superficial bullshit." This tells me that not many know the real Tora. Or the real Poppy. 😩😩💜💜 So many judge them based on how they look or act on the surface that the real person underneath stays hidden. Poppy is also right- our outer selves are still a part of us, even if they are protective armor against those who can't handle the truth of us. This is usually where I have conversations with clients about personality facets 💎💎. We aren't meant to be one dimensional & each facet is part of our life history, including the surface bits.

But this expression on Poppy's face- this is it, she has to probe further because Tora is being close lipped again 🤐🤐🤐. I'm sure his mind is racing about how to answer this in a way that doesn't push Poppy away from him.

Leave it to Poppy to pierce the heart 💔💔 of Tora's silence "Are you worried that I'll stop talking to you when I learn more about you?" 😩😩😩😭😭😭 FUCK Y'ALL. I can't see all of Tora's face, but damned if I can discern some panic. And look at their body language now- she's laying down incredibly close to Tora, her legs kicked up and crossed. 👀👀👀 It's the equivalent of twirling your hair ladies 💁‍♀️💁‍♀️. Poppy's body is READY 🔥🔥🔥...even though this is a serious conversation, everything about how she leans into him says I want more 👄👄, I want to know you intimately (and not just in the sexual way). It wouldn't take much for Tora to scoop her up in his arms and *ahem* prop her up on top. 😏😏😏🥵🥵🥵

Okay, I'm sorry my head just went straight to the damn gutter, I couldn't help it! 🤣🤣🤣 But I do believe we're about to get an intense conversation between these two...maybe even a little uneasy. But tense conversations lead to some very steamy scenes between these two 🥵🥵🥵🥵🥵. They know how to fuel my angsty little heart...so of course I cannot wait for next Friday! 🥵🥵🥵💜💜💜🙌🏻🙌🏻🙌🏻

And y'all, I spent so much time initially just thirsting all over the place this episode that it took a good couple hours before my feelings really sunk in. I was choosing songs for this episode on my playlist and these two really resonated with me in how Poppy and Tora are "speaking" to each other in this last scene. Poppy is ready to know more, to explore what their relationship could be and Tora is trying to keep her at arm's length to stop from hurting her (or hurting himself). Enjoy my dears! 😘😘😘😘

Poppy
Happiness is a butterfly - Lana Del Rey
Do you want me or do you not?
I heard one thing, now I'm hearing another
Dropped a pin to my parking spot
The bar was hot, it's 2 am, it feels like summer

Happiness is a butterfly
Try to catch it like every night
It escapes from my hands into moonlight
Every day is a lullaby
I hum it on the phone like every night
And sing it for my babies on the tour life
Ah ah

If he's a serial killer, then what's the worst

That could happen to a girl who's already hurt?
I'm already hurt
If he's as bad as they say, then I guess I'm cursed
Looking into his eyes, I think he's already hurt
He's already hurt

I said, "Don't be a jerk, don't call me a taxi"
Sitting in your sweatshirt, crying in the backseat
Ooh
I just wanna dance with you
Hollywood and Vine, Black Rabbit in the alley
I just wanna hold you tight down the avenue
I just wanna dance with you
I just wanna dance with you

Left the canyon, drove to the club
I was one thing, now I'm being another
Go down to Sunset in the truck
I'll pick you up if you're in town on the corner
Ah ah

Happiness is a butterfly
We should catch it while dancing
I lose myself in the music, baby
Every day is a lullaby
Try to catch it like lightning
I sing it into my music, I'm crazy

If he's a serial killer, then what's the worst
That could happen to a girl who's already hurt?
I'm already hurt
If he's as bad as they say, then I guess I'm cursed
Looking into his eyes, I think he's already hurt
He's already hurt

I said, "don't be a jerk, don't call me a taxi"
Sitting in your sweatshirt, crying in the backseat
Ooh
I just wanna dance with you
Hollywood and Vine, Black Rabbit in the alley
I just wanna hold you tight down the avenue
I just wanna dance with you
I just wanna dance with you

Baby, I just wanna dance (dance)
With you (dance)
Baby, I just wanna dance (dance)

With you

Tora
Save Yourself - Kaleo

It weighs heavier on one's heart
I could tell right from the start that sweet ones are hard to come across
Well there is more than meets the eye
A heart like yours is rare to find
Someone else's gain will be my loss

Woah, woah, oh oh
Oh woah, woah
Woah woah oh
Hey hey

Well little things that make you smile
Dancing barefoot in the dark
If only I had strength to change your mind
Oh for what you need
You will not see
Choose your words before you speak
Can you see that all you've got is time?

Woah now
Save yourself
Oh you save yourself
Oh darling save yourself for someone else
Yeah, save yourself
Oh darling save yourself
Oh won't you save yourself from someone else

Woah
Don't give in to their feelings
Don't give in darkness and faith
You should be safe, yeah, with someone else

Tell your secrets to the night
You do yours and I do mine
So we won't have to keep them all inside

Oh, for one so pure
Count these off
Let your feelings take control
Hold on to the world that he's begging for

Woah now
Save yourself
Oh won't you save yourself
Go on and save yourself for someone else
Yes darling save yourself
Oh won't you save yourself
Go on and save yourself for someone else

Woah are you going to break?
Are you going to break?
Woah aren't you going to take me?
Yeah are you going to break?
Are you going to break?
Are you going to break?
Woah what's it going to take?
Yeah, are you going to break?
Are you going to break?
Are you going to break?
Are you going to break?