

Deleted Scene from *Wander Home*

(Cassidy and Becca)

[It seemed plausible to me that Cassidy, who essentially grew up in the *Wander Home* afterlife, might well be innocently open to a variety of sexual experience with people she liked and trusted, and that her friendship with Becca might include occasional sexual intimacy. I ultimately decided that throwing in a scene like this in a brief and casual way would be too distracting -- and neither the plot nor my vision of the characters justified making it a more important theme.

The scene also implies the mental sharing of current afterlife experience, which did not end up as a feature of the afterlife (unless I've forgotten its appearance elsewhere.)]

Cassidy and Becca raced along the beach, the horses' hooves thudding on the wet sand and sending it flying. The damp salt air burned Cassidy's eyes, so she shut them and laid her head on the horse's neck, hugging it, thanking it for its speed.

They were nearing the spot where the rocks came close to shore. Cassidy squeezed her knees, urging the horse on, but Becca was doing the same, and Becca swept past the rocks half a second before Cassidy did. They both turned their horses, letting them slow to a walk, laughing.

Becca dismounted, slapping her horse lightly on the rump. It cantered away, back down the beach. Cassidy swung down and sent her own mount to follow.

"Come on." Becca held out her hand. Cassidy clasped it, and they walked away from the surf toward the cliffs. There was a hollow place with a smooth sandy floor, protected from the wind. Becca pointed to a blanket. "Would you like to?"

They had been clothed for riding, but they needed no clothes for each other. They tumbled onto the blanket. The thin fabric let them feel the warmth of the sand. They rolled together. Cassidy stroked Becca's curves, her hip, her bottom, then back up to the young firm breasts. Becca clasped Cassidy's waist and kissed her shoulder, her neck. Cassidy could smell the sand, and the salty air, and Becca's skin. She tasted salt, from the air, from skin. She felt her own yearning and opened her mind to Becca's excitement. She was Cassidy, she was Becca, she was young and strong, she was with her friend, and everything was perfect, and she rode the currents of delight.