

Maudlin

MAUDLIN

"Protection"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A beautiful woman in a BLOOD RED CLOAK runs like the devil is after her.

A maniacal laugh erupts from behind her. She steals a quick look behind her when...

CRASH!

She runs into a man in a BLACK CLOAK. The man, ROTH, is not the devil, but a close second. He pulls back his cloak to reveal two empty sockets where eyes should be.

He grabs the woman by the throat, and her hood falls back, revealing a defiant stare. This is CASSANDRA SHEA, 33, and if she's scared, you'd never know it.

ROTH

I can't let you have it.

Cassandra struggles, glances at the top of the hill, to something hidden in the trees.

ROTH (CONT'D)

But I'm impressed you found it. We all were. Now let's stop this and grab some cocoa. Extra marshmallows for you. Just tell me where she is.

CASSANDRA

Why don't you ask your boss?

ROTH

Cheeky for someone without access to magic.

CASSANDRA

A real woman doesn't need magic.

BAM! Cassandra shoots Roth with a HUGE GUN.

It knocks him down, but not out. She empties the clip, turns and runs with all her might toward the hidden object.

Her cell phone rings and she picks up.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Where the hell are you?

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

BENJAMIN SHEA, 34, sweats profusely and speeds along the access road next to the forest. He screams into the phone.

BEN  
Above! What happened to the plan?

INTERCUT

CASSANDRA  
Oh, you mean the plan didn't include me getting my ass kicked? Get down here! South end, I'm close.

Cassandra dodges FALLING trees, EXPLODING earth.

An object glows in the knot of a huge oak tree. She runs full tilt and...grabs it. It's a NECKLACE with intricate symbols.

SLAM!

Cassandra is blown off her feet as Roth catches up to her.

He slices his hand in the air, and Cassandra screams. Blood spurts out of her stomach.

ROTH  
I was really looking forward to those marshmallows.

Roth goes in for the kill when Ben and his jeep careen over the hill and...SPLAT! Roth goes flying.

Cassandra holds her stomach, falls to her knees, whispers...

CASSANDRA  
Lariat.

INT. MOTEL - NIGHT

LARIAT SHEA, 15, sits up in bed, and screams.

LARIAT  
Mom!

The light flips on. Cassandra runs in. She wears jeans and a sweater, no cloak. No blood. Just a normal mom.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
You were bleeding.

Cassandra grabs a bag of chips off Lariat's bed and tosses it on the dresser. She tosses soda cans into a trash can.

CASSANDRA  
Nightmares...what did I say about  
eating all this crap before bed?

LARIAT  
My Funions aren't laced with peyote.

CASSANDRA  
You're the one waking up with the  
junk food sweats. Surprised you  
slept at all. Energy drinks will  
give you heart palps and diarrhea.

LARIAT  
Wonder why I needed to stay awake?  
Oh yeah. My teacher is crazy pants.  
Seriously mom. A ten page paper on  
"The Crucible" AND a math test?

CASSANDRA  
It's not my fault you left it to the  
last minute, it's home school Lariat  
not home play.

LARIAT  
Thank God you cleared that up.

CASSANDRA  
You'd have homework in public school  
too.

LARIAT  
I'd also have friends and a social  
life. Just saying, pace yourselves.  
It's not like I'm going anywhere.

Lariat grabs her I-pod. Cassandra catches a glimpse of herself in the mirror, dark circles under each eye.

CASSANDRA  
I certainly hope not.

Cassandra flips off the light and heads out.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ben throws the door open and catches Cassandra as she collapses.

The red cloak and necklace are on the floor. Ben gently lifts Cassandra's sweater to reveal bloody bandages tied around her stomach. It wasn't a dream.

They hold each other. The necklace glows softly between them. Cassandra touches the necklace. Ben adds bandages.

CASSANDRA

These symbols. My mother used to carve them into bracelets when I was young. I thought they were ugly. Now I'm literally dying to get one.

Cassandra gives a weak chuckle and cries out in pain...

BEN

We can't do this alone. Not anymore.

CASSANDRA

I can protect her.

BEN

I'm not gonna watch you die. We can't run forever.

CASSANDRA

Absolutely not! Ah.

Cassandra tries to stand. Blood runs over the fresh bandages. First red...then black.

BEN

We need help.

CASSANDRA

What are we gonna tell Lariat?

The bathroom door flings open and Lariat stands there. I-pod dangling. She stares at the black blood that runs out of her mom's stomach and pools on the floor.

Lariat passes out with a THUD.

BEN

I'm thinking the truth.

BLACKOUT

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

INT. JEEP - DAY

Lariat sits in the front seat with Ben. The back is full of their worldly positions which is odd because it's half empty.

LARIAT (V.O.)

Once upon a time, there was a girl with average looks. An above average music collection. And possible brain damage from hitting her head on a moldy tile floor.

Lariat holds a can of soda to the angry bump on her head. She glances at Cassandra who rests in the back with a blanket.

BEN

Wow. Those hills sure are green.

Cassandra and Lariat stare at Ben like he's grown another head.

BEN (CONT'D)

What?

LARIAT

That's all you have to say?

CASSANDRA

Don't raise your voice.

LARIAT

Black blood gushed out of your stomach. This is what raise your voice was invented for!

BEN

We're going to get help.

LARIAT

Where, a mental institution? A man cut you with his hand. I saw it in a dream. That sounded a lot more damning in my head.

BEN

We don't know how you saw that.

LARIAT

Don't know or won't tell me?

BEN

Don't know.

CASSANDRA

Won't tell you.

BEN

Honey.

LARIAT

Just tell me the truth. We've been  
living like nomads my whole life.  
I'm a home-school freak with no  
friends. How much worse can it get?

Ben and Cass share a nervous look.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

Are we part of some secret government  
experiment.

CASSANDRA

No!

LARIAT

We're aliens.

BEN

Don't be ridiculous.

LARIAT

Witches?

CASSANDRA

Uh.

LARIAT

Uh?

BEN

What your mother is trying to say  
is...there are stories.

CASSANDRA

Folklore.

BEN

Right. Like the ones we told you,  
when you were little. Sleeping  
Beauty.

CASSANDRA

Cinderella. But you could say another  
word for folklore is history. Family  
history.

LARIAT  
Our family works for Disney?

CASSANDRA  
No, we're from a long line of white  
witches. Wish keepers. But most  
people call us fairy godmothers.

Lariat stares at her mother.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
They're the best kind of magical  
people really. If you had to choose.

BEN  
But you don't get a choice.

CASSANDRA  
Ben. Please let me handle this.

Ben rolls his eyes. Lariat bursts out laughing.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
I told you this was mistake.

LARIAT  
I've made plenty of wishes in my  
life. I think I'd know if I was a  
fairy godmother.

CASSANDRA  
We didn't say you were.

BEN  
Let's just wait until we get there.

LARIAT  
Sure, let's go to fairy tale land  
and you can introduce me to a unicorn.

CASSANDRA  
I know this is a shock, but open  
your mind. There's more to this  
world than you could possibly imagine.

BEN  
I don't know if there are unicorns  
here, but they have a store devoted  
to nuts.

EXT. MAUDLIN, MASSACHUSETTS - DAY

...a storybook village that surrounds a folksy downtown  
square. You know this town. It's the one with the creepy  
trees and the house on the hill everyone thinks is haunted.



The houses have a timeless feel in that they could have been built anytime, or for our purposes...Once upon a time.

Lariat marvels at the charm, the smiling people, the...

LARIAT

Nut.

They pass a store called THE NUT SHOP. A man dressed like a giant peanut dances and waves.

BEN

See! Honey, Herb is still here. We haven't seen him in...

CASSANDRA

Fifteen years.

Ben drives up a steep hill and parks in front of an oddly shaped house that backs up to a dark forest. Tim Burton would be jealous. Ben smiles broadly. Cassandra scowls.

LARIAT

Where are we?

BEN

Home.

CASSANDRA

Maudlin, Massachusetts. Your dad and I grew up here. It's the town that time shellacked.

Suddenly the front door flies open and an older woman runs out in a pink muumuu and sun hat. This is GRANDMA BURBERRY.

She carries a large pina colada and a pair of knitting needles on a string around her neck. A small pig toddles out behind her. The pig, NOODLE, wears a matching muu muu.

It would be tough to guess Grandma Burberry's age or the pig for that matter. And they both like it that way.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

My darling! My sweet potato. You are a vision. A divine cupcake of a child.

Grandma Burberry smothers Lariat in kisses. Lariat is scared.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)

Sorry dear. You don't have the foggiest idea who I am. That's progressive parenting for you.

CASSANDRA  
Mom, you're spilling pina colada  
sauce all over her sweater.

LARIAT  
You said your mother was dead.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
I hope it was a good story at least.

CASSANDRA  
I told her you were arrested by the  
fashion police and died in custody.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Such a delightful sense of humor.

CASSANDRA  
Your dress print is giving me a  
seizure.

LARIAT  
You sound like me.

Cass looks horrified.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Don't give it another thought.

Grandma reaches out and grab Cassandra for a hug. Then pulls  
Lariat into the embrace.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
Nothing can ruin this. This  
homecoming is my greatest wish come  
true.

CUCKOO! The sound drifts out of a upstairs window. Grandma  
steps away from Cass and Lariat. She looks toward the sound.

CASSANDRA  
Some things never change.

Cassandra stumbles.

Grandma waves her knitting needles. A stretcher appears on  
the ground next to them.

Lariat is stunned and jumps back in the car.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
I assume she mentioned my work?

LARIAT  
I didn't think. You're...

GRANDMA BURBERRY

A fairy godmother dear. Close your mouth before a mosquito flies in and stings your little larynx.

Ben places Cass on the stretcher and he and Lariat carry Cass toward the house. The pig follows behind them.

CASSANDRA

Pigs mother?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You know what they say. A pig in the hand is better than a bee in the...bush.

Awkward pause. Lariat and Ben struggle to carry Cass.

LARIAT

If you can conjure a stretcher, can't you conjure a gnome to carry her?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Don't be ridiculous, gnomes would gnaw her feet off.

Lariat gives her grandmother a look.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

The chairs have knitted covers, in fact, the whole room is a deranged knitting nightmare. They set Cassandra down on the couch. She shakes violently.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Let's see what we have here.

Grandma looks at Cassandra's wound. She looks worried.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)

You said it was a scratch.

Grandma points her knitting needles toward the open window and a BLUE BIRD flies out. It speeds off into the sky.

CASSANDRA

Lariat needs a sandwich. She hasn't eaten all day.

LARIAT

I can take care of myself. Is she gonna be okay?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Of course.

But the look on grandma's face suggests otherwise. Cassandra pulls the necklace with the symbols out of her pocket.

CASSANDRA

I want you to put this on. And never take it off. Promise.

LARIAT

Wow. That's really ugly.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Where did you get that?

CASSANDRA

It doesn't matter.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You must have known they'd be waiting.

BEN

We can discuss all of this later.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Yes, try and relax. You used to love curling up on that sofa for a siesta. Among other things.

CASSANDRA

How many times do I have to tell you Lariat was not conceived on this couch!

LARIAT

Gross.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

I didn't say she was. Chillax.

BEN

Wow, some people shouldn't have cable.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

She will be safe within the Maudlin city limits as long as I'm alive. Necklace or no necklace. We have a mystical barrier. Ingenious really.

CASSANDRA

I don't need you swooping in to save us all the time.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You had no trouble accepting the cash I've been sending you.

Cassandra looks at Ben who stares at his feet.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
And now you've come here. Seems to  
me you're getting exactly what you  
wished for.

NOAH (O.S.)  
She's a stubborn pain in the ass.

Everyone turns to see a handsome, disheveled man, NOAH, 35.  
Half dressed, he carries a medicine bag and stands in the  
doorway, eyes fixed on Cassandra.

CASSANDRA  
And I thought my day couldn't get  
any worse.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Hush now, he's here to help.

Ben stands up quickly from Cassandra's side and knocks over  
a lamp.

BEN  
Oh. Hey. Hi Noah.

NOAH  
Ben. You look well.

Noah brushes past Ben and kneels at Cassandra's side.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Which is more than I can say for  
this one. I don't hear from you for  
fifteen years and then you show up  
in Maudlin, and die on your mom's  
couch. Typical.

LARIAT  
You here to help or chat? We don't  
need Tyra Banks, we need a magic...  
doctor or something. Man up.

Noah takes a look at the black blood on the bandages.

NOAH  
She must be your daughter.

CASSANDRA  
How could you tell?

NOAH  
Magic.

Noah applies a potion to Cassandra's wound. He then waves his hand over the bottle and it turns into a gorgeous flower.

BEN  
She's allergic to flowers.

NOAH  
I know, that's why it's fake.  
Everlasting beauty.

CASSANDRA  
The pain stopped.

NOAH  
Now for the business of healing. We  
need to get you undressed.

Cassandra raises an eyebrow. Clearly these two have a past.  
Ben knocks the lamp over again.

BEN  
I'll do it.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
I'll take care of it. Ben dear please  
carry Cassandra into the back.

Gram turns to at Cassandra who is getting ready to protest.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
No, you may not walk.

Gram turns to Noah who holds up his hands.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
No, you may not assist Ben.

Gram follows Ben, Noah and Cassandra. Finally, she turns to Lariat.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
Yes, this is really happening.

Lariat is left alone in the living room with the pig who stares up at her and gives her a plaintive oink.

EXT. BURBERRY HOUSE, ROOF - EVENING

Lariat sits on the roof and stares out over Maudlin. The structures look like little doll houses. Ben joins her outside.

LARIAT  
How's mom?

BEN

Resting.

LARIAT

So Noah was able to heal her.

BEN

He can be quite resourceful.

LARIAT

You hate his guts.

BEN

That's not true.

Lariat looks at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

Fine, it's a little true.

LARIAT

You don't have to tell me. I've seen reality television.

BEN

It doesn't change the fact that he saved your mother's life. I'm grateful.

Lariat holds up the necklace. Ben looks over the town.

LARIAT

What's it for?

BEN

I'd forgotten how beautiful it is here.

LARIAT

I haven't ever given you reason not to trust me.

BEN

No, you haven't.

LARIAT

I would never do this to someone I loved. Keep secrets. Aren't you tired of it?

Ben meets her gaze and looks ready to confide in her. Then he stares at the necklace.

BEN

Wear the necklace. It's important  
to your mother. When she's ready,  
she'll tell you everything.

Lariat's face falls. She puts the necklace on.

LARIAT

I won't forgive you for lying to me.

Lariat puts turns her back to Ben who looks pained.

BEN

It'll be a few weeks before your mom  
is ready to travel again. Maybe  
longer. How would you feel about  
enrolling in school here for a bit?

LARIAT

Are you kidding?

Lariat hugs Ben and almost knocks him off the roof.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

You are SO forgiven. Come on, I  
need supplies. I need a backpack!

Ben smiles broadly and follows his daughter inside. But  
before he goes, he gives the roof a long, hard look.

INT. MAUDLIN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Cassandra holds a cane and stands in front of the office.

CASSANDRA

We're leaving in a few weeks, why do  
you want to get attached?

Suddenly a clumsy boy on a skate board, JASON (16) runs into  
Lariat. Cass grabs the kid in a choke hold. He doesn't  
seem to notice.

JASON

I'm so sorry! I have two left wheels.  
Or feet. Not even feet, my feet are  
like hands...on my feet.

LARIAT

Mom, you're not Dog the Bounty hunter.

Cass let's Jason go and he helps Lariat up. When he takes  
her hand, they share a moment.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

You have nice feet. Shoes. I mean.



JASON  
Are you a transfer?

LARIAT  
Yes, From another high school.  
Never home-schooled.

JASON  
Okay.

LARIAT  
I'm Lariat. This is my mom Cass.  
Would you like to be my friend?

Jason gives her a look.

JASON  
Uh..sure. I'm Jason McKlacken.

CASSANDRA  
McKlacken? Any relation to Mallory?

JASON  
She's my mother.

CASSANDRA  
She found someone to impregnate her?

Jason raises an eyebrow to Lariat who laughs.

JASON  
I'll...ah, tell my mom you said hi.  
See you around. Friend.

Jason skates away. A group of girls watches.

LARIAT  
I passed as a transfer student!

CASSANDRA  
Yes. Dial down the friend talk a  
little Mr. Rogers.

LARIAT  
Good point.

CASSANDRA  
Be vigilant around strangers.

LARIAT  
Take candy from strangers. Got it.  
Thanks for the school supplies. It  
feels good to be normal.

Lariat drags a GIGANTIC backpack behind her.

CASSANDRA  
(whispers to herself)  
You didn't have to bring them all,  
ya big nerd.

INT. MAUDLIN HIGH SCHOOL, LOCKER AREA - DAY

Lariat sticks out like a sore thumb. A group of girls watch as she struggles with her locker.

Lariat puts her backpack on to free up her hands and BAM. She topples over.

LARIAT  
I'm okay!

The girls laugh. A tall cheerleader, PERSEPHONE MCKLACKEN (15), laughs loudest.

PERCY  
Nice backpack. Why were you talking  
to my brother freak fest?

Lariat crawls to her feet.

LARIAT  
Guy with the skateboard? Great  
kisser. Maybe you and I will be  
related someday!

PERCY  
You're not dating Jason.

LARIAT  
We listen to White Snake while we  
shop for tongue rings.

PERCY  
You're delusional.

LARIAT  
I'm naming our first child ICEE.

Percy and her crew stomp off. Lariat calls after them.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
It was fun to meet "the bitchy girl."  
John Hughes was not lying. Maybe  
I'll see you in Biology.

Lariat looks at her school schedule and grins.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
I have biology.

She puts her backpack on and topples over again.

EXT. BURBERRY HOUSE, ROOF - AFTERNOON

Lariat climbs out and interrupts her parents who are whispering together.

LARIAT

I loved it! I couldn't open my locker. They made me run the mile in PE. And I had to eat lunch alone. It was awesome.

BEN

Sounds...amazing.

CASSANDRA

Should I kick you in the shin and make it an even better day?

Lariat guffaws.

LARIAT

Oh mom. You're such a kidder.

CUCKOO!

LARIAT (CONT'D)

What is that? Do you hear it?

Cassandra looks grim.

CASSANDRA

Ask your grandmother. I need to lie down.

BEN

I told you I could handle things up here.

CASSANDRA

I know. I just don't believe you.

Ben is hurt. He watches Cassandra head inside.

LARIAT

Is she mad at me?

BEN

No honey, I think it's this place. It has an odd effect on people.

LARIAT

I'll say. I'm positively ecstatic.

BEN

It's a little frightening.

LARIAT

By the way, nice plaid socks with shorts dad. I'm gonna find gram. I wish we could stay here forever.

BEN

That would give me more time in the nut shop wouldn't it?

Ben smiles as Lariat heads inside. But his smile falters as he pulls back a tarp to reveal some very sharp objects.

CUCKOO!

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Lariat follows the chirping clock sound to a tall ornate door. It automatically opens for her.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, OFFICE - AFTERNOON

It's the office of a modern fairy godmother. Popping and whirring noises emanate from mysterious electronic devices.

And on the wall, a huge, multicolored CUCKOO CLOCK. Detailed glyphs are carved into the front and sides.

Grandma stands at the window and pockets a slip of red paper.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

I do enjoy my toys.

LARIAT

What does this one do?

Lariat points at a colorful box on the floor.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

That holds my shoes.

CUCKOO! The clock chimes and a hand flies out of the clock and tosses a piece of yellow paper out into a large basket of colored papers on the floor. Lariat picks the paper up.

LARIAT

I wish I could find my glasses.  
This is how you get them? The wishes?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

It's fun isn't it? Yellow are everyday wishes. But red.

(MORE)

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
Big consequences for making the wrong  
decision there.

LARIAT  
How big?

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Death, disability, dismemberment.

Lariat looks at a large map on the wall. Some sections have  
dark red lines crossed out.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
I am fairy godmother of district  
three.

LARIAT  
The biggest.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Naturally. I'm the most powerful  
white witch this side of the world.  
I don't like to brag, but...

Grandma flings open the door to the computer armoire where  
shelves of silver winged trophies stare back.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)  
I've won fairy godmother of the year  
over fifty times. It's a record.

CUCKOO! The clock spits out a red piece of paper. Grandma  
picks it up. Her face is grim.

LARIAT  
Oh my God. A red one. Is it awful?

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Yes. A little girl wants a hamster.

Off Lariat's look: HUH?

BLACKOUT:

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Lariat watches her grandmother type into a computer program  
The screen reads: KRYSTAL BALL.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

This program cross references past  
wishes. It keeps detailed records  
about our town and its residents.

LARIAT

This is so cool! It's Maudlin Google.  
It's Moogle.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

So it looks like our client is a  
little girl named Amanda.

A photo of a smirking AMANDA, age 7, appears.

LARIAT

Don't you just give everyone what  
they want?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Heaven's no! You can't just grant  
wishes Willy nilly. We investigate  
fully before we decide. Beware  
unintended consequences. It's my  
motto. For instance, it says here  
Amanda's father is allergic  
to...rodents of all kinds.

LARIAT

What kind of retarded allergy is  
that?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

It doesn't automatically discount  
her wish. We just need to investigate  
further.

LARIAT

Can I help?

Grandma's eyes twinkle.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

I thought you'd never ask.

EXT. MAUDLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Lariat and Grandma stand in front holding the photo of Amanda.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

She has music lessons after school.  
Perhaps you can chat with her. Gather  
"intel" as they say. Getting close  
to someone, seeing how they think.  
It's a great way to evaluate wishes.

LARIAT

Maybe I can take her to the pet shop.  
See how she is around animals.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You're a natural.

LARIAT

Gram. Once the investigation is  
done. How do you know you made the  
right decision?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

We use tools to make educated  
decisions. Happily ever after is a  
myth. You go with your gut.

LARIAT

Like playing lotto with a life.  
Sounds risky.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Everything is a calculated risk dear.  
It's the joy and sorrow of life.

Lariat soaks this in.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)

Now then. I better go, it's prom  
season and that clock is working  
overtime. Everyone needs a slutty  
dress.

LARIAT

You're leaving me alone?

But when Lariat turns, Grandma is already gone. Hamster  
girl, AMANDA 7, walks out.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

Hi there. Amanda? My name is Lariat.

Amanda walks faster.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

I like puppies...and horses and  
smaller animals. Do you?

Amanda shakes her head no. Walks away. Lariat follows.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Wanna go to the pet store with me?  
It'll be fun

Amanda stops and digs around in her bag.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
I'll give you some candy.

Amanda turns around with a tazer, and ZZZZZZAP!

AMANDA  
Stranger, stranger!

Amanda takes off running. Lariat topples into a thorn bush with her feet sticking up in the air. She groans.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, STABLES - DAY

Cassandra brushes a horse. Noah watches longingly from the shadows. He steps on a stick. Crack!

Cass attacks him, flips him over her shoulder and knocks him to the ground. She takes out a knife and holds it to his throat.

Noah waves his hand and turns her knife into a rubber chicken. Cass bats him in the face with it.

NOAH  
You're gonna hurt yourself.

CASSANDRA  
Why are you spying on me!

NOAH  
I'm sorry. Your mom asked me to  
look out for you guys.

CASSANDRA  
I can take care of myself.

NOAH  
I can see that, it's kind of hot.

Cass snorts, goes back to her horse.

NOAH (CONT'D)  
Hey, remember that time we snuck out  
to ride my motorcycle?



CASSANDRA

My mom cursed it so it wouldn't go  
over twenty miles an hour.

NOAH

It was the reverse of the movie SPEED.

They both laugh and for a moment, we get a glimpse of the  
light hearted, beautiful woman Cassandra used to be.

CASSANDRA

We used to have so much fun.

NOAH

I've missed you.

CASSANDRA

Don't start.

NOAH

Are you happy?

CASSANDRA

I love my daughter.

NOAH

You'd have to, to make such a  
sacrifice. Give up your birthright.

CASSANDRA

I'm powerless.

NOAH

Just because you don't practice magic,  
doesn't mean you're powerless.

CASSANDRA

I'm so worried something's going to  
happen to her. And I won't be able  
to stop it. I don't recognize myself.

Noah puts his hand on Cass' shoulder.

NOAH

I recognize you.

Cass wraps her arms around Noah who comforts her. Ben enters.

BEN

Sorry. I'm interrupting. Wait.  
I'm not sorry. That's my wife.

CASSANDRA

It's a misunderstanding.

NOAH

I apprentice for Mrs. Burberry, so  
she lets me come over and ride.  
Join me.

BEN

No. You go. I've never been a fan  
of competition.

Ben walks away and leaves Cass and Noah behind.

EXT. AMANDA'S CUTE LITTLE HOUSE - DAY

Lariat rides up on a bike, it's clearly her grandmother's.  
The seat is covered in knitting. She hides across the street.

A huge BIG RIG is parked in front of Amanda's house. It has  
a crown logo on the side.

LARIAT

(to herself)

Think you're smart with your tazer.  
You can't scare me, I'm a woman on a  
mystical mission dammit.

JASON

Boo!

Lariat screams. Jason skate boards in front of her.

JASON (CONT'D)

Sorry. I'm not good with the  
stopping, just the going. What are  
you doing?

LARIAT

Nothing. Definitely not spying on  
someone. Just an average girl.

JASON

I live next door to monster truck  
house. It's the bane of my mom's  
existence. Earl comes rolling up  
every night at 10pm. Like clockwork.  
She calls the cops.

LARIAT

Why?

JASON

She says it's a zoning violation and  
it's bringing down our property value.  
I think it's kinda cool. He could  
ditch it at work. But he's always  
in a hurry to get home to his family.

LARIAT

I met your sister earlier.

JASON

And you lived to tell the tale?  
Percy just doesn't like change.  
You're new, she feels threatened.  
You're pretty, she's pretty.

LARIAT

You think I'm pretty?

JASON

I think I better get home. I'm sort  
of grounded, it's not a regular thing.

LARIAT

Got it, you're a hoodlum.

JASON

Total miscreant.

Jason rides away and Lariat takes off the other direction.

JASON (CONT'D)

Hey Average. You wanna go to a  
bonfire with me Friday night?

LARIAT

A date?

JASON

No, strictly platonic. I'm not into  
girls.

Jason gives her a smirk.

JASON (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm into one girl but she's  
kind of oblivious. It's just outside  
of town. We can walk from your house.

Lariat hesitates.

LARIAT

My parents are kind of strict.

JASON

Tell you what. It's on the way, so  
I'll come by around 8pm. If you're  
outside cool and if not, I'll assume  
you hate my guts.

Jason skate boards away and into a tree.

LARIAT

My hero.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, OFFICE - NIGHT

Grandma Burberry stands in front of the cuckoo clock. She has tears in her eyes. She hits the clock with her knitting needles. Over and over again.

Cuckoo! A yellow wish spits out. She tries to tear the clock off the wall. It won't budge.

LARIAT

Grandma? Are you okay?

Grandma Burberry turns around and wipes her eyes. She refills her glass of sherry. And she doesn't sip.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

I didn't hear you.

In the ghostly light of the moon, grandma looks older.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (CONT'D)

I always wanted to go to Tahiti.

LARIAT

That sounds nice. We should plan a trip.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

It's not possible. Who would...mind the store? No calling out sick. And the simple wishes are never as simple as you think. Unintended consequences.

Gram teeters and Lariat straightens her.

LARIAT

I see an unintended hangover in your future Gram. Maybe it's time to lay off the cough syrup.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

I made a bad call.

LARIAT

So? You have a basket of wishes. How are you supposed to stay on top of them all? You have to prioritize.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Without wishes, there's no hope. And that's exactly what they want.

LARIAT

Who?

Cassandra walks in.

CASSANDRA

No one. Lariat go downstairs.

LARIAT

She needs us. I know I'm not good at helping yet, but what if we all pitched in.

CASSANDRA

You're teaching her?

GRANDMA BURBERRY

She asked me Cassandra.

CASSANDRA

You're drunk?

LARIAT

She had a bad day.

CASSANDRA

Everyday is a bad day when you are responsible for other people's dreams.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

And you know nothing of responsibility. At the first sign of trouble, you run away.

CASSANDRA

You're damn right.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You know Roth and his men were only after Lariat to get to me.

CASSANDRA

Exactly. We were being chased because of you. Attacked because of you.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

You have been safe since you arrived in Maudlin.

CASSANDRA

I will not be trapped here like you!

LARIAT

How come you never think about what I want. You lie my whole life. Keep me isolated and alone. I'm in danger but you won't say why. You're my mother, not GOD.

CASSANDRA

Everything I do, is for your best interest. Everything.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

She's not a child.

CASSANDRA

She's not you!

LARIAT

Then why don't you do it? Why don't you help? Use your powers!

CASSANDRA

I gave them up. For you and your father, so we could have a better life, a normal life.

LARIAT

How'd that work out for you?

Ben runs in.

BEN

What's going on?

CASSANDRA

We were discussing travel plans. Pack up the car. We're leaving.

Lariat looks horrified as Cassandra storms out.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

EXT. AMANDA'S CUTE LITTLE HOUSE - DAY

Lariat watches hamster girl Amanda, and her father Earl drive away from their home.

LARIAT (V.O.)

Once upon a time, there was a fifteen year old girl who hated her parents with every fiber of her being. So she decided to do what most teenagers do. Rebel with a potted plant.

Lariat holds a little house plant in her hands, she sneaks to the side of the house.

She looks around for a rock to break the window. Finds one. Approaches the window and sees that it's open. DOH.

Lariat climbs inside...

INT. AMANDA'S CUTE LITTLE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lariat walks through the well kept house. There are photos of Amanda and her dad standing in front of his truck at work. Lariat smiles until...she finds Amanda's room.

LARIAT

Disgusting.

Dirty dishes, laundry, food, toys in strewn across the floor.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

She would lose a hamster in here. A plant is a good test run.

Lariat sees the Tazer gun and tosses it in the trash.

SLAM! A car door outside. Lariat panics. She clears a place on Amanda's desk and sets the plant down with a note card.

It says: TAKE CARE OF ME. Lariat ducks into the closet as Amanda runs in and grabs a sweater off the bed.

Amanda sees the plant....goes to it and reads the card. She strokes the leaves gently before pulling one out. Then another and another.

Lariat covers her mouth. Once the plant is without leaves, Amanda takes a pack of matches out of the desk drawer and sets the plant on fire!

HONK!

Amanda runs out of the room and leaves the plant burning.

Lariat jumps out of the closet and dumps a glass of old milk on the fire.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

She's the bad seed! No offense plant.

The plant ignites again. Lariat yelps. Douses it again.

EXT. MAUDLIN, DOWNTOWN - DAY

Lariat walks home, hears a noise.

LARIAT

Noah?

Noah steps out from the shadows.

NOAH

You're on to me.

LARIAT

I was just trying to help Gram out one more time. Before we leave. You must be relieved you can stop with the My Bodyguard act.

NOAH

I enjoy my time with your family very much. Even if you don't seem to enjoy me.

LARIAT

I don't know you.

Lariat sees Jason ahead and hides behind Noah.

NOAH

This way.

Noah leads in an alternate route.

NOAH (CONT'D)

You're avoiding Jason.

LARIAT

You know him?

NOAH

I know his mother. But I don't hold it against him. He's a good kid.



LARIAT

He asked me out. I think I like him. In fact, I know I do.

NOAH

Good for you.

LARIAT

I'm not going on our date.

NOAH

Am I missing something or this is a girl thing?

LARIAT

It's a bonfire outside town, and I'm not allowed to leave Maudlin.

NOAH

Your grandmother is a genius. Protection spells are difficult. For both parties.

LARIAT

What happens when someone tries to get in?

NOAH

This is the bad guy.

Noah picks a lemon off a nearby tree.

NOAH (CONT'D)

And this is Maudlin.

Noah draws a circle in the dirt. With a wave of his hand he creates a small energy dome over the circle.

Noah drops the lemon into the circle and it bounces off, before exploding into yellow pulp.

LARIAT

Graphic. You must be a genius too. You made a protection spell.

Noah steps over the mess nervously.

NOAH

I'm nothing compared to your family. Your mom and I used to do lots of crazy things when we were young.

LARIAT

Men might be trying to get into  
Maudlin to kill me, but I'm pretty  
sure my mom would literally kill me  
if she found out I left.

NOAH

I think you've missed a lot of things  
growing up on the run. I just hate  
for you to miss anymore.

Lariat considers this.

A BLUE BIRD chirps on a nearby fence. It flies away.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lariat finishes packing her bags. Cass walks in.

CASSANDRA

We're leaving early tomorrow.

LARIAT

I heard you the first hundred times.

CASSANDRA

You don't have to like me...

LARIAT

Fine. I won't.

CASSANDRA

But I'm your mother. And someday  
you'll know what a tremendous gift  
and responsibility that is.

Cassandra leaves. Lariat stares at her necklace with the  
symbols on it. She takes it off and leaves it on the desk  
before climbing out the window.

EXT. BURBERRY ESTATE - NIGHT

Lariat meets Jason and they take off toward the dark forest.

It starts to rain.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, OFFICE - NIGHT

Grandma Burberry finishes writing a letter. She straightens  
her room and gets everything in perfect order before arming  
herself with her knitting needles and heading downstairs.

The doorbell rings.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Noah stands on the doorstep. Cass and Ben look concerned.

CASSANDRA  
She snuck out?

NOAH  
I saw her head toward the forest, I  
figured I should get you before  
following her.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
You did the right thing.

BEN  
Let's go.

Noah follows them.

BEN (CONT'D)  
Not you. You were supposed to be  
watching her.

NOAH  
I'm not her father.

CASSANDRA  
Don't let jealousy cloud your judgment  
Ben. He was a high school fling.  
It's not important now.

Noah is stung by this news.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
Everyone goes. Time to end this.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The bonfire is a bust. Rained out. Lariat and Jason sit  
under a tree. Percy and the rest of the sullen teenage posse  
sit under a different tree.

LARIAT  
Instead of you fitting me in. I out-  
casted you.

JASON  
They're sheep. They don't know any  
better.

LARIAT  
Fire is a key ingredient in bonfire.  
What are we doing?

JASON

It's raining. We're waiting it out.

Lariat starts to gather dry branches from the base of trees and put together a small pile of kindling.

LARIAT

No life on the road is complete  
without learning how to build a fire  
in less than ideal conditions.

Lariat strips the wet bark off a piece of wood and makes a tee pee structure.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

Who's got a lighter?

Percy tosses one and it smacks Lariat in the head.

PERCY

Don't you have one? I figured every  
hippy family grew their own weed.

Lariat starts the fire and it grows slowly but surely. The crowd cheers for Lariat who smiles faintly.

PERCY (CONT'D)

Big deal, I met Ashton Kutcher last  
summer.

Everyone ignores her.

JASON

Amazing.

Jason gives Lariat a quick kiss that lingers. When he pulls away Lariat is glowing.

LARIAT

We should make sure the fire doesn't  
go out.

JASON

It feels pretty strong.

Lariat laughs and turns to grab a branch but when she moves it...a man with empty eye sockets stares back. It's ROTH.

Roth waves his hand and everyone falls down except Lariat.

ROTH

Relax Pop Tart, they're not dead.  
Yet. Just sleeping.

Roth's henchman come out of the shadows.

ROTH (CONT'D)

Now don't let anyone say I don't have a heart. I let you build a fire and you got to make out.

LARIAT

You're not gonna kill me. You want my grandmother but she won't leave Maudlin and you can't get in.

ROTH

Pretty smart. But is that rustling I hear in yonder woods?

LARIAT

IT'S A TRAP!

Roth grabs Lariat by the neck.

ROTH

Do you wanna watch me throw your friends onto the fire like acorns?

BAM! One of Roth's henchman is shot in the head.

ROTH (CONT'D)

What did I tell you about guarding the perimeter?

Roth waves his hand and the trees surrounding them move until Cassandra, Ben and Grandma Burberry are revealed.

ROTH (CONT'D)

Sloppy. I'd expect as much from the humans but you? Are you gonna cry? Because your granddaughter here, she isn't so much a crier as she is a whiner.

Roth throws Lariat on the ground like a rag doll and then waves his hand. She levitates high in the air.

ROTH (CONT'D)

Fall down, go boom.

Lariat screams and drops toward the ground. Roth stops her right before she hits the ground. He raises her again.

CASSANDRA

Don't you touch her!

Noah sneaks around behind the group.

ROTH  
 Are you gonna summon a dragon?  
 Cloaking spell? Oprah? Bring it  
 GRANDMA!!!

Roth stands, ready for the battle royal. Grandma Burberry looks at Cassandra.

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
 It's the only way. I'm sorry.

CASS  
 No. Mom!

GRANDMA BURBERRY  
 I wish to die.

Grandma Burberry crumples to the ground.

WHOOSH! Sparks of mystical energy slam into Lariat who drops from the sky.

Noah waves a hand and conjures a pile of pillows for Lariat to land on. Roth stares at Grandma Burberry's lifeless form.

ROTH  
 Huh. Wasn't expecting that.

A war breaks out around Lariat. Cass and Ben shoot at the henchmen and inch closer to Lariat.

CASSANDRA  
 Lariat, get up and run!

Lariat runs to her grandmother's body and yells.

LARIAT  
 Why didn't you fight?

Lariat holds her grandmother's hand and a red wish falls out. Lariat unwraps it: I WISH I COULD STAY IN MAUDLIN FOREVER - LARIAT SHEA.

FLASHBACK:

We see bits of scenes we watched earlier. Lariat stands on the roof with her father.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
 I wish I could stay in Maudlin  
 forever.

Cuckoo! In Grandma's office: Lariat's red wish floats to the ground. We see Lariat enter the room, Gran puts her foot on the wish to hide it.

We see Gran with Lariat in front of the elementary school.

GRANDMA BURBERRY

Getting close to someone, seeing how they think. It's a great way to evaluate wishes.

BACK TO PRESENT:

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Lariat sits with Gran's body.

LARIAT

She was evaluating me. It was my wish the whole time.

SLAM!

Spells fly between Roth and Noah. They use trees as weapons to clobber one another. Noah gets close to Roth who whispers.

ROTH

This is quite an act.

NOAH

It's not an act. No one was supposed to get hurt!

ROTH

I didn't kill her. And yet, your side killed one of my men. Guns? I'm quite disappointed. Where's the sportsmanship in that?

NOAH

We had a deal. I convinced her to come out here. Now give Cassandra her powers back.

Roth responds with his trademark, maniacal chortle.

ROTH

Idiot. No one can return what she gave up willingly. Not even Caraboss herself could restore them.

Noah can't believe what he's done. Roth uses the opportunity to smash him in the head. Noah is stunned. Lariat watches. She and Noah share a look before he runs away.

A henchman sends a dagger flying toward Cass. Ben steps in front of her and it enters his shoulder and comes out the other side. He screams in pain.

Cassandra takes Ben's gun and shoots the bad guy. She drags Ben to a tree.

BEN  
I protected you.

Ben gives her a weak smile before passing out. Cass turns and runs toward Lariat who is catatonic.

LARIAT  
It's all my fault. Bring her back.  
She can't be dead. I wish my  
grandmother was...

CASSANDRA  
Don't! You don't understand how it  
works.

Roth approaches, he throws bodies out of his way with a flick of his hand.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Look at me. We can do this. Take  
the knitting needles it'll focus the  
power.

Lariat takes the needles. Cass whispers in her ear.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Now visualize where you want to go.  
Then say it out loud, it'll be  
stronger that way.

Lariat closes her eyes. A FLASH of Maudlin town square.  
Lariat opens her eyes just as Roth arrives.

ROTH  
The power hangs on you, two sizes  
too big. I love killing weak little  
girls.

LARIAT  
Then you better go find one.

Lariat raises her knitting needles.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
MAUDLIN.

Lariat sprays everyone with sparks which cascade across everyone: the sleeping teenagers, Roth, the henchmen...

WHOOSH! Everyone is sucked back into the Maudlin town limits.



But as Roth and his henchmen approach town they start to scream.

Roth waves his hand and he and his HENCHMEN stop just before crossing the little sign that says: WELCOME TO MAUDLIN. Roth picks up the sign and throws it.

ROTH

DAMMIT!

INT. MAUDLIN TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Cassandra, Ben and Lariat clutch each other amidst the sleeping teenagers. Grandma rests peacefully between them.

There is no sound except for Lariat's heart breaking sobs.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Roth kicks the broken MAUDLIN sign. A Henchman approaches.

HENCHMAN

What happens if we cross the boundary?

ROTH

Oh, not much.

Roth pick up the henchman and tosses him through the mystical barrier.

ROTH (CONT'D)

You just explode! It's a freakin' protection spell. Anyone else have any good ideas they're dying to present to me?

HENCHMAN

Uh. Boss.

Roth looks over and sees the henchman lying on the grass in Maudlin.

Roth can't believe his eyes. He steps into Maudlin city limits and roars with laughter.

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

EXT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - DAY

Chimes...the clock perhaps? Nope, funeral bells.

LARIAT (V.O.)

Once upon a time, there was a girl  
whose heart was shattered.

The church is beautiful and ornate. It's the center piece  
of the town. Standing watch like a protective parent.

A newspaper sits on a bench in front. It blasts the headline:  
AREA WOMAN LOSES LIFE, SAVES TEENS FROM CARBON MONOXIDE.

Cass, Ben, Lariat and Noodle the pig walk behind Gram's white  
casket. They look small and very much alone.

But suddenly, doors start to open and townspeople converge  
on the little church with food, and most of all love.

Cass watches as Herb the peanut guy signs Ben's cast and  
Jason hugs Lariat. Cass touches her mom's casket a final  
time. She is angry, mournful.

CASSANDRA

I know what you did. What you're  
doing. It's not fair.

In the shadows, Noah, watches from a distance. He turns to  
walk away, a haunted man.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, OFFICE - EVENING

Lariat stares at the map of her fairy godmother district.  
Red X's are marked all around it. Cassandra comes in with  
cookies and milk.

LARIAT

How are you?

CASSANDRA

Numb.

LARIAT

Me too.

Lariat hugs her mother.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

Who made those?

CASSANDRA

I did.

LARIAT

You can barely microwave a lean cuisine.

CASSANDRA

Fine. Your grandma's friends are baking their grief. We have pies, cakes, muffins.

LARIAT

Muffins of death.

CASSANDRA

I prefer blueberry.

LARIAT

Where's dad?

CASSANDRA

Gardening.

LARIAT

At night. With a broken arm?

CASSANDRA

Gardening his grief. I don't know. I need you to put this back on.

Cassandra hands Lariat the necklace with the symbols.

LARIAT

It's all my fault.

CASSANDRA

That's not true.

LARIAT

I didn't listen. I put everyone in danger.

CASSANDRA

Your grandmother knew what she was doing.

LARIAT

But I didn't.

Lariat hands her mother, the red wish. Her wish.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

How can I do this? Be responsible for all these people and their wishes. I can't even open my locker.

CASSANDRA  
You'll find a way.

LARIAT  
What if I can't?

CASSANDRA  
Walking away is no longer an option.

LARIAT  
You said lots of districts don't  
have fairy godmother's.

Cassandra gestures to the map.

CASSANDRA  
All the red X's.

LARIAT  
Because Roth slaughtered them.

CASSANDRA  
If he kills them he can absorb their  
power. But he doesn't keep it. He  
gifts it to his boss.

LARIAT  
Great, so he's not the CEO. He's  
middle management!

CASSANDRA  
You were excited to live in Maudlin.  
To live this life.

LARIAT  
You're scaring me.

CASSANDRA  
Good. Because this isn't a game.  
This your job now.

Cassandra grabs the baskets beneath the cuckoo clock, they're  
filled with yellow and red slips of paper.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Sorting out the crazies, from the  
ignorant. The legitimate from the  
selfish. And when you finally  
determine, a person deserves their  
wish. That's only the beginning.

LARIAT  
I know all about unintended  
consequences.

(MORE)

LARIAT (CONT'D)

That's why we have KRYSTAL BALL. It tells us what could happen.

Lariat points to the computer.

CASSANDRA

It's just giving you odds. It's a magical actuary table! You make the final call. Then you've got free will to contend with, fate. You're not a God. Mistakes will be made. The guilt tore my mother apart.

LARIAT

Stop it.

CASSANDRA

We need to get to work. Lives will depend on you Lariat. And you've had no training. My God, Noah was raised in this culture and he's still an apprentice.

LARIAT

Don't say his name.

CASSANDRA

He didn't abandon us. She was like a mother to him. He's upset. That's why he ran.

LARIAT

Now who's being naive.

Cassandra slaps Lariat who looks stunned.

CASSANDRA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to.

LARIAT

It's fine.

Cassandra hugs Lariat who stares straight ahead.

CASSANDRA

I just. I wanted you to have a different life.

LARIAT

I'm tired.

Lariat starts to walk out.

CASSANDRA

There are consequences for abandoning  
your post Lariat.

LARIAT

Yeah? Well, maybe there's no place  
for magic in this world anymore.

Cassandra watches her daughter leave.

INT. NOAH'S GARDEN - DAY

A BLUE BIRD flies by and drops a letter in front of him. He  
opens it and reads.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (V.O.)

I know what you did and why you did  
it.

FLASHBACK:

We see Noah talking to Lariat. The blue bird watches them.  
The bird flies into Grandma Burberry's window. She nods.

BACK TO PRESENT.

GRANDMA BURBERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Love is often more powerful than  
reason. But you now owe me a blood  
debt. Your days of being apprentice  
are done. Guide and protect my  
granddaughter at all costs. I do  
forgive you.

Noah looks up, teary eyed but the blue bird is gone.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, LARIAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lariat tosses and turns in bed. She's having a nightmare.

In her dream...

INT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Ben is on the floor. Cassandra kneels at his side. Roth  
moves his hand through the air and Cassandra's neck is sliced  
open. He tosses her away like trash.

LARIAT

NO!

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, LARIAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lariat sits up in bed and flings off the covers. She rushes  
into her mom's room.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, CASSANDRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lariat stands in the doorway. She sees her mom in bed and her father sleeping on a couch.

Her mom bolts upright.

CASSANDRA  
What's wrong?

LARIAT  
Nothing.

Lariat looks at Ben.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
You don't have to pretend for me.

CASSANDRA  
It's just for a few nights.

Lariat nods.

LARIAT  
Go back to sleep.

Lariat walks out and shuts the door behind her.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lariat hears the cuckoo clock chirping like crazy in the office.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, LARIAT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lariat can still hear the chirping in bed. She covers her head with a pillow and stares at the knitting needles that gleam on her desk.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Cassandra sits at the table. She picks at a muffin. Ben comes in from outside. He's obviously been working in the garden.

CASSANDRA  
Need help out there?

BEN  
Not right now.

CASSANDRA  
We need to talk about what we're gonna do.

BEN

I figure it'll take us a few days to pack, deal with selling the house.

CASSANDRA

She has a responsibility Ben. We can't leave now.

BEN

Wait. Now you wanna stay?

CASSANDRA

Don't be dramatic.

BEN

This wouldn't have anything to do with a certain friend of yours.

CASSANDRA

Where's your confidence in me? Nothing is going on with Noah.

BEN

It's not about that Cass. I don't wanna fight.

CASSANDRA

You think I do?

BEN

I have no idea what you want anymore.

CASSANDRA

Fine, you wanna talk. I'm scared Ben. I'm scared I made the wrong decision.

BEN

Good to know.

CASSANDRA

Not about marrying you. About running away. Maybe I should have just embraced who I was instead of trying to be someone I'm not. I don't regret you. I just don't know what to do. Who to be anymore.

Ben goes to Cassandra. They hug, and Cassandra stares at the flower Noah gave her when he arrived.

BEN

We'll figure this out. We have to.

But neither of them looks certain.



INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, LARIAT'S BEDROOM - DAY

Lariat grabs the knitting needles and her backpack. She hears pebbles hit her window and looks out. Jason stares up at her.

JASON

Hey Average! Wanna be friends?

LARIAT

What are you doing here?

JASON

First day back and all. Figured I'd escort you.

LARIAT

Be right down.

Lariat runs out of her bedroom and into her grandmother's office.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lariat gasps when she sees a sea of yellow and red papers. Hundreds, maybe thousands of wishes stacked up. She picks up a handful and looks around. Lost.

JASON (O.S.)

Hurry up. We're gonna be late.

Lariat looks around the room. Blinking lights flash on the computer. All the colorful toys wheeze and honk at her.

The hands of the cuckoo clock go spin in opposite directions. Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

LARIAT

Stop! Just stop!

She takes the knitting needles out of her bag and flings them onto the floor. She grabs her backpack and leaves.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Lariat runs in wearing her backpack. Ben and Cassandra glance up at her.

CASSANDRA

Death muffins to go.

Cass hands Lariat breakfast and Lariat surprises her mom by giving her a hug.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

Do you have a fever?

LARIAT

No, I just. I don't think I can do this job. It never stops. I'm worried about what it would do to us. You fight because of me.

CASSANDRA

No. People have rough patches.

LARIAT

It doesn't matter. I need this to stop please.

CASSANDRA

People are counting on you.

LARIAT

Do you want me to die?

BEN

We will support you whatever you decide. I'll start to gather what we need to move forward.

LARIAT

Does it hurt to let it go? The consequence part.

Cassandra looks at Ben.

CASSANDRA

No.

LARIAT

Jason's waiting.

Lariat starts to walk out.

CASSANDRA

Lariat. Until we decide. You're wearing your necklace right?

LARIAT

It's where it's supposed to be.

Lariat walks out. Cassandra and Ben stare at one another.

BEN

I'll make a list of what we need. Guess all the yard work was for nothing.

CASSANDRA

I don't think this is the right thing to do.

BEN

Right or wrong. There's nothing I wouldn't do for you and Lariat. I wish it was enough.

CASSANDRA

It is.

Ben walks out. Cassandra throws away Noah's fake flower.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE, SHOWER - DAY

Ben rinses shampoo out of his hair. He hears the bathroom door open and sees a figure. Ben peaks around the curtain and wipes the suds out of his eyes.

ROTH

I don't have that problem anymore.

Ben's eyes open wide as he stares into two empty eye sockets.

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

EXT. MAUDLIN DOWNTOWN - DAY

Lariat window shops. She feels someone watching her and quickly looks behind her. Nothing.

She heads into a store.

INT. MAUDLIN NUT SHOP - EVENING

Lariat steps out of the shop. Her arms laden with various Maudlin shopping bags.

INT. BURBERRY ESTATE - NIGHT

Lariat tosses her backpack in the entry way. She shouts to her family.

LARIAT

I know I'm late. Since we might be leaving, I went shopping. I bought you a Maudlin apron!

No answer.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

And chocolate covered pistachios. My allowance is gone though, I think I need a loan so you guys need to get real jobs. Hello? Let's see. How to get your attention.

Lariat runs upstairs.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

I hope this ceremony or whatever doesn't require me to be a virgin.

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, HALLWAY - DAY

Lariat hears rustling in the office. She puts her ear to the door. Flings it open. It's a wind tunnel. The windows are open and the office - Destroyed.

LARIAT

Oh no.

The computer has been turned upside down. The furniture toppled. The only thing left untouched is the clock.

She drops to her hands and knees. Searches for the knitting needles she tossed on the floor earlier. She can't find them.

She hears rustling in the corner but before she can react, the pig, NOODLE charges out.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Noodle. You scared me. I don't  
know what to do. Why am I talking  
to a pig?

Noodle oinks at her and pushes the papers with his nose, revealing the knitting needles.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Because the pig is smarter than me.

Lariat stands up and colored papers, wishes swirl around her.

Amanda's photo lands at her feet. Lariat picks it up and slowly turns around. She sees a message written in what might be blood on the wall behind her.

It says: LET US PRAY

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
On the wall? That's just rude. I  
am so over this guy.

Lariat storms out of the room and into...

INT. BURBERRY HOUSE, CASSANDRA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lariat sees signs of a struggle. She ignores them and goes straight to the portable safe. Unlocks it and grabs a huge GUN.

EXT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Main street is dark and windy. Church is closed. Everything is dark and quiet.

INT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Candles flicker and cast a ghostly glow. Cassandra and Ben are tied up. They sit in the front pew looking a little worse for the wear. A henchman keeps careful watch.

Roth lounges on the altar.

ROTH  
What is taking her so long? I told  
you we should have written the message  
in the living room.

HENCHMAN

I was thinking the kitchen. Because kids come home, what do they do, they get a snack. Or we could have put a note on the tv.

Roth gives him a look.

ROTH

I love churches. They're so theatrical. Stage and all.

Ben slowly unravels the knot he's tied with.

BEN

We told you, she doesn't want the powers.

CASSANDRA

We'll do the ceremony. You can absorb them and take them back to Caraboss. No one needs to get hurt.

ROTH

But that's the fun part.

EXT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Lariat rides up on her bike. She wears a long coat and checks her pockets. She starts to climb the steps when Noah steps out of the shadows and grabs her.

NOAH

I can't let you go in there.

Noah starts to pull her toward his car.

LARIAT

Let me go! My parents are in there.

NOAH

I owe this to your grandmother.

LARIAT

Don't talk about her. She's dead because of you.

NOAH

Yes and I will live with that pain the rest of my life.

LARIAT

At least you'll be alive. Are you really willing to let my mom die?

Noah falters. Lariat looks at her watch.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
I'm not asking for your help, just  
let me go. I'm kind of on a tight  
schedule here.

NOAH  
What are you racing home to watch  
American Idol?

LARIAT  
She trusted you. Now you have a  
chance to make it right.

NOAH  
That's what I'm doing.

Lariat relents. Then grabs the gun out of her pocket and  
BASHES Noah in the head with it. He's out cold.

LARIAT  
You so deserve that.

INT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Lariat strolls in. Roth raises an eyebrow.

ROTH  
Not a very exciting entrance.

LARIAT  
I'm into exits. Particularly yours.

CASSANDRA  
Lariat run!

LARIAT  
No way. He came into OUR home.

Ben unties his binds. Waits to make a move.

ROTH  
Yep, there's a new sheriff in town.  
Seems like granny was sloppy with  
the "protection" as so many women  
are.

HENCHMAN  
He's talking about condoms and making  
fun of the spell.

ROTH  
Don't talk. I talk, you look  
menacing.

HENCHMAN  
But I like to talk sometimes.

ROTH  
Shut it.

LARIAT  
You're making a huge mistake.

ROTH  
How so darlin'?

LARIAT  
You should have killed me when I  
walked in the door.

Lariat pulls out her knitting needles and starts to speak.

Ben leaps up and runs toward Roth.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Dad, no!

BEN  
RUN!

Roth flicks his wrist and Ben goes flying. He knocks his head on a pew and is unconscious.

ROTH  
Humans are so stupid. How did he  
think that was gonna go?

Cassandra stands and the henchman grabs her...until his hands turn into flowers. They shoot up and out of his sleeves.

Cassandra looks up to see Noah. The henchman looks at his hands and screams.

CASSANDRA  
You came back.

NOAH  
I never left.

Lariat stands in front of Roth. She points her knitting needles at him.

LARIAT  
Main street!

Nothing happens. Roth rolls his eyes.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
I said...Main street!



Lariat looks at her knitting needles. Jiggles them.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Come on. Really?

Noah unties Cassandra as the henchman's "hands" fall off and vines start to creep out of his collar. They cover his face.

ROTH  
How green. Do you drive a Prius?  
Cause I don't really care about the  
environment.

Roth waves his hand and the henchman tears in two.

ROTH (CONT'D)  
My carbon footprint is huge.

Cassandra runs to Ben's side.

NOAH  
Wait!

Roth raises his hand and the church pew grows arms that grab Noah and hold him down.

Cassandra kneels next to Ben. She's in the same place she was in Lariat's nightmare.

Lariat looks at her watch and runs to the church window.

ROTH  
Are we keeping you from something?  
I'm with you. Let's get the show on  
the road.

Roth flicks his hand toward Cassandra but the spell bounces off and WHAM!

Roth is sliced across the neck by his own spell.

Lariat calmly approaches Roth.

LARIAT  
That looks like it hurt. I agree.  
No more horsing around.

Lariat closes her eyes and points the needles again.

LARIAT (CONT'D)  
Main street.

Lariat waves the needles and a ribbon of energy surrounds Roth.

Poof!

He disappears.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

Come on!

Lariat sprints for the door.

CASSANDRA

What did you do?

LARIAT

I granted a wish.

CASSANDRA

But the consequences.

LARIAT

I'm counting on it! What time is it?

CASSANDRA

Almost ten.

Lariat runs outside.

INT. BIG RIG - NIGHT

Amanda's dad, EARL 50, drives home. A hamster in a cage beside him. The hamster starts to squeal. Earl sticks a finger in to pet the hamster.

EARL

Ahhhh. AHHHH CHOOOOO!

Earl sneezes and doesn't stop. It goes on and on. His huge truck swerves all over the road. It picks up speed as it rounds the corner onto Main Street...

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Roth walks down the middle of the street and holds his neck.

ROTH

You're such an amateur.

SLAM!

Roth is run over by Earl's Big Rig.

The logo on the side of the truck is a crown. But below it the name of the company: PRINCE Industries.

Noah stumbles out of the church followed by Ben. Cassandra runs up to meet him.

Noah watches the truck speed away into the night.

NOAH  
Saved by a prince.

Lariat smiles broadly. It's a job well done.

Roth's body is flat as a pancake. Black blood sizzles and he disappears into the street.

EXT. MAUDLIN CHURCH - NIGHT

Lariat and Cassandra sit on the steps.

CASSANDRA  
It's awfully quiet in there. Do you think they killed each other?

Noah and Ben come out of the church carrying trash bags.

BEN  
I was only out for twenty minutes. How did you guys make such a mess?

NOAH  
Women.

The two men nod in agreement and walk toward the dumpster.

Cass pulls the protective necklace out of her pocket.

CASSANDRA  
Sneaky. I knew you had an ulterior motive with the hug this morning. You can't fool the mom.

LARIAT  
I'm pretty sure I did.

CASSANDRA  
How did you know I would need it anyway?

Lariat looks nervous. Shrugs.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Anything else you're hiding.

Lariat opens up her jacket and hands her mom several guns and knives.

LARIAT

I wasn't sure the magic thing would work.

Cass is so proud. She gives Lariat a big hug. No ulterior motives at all.

EXT. MAUDLIN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Lariat walks home. There's a rustle behind her.

LARIAT

I didn't see anything in the paper.

Noah steps out from behind a tree.

NOAH

Lots of strange things happen in Maudlin. People are oddly forgetful.

LARIAT

You're always creeping up on me.

NOAH

And you never seem surprised. You have any trouble sleeping?

LARIAT

How did you know?

NOAH

With magic, your senses are heightened. You'll get used to it. You have to learn to control it or it will control you.

LARIAT

Good tip. I better get home. When I'm late, they assume I'm in mortal peril. And these days, it's not out of the ordinary. Thank you for your help last night.

NOAH

You're welcome.

Lariat starts to walk away, but stops.

LARIAT

OH yeah. One more thing. I don't care what you think you owe my grandmother. I know what you did. You betrayed her.

Noah looks ill.

LARIAT (CONT'D)

And this thing with my mom. It's never gonna happen. You're sick.

NOAH

I know.

LARIAT

I don't need you or trust you. And if you come near me or my family again, I'll make you regret it.

Lariat walks away. Noah stares intently after her.

EXT. BURBERRY ESTATE - DAY

Ben and Cassandra work in the garden. Lariat hops off her bike.

LARIAT

Give it a rest already. The yard looks great.

CASSANDRA

We need to talk about the plan.

BEN

Our plan. We're gonna have our first family meeting.

LARIAT

You're gardening. We have a home and a pet. Once you get jobs and mom starts scrapbooking we'll be a real family. No meeting necessary. We're staying.

CASSANDRA

What the change of heart?

LARIAT

Like you said, if I don't do this job. Who will? People need a little help now and then. A little hope.

BEN

Have you considered...

LARIAT

I have. And I will deal with every unintended consequence that's thrown at me. Starting with how I get that hamster away from Amanda.

Lariat runs into the house.

LARIAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Once upon a time there was a fifteen  
year old girl who was the youngest  
fairy godmother in the world.

Cassandra and Ben look at each other.

LARIAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
So she did some research. She read  
on-line that a traditional fairy  
tale features fairies, goblins, elves  
trolls, giants, even talking animals.  
And enchantments.

Noodle the pig flops down in the yard.

LARIAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
And they often involve a far fetched  
sequence of events. The girl thought  
to herself. That sounds about right.

We pull back to reveal an approaching storm and the yard  
work her parents have been doing. The protective symbols  
from Lariat's necklace have been carved on the roof.

LARIAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
But she felt safe and wasn't worried.

The garden flowers have been planted in the same protective  
patterns surrounding the house. A crack of thunder in the  
distance.

LARIAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Yeah...she really should have been.

CUCKOO!

BLACK OUT

THE END