

Gingerbread

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

on a COLLEGE GIRL gliding out of campus - stylish, smart, pretty...but in an easy way, like a model in a Sears co-ed catalog. Perfect. She carries a duffel bag on her shoulder, and textbooks in her arms...

...which are dumped in a passing trashcan.

With a flick of feathered hair, she summons two more carefree COLLEGE GIRLS to her side. As if to the beat of a vacuous pop song in their heads, they...

EXT. PARKING LOT - COLLEGE CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

...strut towards a BMW convertible, passing a run-down PINTO, boot open.

Pushing a bag inside is HALEY HAWKINS, 19. She's not quite as pretty, not quite as stylish. Her face is wholesome but tense, her brow furrowed - she's the kind of girl who tries hard. Someone used to EFFORT.

She watches the College Girls glide by, all smiles and bouncy hair.

She slams the boot down. It doesn't stick.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Haley slumps into the driver's seat. In the rear-view mirror, she sees the *Happy Spring Break '85!* sign strung over the campus entrance. She rolls her eyes.

A stuffed GINGERBREAD MAN toy dangles from the mirror.

HALEY  
(to toy)  
Think this is a bad idea, huh?

She hears screams of joy as the College Girls drive off.

She opens a messy glovebox and pulls out a cassette tape.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
That makes two of us.

INT. CAR - DAY

Haley drives past sparse fields as a power ballad plays over the car stereo. She doesn't sing along. Her fingers tap out of sync to the beat.

She looks at the Gingerbread Man toy.

HALEY  
(to toy)  
Mom. Dad. We need to talk.

The toy grins teasingly with its sewn-on smile.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
(in toy's 'voice')  
"Yes, our one and only daughter?"

HALEY (CONT'D)  
So. Uh... What? No, Mom, I'm not pregnant. It's just a coincidence that I feel like projectile-puking right now.  
(deep breath)  
I...

She stops, inspects herself in the rear-view mirror.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
I'm golden. I'm golden. I'm...

The toy stares at her, almost GLARES at her. Haley twists the mirror away.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
You're shit.

EXT. CAR - DAY

Haley drives past a sign: *Raven Hollow - 1 mile*.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Haley passes a worn BILLBOARD - a painted image of a quaint, pretty small town. Beneath, the sign reads: *Welcome to Raven Hollow*.

She bites her thumb anxiously.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Ready, little man? Home sweet...

She brakes suddenly, shocked.

EXT. STREET - RAVEN HOLLOW - CONTINUOUS

The town that spreads out before her is NOT the same town on the billboard...or from Haley's memory.

Raven Hollow is dying. Once obviously a slice of small-town heaven, now a collection of worn houses, dying trees and cracked, empty sidewalks.

Haley steps from the car as if witnessing an apocalypse.

HALEY

When did Wes Craven move in?

A sudden wind stirs dead leaves, the sound like eerie whispers in her ears. Haley looks around, spooked...but the street is empty.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Haley drives down MAIN STREET, in shock at the peeling paint and *closing down* signs in nearly every store window.

INT. HALEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

A CORNER STORE catches Haley's attention - like a haze of color through the windscreen.

EXT. HALEY'S CAR - DAY

Haley stares, agog. Across the street is no ordinary corner store - it is a full-scale GINGERBREAD HOUSE.

Like a fragment of a fairytale dropped on the dull sidewalk, the store sparkles with its faux-shortbread facade and rainbow barbershop poles spinning hypnotically at the cookie-shaped door.

Pink frosting drips from the eaves and, through pastel-colored windows, candies glimmer in fantastical displays. Over the door, in cotton-candy letters, reads: *Heavenly*.

Entranced, Haley steps onto the street, towards the store.

MAN (O/S)

What do you think you're doing?

A chubby POLICEMAN leans against a pole, watching her through mirrored shades.

HALEY

Uh, walking.

POLICEMAN  
More like jaywalking.

HALEY  
Dwayne?

POLICEMAN/DWAYNE  
That's 'Officer' to you, ma'am.

HALEY  
Dwayne, it's Haley. From school.

DWAYNE  
Haley Hawkins. Golden Girl of  
Raven Hollow High.

Haley flinches, as if the words physically sting.

HALEY  
I see you've found a job that  
channels your...humanitarian  
side.

DWAYNE  
Drop the sweet talk. You're back  
for the Fair, right? Just like a  
college kid to sniff out a party.

HALEY  
I wouldn't call Remembrance Day a  
party.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
And Raven Hollow ain't no frat  
house. Not while I'm in charge.  
So keep your nose clean.

With a practiced glare, he saunters off down the street.

Haley turns back to Heavenly, crosses the street and  
reaches for the door...just as a hand slides a *CLOSED* sign  
in the window. The barbershop poles stop spinning. The  
light inside fades.

HALEY  
Yep. So glad to be home.

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Haley stands on the porch, surrounded by a dying garden.  
She smoothes her hair, takes a deep breath, and--

The door swings opens - it's JAN, her mother. She smiles,  
revealing wrinkles that run deeper than Haley remembers.

JAN  
A doctor making a house call?!  
Don't we feel special!  
(laughing)  
Oh, honey! We've missed you.

Jan pulls Haley into a hug.

HALEY  
Aw, Mom. It's only been a year.

INT. HALEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Haley drops her bags, and looks around at the trinkets, antiques and keepsakes that cram the dusty room.

HALEY  
I see you're still...collecting.

Jan enters, carrying another of Haley's bags.

JAN  
Collecting? Is Mr Smithsampsian  
Museum just a collector?

HALEY  
'Smithsonian', Mom.

MAN (O/S)  
Well, who else can say they have  
a time capsule in their living  
room?

Haley's father, EDWIN, in grease-covered overalls, enters.

EDWIN (CONT'D)  
And each bit and bob is like a  
fingerprint of Hawkins history.  
Remember that, sweetie.

HALEY  
Dad!

She runs to him, but he holds up his hand.

EDWIN  
My apologies. It's Doctor Hawkins  
now, right?

Haley rolls her eyes and he crushes her in a hug. For a beat, Haley is a just a little girl in her father's arms.

EDWIN (CONT'D)  
(noticing her several bags)  
Just how long is this visit?

Her parents laugh...but Haley can see the weariness behind their smiles.

EDWIN (CONT'D)  
So, tell us about school. How many people have you cut open?

JAN  
Ed!

EDWIN  
What? We're talking shop. You know, examinations, diagnosis, extractions. Sometimes just a poke about--

JAN  
You're a mechanic. Now make yourself useful and take Haley's bags to her room.  
(to Haley)  
It's just as you left it, honey.

Haley forces a smile - the idea doesn't thrill her.

EDWIN  
(struggling with bags)  
All it needs is a dusting.

JAN  
(to Edwin)  
And you'll see to that after the bags. Yes, dear?

EDWIN  
(grumbling as he walks off)  
Yes, dear.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Haley's bedroom is a shrine to 'overachievement' - every inch of space is crammed with certificates, medals, trophies and plaques.

Haley winces, as if she'd forgotten THIS collection.

HALEY  
Nerd.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A sparse, gloomy, sad excuse for a park. Haley stands under a DYING OAK TREE. She touches it gently, like an old friend. With her foot, she draws an 'X' in the dirt below.

YOUNG MAN (O/S)  
Am I interrupting something?

Haley whirls around...to see JUSTIN, 19. He wears eyeliner, a *Choose Life* T-shirt, pleather pants, as if torn between Punk and New Wave. A boy/man of contrasts.

HALEY  
(nervous smile)  
Mr Pre-Law on Spring Break?  
Thought you'd be too busy  
learning to save the world.

JUSTIN  
You seem pretty busy feeling up a  
tree.

HALEY  
Jealous?

JUSTIN  
Hardly. You know how many people  
have gone to second base where  
you're standing?

HALEY  
I know a couple.

Justin smiles...but there is a question in his eyes.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Actually, I buried a time capsule  
here before I left. Yes, lame.

JUSTIN  
Depends - is it full of fanny  
packs? They'll never survive the  
eighties, you know.

HALEY  
Says the guy in the Billy Idol  
costume.

Haley goes to wipe the 'X' away with her foot.

JUSTIN  
Don't be embarrassed, Hales. Must  
been something special in there,  
to wanna bury it.

HALEY  
(soft, with a smile)  
'Hales'.

BEEP! BEEP! A car horn blares, breaking the spell.



On the nearby road sits a pink VW convertible, and out gets TIFFANY, 19, a dime-store Madonna ripoff in neon and lace. *Material Girl* is no doubt playing in her head as she struts towards them.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
That's not...?

JUSTIN  
(stepping away from Haley)  
That is.

Tiffany stops before them.

TIFFANY  
So, like, guess my reunion invite  
got lost in the mail.

HALEY  
Hi, Tiffany. It's been a while.

TIFFANY  
Prom, remember? The night the  
Golden Girl fell from her throne.

HALEY  
Well, you look...bright.

TIFFANY  
You look tired, to be honest.  
Must be all that studying.  
Secretary school?

HALEY  
College. Pre-med.

Tiffany shrugs, then turns to Justin.

TIFFANY  
Ready, babe? Dinner at my  
parents' tonight.

Tiffany smirks at Haley, then walks back to her car.

HALEY  
'Babe'?

JUSTIN  
Sorry. I, uh, wanted to tell y--

BEEP! Tiffany blasts the car horn. Justin jumps in the car, and Tiffany kisses him aggressively. They drive off.

Haley kicks away the 'X' in the dirt.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Haley, Jan and Edwin sit at the table. Jan lifts the lid from a serving dish holding a glistening blueberry tart.

HALEY

Wow.

EDWIN

Now you wish you came home more often, right?

JAN

A special treat for a special girl, courtesy of Heavenly.

HALEY

You mean that Strawberry Shortcake shrine in town?

Jan hands tart slices to Edwin and Haley. Edwin digs in.

EDWIN

(eating tart)

Mmmm. Remember the bakery? Well, the baker kicked the bucket last year. Mmm. The wife took it over. Totally revamped. Mmmm.

JAN

Mouth closed, Ed!

Haley stares at the tart. Something about it bothers her.

HALEY

Looks like it sucked the life out of every other store. Or did I just miss the zombie apocalypse?

Edwin grabs Haley's plate with a wink.

EDWIN

Things aren't that bad. Just needs a good buff and polish.

HALEY

Spoken like a true hoarder.

Edwin throws a blueberry at her.

JAN

Ed! This is not a college cafeteria! I'm sure Haley wants a civilized meal for a change.

HALEY  
(deep breath)  
Speaking of college...

EDWIN  
What's wrong? You don't like it?

JAN  
Are you having trouble making friends?

EDWIN  
Impossible. Who wouldn't want to be friends with a Prom Queen?

HALEY  
Almost Prom Queen.

EDWIN  
You were the real winner.  
Everyone knows.

JAN  
Don't forget valedictorian.

HALEY  
Mom, everyone in college was a valedictorian.

JAN  
It matters to us. It shows how hard you try when you want something.

EDWIN  
And that'll take you further than a trust fund or a fancy car.

JAN  
You're the first Hawkins to go to college too. We're so proud of you, honey.

HALEY  
(forces a smile)  
Well, try to contain yourselves.  
You don't wanna have a stroke.  
College is fine. I'm fine.

Jan frowns in concern. Edwin grins, mouth full of tart.

EDWIN  
Just keep being you, sweetie.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In bed, Haley stares at the ceiling. She closes her eyes.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. RAVEN HOLLOW - DAY

Haley stands at the border of Raven Hollow. The town is bright, clean and flourishing - the way she remembers it.

A deep rumbling. Haley turns - a DARK CLOUD moves swiftly over the town. Under its shadow, the trees die, paint peels, houses rot...and townspeople crumble to dust.

Haley runs - the cloud chases her, ready to engulf her--

INT. HALEY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

She bursts into the house. Jan and Edwin sit at the kitchen table, their backs to her.

HALEY

Mom! Dad!

She touches their shoulders - their heads loll back, withered to SKELETONS.

JAN SKELETON/EDWIN SKELETON

Naughty, naughty, Haley Hawky!

Haley SCREAMS--

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley wakes up with a gasp.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Haley enters sleepily - Jan is at the table, her back to her...just like in her nightmare. Haley touches Jan's shoulder hesitantly.

HALEY

Mom?

A beat...then Jan jolts awake. Haley exhales.

JAN

Oh! Morning, honey. My, you look like you haven't slept at all.

Jan gets up and begins filling the kettle with water.

HALEY

Another night like that, and I'll be leading the zombie apocalypse.

JAN

Why don't you visit your friend at the library? The walk'll wake you up.

HALEY

Who?

JAN

Whats-her-name. Oh. My memory isn't as good as it used to be.

The kettle overflows.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Haley walks down the dreary street. A FLYER blows past towards the Town Square, where a MONUMENT rises.

Haley catches the flyer at the base of the monument. It advertises the *Remembrance Day Fair*, in one week's time. Miniature ravens adorn the flyer's border.

The monument - a giant RAVEN sculpture, anchored by a chain - glares at Haley with one eye. Below, a plaque reads: *Dedicated to the children of Raven Hollow Orphanage, 1785, taken by Erasmus Ives. Rest in peace.*

Haley shivers. She turns to the crumbling, gothic-style LIBRARY across the street, overlooking the Square.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

In the foyer, Haley looks at a wall of photos. In one, Haley, 17, holds a MEDAL. The caption reads: '*Haley Hawkins Wins 1983 Raven Hollow High Science Fair.*' Haley reaches up and flicks her smiling teen face.

At the counter, a Librarian scans books. This is AMELIA, a 19-year-old version of Angela Lansbury.

Their eyes meet. Amelia looks away and continues scanning.

AMELIA  
Interested in a library card?

HALEY  
Amelia. I didn't know you worke--

AMELIA  
You would know, if you bothered  
to write. Like you promised.

HALEY  
I-I know I did. Things just--

MILLICENT, a grumpy older lady reading in a nearby chair,  
glares at them.

MILLICENT  
Shhh!

Amelia grabs another pile of books and begins scanning.

AMELIA  
(quieter)  
So, how's college, Doc?

HALEY  
It's...fine.

Amelia keeps scanning. The silence is crushing.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Amelia...please...  
(gently takes Amelia's hand)  
I'm sorry.

Amelia looks down, sees the CHARM BRACELET on her own  
wrist...but Haley's wrist is BARE.

Haley removes her hand quickly. Amelia sees tears in  
Haley's eyes. Her frostiness melts.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Haley and Amelia stroll, drinking sodas. Amelia inspects  
Haley with a side glance.

HALEY  
What?

AMELIA  
You seem...different. I don't  
know. Guess I'll always see you  
in your school sweater, leading  
assembly like the next Geraldine  
Ferraro.

HALEY

Don't remind me. What about you?  
Head librarian? That's news.

AMELIA

The only librarian, ever since Ms  
Noakes went cuckoo.

HALEY

Cuckoo? Oh, the poor woman. When?

AMELIA

About a year now. Started  
rambling about the end of the  
world, visions, the whole  
package. I blame the job. Being a  
librarian is really stressful.

HALEY

I remember she used to say...  
(with Amelia joining in)  
"Words have power, children."

They both chuckle, which turns into a sad smile.

A rusty POSTBOX lies across the sidewalk. Haley sidesteps,  
but Amelia routinely steps over it, not even noticing.

HALEY (CONT'D)

It's like they filmed *Nightmare  
on Elm Street* here and forgot to  
take down the set.

AMELIA

If I were you, I'd be lounging at  
Laguna Beach right now, letting  
an ethnically mysterious exchange  
student named 'Juan' slather me  
with oil.

HALEY

(shocked)  
Your glasses literally just  
fogged up. Looney Tunes style.

AMELIA

There's a shortage of beefcake in  
town, in case you didn't notice.

HALEY

Well, I did run into Justin.

AMELIA

Ugh. I said beef, not vegetable.  
What did you ever see in Pleather  
Pants, anyway?

HALEY

He doesn't care what people think. It's kinda...brave.

AMELIA

That explains the eyeliner. And why he'd rather work in that gross theater than go to college.

HALEY

He's not here for Spring Break?

AMELIA

Nope. He's been selling stale popcorn since you left.

Haley frowns at this. They reach the library. Amelia sighs.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Hey, you wanna come over tonight?

HALEY

Sorry, my parents are in the middle of some *Brady Bunch* role play.

A flicker of sadness on Amelia's face.

HALEY (CONT'D)

(awkwardly)

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

AMELIA

Hey, I'm OK. Being the town orphan is as close to celebrity status as I'll get.

HALEY

Well, how about a sleepover this week? Just like old times.

AMELIA

Great!

Amelia skips up the library steps, thrilled.

Across the Square, Heavenly displays a sign: *OPEN*.

INT. HEAVENLY - DAY

The doorbell jingles as Haley enters...and gasps.

From the candy-pebble path winding through the store...to the giant candy-cane columns rising over mirrored cabinets of treats...to the walls sparkling with candy caverns... the store IS a confectionery heaven to rival Willy Wonka.



And at the back, behind a faux-gingerbread counter, is a monstrous antique BRASS OVEN with a heavy iron door.

MALE VOICE (O/S)

Sample?

IVAN, 19, pale, wide-eyed, holds a tray of cookies. Haley takes one, squirming in his gaze.

WOMAN (O/S)

Ivan!

An OLDER WOMAN appears at the counter - ZELDA. She is flour-dusted, homely, but her eyes are small and dark, like chocolate buttons...or black holes.

ZELDA

Stop scaring the customers, boy.  
Go and clean the oven.

Ivan scampers away. Zelda's scarlet lips curl into a grin.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Such a pretty face! But you're not a regular, I know that.

HALEY

It's my first time. It's...rad.

ZELDA

Wait till you try one of my creations! I'm Zelda, purveyor of all things sweet.

HALEY

Haley. I grew up here.

ZELDA

You must've gone to school with my Ivan, then.

Ivan peers at her from behind the oven. He knows her.

HALEY

(unsure)  
Um, I think--

ZELDA

Well, he's easy to forget. You're staying for the Fair? Surely you remember that.

HALEY

(forced smile)  
I do. I was the wreath-bearer last year, actually.

ZELDA  
Of course, you pretty thing. I  
knew I'd seen you before.

The doorbell jingles - Dwayne struts into the store.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
What can I entice you with today,  
Officer?

DWAYNE  
I'm here on business more serious  
than candy, Zelda.

Haley sniggers. Zelda holds a polite smile.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
Your boy's been at it again. Some  
folks saw him, uh...  
(reads from small note pad)  
..."loitering" on their front  
lawn. At midnight.

ZELDA  
Loitering?! My, how horrific!

DWAYNE  
This time I'll have to take him  
in. Trespassing.

Zelda slides a GINGERBREAD MAN onto a tray. Dwayne's  
fingers twitch.

ZELDA  
Well, that is the law. Please,  
help yourself to my new batch  
while I fetch him for you.

Zelda slides away. Dwayne gobbles the gingerbread man  
greedily. Haley grimaces at the grotesque sight.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
(holds Ivan by the collar)  
Here he is, Officer. Time for you  
to teach him a lesson.

Dwayne looks up with suddenly GLAZED EYES. He shakes his  
head, dazed.

DWAYNE  
Uh... Look, Zelda, why don't I  
let this one slide? No harm done.  
I'm sure that lesson's learnt.

ZELDA  
Oh, aren't you sweet? Don't  
worry, he'll be a good boy from  
now on. I'll make sure of it.

She nudges Ivan sharply till he cracks a meek smile.  
Dwayne nods and leaves, licking crumbs from his lips.

Zelda turns to Haley, grinning. Uncomfortable, Haley looks down. The sample cookie is now a melted smear in her hand.

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - DAY

Haley pulls a single letter from the letterbox:

*TO: Haley Hawkins*

*FROM: Stoneybrook University*

A HAND grabs her - she yelps, dropping the letter. It is Justin, in his trademark 'fight the power' getup.

JUSTIN

First rule of a horror movie -  
watch your back.

HALEY

If this is a horror movie, that  
explains your fashion sense.

JUSTIN

Ha. I've missed you.

Haley is taken aback at his words. So is Justin.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Uh, just wanted to apologize for  
the other day. Tiffany's still...

HALEY

Still exactly the same?

JUSTIN

Aren't we all?

An awkward beat. They stare at each other - what next?

JUSTIN

What's with the letter? Bad news?

HALEY

(grabs letter from ground)  
Nothing. What's with the toolbox?

Justin looks down at the TOOLBOX in his hands.

JUSTIN

I'm branching out. Theater usher  
by night, town handyman by day.

HALEY  
 Saving the world one creaky door  
 at a time, huh?

JUSTIN  
 Saving the world. Sure.

Justin starts off down the street. Haley follows.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Justin and Haley stand before a DILAPIDATED HOUSE. The letterbox reads *Noakes*.

HALEY  
 I heard she went crazy.

JUSTIN  
 Says the girl spending Spring  
 Break in Raven Hollow.

He walks up the path. Haley follows reluctantly. Justin knocks on the rotting wooden door. No answer. He turns the door handle - the door creaks open.

HALEY  
 (bites her thumb)  
 Justin--

JUSTIN  
 Since when were you scared,  
 Golden Girl?

INT. MS NOAKES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He steps into the open LIVING ROOM.

JUSTIN  
 Ms Noakes? It's Justin. Any  
 repairs today?

No answer. Haley creeps in behind him.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Come on, she'll be somewhere.

He takes Haley's hand, then quickly releases it.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Sorry. Old habit.

Justin tucks his hand into his pocket. Haley smiles...and then SCREAMS as a gnarled HAND grabs her. It's MS NOAKES, her hair white and wild, her eyes cloudy and distant.

MS NOAKES  
Who are you?

HALEY  
Uh...

JUSTIN  
It's Justin, Ms Noakes. And  
Haley. My...friend.

Haley can't help flinching at the word *friend*.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Do you need anything fixed?

MS NOAKES  
Oh, good boy. I can't get the  
kettle singing. Must be the gas.

Justin takes her arm gently and heads to the kitchen.

Haley wanders to the fireplace, where dusty TRINKETS cram  
the mantelpiece - a music box, a sphinx replica, a jade  
ashtray and other various baubles.

MS NOAKES (O/S)  
They're my special things. My  
memories.

Ms Noakes appears next to her, smiling dreamily.

HALEY  
They're pretty.

MS NOAKES  
More than that. They keep me  
safe. He doesn't like roots, you  
see. They get in his way.

HALEY  
He?

Ms Noakes' smile fades. Her eyes are suddenly CLEAR.

MS NOAKES  
The Devil.

Haley's eyes widen in surprise...and fear.

In the distance, Justin hammers against metal. The sound  
echoes around the house. BAM! BAM! BAM!

MS NOAKES (CONT'D)  
We burnt him to the bone...but  
he's back. Can't you feel him?

Justin's hammering echoes louder. BAM! BAM! BAM!

Ms Noakes grasps Haley's hands, trapping her in her gaze.

MS NOAKES (CONT'D)  
He doesn't have you yet. But he  
will...

BAM! BAM! BAM! Haley wrenches free and backs out the front door. Ms Noakes' white hands stretch after her.

MS NOAKES (CONT'D)  
Soon...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

JUSTIN (O/S)  
Haley! Wait!

Haley stops at the sidewalk, panting. Justin reaches her.  
A SIREN BLEEPs. Dwayne gets out of his police car.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Oh, look. It's Dwaaayne.

DWAYNE  
Officer to you, son. Had a report  
of a scream from Ms Noakes'  
place. I assume you're involved?

JUSTIN  
As a matter of fact, Dwaaayne--

HALEY  
That was me. We were helping Ms  
Noakes with some repairs and I,  
uh, saw a spider.

Justin nods dramatically. Dwayne glares at Justin.

DWAYNE  
Don't you get sick of swimming  
against the tide?

JUSTIN  
Did you read a book of cliches  
while you were in line for a Big  
Mac? Then you must know the one  
about school bullies always  
becoming cops.

Haley grins...till she sees CRUMBS around Dwayne's lips.

DWAYNE  
School's over, son. Time to grow  
up. Fix that attitude, and you  
might have what it takes to apply  
for deputy. You got the guts.

JUSTIN

Really, Dwaaayne? I have the guts  
to strut around deserted streets  
and get free cupcakes from old  
ladies? Where do I sign?!

Dwayne glares at him. Justin glares back.

DWAYNE

Wrong, son. No cupcakes for me.  
I'm strictly a gingerbread man.

He gets in the car and speeds off.

JUSTIN

You sure are.  
(turns to Haley)  
Are you OK? Why'd you run out?

HALEY

Don't worry. Let's just say I've  
turned into a real spazz lately.

She starts walking, embarrassed. Justin follows.

JUSTIN

Well, college is a journey of  
self-discovery.

Haley is unsure if she's being insulted. He grins back.

HALEY

How would you know? You never  
went.

JUSTIN

I never said I would.

HALEY

Yes, you did. College, law  
school, save the world. Your  
plan, remember?

JUSTIN

Right. What was yours? Disappear  
into the sunset after Remembrance  
Day? Well, you nailed it.

They stop outside Haley's house.

HALEY

Hey, I didn't bust my ass for a  
scholarship to wind up working in  
an old movie theater.

Justin flinches. Haley bites her lip in regret.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
It's OK. Nice to know something  
hasn't changed. Like old times.

Their eyes meet. Something is REKINDLED. She touches his  
hand. He lets her. Haley leans in. Their lips touch.  
Justin pulls away.

JUSTIN  
Sorry. But...Tiffany. New times.

HALEY  
Right. Prom queen. Nice upgrade.

Haley heads into her house. Overhead, thunder rumbles.

INT. CAR - DAY

Rain hammers the roof. Haley tears the UNIVERSITY LETTER  
to pieces, shoves them in the glovebox. She pushes a TAPE  
into the cassette player. *Spandau Ballet's 'Gold'* plays.

HALEY  
(singing along softly)  
"Gold...you're indestructible...  
always believe in--"

Haley ejects the cassette and throws it in the glovebox.

The Gingerbread Man toy on the rear-view mirror catches  
her eye. It sways faintly, sewn-on lips smiling.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
You think you're so clever.

Haley's gaze narrows...as if she's trying to see beneath  
the toy's dead eyes.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
"Tyger, tyger, burning bright  
In the forests of the night..."

She stops. She has NO IDEA where those words came from.

INT. BEDROOM - MS NOAKES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Ms Noakes lies asleep in bed. She whimpers softly.



EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Justin exits the revolving door of the run-down theater. He gives the stuck door a kick, then locks it in place.

INT. BEDROOM - HALEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Haley searches among the clothes in her closet...until she finds her SCHOOL SWEATER. It makes her smile.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Justin walks past the dying trees. He sees a FIGURE - it's Ivan, BURYING SOMETHING in a hole in the patchy grass.

INT. BEDROOM - MS NOAKES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Ms Noakes lurches up in bed.

MS NOAKES

Haley!

INT. BEDROOM - HALEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Haley, wearing her school sweater, lies in bed, reading the *1984 Raven Hollow Yearbook*.

She stops at the senior portraits. Below hers, it reads: *Haley Hawkins - Newspaper (editor), Debate Team (Captain), Band (1st Chair), School Council (President), Lacrosse Team (Captain), Swim Team (Captain), Honor Roll, Valedictorian.*

HALEY

Geek.

She finds Justin's photo, with his trademark eyeliner. Below it reads: *Politics Club, United Nations Club, PETA Club, Film Club, Scrapbooking Club.* She grins.

Next to Justin is Ivan's photo - pale and wide-eyed. Below it reads: *Dungeons & Dragons Club.*

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Ms Noakes is at the window, like some wailing ghost.

MS NOAKES

He took the children, now he  
comes for us! In metal and fire  
he will rise, and the town will  
fall! The Devil will take us all!

Haley SCREAMS--

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Edwin helps a shaky Ms Noakes into Dwayne's police car, as Dwayne watches disapprovingly.

Haley, still shaken, stands at the doorstep with Jan.

In the distance, Ivan watches from the sidewalk, holding a SHOVEL in his hands. His eyes meet Haley's.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Haley shuffles, obviously lacking sleep.

VHOOM! A paper flower bouquet lands at her feet. She looks up. BERT, the Maintenance Man, on a ladder above her, hangs a line of paper bouquets across the street.

HALEY

Hi, Bert.

MR MELVILLE, the Mayor, appears - a chubby, sweaty thing in a suit two sizes too small.

MR MELVILLE

(to Maintenance Man)

Bert, do you think paper flowers grow on trees?!

(to Haley)

Pardon, miss. No harm done, see?

HALEY

It's Haley, Mr Melville.

MR MELVILLE

That's nice, miss.

HALEY

You think there's enough, uh, town spirit for a Fair this year?

MR MELVILLE

(wiping his brow)

Raven Hollow has never been better, miss. Besides, we received a generous donation from a local business on the promise that the Fair would take place. And she'll provide refreshments - enough cakes and cookies to last till midnight! What a deal!

HALEY

'She'?

MR MELVILLE

Yes. Uh...Zelda. Lovely lady from the candy store. Practically twisted my arm. How's that for town spirit, miss?

Haley looks across the Square at Heavenly, glistening.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Haley stands at the counter, as Amelia piles up books.

AMELIA

Erasmus Ives.

Amelia grabs half of the books. She bossily motions for Haley to grab the other half.

HALEY

The killer? From 17...17...?

AMELIA

1785.

HALEY

He's Ms Noakes' devil?

Millicent, reading nearby on a couch, looks up.

MILLICENT

Shhh!

AMELIA

(quietly, to Haley)

Don't you remember history class?

Amelia walks down the central corridor of the library. Haley follows, carrying her pile of books.

HALEY

(defensive)

Of course I do. When the townsfolk found the orphans' bodies, they went all Salem on Erasmus' ass and burnt him at the stake. But what's that got to do with Ms Noakes vision?

Amelia turns into an aisle. She climbs a ladder and begins stuffing her books onto the dusty shelves.

AMELIA

Because her so-called 'visions' started the day after last year's Remembrance Day Fair. The day you left. Remember that?

Haley hears a sharpness in her voice.

HALEY

Right. Well, that's why I didn't know--

AMELIA

(in know-it-all tone)

Anyway. Remembrance Day isn't just about the orphans. It's the anniversary of Erasmus' death. We're remembering what he did. I guess Ms Noakes' mixed-up brain thinks it could happen again.

HALEY

My money's on Dwayne.

Amelia motions for Haley's books. Haley passes them up.

HALEY (CONT'D)

But...why my window? Why me?

AMELIA

Librarians. Books. Cuckoo.

HALEY

Well, if you feel the urge to start smashing windows at midnight...go watch a Jane Fonda workout tape instead.

AMELIA

No sane person ever wore that much lycra. I'll take my chances with books.

Haley passes up the last books - she is not satisfied.

EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Sunset - shadows bleed across the gothic library exterior.

In the Square, Haley stares up at the raven sculpture.

HALEY

Killing kids. That's one way to make it into the history books.

ZELDA (O/S)

Be careful taking hearsay as history, my dear.

Haley jumps - Zelda is behind her, with a basket of cakes.

HALEY

Hearsay? You don't think...?

ZELDA

I think time twists the truth.  
Makes monsters out of gods.

(soft)

And idols out of the ordinary.

Zelda sees Haley's surprise, and smiles.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

They were orphans, to be fair. No family to mourn them. Flowers in a storm...

HALEY

Well, what about his family?

ZELDA

He was a bachelor - a lonely role in those days, I imagine. Of course, there were rumors of an illegitimate daughter...

HALEY

Well, hearsay isn't history.

ZELDA

Exactly. And now, just like his remains, the Ives legacy is lost. Forgotten.

HALEY

Well, except for this giant bird statue with his name on it.

Zelda touches the plaque delicately.

ZELDA

Will you be reprising your role as wreath-bearer this year?

HALEY

I'm not quite as ambitious as I used to be.

ZELDA

Well, don't miss it. I think it'll be the best one yet.

Zelda strolls off, swinging her basket.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley and Amelia sit on sleeping bags, surrounded by junk food wrappers. Amelia, without glasses, tenses as Haley applies make-up to her surprisingly pretty face.

AMELIA  
Truth or dare?

HALEY  
Truth.

AMELIA  
Tell me about the men.

HALEY  
Again?! College isn't a Harlequin novel, Amelia.

AMELIA  
More like a sausage smorgasbord.  
So spill it.

Haley inspects a Twinkie wrapper.

HALEY  
To be honest, I didn't meet many people. I kinda kept to myself.

AMELIA  
Really? For a whole year?

Haley shrugs.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
Well, I know what that's like.

HALEY  
(guilt-ridden)  
I'm sorry I didn't write to you.

AMELIA  
Hey, I'd forget this place too if I was brave enough to leave.

HALEY  
So you've noticed it too?

AMELIA  
What?

HALEY  
Everything feels...different.

AMELIA  
You're only been gone a year.

HALEY

Exactly. How could Raven Hollow change so much so quickly?

AMELIA

The recession. The ozone. Reagan?

HALEY

It's more than that. It's dying. Like, from beneath. Like there's something dark. Below--

KNOCK-KNOCK! Amelia screams as Jan appears at the door.

JAN

Sorry, girls! Just thought you'd like some more snacks.

She peers suspiciously at Amelia.

JAN (CONT'D)

Are you girls OK? You're not...getting high, are you?

Amelia snorts with laughter. Haley smiles innocently.

HALEY

I was just telling a ghost story.

Jan places a plate of cookies before them.

JAN

Well, it's nice seeing you girls together again. Just like old times. Now eat these cookies while they're warm - they're fresh from Heavenly.

She leaves. Haley looks at the cookies with a grimace. She slides the plate to Amelia. Amelia slides it back.

AMELIA

Uh-uh. Boogers Bateman works there.

HALEY

Who? You mean Ivan?

AMELIA

From school, remember? The boy with his finger permanently up his nose? I bet those chewy brown chunks aren't chocolate chips.

Haley laughs. Amelia smiles, pleased at Haley's reaction.

HALEY

You know, you and Justin must be  
the only normal people left in  
Raven Hollow.

AMELIA

(smile fading)

I guess you've seen a lot of  
Justin since you've been back.

HALEY

Not really. He's moved on. So  
have I.

She runs her finger over her lips, lost in thought. Amelia  
watches, unconvinced.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Haley sits against her favorite tree, a PINK CAKE BOX from  
Heavenly in her lap. Above, dark clouds swirl angrily.

Haley opens the box - a BURNT SKULL sits inside, grinning.

Around her, trees suddenly wither. Grass dies beneath her.

BURNT SKULL

"Naughty, naughty, Haley Hawky!"

A lightning bolt strikes the tree. Haley SCREAMS--

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley wakes with a gasp. Next to her, Amelia sleeps.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Beneath her favorite tree, Haley marks an 'X' in the dirt.  
She's not sure why, but she kneels...and begins to dig.

A siren blips - Dwayne glares from his car on the road.

HALEY

Oh, great.

Dwayne exits the car and struts towards her.



DWAYNE  
Haley Hawkins committing  
destruction of public property?  
How the mighty have fallen.

HALEY  
Uh...I--

IVAN (O/S)  
She's with me.

Ivan appears from behind a tree, carrying a basket of pink boxes. Haley eyes them nervously.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
We're burying prizes. For the  
Fair's scavenger hunt.

DWAYNE  
Correction - burying prizes  
without council permission.

Ivan holds out a box.

IVAN  
Mom's newest gingerbread batch.  
Fresh from the oven.

DWAYNE  
(snatches the box)  
Bribing an officer, huh? You...

Dwayne bites into the cookies. Ivan grins. After a beat...

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
What's say I let you off with a  
warning? Just toss me some extra  
clues for this scavenger hunt.

IVAN  
Sure thing, Officer.

Dwayne nods, leaves. Haley turns to Ivan, amazed.

HALEY  
What do you put in those things?!

IVAN  
Mom would kill me if I told you.

Haley laughs...but Ivan doesn't. His wide eyes pin Haley.

HALEY  
Well, thanks for the rescue--

IVAN  
You don't remember me, do you?

HALEY  
Sure. Uh...D&D club, right?

Ivan smiles. Haley turns...but Ivan suddenly grabs her.

IVAN  
You need to leave.

Ivan's smile is gone - his pale face is now panicked.

HALEY  
Hey! You're hurting me!

IVAN  
Get in your car and go back to college. Go anywhere. Just leave Raven Hollow. Now.

HALEY  
Why? What's gonna happen?

Haley wrenches free, spilling Ivan's cookies. He whimpers and scoops them up quickly.

IVAN  
Nothing. I didn't mean it. Just a stupid joke. Ha.

He scurries nervously away.

INT. FOYER - MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Dusty and dimly lit by antique lamps. Old, faded posters hang on the walls. It would be cool if it weren't so sad.

Justin is refilling the popcorn machine behind the refreshment counter.

HALEY (O/S)  
Hi.

He sees Haley, looking tense.

JUSTIN  
Perfect timing - *Labyrinth* starts in five minutes. David Bowie in purple tights. You in?

Haley glances around - Millicent, holding a movie ticket, glares back disapprovingly.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Sorry about the other day, by the way. I've been watching a lot of Burt Reynolds' stuff. Must be channeling that raw charisma.

Haley forces a smile. Justin notices.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Wow. I just gave you a clear shot, and you didn't even swing.

HALEY  
 Can we talk?

JUSTIN  
 As you wish.

He opens an unmarked door next to the refreshment counter, and steps through. Haley hesitates.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
 Scared again, Golden Girl?

Haley steps into the room.

HALEY  
 Don't call me that.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Filled with candy stock, syrup bottles and kernel bags - a poor man's Heavenly.

Haley bits her thumb. Justin smiles.

JUSTIN  
 You still do that.

HALEY  
 Do what?

Justin imitates her thumb-biting.

JUSTIN  
That. When you're thinking. Or nervous. Don't be.

Justin waits. Haley takes a breath...

HALEY  
 Have you ever eaten the gingerbread from Heavenly?

JUSTIN

Wow. OK. That was...not what I expected you to say.

Haley waits for his answer. Justin shrugs dismissively.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Sure. Zelda sometimes comes by with samples. So?

HALEY

And you...feel OK?

JUSTIN

Yeah. Sorry to disappoint.

HALEY

No, I just...I think her and her little store have something to do with what's happened to Raven Hollow.

JUSTIN

"Cookies take over small town."  
Sounds like a bad Cannon movie.  
I'd definitely watch it.

Justin grabs a clipboard and begins ticking off candy stock. He turns back - Haley's tense face hasn't moved.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh, Man. You're actually serious.

HALEY

Don't you think it's weird that Raven Hollow went all grody after Zelda set up shop? Don't you think it's weird that Ivan would warn me to leave?

JUSTIN

Hey, we're all doubting your sanity for spending Spring Break in Shitsville.

HALEY

It wasn't always Shitsville. You know it. So what's your theory?

Justin inspects his clipboard with sudden intensity.

JUSTIN

You were gone for a year, Hales.  
Things change.

Haley looks at his nametag with a raised eyebrow.

HALEY

Really?

JUSTIN

Well, we can't all be doctors.  
Now, if you'll excuse me, I have  
to fix the toilet that's been  
filled with shit since Dwayne  
came to see *Police Academy*.

HALEY

Saving the world, huh?

JUSTIN

One turd at a time.

Haley leaves. Justin waits...then punches the closest bag  
of popcorn kernels - it explodes all around the room.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Haley sits on the counter, reading overdue book titles  
from a checklist, as Amelia organizes the card catalog.

HALEY

(reading list)

*The Girl With the Silver Eyes.*  
*Peanut-Butter Poltergeist.* *The*  
*Joy of...Sex?*

Amelia discreetly pulls *The Joy of Sex* from a drawer.

AMELIA

That one's returned. I...forgot.

HALEY

Oh, really...

(inspects list)

..."Valentina Von Starr"?

She raises an eyebrow. Amelia looks guilty.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Why are you signing-out books  
with an alias straight out of a  
Harlequin romance?

AMELIA

Because the last time a real  
person borrowed a book, Jane  
Fonda still wore breathable  
fabrics. I need this job, OK? I'm  
not on Spring Break.

HALEY  
 (forced smile)  
 Oh. Well, I can keep a secret.

Amelia snaps her fingers. Haley goes back to the list.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
 (reading list)  
*Horror of High Ridge. Mystery of  
 Chimney Rock.*  
 (beat)  
*The Cookbook of the...Occult?*  
 Since when did the library carry  
 a book on witchcraft?

AMELIA  
 Since people began dumping old  
 books at the front door. Which is  
 why we have ten copies of Burt  
 Reynolds' unauthorized biography.

Haley inspects the list.

HALEY  
 Hmm. Looks like Raven Hollow's  
 candymaker is the one with an  
 interest in the occult.

AMELIA  
 Zelda?

HALEY  
 Overdue for almost a year too.  
 Gonna take a lot of cookies to  
 pay for that.

AMELIA  
 (recalling)  
 That's right. She came in to  
 apologize - said it got lost in  
 the store renovation. Then she  
 shoved a plate of cookies at me.

HALEY  
 So you have eaten cookies from  
 Heavenly. Choc-chip? Oatmeal?  
 Peanut butter & boogers?

Amelia grabs an eraser and throws it at Haley.

AMELIA  
 Don't make me barf! They were  
 gingerbread!

HALEY  
 Her famous gingerbread? Huh.

Haley frowns - her mind is beginning to turn.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

The doorbell jingles as Haley enters, holding the PINK CAKE BOX - it is stained with dirt.

She wanders down the path past the towering candy-cane columns. The silence is heavy.

She passes the kitchen, where Amelia and Justin stand, pressing gingerbread men cutouts into layers of dough.

AMELIA/JUSTIN

"Naughty, naughty Haley Hawky..."

The antique oven looms, hissing - it is the sound of gas escaping. Haley stares through the oven grate into the inky depths. The hissing grows louder.

AMELIA/JUSTIN (CONT'D)

"Stole a piece of sugar  
toffee..."

The box in Haley's hand shakes.

AMELIA/JUSTIN (CONT'D)

"From a little candy shop..."

A SKELETON ARM bursts from the box and grabs Haley's throat--

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley leaps up in bed, screaming. Jan is next to her.

JAN

It's OK, honey! It was just a  
dream!

HALEY

(shakily)  
Mom. Did I wake you?

JAN

No, no. Come here, lie down.

Haley leans into Jan. Jan caresses her hair.

JAN (CONT'D)

Do you want to talk about it?

HALEY

Do you want to visit me in the loony bin?

JAN

You know, I can't ever remember you having a nightmare. Nothing frightened you.

Haley looks around her room, plastered with awards.

JAN (CONT'D)

I know something isn't right with you, honey. I could tell as soon as you arrived. You can tell us anything, you know that?

Haley opens her mouth - she WANTS to speak.

JAN (CONT'D)

Nothing you do could upset us. You're our perfect little girl. And you're going to be a wonderful doctor.

Haley closes her mouth. Instead, she hugs Jan tightly.

HALEY

I'm sorry for not visiting.

INT. DRUG STORE - DAY

An obviously tired Haley approaches the checkout - the cashier is Tiffany. Haley reluctantly hands over a bottle of SLEEPING PILLS.

TIFFANY

See, I thought you looked tired.

Haley fakes an amused smile. Tiffany scans her pills.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

\$2.00. So, will I see you at the Fair? You'll see me - I'll be up the front, holding the wreath.

HALEY

(hands over money)

A cheap, tacky ornament carrying a cheap, tacky ornament? How will we know which one is you?

TIFFANY

Someone sounds jealous. Reminds me of Prom Night.

In line behind Haley, Millicent 'tsks' impatiently.



TIFFANY (CONT'D)  
 My dad keeps my crown on display  
 on our mantelpiece. It hasn't  
 lost any of its sparkle.

HALEY  
 Well, something has to compensate  
 for your personality.

Haley snatches the pills. Tiffany's smug smile fades.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Haley walks angrily past Heavenly and hears a loud knock -  
 Zelda is beckoning her in.

INT. HEAVENLY - DAY

Zelda smiles at Haley from behind the counter.

ZELDA  
 I hear you rescued my Ivan the  
 other day. That fat boy in the  
 uniform loves picking on him.

HALEY  
 Actually, Ivan was the one--

ZELDA  
 A good girl deserves a treat. So,  
 what's your poison?

HALEY  
 Poison?

Zelda chuckles, her eyes like black diamonds.

Haley looks around. In a mirrored cabinet, she sees the  
 reflection of a large, worn LEATHER-BOUND BOOK.

She turns to the source of the reflection - one of  
 the candy-cane columns, with a concealed door left partly  
 open. Inside, on a shelf is the book.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
 (to Zelda)  
 Marshmallow balls.

Zelda reaches for a bag next to the counter.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
 No. The ones at the back. Please.

Zelda nods, and walks off. Haley creeps to the candy-cane  
 column and peeks inside. She gasps when she reads the  
 spine of the book - *The Cookbook of the Occult*.

She reaches through the gap and grabs the book. Like magic, it falls open in her arms to a bookmarked page:

*Animating the Expired.*

Haley's breath catches. A beat of indecision...then she tears the page out, slides the book back and turns - to see Zelda at the counter, with her marshmallow balls.

ZELDA

Try one.

Haley stuffs one into her mouth.

HALEY

Mmm. Now, that's...heavenly.

Haley walks quickly down the candy-pebble path.

ZELDA

See you. Soon...

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Haley spits out the marshmallow and heads for the library.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Haley triumphantly slams the TORN PAGE onto the counter. Justin and Amelia both give her a 'WTF' look.

HALEY

You need to update your records because *The Cookbook of the Occult* has been found alive and well in Heavenly. Here's proof.

AMELIA

You defaced a library book?! That's a federal offense!

JUSTIN

Golden Girl gone ghetto.

HALEY

Hey, Zelda stole the book. I just want to know why.

They crowd around. Beneath the *Animating the Expired* title is a list of INGREDIENTS written in a spidery font.

AMELIA

(reading)

"Buttermilk, a pinch of sugar, half a brandy noggin..."

JUSTIN  
Mmm, sure beats New Coke.

AMELIA  
(reading)  
"One pound toadstools, minced  
calf brain, stillborn raven  
egg..."

Amelia grimaces.

JUSTIN  
Hey, still beats New Coke.

HALEY  
(reading)  
"Remains of human offertory,  
finely ground for seasoning..."  
(disturbed)  
This is no recipe I've ever seen.

Below the ingredients is a VERSE.

JUSTIN  
(reading)  
"In the fires of injustice you  
were taken,  
  
Through the fires of revenge you  
will awaken..."  
(cracks up laughing)  
Sounds like the depressing poetry  
I wrote in Mr Rix's class.

He looks at Haley. She isn't laughing.

HALEY  
(soft)  
Words have power...

AMELIA  
Actually, that's just something  
librarians say to make kids read.

HALEY  
No, this is part of it. Maybe  
Ivan knows it too.

JUSTIN  
Knows what?

HALEY  
I've been having...weird dreams.  
Since I came back. Storm clouds,  
skulls, ovens on fire...

Haley stops. Justin and Amelia stare, open-mouthed.

JUSTIN  
You just predicted the final  
season of *Dynasty*.

AMELIA  
Haley, step into my office.

Amelia leads Haley into the Romance Fiction aisle.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
You're on vacation - you need to  
switch off the brain. Chill out.

HALEY  
Oh, really? With Ivan telling me  
to leave? With Ms Noakes banging  
on my window about the devil?

AMELIA  
She's just sensitive around  
Remembrance Day. I told you that.

HALEY  
(reluctant)  
You think I'm talking crazy?

AMELIA  
I...think you look like you need  
a good night's sleep. Leave the  
research to me - that's my thing.

Haley sighs. Across the library, Justin watches.

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

A full moon coats the town in a glowing, shadowy haze.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley lies in bed, staring at the verse on the torn page.

HALEY  
(reading)  
"In the fires of injustice you  
were taken,  
  
Through the fires of revenge you  
will awaken..."

The words seem to hang in the air, almost tangible.  
Spooked, she puts the torn page down.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Amelia sits hunched over scattered books and newspapers, scanning with fine-tuned research skill.

An article catches her eye: *Local Couple Killed In Horror Smash - Daughter Orphaned.*

Amelia grits her teeth and shoves the article away.

She opens a dusty book - the town census - to a faint illustration on a yellowed page. It is a MAN'S BONY FACE, wealthy, dignified...but with a hungry glint in his eyes.

As Amelia watches, the man's drawn eyes suddenly fill with COLOR, becoming three-dimensional...

CUT TO:

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

...as the words on the torn page re-arrange to form the same Bony Man's face. His mouth stretches into a grin - right before Haley's eyes.

BONY MAN  
Naughty, naughty, Haley Hawky!

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Haley wakes with a gasp. There is no face on the torn page. She sighs, half relieved and FULLY exhausted.

BRRRING! She jumps as her neon light-up phone rings.

HALEY  
(into phone)  
Hello?

AMELIA (V.O)  
(over phone)  
Meet me tomorrow morning. I've found something.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Amelia and Haley sit on the steps. Amelia holds the town census book open in her lap.

AMELIA  
This is the Raven Hollow Census, listing the birth and death record of every citizen dating back to 1735. Ms Noakes was a

passionate historian, in addition  
to being crazy.

Haley glances impatiently at the book. A family tree  
spirals down the page like frail roots.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

So, after you left, I began  
tracing back Zelda's family tree.  
The trail disappeared once I got  
to her great-grandparents, so I  
cross-referenced some clippings  
from the local press--

HALEY

Question: can we skip to the end?

AMELIA

It's called backstory. Anyway,  
the trail picked up in 1805, with  
the Dawsons, a poor farming  
family. The wife, Dorothy, had no  
recorded father, but there is a  
record of her mother, Esme - a  
servant for wealthy households of  
Raven Hollow.

Beat. Haley smiles.

HALEY

(soft)

The illegitimate daughter!

Amelia pauses for dramatic effect.

AMELIA

Can you guess the mother's last  
noted house of employ, in 1785--

HALEY

Ives. The House of Ives.

AMELIA

Hey! How did you--

HALEY

Zelda is a descendant of Erasmus  
Ives.

Haley gazes across the Town Square, towards Heavenly.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Through the window, Zelda stares back with cold eyes.

INT. FOYER - MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Justin hangs a *Labyrinth* poster.

JUSTIN

So what?

Haley and Amelia stand behind him, arms crossed.

HALEY

What do you mean, "So what?"

JUSTIN

So Zelda's related to some killer from the 18th century. Says who?

AMELIA

These rectangular things filled with pages of information. We call them 'books'. Duh.

JUSTIN

You really need to stop believing everything you read, Nancy Drew.

Amelia gasps dramatically, as if personally insulted.

HALEY

Well, for a candymaker, Zelda's got more than a passing interest in Erasmus Ives' 'legacy'.

AMELIA

And what about Ivan? He's clearly the product of psychotic genes.

Justin walks to the counter to restock candy bars.

JUSTIN

Why? Because he's pale and shy? Because he buries things?--

HALEY

He buries things?!

AMELIA

For months, all over town. Probably getting rid of old D&D manuals. Psychotic and a nerd.

JUSTIN

Right. He's the nerd.

Haley bites her thumb. She sees Justin smiling in amusement at her. She stops biting.

Haley suddenly pulls out the torn page and re-reads the title: *Animating the Expired*.

HALEY

Crazy old bat was right.

JUSTIN

What?

HALEY

Ivan's not burying anything. He's digging something up. The recipe is a spell. And they're looking for bones.

Justin swallows hard. Amelia bites her lip. Haley smiles.

HALEY (CONT'D)

They're going to resurrect Erasmus Ives.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Justin wanders around, inspecting Haley's trophies. He rolls his eyes at Haley and Amelia cross-legged on the bed, staring at the torn page.

AMELIA

Hate to be the voice of reason--

HALEY

You love it.

AMELIA

...but shouldn't we tell the police?

HALEY

Dwayne in a potential crisis?  
He'd be the dangerous one.

Justin picks up Haley's Remembrance Day WREATH and blows a layer of dust off it.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Besides, Dwayne isn't gonna believe some old family tree. We need to know how or when--



JUSTIN  
 Sunday. Remembrance Day.  
 (seeing their surprise)  
 These things always happen on an anniversary. Standard formula, if this was a horror movie.

Haley and Amelia share an 'aha!' look.

JUSTIN  
If this was a horror movie...  
 which means you'd be called Buffy and Muffy, and you'd both be wearing bikinis for no reason.

HALEY  
 OK. Let's pretend it is.

Justin gives the wreath a final look, then puts it down.

JUSTIN  
 In that case, I'm the guy who laughs at you and says magic spells aren't real and that you're too old for Dungeons & Dragons.

HALEY  
 We didn't laugh when you boycotted the food coloring in the cafeteria Jell-O. I even made the posters.

AMELIA  
And we joined your sad one-man protest against cosmetic testing on animals.  
 (mutters, to Haley)  
 And now he's dating a walking Maybelline ad.

Haley stares at him, eyebrow raised.

JUSTIN  
 Haley, who cares if Zelda thinks some recipe will bring back a dead guy? She's not the first crazy old bat in Raven Hollow.

HALEY  
 (points to spell)  
 "Human offertory". She might be crazy enough to kill someone.

JUSTIN  
 Fingers crossed she picks Dwayne.

Justin heads for the open window, and half-climbs out.

HALEY  
Where are you going?

JUSTIN  
To do candy inventory. You know,  
real life. Being a grown-up.

Justin drops out of the window, then turns back.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
How on earth did this town cope  
without you, Golden Girl?

Haley walks to the window...and slams it shut in his face.  
Their eyes meet through the glass. He jogs off.

AMELIA  
You really think Zelda's gonna  
kill someone over an old spell?

HALEY  
There's one way to find out.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Haley pulls on her school sweater. She looks in the mirror  
- she seems taller, prouder, the way a superhero might  
after donning their costume.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MS NOAKES' HOUSE - DAY

A knock echoes. The door creaks open. Haley - in her  
school sweater - and Amelia enter.

AMELIA  
Haley...

HALEY  
It's OK, trust me.

They shuffle into the living room.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Ms Noakes? We need your help.

AMELIA  
I think I'm gonna be sick.

HALEY  
Be brave. Like Nancy Drew.

AMELIA  
Nancy Drew is a lady. She'd never  
swallow her own barf.

Haley slips from Amelia's grasp and creeps forward.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
 M-Ms Noakes? Hello?  
 (louder, more confident)  
 Ms Noakes?

INT. DINING ROOM - MS NOAKES' HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Haley stops in the doorway, frozen. Amelia appears.

AMELIA  
 You know, this Nancy Drew stuff  
 is actually kind of...  
 (follows Haley's gaze)  
 ...fun...

Ms Noakes lies on the floor, DEAD.

HALEY  
 I'm probably the first female to  
 say this...but we need Dwayne.

Amelia doubles over and pukes.

INT. DINING ROOM - MS NOAKES' HOUSE - DAY

Haley kneels next to Ms Noakes' body, dejected.

AMELIA (O/S)  
 (over phone)  
 Y-yes, a d-dead...b-bo... Uh, one  
 moment, please.

Haley hears Amelia puking again. She bites her thumb.

Under the table, Haley sees a pink Heavenly cake box. She  
 turns back....and sees crumbs on Ms Noakes' lips.  
 Reluctantly, Haley sniffs the crumbs.

HALEY  
 The human offertory.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Haley stands before Dwayne. Behind, an ambulance with a  
 defective light is parked on the curb.

DWAYNE  
 Poisoned?

Haley nods. She glances at the growing crowd of neighbors.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
 Why would a hard-working single  
 mother like Zelda want to kill  
 little old Ms Noakes?

HALEY

Zelda wants to resurrect Erasmus  
Ives at the Remembrance Day Fair.  
And she needed a human offertory  
to complete the spell.

DWAYNE

(with a smug grin)  
The...spell?

HALEY

Yes, Deputy Dawg. A spell. From a  
book of magic recipes.

DWAYNE

So...the town candymaker kills  
the old lady down the street...  
because she's an ingredient in a  
magic recipe...to resurrect a man  
who's been dead for 200 years.

HALEY

Yes.

DWAYNE

And how'd she do it?

HALEY

Gingerbread.

Dwayne bursts out laughing. The neighbors murmur. Haley  
squirms self-consciously.

DWAYNE

I've had plenty of Zelda's  
gingerbread, and all I taste is  
respect for the law. You're lucky  
I haven't charged you with  
breaking and entering.

HALEY

You wouldn't even know she was  
dead if it weren't for us!

DWAYNE

Exactly - why would Ms Noakes  
turn up at your house, only to be  
found dead days later by you?

Haley's mouth drops open in shock.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

You've just made yourself suspect  
number one, Golden Girl. Nice  
sweater, by the way.

Dwayne sniggers and strolls off. The neighbors mutter. Haley turns...and collides with the gurney carrying Ms Noakes' body, covered with a sheet.

A sudden wind whooshes, like phantom chuckling all around. The sheet blows back, exposing Ms Noakes' face. Her eyes are no longer cloudy. They are WHITE as a ghost.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley stares at herself in the mirror. She puts her Remembrance Day wreath on her head, like a crown.

HALEY

Fraud.

She frisbees the wreath across the room...just as a KNOCK at the front door startles her.

INT. HALEY'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Haley opens the door - it's Zelda. Haley's breath catches.

INTERCUT BETWEEN EXT PORCH AND INT HALLWAY

ZELDA

Hello, dear. I hope I'm not disturbing you at such an hour. The hour for spooks and specters...so they say.

HALEY

Well, you'd know about that.

ZELDA

I know lots of things, my girl.

Haley tries to look blank...and almost succeeds.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

You saw the book. You took my spell. I. Want. It. Back.

HALEY

Over. My. Dead. Body.

ZELDA

(with a smile)

That can be arranged.

Haley trembles...but feigns confidence.

HALEY

Let me guess - poisoned gingerbread? Sorry, allergic.

ZELDA

Poison?! My girl. Just a dash of psylocybin. Though I think you kids call it...magic mushrooms? Oh, and a pinch of fennel to hasten the effect. Voila! An all-natural coercion tool.

HALEY

Coercion?! Please. I found Ms Noakes' body. I know you needed a human offertory--

ZELDA

Silly girl. I already had all the ingredients.

(shrugging innocently)

But perhaps I added one too many mushrooms for Ms Noakes. You see, clairvoyant librarians can be so careless with what they say. After all, words have power.

Haley sees the undeniable, fiery intent in Zelda's eyes...and realizes...

HALEY

It's real, isn't it, the recipe? You're really going to bring him back...?

ZELDA

He's already back, dear. Waiting. And I know you can feel him.

Haley glances into the dark street. She sees the dying trees, hears the ghostly wind. Zelda is RIGHT.

ZELDA (CONT'D)

"Tyger, tyger, burning bright

In the forests of the night..."

Haley gasps at the words. Zelda puts a finger to her lips.

JAN (O/S)

Haley? Who's at the door?

Jan appears behind Haley.

JAN (CONT'D)

Zelda! What a nice surprise.

ZELDA

(smiling sweetly)

I just wanted to stop by with a little gift.

She holds out a basket of cellophane-wrapped treats.

JAN  
Gingerbread! How sweet.

Haley SLAPS the basket to the ground, then slams the door shut right in Zelda's face.

Zelda remains, her face twisting into a grin.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley sits on her bed, shaken. Jan appears at the doorway.

JAN  
Whatever's gotten into you, young lady, I don't like it one bit. So just snap out of it!

Jan walks away...and Haley punches her bed with her fist.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley swallows a sleeping pill. She falls into bed and shuts her eyes tight.

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A single cellophane-wrapped gingerbread man lies broken in half on the porch, grinning with frosted lips.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley opens her eyes. Ms Noakes floats above her.

MS NOAKES  
You! You woke him up!

HALEY  
What do you want?!

MS NOAKES  
Make it right! Save us!

A bolt of lightning explodes outside the window.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley's eyes snap open.

EXT. PARK - DAY

At the small cemetery in the park, dreary townspeople mill around the headstone and casket of Ms Noakes.

Mr Melville delivers a feeble eulogy...as Millicent sobs dramatically. Amelia fights back tears. Nearby is Justin and a bored Tiffany. At the back stands Zelda, nodding solemnly. NO Ivan.

Haley watches from her favorite tree, clearly suffering from a lack of sleep...and guilt.

A leaf falls in front of her. Haley looks around - all the trees are dying. The whole world seems to be withering.

HALEY

That better be you, Erasmus...or  
else I'm really losing it.

Justin gazes across the park, watching Haley.

TIFFANY

(inspecting her nails)  
Let's go. This is boring.

Justin turns back to Tiffany with a look of disgust.

Haley senses something, looks behind her - Dwayne is watching her from the street.

The funeral concludes. Maintenance Man shovels dirt into the grave. Justin looks again for Haley, but she has gone.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

What's your damage? You're a  
total space cadet lately.

JUSTIN

We need to talk.

The townspeople wander away, shaking heads and muttering.



INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Haley enters - it's been RANSACKED, with clothes, books and papers thrown about. The only things untouched are the certificates and trophies around the walls.

Haley rushes to her bed...and pulls out the torn page from under the mattress. She sighs in relief.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Amelia waits nervously on a corner. Haley appears across the street. Amelia runs to join her, struggling to match Haley's determined pace.

AMELIA

Are you OK?

HALEY

Well, I'm not crazy. Not if  
Zelda's willing to  
break-and-enter to get this back.  
(pulls out torn page)  
Not if she's willing to kill an  
old lady--

Haley pulls Amelia against the nearest store, hiding them from Zelda outside Heavenly, consoling Millicent (who is still sobbing). Haley scoffs.

AMELIA

How do you think they come back?

Amelia is looking at the torn page in Haley's hand.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

If the spell works, do you think  
the dead come back different,  
like in a horror movie? Or...  
normal...just like they were?

Haley shrugs, too focused on Zelda. She doesn't see Amelia quickly wiping away tears.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Listen, maybe Dwayne--

HALEY

A suspect finding their own room  
trashed is a big red guilty sign.  
Even Dwayne knows that, and he's  
dumber than a Pez dispenser.

Zelda goes inside Heavenly.

AMELIA  
So, what do we do?

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Haley and Amelia standing over the torn page.

HALEY  
We make the first move.

AMELIA  
Oh. You mean...?

HALEY  
It'll be hard to resurrect a body  
without the bones to go with it,  
don't you think?

JUSTIN (O/S)  
Breaking and entering now, Golden  
Girl?

Justin stands in the doorway.

AMELIA  
Great. I thought I heard the  
squeaking of pleather.

HALEY  
Justin, if a murderer threatened  
you with death, you'd want to do  
something about it too.  
(mutters)  
At least, the old Justin would.

JUSTIN  
You don't need me. You've got  
Amelia the cheerleader.

AMELIA  
Well, she is my best friend.

JUSTIN  
What if your best friend said the  
Babysitters Club was a real-life,  
tax-paying business? Would you go  
along with that too?

AMELIA  
(laughs mockingly)  
Well, obviously it isn't, so...  
(sudden amazement)  
Wait...is it?

JUSTIN

Haley, if you get busted, you could lose your scholarship. Don't mess up everything you worked for--

HALEY

You don't know what you're talking about. Trust me.

JUSTIN

And you do?! Serial killers rising from the grave...?

HALEY

(struggling)

Justin...I have to do this.

JUSTIN

Why?!

Haley wants to say more, and Justin knows it--

A CRASH of distant thunder startles them.

HALEY

(turns away)

Because no-one else gives a damn! Can't you see what Erasmus has done? Can't you feel it? He's murdering Raven Hollow and he isn't even resurrected yet! And no-one cares!

JUSTIN

So it's Golden Girl to the rescue, in her costume.

HALEY

Someone has to, Billy Idol. Why are you here, anyway?

JUSTIN

Forget it. It's clearly not as important as saving the world.

It obviously IS, to him...but he leaves anyway.

AMELIA

(calls after him)

Next time you pop by, do me a fudging favor and borrow a book!

(mutters)

A-hole.

Haley stares out of the library window. Across the shadowy Square, Heavenly glows dimly, as if waiting for them.

HALEY  
Guess it's just us girls.

AMELIA  
(suddenly terrified)  
Yay.

INT. HALEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Haley packs away the certificates, ribbons, trophies and plaques into a box, until the walls are bare.

She goes to bite her thumb...and stops herself. She rips off her school sweater and throws it in the box.

INT. LIVING ROOM - AMELIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hundreds of books are stacked around the room. Hidden among the paperback towers is a JANE FONDA WORKOUT VIDEO.

Amelia runs her fingers over copies of *Sweet Valley High* and *Nancy Drew* paperbacks, till she touches an FOLDED LETTER stuffed between the books.

She unfolds it - we see the letterhead of *Harvard University*. Her eyes scan the typed words:

*...if we do not receive a response, we'll be forced to rescind our offer of a full scholarship...*

She grits her teeth, looks up at a framed photo of her PARENTS, both with the same kooky hair and thick glasses. She doesn't wipe her tears away this time.

INT. PROJECTION ROOM - MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Justin sits next to the whirring projector. Through the window, he watches the horror movie flicker across an empty theater.

He kicks the projector - it stops with a clank.

EXT. MAIN STREET - RAVEN HOLLOW

One by one, *CLOSED* signs appears in the store windows.

INT. HALEY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Haley peeks into the room. Jan and Edwin sit on a saggy couch, surrounded by dusty keepsakes, watching *Dynasty*.

EXT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

Zelda peers out of the window, sensing something...but there is nothing there. She steps back into the shadows.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The moon hangs high behind the giant raven monument. Its anchor chain sways slightly.

Below the raven, Haley and Amelia watch Heavenly. No sign of life. Amelia shivers.

HALEY

Thanks. For...being brave.

AMELIA

You are so signing up for a library card.

HALEY

Promise. You ready?

AMELIA

No. Think I'm gonna barf. Again.

Haley dashes across the Square, followed by Amelia.

EXT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

Haley and Amelia crouch at the door. Haley jiggles the doorknob - it's locked.

AMELIA

(sarcastically)

Fudge.

Haley pulls a hammer from inside her sweater.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Where did you get that?!

HALEY

My dad's toolbox.

She raises the hammer...but Amelia raises a finger.

AMELIA

The first rule of  
breaking-and-entering: subtlety  
over brutality.

Amelia pulls two HAIRPINS from her hair and jiggles them around in the door lock.

HALEY  
Nancy Drew?!

Click! The door unlocks.

AMELIA  
(proud)  
No. *The Complete Guide To  
Lock-Picking.*  
(less proud)  
We have seventeen copies.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

The doorbell jangles loudly. Amelia gasps. Haley covers her mouth and pulls her in.

The silence is unnerving as they tiptoe through the store.

They reach the candy-cane columns. Haley opens the concealed door - she sees only shelves of candy bags inside.

Amelia opens the door of the other column. She squints into the darkness within.

A WHITE FACE stares back at her. Amelia screams--

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

As Justin sweeps the entrance, Amelia's scream echoes across town. Justin freezes in indecision--

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

The WHITE FACE leaps from the column - it's Ivan. He pins a KNIFE against Amelia's throat.

IVAN  
Why didn't you leave?! She's so  
angry!

Haley hesitates...till she sees the fear in Amelia's eyes.

HALEY  
Let Amelia go, and I'll give you  
this.

She pulls out the torn page. Ivan sighs.

IVAN  
The spell doesn't matter if I  
can't find the bones!

HALEY  
You...you don't have them?!

ZELDA (O/S)  
Always accept a gift when it's  
offered, boy. Manners.

From the darkness, Zelda's hand snatches the torn page.  
Zelda steps into a spear of moonlight.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
Someone here knows exactly where  
to find the bones of Erasmus  
Ives.

Zelda steps towards her. Haley steps back.

HALEY  
Why are you doing this?

They circle each other, passing cabinets and columns.

ZELDA  
He's got a score to settle. We've  
got a score to settle.

HALEY  
So you are his descendant.

Zelda faces her, her back to the front door.

ZELDA  
It was a year ago, almost to the  
day, when I heard him call to me.  
Just a whisper on the wind. But I  
knew that voice - it's echoed in  
my dreams since I was a girl,  
when I first heard about the  
deeds of my dear relative. Small  
town stories can be  
so...narrow-minded. So, when I  
realized someone had woken him, I  
decided to bring him back.

Haley gasps as she is hit by a--

FLASHBACK:

EXT. PARK - DAY

One year earlier...

Haley digs a hole beneath her favorite tree - it's green  
and vibrant, like the rest of the trees. She turns to grab  
her cookie-tin TIME CAPSULE. She doesn't see the scrap of  
fabric at the bottom of the hole - a dirty CANVAS SACK.

Greenish, noxious smoke rises from the hole. At that moment, a wind stirs the trees. Haley shields her eyes, oblivious as the green smoke disappears in the wind.

She puts the time capsule in the hole - on TOP of the sack - and covers it with dirt--

END FLASHBACK.

INT. HEAVENLY - PRESENT

Haley's face falls in horror.

ZELDA

Ah. Someone's had a flashback.

HALEY

Uh-huh.

Behind Zelda, MOVEMENT at the door - Justin crouches outside, listening.

ZELDA

Well? Where are they?

She clicks. Ivan tenses the knife at Amelia's throat.

Haley steps sideways. So does Zelda - the dance continues.

HALEY

(loudly)

A special place. The perfect place for a first kiss.

EXT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Justin hears Haley's words...and runs down Main Street.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Haley bites her thumb, trying to delay time.

HALEY

Memories fade if there's nothing to tie them to. Our past makes us who we are, you know.

ZELDA

Exactly. I'm sick of this town staining the Ives legacy year after year. I think it's time for a rewrite.



EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Justin kneels at Haley's favorite tree, digging. Thud!  
Slowly, he lifts out Haley's cookie-tin TIME CAPSULE.

He peers into the hole...and gasps.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Haley bumps a shelf - SHERBET BAGS slide to the floor.

ZELDA  
(to Ivan)  
Time's up. Slit her throat.

Amelia SCREAMS--

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

A flashlight beam blinds Justin - Dwayne grins over him.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

From behind her back, Haley throws one of the fallen  
sherbet bags. It explodes over Ivan, blinding him.  
Amelia's glasses shield her eyes.

ZELDA  
You little witch!

Haley knocks over a jar of gumballs, tripping Zelda up.

HALEY  
You crazy bitch!

She drags Amelia through the door--

INT. POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Justin, handcuffed in back, separated from Dwayne by a  
barricade. Dwayne whistles as he drives.

JUSTIN  
I'm telling the truth! Haley--

DWAYNE  
You've just been arrested for  
destruction of public property.  
Relax and get used to the view.

JUSTIN  
It hasn't changed since I sat  
behind you in Biology. You've  
still got a fat head and no neck.

Dwayne fumes. Justin punches the barricade in anger.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Haley and Amelia run through the shadowy park. Haley, driven by inner fire, leaves Amelia in her dust.

AMELIA  
Haley, wait for me!

Haley reaches her tree and digs in the already-dug hole.

ZELDA (O/S)  
Careful, you'll break a nail.

Zelda appears above her, clutching the dirt-clogged SACK.

HALEY  
(to Zelda)  
How did you...?

ZELDA  
My boy knows his shortcuts better  
than his shortcrusts.

She chuckles at her own joke. Ivan hides behind a tree.

IVAN  
Don't hurt her.

ZELDA  
Hurt her? She did the hard work  
for us. I'm so happy I could bake  
her a cake.

Amelia appears, breathless. She sees the sack, and gasps.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
(to both)  
See you at the Fair. It's gonna  
be one you won't forget.

Smiling sweetly, Zelda disappears into the shadows.

IVAN  
I-I had to. She's my mom.  
She's...she's all I have.

Ivan gives Amelia a look of guilt, then runs after Zelda.

Amelia hears soft sobbing. It's Haley.

AMELIA  
(shocked)  
Haley, are you--

Haley looks up, tears streaming down her dirty face.

HALEY

It was me. I dug up the bones. I  
woke Erasmus Ives.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Dwayne pulls Justin out of the car.

DWAYNE

Welcome home, son.

JUSTIN

What, no champagne?

BAM! Justin knees Dwayne in the groin. BAM! He slams  
Dwayne into the the car, then kicks him into the backseat.  
He shuts the door. He opens the front passenger door and  
takes out Haley's time capsule.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Have a good night...Officer.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Amelia stares up at the dying trees, as if seeing them for  
the first time.

AMELIA

It's all true. He is here, isn't  
he?

Haley, sitting in the dirt, shrugs, defeated.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

What about Justin?

HALEY

I thought he'd get to the bones  
first. Guess not.

AMELIA

Well, what are we gonna do?

HALEY

I don't know, OK? I've already  
done enough to screw things up,  
haven't I?

AMELIA

Exactly.

Haley turns to her, taken aback, tears glimmering.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

What did you do when your  
papier-mache volcano imploded the  
morning of the Science Fair? Did  
you give up? No. You turned it  
into a project on sinkholes and  
won the fudging contest.

(beat)

This is basically the same thing.  
Except...with serial killers.

Amelia's passion makes Haley smile through her tears.

HALEY

The sinkhole was your idea.

AMELIA

And don't you forget it.

Haley stands slowly, takes a steadying breath.

HALEY

Let's go find Pleather Pants.

INT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

The canvas sack sits on the counter.

With shaking hands, Zelda opens it up...revealing a pile  
of blackened bones...and a CHARRED SKULL sitting on top.

Zelda's breath catches - the skull seems to be smiling at  
her. She smiles back with nervous excitement.

ZELDA

Time to rewrite history.

INT. FOYER - MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Moonlight illuminates the faded movie posters around the  
foyer walls - the characters are watchful, almost alive.

CLICK! The revolving door spins - Haley and Amelia enter.

Amelia screams at a FIGURE...then realizes it's a  
life-size cutout of David Bowie from *Labyrinth*. She looks  
down at his spandex-covered CROTCH...and screams again.

HALEY

God, you're worse than that woman  
in *Temple of Doom*. Come on.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Haley and Amelia enter - it's pitch back.

HALEY  
(whispering)  
Justin?

Silence.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Justin?

JUSTIN (O/S)  
You don't have to shout.

This time, Amelia AND Haley scream - Justin stands in the doorway. Haley hugs him. Justin doesn't hug back - he is still handcuffed.

HALEY  
Dwayne, huh?

JUSTIN  
Funny story...for one of us.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Dwayne, locked in the back of the police car, kicks and screams for help. He's a LITTLE claustrophobic.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Amelia begrudgingly unpicks Justin's handcuffs.

JUSTIN  
That's pretty impressive.

AMELIA  
Try reading a book, Adam Ant.

Amelia pockets the handcuffs.

HALEY  
No time for books. We need to figure out what to do.

JUSTIN  
Dwayne'll be after us, once he finds a way out of his car.

AMELIA  
Well, we can't stay here! We have to warn people! Get them out!

JUSTIN

(soft)

What if the history books are wrong?

HALEY

Huh?

JUSTIN

We've all been taught that Erasmus was our very own Freddy Krueger...but what if he wasn't? What if we're just a "narrow-minded small town" like Zelda said?

(struggling to articulate)

Sometimes we're...not what people make us out to be...you know...

Haley tenses - this cuts deep. Amelia looks at the floor.

HALEY

Well...Zelda must've inherited the murderer gene from somewhere. That's enough for me.

JUSTIN

Whatever. You're the doctor.

AMELIA

Guys! Stop! The Fair starts in a few hours--

HALEY

Exactly! Everyone'll be in the Square. Maybe we can rally them against Zelda before she casts the spell.

She waits for Justin's 'rational' argument. He says nothing.

AMELIA

So we're stuck in this cockroach pit till then? Can't we just shoot her?

JUSTIN

(shocked)

Did you stay up late and watch *Rambo*, *Nancy Drew*?

HALEY

We can pretend it's a slumber party. All the stale popcorn you can eat.

Justin raises an eyebrow. Amelia scowls.

INT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

Zelda mixes ingredients in a large bowl. The torn page lies before her, surrounded by the spell's ingredients - including the toadstools, raven's egg and calf's brain.

She hums happily, as if this is just another recipe.

At the counter, Ivan stares at the canvas sack of bones, as if in a trance.

IVAN  
(whispers)  
"Tyger, tyger, burning bright..."

He turns to Zelda.

IVAN (CONT'D)  
Mother?

ZELDA  
Mm-hm?

IVAN  
Something bad's gonna happen. I  
can see it.

ZELDA  
Too bad you couldn't see the  
location of the bones a year ago.  
Would've saved a lot of digging.

Zelda looks up, sees Ivan's frightened face. She shakes her head in heavy disappointment.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
Your father made a great  
sacrifice for this spell, Ivan.  
Does family mean nothing to you?  
Sometimes it's like you have no  
Ives blood in you at all.

Ivan flinches - he has heard this insult more than once.

IVAN  
I know. Sorry.

ZELDA  
(smiling)  
Good boy. I'd hate for Erasmus to  
be disappointed in his future  
generations. Now, hand me your  
father.

From the candy-pebble path, Ivan pulls up a loose rock... then removes a pepper grinder filled with BONE SHARDS. He hands it to Zelda.

Zelda hums as she grinds the bone shards into the mixture.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

INT. HEAVENLY - NIGHT

Haley lies on the floor, pinned down by the tiny hands of a dozen GINGERBREAD MEN. Frosting drips like saliva down their grinning candy lips.

Above her, the antique oven glows. The iron door swings open. Flames flicker inside, beckoning her. Somethings moves within. Something alive.

Haley struggles, but the Gingerbread Men pin her down.

From the bowels of the oven, a DEMONIC VOICE sings:

DEMONIC VOICE

"Naughty, naughty Haley Hawky

Stole a piece of sugar toffee

From a little candy shop

Now she's in a sticky spot!"

A FLAMING SKELETON - eyes cold and black like Zelda's - launches out of the oven--

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Haley jolts awake. Justin is next to her, his arm draped over her - he quickly removes it.

JUSTIN

Bad dream?

HALEY

Skeletons, demonic gingerbread men - you know, the usual.

JUSTIN

This might cheer you up.

He hands over her time capsule.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Happy Remembrance Day, Hales.

Haley stares at the time capsule as if seeing a ghost.



HALEY

That's what started this mess.

(beat)

No, I started this mess. I dug up Erasmus' grave and let his spirit loose so I could bury this tin full of crap. Because Haley Hawkins needed a shrine--

JUSTIN

I saw the bones.

HALEY

Oh.

(beat)

What, no 'rational' explanation?

JUSTIN

Why do you think I joined the UN Club? Or applied to college? And when did I ever say I wanted to save the world?

Haley has no idea where he's going with this.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

You've got this...fire, Haley. You don't fake anything. You deserved someone like that.

HALEY

(turns away)

You don't know what I deserve.

JUSTIN

I know it's easy to be an activist in a small town where nothing happens. But saving the world?

(looks at his 'costume')

I mean, look at me.

HALEY

(takes his hand)

I thought you didn't care what people thought.

JUSTIN

Just one. Is she disappointed?

Haley moves her face close to his. Their lips touch.

AMELIA (O/S)

So much for moving on. Excuse me while I barf. Again.

Amelia stands in the doorway, fuming. She storms out.

INT. FOYER - MOVIE THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Amelia heads for the door. Haley grabs her.

HALEY

Amelia, we need to stay togeth--

AMELIA

Why? Need another lock picked?

Someone to play Best Friends?

(sees Haley's bewilderment)

You don't get it, do you? You had a spell to bring back the dead!

Even if it was baloney, you should've...tried...for me...

(bursting into tears)

Why didn't you just stay back at college?!

HALEY

I couldn't.

AMELIA

Why? Did Golden Girl miss all the adoration back home?

HALEY

I got kicked out, OK?! Happy?!

Amelia and Justin stare in shock. Haley grits her teeth - this is IT.

HALEY (CONT'D)

I'm so sick of being Golden Girl!

I'm sick of that voice in my

head...whatever I did...my

parents, all the losers of Raven

Hollow...telling me to be

perfect. For them. I just wanted

to be a bajillion miles away. To be no-one for a while.

(scoffs at herself)

Easier than I thought. Because

everyone at college was smarter.

Better at... Just better.

Haley slumps against the wall. She turns to a faded *Return to Oz* poster on the wall.

JUSTIN

Hales...

HALEY

Remember when Dwayne got caught cheating in Mr Rix's class?

JUSTIN

He got five days' vacation. Why?

HALEY

Well, when you get caught cheating in college, you don't get suspended. Instead, you lose the scholarship you worked for years to win. Then you get kicked out. Then you wind up back in Raven Hollow...pretending it's just for Spring Break.

Justin doesn't know what to say. Amelia looks down, touches the CHARM BRACELET on her wrist.

HALEY (CONT'D)

It's so stupid. It could've been any of us kids. Why me? Because I won a spelling bee in first grade? Because I ace one test in middle school? Who cares?

Amelia removes her CHARM BRACELET from her wrist.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Only you. Why else were you so desperate to believe in all this? It's your comeback story. And we're just the subplot.

She drops the bracelet, heads for the door, turns back--

AMELIA (CONT'D)

FYI, I've always been smarter than you. And a 'bajillion' is not a real number. Duh.

She pushes through the door and leaves

JUSTIN

I don't get it.

HALEY

Me neither - hence the cheating.

JUSTIN

I mean, you're good at lots of things...but no-one thought you were perfect. It's just a word. You're smart enough to know that.

HALEY

(taken aback)

Wow. Things I Wish I Knew Sooner, number #473.

Haley picks up Amelia's bracelet and exits. Justin follows, holding Haley's time capsule.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Townspeople mill about the cheesily-decorated Square. A high-school BRASS BAND plays a tinny, out-of-tune version of 'Forever Young' by Alphaville.

The 1985 Remembrance Day Fair is in full swing.

EXT. SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Haley, holding her time capsule, and Justin pass by an OLD COUPLE with DAZED, CAREFREE EXPRESSIONS.

JUSTIN  
Jeez, who brought the Kool-Aid?

Haley's face falls...until she sees...

HALEY  
Tiffany!

She runs to Tiffany, who's wearing a terrible taffeta prom dress and treasured (plastic) prom crown. She glares at them as she touches up her OTT eyeshadow with a compact.

TIFFANY  
Crawling back so soon, Justin? I only dumped you last night--

JUSTIN  
Have you seen Zelda?

TIFFANY  
(nods towards the Square)  
Follow the trail of calories.

Haley and Justin exchange a panicked look. Tiffany frowns.

HALEY  
(through gritted teeth)  
We need your help, to stop the Fair. We have to tell--

TIFFANY  
(with a smirk)  
Well, well, well. Look who's trying to turn back time.  
(snaps her compact shut in Haley's face)  
Sorry, but I'm the star of this show too.

She struts off noisily in her taffeta gown.

JUSTIN  
 (shouts)  
 Well...I dumped you, clown face!

Haley grabs Justin and pulls him to the Square, where...

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

...they are bombarded by a swarm of dazed, STONED  
 TOWNSPEOPLE munching on gingerbread men.

HALEY  
 Oh, no.

JUSTIN  
 What?

Through a gap, they see Zelda at a table piled with  
 gingerbread men. She hands them out with a smile.

HALEY  
 She Jim Jones'd them. She Jim  
 Jones'd them all.

SCREECH! Feedback whines through the PA system. The band  
 starts playing a warbly, patriotic tune.

The crowd parts and Tiffany catwalks seductively  
 through, carrying a tacky PLASTIC WREATH towards the  
 monument... where Mr Melville stands with a microphone.

MR MELVILLE  
 200 years ago, on a summer's eve,  
 an atrocity occurred here in  
 Raven Hollow. Erasmus Ives,  
 dealer of antiques, and town  
 eccentric, lured 12 children from  
 the orphanage to the fields...and  
murdered them, one by one.

The crowd murmurs sadly. Millicent sobs dramatically.

Tiffany heads for the monument, bathing in the attention.

Haley peers through the crowd - Zelda has DISAPPEARED.

MR MELVILLE (CONT'D)  
 Though he met a fitting fate for  
 his crimes, none will know the  
 reason behind his heinous act.  
 All we can do is gather each year  
 to remember these innocent  
 orphans, and ensure it never  
 happens again in Raven H--

HALEY  
Drop the gingerbread!!!

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Inside the massive open oven, a fire burns hungrily.

The oven tray has been pulled out - on it lies CHARRED BONES, assembled to form a skeleton - ERASMUS IVES.

Ivan shakily douses the skeleton with the spell mixture. He pushes the tray on its rollers into the oven. He looks over his shoulder nervously as...

...Zelda steps from the darkness, holding the torn page.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The band stops playing as Haley pushes through the bewildered crowd. She takes a nervous breath and...

HALEY  
Sorry to spoil the party - I mean, ceremony - but you're all tripping on mushrooms, and we need to get the hell outta Raven Hollow. Like now.

Millicent 'tsks' loudly. Tiffany glares at Haley.

TIFFANY  
God, Haley. You're so...tragic.

HALEY  
(grabbing her)  
Grow up, Tiffany! This is bigger than your 'moment'! I'm trying to save you all--

TIFFANY  
You grow up! You're not Golden Girl anymore!  
(shouts authoritatively)  
Music!

The band resumes LOUDLY. Tiffany continues walking.

HALEY  
(turns to crowd)  
Get out! All of you! Please!

The crowd stares at her as if she's crazy. Someone laughs.

The band plays even louder, the off-notes now painful.

Haley looks desperately at Justin. He's just as helpless.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

ZELDA  
(reading)  
"In the fires of injustice you  
were taken,  
  
Through the fires of revenge you  
will awaken..."

The fire hisses, turning from red to GREEN.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

As darkness falls across the Square...

ZELDA (V.O)  
(reading)  
"Though centuries wither blood  
and bone..."

Tiffany clambers up the ladder against the monument,  
raises the wreath towards the raven's head.

ZELDA (V.O, CONT'D)  
"And bury your grave in sand and  
stone..."

Dwayne lumbers into the crowd, dazed by gingerbread.

DWAYNE  
(pointing to Justin)  
You...

Haley sees a GREEN LIGHT glowing in Heavenly's window.

HALEY  
(through gritted teeth)  
Fine.

Using her time capsule like a battering ram, she pushes  
through the crowd and runs towards Heavenly.

ZELDA (V.O)  
"Rise anew, once old and  
rotten..."

Dwayne grabs Justin roughly by the shirt...

Tiffany places the wreath on the raven's head...

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
 "Bring justice to the  
misbegotten!"

The fire dies. Silence. Zelda grins.

ZELDA (CONT'D)  
 Ivan, dear boy - duck.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

VHOOM! An explosion of GREEN LIGHT erupts from Heavenly, blasting through the windows and chimney.

Haley is thrown back. Her time capsule goes flying. She lands on the grass as glass shards rain over her.

Green smoke billows from Heavenly, entwining with the black clouds above.

Haley stands slowly, taking in the destruction--

AMELIA (O/S)  
 Truth or dare?

Amelia is next to her, petrified.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
 I wanted the spell to work. If it  
 could bring back one dead  
 person...then...

HALEY  
 (taking Amelia's hand)  
 I'm sorry.

Justin appears, with Haley's time capsule.

JUSTIN  
 You run away from exploding  
 buildings, not towards! Don't you  
 watch *The A-Team*?!

Amelia gasps. Justin gasps. Haley follows their gaze as...

A FIGURE steps from Heavenly's smoking doorway. Glass crunches under his buckled leather shoes. Smoke curls around his breeches and embroidered silk coat. His face is shrouded by the rim of his tall hat.

HALEY  
 Oh, fu--



AMELIA

--dge.

The Figure removes his hat, revealing a gaunt face, skin like rotting gauze. White hair snakes down his back. Black eyes glint curiously. Everything about him is OTHERWORLDLY.

He is the illustration from the town census. The skeleton in Haley's dreams. ERASMUS IVES.

ERASMUS IVES

What a reception. And me in my second-best breeches.

Erasmus strides across the street with a ghostly ease. People freeze in fear, in awe.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)

"Tyger, tyger, burning bright

In the forests of the night..."

Erasmus stops at Millicent. He touches her face tenderly.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)

"What immortal hand or eye

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?"

MILLICENT

You're...you're him!

ERASMUS IVES

Pardon the poetry, madam. But I've been rehearsing all year.

From Heavenly's doorway, Zelda appears.

ZELDA

I brought him back to speak the truth! He won't hurt you! That's not who he is!

Erasmus' tender smile stretches into a sinister grin...and he GRASPS Millicent's neck--

The crowd screams...and Zelda's face falls in shock.

ERASMUS IVES

(looking at the monument)  
A giant bird? My, subtlety in the 20th century seems to have... 'flown' the coop.

He chuckles at his pun, continues strangling Millicent.

Dwayne thunders into the crowd, his gun drawn.

DWAYNE

Party's over, perp. You're und...

Erasmus drops Millicent, turns to Dwayne. Dwayne freezes in fear...wets himself...and drops his gun.

Haley grabs a bewildered Zelda.

HALEY

Can you reverse the spell?!

ZELDA

N-no, we need to hear him! He's not really evil! History's been twisted! My family...can't be--

HALEY

You think he wants to bake cookies and sing Kumbaya?!

Erasmus scratches an 'L' into the monument plaque - his name now reads *Erasmus Lives*. He leaps onto the raven and scans the crowd hungrily.

ZELDA

Erasmus! This is your chance to tell them!

ERASMUS IVES

Tell them what, lady?

ZELDA (CONT'D)

The truth! That we're innocent! That we're not monsters! I've charmed them to listen without judgment! So tell them that the stories are wrong! Tell them we're good people!\_

Erasmus crouches like a gargoye on the raven.

ERASMUS IVES

An explanation. Very well.

Hope flickers on Zelda's face...until...

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)

I was...uninspired. Bored. I had acquired worldly wonders - stuffed albinos, three-eyed reindeer heads, books bound in human skin...yet each tainted by the hands of those before me. So many tangled roots. I yearned for something clean. New. Mine. And

to smother such a hunger would  
have driven me...how do you  
say...'cuckoo'?

JUSTIN  
Bit late for that.

ERASMUS IVES  
Then I saw those little orphans.  
Flowers in a storm. No owners. No  
ties. Defenseless. Perfect. I  
would own them forever. Any  
collector worth his salt would  
share my sudden passion.

ZELDA  
Passion?! You...enjoyed...?--

ERASMUS IVES  
I lived for it. Pardon - 'live'.  
Present tense. The Ives legacy  
survives, thanks to you.

ZELDA  
You...monster...

ERASMUS IVES  
Monster?! You satisfy sweet  
desires each day, without  
question. Why should mine be  
picked apart like stale  
gingerbread? They are in my  
blood, like a child born with a  
sweet tooth. In your blood too,  
dear descendant. Did you not  
commit murder to prove I was  
innocent of it? As the little  
ones say these days... 'Duh'.

ZELDA  
(falls to her knees)  
We aren't the same, Erasmus.

ERASMUS IVES  
But we are what we are.

Erasmus yanks off the raven's anchor chain. CRACK! The  
raven's legs crumble under Erasmus' weight. He leaps off  
like a bird. The raven topples...towards Zelda.

ZELDA  
Erasmus, no! I'm your family--

Zelda is crushed under the raven, her screams echoing.

Erasmus lands...and locks eyes with Haley, Justin and  
Amelia across the Square. Like a magnet, his gaze falls on  
Amelia.

ERASMUS IVES

Yes. You.

Amelia gasps, her legs turning to jelly. Haley catches her. She looks up at the shadowy library behind them.

HALEY

Who wants to curl up with a good book?

She pulls them towards the library. Erasmus follows, dragging the chain.

They race up the library steps. Amelia struggles to unlock the heavy door with fumbling fingers.

JUSTIN

Come on!

Haley turns, meeting Erasmus' gaze. A connection shoots between them, even stronger than in her dream.

HALEY

Amelia!

From Heavenly's crumbling entrance, Ivan stares at Zelda's crushed body. He sees Erasmus, dragging the chain towards Haley, Amelia and Justin.

Click! Amelia unlocks the door.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

They run inside. Amelia locks it behind them.

AMELIA

Why did he look at me like that?

JUSTIN

Who cares! Now what?

Haley looks at the shadowy interior of the library.

HALEY

Now we hide.

Amelia and Justin start off. Haley peers through the keyhole, seeing only the the toppled raven in the Square.

AMELIA

Haley! Come on!

Erasmus' fiery EYE suddenly appears through the keyhole. Haley gasps. Justin yanks her away, behind a shelf.

JUSTIN

Leave zombie dude to me. I've seen *Return of the Living Dead* 26 times.

HALEY

This isn't a freaking movie!

JUSTIN

Yeah. We're probably gonna die.  
So...

He pulls her in close and kisses her - awkwardly, desperately, passionately. Then he runs off. Haley looks down - Justin has slipped her TIME CAPSULE into her hands.

Thud! The door shudders. Justin ducks into the shadows.

Thud! Amelia shivers behind a shelf.

Thud! The door bursts open. Erasmus' shadow stretches across the tiled floor. The door slams shut behind him.

Erasmus' footsteps echo in the silence. He taps his fingers on the counter.

ERASMUS IVES

Your loneliness calls to me,  
little orphan. Without roots, you  
are but a flower in a storm...

Amelia stifles a gasp. Erasmus hears it, steps in Amelia's direction, dragging the chain.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)

...a precious collectible,  
unmarked by the dirt of owners  
past. Nothing to stand in the  
way...

Amelia peers through the shelf - Erasmus is nowhere to be seen. She begins to panic--

Haley spies Erasmus, in the aisle next to Amelia. Haley ducks down, thinking frantically. She focuses on the time capsule in her hands--

EDWIN'S VOICE suddenly echoes in her mind.

EDWIN (V.O)

...each bit and bob is like a  
fingerprint of Hawkins history...

Next, she hears MS NOAKES' VOICE in her mind.

MS NOAKES (V.O)  
 ...he doesn't like roots...they  
 get in his way...

Haley understands. She opens her time capsule.

ERASMUS IVES  
 Let me shelter you from that  
 storm, little one.

Amelia peers through a gap in the shelf - she sees  
 nothing. She sighs in relief.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)  
 Let me take you away--

Erasmus' arms burst through the shelf and grabs Amelia.

She pulls free, falls against a shelf - the shelf topples,  
 knocking the next, and the next, like giant falling  
 dominoes, sending up dust clouds as each hits the floor.

Amelia peers through the dust - Erasmus looms over her.  
 Before she can scream...

JUSTIN (O/S)  
 Eat foam, Skeletor!

A gush of FOAM hits Erasmus, knocks him across the room.  
 Justin steps from the darkness, holding the  
 library's FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

Erasmus rises like some swamp creature, his fancy clothes  
 soaked. There is nothing poised or regal about him now.

Bang! Someone thuds on the library door.

IVAN (O/S)  
 (through door)  
 Let me in! I can stop him!

ERASMUS IVES  
 So many orphans, so much time.

Erasmus whips the CHAIN around the door handle and yanks  
 the door off its hinges. Ivan stands there, defenseless.  
 Erasmus whips the chain around around Ivan's arm, yanking  
 him towards him.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)  
 "Tyger, tyger, burning bright--"

Ivan stares into Erasmus' eyes...and can only scream--

HALEY (O/S)  
 We get it, Siegfried or Roy.  
 Tigers give you a boner.

Erasmus turns to see...

Haley, surrounded by the contents of her time capsule, arranged in a circle - a Raggedy Ann doll, a baby rattle, the Science Fair medal, a mix tape, a PHOTO OF JUSTIN and a CHARM BRACELET.

ERASMUS IVES  
The Golden Girl of Raven Hollow.  
We meet at last.

Erasmus smiles - a predator sizing up his prey.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)  
Such a bright little flame. But  
you are not so golden beneath,  
are you?

Haley meets his gaze. In his eyes, she sees her reflection, surrounded by her circle of keepsakes.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)  
You are the hole the storm leaves  
behind. A false idol. A ghost.

HALEY  
Well...we are...what we are.

ERASMUS IVES  
(reaching for her)  
Now. Forever.

Justin steps between them, aiming the fire extinguisher--

JUSTIN  
That explains your halitosis!

A pathetic squirt dribbles from the nozzle. Justin gasps.

ERASMUS IVES  
The town fool. Such promise...and  
disappointment.

Erasmus SLAMS Justin to the ground.

HALEY  
Amelia! Ivan! Get in the circle!

Amelia sees Ivan. She hesitates, then drags him into the circle. She spots the CHARM BRACELET amongst the keepsakes in the circle.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Justin!

Justin holds up the fire extinguisher like a shield. Erasmus kicks it away, then punches...just as Haley pulls Justin into the circle, avoiding the blow by an inch.

Erasmus lunges for them, but JOLTS back - something shimmers over the circle of keepsakes. An INVISIBLE BARRIER. Haley tries to hide her own surprise.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
I come from a long line of  
hoarders, Erasmus. Good luck  
getting through my roots.

From outside, a distant SCREAM--

TIFFANY (O/S)  
Justin! Where are you?!

ERASMUS IVES  
Clever little witch. But you  
can't protect everyone.

Erasmus strides out, whistling.

AMELIA  
Haley!

Haley turns - Amelia is inspecting Ivan's injured arm.

AMELIA (CONT'D)  
Help him!

HALEY  
(inspecting Ivan's arm)  
I-I don't know...what to do--

IVAN  
Forget about my arm!

Ivan pulls out the folded TORN PAGE from his pocket.

JUSTIN  
How does that help?

IVAN  
Turn it over!

Haley holds up the reverse side to the light. Like magic, faint WRITING becomes visible - it is another spell.

HALEY  
(reading)  
*"Returning the Resurrected."*

Haley stands slowly, fists clenched, jaw tight, eyes laser-focused. Justin KNOWS that look.

JUSTIN  
Welcome home, Golden Girl.  
(winces)  
Sorry.



Haley looks down at her circle of keepsakes, sees the PHOTO - it's Justin marching down the school hall with a protest sign: *If the Jello is Red, You're Good As Dead.*

HALEY  
You ever hate something...but  
love it at the same time?

JUSTIN  
Sure. Woody Allen.

HALEY  
Well, right now I freaking love  
Raven Hollow. And I'm gonna fix  
what I've done to it.

She turns to Amelia.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Truth or dare?

AMELIA  
Now?! Truth.

HALEY  
I have an idea. Do you trust me?

AMELIA  
(with a smile)  
You're my best friend.

A distant scream from outside startles them.

HALEY  
(to Ivan)  
Stay here, OK? We're gonna send  
Jack the Rip-Off back to the 17th  
century.

AMELIA  
18th.

HALEY  
Whatever. You're the smart one.

Haley grabs her CHARM BRACELET from the keepsake circle.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

The sky is dark and thick with black, swirling clouds.

Tiffany searches through the grass in her now-torn prom dress.

She senses something...turns...and sees Erasmus behind her, smiling. She SCREAMS...and slowly walks towards her--

HALEY (O/S)  
Hey! How about a meal instead of  
a snack, Erasmus?

Erasmus turns with a sigh, till he sees Haley pointing...

..at Heavenly, where Amelia shivers in the doorway.

Erasmus smiles and heads towards Heavenly. Amelia runs inside.

Haley grabs Tiffany as she searches the grass again--

TIFFANY  
Get off me! I have to find my  
crown! I need it!

Haley grabs Tiffany firmly with both hands.

HALEY  
No, you don't! You won! You were  
better!

Tiffany is half-disbelieving, half-shocked.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
Now, go.

TIFFANY  
Keep Justin safe, OK?

Haley nods. Tiffany runs off.

INT. HEAVENLY - CONTINUOUS

Erasmus slinks down the candy-pebble path, glass crunching underfoot - the sound echoes around the store.

ERASMUS IVES  
I can smell your loneliness,  
little one. Sweeter than honey.

Something moves - it's Amelia, standing next to the oven, as green fire still flickers inside.

Erasmus approaches. Amelia doesn't move. He takes another step. Amelia suddenly fades - she is just a REFLECTION in a mirrored cabinet.

Erasmus spins. Amelia - in the flesh - is behind him, inside one of the candy-cane column doorways.

ERASMUS IVES (CONT'D)  
(advancing)  
"When the stars threw down their  
spears,

And watered heaven with their  
tears..."

AMELIA  
(trembling)  
"Did he smile his work to see?

Did he who made the Lamb make  
thee?"

Erasmus's amusement fades. His eyes reveal an aching,  
desperate HUNGER...about to be quenched.

Boom! The column door closes over Amelia. Justin stands  
behind it, aiming Dwayne's gun.

ERASMUS IVES  
Is there a sight more pathetic  
than a child aiming a musket?

BANG! Justin fires. Erasmus crumples into a lifeless heap.

JUSTIN  
How about a kid-killer wearing  
200-year-old tights?

Haley appears, snaps DWAYNE'S HANDCUFFS onto Erasmus'  
wrists. Justin lets Amelia out of the column.

AMELIA  
Is it over?!

Justin nudges Erasmus' body with his foot.

JUSTIN  
'Return Of the Small-Town Serial  
Killer' just blew its budget.

He looks at Haley - she gives him a proud nod. He shrugs,  
but can't help grinning himself.

AMELIA  
Now what?

HALEY  
(points to oven)  
Shish kabob.

Erasmus' eyes OPEN. He rises, snaps the handcuffs apart,  
grabs Haley by the throat.

ERASMUS IVES  
Sounds delicious! I haven't eaten  
for centuries!

He drags Haley to the oven. Haley sees her time capsule on  
the counter - but it's too far. She desperately shoves the  
CHARM BRACELET on her wrist into Erasmus' face--

ERASMUS IVES

Ha! You think a single talisman  
can save you? I am eternal! I am  
a god!

HALEY

Tell that to the YWCA!

She knees his groin, then punches his neck - an obvious  
self-defense combo. Erasmus stumbles slightly, but holds.

Justin leaps forward with a not-so-graceful karate kick.

JUSTIN

Ralph Macchio!

Erasmus grabs Justin's foot mid-kick and tosses him aside.  
Haley scans for a weapon - there's NOTHING--

ERASMUS IVES

No more naughty Haley Hawky.

Amelia leaps forward with a surprisingly nimble high kick.

AMELIA

Jane Fonda!

Her foot connects - Erasmus flies back onto the oven tray.  
Instantly, Haley pushes the tray into the oven.

HALEY

Justin, the door!

Justin rams the oven door shut with his shoulder.

Silence...till a cackle escapes from inside the oven.  
Erasmus stares through the oven grate - he ISN'T burning.

ERASMUS IVES

This fire resurrected me, fools!  
And now your souls are mine! They  
will all be mine!

Erasmus begins to pry the door grate apart like clay.

Haley pulls the TORN PAGE from her pocket. The fire's glow  
reveals the *Returning the Resurrected* spell.

HALEY

In another life, Erasmus.

For the first time...Erasmus looks AFRAID, as--

HALEY (CONT'D)

(reading new spell)

"Once revived as flames burn

By fire you shall return  
 Whether wrongs be righted  
 Or tearful eyes clear-sighted  
 Leave the living to mourn."

A crushing silence. Erasmus' eyes glisten...with tears?

VHOOM! The oven's green fire turns RED. Erasmus howls as his flesh begins to melt from his bones.

The fire reflects in Haley's eyes - eyes that, for the first time, seem almost CAREFREE.

She gives the torn page to Amelia. Amelia stares at the *Animating the Expired* spell. She wipes away a tear...

...then tears the page to shreds and pushes it through the grate...as Erasmus' bones dissolve into ash.

HALEY (CONT'D)  
 Rest in pieces.

AMELIA  
 A-hole.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Haley, Justin and Amelia step from Heavenly's ruins. Sunlight pierces through clouds, revealing disheveled, dazed townspeople. Sirens wail in the distance.

A rumpled Mr Melville bustles nervously around.

MR MELVILLE  
 Just a slight delay to the Fair.  
 No harm done, see? Just...stay  
 away from the gingerbread, yes?

Haley is suddenly overcome. She blinks away tears...then feels a hand in hers - it's Justin.

A FIGURE stumbles towards them. Justin shields Haley and Amelia...but it's just Bert, the Maintenance Man.

JUSTIN  
 Dad!

Justin breaks away and embraces Maintenance Man.

JAN (O/S)  
 Haley!

Haley sees Jan and Edwin across the Square.

HALEY

Mom! Dad!

She runs to them. They are unusually clean and tidy, considering the day's events.

JAN

What happened?!

HALEY

How did you get away?

Amelia appears next to them.

AMELIA

I told them their antiques had been stolen. You never saw two people move so fast.

Edwin and Jan glare at her in shock.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Hey, it was the only thing stronger than the gingerbread!

Haley smiles gratefully at Amelia as she hugs her parents. Amelia watches, hiding sadness.

JAN

Gingerbread?! What is going on?!

Across the Square, Ivan's injured arm is bandaged by Millicent. He smiles at Amelia. She smiles back. Millicent 'tsks' in disapproval.

EDWIN

It looks like World War III! Are you OK, sweetie?

As she hugs her parents, Haley watches Tiffany dig out her CROWN from the grass, stare at it, then snap it in half.

Dwayne sits on the library steps, in his urine-soaked uniform. He shamefully throws his BADGE into a trashcan.

HALEY

No, I'm not OK.

(pulling away)

I...I got kicked out of college. For cheating.

Her parents look at each other. Before they can reply--

HALEY (CONT'D)

And I'm OK with it. I'm not perfect.

(smiling to herself)

I'm deeply flawed.

Her parents give each other a knowing grin.

EDWIN  
Sweetie. Like, 'duh'.

HALEY  
Wait. What?!

JAN  
Your college called...to collect  
some unpaid library fines.

AMELIA  
(dramatic gasp)  
Well! I'm appalled!

JAN  
So are we...

Haley's face falls in shame...till Jan pulls her into a  
tight embrace.

JAN  
(through her tears)  
...at ourselves...for making you  
feel like... How could we...?

Haley sees tears of shame in Edwin's eyes.

HALEY  
Because I let you. Words have  
power, if you let them.  
(looking for Amelia)  
Right, Amelia...?

Amelia has gone...to sit with Ivan. There is a SPARK  
there.

JAN  
Haley...you're amazing.

Haley laughs, hugging her mother tighter. Edwin joins the  
embrace, gruffly wiping tears.

EDWIN  
Things seem pretty close to  
perfect right about now, eh?

HALEY  
A zombie just tried to steal our  
souls--

EDWIN  
Anyone for dessert?

They laugh, embracing under the spotlight of the sun.

FADE TO:

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - DAY, WEEKS LATER

Haley and her parents stand in an identical embrace.  
Nearby, Amelia and Ivan look on.

JAN

Write us, won't you, honey?

HALEY

I will, Mom. Promise.

Haley turns to Amelia, and clasps her hand. They are both wearing their CHARM BRACELETS - the words *Best Friends Forever* are written on each. No other words are needed.

Haley pulls Amelia into a hug.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Sure you won't come with us?

AMELIA

Someone has to record the most recent chapter of Raven Hollow history. It might even top last month's bake sale.

(they finish hugging)

Besides, I don't mind living with a pair of hoarders.

EDWIN

Hey!

Amelia steps back, taking Ivan's hand.

Haley looks around at Raven Hollow - houses freshly painted, gardens blooming, trees alive with leaves. It makes her smile.

INT. HALEY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Haley slides into the driver's seat. Sitting shotgun is Justin...with no trace of eyeliner, no 'fight the power' costume. A young man with nothing to prove.

JUSTIN

So...college? Save the world?

HALEY

Been there, done that. You're more the Hollywood type, anyway.



JUSTIN  
'Revenge Of the Small-Town Serial  
Killer'. I like it.

HALEY  
And who'd play you?

JUSTIN  
Judd Nelson, of course. If Tom  
Cruise is busy.

Haley starts the engine.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Ahem.

Justin motions up - the GINGERBREAD MAN toy still hangs  
from Haley's rear-view mirror. Haley pulls it down.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

Haley slides a cassette tape into the tape deck.

EXT. HALEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Haley and Justin drive away to the tune of the same power  
ballad from the beginning. This time, Haley sings along.

EXT. RAVEN HOLLOW - CONTINUOUS

Haley's car passes the *Welcome To Raven Hollow* billboard,  
as Maintenance Man coats it in fresh paint. Haley toots  
the horn as Justin waves to him.

Haley hurls the Gingerbread Man toy out of the window,  
into the sky. It hurtles towards us with its sewn-on  
smile, closer...and closer...and closer...until...

FADE OUT.