

MY PRINCE

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FADE IN:

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LEAH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A small space, with just enough room for a bed and a wardrobe to fit.

A reading lamp, clipped to the bed, is the only source of light as CATHY (40s) reads LEAH (5) a bedtime story.

CATHY

And the princess and her new prince  
lived happily ever after.

Cathy closes the tattered book, puts it down on the floor beside the bed.

The cover is titled: The Princess and the Frog.

LEAH

One more time, Mommy.

CATHY

Not tonight, Leah. Tomorrow is such  
a special day for you. You remember  
what it is?

Leah grins from ear to ear, nods.

CATHY

Such a big girl now. School is  
going to be so much fun.

Leah's big, toothy grin slowly fades. She now looks nervous.

CATHY

What's the matter, honey?

LEAH

Will people like me?

CATHY

Of course they will. You're the  
sweetest, most perfect little girl.

LEAH

Promise?

CATHY

I promise. And if you ever have any  
little problem, me and Daddy are  
right here for you, OK?

Leah's big grin returns.

LEAH

OK.

Cathy gets up off the bed, strokes her fingers through Leah's hair.

CATHY

Now get some sleep, Princess.

Leah closes her eyes as tight as she can.

Cathy kisses her forehead and leaves the room.

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LEAH'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: 12 YEARS LATER

The room somehow looks smaller. More items are now crammed in. A typical teenage girl's bedroom. A small one.

LEAH (now 17) brushes her long hair in front of a mirror that's stuck to the door of her wardrobe.

She picks up a pair of glasses from her bed, puts them on. They sit crooked.

She takes them off, fiddles with the arms and puts them on again. Better, slightly.

She rummages through a pile of clothes on the bed. After a few seconds of searching, she lets out an angry grunt.

She grabs a backpack and leaves the room.

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CATHY (now 50s), wearing a pink cardigan, lounges in an old armchair, asleep. A bottle of vodka on her lap.

Leah walks into the room, sees her Mom.

She rolls her eyes and takes the bottle from her lap.

LEAH

Mom.

Nothing.

LEAH

(louder)

Mom!

Cathy's eyes shoot open.

CATHY  
Don't bring that slut in here.

Leah stares down at her.

CATHY  
Leah? Is your Dad here?

LEAH  
Just me, Mom. Him and that slut  
haven't been here in years.

CATHY  
Don't say that.

LEAH  
Your words.

Cathy groans, tries to get comfortable again.

LEAH  
And how many times have I told you  
not to take my clothes?

Cathy grabs at the cardigan, begins to take it off.

CATHY  
Sorry, it was cold.

LEAH  
Keep it.

Leah leaves the room, the sound of the front door slamming  
soon after.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Leah stands at an open locker, she stuffs books into her  
backpack and closes the door.

As it closes, a MASKED GIRL jumps at Leah.

Leah jumps back against her locker, frightened.

She sees a group of GIRLS standing behind the masked girl.  
They laugh hysterically.

The masked girl peels off the mask. It's JULIE (17), She  
breaks into laughter too.

JULIE  
Halloween ball on Friday. You  
going?

Leah gathers herself, opens her mouth to speak.

JULIE

Of course not. It's fancy dress and to buy a costume you need money. And you and your drunk mother got no money.

The girls laugh again.

JULIE

Also, you need a date. No boy would be seen dead with you.

Julie brushes her fingers through Leah's messy hair.

JULIE

Really, Leah, that's gross.

Julie and the girls turn, laugh and walk away.

They walk to a group of BOYS, who look at Leah, laugh and walk with the girls.

Leah balls her hand into a fist and hits the locker.

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cathy sits on the armchair, watching a gameshow and sips on a drink.

The sound of the front door as it opens and slams shut.

Leah storms in.

LEAH

Why do you do this to me? What have I done to you?

A look of total confusion washes over Cathy's face.

CATHY

What?

LEAH

Why can't we be normal? All I want is for people to like me, for boys to like me. You sit here all day, drunk. It's been years! Dad's gone. Get over it.

CATHY

I don't need this right now, Leah.

Leah stares down at Cathy with eyes now full of disgust.

LEAH

No wonder he left you.

Leah storms out of the room.

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LEAH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Leah slams the door closed behind her, slides down on to her honkers with the heels of her palms pressed against her eyes.

She takes her hands away, her eyes now raw red.

Under the bed, she spots the old copy of The Princess and the Frog.

She reaches for it, picks it up and rubs the old cover.

CATHY (V.O.)

And the princess and her new prince  
lived happily ever after.

Leah puts the book down and leaves.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Nicely kept. Autumn leaves litter the grass.

Leah sits on a bench, looking out over a pond.

She gets up, walks to the water.

She walks along the bank, until she spots it.

A frog sits in the tall grass beside the water.

Leah walks carefully to it, waits and then pounces, catches it in her two hands.

She brings the frog close to her face.

LEAH

Will you be my prince?

The frog squirms, but Leah holds it steady and plants a kiss on its mouth.

The frog's squirms intensify, Leah eventually releases it.

It hops away, further into the long grass.

Leah stares as it disappears.

LEAH  
Nope, didn't think so.

INT. LEAH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Empty and dark.

The sound of the front door as it opens and slams shut.

Leah enters the room, looks toward the armchair. Puzzled.

LEAH  
(calling)  
Mom!

She walks into the

HALLWAY

And looks around.

LEAH  
Mom!

She heads to the

KITCHEN

And flicks a switch on the wall.

The light comes on, she sees a note on the fridge.

INSERT: NOTE

Gone out. Eat whatever.

BACK TO SCENE

Leah rolls her eyes, opens the fridge.

A loud knock comes from the front door.

Leah looks in that direction, pauses.

Another loud knock.

She returns to the

HALLWAY

And slowly walks to the door.

She opens it. Nobody there.

She looks left and right. Nothing.

She closes the door, turns toward the kitchen.

In the doorway, facing her, stands a six foot man - of sorts. He has a completely bald scalp, a huge lump on his right shoulder and his huge throat bulges in and out when he breathes. He stands naked in front of Leah. This is FROG MAN.

Leah unleashes an earth shattering scream and opens the front door.

Before she can escape, Frog Man leaps at her, pushes her to the floor and closes the door.

Leah jumps to her feet, runs up the stairs.

LEAH'S BEDROOM

Leah slams the door behind her.

She stands with her back to it in dead silence.

Seconds later a loud CROAK sound comes from outside the room.

Leah winces at the sound.

Another loud CROAK.

A heavy BANG against the door rocks Leah.

Another one knocks her to the floor.

The door creeps open, a large green hand pushes it open.

It opens fully, Frog Man looms over Leah.

She tracks back, up onto her bed.

LEAH

Please, no.

Frog Man releases a loud, deep CROAK as his throat bulges.

His thin tongue flies out across the room, smacks Leah on the cheek and slithers back into his mouth.

He gives a horrible, sharp toothed smile and leaps at Leah.

He holds her down. She tries to resist but is no match.

His tongue flicks out at her again, this time smacks her in the eye.

He lowers his head down, they're now nose to nose.

Leah releases a horrifying scream before Frog Man kisses her on the lips.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The pond is calm, no one around.

In the background, the school is in clear view. Loud music comes from the building.

Two frog's hop into view, just on the edge of the water. One big, one slightly smaller.

They stand, peering out across the pond. The big one leans into the smaller one, licks its cheek.

FADE OUT.