Don't Stop Believing
FADE IN:

EXT. BILSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - MORNING

Tall Redwoods encircle a picture perfect two story log cabin and immaculate yard, enclosed by a wood fence.

SUPER: JUST OUTSIDE MIRANDA, CA - AVENUE OF THE GIANTS

HANNAH, 5, as cute as little girls can be, plays on a rope swing, attached to a huge redwood, a Bugs Bunny stuffed animal in one arm.

Next to the back fence, a curious BUNNY RABBIT watches her, nose constantly twitching.

Hannah notices the bunny, slows her swinging, a big smile on her face.

She hops off the swing, Bugs still in tow, lands on her hands and knees. She stands, approaches the rabbit.

    HANNAH
    Hello there, little bunny. You sure are cute.

The rabbit watches, stands up on its hind legs.

    RABBIT
    (young female voice)
    What's up, Doc? You're awful cute, yourself.

Hannah's eyes go wide, a confused look on her face, which quickly changes to one of wonder and awe. She opens her mouth, but nothing comes out.

The rabbit cocks its head, nose still twitching nervously.

    RABBIT (CONT'D)
    I'm so hungry. Do you have any carrots I could have? Pretty please?

An audible gasp escapes Hannah's lips, as she turns, and runs toward the back patio.

The rabbit turns towards the fence, revealing an inky black gelatinous mass on its neck.
INT. BILSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

JASMINE, 9, an older version of Hannah, sits at the kitchen table, as MOM, 31, pretty but tired looking, serves pancakes and sausages.

Hannah bursts in on the run.

MOM
Perfect timing, Hun. I made pancakes.

Hannah rushes up to Mom.

HANNAH
Mommy...there's a talking rabbit out back.

Jasmine watches, laughs out loud.

JASMINE
Riiiiight...Hannah, you need to stop making up stories.

MOM
A talking rabbit, huh? What did he say?

HANNAH
He's a she, and she said she was very hungry and asked for carrots.

Mom pulls a chair back, motions for Hannah to sit.

MOM
She did, huh? Well, I hope you're hungry too. Wash your hands and sit down here...let me have Bugs.

MOMENTS LATER

The three sit at the table, almost done with their breakfast, but the sausages still remain on Hannah's plate.

HANNAH
But, Mommy, I'm not making it up. She really did talk and she sounds like a little girl.

Jasmine finishes off her plate, eyes on Hannah.
3.

JASMINE
Mom, how many times have you told
Hannah not to make up stories? I
think she should get a
punishment...don't you?

Mom eyes Jasmine, raises her eyebrows.

MOM
You do, huh, Jazz? Did you make
your bed this morning? Did you clean
your room, like I asked last night?

JASMINE
Mom...really?

Hannah sticks her tongue out at Jasmine.

HANNAH
Yeah! Maybe Jasmine should get a
punishment, too! Meany!

Mom looks down at Hannah's plate.

MOM
Baby, eat your sausages, OK? For
me?
(beat)
If you finish your plate, I'll cut
up some carrots for you, and no one
will get a punishment...but if not...

Hannah forks her sausage, swirls it in syrup.

HANNAH
I'll eat 'em. I promise!

EXT. BILSON HOUSE - BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Hannah and Jasmine exit the back patio, Bugs in Hannah's
arms and a bag of cut carrots in Jasmine's hand.

The rabbit is nowhere to be seen.

Hannah grabs Jasmine's free hand.

HANNAH
C'mon...I wasn't making it up about
the bunny rabbit.
JASMINE
Sure you weren't.
(beat)
Hey, Mom said Dad is coming over for dinner and may even sleep over.

Hannah stops in her tracks, looks up to Jasmine.

HANNAH
Daddy's coming over? You think Mommy and Daddy will sleep together?

Hannah snickers.

JASMINE
Hannah! I'm telling Mom what you just said. That's not very lady-like.

HANNAH
You're always telling on me, and you know what? I'm not a lady...I'm still a little girl, so just...

The rabbit scampers under the back fence, eyes directly on the girls.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
...there she is! See? I told you.

Jasmine scrunches her nose, shakes her head, looks from the rabbit down to Hannah.

JASMINE
You said it was talking. I don't hear any talking. It's just a dumb rabbit, Silly.

The rabbit stands on its hind legs.

RABBIT
That's not very lady-like, calling me dumb, now is it?

Jasmine's eyes go wide. She stares, dumfounded at the rabbit, then down to Hannah.

HANNAH
See? I told you I wasn't fibbin'.

RABBIT
C'mon, follow me. I want to introduce you to some of my friends...and bring the carrots!
The rabbit scurries under the fence.

Hannah tries to follow, but Jasmine holds her back.

JASMINE
We're not allowed to go outside the fence without Mom. I'm gonna get her.

HANNAH
No! C'mon. We won't go far. Mommy won't believe you either...c'mon, Jasmine...please!

EXT. FORESTED TRAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Huge redwoods surround a dirt trail that meanders back into the forest.

Hannah and Jasmine stand together, looking down at the rabbit. Hannah hands the rabbit a carrot.

JASMINE
I cannot believe this. How can you talk?

The rabbit chews the carrot madly. What looks like a smile, forms on its lips.

RABBIT
Don't stop believing. Never lose the wonder of believing in what you think can't be.

Hannah watches, smiling from ear to ear.

HANNAH
I told you! See? Isn't she cute?

The rabbit finishes the carrot, looks up into Hannah's eyes.

RABBIT
Can I have another carrot? They're so good and I'm still so hungry!

HANNAH
Of course you can, silly rabbit.

Jasmine laughs.

The rabbit looks perplexed.

RABBIT
Why did you call me, silly?
JASMINE
She was kidding. It's from an old commercial about a rabbit eating cereal. My Dad always called us, silly rabbits.

RABBIT
Is your Mommy and Daddy home now?

HANNAH
Our Mommy is, but our Daddy doesn't live with us anymore.

JASMINE
But he's coming over tonight for dinner...

HANNAH
And he may sleep over with Mommy!

The rabbit watches, as it chews.

RABBIT
Well, that's too bad your Daddy doesn't live with you anymore, but it's good he's coming over tonight.

HANNAH
Mommy doesn't believe in talking rabbits.

JASMINE
She will now!

RABBIT
Hey, c'mon, I want you to meet my other friends.

The rabbit bounds off down the trail.

JASMINE
Hannah, we should go back.

The rabbit stops, turns around.

RABBIT
It's not much further...you'll love my friends. C'mon!

Hannah looks up to Jasmine with pleading eyes.

JASMINE
Oh, OK...but not much farther.
EXT. BURNED OUT CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

The ground is scorched. All the trees are toppled, with thin wisps of smoke wafting up from their charred trunks.

In the middle, a dull metallic cylindrical cone juts out of the burned ground. Next to it, a mound of fresh earth with a dark opening.

A BEAR CUB and a FAWN play near the mound of earth.

The rabbit bounds up to the other animals, with Hannah and Jasmine close behind.

Jasmine stops in her tracks, pulls Hannah back with her.

JASMINE
Woooo...what happened here?

She points at the cone shaped object.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
And what's that?

Hannah looks on in wonder and amazement.

HANNAH
Look! A little bear cub and fawn. Do you talk, too?

BEAR CUB
(young female voice)
Of course, we do, you silly rabbit.

FAWN
(young female voice)
Me too. Want to be our friends?

The rabbit watches as Jasmine covers her mouth in shock.

Hannah breaks free of Jasmine's grip, rushes over and hugs the bear cub. As she pulls back, she looks down at her arms, covered in a dark gelatinous liquid.

HANNAH
You're so cute, but you're all wet. I have a stuffed bear that looks just like you...but he doesn't talk.

BEAR CUB
Stuffed? Why did you stuff him?

Jasmine slowly walks forward.
JASMINE
He's not real...like Hannah's Bugs Bunny...they're just toys.

The rabbit looks at Bugs in Hannah's arms.

RABBIT
I was wondering about him...he's pretty quiet.

The girls both burst out in laughter.

JASMINE
We're gonna be rich when people see what we've found!

BEAR CUB
Rich? What is rich?

JASMINE
It's money. You're the only talking animals in the whole world!

RABBIT
And what would you do with all that money?

Hannah spins around, Bugs above her head.

HANNAH
We'd go to Disney World and make Mommy and Daddy love each other again and be a happy family for ever and ever and ever!

The fawn approaches, nuzzles Hannah's cheek. On the back of its neck is an inky black gelatinous mass.

FAWN
That sounds wonderful. Here, in our forest, Mommies and Daddies always love each other, and I think you're going to be a happy family again real soon.

BEAR CUB
And all animals love each other, too.

Jasmine scrunches her nose, approaches the bear cub.

JASMINE
But, bears eat deer...sometimes they even eat people.
9.

RABBIT
Not anymore...not since our newest friend arrived. We all live in peace and harmony...and always will.

JASMINE
Who's that? Who's your newest friend?

The rabbit turns to the mound of earth.

RABBIT
She's in there.

FAWN
We call her Queenie!

BEAR CUB
Yeah, Queenie! She's so nice.

RABBIT
She came to us last night, in the storm. She wants to meet you.

Hannah smiles wide, runs up to the mound of earth.

She peers inside the dark hole.

JASMINE
Hannah, don't get too close...you don't know what's in there.

Jasmine looks to the rabbit.

JASMINE (CONT'D)
What is Queenie? She's not a lizard, is she? We're scared of lizards.

Seven gleaming pinpointst of light stare back at Hannah from inside the mound.

RABBIT
No, she's not a lizard, but lizards are nice, too...all the animals are nice.

(beat)
Queenie is different, but so nice. She made us all what we now are.

Hannah moves closer to the dark opening.

HANNAH
I can see her, I think. She's shiny...and really big!
Jasmine attempts to go to Hannah, but is blocked by the bear cub and fawn.

Three jet black appendages lash out of the hole with the speed of a striking snake. They wrap around Hannah's upper half, and pull her inside, in a split second.

Jasmine screams...turns around, and hightails it back down the trail.

The three animals look at each other inquisitively.

INT. BILSON HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - DAY

It's a big, beautiful room, with two story windows, looking into the back yard. Mom sits on a sofa, laptop in front of her.

Through the windows outside, Jasmine throws open the fence gate, runs up to the house as fast as she can.

The back door opens with a bang.

MOM
I need you two to get cleaned up...we're heading out to the market to get some stuff for a special dinner for your Dad tonight.

Jasmine rushes in, panting, completely out of breath.

JASMINE
Mom...Mom...

Mom looks up, alarmed, quickly stands.

MOM
Honey, what's wrong? Where's Hannah?

Jasmine tries to catch her breath.

JASMINE
Mom...Hannah wasn't making it up. The animals...they all talked and something got her...dragged her into a hole. We have to go help her...NOW!

EXT. BURNED OUT CLEARING - DAY

Hannah stands in front of the mound, a strange smile on her face, Bugs Bunny in her arms. The animals are nowhere to be seen.
Mom and Jasmine enter the clearing on the run.

HAANAH
Mommy! I'm over here. I want to show you something.

MOM
Honey, are you OK? Jasmine said something...

JASMINE
In the hole! It's in the hole!

Hannah opens her arms, beckons Mom over to her.

HANNAH
Mommy, I'm cold. Will you pick me up and take me home with you?

Mom looks to Jasmine.

MOM
Stay here. I'll get her.

JASMINE
Mom...don't go. Something's wrong here.

Mom runs to Hannah, hugs her tight, then quickly pulls away, looking at her arms, which are wet with a dark gelatinous fluid.

MOM
Honey? What's on your neck? You're all wet and sticky.

Hannah smiles wide.

HANNAH
It's Queenie. She's my new best friend. She wants to be your best friend, too.

Three jet black appendages fly out from behind Hannah, wrapping up Mom, and spinning her around backwards.

Mom fights, but is no match for the unseen creature's power.

She's quickly pulled down and back into the hole.

Jasmine screams, turns to run, but is blocked by the bear cub and fawn.

She screams again, only this time, much louder.
EXT. BILSON HOUSE - FRONT YARD - EVENING

A Jeep pulls into the driveway, headlights leading the way. The garage door opens in front of it.

INT. BILSON HOUSE - GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mom, Hannah, and Jasmine sit together on a sofa, looking out to the kitchen. Three jet black appendages unwrap themselves from around their necks, disappear behind the sofa.

Hannah giggles as the sound of the garage door opening into the kitchen rings out.

Mom smiles, hugs her two girls.

    MOM
    Hey Babe, we're in the great room.

    HANNAH
    We have a BIG surprise for you, Daddy.

FADE OUT.