SABRINA AND HER OCARINA

by
Clay Norris

Based on an original story

Second Draft

Clay Norris
Yarnspin@yahoo.com
Copyright (c) 2011
FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Sunlight filters through leaves. A stream trickles over rocks. Birds chirp.

SABRINA, 22, a young lady in blue jeans and a rainbow T-shirt, walks along the trail with her backpack.

She stops when the trail forks, considers her choice.

Sabrina strikes off in a different direction.

EXT. SIDE TRAIL - A LITTLE LATER

It is darker. Undergrowth is thicker. Ferns and mushrooms abound.

Sabrina has a sip of water, then notices something on the ground just off the path.

CLOSE ON - OCARINA

BACK TO SCENE

Sabrina stands over it.

OCARINA’S P. O. V. - SABRINA LEANS DOWN

SABRINA

Cool.

BACK TO SCENE

She picks it up, blows into it.

A consonant note sounds.

The birds go mute.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -

Sabrina standing there, dwarfed by the trees as the note ECHOES into silence.

Sabrina chuckles, then fingers the holes of the instrument as she blows again.

Her fingers dance.
A melody emerges.

The song lasts about a minute.

Sabrina, surprised at herself, marvels at the trees laden with BIRDS, who stare at her. She admires the ocarina like a holy relic.

SABRINA (CONT’D)

Wow.

She runs off with a skip in her step.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

Sabrina strolls along, stops on a corner, removes the ocarina from her backpack, plays a mellow tune.

People do double takes, freeze. A crowd forms, gets bigger and bigger.

As she plays, people throw change and dollar bills at her feet.

CLOSE ON - ACCUMULATING LOOT

BACK TO SCENE

The crowd now spills onto the street. Cars honk. A COP runs up.

COP

Get off the street! You’re blocking traffic!

The crowd disperses.

As Sabrina scoops up her coins, the cop confronts her.

COP (CONT’D)

Look here, young lady, you can’t stage concerts on the sidewalk.

SABRINA

So I can’t --

COP (interrupting)

Not if you don’t want to be cited for loitering. Take it to the park!

The cop leaves, as does Sabrina.
EXT. PARK - LATER

Sabrina performs on the bandstand for a dozen or so mesmerized patrons. There is a poster with the words “FREE CONCERT...DONATIONS ACCEPTED” taped to the stand, with an empty BOWL under it.

The crowd increases as more and more people fill the park.

The audience is rapt: no one speaks as Sabrina plays.

SAME SCENE - LATER

As Sabrina finishes her last song there is a -

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -

Showing the field before the bandstand filled with hundreds of happy fans. They cheer. Sabrina bows.

A RECORD PRODUCER, mid-30s, a large fellow in a fancy suit twirling a cigar, watches her with special interest.

The bowl OVERFLOWS with greenbacks.

INT. SUNSHINE MUSIC OFFICE - DAY

Sabrina sits before a big desk, the producer behind it. She signs her name to a contract.

CLOSE ON - WRITING OUT HER NAME

BACK TO SCENE

Sabrina and the producer shake hands.

INT. RECORD STORE - DAY

Sabrina sits at a table stacked with copies of her album, Sabrina and Her Ocarina. Fans line up for autographs and photographs.

SERIES OF SHOTS - SABRINA’S FAME

A. Sabrina haloed by a spotlight in a vast indoor performing hall, playing to a hypnotized audience.

B. A front page newspaper photo of Sabrina and dignitaries in front of the White House with the headline “SABRINA PLAYS FOR PRESIDENT”.
C. Sabrina in concert at the Hollywood Bowl, backed by a 100 piece orchestra.

D. Another news photo of Sabrina smashing a bottle against the bow of an ocean vessel headlined with: “SABRINA CHRISTENS MEGA-LINER!”

E. Photo portrait of Sabrina before her mansion, flanked by domestics.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL – DAY

OVERHEAD shot of guests frolicking in pool – PULLS BACK TO REVEAL – They are in an ocarina-shaped pool behind Sabrina’s mansion. Sabrina waves to her guests.

INT. SABRINA’S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Sabrina sleeps. A DARK VOICE speaks.

DARK VOICE (V.O.) (sotto)
Fake.

She stirs.

DARK VOICE (V.O.) (CONT’D)
(a bit louder)
Phony.

She rolls over.

DARK VOICE (V.O.) (CONT’D)
Fraud!

Sabrina wakes with a gasp.

EXT. POOL – DAY

Sabrina and her guests enjoy themselves with a live band. AD LIBBED CHATTER.

Sabrina turns away from the guests she’s chatting with. She clutches her head, falls.

CLOSE UP – HER FACE
DARK VOICE (V.O.)
You’re not playing the ocarina. The ocarina is playing you...and millions of others!

BACK TO SCENE

Sabrina’s guests gather around her. CONCERNED AD LIBS. They help her to her feet as the butler takes her inside.

INT. SABRINA’S BEDROOM - DAY

Sabrina is in bed. A nurse checks her blood pressure. Her AGENT, 35, sits nearby, concerned.

AGENT
Do you feel up to performing tomorrow night?

SABRINA
I’ll be fine, Toni. I can do it.

The nurse removes the cuff, pats her arm.

INT. HALL - A MOMENT LATER

The agent and the nurse exit the bedroom.

INT. SABRINA’S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sabrina is calm, then a pall of dread covers her face.

INT. CONCERT HALL - NIGHT

The hall is filled to capacity with a MURMURING crowd. The orchestra is ready.

The MC, 40, appears, stands center stage. The murmurs cease.

MC
Ladies and gentlemen, it is our proud pleasure to present tonight the Midland Civic Orchestra along with a very special guest star... Sabrina and her Ocarina!

The crowd goes WILD as Sabrina enters. She smiles and bows, steps to the microphone. The audience hushes up.
SABRINA
Good evening and thank you all. The orchestra and I would...

Sabrina pauses.

A strange silence.

Her face takes on a deer-in-the-headlights look.

SABRINA (CONT’D)
... I mean we, uh, I want to say that...

Her face becomes Norman Bates-like, a mask of lunacy. She holds up the ocarina.

SABRINA (CONT’D)
... something else is playing this instrument! It’s not me! It’s someone, something... ellllllse!

She clutches her head, falls, SCREAMS.

The crowd issues a collective GASP. The master of ceremonies and several orchestra members rush to Sabrina’s aid.

INSERT - NEWSPAPER HEADLINE
“SABRINA FALLS ILL...CONCERT POSTPONED!”

INT. HALL OUTSIDE SABRINA’S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT
The nurse sits next to the door, reads a magazine.

An ORDERLY steps into frame.

ORDERLY
Your dinner’s ready.

The nurse leaves with the orderly.

The door opens a crack, then wider.

Sabrina’s face appears.

CLOSE ON - SABRINA’S FACE
Sabrina looks up and down the hall.

BACK TO SCENE
She leaps from her room into a fire exit across the hall seconds before a security guard walks past.

EXT. BEHIND THE HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER
Sabrina sprints away as fast as she can.

EXT. FOREST - A FEW HOURS LATER
Sabrina wends her way through the woods with a flashlight, stops where she found the ocarina.
She presses her fingers to her forehead.

DARK VOICE (V.O.)
Do what you must!

Sabrina reaches into her bag, removes the ocarina, places it on the ground, raises a rock over her head.

OCARINA’S P. O. V. - SABRINA TAKES AIM
BACK TO SCENE
The ocarina begins to GLOW...and GROW.
Sabrina, startled, backs away as the ocarina re-morphs into a SHINING sphere, which hovers above the ground.

The image of a human-faced ALIEN, careworn and sad, appears in the glow.

ALIEN
Yes, the ability everyone thinks you have is not yours, but mine. I was sent to overtake and control your world by any way I saw fit. I chose music as a means to this end; however, a disaster on my world while I was away destroyed it, so it is no longer my duty or my choice to enslave your world. I beg a profuse apology to you and your planet. Is there something I can do to make amends?

Sabrina contains her anger well.
SABRINA
I wish everything to be erased.
Everything up to just before I met you, my memory of it included.

ALIEN
Close your eyes.

Sabrina does.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

SABRINA’S P. O. V. - THE TRAIL

BACK TO SCENE
Sabrina walks upon the main path. She passes the side trail without hesitation.
She spots an ocarina just off the path, stops.

CLOSE ON - OCARINA

BACK TO SCENE
She retrieves it, blows into it.
A dissonant note emerges.
Birds take wing.
A YOUNG MAN, 25, comes upon her as she plays, very badly.

YOUNG MAN
I’m glad you found it. I lost it yesterday.

He extends his hand.
She gives him the ocarina.
He pipes a cheerful tune.

YOUNG MAN (CONT’D)
Do you want me to show you how?

Sabrina smiles.

YOUNG MAN (CONT’D)
Take the instrument in hand...
He gives it back to her.

    YOUNG MAN (CONT’D)
    ... and place your fingers just
    so.

    FADE OUT.