

The Good Luck Charm

by
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FADE IN

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

MARGARET OWENS: 40's, tired and filled with a profound sadness; stands at the counter making a sandwich.

She glances out the window.

A large raven flies over the yard.

Margaret watches the bird with a sense of dread.

The raven lands on a fence post and stares at the house.

Suddenly terrified Margaret stares back at the bird.

MARGARET

Go away, please go away.

The bird stares at her then flies off.

Margaret SIGHS in relief.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Thank God.

She glances at the clock.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Becca hurry up, you're gonna be late.

BECCA (O.S.)

Just a minute mom, I have to check something online.

Margaret picks up a large kitchen knife.

MARGARET

Well don't be too long or you'll miss the bus, again.

She cuts the sandwich in half then sets the knife on the counter.

BECCA (O.S.)

I won't.

Margaret smirks.

MARGARET

I've heard that before.

She wraps the sandwich in plastic wrap then drops that and a few snacks into a brown paper bag.

She sets the bag on the counter and turns on the dishwasher.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Becca hurry up.

She picks up the paper bag.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Becca now, the bus will be here any-

Becca SCREAMS.

Panic stricken Margaret turns towards the living room.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Becca.

She throws the bag onto the counter and races towards the living room.

The bag slams into the knife which slides across the counter.

Becca SQUEALS.

The knife teeters on the edge of the counter then falls onto the floor.

Becca: early teens; runs in.

Margaret rushes to her.

MARGARET (CONT'D)
Becca are you alright?

Barely able to contain her excitement Becca grins and hugs Margaret.

BECCA
Oh mom our luck is finally changing.

Becca begins to dance circles around Margaret.

The dishwasher springs a leak; a puddle of soapy water slowly spreads across the kitchen floor.

Margaret smiles.

MARGARET
What has gotten into you?

BECCA

I told you mom, our luck is finally changing.

The puddle flows past the knife and slowly works it's way towards Becca.

Becca dances and jumps around.

Margaret, starting to get nervous, watches Becca.

MARGARET

Becca what's going on?

BECCA

We're rich mom, we're rich.

Margaret gives her a questioning look.

Becca grins, digs into her pocket then pulls something out.

She proudly holds up a lottery ticket.

The color drains from Margaret's face.

MARGARET

No.

BECCA

We won the lotto.

Scared, defeated and suddenly filled with an overwhelming sense of sadness, Margaret shakes her head.

MARGARET

Please God no.

BECCA

Didn't you hear me mom, I said we're--

She jumps in circles.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Filthy, stinking--

Terrified, Margaret shakes her head.

MARGARET

No.

BECCA

Rich.

She lands in a puddle, her feet slide out from under.

MARGARET

Becca.

Becca falls onto her back and slides across the floor.

Margaret rushes after her.

Becca's head slams into the counter; her eyes pop open wide and she GASPS.

Margaret SCREAMS.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Becca.

She drops down next to Becca's body.

Blood drips from Becca's lips and her dead eyes stare up at Margaret.

Margaret SCREAMS.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

No.

She cradles Becca to her chest.

The back of Becca's shirt is drenched in blood and the knife protrudes from her back.

Tears streak down Margaret face as she clutches Becca's body to her breast and gently rocks her back and forth.

EXT. SIDE OF ROAD - DAY

A car, it's hazard lights blinking, has broken down on the side of the road.

PAYTON REED, 20, sits on the grass beside her car.

She impatiently glances at her watch then SIGHS.

She digs around in her purse and pulls out her cell phone.

She glances down the road.

A pick-up truck speeds towards her.

She drops her cell phone back into the purse and stands.

The pick-up pulls up and parks behind Payton's car.

Payton walks to her passenger door.

CALEB BARNES, 20, jumps out of his truck and starts to walk towards her.

PAYTON
Well it's about time.

He stops and gives her a look.

CALEB
Ah I believe the words you're
looking for are thank you.

She gives him an apologetic smile.

PAYTON
Sorry but I'm running late and this
is the last thing I needed.

She opens her car door.

CALEB
This is the third time it's
happened, figured you'd be used to
it by now.

She flips him off then leans into her car.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Oh nice, very nice.

Payton grabs her books and closes the door.

CALEB (CONT'D)
When are you just going to break
down and have it fixed?

PAYTON
Ah, when I can afford it.

She walks over to his pick-up.

CALEB
Can't you ask your mom for the
money?

PAYTON
Yeah, like she's got a thousand
bucks just lying around.

CALEB
Maybe it won't be that much.

PAYTON
With my luck--

She opens the passenger door.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
It'll probably be double.

CALEB
Why don't you just ask my Uncle
Rickey to look at? Maybe he can fix
it cheaper.

She gives him an almost pleading look.

PAYTON
Think he'd mind?

CALEB
Payton we've been friends since we
were like two, you're practically
family.

She smiles.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Of course he'll mind.

She smirks.

PAYTON
Caleb you're such an asshole.

He grins.

CALEB
I'll call him and have him tow it
to the garage.

She smiles.

PAYTON
You're the best.

She climbs into the truck.

He looks at her with a wistful yet disappointed look that
shows he's secretly in love with her.

CALEB
Yeah.

He walks to the driver's side door.

EXT. CAMPUS - LATER

Payton walks across the campus.

JENNY, 20, sees her and runs after her.

JENNY

Payton.

Payton stops, looks back and waits for her.

Jenny stops in front of her.

PAYTON

Hey Jenny.

JENNY

You OK?

They walk towards the parking lot.

PAYTON

Don't ask.

Jenny steps in front of her and stops.

JENNY

What's wrong?

Payton SIGHS.

PAYTON

What isn't? My mom can't afford to help me this month, they cut my hours at work, my car broke down.

JENNY

Again?

PAYTON

Yeah and to top it all off--

Jenny, knowing what she is going to say, gives her a sympathetic but disappointed look.

JENNY

You didn't get the part.

PAYTON

No.

They start to walk off.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I got the part of the perky
neighbor.

JENNY
So who got--

Payton, annoyed at losing the part, gives Jenny a look.

PAYTON
I'll give you three guesses.

JENNY
Megan Lane.

PAYTON
Who else? The bitch.

Jenny nods.

JENNY
No argument here.

They walk quietly a moment.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Well, other than that how's your
day going?

PAYTON
Let's see.

She thinks a moment then smiles.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Well, you know that hot guy that's
been staring at me in Professor
Ryan's class.

Jenny grins.

JENNY
Yeah.

PAYTON
I finally got up the nerve to speak
to him.

JENNY
Good for you.

Payton smirks.

PAYTON

Turns out he was actually staring
at the guy behind me.

JENNY

Payton you have the worst luck of
anyone I know.

PAYTON

Tell me about it.

Garrett, 20, comes running towards them.

GARRETT

Hey Payton.

Payton and Jenny see him.

They stop and wait for him to catch up.

He grins and waves as he jogs over to them.

JENNY

You know Garrett's kind of cute and
I think he--

PAYTON

He's gay too Jenny.

JENNY

Oh yeah.

PAYTON

We're theatre majors, they're all
gay.

Garrett stops in front of them.

GARRETT

Hey Payton.

He nods at Jenny.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Jenny.

PAYTON

Hey Garrett, how's it going?

GARRETT

Better than you, heard about your
car, I'm really sorry.

PAYTON

Thanks.

GARRETT

Look if you ever need a lift.

PAYTON

Thanks, I may have to take you up on that, God knows when I'll be able to have it fixed.

GARRETT

I was just on my way over to the Alpha Beta's yard sale, want to join me?

PAYTON

Thanks but I'm broke.

JENNY

Come on Payton it might be fun, besides they're really hot and straight.

(To Garrett)

No offense.

GARRETT

None taken.

He gives her a knowing smile.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

And they're not all straight.

JENNY

No way.

He nods.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Who?

PAYTON

You want to know which ones are gay?

JENNY

Yeah.

PAYTON

Just stand next to me, if they talk to me they're gay.

GARRETT

Yeah, you are kind of a magnet for hot gay guys, it's why I like hanging out with you.

PAYTON

Gee thanks.

He grins.

GARRETT

I'm just teasing.

PAYTON

No you're not.

He smiles.

GARRETT

Well it's not the only reason I like hanging out with you.

PAYTON

I feel so loved.

He gives her a serious look.

GARRETT

Payton if there's one thing I've learned in this life it's that there's nothing like ogling hot frat guys to lift your spirits.

Payton shakes her head.

JENNY

What'd you say? I'll even buy you something.

PAYTON

I don't know, I should really start learning my lines.

JENNY

Oh come on, it's not like you have that many lines to learn.

PAYTON

Thanks, bitch.

Jenny grins.

Garrett holds his hands in prayer position and gives Payton a pleading look.

GARRETT
Please, hot guys always notice me
when I'm with you.

PAYTON
At least I'm good for something.

GARRETT
Come on, a little shopping, a
little cruising then cocktails.

JENNY
Works for me.

Garrett gives her a sly smile.

GARRETT
Well I'm sure anything with the
word cock in it would work for you.

Jenny playfully smacks his back.

JENNY
You bitch.

He looks at her, turns around and sticks out his butt.

GARRETT
If you're going to spank me, do it
right.

Payton and Jenny SIGH, shake their heads then walk towards
the parking lot.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Is that a no on the spanking?

He watches them walk off then jogs after them.

EXT. YARD SALE

Garrett and Jenny stand at a table ogling the guys working
the sale.

Payton walks off by herself.

As she passes by a table an antique mirror catches her eye.

Margaret stands in the background.

Payton stops and, mesmerized by the strange looking mirror,
just stares at.

Margaret watches her with anticipation.

Payton picks up the mirror and stares at it as if it were some kind of wondrous treasure.

Jenny and Garrett walk over.

JENNY
What'd you find?

Payton shows her the mirror.

PAYTON
Isn't it beautiful?

JENNY
It's creepy.

Payton looks surprised.

PAYTON
No it isn't.

She admires the mirror.

GARRETT
I have to agree with the slut, it's as creepy as Chuck Norris in a leopard skin leotard with a fuchsia tutu.

Jenny gives him a dirty look.

JENNY
You are such a bitch.

GARRETT
And you're a--

PAYTON
Enough you two.

GARRETT
See what that creepy mirror is doing, it's pitting us against each other.

PAYTON
You two always tease each other and the mirror isn't creep, it's--

GARRETT
Hideous, garish, kind of--

PAYTON
Oh neither one of you has any
taste.

She smiles at the mirror.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I like it, it feels lucky.

GARRETT
Feels lucky, what the hell does
that mean?

PAYTON
That it's going to be my good luck
charm.

GARRETT
That ugly thing?

JENNY
You aren't really going to buy that
are you?

PAYTON
Nope.

JENNY
Good.

PAYTON
You are.

Jenny holds up her hands and shakes her head.

JENNY
Oh no way.

PAYTON
You said you'd buy me something if
I came.

JENNY
Yeah but I didn't think you'd pick
something from The Exorcist.

PAYTON
Oh it's not that bad.

GARRETT
Yeah Payton, it really is.

BRANDON HAYES, 20, walks over.

He smiles at Payton.

BRANDON
Don't listen to them, I like it.

They smile flirtatiously at each other.

PAYTON
Really?

BRANDON
Yeah it suits you.

PAYTON
Sold.

BRANDON
Why don't I wrap it up for you?

He takes the mirror, smiles at her then walks off.

GARRETT
Damn he's hot.

JENNY
And he's so into you.

Garrett smiles at her.

GARRETT
You think?

Jenny shakes her head and SIGHS.

JENNY
I meant her.

GARRETT
Ah.

PAYTON
No he's not.

JENNY
Are you kidding? Didn't you see the way he was smiling at you?

PAYTON
It was probably gas.

BRANDON
Oh ut uh, he was looking at you like he was a starving fat kid and you were an all you can eat buffet.

PAYTON
Yeah right.

GARRETT
Look at him.

Brandon glances back at Payton and smiles.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
He wants you so bad he can almost
taste your--

PAYTON
Shut up.

Margaret: her face a mixture of relief, fear and sadness;
watches them.

Brandon walks over and hands Payton the mirror, now wrapped
in tissue paper.

Their fingers brush; they grin at each other.

Jenny hands him some money.

Crystal, 20, walks up behind Brandon and wraps her arms
around him.

He turns around.

BRANDON
Oh hey--

She wraps her arms around his neck, pulls him close and
kisses him as she stares at Payton.

A dejected Payton, holding the mirror, walks off.

Jenny and Garrett give each other a look then rush after her.

Brandon pulls out of Crystal's embrace.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Not now, I'm working.

She gives him a pouty look.

With sad puppy dog eyes Brandon watches Payton walk away.

CRYSTAL
Ah did I interrupt something?

He stares after Payton a moment.

BRANDON

No.

He looks back at Crystal.

CRYSTAL

Who was that?

BRANDON

Just a customer, think she might be
in my acting class.

CRYSTAL

Yeah right.

She stomps off.

He glances back at Payton.

Margaret watches Payton walk off.

She clutches the crucifix that hangs from her neck.

MARGARET

May God forgive me.

She turns and walks towards the street then stops and looks
back.

Feeling someone watching her, Payton glances back.

Her eyes lock with Margaret's.

Margaret mouths:

MARGARET (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

She steps off the curb and into the street.

A big truck slams into her.

Margaret's body is thrown into the air and slams down onto
the pavement with a loud THUD.

Payton SCREAMS and races towards her.

A crowd gathers around Margaret.

She lies on her back; her dead eyes stare up and blood
trickles from her lips.

Payton pushes her way through the crowd.

A man kneels down next to Margaret.

He feels for a pulse.

PAYTON
Is she alright?

The man looks up at her and sadly shakes his head.

Payton steps back.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
No.

Jenny and Garrett step next to her.

Garrett wraps his arm around Payton.

GARRETT
Come on sweetie.

Payton just stares at Margaret's body.

Margaret's eyes seem to stare up at her.

INT. PAYTON AND JENNY'S APARTMENT - THAT EVENING

Payton, Jenny and Garrett sit on the sofa drinking beer.

PAYTON
I can't believe my luck.

GARRETT
Are we still talking about the pig
who was flirting with you or are we
back to the dead lady?

PAYTON
Both.

JENNY
Payton he's an asshole, that has
nothing to do with you. And she's
the one that died.

PAYTON
But I was there, I'm such a jinx.

GARRETT
I think you're giving yourself way
too much credit. It was just her
time, it had nothing to do with you
sweetie.

PAYTON
You know what the weirdest part is?

GARRETT
She was hit by a Good Humor truck?

PAYTON
You're such an ass.

Garrett grins.

Payton shakes her head.

JENNY
Ignore him, what was the weird
part?

PAYTON
She was staring at me right before
it happened.

GARRETT
She probably thought you were hot.

PAYTON
I'm being serious.

GARRETT
So am I.

JENNY
You never know Payton, maybe she
has a thing for hot jinxed coeds.

PAYTON
You can both eat me.

GARRETT
Thanks but I prefer meat to fish.

Jenny slaps him.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Ouch, that hurt.

JENNY
Good.

He stands up, turns around and sticks out his butt.

GARRETT
I told you if you're going to slap
me do it right.

JENNY
You're such an ass.

He grins and sits down.

PAYTON
I swear she mouthed I'm sorry right
before it happened.

JENNY
Sorry for what?

Payton shrugs.

GARRETT
She's probably sorry you wasted
Jenny's money on that ugly mirror.

PAYTON
I like it.

GARRETT
Well then you have no taste.

PAYTON
Obviously, look who I hang out
with.

GARRETT
I love you too.

Jenny stands.

JENNY
I've got to pee.

GARRETT
Thanks for the update, I'll alert
the media.

JENNY
Go get more beer.

GARRETT
Ooo I just love it when you're
bossy.

He stands up and walks to the kitchen.

JENNY
When I get back this pity party is
over, got it?

Payton salutes.

PAYTON

Yes ma'am.

JENNY

I'm serious Payton, look I know you've had a run of bad luck.

PAYTON

That's an understatement.

JENNY

But that's all it is, things will turn around you'll see.

PAYTON

If you say so.

JENNY

I do and we both know I'm always right, so no more of this jinxed shit, got it.

Payton nods.

Jenny walks out.

GARRETT

When's Caleb--

A KNOCK at the door.

PAYTON

I'd say about now.

She starts to stand.

GARRETT

I'll get it, finish your drink.

She sits down and sips her beer.

Garrett walks over and opens the door.

Caleb stands there.

CALEB

How is she?

PAYTON

Why don't you ask her?

Caleb walks over to her.

CALEB

Sorry.

He sits next to her.

CALEB (CONT'D)

How you doing?

Garrett walks in carrying four beers.

PAYTON

I'm OK.

Garrett passes out the beers.

GARRETT

Oh who are you kidding, she's been whining about how her bad luck got that frumpy woman killed.

PAYTON

You're just so sympathetic.

GARRETT

I know.

He crosses his fingers and holds them up.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Me and Mother Teresa, cut from the same cloth.

CALEB

Yeah, that's it.

He turns to Payton.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Well are you ready for some good news?

Garrett grins and drapes his arm around Caleb's neck.

GARRETT

You've decided to stop pretending you're straight and admit you're undying lust for me.

Caleb playfully shoves him away.

CALEB

You wish.

GARRETT

Ah, yeah.

Caleb grins shakes his head.

PAYTON

So what's the news?

CALEB

Uncle Rickey looked at your car.

PAYTON

Let me guess, it has cancer.

CALEB

No, it's the---

PAYTON

Bottom line Caleb, how much?

CALEB

Said he can probably do it for about one fifty.

PAYTON

Really? But all the other mechanics-

-

GARRETT

Saw you coming big time.

Caleb nods in agreement.

PAYTON

That is good news.

GARRETT

Well I be damned.

CALEB

Probably.

Garrett flips him off.

Caleb LAUGHS.

GARRETT

Anyway, looks like your mirror really is lucky after all.

Payton raises her glass.

PAYTON

To my good luck charm.

Garrett and Caleb raise their glasses.

CALEB
Where's Jenny?

GARRETT
She went to the little harlot's
room.

Payton smirks.

PAYTON
You really are an ass.

GARRETT
Well mama always said if you're
good at something stick with it.

CALEB
Which explains why you cruise the
park so much.

PAYTON'S BEDROOM

The mirror sits on Payton's dresser.

Payton and Caleb LAUGH.

GARRETT (O.S.)
You can both suck my nuts.

CALEB (O.S.)
You wish.

A green mist appears in the mirror.

BATHROOM

Jenny stands at the sink washing her hands.

GARRETT (O.S.)
Well if you prefer I could suck
yours.

She LAUGHS, glances at the door and shakes her head.

JENNY
Only you Garrett, only you.

She picks up a towel and dries her hands as she looks in the
mirror.

One side of her hair is a mess.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Lovely.

She picks up a comb.

Outside a cat YOWLS.

She jumps and drops the comb.

The cat YOWLS louder.

She LAUGHS.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Jack's damn cat is heat again,
little pussy gets it more than I
do.

PAYTON'S BEDROOM

The mist in the mirror thickens; green light spills out of the mirror and fills the room.

BATHROOM

Jenny bends down to pick up the comb.

The green mist appears in the mirror; it swirls and glows brightly.

Jenny stands.

The mist disappears.

Jenny smiles at herself in the mirror as she runs the comb through her hair.

The comb hits a knot; she tugs on it and it slides effortlessly through.

As she lowers the comb something brushes against her wrist.

Startled she jumps.

JENNY

What the--

She glances down at her hand; a large clump of her hair is twisted in the comb.

Confused she stares at it a moment then, with a sense of dread, slowly raises her eyes and looks at herself in the mirror.

Horrified she GASPS when she sees her reflection: a chunk of hair is missing and there's a small but very noticeable bald spot on the side of her head.

The comb slips through her fingers and falls to the floor.

She stares at her reflection a moment then leans close and turns her head to get a better look at the bald spot.

She reaches up and moves a lock of her hair over to cover the bald spot.

It falls out in her hand.

Almost dazed she looks at the lock of hair then back into the mirror at the growing bald spot.

Tears fill her eyes and spills down her cheeks.

She tentatively reaches up and gently fingers the hair around her growing bald spot.

As her fingers graze against her hair large clumps fall off.

Terrified Jenny watches the hair drift down to the floor then swallows the lump in her throat and forces herself to look at her reflection.

She GASPS, covers her mouth and CRIES; the side of her head is almost completely bald.

LIVING ROOM

GARRETT

What the hell is taking Jenny so long?

CALEB

Hanging out with you probably made her sick.

Garrett flips him off.

Payton stands.

PAYTON

I should go check on her.

She walks to the bathroom.

Caleb watches her with that yearning, wistful look.

GARRETT

Dude why don't you just tell her?

Caleb gives him an innocent look and shrugs.

CALEB

Don't know what you're talking
about buddy.

He starts to stand.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Need another beer?

GARRETT

Thanks, but--

He holds up his full bottle.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

I haven't started this one yet.

CALEB

Right.

He sits back down.

GARRETT

Don't be such a pussy Caleb, just
tell her how you really feel.

CALEB

Don't know what you're talking bro.

GARRETT

Bullshit.

CALEB

You're drunk.

GARRETT

And you're in love with her.

CALEB

No.

He glances back at Payton.

CALEB (CONT'D)

We've been friends for like
forever.

GARRETT
And that's all you want?

CALEB
Yeah.

GARRETT
Right, like I want to be just
friends with Ryan Reynolds.

BATHROOM

A TAP on the door.

PAYTON (O.S.)
Jenny? You OK?

Payton slowly opens the door and pokes her head in.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Jenny are you--

She stops mid-sentence and, stunned speechless, just stares.

A completely bald Jenny kneels on the floor surrounded by
piles of her hair.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Jenny?

With tears in her eyes, Jenny looks up at Payton.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Jenny what the hell happened?

Jenny picks up clumps of hair, presses them to her bald head
then looks at Payton with a desperate, pleading look.

JENNY
Think anyone will notice?

She drops the hair, hangs her head and SOBS uncontrollably.

Payton races over, kneels down and pulls Jenny in the her
arms.

PAYTON
She's it's going to be alright.

Jenny buries her face in Payton's chest and CRIES harder.

INT. THEATRE - AFTERNOON

Workers are busy putting the set together.

A man stands on a ladder adjusting the stage lights.

Payton sits on the edge of the stage reading her script.

Caleb and Garrett walk in.

She looks up, sees them and smiles.

They walks towards her.

She sets her script down, leaps off the stage and walks over to meet them.

PAYTON

Hey what are you guys doing here?

CALEB

Just wanted to see how you were doing?

She smiles.

PAYTON

You're sweet.

He shrugs.

CALEB

What are friends for?

Garrett grins, leans over and whispers into Caleb's ear.

Caleb smirks.

CALEB (CONT'D)

We're not those kind of friends
Garrett.

Garrett gives him a teasing smile.

GARRETT

But we could be.

Caleb grins and playfully shoves Garrett.

CALEB

Shut up.

He looks at Payton.

CALEB (CONT'D)
So how are you doing?

PAYTON
OK I guess.

CALEB
How's Jenny?

She shrugs.

PAYTON
Depressed.

GARRETT
I'd be too.

CALEB
What'd the doctor say?

PAYTON
He's running a few tests but he
thinks it's stress.

CALEB
She went to the doctor like three
days ago and they still don't know
anything?

PAYTON
Should have the results by the end
of the week.

CALEB
Guarantee you if he were the one
that went bald he'd have the
results right away.

She nods in agreement.

GARRETT
Does he think it'll grow back?

PAYTON
I hope so.

Brandon walks in.

GARRETT
God me too, I can't even imagine
what she must going through.

Payton sees Brandon and grimaces.

CALEB
What's wrong?

Brandon walks over and smiles at Payton.

BRANDON
Hey.

She forces a fake smile.

PAYTON
Oh, hi.

BRANDON
So you're in this too.

PAYTON
Perky neighbor.

Brandon grins and puffs out his chest.

BRANDON
Hunky fireman.

He holds out his hand.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
I'm Brandon Hayes.

Payton shakes his hand.

PAYTON
Payton Reed.

He holds her hand a moment too long and grins.

BRANDON
Look forward to working with you
Payton Reed.

He walks off.

The fake smile fades from Payton's face, she disgustedly
shakes her head.

PAYTON
He's such a pig.

GARRETT
Yeah? So why are you lusting after
him?

PAYTON
I am not.

GARRETT
Then why are your nipples hard?

PAYTON
You're so gross.

He grins and holds his outstretched index fingers to his nipples.

She shakes her head.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I hate you.

He LAUGHS.

CALEB
Who was that guy?

PAYTON
No one.

GARRETT
That was the pig from the yard sale
that was flirting with Payton.

PAYTON
He wasn't flirting.

CALEB
The one with the girlfriend.

GARRETT
That's the pig.

CALEB
Want me to beat him up?

GARRETT
Yeah.

PAYTON
No.

GARRETT
I want to see you two wrestle in
oil.

Payton smacks him.

PAYTON
Down boy.

She smiles at Caleb.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
It's sweet of you to offer but no.

CALEB
Are you sure? I'll kick his ass if
you want.

MEGAN LANE, 20, walks over.

MEGAN
Payton.

PAYTON
Hi Megan.

MEGAN
Sorry about beating you out for
another part, gosh it must be so
frustrating for you.

Payton flashes her a fake smile.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
No hard feelings I hope.

PAYTON
Of course not.

MEGAN
Good, I'd just hate to think this
would come between us.

GARRETT
Oh don't worry Megan I'm sure
nothing will come between you too,
of course I can't say the same for
your legs.

Caleb and Payton try to suppress a LAUGH.

Megan just smiles at him.

MEGAN
Fags are so funny don't you think.

She starts to walk away then turns back.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Oh, Mr. Pritchard wants you to be my understudy, I guess he figures if something happens to me anyone could step into your part at a moment's notice, I mean it's not like there are that many lines to learn.

Payton just smiles.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

No offense, I mean there are no small parts right?

GARRETT

Just big egos.

Megan ignores him.

MEGAN

Not that I really need an understudy, I mean I never get sick but maybe I'll let you do one of the matinees or something.

PAYTON

You're so sweet.

Megan smiles then walks towards the stage.

She stops to chat with a few people.

A bird flies through the theatre.

Payton turns to Caleb.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Her you can beat up.

The bird flies low and straight at Garrett.

Garrett jumps back waving his arms to scare the bird off.

The bird flies over his head narrowly missing him.

GARRETT

Where the hell did that thing come from?

CALEB

Aw, he likes you.

Megan looks over.

MEGAN
Well Garrett, at least something
around here likes you.

GARRETT
Jealous?

She glares at him a moment then turns back to the others.

CALEB
Oh I almost forgot.

He digs in his pocket.

CALEB (CONT'D)
I bought you something.

He pulls out a scratch off lottery ticket.

PAYTON
What's that?

He hands her the ticket.

CALEB
Thought you might like to try out
your new good luck charm.

She smiles.

PAYTON
Thanks.

Caleb pulls out a quarter and hands it to her.

They smile at each other a moment.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
You really are sweet.

Caleb gives her an uncomfortable smile and shrugs.

CALEB
It was nothing.

GARRETT
Yeah yeah, come on let's see if you
won.

She gives them a little smile then starts to scratch the
ticket.

Megan climbs up on stage.

A man carries a mirror across the stage.

The man on the ladder reaches up and adjusts one of the lights.

The light bounces off the mirror, bathing the surrounding area in a greenish glow.

Payton GASPS then SQUEALS.

CALEB

You won?

She grins.

PAYTON

Five thousand bucks.

She hugs Caleb.

He grins and hugs her back.

Garrett grins.

Caleb, his arms around Payton's waist, smiles at Garrett.

Megan slips on Payton's script.

Garrett grins and gives Caleb a thumbs up.

Megan slams into the man carrying the mirror.

The man is knocked off balance.

The mirror slips through his hands.

It crashes to the floor and SHATTERS.

Shards of glass fly through the air.

Everyone stops what they are doing and looks at the stage.

A large shard of glass sails through the air and slices across Garrett's throat.

A surprised look as blood gushes from the wound.

Payton SCREAMS.

Garrett's hands fly to the cut.

CALEB

Garrett.

Garrett crumples onto the floor.

Payton is stunned and just stares a moment.

Caleb quickly kneels down beside Garrett; not knowing what to do he just stares at him a moment.

Garrett's terrified eyes look up at Caleb; he tries to speak but blood gurgles from his lips.

People gather around.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Sh, don't try to talk.

Garrett's eyes plead with Caleb; blood pours from the deep wound on Garrett's neck.

Caleb clamps his hand over the cut trying to stop the bleeding.

Payton CRIES.

Brandon rushes over and wraps his arm supportively around her.

Garrett's eyes close.

Nearly hysterical Caleb looks up at them.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Someone call 9-1-1.

He presses both his hands to Garrett's neck; blood spurts through his fingers.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Oh God.

He squeezes tighter but blood pours out of the cut.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Help, oh God he's dying, someone do something.

Brandon pulls off his shirt.

BRANDON
Use this.

He kneels down and hands Caleb the shirt.

Caleb presses it to Garrett's neck.

Blood quickly soaks through the shirt.

CALEB
Someone call--

MEGAN
Paramedics are on their way.

She steps next to Payton and puts her arm around her.
Caleb holds the blood soaked shirt to Garrett's neck.

CALEB
Hang on buddy, just hang on.

Terrified Payton watches them.

MEGAN
He's going to be OK.

Payton nods and leans into Megan.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Payton rushes to her car.

Megan runs after her.

MEGAN
Payton wait.

Payton turns around.

PAYTON
What?

MEGAN
Is Caleb taking you to the
hospital?

PAYTON
He went with Garrett in the
ambulance.

MEGAN
You're too upset to drive, let me
take you.

Payton gives her a suspicious look.

PAYTON
Why?

MEGAN
Because you shouldn't be driving.

PAYTON
I mean why are you being nice to me.

Megan nods.

MEGAN
OK, I guess I deserve that.

PAYTON
And more.

MEGAN
You're right. Look I don't know why I'm always, well--

PAYTON
Such a bitch to me.

MEGAN
Yeah, I am sorry Payton, I don't know why. I guess, well to tell the truth I'm a little jealous of you.

PAYTON
You're jealous?

Megan nods.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Of me?

MEGAN
Yeah.

PAYTON
Why? You're gorgeous, you get all the best parts--

MEGAN
People don't like me.

PAYTON
Go figure.

MEGAN
Payton I just--

PAYTON

Look Megan, could we do this another time. I'm sort of in a hurry.

MEGAN

Of course, let me drive you to the hospital?

Payton nods.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

My car's over here.

She leads Payton to her car.

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING ROOM

Caleb, his hands still covered in blood, nervously paces.

Payton and Megan walk in.

CALEB

Payton.

She rushes over and gives him a hug.

PAYTON

Any word?

He sadly shakes his head.

He nods towards Megan.

CALEB

What's she doing here?

PAYTON

She didn't want me driving.

He looks over at Megan and gives her a grateful nod.

CALEB

Thanks, that was nice of you.

MEGAN

Don't sound so surprised, it does happen once in a while.

He smiles.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
You should probably go wash your
hands.

He glances down at his hands.

Tears fill his eyes, he looks at Payton.

CALEB
If anything happens to him.

Payton hugs him tight.

PAYTON
He's going to be alright.

Caleb nods.

CALEB
Be right back.

He rushes out.

Payton SIGHS and slumps down in a chair.

Megan walks over and sits next to her.

MEGAN
He is going to be alright.

PAYTON
God I hope so.

MEGAN
Don't do that, he is going to be
alright.

Payton nods.

PAYTON
So are you really jealous of me?

Megan nods.

MEGAN
You're, well you've really got it.

PAYTON
Bad luck.

Megan smiles.

MEGAN
I mean talent.

PAYTON
So why do you get all the good
parts?

MEGAN
Well?

PAYTON
What?

Megan glances around to make sure no one is looking then
pantomimes giving oral sex.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
No?

Megan nods.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
You're kidding, you don't really--

MEGAN
It's not that bad.

PAYTON
But Mr. Pritchard is so gross.

MEGAN
Oh I just close my eyes and pretend
he's Brad Pitt or George Clooney,
sometimes Ewan McGregor or James
Franco but usually Brad or George.

Payton LAUGHS.

PAYTON
Still I don't think I could--

MEGAN
It's really not that bad, besides
it only lasts a few seconds.

Payton looks at her.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
I'm serious. I open my mouth, close
my eyes, a few thrusts, a quick tug
on his balls and five seconds later
I have the part.

Payton GIGGLES.

PAYTON
You're terrible.

MEGAN

Mr. Pritchard doesn't think so.

They both LAUGH.

The laughter subsides, they stare ahead a moment.

PAYTON

I'm glad we talked.

Megan smiles at her.

MEGAN

Me too.

She holds out her hand.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Friends.

Payton glances down at her hand then smiles.

PAYTON

Friends.

She hugs Megan.

Megan smiles and hugs her back.

MEGAN

Well enough of that.

She stands.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You want a coffee or something?

PAYTON

That'd be great, thanks.

Megan smiles, nods then walks out.

Caleb walks in.

CALEB

Where's Megan going?

PAYTON

To get coffee.

He sits next to her.

CALEB

Why she being so nice?

Payton smiles and shrugs.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Don't tell me, you two are friends
now?

PAYTON
Yeah.

CALEB
From arch rivals to friends, how
long was I in the john?

Payton playfully smacks him.

He smiles at her then drapes his arm over her shoulder.

She looks at him.

Scared, nervous but trying to put up a brave front, they
stare into each other's eyes a moment.

Their fear turns to desire; he leans in to kiss her.

She hesitates then leans in.

Their lips just inches apart.

The doctor walks in interrupting them.

Payton and Caleb leap to their feet.

PAYTON
Is he--

The doctor smiles and walks over.

DOCTOR
He's going to be alright.

Payton and Caleb SIGH in relief.

CALEB
Thank God.

DOCTOR
He's very lucky, another millimeter
or two and, well he's very lucky.
Won't be able to speak for awhile.

CALEB
That'll kill him.

Payton playfully slaps him.

He smiles at her.

CALEB (CONT'D)
When can we see him?

DOCTOR
Tomorrow, he needs his rest.

CALEB
Thanks doc.

The doctor smiles nods then steps out.

Caleb looks at Payton.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Told you he'd be OK, the little
homo's tough.

She smacks him.

PAYTON
You're such an ass.

He grins and pulls her into an embrace.

They hold each other.

A picture falls off the wall and CRASHES to the floor.

The glass SHATTERS.

Payton jumps.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Jesus, that scared the hell out of
me.

LADIES ROOM

Megan stands at the sink washing her hands; she looks at herself in the mirror then down at her hands.

The green mist appears in the mirror; the outline of a figure: tall, muscular; becomes visible in the mist.

It watches Megan then steps closer becoming almost visible.

She glances in the mirror; only her reflection stares back at her.

Megan dries her hands, throws the paper towel in the trash then glances back in the mirror.

She runs her fingers through her hair, checks her make-up then turns and walks towards the door.

The green mist fills the mirror; the demon, it's red eyes blazing, steps closer and glares at Megan.

The surface of the mirror ripples as if it were made of water; a gnarled, wrinkled hand with long talon-like nails slides out of the mirror.

Sensing something Megan spins around.

Once again only her reflection stares back at her from the mirror.

MEGAN

OK.

She shakes her head and starts to walk out.

She passes an open stall.

The mirror ripples and a muscular arm slides out; it's talon-like fingers reach for Megan.

She stops and glances back at the mirror.

Her reflection stares back at her.

Megan shakes her head and SIGHS.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

I must be losing it.

She starts to walk out.

A man leaps out of the stall and grabs Megan from behind.

She SCREAMS and struggles.

He clamps his hand over her mouth and drags her into the stall.

HALLWAY

Caleb and Payton walk down the hall.

CALEB

Want to grab a drink to celebrate?

PAYTON

Definitely.

She pulls out her cell.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I just need to call Jenny and give
her the good news.

A crowd gathers around the ladies room.

CALEB
Think she'll want to join us?

Payton sadly shakes her head.

PAYTON
I doubt it.

CALEB
Still won't leave the house?

PAYTON
Only to go to the doctor.

CALEB
Do her good to get out.

PAYTON
We ordered her a wig, hopefully
when it's ready.

They approach the crowd.

Caleb turns to an orderly.

CALEB
What happened?

ORDERLY
A girl got killed.

The color drains from Payton's face.

CALEB
Payton I'm sure it's not--

She shoves her way through the crowd.

LADIES ROOM

Payton rushes into the room.

Megan: her dress torn open and her torso covered with stab
marks; lies on the floor.

Payton GASPS.

Megan's dead eyes stare up at her.

Tears fill Payton eyes, she shakes her head.

PAYTON

No.

She starts to CRY.

Caleb appears at her side.

He wraps his arm around her.

She turns to him and sinks into his embrace.

He holds her close.

INT. PAYTON AND JENNY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Garrett: a bandage around his throat; and Jenny: a knit cap covering her bald head; sit on the sofa.

Payton sits in a chair facing them.

Caleb is in the kitchen.

Garrett picks up a pad, writes something on it then shows it to Jenny.

PAYTON

What's he say?

JENNY

He says he's starving.

PAYTON

Sorry Garrett but the doctor said no solid foods.

Garrett writes on his pad.

JENNY

He says you're an evil bitch.

Payton shrugs.

PAYTON

Takes one to know one.

Garrett writes something and shows it to Jenny.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
What'd he say?

JENNY
You don't want to know.

Caleb walks in carrying a large mug.

Jenny scratches her head.

CALEB
Here we are buddy.

He walks over to Garrett.

CALEB (CONT'D)
A nice filling cup of broth.

Caleb writes something on his pad then smacks it.

JENNY
He says feed me.

She scratches her head again.

Caleb sets the mug down on the coffee table.

CALEB
Sorry buddy but no can do.

Garrett writes on the pad.

JENNY
He says feed me or I'll cut you.

Caleb grins.

CALEB
Sorry buddy, I'm glad you're OK but
I'm not feeding you.

Garrett writes something on his pad then shows it to Caleb.

Caleb grins.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Yeah, I'm not doing that to you
either.

Garrett frowns.

Payton LAUGHS.

Jenny scratches her head.

Garrett writes something on the pad and shows it to her.

JENNY

I'm fine, the cap is just itchy.

CALEB

Then take it off it, I mean it's just us.

Payton looks at him and shakes her head.

Tears fill Jenny's eyes.

She leaps up and rushes to her bedroom.

Garrett writes something and shows it to Caleb;

Written on Garrett's pad is "NICE".

CALEB (CONT'D)

I didn't mean--

PAYTON

She's just really sensitive right now.

The phone RINGS.

Payton picks it up.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Hello... Oh hi Mr. Pritchard... I'm OK... yeah it has been a rough week... Garrett's doing better.... What?... Yeah it is kind of soon, she's only been dead... yes I know the show must go on but ... No of course I want the part it's just... No, no I'll be there, thank you.

She hangs up.

CALEB

He offer you Megan's part?

PAYTON

Yeah, I feel like a grave robber or something.

Garrett writes something and shows it to Caleb.

CALEB

He says it's not like you killed her.

PAYTON

I know.

JENNY'S BEDROOM

Jenny stands in front of the mirror sadly staring at her reflection.

She scratches her head and stares at her feet as she slowly pulls off the cap.

She tosses it onto her bed.

The mist appears in the mirror; the demon stands in the mist watching Jenny.

The surface of the mirror ripples and it's gnarled, muscular hand slides out and reaches for Jenny.

She looks in the mirror; only her reflection stares back at her.

Her scalp is covered with open sores.

She nervously reaches up and touches one.

She winces in pain then looks at her hand.

It is covered with blood and mucous.

Tears stream down Jenny's face as she sadly stares at her reflection.

INT. PAYTON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Payton is getting dressed.

The phone RINGS.

She picks it up.

PAYTON

Hello.

MOM (O.S.)

Payton, honey it's mom.

PAYTON

Mom? Is everything OK?

MOM (O.S.)

Well.

PAYTON
What's wrong?

MOM (O.S.)
Mr. Harris just called me.

PAYTON
Oh God, he didn't fire you did he?

MOM (O.S.)
Not exactly.

PAYTON
What did he want?

MOM (O.S.)
Well sweetie, it looks like I'm
going to be able to help you out
this month after all.

PAYTON
You don't have too, I told you
about the--

MOM (O.S.)
You use your winnings for something
fun, maybe you and Jenny could go
away this Summer, Lord knows you
two could use it.

PAYTON
That's OK, I know things have been
tight, I thought I'd use the money
for--

MOM (O.S.)
You use that money for yourself.

PAYTON
Mom.

MOM (O.S.)
Mom nothing, you're talking to the
new VP of in-house marketing.

PAYTON
You got a promotion?

MOM (O.S.)
And a nice fat raise to go with it,
I even have my own office.

PAYTON
 Mom that's great, congratulations.
 You really deserve it.

MOM (O.S.)
 No, we really deserve it. Looks
 like our luck is finally changing
 kiddo.

Payton looks over at wall where the mirror hangs.
 She smiles at it.

PAYTON
 Let's hope so.

MOM (O.S.)
 You can finally quit that lousy job
 and concentrate on becoming a
 famous actress.

PAYTON
 Mom.

She glances out the window.
 A large owl SMACKS into the glass.
 Payton SCREAMS and jumps back.

MOM (O.S.)
 Payton what's--

Payton LAUGHS.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 What is it?

The owl stares at Payton then flies off.

PAYTON
 An owl just flew into my window.

MOM (O.S.)
 Is it OK?

PAYTON
 It's fine but I think I just wet
 myself.

MOM (O.S.)
 As long as the owl is OK.

PAYTON
Thanks a lot.

MOM (O.S.)
Well with my new raise I can afford
to buy you a new nightie.

JENNY'S BEDROOM

Jenny COUGHS and drags herself out of bed.

She looks at herself in the mirror; her skin is pale and covered with red blotches.

JENNY
Lovely, bald, covered with oozing
scabs and now this.

She COUGHS hard.

She turns away from the mirror and COUGHS again.

The green mist fills the mirror.

PAYTON'S BEDROOM

MOM (O.S.)
So how is Jenny doing?

PAYTON
Well the doctor couldn't find
anything so I guess it was just
nerves.

MOM (O.S.)
Well give her my best.

PAYTON
I will, I love you mom.

MOM (O.S.)
I love you too sweetie.

Payton hangs up and smiles.

PAYTON
Jenny.

She rushes out of her room.

JENNY'S BEDROOM

Jenny looks back at the mirror.

The green mist swirls and glows brightly.

Scared but curious and fascinated she just stares at it.

She reaches out to touch the mirror.

The demon leaps out of the mist.

Horrified Jenny stumbles back.

The demon's arm slides out of the mirror and grabs Jenny's wrist.

She struggles and tries to SCREAM but nothing comes out.

A KNOCK on her door.

PAYTON (O.S.)
Jenny, you up?

Jenny stares longingly at the door; she struggles to get free.

The demon squeezes Jenny's wrist harder.

She winces in pain and drops to her knees.

Another KNOCK on the door.

Jenny stretches out her arm but can't reach the door.

PAYTON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Jenny? Guess what? Mom got a promotion. I can finally tell Ethan to take that miserable job and shove it up his fat ass.

The demon grins and squeezes harder.

Tears stream down Jenny's face.

Payton TAPS on the door.

Jenny stares pleading at the door; she reaches her arm out again then collapses onto the floor.

PAYTON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Jenny?

She pushes the door open.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Jenny.

She SCREAMS.

Jenny lies on the floor convulsing and foaming at the mouth.

Payton rushes over and kneels next to Jenny's.

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Brandon walks along the path.

Up ahead Payton sits on a bench staring off.

Concerned Brandon stops and watches her a moment.

The weight of the world on her shoulders, Payton stares ahead.

She hangs her head and CRIES.

Brandon hurries over.

BRANDON

Payton?

He sits next to her.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

You OK?

She wipes away her tears and nods.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

You don't look OK?

PAYTON

I'm fine.

BRANDON

Then how come you're crying?

Suddenly angry, she glares at him.

PAYTON

How come you care?

BRANDON

I like you.

PAYTON

Really?

BRANDON
Yeah, really.

PAYTON
What about your girlfriend?

BRANDON
My girl? Oh you mean Crystal.

PAYTON
Yeah, does she know you really like me?

BRANDON
Nope and I doubt she'd care. We broke up.

PAYTON
When?

BRANDON
Actually right after the yard sale, I caught her making out with Kevin Richards.

She softens.

PAYTON
I'm sorry.

He smiles.

BRANDON
I'm not.

She smiles.

PAYTON
Actually I'm not either.

He grins.

BRANDON
You're not?

She smiles then starts to cry.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Hey.

He wraps his arm around her and pulls her to his chest.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

PAYTON
My best friend Jenny, she, she died
yesterday.

BRANDON
I'm so sorry.

Payton pulls away and wipes her eyes.

PAYTON
Thanks.

BRANDON
Don't.

PAYTON
Don't what?

BRANDON
Put on a strong face, go on, let it
out.

PAYTON
I'm fine, really I--

BRANDON
You're not fine.

She stares at him; her brave facade falters.

A tear slips down her cheek.

He pulls her into an embrace.

She buries her face in his chest and CRIES.

LATER

Brandon and Payton walk across campus holding hands and
talking.

He stops in front of her.

She looks up at him.

They stare into each other's eyes a moment.

He leans in and gently kisses her on the lips.

She grins up at him.

He smiles, leans in and kisses her more passionately.

She wraps her arms around his neck and kisses him back.
His arms go around her waist and he pulls her body close.

ROOF TOP

Caleb stands on the roof smoking a cigarette and watching Payton and Brandon kiss.

In the distance a dog HOWLS.

Brandon and Payton grin at each other a moment then he takes her hand.

Caleb enviously watches them as;

Hand in hand they walk across campus.

CALEB

Asshole.

He takes the last drag off his cigarette and drops it.

It lands next to a puddle.

A greenish mist appears in the puddle; it swirls as the demon, seeming to rise to the surface, becomes visible.

The dog HOWLS louder.

Caleb glances out at Brandon and Payton.

CALEB (CONT'D)

Should have kicked his ass when I had the chance.

He turns to leave.

The demon's arm slides out of the puddle and grabs Caleb's ankle.

Caleb glances down.

The demon, it's eyes glowing bright red, grins up at him.

Caleb's eyes go wide with fear and he tries to pull his leg free.

CAMPUS

Payton and Brandon, grinning like teenagers and holding hands, stroll across campus.

Caleb SCREAMS.

Payton stops and spins around as;

Caleb SCREAMS then, waving his hands in the air, falls backward off the room.

Payton SCREAMS.

PAYTON

Caleb.

She races towards the building, Brandon rushes after her.

Caleb lands on the concrete with a loud THUD.

Payton and Brandon sprint across campus and over to where Caleb lies.

Tears stream down Payton's face, she shakes her head and stares down at Caleb.

Caleb: his arms and legs sprawled out at odd angles, his eyes closed; lies on the sidewalk, a puddle of blood surrounds his head.

INT. PAYTON'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Garrett, a smaller bandage on his neck, sits in the chair glaring at Brandon, who sits on the sofa.

Brandon smiles at him.

Garrett silently glares.

Uncomfortable, Brandon fidgets.

BRANDON

Payton?

PAYTON (O.S.)

Be right out.

Brandon tries to ignore Garrett's stare.

It finally gets to him.

BRANDON

Dude, would you stop that?

Payton: her hair wet and wearing a robe; walks in.

PAYTON
Garrett be nice.

A final glare at Brandon then Garrett averts his eyes.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Sorry, he's just really upset about
Caleb.

BRANDON
You two were close.

Garrett writes something down and shows it to them.

Underlined several times and all in caps is: ARE!!!

BRANDON (CONT'D)
I didn't mean--

Garrett gets up and stomps out.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Garrett please I--

PAYTON
Don't, just give him some space.

She sits down next to Brandon.

BRANDON
I just want him to like me.

PAYTON
He will, it's just--

BRANDON
I know you guys are really going
through a bad time.

PAYTON
First Megan dies then Jenny and now
Caleb is paralyzed, I can't believe
this is happening.

He wraps his arm around her shoulders.

BRANDON
You guys have really been having a
run of bad luck.

She leans into him.

PAYTON
I guess.

She stares off.

BRANDON
You holding up OK?

PAYTON
I guess.

She stares off thinking.

BRANDON
What is it?

PAYTON
It's just...

BRANDON
Just what?

PAYTON
Nothing, never mind.

BRANDON
Don't do that.

She sits up and looks at him.

PAYTON
It's just, well everything was
really going badly for me. I mean
my car kept breaking down, my mom
couldn't afford to help me out,
they cut my hours at work, Megan
kept getting the parts I wanted and
every guy I was interested in
turned out to be either gay,
involved or both.

BRANDON
Like I said, a run of bad luck.

PAYTON
I guess, no, I mean, everything was
going badly until--

Garrett walks in holding the mirror.

Payton looks at him.

He sets it down on the coffee table.

He looks at Payton.

Their eyes lock.

BRANDON
You're not saying--

PAYTON
Think about it. I bought the mirror
and Caleb's uncle fixed my car for
under two hundred bucks when the
all other mechanics said it would
cost at least a thousand.

BRANDON
And a mechanic overcharging is so
rare that there must be some
supernatural explanation.

Garrett writes something down and shows it to them.

PAYTON
That's right, Jenny's hair fell out
right after I found out.

BRANDON
Can you say coincidence?

PAYTON
How about Garrett's throat getting
cut the second I won the lottery or
Megan getting killed when we found
out he was going to live?

BRANDON
Payton I admit it's horrible but--

PAYTON
How about me getting Megan's part
then Jenny getting sick?

BRANDON
You were Megan's understudy and
Jenny was already sick that's why
her hair fell out. Look I
understand it's natural to look for
some hidden meaning or reason, to
try and make sense of everything
that's happening, but sometimes bad
shit just happens.

Garrett writes something and shows it to him.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
I'm not patronizing you guys.

PAYTON

How about Jenny dying the same moment my mom gets a promotion?

BRANDON

Bad timing.

PAYTON

And Caleb just happen to fall off a roof and break his neck the minute I found out you like me.

BRANDON

Yes. Look I know you've been through a lot--

PAYTON

So it's just all bad luck and coincidence?

BRANDON

Yes, weren't you just telling me how bad your luck was?

PAYTON

Right my luck, everything was going wrong for me until I got that mirror and now everything is working out for me and the people around me are dropping like flies.

BRANDON

And it makes more sense that it's the mirror rather than just a run of really bad luck and ill-timed coincidents?

Garrett nods.

PAYTON

I know it sounds crazy.

BRANDON

You think? Payton it's nuts.

PAYTON

Then you explain it. How come everything is suddenly working out for me and the people I care about have all these horrible things happening to them and don't say coincidence.

Garrett taps the mirror.

BRANDON

Really?

Garrett nods.

PAYTON

Where did you guys get the mirror?

BRANDON

Honestly I have no clue.

PAYTON

But you could find out couldn't you?

BRANDON

I suppose.

PAYTON

Then do it, for me. Please.

BRANDON

Look it won't change anything and it won't give you any answers. It's just a mirror Payton, some glass and--

PAYTON

Just find out, please.

Garrett writes something.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

He's right, you wanted him to like you.

Brandon gives Garrett a quizzical look.

BRANDON

And this will make you like me?

Garrett thinks then writes something and shows it to them.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

It'll help, great.

Payton gives him a pleading look.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

You know what, how about this?

He grabs the mirror, stands up and walks to the door.

PAYTON
Where are you taking it?

BRANDON
I'm going to drop it down the trash
chute.

He opens the door.

PAYTON
Are you sure that's a good idea?

BRANDON
What? Afraid I might anger the
mirror God or something.

Garrett writes something.

Brandon walks out.

Garrett shows Payton his pad.

Written in bold letters is "YES".

PAYTON
Maybe he is right, I mean it does
sound crazy.

Garrett just stares at her.

Brandon walks back in.

BRANDON
There problem solved.

PAYTON
I hope so.

BRANDON
Who's ready for another drink?

He walks to the kitchen.

Payton and Garrett exchange nervous looks.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Would you two relax, it's a mirror
nothing more. There's no hex or
demon or whatever, it's just a
mirror, OK?

He walks back in with three beers.

PAYTON
You're probably right.

He hands out the beers and sits next to Payton.

BRANDON
Probably?

PAYTON
But just in case, would you mind
spending the night?

He grins and wraps his arm around her shoulders.

BRANDON
Be my pleasure.

Garrett writes something and shows it to them.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
On the sofa? Seriously?

Garrett nods.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Come on dude?

PAYTON
It's either that or you can share
Jenny's bed with Garrett.

Garrett shakes his head.

BRANDON
Fine, the sofa it is.

Payton kisses his cheek.

PAYTON
Thanks.

He smiles.

INT. PAYTON'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Payton lies in bed asleep.

The alarm clock BUZZES.

She rolls over and turns it off.

She stretches then sits up.

She looks around her room.
The mirror hangs on the wall.
She SCREAMS.

PAYTON
Brandon.

Brandon and Garrett rush in.

BRANDON
What's wrong?

She points to the wall.
They look over and see the mirror.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

PAYTON
Tell me you put it there.

BRANDON
Payton I swear I dropped that thing
down the trash chute last night.

They look at Garrett.
He shakes his head.

PAYTON
You believe us now?

BRANDON
There has to be--

PAYTON
A logical explanation? Right, I'm
sure someone dug it out of the
trash, carried it up five flights
of stairs, broke into my apartment
and hung the mirror in the exact
same place I had it.

BRANDON
But, I mean you can't believe it's
haunted or possessed or something.

PAYTON
You explain it.

BRANDON
I can't right now but--

PAYTON
Find out who owned it.

BRANDON
Sure, look I got class, you going
to be OK?

PAYTON
We'll be fine.

He walks to the bed.

BRANDON
You sure?

She nods.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
I'll keep my phone on, text me if
you need anything.

PAYTON
I will.

He leans down and kisses her.

BRANDON
And try not to worry, I know it
seems like something weird is going
on but--

PAYTON
I know there has to be a logical
explanation, call me after class?

BRANDON
You got it.

He kisses her again.

Brandon walks over to Garrett.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Keep an eye on her.

Garrett nods.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
And you try not to worry either,
OK?

Garrett nods.

Brandon gives him a half smile and lightly punches him in the shoulder.

PAYTON
Brandon.

BRANDON
Yeah.

PAYTON
Be careful.

He smiles.

BRANDON
I will.

He walks out.

Garrett looks at her.

PAYTON
Yeah, I do like him.

Garrett writes something then holds it up.

"ME TOO".

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I knew you would, feel like going shopping or something.

He nods and walks out.

EXT. STREET - LATER

A distracted Payton quickly walks down the sidewalk, passing small specialty stores and coffee shops without even noticing them.

Garrett, pad in hand, hurries to keep up with her.

He CLEARS his throat.

PAYTON
Huh?

He stops and writes something on his pad.

She stops and waits.

Garrett turns the pad to face her.

"WHERE ARE WE GOING".

She shrugs.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
No where? Just window shopping.

He writes something then turns the pad to face her.

"SO WHAT'S THE RUSH?"

PAYTON (CONT'D)
No rush, just--

A few stores ahead is a new age store: hand painted on the large front window is "WILLOW'S WINDSONG" under that in smaller letters is "SERVING THE WICCAN COMMUNITY SINCE 1989".

Garrett notices it and gives Payton a look.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
What? Alright, I admit it sounds crazy but maybe she can help.

She thinks about what she said a moment.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I sound nuts don't I?

Garrett shakes his head.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Think we should give it a try.

Garrett writes on his pad then shows her.

"COULDN'T HURT".

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Let's hope not.

Garrett smiles and motions with his head.

They walk towards the shop.

INT. WILLOW'S WINDSONG

A CHIME goes off as Garrett and Payton step into the shop.

They timidly glance around.

Displays of Candles, crystals, incense, jars of dried herbs, dream-catchers and assorted oils are everywhere.

Stretched out on the window sill, napping in the sun, is an old fat cat.

WILLOW (O.S.)
Be right out.

PAYTON
No rush.

Payton waits by the door; she wraps her arms around herself and uncomfortably glances around the new agey store.

Garrett notices the cat and walks over.

He smiles at the cat and scratches it's head.

The cat rubs his face against Garrett's hand and PURRS.

WILLOW: 50's, an aging hippie type; steps out of the back.

She sees Garrett petting the cat and smiles.

WILLOW
That old guy is Rufus.

Garrett smiles at her and nods.

Payton lingers by the front door.

Willow smiles at her.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Well I guess I should be thanking you.

Payton looks puzzled.

PAYTON
For what?

Willow gives her a warm smile and winks.

WILLOW
For guarding my door of course.

PAYTON
Huh?

WILLOW
Now dear why don't you come in tell me how I can help you.

Payton looks uncomfortable.

PAYTON
This was a mistake.

WILLOW
I don't believe in mistakes.

Garrett writes something then turns the pad to face Willow.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
You've obviously never seen a
Steven Segal movie.

Willow smirks.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Funny.

Garrett smiles and shrugs.

PAYTON
I don't want to waste your time.

Willow gives her a concerned look.

WILLOW
You were led here for a reason
child, don't you want to know what
that reason is?

PAYTON
I'm not sure.

Willow gives her a knowing smile.

WILLOW
Well I am. Now why don't I make us
a fresh pot of camomile tea and you
can tell me all about whatever it
is that's troubling you.

PAYTON
You'll think I'm crazy.

Willow gives her a surprised look.

WILLOW
Now why would I think that.

PAYTON
Because I do.

WILLOW

Well I don't believe in judging people and I've learned that there is much more to this world than we can see.

Payton gives her a wishful glance.

PAYTON

So I'm not going crazy.

Willow smiles.

WILLOW

Now I can't attest to that.

She winks.

Payton relaxes and smiles.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

So, how about that cup of tea?

Payton looks over at Garrett.

He smiles and nods.

Relieved, Payton SIGHS then gives Willow a grateful smile.

PAYTON

I'd like that, thank you.

WILLOW

You haven't tasted my tea yet.

Payton smiles.

Willow winks then walks into the back.

Payton looks over at Garrett.

He gives her a reassuring smile.

She smiles, nods then glances around the shop.

INT. PAYTON LIVING ROOM - LATER

Payton and Garrett sit on the sofa sipping beer and staring off into space.

She looks at Garrett.

PAYTON

This is crazy? I mean in the store it all made sense but, well maybe Brandon is right. I mean possessed mirrors and all that new agey stuff. It's crazy, isn't it?

Garrett shrugs.

The phone RINGS.

They nervously stare at the phone a moment.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

It's probably Brandon.

Garrett nods unconvincing.

Payton picks up the phone.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Hello... Oh hi Mr. Pritchard, is everything OK?

She gives Garrett a frightened look.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Good news?

She and Garrett nervously stare at each other.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Oh, that is good news... No, I am excited it's just... No I... I appreciate you calling it's just...

She looks at Garrett for help.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Well, I just stepped out of the shower.

Garrett gives her a surprised look.

Payton shrugs.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

It really is great news though, thank you so much for calling.

She hangs up and stares at the phone a moment.

Garrett impatiently watches her.

She finally looks over at him.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
That was Mr. Pritchard.

Garrett smirks.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Seems there are going to be some
talent scouts in the audience
opening night.

Garrett looks both surprised and scared.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Apparently they're looking for a
fresh face for a new Mike Nichols
film and somehow they heard about
me, good news huh?

Garret, looking frightened, nods.

Outside a dog BARKS.

They both jump.

Payton LAUGHS.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
It's just Marcie's dog, we're being
silly. Right? I mean there's no
such thing as--

The phone RINGS.

She looks at Garrett.

Their frightened eyes turn to the phone.

It RINGS again.

Terrified, Payton stares at the phone.

She looks back at Garrett

It RINGS again.

Outside the dog HOWLS.

Payton slowly reaches over and picks up the receiver.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Hello... Mrs. Barnes? What?

Payton stands; tears fill her eyes.

Devastated, she looks at Garrett.

He leaps to his feet.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry, if there's anything I
can do.

Garrett nervously and impatiently stares at her.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I will and again I'm so sorry.

She hangs up.

With tears in her eyes she looks at Garrett.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
That was Mrs. Barnes.

Tears fill Garrett's eyes, he shakes his head.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Caleb passed away.

He takes a step back, shakes his head and mouths "NO".

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I'm sorry Garrett.

They stare at each other a moment.

Tears spill down their cheeks.

Garrett opens his arms.

Payton steps onto his embrace.

They cling to each other as they cry.

PAYTON'S BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

The lights are off and the curtains are drawn, the only light comes from the candles that cover the dresser.

Payton and Garrett, both wearing long white robes, walk in; he carries a large paper bag and she a bowl of water.

He sets the bag on the bed, reaches in pulls out a box of sea salt.

She takes the box and pours salt into the water.

She looks over at him.

PAYTON

Ready?

He nods.

She dips her fingers into the water then flings it across the room.

She walks around the room while she sprinkles the salt water and CHANTS.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Negative energy may not stay, I
release it and send it away.
Negative energy I banish thee and
as my word so shall it be.

Garrett takes a hammer, a nail and a stone out of the bag and kneels on the floor.

Payton finishes sprinkling water; she sets the bowl on the dresser and stands next to Garrett.

He sets the nail on the stone, picks up the hammer and rises it above his head.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

(Chanting)
Clavus Ferreus.

He SLAMS the hammer down on the nail.

LIVING ROOM

The front door opens and Brandon walks in.

BRANDON

Hello.

PAYTON (O.S.)

(Chanting)
Malleus Ferreus.

Brandon hears the hammer STRIKE the nail.

BRANDON

What the fuck?

PAYTON (O.S.)
(Chanting)
Ferrum Rifulum.

The hammer SLAMS down on the nail again.

Brandon, looking confused, stares down the hall towards Payton's bedroom.

BRANDON
Payton?

PAYTON'S BEDROOM

Payton, holding a smoldering bunch of twigs tied together with string, walks around the room; smoke rises from the bundles and fills the air.

Garrett holds a burning stick of incense and a feather.

He gently waves the feather over the incense dispersing the smoke.

Brandon appears in the doorway.

Neither Payton nor Garrett notice.

Confused, Brandon watches them a moment then CLEARS his throat.

Surprised, Payton jumps then looks over at him.

Brandon smiles and waves at her.

BRANDON
Honey I'm home.

Payton looks at the twigs in her hand then back at him.

PAYTON
I bet you're wondering what we're doing.

Brandon smiles and steps in.

BRANDON
Kind of curious, yeah.

He sniffs the air.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
What is that God awful stench?

PAYTON
we're just burning some incense.

BRANDON
You're purposely trying to get your
room to smell like this?

PAYTON
We're cleansing it.

BRANDON
Bleach and pledge wouldn't work
because?

PAYTON
We're cleansing it of negative
energy.

BRANDON
Of course you are.

He stares at their robes.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
And you're dressed like the KKK
because?

PAYTON
The robes show our respect for the
Goddess and ask for her help.

BRANDON
Her help with what?

Payton glances away.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Payton, what are we asking the
Goddess for help with? Um, let me
guess.

PAYTON
Brandon.

BRANDON
Could we be asking the great and
powerful Goddess--

Annoyed, Payton just stares at him.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
To rid this--

He points to the antique mirror on the wall.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Of the demonic forces haunting it.

PAYTON
Go ahead make fun of me.

He walks over to her.

BRANDON
I'm not making fun of you.

She stares at him.

PAYTON
Really?

He smiles.

BRANDON
Well OK maybe just a little.

PAYTON
That's fine, make all the jokes you want.

BRANDON
Come on Payton don't you think you're over doing this just a little bit.

PAYTON
No, Willow said--

BRANDON
Willow?

PAYTON
Yeah, she owns Willow's Windsong.

He shrugs.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
That Wiccan store downtown.

BRANDON
A witch, you're doing all this because a witch--

PAYTON
She's not a witch, she's a Wiccan High Priestess.

BRANDON

Of course she is and I'm Jareth,
King of the Goblins.

Payton gives him an annoyed look.

PAYTON

Anyway, Willow said that a
mischievous spirit had attached
itself to my mirror.

BRANDON

Sounds like something someone named
Willow would say.

Garrett's incense goes out.

He sets it down then picks up a large bell and RINGS it.

Startled, Brandon jumps.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Jesus, what the hell is that?

PAYTON

A Tibetan Bell, it dissipates the
bad energy.

BRANDON

And you don't think you're taking
this just a little too far.

Garrett holds up an ornate eight sided mirror.

Brandon gives Payton a questioning look.

PAYTON

It's a Bagua mirror, it'll protect
us from harmful energy.

BRANDON

Would have been my guess.

Garrett points the Bagua mirror at the antique mirror.

The flames on the candles leap high into the air.

The Bagua mirror SHATTERS.

Shards of broken glass rain down around Garrett

Payton rushes to him.

PAYTON
Are you alright?

Garrett nods.

She looks at Brandon.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Still think I'm crazy?

BRANDON
Up to an hour ago I would have said
yes.

PAYTON
And now?

He SIGHS.

BRANDON
I don't know what the hell to
think, I still don't believe in
ghosts or haunted mirrors.

PAYTON
But?

BRANDON
I tracked down the lady who owned
the mirror before you.

PAYTON
And?

He hesitates.

BRANDON
Why don't we have a drink?

PAYTON
Why? Who was she?

BRANDON
Remember the lady who got hit by a
truck at the yard sale?

PAYTON
The one who died right after I
bought the mirror.

He shakes his head.

BRANDON
Yeah.

PAYTON
I told you.

BRANDON
This doesn't prove--

PAYTON
What else did you find out?

BRANDON
Payton.

PAYTON
Brandon what did you find out?

BRANDON
It has nothing to do with--

Payton YELLS.

PAYTON
Damn it, what the hell did you find out?

BRANDON
She won the lottery.

PAYTON
And?

BRANDON
Payton.

PAYTON
Please, I have to know.

He SIGHS and nods.

BRANDON
Right after she found out she won her daughter died in a freak accident.

PAYTON
Oh God.

She slumps on the bed.

Garrett sits next to her.

He writes on his pad and shows it to Brandon.

"WHAT ELSE".

BRANDON

Guys really it has nothing to do--

Garrett glares at him and SMACKS his pad.

Brandon SIGHS.

Payton gives him a pleading look.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

She had two other children that died, one drowned in the bathtub, the other died in a fire, her husband was killed by a mugger and her sister was maimed in a car accident.

PAYTON

This proves it.

BRANDON

Payton it doesn't prove--

PAYTON

Really? You still think this is all just coincidents?

BRANDON

I don't know what the hell to believe.

PAYTON

Well I do.

She looks at Garrett.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

You ready?

Garrett nods.

BRANDON

Ready for what?

PAYTON

To end this.

BRANDON

How?

Garrett holds up a black velvet bag and three antique bowls.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

What'll those do?

PAYTON
I'll show you at Midnight.

BRANDON
Payton--

PAYTON
Look Brandon whether you believe it
or not something's going on.

BRANDON
I believe you, I just don't want
too.

PAYTON
Then you'll help us?

He smiles.

BRANDON
I'd help you even if I didn't
believe you.

She smiles.

PAYTON
Thanks.

BRANDON
So what do we do until midnight?

PAYTON
A drink sounds pretty good to me.

EXT. CEMETERY - MIDNIGHT

A full moon shines down from a cloudless sky.

Garrett and Payton: each holding flashlights, Payton wears a
backpack; walk through the cemetery.

As they walk along they shine their flashlights on the
headstones, quickly reading them before moving on.

Brandon, carrying the mirror in the black bag, follows.

BRANDON
What are we looking for?

PAYTON
Someone who died innocent.

BRANDON
How do we know they were innocent?

PAYTON
Children are born innocent, we just
look for the youngest--

Garrett SNAPS his fingers.

Payton and Brandon look over at him.

He motions for them to come.

They walk to him.

He shines his light on a headstone.

JEREMY TAYLOR, BORN JANUARY 10, 1960, DIED JUNE 10, 1960.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Poor thing was only six months old.

BRANDON
Guess we found the grave, what now?

Payton takes off her backpack, reaches in and pulls out a
small shovel.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
We have to dig him up?

PAYTON
No just we just have to dig a hole
big enough for the mirror and--

She pulls the bowls out of the backpack.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
These.

BRANDON
And what'll those do?

PAYTON
Trap the spirit in the consecrated
ground where it can't hurt anybody
anymore.

BRANDON
This is nuts, isn't it?

She and Garrett just stare at him.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Right.

He sets the mirror on the ground and takes the shovel.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Where?

PAYTON

Close to the headstone.

BRANDON

Isn't this, I don't know, kind of sacrilegious?

PAYTON

You're an atheist, besides I really don't think Jeremy will mind.

BRANDON

Right.

He kneels down and starts to dig.

LATER

Brandon finishes digging the hole and sets the shovel down.

Garrett hands him the mirror.

BRANDON

Does it matter how?

Payton shrugs.

PAYTON

I don't think so, Willow just said to bury it with the bowls face down next to it.

BRANDON

OK.

He sets the mirror in the hole.

Strong winds begin to blow.

Dark clouds move in and block out the moon.

Brandon looks up at her.

PAYTON

Hurry Brandon.

Green light shines from the hole and a thick mist pours out of it.

Brandon puts one of the bowls in the hole.

A hand reaches out and grabs his arm.

Payton SCREAMS.

Brandon struggles to get his hand free.

Garrett grabs the shovel and smacks the hand until it lets go of Brandon.

BRANDON
What the fuck?

Winds HOWL.

PAYTON
Hurry, you have to finish.

Garrett holds the shovel ready as Brandon puts the last two bowls into the hole.

The three quickly throw dirt into the hole.

The wind SCREAMS.

Bright green light and mist pour out of the dirt.

Hands claw through dirt and grab Payton's arms.

She struggles to free herself.

Brandon and Garrett beat at the hands.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I'm OK, just finish.

They ignore her and beat at the hands.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I'm fine, just end this, please.

Brandon and Garrett nod then push dirt back into the hole.

They quickly bury the mirror then pat the dirt down.

The hands, light and mist disappear.

The winds instantly stop.

The dark clouds move off and the moon shines down.

BRANDON

What the... think we just imagined
it all?

Garrett taps Brandon's shoulder.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Huh?

Garrett points to the red marks the hands made on Brandon's
arm.

PAYTON

Are we imaging those too?

BRANDON

Let's get the fuck out of here?

Garrett gives him the thumbs up.

The three hurry out of the cemetery.

INT. PAYTON'S LIVING ROOM

Payton, Brandon and Garrett walk in.

PAYTON

I'm going to take a quick shower.

BRANDON

Sounds good.

Garrett gives him a dirty look.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

I mean I'm next.

PAYTON

When did you become the morality
police?

Garrett smiles and shrugs.

BRANDON

Want a drink?

PAYTON

God yes.

She walks out.

Brandon walks to the kitchen.

BRANDON

How about you Garrett, want one?

Garrett holds up two fingers.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

You want two drinks or a double?

Garrett nods.

Brandon grins.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

You got it buddy.

He CLAPS his hands together.

Garrett gives him a puzzled look.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Bug.

He looks at his hands.

A crushed white moth lies in his palm.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

It's a moth.

He looks at Garrett.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Isn't that supposed to be good
luck?

Payton SCREAMS.

Garrett and Brandon race towards her bedroom.

INT. PAYTON'S BEDROOM

Payton stands in the corner pressed up against the wall;
petrified she stares ahead.

Garrett and Brandon race in.

BRANDON

Payton what's--

She points at the wall.

Brandon and Garrett turn and look.

The mirror hangs on the wall.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ, what the fuck is
going on?

The phone RINGS.

Payton just stares at it.

It RINGS again.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
You gonna answer it?

She gives him a scared look and shakes her head.

It RINGS again.

Her wide, terrified eyes stare at the phone.

It RINGS again then the answering machine picks-up.

A BEEP.

MOM (O.S.)
Payton honey it's mom... well I
guess you're out. I know it's late
but I just couldn't wait to give
you the good news.

Petrified, Payton looks over at Brandon and Garrett.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I just got back from my date, yes
you heard me, my date. Can you
believe it? A huge promotion then a
date with a very attractive
stockbroker. I just can't believe
how things have turned around for
us. One minute everything that
could go wrong did and now, well
just look at us. And to top it all
off when I got home tonight there
was a message from Gena, my real
estate.

The thick green mist appears in the mirror.

Outside a dog BARKS.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We've had an offer on the house,
full asking price plus an
additional ten percent if I'm out
by the end of the month.

The demon's red eyes glare at them from the mirror

Payton SCREAMS.

The dog HOWLS.

The demon's muscular arm slides out of the mirror.

Payton SCREAMS.

PAYTON
Look out.

MOM (O.S.)
Isn't that amazing honey?

Garrett turns as;

The demon's arm reaches for his shirt.

Brandon lunges at Garrett and knocks him out of the way.

The dog HOWLS frantically.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Well call me as soon as you get
this.

Garrett falls to the floor.

The arm sinks in Brandon's chest.

Payton SCREAMS.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm so excited I know I just won't
be able sleep a wink.

Brandon's eyes go wide and he GASPS.

Garrett leaps up and rushes to Brandon.

MOM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I love you sweetie, hope all is
well.

She hangs up.

Brandon drops to the ground.

The arm slides back into the mirror; the demon and the green mist disappear.

Garrett kneels next to Brandon.

He lies still, his eyes stare up at the ceiling.

Payton pushes herself into the corner and CRIES.

Garrett feels for a pulse.

He SIGHS sadly.

He looks over at Payton and shakes his head.

Tears spill down her cheeks

Garrett puts his fingers on Brandon's eyelids and closes them.

Payton pushes against the wall and sinks to the floor.

Garrett walks over, sits next to her and wraps his arm around her shoulders.

She falls into him, buries her face in his chest and CRIES.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Payton sits on the front stoop of a modest house.

She glances down the street.

BELINDA DUNLAP: late 40's, haggard looking, she leans heavily on a cane and walks with a very pronounced limp; slowly makes her way along the sidewalk.

Payton stands.

Belinda comes up the front walk; she sees Payton and gives her a suspicious look.

PAYTON
Belinda Dunlap?

Belinda stops and glares at her.

BELINDA
Who the hell's asking?

PAYTON
I'm Payton Reed I--

BELINDA
Another God damn reporter, well go
to hell, I've said all I'm going so
say.

She brushes past Payton and walks to the front door.

PAYTON
Please I--

Belinda turns and glares at her.

BELINDA
My sister's dead, can't you just
let her rest in peace.

She faces the door and unlocks it.

PAYTON
Please I--

Furious, Belinda spins around to face her.

BELINDA
Want a few more salacious details?
Lottery winner's tragic life and
untimely death. Well all you
vultures can just rot in hell. I
lost my sister, my nephews, my
niece, everyone I cared about is
gone, can't you just leave me the
hell alone.

She opens the front door.

PAYTON
I'm not a reporter.

Suspicious Belinda looks her over.

BELINDA
What do you want?

PAYTON
Just a few minutes of your time.

BELINDA
Why?

Payton, looking sad and desperate, hesitates.

PAYTON
I bought your sister's mirror.

Belinda stares at her a moment.

BELINDA
Then may God have mercy on you.

She steps inside.

Payton grabs her arm.

PAYTON
Please.

Her anger gone, Belinda gives her a fearful look.

BELINDA
Get rid of it.

PAYTON
I tried.

BELINDA
Burn it, bury it, destroy it before
it destroys you. It'll give you
everything you ever wanted but
it'll suck the life out of everyone
around you. I didn't believe her.
My nephews died, my brother-in-law
was killed, my accident, all the
strange illnesses and I still
didn't believe her.

PAYTON
Help me.

BELINDA
I wish I could.

PAYTON
Please I--

BELINDA
You have to leave.

PAYTON
Tell me what to do?

Belinda shakes her head and starts to close the door.

Payton shoves her foot in the doorway.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Please, help me.

BELINDA
I can't. It's not that I don't want too, I don't know how to stop it. I wish I did, I wish I could save you but I can't, I don't know how and I can't have that thing in my life. I'm sorry but you have to go away, please.

Their eyes meet; Belinda looks tired and defeated.

BELINDA (CONT'D)
It's taken everything, my family, my health... please just go.

Payton nods.

She pulls her foot out of the doorway.

BELINDA (CONT'D)
I pray things turn out better for you than my sister.

She starts to close the door.

PAYTON
Wait.

Belinda stops.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Where did your sister get the mirror?

Belinda almost smiles as she remembers the day.

BELINDA
Bought it at a yard sale. I thought it was the ugliest thing I'd ever seen but Margaret fell in love with it, just had to have it.

PAYTON
Where was the yard sale?

Belinda nods.

BELINDA
Down the street.

PAYTON
Where? Maybe I could--

Belinda shakes her head.

BELINDA
House isn't there anymore.

PAYTON
What?

BELINDA
Burned to the ground.

PAYTON
When?

BELINDA
Couple hours after the yard sale.

PAYTON
The family, did--

BELINDA
They were trapped inside, all died.
Burned to death.

Payton nods.

PAYTON
Thank you for your time.

Belinda nods.

Payton turns to go.

BELINDA
Payton.

Payton turns around.

Belinda removes her necklace and hands it to her.

Payton looks at it.

It's a crucifix.

Their eyes meet, they stare at each other a moment.

Belinda nods then closes the door.

Payton stares at the crucifix then slides the necklace over her head.

She picks up the cross, kisses it then closes her hand around it.

PAYTON
Please God help me.

INT. PAYTON'S BEDROOM - LATER

Payton races in and glares at the mirror.

PAYTON
This stops now.

She yanks the mirror off the wall and SMASHES it against the dresser.

The SOUND of breaking glass as the mirror shatters; shards of broken glass fall on the dresser and floor.

With a triumphant smile Payton turns the mirror over.

It is unbroken.

With all her might she SLAMS it down on the dresser.

Again the SOUND of breaking glass.

Scared, she stares at the back of the mirror a moment then slowly turns it over.

The mirror is still intact.

An anguished SCREAM as she slams it against the wall.

BATHROOM

Payton drops the mirror into the bathtub then walks out.

She returns with a box of matches and a can of lighter fluid.

She squirts lighter fluid all over the mirror.

She takes a match out of the box.

PAYTON
Go back to hell.

She strikes the match against the box; it sparks then lights.

She stares at the flame a moment then glares at the mirror.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

You lose.

With a grin she drops the match into the tub.

A WHOOSH then the mirror bursts into flames.

LATER

The disconnected smoke alarm hangs from the ceiling.

Payton sits on the toilet.

Numerous empty cans of lighter fluid lie on the floor.

In the tub the mirror is engulfed in flames; despite the fact that has been burning for hours the mirror is in pristine condition.

Payton, looking bored, holds a can of lighter fluid.

She squirts lighter fluid onto the mirror.

Flames leap higher.

Garrett walks in.

Payton doesn't take her eyes off the fire.

PAYTON

Hey, what did the doctor say?

GARRETT

I can finally talk.

PAYTON

That's great.

She squirts more lighter fluid onto the mirror.

The flames leap towards the ceiling.

GARRETT

What are you doing?

PAYTON

Burning the mirror.

He peeks in the tub.

GARRETT

Not working out so well, huh?

PAYTON

Well I've spent twenty bucks on lighter fluid and scorched the hell out of my tub. Don't think I'll be getting my security deposit back.

GARRETT

Should I ask?

PAYTON

Oh the fucking mirror is fine, it's been burning steady for almost three hours and it looks the same.

GARRETT

What do we do now?

She shrugs.

GARRETT (CONT'D)

Should we go see Willow again?

Payton shrugs and squirts more lighter fluid into the fire.

INT. WILLOW'S WINDSONG

Rufus lies in the window sunning himself.

The door CHIMES.

Payton and Garrett, holding the mirror in the black bag, walk in.

WILLOW (O.S.)

Be right out.

Payton and Garrett walk to the counter.

Willow steps out of the back.

She sees them and smiles.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Payton.

She steps to the counter.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Is everything alright?

Tears fill Payton's eyes; she shakes her head.

Willow gives her a concerned look then walks over and wraps her arm around Payton's shoulders.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Oh Child what's wrong?

Tears stream down Payton's face; she gives Willow a pleading look.

PAYTON
Help me, please.

WILLOW
Of course I will.

She gestures to a table.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
I just made a fresh pot of tea, why don't we sit down and-

GARRETT
Because we fucking did that already.

PAYTON
Garrett please.

GARRETT
No.

He glares at Willow.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
We drank your fucking tea, we did your God damn Cleansings, we wore your robes and chanted as we sprinkled salt water, we buried and burned this--

He holds up the mirror.

GARRETT (CONT'D)
Fucking thing and it didn't make a God damn difference. It's still picking us off one by one.

Willow stares at the black bag housing the mirror.

WILLOW
Is that the mirror?

Garrett pulls it out of the bag.

Rufus stands, arches his back and HISSES at the mirror then he leaps off the window sill and races out of the room.

Willow, also feeling the evil emanating from the mirror, watches him run out then nervously turns back to Garrett.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Put it back in the bag.

GARRETT
What hell is this thing?

WILLOW
(Sharply)
Put it away.

GARRETT
OK OK.

He slides it back into the bag then sets it on the counter.

PAYTON
What is it?

Willow stares at the bag a moment.

WILLOW
I think we're going to need
something a stronger than tea.

She starts to walk in back.

PAYTON
Can you help me?

Willow stops.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Willow?

Willow turns around and gives Payton an apologetic look.

She shakes her head.

WILLOW
No.

PAYTON
But--

WILLOW
I'll tell you what I know.

PAYTON
Can you tell me how to stop it?

Willow gives her a sad look.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Willow?

WILLOW
I can give you answers but they may
not be the ones you want to hear.

GARRETT
What the hell is that supposed to
mean?

WILLOW
That there is more to this world
than you'll ever know, there are
things out there you've never
imagined even in your worst
nightmare.

GARRETT
Like mirrors that kill people.

WILLOW
Mirrors don't kill people.

PAYTON
(Meekly)
But what's in them does.

Willow gives her a sad, solemn look.

WILLOW
Yes, what's in them can kill or
worse.

PAYTON
What's in my mirror?

WILLOW
Why don't we have a drink and I'll
tell you what I know.

Payton nods.

Willow walks into the back.

Payton gives Garrett a sad, desperate look.

GARRETT

Hey don't worry, it's going to be OK?

PAYTON

That's what Brandon said.

Garrett gives her a sad look then wraps his arm around Payton and pulls her close.

LATER

Willow, Payton and Garrett sit at a table in the corner sipping scotch, a bottle sits in the center of the table.

GARRETT

Jinn, you mean like Genie's?

WILLOW

Sort of.

GARRETT

Are we talking Barbara Eden from I Dream of Jeannie or that thing from Wishmaster?

WILLOW

Both, neither.

GARRETT

That's helpful.

WILLOW

Look this is new territory, up until a few minutes ago I thought they were just a myth.

GARRETT

How do you know it's a Jinn and not a demon or something?

WILLOW

Because they're the same thing, demons, angels, Jinn they're all different names for the same beings.

PAYTON

Demons are angels God cast out of Heaven.

WILLOW

If you believe in Heaven and Hell.

GARRETT

You don't?

Willow gives him a half smile.

WILLOW

That's a philosophical debate for another time, right now we have more pressing matters to concern ourselves with.

PAYTON

Like the Jinn in my mirror.

WILLOW

Yes.

GARRETT

Exactly what are they?

WILLOW

The Jinn are a race of beings as old as the universe itself. They have free will just like us, so some are good.

PAYTON

Angels.

Willow nods.

GARRETT

And the evil ones are demons.

WILLOW

For lack of a better word yes.

PAYTON

What do they want?

WILLOW

What we all want.

GARRETT

They want Colin Ferrell to sit on their face.

Willow LAUGHS.

WILLOW

Think in more general terms, what do we, I mean humans, truly want?

PAYTON

Love?

WILLOW

Think in more primal terms.

GARRETT

Weren't genies, I mean Jinn always getting trapped in bottles and stuff?

WILLOW

According to legend witches would use black magic to trap the Jinn in order to harness their power.

PAYTON

And that's how it got trapped in my mirror?

WILLOW

I believe so.

GARRETT

And it wants to be free.

WILLOW

Wouldn't you?

GARRETT

Yeah, I guess it would suck to be trapped in a mirror, might make anyone cranky.

PAYTON

Is that why it's doing all this? Because it wants out.

Willow nods.

GARRETT

I thought Jinn's were magical, always granting wishes and stuff, can't it just, I don't know wish itself out.

WILLOW

It's not that simple.

PAYTON

How does the Jinn get out?

Willow glances away, she picks up her glass and takes a large sip.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

I never wished for anything, so why-

-

Willow clutches her glass; she gives Payton a sad, desperate, almost angry look.

WILLOW

Because it doesn't work that way. The whole wish thing that's, well kind of taken out of context.

PAYTON

So it doesn't grant wishes?

WILLOW

No, it senses what you want, what you truly want and it gives it to you.

PAYTON

Then why are all these horrible things happening?

Willow can't meet her gaze, she glances off.

GARRETT

How do we get if out of the mirror?

PAYTON

Can I just, I don't know wish for it really hard.

Willow gives her a sad look.

WILLOW

I told you, it doesn't work that way.

PAYTON

Why not? It's what I truly want.

It dawns on Garrett what she means and it terrifies him.

GARRETT

Because there's no place for it to go.

Willow sadly nods.

PAYTON

What do you mean? No place to go.

She gives Willow a frightened look.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Willow what does he mean?

WILLOW
You know exactly what he means.

Terrified Payton just stares at her.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Do you know why the Jinn grant you
your deepest desires while
destroying the lives of those
around you?

PAYTON
Because they're a race of sadistic
bastards?

Again Garrett realizes where Willow is going.

GARRETT
It wants to drive you crazy.

PAYTON
Yeah? Well it's doing a damn good
job.

GARRETT
Then when it pushes you over the
edge--

PAYTON
I'll be totally helpless.

WILLOW
And it will be easy for the Jinn to
enter your body.

PAYTON
And send my soul to Hell.

WILLOW
Well to another dimension anyway.

GARRETT
How do we stop it?

Willow gives him a sad look.

WILLOW
I'm afraid you don't.

GARRETT

But there must be a way to kill it
or at least send it back to
wherever the hell it came from.

Willow shakes her head.

WILLOW

No.

PAYTON

So what do I do?

WILLOW

You can accept it.

PAYTON

And have everyone I love suffer or
die until I finally go insane.

GARRETT

Yeah somehow that doesn't really
work for me.

PAYTON

Me either, what else can I do?

WILLOW

You could let it choose another
owner.

PAYTON

Choose?

Willow gives her a knowing look.

WILLOW

Did you really choose the mirror?
Or did you see it and for some
inexplicable reason just have to
have it?

Payton thinks a moment.

PAYTON

But if it chooses another owner...

WILLOW

More than likely you'll die.

PAYTON

And they'll go through the same
thing.

WILLOW
 Until they accept it, pass it on or
 the Jinn finally frees itself.

PAYTON
 There has to be something else, a
 way to destroy it.

Something outside catches Garrett's eye, he stares out the
 window.

WILLOW
 I am sorry.

PAYTON
 But--

GARRETT
 Hey guys.

PAYTON
 What?

He points out the window.

They turn and look outside.

A line of black crows sit on top of the building across the
 street staring into the window.

GARRETT
 Aren't those--

Willow's face goes white; she stares at them with a sense of
 dread.

WILLOW
 Crows.

They start to CAW.

PAYTON
 Willow what's wrong?

WILLOW
 Crows.

PAYTON
 What about them?

The crows CAW louder.

WILLOW
 Crows foretell death.

GARRETT
You believe that?

WILLOW
Crows, ravens, owls, dogs.

GARRETT
They're harbingers of death?

WILLOW
Animals are very in tune not only
with our world but the spirit world
as well.

PAYTON
That's why Rufus reacted to my
mirror.

Willow nods.

WILLOW
He could sense what was in it.
The crows CAWS reach a deafening level.
Garrett gets up walks towards the window.

GARRETT
This is all too weird.
A LOUD cracking noise; cracks zig zag through the glass.
Payton leaps to her feet.

PAYTON
Garrett.
Suddenly a LOUD boom and the window implodes.
Glass flies through the room and rains down around Garrett.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett are you OK?
He turns and smiles.

GARRETT
Not a scratch.
Payton SIGHS in relief.

PAYTON
Thanks God, that was.

She stops mid-sentence and, terrified, just stares at him.

WILLOW

Lucky.

A look of dread crosses their faces.

They stare at each other a moment.

Then they turn their gaze towards the mirror that lies on the counter.

A green mist rises from the bag.

Terrified Payton turns to Willow, who is still seated at the table.

PAYTON

What do we do?

Willow ignores her; she picks up her glass and takes a sip.

Payton SLAMS her hands down on the table in front of Willow.

Willow doesn't flinch, she just takes another sip of her drink.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Damn it Willow what do we do?

Willow gives her a sympathetic but defeated look.

WILLOW

I'm sorry Payton but there's nothing to be done.

PAYTON

But--

WILLOW

I am sorry but you can't stop it.

Payton looks over at Garrett.

His face is ghostly pale and he is sweating profusely.

PAYTON

Garrett?

GARRETT

I don't feel so good.

Frantic and terrified, Payton turns to Willow.

PAYTON
Willow please, tell me how to save
him?

Willow swallows the last of her drink then sadly looks over
at Payton.

WILLOW
You can't.

She picks up the bottle of scotch and refills her glass.

PAYTON
Damn it--

Garrett CLEARS his throat.

Payton turns to him.

He COUGHS trying to clear his throat.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett?

Unable to breathe, Garrett desperately tries to CLEAR his
throat.

Payton rushes to him.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett what's wrong?

He COUGHS harder; his hands fly to his throat as he chokes on
something.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett.

He COUGHS.

A black feather flies out of his mouth and floats to the
ground.

Scared but unsure what to do Payton just stares at him.

Willow quietly sips her scotch without looking over.

Garrett grabs his stomach, doubles over and COUGHS hard.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett.

He opens his mouth and a crow flies out.

Payton SCREAMS.

Bewildered Garrett watches the bird.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett?

He looks over at her then starts to CHOKE.

She tentatively takes a step towards him.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Garrett are you--

He opens his mouth and a stream of crows fly out.

Payton SCREAMS.

The birds circle Garrett's head then fly out the broken window.

Terrified Payton starts to cry; tears streak down her cheeks.

She turns to Willow.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Damn it do something.

WILLOW
What would you have me do?

PAYTON
I don't know.

She looks back at Garrett.

He gives her a dazed, vacant stare then collapses onto the floor.

Payton rushes over and kneels beside him.

She frantically looks over at Willow.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
Damn it don't just sit there, call--

Willow's sad eyes meet Payton's stare; she glances away, picks up her glass and takes a large sip.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
I won't give up on him.

Payton rolls Garrett onto his back.

His dead eyes stare up at her.

Payton GASPS then CRIES.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

No.

She pumps his chest and gives him mouth to mouth.

Willow sets her glass down then walks over.

WILLOW

It's too late.

PAYTON

No.

She pumps Garrett's chest and breathes into his mouth.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

I won't let him go.

Willow rests her hand on Payton's shoulder.

WILLOW

He's already gone child.

Payton starts to cry.

PAYTON

No.

Willow kneels down and closes Garrett's eyes.

WILLOW

I am sorry.

Payton glares at her.

PAYTON

Are you?

WILLOW

I truly am but you have to accept this.

Payton shakes her head.

PAYTON

I can't, I won't.

Willow forces a smile.

WILLOW

I'm afraid you don't have a choice.

Tears streak down Payton's face.

Willow wraps her arms around Payton and pulls her close; she hugs Payton and strokes her hair trying to comfort her.

INT. PAYTON'S LIVING ROOM

The front door opens and a defeated Payton shuffles in.

She sadly looks around her living room; she HEARS the sound of Garrett, Brandon, Caleb and Jenny talking and laughing.

Then she hears Willow.

WILLOW (O.S.)

I'm sorry Payton but there's nothing we can do.

Payton gets angry.

PAYTON

The hell with that.

She strides down the hallway.

INT. PAYTON'S BEDROOM

Payton marches in, walks over to the mirror and glares at it.

PAYTON

Fuck you, you're not going to win.
Do you hear me? You're not going to win.

She runs to the window and opens it.

She leans out and looks down.

Five stories below is the sidewalk.

She glares back at the mirror.

PAYTON (CONT'D)

Game over.

She leaps out the window.

A second later Payton drops from the ceiling and lands on her bed.

PAYTON (CONT'D)
No fucking way.

She jumps out of bed and leaps out the window.

Again she falls from the ceiling and lands in her bed.

Frustrated, she SCREAMS, leaps out of bed and races out of the room.

KITCHEN

Payton runs into the kitchen.

She looks around.

She yanks open one of the draws and pulls out a large kitchen knife.

She holds up the knife then rams it deep into her abdomen.

She glances down.

There is no blood.

She pulls the knife away from her body.

The knife and her clothes are clean.

Payton SCREAMS.

PAYTON
No.

With all her strength she stabs the knife into her abdomen over and over.

She looks down.

Still the knife and her clothes are clean.

She drops the knife and bursts into tears.

Defeated, she leans against the counter and sinks to the floor.

She wraps her arms around her knees and hugs them close.

Payton hangs head and SOBS uncontrollably.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

An expensively decorated room.

Payton: elegantly dressed and looking radiant; sits on the sofa facing the camera.

REPORTER (O.S.)
First let me congratulate you on
your win.

Payton smiles.

PAYTON
Thank you.

REPORTER (O.S.)
This makes you the fifth actress in
history to win the best actress
Oscar for her first film.

PAYTON
It's quite an honor.

REPORTER (O.S.)
I also want to offer you my
condolences on your mother's
passing, I understand she died
shortly after you won.

Payton, looking appropriately sad and solemn, nods.

REPORTER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Cancer?

Again Payton nods.

PAYTON
She'd been sick for quite some
time.

REPORTER (O.S.)
You two were close?

Tears fill Payton's eyes.

PAYTON
Very, she was my best friend.

REPORTER (O.S.)
She would have been very proud of
you.

Payton gives him a grateful yet sad smile.

PAYTON

Thank you.

She wipes her eyes and takes a sip of water.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Are you alright? Do you need to
take a break?

She shakes her head.

PAYTON

Thank you but I'm fine.

REPORTER (O.S.)

Your second film has just been
released and I've already heard
buzz you could be nominated for
your second Oscar.

Payton, all thoughts of her mother gone, grins excitedly.

PAYTON

I kind of heard that too.

REPORTER

Things are really coming together
for you.

Payton, trying to seem modest, smiles.

PAYTON

I have been very lucky.

REPORTER (O.S.)

I also hear you're engaged.

Payton smiles teasingly.

PAYTON

You do hear an awful lot don't you?

REPORTER (O.S.)

Does that mean the rumors are true?

Payton smiles innocently and shrugs.

PAYTON

Maybe.

REPORTER (O.S.)

So you are engaged to your hunky co-
star Grant Storm?

Payton smiles coyly.

PAYTON

Maybe.

For a brief millisecond her pupils glow red then return to normal.

She smiles radiantly at the reporter.

FADE OUT.

THE END