THE THRONE OF LOSS

By Luis Garza

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“THE THORNE OF LOSS”

FADE IN:

-Darkness

GIRL’S VOICE(V.O)
Some people believe that the way your life works out is based on luck. Others believe that there is a God out there looking over us. Some people believe in evolution, but what do I believe? It doesn’t matter.

A round surface, the color of light skin.

GIRL’S VOICE(V.O)
I knew my life was miserable, and it was going to stay miserable for the rest of my days.

Pull back to reveal that the round surface is really a head, a bald head.

GIRL’S VOICE(V.O)
There was no luck for me, and I sure didn’t believe that there was someone looking over me.

Pull back to reveal the bald head belongs to –

ANASTASIA(8), Regardless of her lack of hair, she is the definition of beautiful. Beautiful hazel eyes, perfectly shaped lips, round and small nose, and long eyebrows.

But something is missing – a smile.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
My name is Anastasia, the meaning of that name is “reborn”. Or the Greek princess Anastasia, but I was not even close to feeling like a princess.

Pull back to reveal Anastasia sitting on a bed, light hitting her face through a window; she stares at it soundlessly and expressionless.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
I look out this window and think “Why am I here?” “Why do I even have a life if it’s going to end before everyone else’s’?” But my life hasn’t ended.

Pull back to reveal that Anastasia is in a big room with other beds, girls are playing with dolls, others are brushing their hair, others sleeping.

2.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
In fact, my journey starts today, right now.

Anastasia smiles, she has beautiful white teeth.

CUT TO BLACK

SHOT OF A BEAUTIFUL FOREST

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Legend says that billions of years ago, before Jesus Christ; before any normal human being. The world was run by magical kingdoms, with magical people.

Deep into the forest appears a gigantic castle, with beautiful lakes, rivers, labyrinths, hills, gardens and more surrounding it.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
In one particular kingdom ruled a wise queen who believed that someday evolution would happen, and that the magical race of humans will be wiped off from earth.

Shot of a queen, early 30’s, beautiful and tall.

She stands in the balcony, admiring the kingdom.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
The queen couldn’t let any of that happen. The queen couldn’t change the future, she could only change people. So she put a magical spell on her most trusted man.

Shot of the queen, flicking her wand on a man with armor and a sword on his side.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
The spell prevented the man from dying, from growing old, from being wiped out of earth. In hope for a destined princess to come and become queen to rule the kingdom and re-start the race of the magical people.

Shot of the queen standing over her window, her back straight, her eyes full of hope.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Billions of years passed, and the legend says that somewhere in the depths of the forest lives the last of the magical kingdoms, which has been decomposing over the

3.

years. And there is a magical man, still waiting for the new princess to come. A princess that with her presence will turn the kingdom, once again beautiful.

MAIN TITLES: THE **Throne of Loss**
FADE IN:

EXT. STREET – CONTINUED

A ghetto street, some people are smoking, others are throwing footballs in the air, cheering every time someone catches it.

Anastasia walks down the street with her “Hello Kitty” backpack in her back.

She looks different, two years younger than the opening scene (6). She’s wearing really poor clothes and also has hair; brown, shoulder length, kind of dead.

Anastasia walks inside an apartment.

INT. APARTMETNT – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in, a small living room with second hand furniture and couches greet her. A hallway is next to the living room, leading to three rooms.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
I never complained about the quality of my home, I was grateful for having food on the table. Although sometimes I wish I could get a doll or something to entertain me with.

WOMAN(O.S)
Anastasia?

The woman’s voice is coming from the kitchen; the tone of her voice is desperate, full of pain and sorrow. Anastasia walks towards the kitchen.

ANASTASIA
Yes?

INT. KTICHEN – CONTINUED

4.

Anastasia walks in to find –

ABIGAIL(28), young, straight brown hair. Her tummy gives away her late stages of pregnancy.

ABIGAIL
Your brother isn’t feeling very well.

Abigail groans as she grabs her tummy, she shows Anastasia some pills.

ABIGAIL
I need you to give this to your father, he’s not feeling well either.

Anastasia, without questioning her mother, takes the pills and walks towards the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks inside the first door on the right.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM – CONTINUED

ALEXANDER(32) is laying down in bed, breathing with difficulty.

Anastasia walks over to the bed and hands him the pills.

ALEXANDER
Thank you sweetheart.

Alexander puts the pills inside his mouth and then swallows with the help of some water.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
I know what you’re thinking. A mother who has pregnancy difficulties and a father with heart problems isn’t the most convenient thing in the world.

ALEXANDER
Good.

ALEXANDER
How is your mom feeling?

ANASTASIA
He said that my brother isn’t feeling well.

5.

ALEXANDER
Come here.

Alexander makes space for Anastasia to lie down. Anastasia lies down next to her father, she puts her head in his shoulder.

ALEXANDER
Just in a few days, you will have someone in your life that you can call your brother.

AMASTASIA
Yeah.

ALEXANDER
Maybe you can help mom figure out a name for him.

ANASTASIA
But you will still love me the same right?

Alexander hugs Anastasia.

ALEXANDER
Of course, you will always be my princess.

ANASTASIA
I don’t feel like a princess.

ALEXANDER
What do you mean? Just look at your beautiful eyes. When you were born I thought I was seeing someone who was destined to become a princess.

ABIGAIL(O.S)
Anastasia!

ALEXANDER
Go, your mama needs you.

Anastasia gives her dad a kiss, gets out of bed and runs out the door.

INT. HAWLLAY – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks towards a door at the end of the hallway.

INT. ANASTASIA’S ROOM – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in to find her mom rocking on a rocking chair.

6.

This room is big, half of the room is painted pink, and the other half is painted baby blue.

Anastasia’s queen sized bed is in the middle of her side of the room, a castle painted on the wall behind her bed.

The other side belongs to her upcoming brother. A crib is set in the corner with toys scattered inside.

ABIGAIL
Come here.

Anastasia sits down on Abigail’s lap.

ABIGAIL
Be careful with my tummy.

Anastasia puts her head on Abigail’s shoulder. Abigail holds Anastasia’s head against her and starts rocking slowly.

ABIGAIL
I hope you don’t mind sharing a room with your brother.

ANASTASIA
I don’t. At all.

ABIGAIL
If you listen closely you can hear your brother, having his own adventure.

Anastasia moves her head from her mom’s shoulder to her tummy.

- silence

A beat

A heart beat echoes around Anastasia.

ABIGAIL
What do you hear?

ANASTASIA
His heartbeat.

ABIGAIL
He’s healthy.

Anastasia rests her head on top of her mom’s chest.

7.

ABIGAIL
What do you think his name should be?

ANASTASIA
It should start with an A, like the rest of us.

ABIGAIL
So we can be the A family?

ANASTASIA
Yeah.

ABIGAIL
Think.

A beat.

ANASTASIA
Aaron?

ABIGAIL
Aaron?

Anastasia nods.

ABIGAIL
Abigail, Alexander, Anastasia and Aaron. Sounds perfect.

ANASTASIA
Are you going to put him to sleep with that lullaby you used to sing to me?

ABIGAIL
Why, you miss that lullaby?

Anastasia slowly nods.

ABIGAIL
You want me to sing it to you again?

Anastasia nods again as Abigail starts rocking. A beautiful melody comes out of her mouth.

Soon enough, Anastasia closes her eyes and the singing stops.

ABIGAIL
I’m alright. Your Brother is alright. Daddy is alright. Everything will be alright.

8.

ANASTASIA(V.0
But it was all a lie.

- Darkness

Muted slow motion shots, each appearing one by one.

Shot of Anastasia coming home.

Shot of Anastasia dropping her backpack and running in panic.

Shot Anastasia screaming while holding her mom’s tummy.

Shot of Alexander dropping to the floor with his hands pressed to heart.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
My mom got really sick before Aaron was born. My dad’s heart problems got pretty bad.

Shot of two flashing ambulance lights.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
I stood there in the driveway.

Shot of the ambulances leaving.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Watching how an ambulance took take my mom.

CUT TO BLACK

ANASTASIA(V.O)
And another one took my dad.

INT. HOSPITAL – CONTINUED

Anastasia is sitting in a chair outside a room; nurses are coming in and out of it. A familiar scream can be heard from the inside, and then the lovely sound of a baby boy crying. A nurse walks towards Anastasia.

NURSE
Your mom insists on letting you come in.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – CONTINUIED

Anastasia walks in to see her mom smiling down at Aaron, he new baby brother.

9.

ABIGAIL
Come on Anastasia, come closer.

Anastasia walks over to where her mom is after hesitating.

ABIGAIL
Do you like him?

Anastasia looks down at baby Aaron; she smiles.

ANASTASIA
Yes.

Abigail laughs as a male doctor walks in.

DOCTOR
Alexander’s wife?

ABIGAIL
Yes.

DOCTOR
Your husband’s heart problem –

ABIGAIL
Did you subscribe him new pills?

The doctor stays silent.

ABIGAIL
What? He’s Okay right?

The doctor hesitates; tears begin streaming down Abigail’s face and her tone changes drastically to something more desperate.

ABIGAIL
Tell me he’s okay, tell me he’s going to walk through that door and see his new son he was so anxious to see.

DOCTOR
I’m sorry but your husband –

Abigail looks down at her baby, her first tear lands on her Aaron’s forehead. She has given up.

ABIGAIL
Don’t say the word, I know that he, he, he –

10.

CUT TO BLACK

ANASTASIA(V.O)
He never walked through that door. And when someone who has your father’s life in their hands walks into the room and tells you that you’re never going to see him again. That he won’t see you or your brother grow up and live to see them succeed in life and share all the beautiful moments throughout your journey. That my brother and I are going to be raised by a broken mom. And still only two words have the power to tell me all this: “He’s Gone”

Muted shot of Abigail screaming in her hospital bed, tears pouring down her face.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
How does someone grow up to celebrate their birthday knowing that’s also the day their father died?

EXT. FUNERAL – DAYS LATER
A grave sits in front of Abigail, who is sobbing inside a tissue. Anastasia holds 2 day old Aaron in between her arms, looking at her dad’s coffin as a tear falls down her eye.

CUT TO BLACK

ANASTASIA(V.O)
They say time heals every wound, I will never know if that is true, not when I get little paper cuts every day. And a new big fat wound every once in a while. One year passed since my father’s funeral.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTAISA – She’s now 7 years old, she’s touching her bald head and her expression shows shock and misery. An expression only a truly unhappy person could have.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Once the doctor told me I had cancer, it felt like blur, like it’s not really happening. Once I was bald, and I touched my head, that’s when reality hit me. Reality hit me like a giant blow to the face.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA’S MOM – She’s brushing Anastasia’s red hair in front of a mirror.

Her lips shape a word, “You’re Beautiful”

11.

Anastasia looks up at herself and sighs. Something’s not right about this. She grabs her hair and takes it out of her head – a wig.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Wearing a wig was like wearing a sign in my forehead with big fat letters that read “I don’t have cancer”. And what would that accomplish? I have to face the truth, who am I lying to? How am I going to win the battle if I can’t even accept I have an enemy?

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She’s feeding one year old Aaron.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Even in the darkest days of your lives, you can find light, so not everything was bad. I loved my little brother, and he showed some kind of affection towards me.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTAISA – She peeks into her mom’s room, she sees her cry over her bed.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
My mom said how can time heal her wounds when every time she saw Aaron she saw my father. I guess they truly loved each other. There were times where she would get depressed and go days without eating, without getting out of bed. I couldn’t believe this would last for over a year, and one more year to come. My cancer got worse.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She’s in a hospital bed, tubes all over her.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
After every visit, after every chemotherapy and after every tear my eyes let go, the less faith I had.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She’s looking at herself in the mirror.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
Every time I left the hospital, I hoped so badly for the doctor to say the six words that would restore my life completely, only six words that could give me back my pride and happiness. “We got rid of your cancer”

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She comes out of the hospital, her head up and her face determined.

12.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
As one more year passed, now I’m eight years old. Still have cancer. Still have two year old Aaron as my motive to fight.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She’s in a small office, a man with glasses talking to her. His name tag reads “Dr. Lunar, psychiatrist”. Anastasia is not paying attention; she’s looking right out the window.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
My motive to fight cancer was also to give my mom one less struggle. A dead husband, extra work, a daughter with cancer, and no money was too much to take in. Too much to the point when she can’t enjoy Aaron’s existence. I never gave my mom one less struggle, and I also had one less reason to fight cancer, because she eventually passed away.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTAISA – She’s holding two year old Aaron in front of a grave, a tear streaming down her eye.

ANASTASIA(V.O)
She had one of those weeks were she wouldn’t eat at all, I guess she knew that she was dying of depression. I think she knew because of the way she talked to me the night before. She asked me to promise her to never leave Aaron’s side. And I promised her I would never.

FADE OUT:

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 And so I tried.

FADE IN:

ON A TICKING CLOCK. It’s 11:00 am.

INT. LIVING ROOM – CONTINEUD

Anastasia(8) is sleeping in the couch with 2 year old Aaron also sleeping in her arms.

Anastasia wakes up, and sighs; she looks down at Aaron and automatically smiles.

Anastasia walks towards the kitchen, kicking aside a wig that was on her way.

13.

She stares at the ticking clock, which has now switched to 11:01.

She goes back to the living room, and looks at Aaron, soundless and sleeping. On the floor, in front of the couch lay black and gray clothes – mourning clothes.

She grabs Aaron’s shoulder and wakes him up, he yawns.

 ANASTASIA
 Come on our aunt is waiting for us.

Aaron looks at her with a confused look on his face.

 ANASTASIA
 Well you didn’t expect to live here by your own did you?

EXT. ALLEY – CONTINUED

Anastasia is walking down a deserted alley with baby Aaron walking besides her, holding her hand. On her other hand she is holding a suitcase.

 ANASTASIA
 Don’t worry, uncle will come back for your stuff later.

She keeps on walking.

 ANASTASIA
 It’s only a block away, come on. She can be strict some times, but she’s nice, even though I haven’t seen her since I got diagnosed with –

Anastasia stops for a little bit.

 ANASTASIA
 But she knows what to expect, and she also knows we are coming don’t worry. I do wonder how she’ll react when she sees me.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks through a series of houses.

 ANASTASIA
 My mom used to bring me every day; she will always welcome me with cookies.

Aaron sneezes.

 14.

 ANASTASIA
 Bless you, and we are here.

Anastasia stops walking and admires the front of a suburban house, nicely painted, pretty standard.

She knocks on the door.

 ANASTASIA
 Aunt Ashley.

- Silence

 ANASTASIA
 It’s me Anastasia, your favorite niece.

- Silence

 ANASTASIA
 Aunt Ashley please open up. It’s hot out here.

- Silence

INT. HOUSE – DOORWAY – CONTINUED

ASHLEY (32) is kneeling down on the floor beside the door, hearing Anastasia waiting for her to open the door. We see Anastasia’s hopeful puppy eyes through the window next to Ashley.

 ANASTASIA(outside)
 Aaron is thirsty.

Ashley starts sobbing into her knees.

 ASHLEY(to herself)
 I can’t

EXT. FRONT – CONTINUED

TIME LAPSE OF ANASTASIA – She’s sitting down by the door, a couple of hours pass.

The silence is cut by the sound of a car pulling up by the driveway. It’s a white car with a logo of stick figures holding hands, the logo reads “Rosemary’s Orphanage”.

INT. CAR – MINUTES LATER

15.

Anastasia and Aaron are sitting in the back of the car, Aaron looks at her, giving every sign of confusion in his face; Anastasia sighs.

Anastasia looks out the window to see a beautiful autumn, a forest on both sides. The forest filled with beautiful colors. Ahead is the orphanage, which is actually pretty big.

Anastasia smiles and looks at the driver, RICK (27)

 ANASTASIA
 Am I going to be able to go the forest?

 RICK
 No, you can only go as far as the playground lets you.

Anastasia sighs.

 ANASTASIA
 Are the girls nice?

 RICK
 Very, I think you will get along with them just fine.

 ANASTASIA
 And the food?

 RICK
 Today is soup day, and it’s very good.

Anastasia smiles.

 ANASTASIA
 Are there any girls like me?

Rick sighs, a negative sigh, a sigh that could only mean “no”.

 RICK
 Girls like you don’t usually go to orphanages. The go to –

 ANASTASIA
 The hospital. Story of my life.

Anastasia looks down at her feet, her eyes loosing the shine of hope that was left within them.

 RICK
 We are here.

16.

Anastasia looks out the window to see the hall of trees turn into a big space; the orphanage looks much bigger now.

INT. ORPHANAGE – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in, holding Aaron in between her arms. To her left is a spacious classroom, about two dozen girls learning in it. In front of her sits the front desk, a nun sitting behind the desk.

To her right is the cafeteria.

Behind the desk is a hallway; probably leading to more places.

A sister approaches her.

SISTER CHRISTINA(54), tall, dark skinned with a strict face.

 SISTER CHRISTINA
 You must be Anastasia and Aaron, welcome to Rosemary’s Orphanage!

Anastasia doesn’t respond, just looks at her with puzzlement, all the way from her black shoes to her wimple and veil. Other nuns laugh as they pass through the hallways.

 SISTER CHRISTINA
 Your aunt Ashley already did all the paperwork, it’s not guaranteed you’ll be staying here due to –

 ANASTASIA
 I don’t know why she would do that.

Sister Christina looks at her.

 SISTER CHTISTINA
 I’m sorry. Can you please sit and wait as we figure things out.

Sister Christina leaves Anastasia. Anastasia looks down at Aaron, who is impatiently thrusting his leg back and forth.

 ANASTASIA
 Don’t worry I’ll be with you forever.

A couple of girls pass by Anastasia, eyeing her as they do so; they murmur to each other. Although it’s unclear what they are saying, Anastasia catches the word “Hair” and “Ridiculous”

17.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE – CONTINUED

Sister Christina is in the middle of a conversation with MOTHER MARY, (64) a nice wrinkly face, hints of white hair escape through her veil.

 SISTER CHRISTINE
 Of course she doesn’t belong here, she belongs in the hospital; they’ll take better care for her there.

 MOTHER MARY
 I do agree with you, but she needs to be around other girls too.

 SISTER CHRISTINE
 Of course she’ll meet other girls over there, girls she can relate too.

 WOMAN’S VOICE
 If I could give my opinion.

Sister Christine turns around to see –

SISTER THERESA(30) Beautiful, a nice and friendly face. Her posture shows that she’s a strong woman.

 SISTTER CHRISTINE
 Sister Theresa, what do you have to say?

 SISTER THERESA
 I’m sorry, my opinion will contradict yours Sister, but I think Anastasia Hastings should stay here.

 MOTHER MARY
 Why do you think that Theresa?

Sister Theresa steps forward, her arms crossed around her chest.

 SISTER THERESA
 The girl deserves to grow up like a normal girl okay she’s been through a lot.

Mother Mary and Sister Christine look at each other.

 SITSTER THERESA
 I mean, she’s lost both of her parents, and the only family

18.

 she has left is her baby brother. She deserves to grow up loved by other people, not attached to tubes.

 MOTHER MARY
 Yes, I agree, but we can’t give her the medical attentions that she would get over there.

 SISTER THERESA
 If she stays here, I can take her on trips to the hospital I’ll pay for it all.

Mother Mary gives Theresa a calculating look with her sharp green eyes.

 MOTHER MARY
 You really want this girl to stay here don’t you? Why does this concern you, this is just another girl in the orphanage.

Sister Theresa stays quiet for a few seconds and then speaks up.

 SISTER THERESA
 Because.. I can relate. I may not be able to give this girl her parents back or her health and hair. But I sure will try to restore some of the happiness she’s lost.

 MOTHER MARY
 God bless your soul.

Mother Mary looks down at her desk, takes one deep breath and finally says –

 MOTHER MARY
 Alright, Anastasia Hastings is to stay here in Rosemary’s orphanage.

Sister Theresa lets out a breath of relief.

CUT TO:

INT. MAIN DESK – CONTINUED

Anastasia is sitting down on the chair, her foot tapping on the floor as she rolls her eyes. She looks down at her foot and scratches some dirt. Two feet stop in front of her, she looks up to look at –

19.

Sister Theresa, smiling down at her as if she was already her friend and not some stranger.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia Hastings, good news. You and your brother can stay here with us.

Anastasia smiles at her; another sister comes and grabs Aaron from Anastasia.

Anastasia looks in shock as the sister takes away Aaron form her.

 ANASTASIA
 No! No!

Sister Theresa holds her back from running towards the other sister.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia please, you can trust us, they will take good care of him

 ANASTASIA
 But I want to see him!

Sister Theresa lifts up Anastasia’s chin.

 SISTER THERESA
 All on its own time okay?

Anastasia lets out a breath.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay.

 SISTER THERESA
 Let me take you up to your room.

INT. GIRL’S ROOM – CONTINUED

Sister Theresa walks in with Anastasia.

A big spacious room, doll houses and other girl toys lie on one side of the room, were there is also beauty mirror with makeup. Two rows of beds on either side of the room, about a dozen beds on each side. Sister Theresa walks there to the last one on the right.

 SISTER THERESA
 This is your bed.

 20.

 ANASTASIA
 Thank you.

Sister Theresa hands Anastasia some clothes.

 SISTER THERESA
 This is your uniform.

 ANASTASIA
 Thank you.

 SISTER THERESA
 Once you get dressed you will be going to the classroom in front of the cafeteria okay?

Anastasia takes the clothes, staring at Sister Theresa with a face of admiration, Sister Theresa notices this.

 SISTER THERESA
 Something wrong?

 ANASTASIA
 No, you’re just really pretty.

Sister Theresa smiles.

 SISTER THERESA
 Thank you, so are you. Get dressed okay? I’m sure everyone will be very excited to meet you. See you around alright?

Sister Theresa leaves as Anastasia walks inside the restroom.

INT. CLASRROM – CONTINUED

The spacious classroom is filled with silent as the orphan students are reading. Boys and Girls, an explosion of different types of kids, it’s obvious everyone comes from different places. The students just have one thing in common; they all have hair.

The silence is interrupted by the door opening; some students turn around to see –

Anastasia, standing straight and smiling, her uniform fits perfectly on her; but no one is looking at the uniform. As more people turn to look at her, her smile slowly, fades.

SISTER ABIGAIL (45), looks up at her from the desk.

 21.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 Anastasia Hastings?

 ANASTASIA
 Yes.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 I’ve set an empty desk for you over there.

Sister Abigail points at an empty desk, next to a scared thin girl with light brown hair.

Anastasia slowly walks through lots of staring eyes as she gets to the desk.

The innocence in her blank expression becoming more obvious after every single person she passes.

She finally sits in her seat; she turns to look at the girl and smiles at her.

The girl welcomes her with an obviously forced smile.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 We are currently doing silent reading. We are reading the first two chapters of Matthew on the bible. I’m pretty sure one of the sisters gave you a personal bible.

Anastasia pulls out a bible from her bag. In the corner of her eye, she sees two boys whispering to each other.

She awkwardly opens the bible and pretends to read something that is not really what the teacher asked for.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA – CONTINUED

Anastasia is eyeing her lunch, ignoring all the people socializing around her. She happily takes a sip of her soup.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL – six empty seats around Anastasia, the only seats that don’t have people in the whole entire cafeteria.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND – CONTINUED

22.

Anastasia seats in one of the benches outside, eyeing girls playing with soccer balls and jumping rope.

Boys throw baseballs across from each other.

Anastasia sighs, the noise of the fun clearly overwhelming her as she feels for the pages of her book.

The front cover of the book reads “Fairy Tales: Volume 4”.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 Reading fairy tales was like a gate of escape to another world. A world with no pain or loss, just happiness. But I had to accept the world how it is and step out of my comfort zone.

Anastasia notices a soccer ball coming toward her, she closes her book and grabs it.

A group of three girls come toward her, one of them is the girl she sits next to in class.

Anastasia smiles at them and teases the ball running away a few steps and coming back. She runs away a few more steps and back; she clearly has no idea how to play soccer.

The three girls walk away, suddenly amused by a tree sitting on the edge of the play ground.

Anastasia looks at the soccer ball as if it was the last bit of hope that was left within her.

A group of nuns pass by, Sister Theresa is among them; she smiles and winks at Anastasia. Anastasia forces a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS’ ROOM – EVENING

Girls play with dolls and laugh at each other as they roll pink cars and braid each other’s hair.

Some girls are drawing and coloring on a piece of paper.

Anastasia walks towards the restroom.

INT. RESTROOM – MINUTES LATER

23.

Anastasia flushes the toilet and walks towards the sink, there lays a black marker.

She grabs the marker, uncaps it and sets in the mirror just above her head. She begins scribbling, something that later becomes what looks like hair. She grabs a pink marker that is nearby and draws a pink ribbon between the black hairs she drew.

 SISTER THERESA(O.S)
 Time for diner girls.

INT. BIG BEDROOM – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks out of the restroom, not even eyeing Sister Theresa as she walks right by her. Sister Theresa notices the drawing on the mirror.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia.

Anastasia stops right by the doorway as the girls excitedly hurry past her, not even acknowledging Anastasia’s existence.

 ANASTASIA
 Yes?

 SISTER THERESA
 Come here please.

Anastasia walks towards Sister Theresa, looking up at her with puppy eyes. Sister Theresa kneels down to her level.

 SISTER THERESA
 How do you like it here?

Anastasia is about to begin her sentence with cheerful eyes and wide mouth, Sister Theresa notices the bipolar change and says –

 SISTER THERESA
 Speak the truth, for lying is a sin.

Anastasia’s bright eyes quickly turn into what they were five second ago, fallen and the color drained from them.

 ANASTASIA
 Who am I kidding? This place it very pretty.

 24.

 SISTER THERESA
 You don’t seem to enjoy it.

 ANASTASIA
 How are you supposed to enjoy something when you don’t have anyone to enjoy it with?

Anastasia looks down at her shoes.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia, it’s not too bad.

 ANASTASIA
 Easy for you to say, you’ve had friends and people never push you away.

Sister Theresa looks down at her knees, she really feels for this girl. She looks back up and smiles.

 SISTER THERESA
 Alright, from now on I’m your friend. Don’t look at me as a religious woman with a veil and black clothes. Think of me as your friend, someone who will be there to hear anything you wish to tell people.

Anastasia twists her mouth; she’s not too sure about this.

 SISTER THERESA
 Darkness shows the stars. You just have to find the beauty in things that seem ugly.

 ANASTASIA
 Some times stars don’t show up.

 SISTER THERESA
 There’s always a moon to rely on.

Sister Theresa gets up and leaves; Anastasia stares after her.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks through the hallway; she looks down at the stairs that lead to the cafeteria, the various voices of happy children filling her ear.

25.

She eyes a second hallway that intersects with her hallway.

She eyes both sides to make sure no one is watching and she makes a run for it.

She walks through doors of genders and ages until she finally gets to one; Ages 0-2 Boys.

She slowly opens the door to see – darkness.

The silhouette of two rows of cribs is all her eyes let her see. She slowly walks in between those two rows, peeking at each sleeping baby till she finds –

AARON, on the 4th crib to the right.

She hunches over the baby and pets his forehead.

 ANASTASIA
 Hello little brother.

Aaron remains sleeping.

 ANASTASIA
 You look like an angel when you’re sleeping.

Aaron releases a long breath, indicating the deep state of dream he’s currently in.

 ANASTASIA
 I hope I could see you, you know, when you know that I’m actually seeing you. I miss hearing you laugh, and the way you always smile after every food you eat.

Anastasia kisses Aaron’s forehead, the moment is cut by the sound of footsteps outside the door.

Anastasia quickly hides under the crib as the door opens and a sister peeks in.

The door closes in a matter of seconds.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM – MORNING

Anastasia wakes up to one of the sisters announcing breakfast at the door. She rubs her eyes with closed fists and gets out of bed, barely.

26.

INT. CAFETERIA – MINUTES LATER

Anastasia is in the cafeteria, six empty seats are all around her.

Two girls stop next to Anastasia, Anastasia begins to show her change of mood with a big smile.

 GIRL #1
 How does it feel to be bald?

Her smile quickly fades.

 ANASTASIA
 How does it feel to have hair?

 GIRL #2
 Sometimes it’s annoying because my neck sweets when I sleep.

 ANASTASIA
 Wow. That sounds like a big problem

 GIRL #1
 What is it called, what you have. Cranper?

 GIRL #2
 It’s called cancer. My aunt had it but she died.

 ANASTASIA
 I’m sorry to hear that.

Anastasia looks down at her food, obviously affected by the conversation.

The two girls leave Anastasia; she looks down at her food; overcooked steak accompanied by some peas and a handful of potato salad.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM – HOURS LATER

Same classroom as the day before.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 Alright children, we are reading chapters three and four on Matthew. Afterwards we are going sentence by sentence to discuss the meaning.

27.

Everyone opens their bibles without trouble; Anastasia on the other hand looks as confused as she was yesterday.

The redheaded girl from the day before notices this and gets out of her desk. She walks towards Anastasia and stops right next to her, Anastasia turns to look at her in puzzlement.

 GIRL
 Look, all you have to do is look on the edge of the pages.

Anastasia takes a closer look at her face; freckles, sweet brown eyes and crooked nose. The girl shows her the edge of Anastasia’s bible.

 GIRL
 The first three letters show you the book you want to look for. In this case she wants you to look for Matthew. That is one of the last books. You open it and look at these numbers on the top, these are the chapters, look for three and four and you’re set.

Anastasia looks at her as if she was the first person she has ever seen, a look of admiration.

 GIRL
 By the way, my name is Wendy.

 ANASTASIA
 Anastasia.

 WENDY
 Pretty name. I bet a lot of people would love to have such a nice name like yours.

Wendy smiles and walks away to her desk.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND – HOURS LATER

Anastasia sits alone in one of the benches, watching again how boys and girls play. She looks down at her fairy tale book that she has devoured over the last couple of days.

Anastasia looks down at the floor as two small feet appear right in front of her. She looks up at Wendy, accompanied by another boy; tall, red hair, green eyes; his head structure resembles Wendy’s.

 28.

 WENDY
 Hey Anastasia, this is my brother, Frankie.

Anastasia forces a smile at Frankie, who is staring with an awkward smirk.

 ANASTASIA
 Hi.

 FRANKIE
 Nice to meet you.

 ANASTASIA
 Likewise.

Anastasia proceeds to work on her book as she turns the page with awkwardness.

 WENDY
 Wow. That’s a big book.

 ANASTASIA
 You read?

 WENDY
 Not really, I think it’s a waste of time. I mean, I could be doing something much better.

 ANASTASIA
 Reading is not a waste of time. I think it’s amazing how an author can create great worlds and characters with so much depth just using their extraordinary brains.

 FRANKIE(giggling)
 You talk funny.

Wendy, ignoring Frankie’s comment says –

 WENDY
 I think I’d rather watch a movie. It gets to the point a lot faster.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah and where is all the suspense in the movie? It gets to the point a lot faster; books have much more adventure because it gets to the point slower. Most book to movie

29.

 adaptations turn out rather disappointing maybe with the exception of Harry Potter.

 FRANKIE
 What are you reading anyway?

 ANASTASIA
 It’s a book with short fairy tale stories.

 WENDY
 Like, castles and princesses and all that?

 ANASTASIA
 Exactly.

 WENDY
 I love princesses, what is your favorite princess? I love Ariel from the little mermaid. I think it would be amazing to be like a mermaid, you can swim all you want without running out of oxygen and be pretty at the same time. I already have read hair I might add.

 ANASTASIA(giggling)
 But your hair is curly.

 WENDY
 Alright then I guess I could be Merida. I like horses, and bow and arrows. What about you? What princess do you want to be like?

Anastasia twirls her mouth and hugs her book, with a look of deep thought.

 ANASTASIA
 Snow white without a doubt. I love how she’s very nice and she doesn’t have to make an effort for everyone to love her; they just do, even animals.

Anastasia sighs, looking up with illusion.

 ANASTASIA
 Everyone is just attracted to her like a magnet. Most princesses get noticed when they have dresses. She doesn’t need one, no not snow white. It must be nice to have the world be attracted to you because of your personality and

30.

 the way you treat others. But the world isn’t like that, not just for me, but for anyone.

Anastasia drops her book; Wendy grabs it and gives it to Anastasia with a smile.

 WENDY
 Well. You are nice.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah no one cares what I am.

There’s a long silence, Frankie looks behind Anastasia and jumps in excitement.

 FRANKIE
 Look! No one is using the ball!

Anastasia turns around to see a theater ball wrapped around a pole. The ball is still wiggling due to the kids that have left the ball, fascinated by something else.

 WENDY
 Awesome, we’ve been waiting to play for days!

Anastasia looks down at her book, her eyes hopeless; ready to be left alone again.

 WENDY
 Come play with us!

Anastasia looks up, her eyes gaining color again.

 ANASTASIA
 Me?

 WENDY
 No, your book. Yes you! Come on, it’s easy!

Anastasia follows Wendy and Frankie, who are jumping in excitement every few steps they take.

Wendy and Frankie get to the pole.

Wendy grabs the ball and looks at Anastasia, who is staring at the ball like it’s something from another planet.

31.

 WENDY
 What? Don’t tell me you’ve never played tether ball.

 ANASTASIA
 I’ve never even heard of it.

 WENDY
 It’s very easy, you take turns to hit the ball, and whoever gets the string around the pole first wins! Look just watch us, it’s very easy.

Wendy grabs the ball and looks at Frankie.

She hits the ball very hard with the right side of her closed fist. The ball flies at full speed two full circles around the pole till its caught by the hands of Frankie.

He smiles as he throws the ball up in the air, he hits as its going and Anastasia watches as the ball takes a full turn before Wendy catches it.

Anastasia watches as Wendy and Frankie continue playing till Wendy gets the whole string around the pole; Wendy jumps in excitement as Frankie rolls his eyes.

 WENDY
 Haha! You were beaten by a girl.

 FRANKIE
 Whatever.

 WENDY
 Come on Anastasia it’s your turn.

Anastasia hesitates before she walks towards the ball.

She grabs it firmly with both hands as she looks at Wendy, who is on the other side of the pole staring in anticipation.

Anastasia smiles and hits the ball, it wiggles as it moves slowly straight at the hands of Wendy.

Wendy laughs as she looks at Anastasia, who stares back with a disappointed look on her face.

 WENDY
 Try moving your arm less, just keep your fist firm.

32.

Wendy throws the ball at Anastasia, she catches it and smiles.

Anastasia throws the ball up in the air and hits it hard with a firm fist.

The string does one full circle around the pole before Wendy catches it and Sister Theresa appears.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia, I’m very glad you’ve made some friends.

Anastasia looks up at Sister Theresa.

 SISTER THERESA(CONT’D)
 I thought you might want to say hello to your little brother.

Anastasia’s smirk quickly turns into a big smile.

Sister Theresa offers Anastasia her hand, she takes it gladly.

INT. MAIN DESK – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in to find baby Aaron, who is holding onto a woman.

Anastasia runs towards Aaron and picks him up; Aaron laughs.

Anastasia gives Aaron a kiss on the cheek.

Sister Theresa puts her palm on Anastasia’s back, Anastasia looks up at Theresa.

 ANASTASIA
 I can’t believe you guys are letting me see him.

Anastasia puts down Aaron and looks into his eyes, she hugs him.

Sister Theresa kneels down to Anastasia’s level, and grabs her shoulder.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia, you must understand that…

Sister Theresa hesitates to finish her sentence, Anastasia notices this.

 ANASTASIA
 Understand what?

33.

Sister Theresa sighs.

 SISTER THERESA
 This isn’t a visit per say. This is more like a goodbye.

Anastasia’s smile turns into an alarmed look.

 ANASTASIA
 What?

 SISTER THERESA
 Aaron has been adopted, this is his new mother.

Anastasia looks up at the woman, who is being handed some papers by a sister; she carries Aaron and walks towards the main door.

 ANASTASIA
 What! No!

Anastasia runs towards the door, but she’s immediately stopped by Sister Theresa’s arms.

Anastasia tries to free herself as she yells and tears stream down her face.

 ANASTASIA
 No! Please! Bring him back! Please! No!

 SISTER THERESA
 Annie please.

Sister Theresa holds her grip as Anastasia sees the woman walk out the door with Aaron’s face peeking out her shoulder; looking back with a look of puzzlement.

The woman turns left as Anastasia sees the last glimpse of Aaron’s face that she will ever see.

MUTED SHOT OF ANASTASIA – She’s screaming in between Sister Theresa’s arms.

CUT TO BLACK

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 And that’s when I learned my next lesson. Sometimes goodbye can be forever.

INT. GIRLS’S ROOM – CONTINUED

34.

Anastasia sits down on her bed looking out the window. Behind her a group of adults are talking to other girls her age.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 It was adoption day, and Aaron’s adoption is not the only one that took place today.

Some girls walk out the door with some couples.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 Of course all the other girls are getting interviewed by families in need of another kid. I’m an opened book you know, but who will read me when my cover reads “Dying girl”.

TIME LAPSE OF ANASTASIA – The room is empty, the light that was hitting her face through the window is not present anymore. Sister Theresa walks in and walks towards her.

 SISTER THERESA
 It’s not so bad.

 ANASTASIA
 It’s not so bad?

Anastasia turns around to look at Sister Theresa, who is breathing heavily.

 ANASTASIA
 It’s not so bad?! Of course it isn’t, it’s horrible that people don’t see me as a normal girl just because I’m bald and sick.

 SISTER THERESA
 I know how you feel.

 ANASTASIA
 No you don’t. No one knows. I’m just as normal as any other girls. I also have wishes. I also want to be a veterinarian, or a fire fighter, or a doctor, or a singer. But of course those wishes are being blocked by a big wall called cancer. I just can’t get through it; I have to worry about surviving before worrying about anything else.

 SISTER THERESA
 You can get through it if you use a wrecking ball.

335.

Anastasia stays silent.

 SISTER THERESA
 Just look at yourself, you can get anything you want. You are an eight year old with the vocabulary of college student. You are a very smart girl; all you have to do it find a way to get past that wall. Climb it no matter how tall it is. Go around it no matter how wide. You are like a normal girl, because you have the privilege to fight for what you want. You just have to show the world that you can fight a bigger war than them.

Anastasia hugs Sister Theresa; she holds Anastasia’s head on her shoulder.

Sister Theresa gets up.

 SISTER THERESA
 Look I have to go, I have to help clean around. Sleep tight.

The rest of the girls walk in as Sister Theresa walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRL’S ROOM – NIGHT

Every girl in the room is asleep, including Anastasia, who is breathing very heavily.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

The window next to Anastasia’s bed is hit with what appears to be a few pebbles.

Anastasia’s mouth twitches as she continues to sleep, the only noise in the room being her limited breathing.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Three more pebbles hit the window; Anastasia slowly opens her eyes as it happens.

Anastasia looks over at the window.

SHOT OF THE FLOOR – Two small and feet slowly touch the floor.

Anastasia walks over to the window to look.

SHOT OF THE FRONT – A silhouette of a tall man is seen on the edge of the forest.

A tall man with thick clothing and handle of a sword sticking out of his back.

Anastasia immediately walks towards the bedroom doors.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING - CONTINUE

Anastasia walks down the stairs and into –

INT. DOWNSTAIRS LANDING – CONTINUED

She stares at two hallways on her side, both empty. The sound of footsteps is heard behind her.

She turns around to see the shadow of a sister who’s about to walk down the stairs; Anastasia quickly hides under the stairs as she waits for the footsteps to disappear into the hallway.

After a few moments of waiting, she gets out of her hiding spot to see the shadow walk to the left hallway.

She fast walks to a doorway.

INT. MAIN DESK – CONTINUED

She walks past the cafeteria and makes it to the front door, she tries opening it, but of course it’s locked.

She looks at a window and quickly runs towards it.

She pulls it up and it opens.

EXT. FRONT – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks down the front steps into the driveway. She runs across the driveway and into the forest.

EXT. FOREST – CONTINUED

Tall trees welcome her into the forest, which is somewhat beautiful even at night.

She walks through the forest, avoiding branches and tree trunks.

She spots the silhouette about five trees down.

 SILHOUETTE
 This way!

37.

Anastasia looks back to see the orphanage a few yards away and after hesitating, she continues walking.

She walks and walks, touching each tree with an open palm till the point where the trees are no longer trees but pillars.

Red pillars that shine even at night as if they were made out of ruby.

She turns back to see the trees, and the orphanage at the distance.

She turns back to the pillars.

As she walks farther into the forest she notices that there are two rows of ruby pillars; each row is about ten feet away from each other.

She looks down at her feet, her shoes have been replaced by beautiful ruby ones; the same color as the pillars.

She walks further into the forest; she’s in between the two rows of pillars.

She turns around to see the orphanage, which now seems small from the distance apart.

The lights from the forest start dimming until the forest is completely dark; not a single thing can be seen.

A radiant light hits Anastasia in the face. She looks up at the source and notices a diamond chandelier hanging down from a tall roof that has magically appeared.

Anastasia looks around her; the forest has been turned into a big stone room.

She finds herself in between the middle of the pillars.

She looks around the room to see windows cut into little triangles; she spots hints of green and river.

She looks ahead, the pillars lead to a door; a big golden and shiny door.

She looks around in confusion and fascination.

As she walks towards the door, a few shiny spots appear on top of Anastasia’s shirt. The shiny spots quickly turn into a fair red color.

38.

The red color expands throughout her whole outfit until its red. Another layer starts growing out of the outfit, until her red clothes start taking shape of a shiny ruby red dress.

She looks down at her dress with wide happy eyes.

She grabs her bald head as the baldness lasts. Blonde, shiny and wavy hair cascades down her head until it falls under her chest.

 ANASTASIA(whispering)
 Impossible.

She walks towards the door and grabs a weird shaped knob.

She turns it, and without pushing the door, it opens.

Brighter light welcomes Anastasia into a beautiful place.

EXT. DIFFERENT WORLD - CONTINUED

A sun brighter than our own, a river with crystal clear water visible on the distance, as well as tall perfectly triangular mountains.

Shadows of lots of other places are also noticeable. To her left and right are incredibly beautiful tall and green trees; in the shape of an arc as if to welcome her.

A man appears right before her, fair black shoulder length hair. He’s wearing armor and he has a sword in his back.

The man looks like a resemblance of a human being, but the pale color of his skin and long pointed ears holds him back from getting that title.

 MAN
 Anastasia Hastings.

 ANASTASIA
 You are the man I saw outside the orphanage.

The man moves slightly towards her.

 MAN
 Yes, and you are the girl who didn’t hesitate to come.

 ANASTASIA
 What is this place?

 39.

 MAN
 It’s a magical kingdom, a magical kingdom that has lost a lot of magic and power and beauty.

 ANASTASIA
 Why am I here?

 MAN
 You are the hope of this kingdom, you and only you can turn this kingdom back to what it was. Princess Anastasia.

The man bows down.

 ANASTASIA
 Princess Anastasia?

 MAN
 Princess Anastasia. Chosen by Queen Analyassa to rule the kingdom and hopefully restart the race of magic.

 ANASTASIA
 And what’s your name?

 MAN
 Knight Melark, the queens most trusted man.

Anastasia looks around her, from the beautiful trees to the blue sky and the beautiful bodies of water, mountains, and landforms.

 ANASTASIA
 Is this real?

 MELARK
 Are you happy?

 ANASTASIA
 More than I have ever been.

 MELARK
 Then who cares if it’s real. Better to enjoy your happiness while it lasts.

Anastasia looks up at Melark.

 ANASTASIA
 Where is everybody?

40.

 MELARK
 That’s why you’re here, to start the race of magical people again, and to regrow the kingdom’s that time swiped away. This…

Melark swipes his hand over the kingdom.

 MELARK(CONT’D)
 Is the last magical kingdom, and it will be dead in three days, and all hope will be lost.

 ANASTASIA
 And why did the queen choose me?

 MELARK
 You may have a lot of questions, but I can only tell you what the queen ordered me to do.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay.

Melark pulls out a rolled letter and unrolls it. He clears his throat and begins to read off of it.

 MELARK
 Princess Anastasia, soon to be Queen Anastasia. Welcome to the Crystal Kingdom. You have three days to prove yourself a true princess and gain our trust to regain what was once ours. Just keep in mind, when the first ray of sunlight hits the normal world, you will be immediately sent back to it. Enjoy yourself in the kingdom, but also keep your eyes on the goal. The kingdom is over the mountains, and the castle is over the river. You will need one item to enter each challenge. Starting in the forest, onto a cave, over some mountains into a kingdom and finally a maze. Collect all five items in each place to enter the castle and hopefully prove yourself, a true princess. Yours Truly Queen Analyssa.

Melark rolls back the letter.

 MELARK
 That’s it.

Melark holds Anastasia’s shoulders.

 41.

 MELARK
 Just remember, you might find things within you that you didn’t know you had. You can find beautiful things, but also nasty and horrible things. Keep in mind even in beauty, there can be darkness.

Anastasia nods once.

 MELARK
 Here you go.

Melark hands Anastasia something small, she looks at it.

- An hourglass. It has rich glass, the corners made of diamond, the edges of ruby and the sand looks like gold.

The top is almost full and the bottom is barely starting to fill up.

 ANASTASIA
 What is this for?

 MELARK
 That’s the time you have left for the first ray of sunlight to hit the normal world, you will be back in your bed in the orphanage.

Anastasia nods and walks in between the trees, leaving Melark in the distance.

Anastasia touches the leaves of the trees as she walks through them. She continues walking until the beginning of the forest is right in front of her, the beautiful leaves inviting her in.

Without hesitating, she walks inside the forest; pushing every branch that appears on her face.

EXT. FOREST - CONTIUED

She looks around, no sign of any “item”.

A squeaky laugh is heard nearby, she quickly turns around.

 ANASTASIA
 Hello?

- Silence.

42.

Anastasia, ignoring the laugh, continues walking; admiring anything that deserves the admiration.

A big and green butterfly flies around her; she holds her finger up as the butterfly lands.

She smiles down at it, the butterfly slowly flaps her wings and takes off; Anastasia smiles as she watches the butterfly fly into the distance.

Anastasia continues walking.

A white bunny stops in front of her and sniffs Anastasia’s ruby red shoes.

 ANASTASIA
 Hey little buddy.

Anastasia carefully picks up the bunny and holds up at the level of her face.

The bunny sniffs her nose as Anastasia giggles.

The squeaky laugh is heard again, Anastasia puts the bunny down.

 ANASTASIA
 Who is it, who’s there?

The squeaky voice replies from a lower level.

 SQUEAKY VOICE
 I’m down here.

Anastasia looks down, nothing is seen.

 SQUEAKY VOICE
 Well now I’m up here.

The voice indeed comes from an upper level; Anastasia looks up; nothing.

 SQUEAKY VOICE
 Now I am over here, and here, and here too. Am all around you, you can’t see me I’m too fast for you, aren’t I?

The voice comes from different places as it continues talking.

Anastasia looks around and sighs impatiently.

 43.

 ANASTASIA
 Whatever, now can you please just show yourself.

- Silence.

 ANASTASIA
 I knew it.

Anastasia is about to take her first step when –

 SQUEAKY VOICE
 I’m right behind you.

Anastasia turns around to see –

A two and half feet tall humanoid.

He has really tall legs for his size, straight legs covered in hair and his feet are hooves. His upper area is thicker; he is wearing very tight blue coat that over shows his love handles. He has no neck, just a wide face with an extremely wide mouth.

He has a triangular nose, and big puppy popped eyes. The tip of his wavy brown hair comes out of his big blue leprechaun hat. He flashes a squirrel smile; his two middle upper teeth over sizing his other teeth.

Anastasia smiles at him.

 ANASTASIA
 Aww you’re so adorable.

The creature moves his nose back and forth in confusement.

 CREATURE
 So you must be princess Anastasia

 ANASTASIA
 You know my name?

 CREATURE
 Of course, everyone knows your name around here. Everyone who is left in this dirty place anyway. (playful tone) and let me tell you, there’s almost no one left here.

The creature gives out a contagious laugh; a laugh with an E instead of an A; Anastasia giggles.

 44.

` ANASTASIA
 This place is not dirty.

 CREATURE
 Compared to what it was before it’s trashy(giggles) you get my joke, trashy and dirty are synnoniminis.

 ANASTASIA
 You mean synonyms?

 CREATURE
 Hey that’s my joke! Anyways as I was tell – OH!

The creature runs so quick that it ends up on a tree right before Anastasia could even turn.

Anastasia looks up at the tree to see the creature chasing after a butterfly.

It grabs it and quickly eats it.

The creature gives out another loud “He-He-He”

It jumps down to the branch that is closer to the floor and wraps it’s legs around it, ending up upside down; his face right in front of Anastasia’s.

 ANASTASIA
 What’s your name?

 CREATURE
 My name is Cukas.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas?

 CUKAS
 Yeah, like Lucas, but a C instead of L. I’m not saying Lukas is a bad name but you know, I like the work C better because It has an interesting shape and sound. I had a friend named Lucas actually, He got bit by a turtle and he got worried. He would go around saying. (imitating with deep voice) “I got bit by a turtle, can I still drink orange juice?” Oranges hasn’t been spotted around here in a couple hundred years. I love oranges from what I remember they have an interesting... Oh sorry I’m getting a little bit out of topic, what where we talking about?

45.

Anastasia gives out an awkward smile.

 ANASTASIA
 You’re funny name. Cukas.

 CUKAS
 I had to pick a name that matched my funnyness.

 ANASTASIA
 I don’t think funnyness is a word.

 CUKAS
 Well now it is. He–He-He.

Cukas jumps down to the floor and starts scratching his ears with his hooves like a dog.

 ANASTASIA
 You pick your own name?

 CUKAS
 Every Crapulot picks their name; most of us choose names that don’t even exist.

 ANASTASIA
 Crapulot?

 CUKAS
 This forest used to be infested of us, I’m the only one left. He-He-He.

 ANASTASIA
 And are there any more creatures other then Crapulots?

 CUKAS
 There used to be hundreds of them, before they all starved to death of course. Now there’s maybe a dozen. Not just in the forest but in the whole kingdom. Legend says that the princess will be able to create new things for the kingdom; Including new creatures.

 ANASTASIA
 Starved?

 CUKAS
 Yeah billions of years here you know.

46.

Cukas struggles as he tries to scratch.

 ANASTASIA
 Does that even help, you have hooves.

 CUKAS
 Well maybe that’s why I knock myself out sometimes. He-He- He

 ANASTASIA
 Here let me help you.

Anastasia reaches for Cukas’ ear and scratches. His face shows his appreciation.

 CUKAS
 Thank you, your majesty.

 ANASTASIA
 You’re welcome. Just a few hours ago I was being ignored by everyone in the orphanage; now people are kneeling down to me.

 CUKAS
 You deserve that and more; There are rumors throughout the forest. Legend says that the queen will come back. Radiant blonde hair that fits with her ruby red dress.

 ANASTASIA
 I still can’t believe I was chosen.

 CUKAS
 I can, you are definitely princess material. You are very pretty and kind. You offered to scratch a stranger. Well I never thought I would use that sentence in my life. He-He- He.

 ANASTASIA
 I’m supposed to find something that will help me get into a cave.

 CUKAS
 Oh yeah, things were placed throughout the whole kingdom for the princess to find.

 ANASTASIA
 And what are they?

 47.

 CUKAS
 I don’t know, legend says that the chosen one will notice it right away.

 ANASTASIA
 Oh okay, thank you.

 CUKAS
 I have to go.

Cukas is about to take off when he stops and says –

 CUKAS
 Oh yeah, I almost forgot to warn you about the perlians. Be careful they love to bite. Well, see you around. He-He-He.

Cukas hops away and disappears, Anastasia giggles and continues walking.

Anastasia looks around in the forest; she looks up at tree with a face of determination.

She holds a bump from the tree and pushes her body up as she climbs.

Soon enough she makes it to the top of the tree; she looks around her.

ANASTASIA’S POV – There are trees all throughout the forest, except for this one place.

A treeless circle with a blue light over glowing from the ground.

She gets down from the tree and walks towards the direction the treeless circle is.

She walks and walks, the forest loosing its beauty the closer she walks to the treeless circle.

The forest soon loses light as Anastasia finds herself on a shadowy place of the forest.

She spots the blue light, it’s a few yards away; seen easily through the leaves of the dark forest.

She walks towards it, pushing branches away from her face.

An owl hoots in the distance as a crow screams, Anastasia awkwardly looks around as she gets closer to the blue light.

48.

A branch in front of her is blocking her view from the mysterious object.

She grabs the branch and puts it down as she gets the full blast of the object.

A stone, floating in mid air in the middle of the treeless circle, giving a light so radiant that illuminates every detail of every tree surrounding the circle.

Anastasia walks towards the first object she has to find.

High pitched screams get louder as she gets closer to the stone.

Soon enough, the stone is floating right in front of her, surprisingly not blinding her.

She grabs it and closes her hand around it, the radiant light escaping the lines of her fingers.

ROAAR!

A scream echoes from Anastasia’s right, she quickly turns and breathes heavily.

ROARR!

Anastasia sees a skinny and incredibly fast shadow cast along a row of leaves, she makes a run for it.

In a matter of seconds, she’s running as fast as her dress lets her, jumping over every obstacle and pushing every branch away from her face.

She looks behind to see a glimpse of the creatures.

Five of them, skinny down to the bone, long oval faces with popped eyes, small but sharp teeth and three long hairs sticking out of their bald heads.

They are wearing leaves as shorts.

Anastasia runs faster, and faster; hearing the hungry roars just a couple of feet away from her.

The radiant light that escapes from in between her fingers starts to dim.

49.

Soon, she realizes that she’s leaving the dark parts of the forest behind and she’s getting closer to the sun’s light.

She looks back to see the creatures stopping on their tracks as the tip of their fingers that made it to the light burn.

Anastasia runs as the agonizing scream of the creatures fades away.

She runs and runs and runs and then all of the sudden –

CRUNCH!

She trips and snaps a branch as she rolls over the forest.

She gets up to realize that she’s no longer in a forest but in –

EXT. PRAIRIE – CONTINUED

Flowers with distinct and beautiful colors brush lightly against her leg.

She looks ahead to pretty much see a flatland with little hills; a place any girl like her would love to run around in.

She looks down at her dress, to see a glow over shine the dirt till the dress looks once again new.

Anastasia looks down to see her palm.

The stone has lost its radiant light.

 VOICE
 Hey!

Anastasia turns around, startled.

Cukas stands with a wide smile, obviously clueless that he just scared Anastasia.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas.

 CUKAS
 That would be me. He-He-He. (whispering) So did you get it?

Anastasia opens her palm once again.

 ANASTASIA
 What, this?

 50.

 CUKAS
 Don’t just hold it like a flag in a parade.

 ANASTASIA
 I just opened my hand.

 CUKAS
 Even the nicest people would be willing to steal the magical stone; it has more than one use.

 ANASTASIA
 What other use does it have?

 CUKAS
 I don’t know if the queen will allow me to say it. But this kingdom has three items that overpower every single piece of magic that you see. You have one out of three. The one who obtains all three will be invincible. And of course that is meant to be you.

 ANASTASIA
 And where are the other two items.

 CUKAS
 Three out of five places. You are supposed to find one in the forest, the town, and maze.

 ANASTASIA
 What about the item in the cave and mountains?

 CUKAS
 Those items are also important, but not magical per say. Oh my Krispy! I sound just like a fairy tale book. He-He-He.

Anastasia steps forward, Cukas behind her.

 ANASTASIA
 I need to find that cave.

 CUKAS
 Caves are dark, Caves are bad. Oh I just rhymed!

 ANASTASIA
 Dark and Bad don’t rhyme.

 CUKAS
 No, but Caves and Caves does.

51.

Anastasia stops for a bit.

 ANASTASIA
 That’s a nice one.

Anastasia giggles and proceeds walking, Cukas moves his nose back and forth before he follows her.

 CUKAS
 Huh?

Anastasia pulls out the hourglass from one of the pockets in her dress.

It’s halfway full.

 CUKAS
 You have one hour.

 ANASTASIA
 But it’s halfway full.

 CUKAS
 One hour here equals four and a half on the other world.

Anastasia continues walking, Cukas behind her.

 CUKAS
 Did you know that the princess can pick a companion to be with her in the castle and serve her?

 ANASTASIA
 Oh is that so?

 CUKAS
 Yeah... No reason for saying this but I can cook and I’ve never been inside the castle, and out here –

 ANASTASIA
 - Shhhh. I’m sure I’m going to pick you Cukas, if that’s what you want to know.

 CUKAS
 He-He-He.

Cukas’ cheeks quickly turn blue as he flashes his big front teeth.

52.

Cukas and Anastasia are on top of a hill, seeing the rest of the prairie leading into three snowy mountains. On the other side are two rocks, a cave in between them.

 ANASTASIA
 Is that a cave, or is that the cave?

 CUKAS
 That’s the cave.

Anastasia runs downhill as she gets closer to the cave, Cukas hopping behind her.

As she gets closer, little creatures with large wings emerge from the flowers.

Half a foot tall, beautiful hair and faces.

- Fairies.

Each fairy of the bunch is wearing a different glowing dress color. The color of the dresses of each fairy change at the same time; each time an explosion of glowing glitter escapes the dress.

 CUKAS
 Be careful with the fairies, their beauty and colors hypnotize you, not intentionally of course, it’s not their fault.. You could be here for years without noticiz…

Anastasia turns back to wait for Cukas to finish the sentence.

But instead, she sees him drooling over the fairies, every time the dresses change and release glowing glitter; his eyes change the same color as them.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas.

Cukas stays where he is.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas! I don’t have time for this.

Anastasia sighs.

 ANASTASIA
 I’ll be back for you my little friend.

53.

Anastasia enters the darkness of the cave.

INT. CAVE – CONTINUED

- Darkness.

Three rays of radiant light come out of Anastasia’s hand; she opens her hand to see the stone.

The stone illuminates everything that surrounds Anastasia.

All types of rocks surround her, there is no obvious path for Anastasia to find.

She makes a decision and walks in between two rocks; the stone illuminating the long distance ahead of her.

She walks forward, the light revealing more and more of what’s ahead of her, absolutely nothing.

She takes out the hourglass to see that about seventy percent of the sand has fallen over.

She puts the hourglass away and looks ahead to see stone stairs.

She goes up the stairs slowly, picking up her dress with every step she takes.

INT. UPSTAIRS LANDING – CAVE – CONTINUED

She looks at a much bigger space, a rock in the shape of a bed, a sheet thrown over it.

Three gems sit on top of the sheet. Red, blue and green.

She grabs hold of the three gems and closes her hand tightly around them.

EXT. CAVE – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks out to find Cukas, amused with the faeries.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas we need to go.

Anastasia sighs, grabs Cukas’ “hand” and runs with him.

Soon enough, they make it far away from the faeries, Cukas snaps as if he just woke up.

54.

The glowing glitter explosions that the faeries give can be seen far away.

 CUKAS
 Princess! What happened?!

Anastasia rolls her eyes as she answers.

 ANASTASIA(sarcastically)
 Um.. nothing just that I had to enter a filthy place on my own while you stayed there drooling over some faeries.

Cukas slaps his hand against his forehead.

 CUKAS
 Oh I’m sorry, the last time I stayed there for one day, my hunger kicked in, so I had to leave and get a few butterflies.

 ANASTASIA
 I got the item; I think it was these three gems.

Anastasia shoes her open palm to Cukas, his eyes quickly turn wide.

 CUKAS
 They are so beautiful.

CUT TO:

INT. ORPHANAGE – GIRLS’ ROOM – CONTINUED

SHOT OF THE WINDOW – It shows the darkness outside the orphanage, a ray of yellow light enters the room from the edge of the earth.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL – Anastasia rising from bed, with pajamas and no radiant hair.

She touches her bald head and gets a blow of reality to the face as tear falls down her face.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA – HOURS LATER

Anastasia sits once again by herself, staring at her sandwich, accompanied by corn and vegetables.

55.

Wendy sits next to Anastasia; Frankie soon appears on the other side of the table and sits across the girls.

Wendy puts down her plate and stares at it like dirty laundry clothes she’s being forced to wash.

 WENDY
 Gosh I hate Wednesdays here. Frozen sandwiches are things you should get in jail.

 FRANKIE
 Cheer up, tomorrow is lasagna day.

 WENDY
 Here/

Wendy slides her sandwich across the table; Frankie grabs it like a treasure.

 FRANKIE
 And on Wednesdays I can eat twice as much. Ha-Ha.

Anastasia smiles.

 WENDY
 Have you ever heard someone say “Hey mom don’t cook anything today I’ll just make myself a sandwich” yeah I don’t think so. Tell me, do you like sandwiches?

 ANASTASIA
 You’re lucky.

 WENDY
 Lucky, why?

 ANASTASIA
 I would give anything for my worries to turn into a simple sandwich.

Wendy’s curiosity quickly turns into a look of realization.

 WENDY
 I’m sorry.

 ANASTASIA
 Don’t worry about it.

56.

Frankie’s eyes get wide all of the sudden as he hides his second sandwich.

 FRANKIE
 Does she really need to be sitting facing us.

 ANASTASIA
 Wha-

Wendy turns around; she rolls her eyes and then taps Anastasia’s shoulder.

She jerks her head towards a table on the other side of the cafeteria.

A brunette girl with sharp face is sitting down as she flashes a smile at her friends.

 WENDY
 That’s Isabelle. Frankie likes her.

Frankie’s face turns red.

 FRANKIE
 No I don’t

 WENDY
 Yes you do.

 FRANKIE
 No.... I don’t

 WENDY
 Yes.... You do.

 FRANKIE
 Whatever.

 WENDY
 Accept the fact Frankie, how are you going to get her to fall in love with you when you can’t even figure it out yourself.

 ANASTASIA
 I agree with Wendy, that’s how you face your problems. You have to accept you have an enemy first.

 FRANKIE
 And who exactly is my enemy?

57.

- Silence.

 ANASTASIA
 Yourself.

 CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND – CONTINUED

Anastasia and Frankie are playing theater ball again. Wendy is sitting in a bench next to them reading of the same book Anastasia was holding just yesterday.

Anastasia catches the ball and holds it in between her hands.

 WENDY
 Wait, so the princess on the second story had to accept her death when the creatures held her captive?

 ANASTASIA
 Yes.

Anastasia hits the ball, it spins twice around the pole and Frankie catches it.

 WENDY
 So you’re saying that she knew she couldn’t fight for her life because then they would go back for the kingdom and start a war?

Anastasia gets back the ball.

 ANASTASIA
 That’s exactly what I’m saying.

Anastasia hits the ball once again.

 WENDY
 You don’t think that’s kind of unhappy for a fairy ` tale?

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah.. But, for me it’s just the perfect ending. The princess knew that she was going to die, but she also knew that if she died she will change the fate of the whole kingdom. That’s what I think a princess should be, not

58.

 to like her. I think they should be, makings sure everyone is safe, even if it means sacrifice.

Anastasia gets the ball back.

 WENDY
 Interesting.

Anastasia hits the ball as hard as she cans; Frankie attempt to catch the ball but fails every time it passes by him.

Anastasia jumps in victory as the ball wraps around the whole pole.

 FRANKIE
 You won, for now.

Anastasia stops in her track; she looks at Wendy.

 ANASTASIA
 If you like happy endings for everyone read the seventh story. The Looking Glass.

Wendy opens the book once again and scans the pages.

Anastasia holds the ball once again, she looks at Frankie, a face only a shocked person could have.

 ANASTASIA
 What’s wrong?

 FRANKIE
 Umm.. Your.

Frankie points at his own nose.

Anastasia touches the bottom of her nose; she brings back her fingers to see red liquid.

It falls through her mouth and onto her shirt.

She coughs up some more blood; her eyes turn wide in shock.

Wendy’s legs uncross as she closes the book, realizing what’s happening.

Anastasia holds her chest in pain, tears start streaming down her face.

59.

Wendy quickly runs over to where she is. Anastasia is now on the floor, holding her chest in despair. Her eyes have gone from teary to crying with fear in her eyes.

MUTED SHOT – Wendy is kneeling down next to Anastasia, obviously not knowing what to do; screaming for help.

Children begin to gather around.

CUT TO BLACK

MUTED SHOTS

Anastasia going into chemotherapy.

The Doctor talking Sister Theresa as Anastasia sobs into the side of her dress.

Anastasia sitting still in her bed, staring out the window.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRL’S ROOM – EVENING

Anastasia is sitting in bed, alone in the room. Sister Theresa walks in to find her; she sighs and walks towards her.

 SISTER THERESA
 Everyone is eating diner, why aren’t you down with the other people?

 ANASTASIA
 Not hungry.

 SISTER THERESA
 How are you holding up.

 ANASTASIA
 Oxygen tank, Stage four, spread throughout my body, I’ve been better.

 SISTER THERESA
 Wendy and Frankie are worried about you, why don’t you come down and let them know how you are.

Anastasia stays silent.

Sister Theresa sits beside her.

 60.

 SISTER THERESA
 You know there are some sisters who avoid me. They think I have an advantage because I’m pretty.

 ANASTASIA
 You are pretty, and you do have an advantage.

 SISTER THERESA
 Everything will be okay.

 ANASTASIA
 So easy for you to say, you don’t know what I’m going through.

 SISTER THERESA
 Yes I do.

Anastasia sighs, she doesn’t believe her.

 SISTER THERESA
 Listen, the reason I’m telling you this is because…

Anastasia looks up.

 ANASTASIA
 Because what?

Sister Theresa sits up and slowly removes her veil to reveal –

A nearly bald head, little hairs are starting to grow; Anastasia gasps in surprise.

 SISTER THERESA
 I had the same enemy you had, and if I can defeat it, so can you. You are much stronger than I am.

 ANASTASIA
 When where you... free?

 SISTER THERESA
 About a month and a half ago.

Silence.

 SISTER THERESA
 Now how do you think the other sisters will react if they saw me like this?

 61.

 ANASTASIA
 They would probably think they will have the advantage.

 SISTER THERESA
 Exactly, don’t let other people tell you you’re ugly because you are bald.

Anastasia looks at Sister Anastasia with shiny eyes full of admiration.

She throws her arms around her waist.

They separate after a long hug; Sister Theresa gets up and puts her veil back on.

 SISTER THERESA
 Do you want to go say hi to Wendy?

 ANASTASIA
 I’ll just wait for her to come up, I’m very tired.

 SISTER THERESA
 Alright, I’ll wait with you.

CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS’ ROOM – NIGHT

The room is silent due to the fact that everyone is sleeping, everyone except for Anastasia.

She looks up at the fan, blinking her eyes a few times; adjusting the tubes around her nose.

She finally closes her eyes.

Darkness begins to take over the whole picture, until everything is pitch black.

All of the sudden, the darkness is replaced by sunlight.

Anastasia wakes up, her bed is now grass. She looks at her surroundings; she’s back at Crystal kingdom. Right at the place she left off.

Icy mountains just a few yards away, plains around her and Cukas talking to himself.

62.

Cukas looks down at Anastasia.

 CUKAS
 Oh I was waiting for your return my lady. He-He-He.

Anastasia looks up at him.

 ANASTASIA
 Thank you.

Cukas notices her oxygen tank.

 CUKAS
 What happened?

 ANASTASIA
 Back over there, I had an incident.

Anastasia’s blonde hair is back and so is her red shiny dress.

 CUKAS
 Let me take care of that for you. He-He-He

Cukas waves his hands in a sort of gesture, and then Anastasia notices the handle of the oxygen tank changing.

The wheels slowly turn into hooves, the metal holding the wheels turn into tall hairy legs; four in total.

The tube starts taking the shape of a tail with long shiny white hair.

The tank itself turns into the back the animal as the handle turns into a long face.

A horse.

A golden horse with white hair in the back of his neck and tail.

 CUKAS
 So what will be his name?

 ANASTASIA
 Max.

Anastasia pets Max as Cukas walks towards the mountains.

 CUKAS
 We have no time to waste, we have to climb the mountains.

63.

Anastasia climbs Max, the horse immediately starts to walk towards the mountains as if it was programmed.

 CUKAS
 So what happened back over there?

Anastasia says the following looking forward, without even glancing at Cukas.

 ANASTASIA
 My cancer spread throughout my stomach and liver.

 CUKAS
 Ouch, was that painful?

 ANASTASIA
 It was torture.

 CUKAS
 But you’re alright now right?

 ANASTASIA
 For a little, while I’m here possibly. Can we talk about something else; I only have a few hours here anyway. I want my conversations to be different than back over there.

 CUKAS
 Oh sure, don’t you worry my lady. Soon you will forget that your life over there even existed once you become the official princess of the Crystal Kingdom. That awful place full of pain and betrayal you people call earth. He-He-He.

Cukas and Anastasia stop right in the track.

Ahead of them is a snowy path between two mountains, Anastasia pulls on the horse as it starts moving forward.

 ANASTASIA
 Aren’t you cold?

 CUKAS
 No, Crapulots don’t feel heat or cold. Don’t worry, it’s going to be a short ride.

Max starts going up the hill, Cukas right beside him.

64.

 ANASTASIA
 Can I bring people here to stay?

 CUKAS
 I’m afraid not, only magical people can stay here, that’s why we want to make the race start again. But life is full of sacrifices, even here, even for a princess.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah tell me about it… So I’m magical?

Cukas looks blankly at her, and out nowhere, he bursts out laughing.

 CUKAS
 (in between laughs)
 Oh am I magical?

Cukas is now on his knees.

 CUKAS
 For a girl who has cancer and dying, you have such a great sense of humor.

Cukas notices Anastasia’s blank face, she doesn’t find this funny.

Cukas stops laughing.

 CUKAS
 Oh please, don’t tell me you haven’t notices your magical ability.

 ANASTASIA
 Fine, I won’t tell you.

 CUKAS
 What?

 ANASTASIA
 Maybe you got the wrong person after all.

 CUKAS
 Oh no we didn’t, only the chosen one can find the hidden kingdom in the first place.

 ANASTASIA
 It’s not even hidden, it’s right outside the orphanage.

65.

 CUKAS
 Exactly, only the destined princess Anastasia can find it.

Anastasia stops and looks down, the hill is heading towards a rich lake, across the lake is a completely destroyed town.

Half of the structure of houses still stand.

Crystal large windows in each house, either broken or completely cracked.

The main street goes in a circle around the town, smaller streets here and there.

Three very tall crystal towers sit in the middle of the town. The tip of each tower having three different color circles; Red, blue and Green.

 CUKAS
 That’s part of the kingdom you’ll be ruling, people will live there.

 ANASTASIA
 It looks like a third world war happened in this town.

 CUKAS
 Only the indestructible Crystal towers of hope is what is left of this town. The towers are meant to keep the whole kingdom at bay. They send information of threats and keep all evil away from the kingdom. They also repair any damage the kingdom gets. He-He-He.

 ANASTASIA
 They are beautiful.

 CUKAS
 But they stopped working, evil took over the land, destroying half of the population. They managed to somehow steal the three gems of hope that can make the towers work again.

 ANASTASIA
 You mean the gems I found in the cave?

 CUKAS
 Yes.

66.

Max begins sniffing Cukas.

 CUKAS
 What do you want?

The horse sniffs his chest area.

 CUKAS
 Oh you’re looking for this!

Cukas teases some carrots in front of Max, carrots that he got from a pocket inside his blue coat.

 CUKAS
 You can only have one.

Cukas feeds one carrot to Max, who eats it in a heartbeat.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay, so I guess we have to go through the lake, maybe if we build a little bridge, or maybe a log could help us cross; it’s not so wide after all. After that, do we go straight to the towers of hope, is that were the second magical item is, or is it somewhere else? We might have to split if evil creatures took over the town. Okay?

Silence.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas?

Anastasia turns around to find Cukas, busy talking to his carrots.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas!

Cukas snaps back from his fantasy.

 CUKAS
 Oh, yeah?

 ANASTASIA
 Have you been listening to a word I’ve been saying.

They have come down the mountains and are now heading towards the lake.

67.

 CUKAS
 Listen girl, all you have to think about is getting to the towers in time before the creatures get to you. This town has been isolated for so long, fresh meat is all they –

CUNCH! CRUNCH!

Cukas turns to look at whatever made the crunching noise.

He realizes that he’s hand is empty and that Max’s jaw is constantly opening and closing, making more crunching noises.

 CUKAS
 Ugh, you stupid pony.

 ANASTASIA
 Come on let’s not waste any time.

 CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE – MINUTES LATER

Cukas, Anastasia and Max are in a boat, floating towards the town.

 CUKAS
 Here’s another one. Knock Knock.

Anastasia groans.

 ANASTASIA
 Who’s there?

 CUKAS
 Eiffel Tower

 ANASTASIA
 Eiffel Tower who?

 CUKAS
 Ei feel towerable because Max ate my lunch.

Anastasia giggles.

 ANASTASIA
 You really are something special.

68.

 CUKAS
 No one has ever thought anything positive of me before. I come across as annoying. He-He-He

 ANASTASIA
 You’re not annoying; you’re just a very positive person. You look at the bright side even on the worst situations. I wish I was like that. I feel like I know you completely even though I’ve only known you for a day and a half. I trust you.

 CUKAS
 Thank you my lady.

Anastasia looks down at the lake.

The water is so clear that shiny rocks within can be seen.

 ANASTASIA
 What is this water made out off anyway.

 CUKAS
 It’s pure water, so clean and purified. It provides for the whole kingdom, and every two years, it replaces itself with new water. It’s like a fourth of July back there; except e very two years. People gather around the lake to see the show.

 ANASTASIA
 Fascinating.

The boat comes to a stop, Anastasia looks forward to see a street, leading to the beginning of the town.

Almost every single building is made out of stone, part of the structure missing.

The little amount of buildings that haven’t been completely destroyed, have brick triangular roofs.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay, we have to get off.

 CUKAS
 He-He-He

Anastasia gets of the boat, Cukas right behind her, Max too.

 69.

 CUKAS
 I think you should leave Max here, our time here is limited we have to do it as fast as we can.

 ANASTASIA
 But-

 CUKAS
 Don’t worry, he’ll come we he senses danger, or when called.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay. Stay.

The horse obeys.

Anastasia and Cukas walk forward; the destroyed and isolated town welcomes them into complete silence.

They walk in the middle of two rows of what were once so called “attractions”.

 CUKAS
 I have a feeling the second magical item is not in the three towers of hope, too obvious.

 ANASTASIA
 No, of course not. So what is the second magical item?

 CUKAS
 All I can say is that it will be great help with the monster of the seven biomes.

 ANASTASIA
 Monster of the seven biomes?

 CUKAS
 Adaptable to any part and or weather of the kingdom.

 ANASTASIA
 What is this monster?

 CUKAS
 The most feared of all, no one knows what it looks like. Some used to hear it at night, a penetrating and loud shriek I’ve heard myself. He-He-He.

 70.

 ANASTASIA
 How do you know I’m going to fight this monster if no one has ever heard of his whereabouts?

 CUKAS
 The legend says so. It’s a clever little monster, it hides throughout the whole kingdom; the start of all evil. The reason ugly and mean creatures invade our perfect kingdom.

 ANASTASIA
 Not that many places to hide here, there’s only a forest, a prairie, mountains, a town a maze and a castle.

Cukas sighs and blinks.

 CUKAS
 Let me show you something.

Cukas walks towards two posters.

Both are maps, one is detailed, has an outline of a circle and has names every little square that has been put throughout the map.

In the middle of the map stand three triangles.

The second map is a much less detailed one. Names like “The dark Forest”, and “The forgotten Desert” are marked throughout the map.

 CUKAS
 This (points to first poster) is the map of the town.

Cukas points to the three triangles.

 CUKAS
 These are the three towers of hope.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay?

Cukas points to the second poster.

 CUKAS
 This is a map of the whole kingdom. Try to find the town.

Anastasia struggles.

 ANASTASIA
 I can’t find it.

 71.

 CUKAS
 It’s right here.

Cukas points to a A two centimeter wide circle low on the map.

 ANASTASIA
 That little spot is this huge town!?!

Anastasia definitely looks surprised.

 CUKAS
 Yes and this…

Cukas circles about one tenth of the bottom part of the map.

 CUKAS
 … covers everything from the dark forest to the castle.

Anastasia’s eyes widen.

 CUKAS
 There are smaller towns set throughout the whole kingdom, more biomes, rivers, landforms and what not. He-He-He.

 ANASTASIA
 That is so much space.

 CUKAS
 It used to be filled, overcrowded at times. And add the other kingdoms put throughout the whole world. We were so many, it got lost. Now I’m lucky if I find another soul in this place.

 ANASTASIA
 Hopefully that changes soon.

 CUKAS
 See Anastasia, what you thought was all the kingdom is actually just a small portion.

 ANASTASIA
 Have you been everywhere?

Cukas and Anastasia begin walking again.

 CUKAS
 No, doesn’t mean I don’t want to. He-He-He.

72.

 ANASTASIA
 Something tells me that the second magical item is there.

Cukas follows her gaze to see the only undestroyed building. The color stands out too; it’s covered with different shades of white.

Pillars hold the trapezoid shaped roof in place.

Stairs lead to a wide gray, heavy looking door.

 CUKAS
 It makes sense the queen would want to put it there.

 ANASTASIA
 Why?

 CUKAS
 That’s the mourning cathedral. Memories and possessions of every single knight and person who died fighting to protect the kingdom lie in there.

 ANASTASIA
 Not much for a cathedral, but it stands out so I say we should try.

Anastasia and Cukas walk towards the white building.

Soon enough, they find themselves walking in between the pillars leading right to the main doors.

Anastasia opens the door.

INT. CATHEDRAL – CONTINUED

A very odd but frankly fascinating white light sets up the atmosphere of what looks more like a ballroom than a cathedral.

The ballroom is quite empty with no tables or other things that a ballroom usually has.

Anastasia walks forward, her heels clacking every time they hit the marble floor.

 ANASTASIA
 So where is the second magical item?

73.

 CUKAS
 It should stand out from everything in here. Everything here is light and bright and happy. Just like the good old days, but that’s a different story. He-He-He.

 ANASTASIA
 So it should stand out color wise?

 CUKAS
 It should stand out anything wise; kind of like the stone of glory back there the forest. I’m not saying it has to glow like a unicorn, but just stand out.

 ANASTASIA
 I love how you over explain everything.

 CUKAS
 I don’t over explain everything. Over explaining can fall into one of two categories, one –

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas!

 CUKAS
 Right.

Anastasia walks towards a small hallway in between the furthest walls.

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUED

Anastasia’s heels stop clacking as she is now walking on a red carpet.

Head statues of knights on both sides welcome her.

At the end of the hallway is a row of full knights; all standing straight, all of them holding different weapons.

Of course the knights are probably statues of dead knights.

A total of seven knights.

The odd light fades out of the hallway; leaving it completely dark.

The darkness is replaced by the glow of the handle of the sword of the knight in the middle.

 CUKAS
 Well I guess I was wrong about the unicorn part.

 74.

 ANASTASIA
 (sighs) You think.

 CUKAS
 He-He-He.

Anastasia walks towards the middle knight, she holds out her hand to grab the sword.

After a few moments of hesitation, she grabs it.

As soon as her fingers make contact with the sword, the glow seems to explode as if it was reloading.

Anastasia laughs in triumph.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas! I got it!

 CUKAS
 Great now let’s get out of here.

EXT. TOWN – MAIN STREET – MINUTES LATER

Anastasia and Cukas find themselves walking towards the three towers of hope.

 ANASTASIA
 I should’ve known it was a sword, I mean how else can you battle a monster! I mean I’m not saying I want to battle a monster, but this sword is cool.

 CUKAS
 Great you have the magical stone, the magical sword and now you need the last item.

Anastasia has her sword in her back.

EXT. PERIMETERS OF THE THREE TOWERS OF HOPE – CONTINUED

Anastasia studies the towers, very tall, very astonishing, very beautiful indeed.

She pulls out the three gems, they shine in her palm

 ANASTASIA
 Which one should I try first?

 75.

 CUKAS
 I would try the middle one last.

 ANASTASIA
 Alright, here goes nothing.

Anastasia walks towards the tower on the left, blue edges and blue tip.

INT. BLUE CRYSTAL TOWER – CONTINUED

Anastasia looks around; the tower is clear on the first floor.

She looks up to see crystal diamond like walls connecting against each other to form the other floors of the tower.

The crystal walls appear to be mildly dyed in blue.

A glass tube falls down from the center of the roof, leading to marble box.

The marble box is in front of Anastasia, a blue dent in the center of the box.

Anastasia eyes the blue gem that shines in her hand.

After hesitating, she slowly sets the blue gem on the dent; she closes her eyes as if she was expecting something to explode.

Instead, stunning blue light lights up around the box.

The blue light flies up throughout the glass tube, leading to the roof.

The whole tube is now glowing like a star wars sword, leaving Anastasia open-mouthed.

EXT. OUTSIDES OF THE TOWN – CONTINUED

The view of the town from a distance.

The tower on the left is having blue light bounce off the walls.

And all of the sudden, light the same color shines right out of the tip of the tower.

The light turns into shiny blue dust in the air.

76.

The color that shined out of the tower quickly starts circling around the top of three towers; kind of like the rings of Saturn.

INT. GREEN TOWER – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in to see the same structure of the first tower, except this one has green edges.

She sets the green gem in the green dent.

Shortly, the tube fills up with green light leading all the way to the roof.

The tube looks like a giant green star wars sword.

EXT. OUTSIDES OF THE TOWN – CONTINUED

The tower on the right has green color bouncing off the walls.

The same thing that happened to the blue one happens to this one.

All the way from the light exploding from the tip, to the part when it turns into shiny dust.

Now blue and green shiny dust particles are circling around the top three towers.

Two out of three towers have lit up, leaving the middle one naked.

INT. RED TOWER – CONTINUED

She puts the red gem on the last dent.

The tube lights up with red light, shooting up the tube.

The tube looks like a giant red star wars sword.

EXT. OUTSIDES ODF THE TOWN – CONTINUED

The same thing happens to the red tower.

Now all three towers have lit up and red, blue and green shiny dust is circling around the top of all three towers.

EXT. TOWER PERIMETERS – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks out to find Cukas admiring the towers.

77.

 ANASTASIA
 All done.

 CUKAS
 Wow, I haven’t seen them shine like this in centuries.

A wild noise is heard from the distance.

 CUKAS
 The creatures are coming, and they don’t sound happy.

 ANASTASIA
 What creatures?

 CUKAS
 Look!

Anastasia looks around her, pieces of broken stone and glass are slowly floating up in the air and filling in the gaps of the destroyed town.

 CUKAS
 The towers are working.

Anastasia looks down at her foot, there’s a piece of brick shaking under her foot.

She removes her foot and watches as the piece of brick wonders off to a building and places itself on the roof.

 CUKAS
 The town is rebuilding itself.

A creature lands right in front of them.

The creature is about two feet tall, it has eight pointy crab-like legs.

Two popped eyes, bald red face and pointy nose.

It’s carrying a trident as a weapon.

It’s teeth are tight in rage as his eyes focus on Anastasia; she’s an victim.

 ANASTASIA
 Quick, in the red tower!

Anastasia and Cukas run inside the tower.

INT. RED TOWER – CONTINUED

Anastasia and Cukas run in, Cukas locks the door as they both take a few steps back with anticipation.

Now about a dozen of the same creatures are throwing themselves against the glass, trying to get in.

 CUKAS
 Run upstairs!

 ANASTASIA
 But they’ll steal the stone.

 CUKAS
 If the princess puts the stone where it belongs then the creatures can’t get it without burning alive, now let’s go.

Anastasia and Cukas run very fast up the marble stairs, they are on the second floor.

Third floor.

Fourth floor.

Fifth floor.

BANG!

They look down to see the creatures inside and running and the door opened.

 CUKAS
 Now will be a good time to put your ability to work.

 ANASTASIA
 My ability?

 CUKAS
 I told you in the forest that the princess can create things.

 ANASTASIA
 And how do I do that?

 CUKAS
 Just close your eyes and picture something there.

79.

Anastasia closes her eyes in concentration as Cukas watches a gate rise up to the roof.

Anastasia opens her eyes and gasps.

 ANASTASIA
 It worked!

 CUKAS
 Hurry up they can figure out gates too.

Cukas and Anastasia continue running up the stairs, Cukas places his fingers in his mouth and whistles.

EXT. TOWN PERIMETER – CONTINUED

Max is eating grass, as he hears the whistle, two white and majestic wings sprout from his back.

The wings begin flapping and the horse’s body lifts up and shoots straight towards the towers.

Max, now high up in the air, dodges pieces of structure such as stone, brick and marble, and continues flying.

He flies towards the red tower, which has creatures climbing from the outside.

He spots Anastasia and Cukas, at the tip of the red tower.

He shoots himself towards the towers, passing right through the red, blue and green shiny dust revolving around the tips.

EXT. TIP OF THE RED TOWER – CONTINUED

Anastasia and Cukas look around, breathing heavily as the creatures start making themselves present.

Anastasia screams.

 ANASTASIA
 Where is he!

 CUKAS
 He’s over there.

Anastasia looks to see Max flying straight towards them.

80.

 CUKAS
 One, two, three! Jump!

Anastasia and Cukas jump from the tower.

As their falling down, a large figure passes right under them.

They find themselves on Max’s back and flying towards the white cathedral they visited before.

 CUKAS
 He-He-He.

INT. STREET – CONTINUED

The street is deserted, Max drops off Anastasia and Cukas.

 CUKAS
 Go find a bridge that leads into a maze, when you find it come back for us.

The horse takes off.

 ANASTASIA
 Why are we here?

 CUKAS
 We need to fight back. Oh my God did you hear that? I almost sounded brave. He-He-He

Anastasia and Cukas enter the building.

INT. CATTHEDRAL – CONTINUED

They run past the ballroom and into the hallway they found the sword at.

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUED

Cukas grabs a bow and some arrows that a knight statue had.

Cukas walks towards the corner of the hallway; Anastasia walks towards the corner to see a latter, leading to a trap door.

They climb the latter; Cukas opens the trapdoor to be blinded by the sun’s light.

EXT. CATHEDRAL ROOF – CONTINUED

81.

Anastasia and Cukas run through the roof as the trap door opens and creatures run after them

 CUKAS
 Run!

Cukas gets his bow ready and shoots an arrow at a creatures head.

They continue running on the roof.

A creature shoots itself towards Anastasia; she quickly shoves the sword down its throat.

She pulls the sword back to reveal purple liquid splattered on the tip.

They stop at a dead end; the creatures are heard crying for war behind them.

And then they see their last bit of hope.

A marble wall piece floating up in the air.

 ANASTASIA
 Jump!

 CUKAS
 What?!
 ANASTASIA
 Now!

Cukas and Anastasia jump on top of the marble wall piece, it continues flying up.

A window floats in front of them.

They jump off the marble wall piece and into the thick and unbreakable window.

They jump off the window and into a triangular long roof.

EXT. LONG ROOF – CONTINUED

Cukas turns around; he begins shooting the creatures that are chasing with the bow and arrow.

Anastasia swings the sword as more creatures surround her.

82.

 CUKAS
 They are going to keep coming, keep on running. Oh I rhymed again! He-He-He.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas, focus!

They run as fast as they can through the roof, the creatures behind them.

All of the sudden, Max lands right in front of Anastasia and Cukas, protecting them.

The creatures run towards Max.

Max stands on two legs and flaps his wings once, sending a heavy force of air towards all the creatures.

The creatures fly off the roof as Cukas and Anastasia escape from the roof and are now flying with Max.

Blue skinny creatures with wings chase after the horse; Cukas takes out his bow.

He shoots one creature; the creature falls down.

Another two creatures circle around Max.

Cukas sends two arrows flying, he misses one, but sends the other one flying straight down to its’ death.

Max starts coming down as Anastasia spots the bridge and the maze.

Cukas continues shooting as Max hits the floor and begins trotting.

They are now on the bridge and running towards the end of the town and the beginning of the maze.

Anastasia and Cukas get off the horse.

They turn around to see the creatures screaming with declaration of war and running towards them.

Anastasia closes her eyes and waves her hands.

The creatures dissolve when they reach the end of the bridge.

They dissolve right after hitting something invisible; a force field.

 83.

 CUKAS
 You created a force field! How cool is that!

 ANASTASIA
 It won’t stop them all; they are smart enough to figure it out.

Anastasia closes her eyes and waves her arms.

When she opens them, she sees three dozen knights standing at the end of the bridge.

 ANASTASIA
 Defend our kingdom!

The knights march right towards the creatures, with their weapons ready.

 CUKAS
 That ought to handle it.

They walk towards the maze.

 ANASTASIA
 So this is it. The maze where the creature lives.

 CUKAS
 Yes, before you go, there’s something you need to know.

 ANASTASIA
 I can create a huge rock to fall over that stupid thing’s head.

 CUKAS
 That’s what you should now. Your powers won’t work in that maze. The sword is not only famous for containing magical powers to kill anything. It’s also famous for being the only magical thing that works in that maze. Now.

Cukas points to a map, set in the entrance of the maze.

A map of the maze, a very big maze indeed. There are two big squares in the middle.

One of the squares has more complicated walls around it.

The other square has a very long path that leads right to the end of the maze and into the perimeters of the castle.

 84.

 CUKAS
 One square is where the final magical item is. The other square, the one has the path leading straight to the end; that’s where the monster awaits. Good luck

 ANASTASIA
 You’re not coming.

 CUKAS
 I’m a magical creature; my magic will slowly drain away from me if I enter. In other words I’ll slowly die.

 ANASTASIA
 And Max –

 CUKAS
 Is half magical, if he stays there long enough, he’ll lose his ability to fly and create strong winds. That’s why I’ll send him when you’re facing the creature. The longer he stays there the worse.

 ANASTASIA
 And how will you get to the other side.

 CUKAS
 When you defeat the monster, the maze will burn and a clear path will reappear for anyone who wants to go into the castle; including me.

Anastasia looks over the maze to see the two tallest towers of the castle in the distance.

Anastasia steps forward and then –

INT. ORPHANAGE – GRILS’ ROOM – CONTINUED

Anastasia wakes up to see that it’s still dark; a hint of light can be seen over the forest.

She sighs, and goes back to sleep.

 CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS’ ROOM – MORNING

The light shines bright into the room, the room were only Anastasia and Sister Theresa are present.

85.

Anastasia is sitting down as Theresa is brushing her new wig from behind.

A brunette wig.

 SISTER THERESA
 U huh?

 ANASTASIA
 And there was a town with monsters that wanted to get me because I got the towers working again.

 SISTER THERESA
 Well what a creative story you have. You should write your own little fairy tale book.

 ANASTASIA
 And there was this little guy dwarf named Cukas.

Sister Theresa twirls her mouth in confusement.

 SISTER THERESA
 Cukas? Well that’s a very.. interesting name. And what else happened in your dream?

 ANASTASIA
 We went to a maze, but before I could get in I woke up.

Anastasia stops and wonders as Theresa proceeds brushing her wigs.

 ANASTASIA
 It could have been.. No it must’ve been a dream, what am I thinking.

 SISTER THERESA
 Done.

Sister Theresa grabs Anastasia’s hand and takes her to the mirror.

She covers her eyes.

 SISTER THERESA
 Ready?

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah.

Sister Theresa removes her hands.

86.

Anastasia looks at herself with a brunette wig, she smiles; a smile that quickly fades.

 SISTER THERESA
 Well don’t you look gorgeous.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah but..

 SISTER THERESA
 But what.. You don’t like the color? I can get you another color maybe curly hair, would you rather have curly hair?

 ANASTASIA
 No, the color is lovely. I appreciate you doing this for me, I really do. But.

 SISTER THERESA
 But what?

Anastasia takes of her wig to reveal her bald head once again.

 ANASTASIA
 I don’t like wigs.

 SISTER THERESA
 Well. I know they can be itchy at times, but you get used to it and –

 ANASTASIA
 - No you don’t understand. I don’t like them on me at all.

 SISTER THERESA
 Why not? They hide your –

 ANASTASIA
 - Sickness, exactly that’s why I don’t like them.

Anastasia sighs.

 ANASTASIA(CONT’D)
 If I’m going to be a fighter, I have to accept the truth.

Sister Theresa looks invested.

 ANASTASIA(CONT’D)
 And the truth is that I’m bald and sick. I can’t let

87.

 anything stand in between our war, not even a wig. I have to be truthful to myself.

Sister Theresa looks blankly as she processes this; finally she opens her mouth to say –

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia Hastings. You are such a strong fighter, stronger than I’ve ever been. You’re going to win this war; I guarantee it.

 ANASTASIA
 I’m sorry, I know you expected me to jump of excitement with the gift. But…

 SISTER THERESA
 It’s okay, no hurt feelings.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA – MINUTES LATER

Anastasia joins Wendy and Frankie; who are already having a conversation.

 FRANKIE
 Were where you?

 ANASTASIA
 Sister Theresa wanted to talk to me about something.

 WENDY
 About what?

Anastasia hesitates.

 ANASTASIA
 About, umm.. How to eat lasagna.

Anastasia takes the fork and cuts a piece out of the lasagna.

She eats the piece that she cut from the fork.

 ANASTASIA
 Mmmm. It’s really good.

Wendy raises her eyebrows; she resumes working on her lasagna.

 88.

 WENDY
 Okay? I guess the new prescription drugs are affecting you.

 ANASTASIA
 What?

 WENDY
 Oh please. You’re a terrible liar.

 ANASTASIA
 I rarely lie.

 FRANKIE
 Yeah, it’s pretty noticeable.

Frankie grabs an orange and studies it.

 FRANKIE
 I wonder if the fruit orange is called orange because it’s orange, or if the color orange is called orange because oranges are orange.

 WENDY
 Were the heck does your brain wonder too?

Anastasia lets out a giggle.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah well I know who’s been taking my prescription drugs.

 FRANKIE
 I mean, it’s a good question.

 WENDY
 Well the color orange and the fruit orange both exist. Who cares which one came first?

 FRANKIE
 Smart people like me.

Anastasia and Wendy both laugh.

 FRANKIE
 Oh shut up.

Sister Theresa stops next to the three.

 89.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia, If you have time I would like to take a walk with you.

Anastasia without hesitating says –

 ANASTASIA
 Sure.

Frankie and Wendy eye them suspiciously.

 WENDY
 Sister Theresa you look very pretty today.

 SISTER THERESA
 Thank you Wendy, likewise.

Sister Theresa leaves with Anastasia.

 FRANKIE
 Of course something is up; let’s follow them.

Frankie begins to sit up.

 WENDY
 Sit your butt down!

 FRANKIE
 But –

 WENDY
 But nothing. You keep your nose were it belongs. I’m sure if Anastasia feels comfortable, she’ll eventually tell us.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAY – CONTINUED

Anastasia and Teresa are sitting in the dock of the bay; The water running under their feet.

 ANASTASIA
 I didn’t know there was a bay right next to the orphanage.

 SISTER THERESA
 Sometimes the sisters and I decide that it’s good for the kids to go on a little field trip. Sometimes we go on a boat; some of them like to fish.

90.

Anastasia admires the view.

 SISTER THERESA
 Have you ever gone fishing?

 ANASTASIA
 My dad used to take me every summer. A week of camping; we would catch our food in the water.

Some ducks cross under them.

 SISTER THERESA
 They come once in a while; we take the kids to see them sometimes. This one time, a duck chased Frankie a few yards before biting his bottom.

Anastasia hides her laugh under her hands.

 ANASTASIA
 And Wendy?

 SISTER THERESA
 She just sat on the bay, laughing. Frankie never wants to come again.

 ANASTASIA
 So why did you bring me out here?

 SISTER THERESA
 I came here to show you the view. I mean one can only be in that orphanage for so long. And I also have to ask you a very serious question.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay..

Sister Anastasia breathes heavily.

 SISTER THERESA
 How would you like to become part of my family?

 ANASTASIA
 What?

 SISTER THERESA
 I know it’s a very risky question, and I know you’re going to want time to think about it.

 91.

 ANASTASIA
 What if your kids don’t like me?

 SISTER THERESA
 I don’t have any.

Anastasia smiles.

 SISTER THERESA
 And I don’t know, maybe if I get to know them better; Wendy and Frankie can come with us too.

Anastasia smiles, and hugs Sister Theresa.

 ANASTASIA
 Thank you.

When they separate, Anastasia takes a closer look at her.

 ANASTASIA
 But, I need time to get better. I can’t guarantee you a long time to be with me. I can’t even guarantee you another night.

 SISTER THERESA
 Please don’t talk like that.

 ANASTASIA
 I would love to become part of your family. But I also don’t want to hurt you if you get too attached to me.

 SISTER THERESA
 It’s okay, It can wait.

 ANASTASIA
 You’re the only one here that understands what it’s like to not have anyone with you in the hard times. And I want you to know that I’m so thankful that you were there for me since the day I meet you.

 SISTER THERESA
 You’re welcome, but I’m not the only one. Wendy and Frankie have been there for you too.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah, but they don’t understand what it’s like to be alone.

92.

Sister Theresa sighs, a sigh that can only tell Anastasia that her statement is invalid.

 SISTER THERESA
 Look Anastasia, you’re wrong. I’m sorry but you’re wrong. You’re not the only one here. Sure you might be the only one here with cancer; but you’re not the only one here with a troubled life.

Anastasia leans closer with curiosity.

 SISTER THERESA
 I remember it so well. Wendy and Frankie were both five years old. Their mom was in jail and their dad was.. addicted to lots of bad stuff. He sold his house to buy more of that stuff; he didn’t have money to take care of Wendy and Frankie so he dropped them off here in the middle of the night.

 ANASTASIA
 Oh my God.

 SISTER THERESA
 Wendy said that she couldn’t believe her dad would so such thing. She thought he loved her. They have been living here for the past four years and haven’t been adopted. Of course people have tried but Wendy and Frankie want to be together. And the people usually just want to adopt one. I remember every day she would look out the window; wondering if it was the day their dad came back for them. That day never came.

Anastasia had her mouth open in shock.

 SISTER THERESA
 Yeah, so there’s that.

 ANASTASIA
 I can’t believe I’ve been so selfish and stupid. I’m over here, just thinking about myself and worrying about myself. Without even considering other people’s problems and needs.

 SISTER THERESA
 Well, you have a lot to learn from each other.

Anastasia looks in the distance to see the ducks freely flying away.

93.

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA – NIGHT

Wendy and Frankie are sitting in the usual table; Wendy is staring at her omelet with rejection as Frankie is happily chewing it down with big bites.

Anastasia sits next to them.

 WENDY
 Where were you during class?

 ANASTASIA
 Sister Theresa decided to show me the lake.

Wendy stares cautiously at Frankie, who raises his eyebrows.

 FRANKIE
 Are you okay? How did you get out alive?!? Are you hurt?

Anastasia looks confused.

 ANASTASIA
 What?

Wendy rolls her eyes at Frankie.

 WENDY
 Frankie thinks that ducks are going to destroy humanity.

 FRANKIE
 They are deadly creatures.

 ANASTASIA
 Okay? Umm.. Is it because one bit you in your bottom?

Frankie turns red faster than an oven.

 FRANKIE
 What?! How do you know that.

Anastasia cautiously tries to hide the truth with the following reply:

 ANASTASIA
 Well, what else would a duck do to make you so afraid?

 WENDY
 Whatever. Tomorrow we’re having a trip.

 94.

 ANASTASIA
 The lake?

 WENDY
 No, a museum.

 FRANKIE
 How boring is that?

Wendy looks insulted.

 WENDY
 I happen to think that art is one of the best things out in this boring world.

 FRANKIE
 Well I think art is part of the reason this world is “boring”.

 WENDY
 I’m sure Anastasia would find it interesting?

 ANASTASIA
 Sure. Have you ever gone to a museum?

 FRANKIE
 No, that’s why she’s so excited.

Anastasia holds her chest in pain; Wendy looks alarmed.

 WENDY
 You okay?

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah, I just need to go to the restroom very quick.

 WENDY
 Need help with the oxygen tank?

 ANASTASIA
 I appreciate your offer, but I’m good thanks.

INT. RESTROOM – CONTINUED

Anastasia looks at herself in the mirror; she breathes fast and heavy.

She kneels down on the floor as tears stream down her face.

95.

 ANASTASIA
 Come on, Come on.

She gets back up and washes her face.

INT. GIRLS’ BEDROOM – NIGHT

Anastasia and Wendy are sitting near the doll house; the other girls talking or getting ready for bed.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 Alright girls five minutes.

 WENDY(to Anastasia)
 Oh, you want to see my drawings.

 ANASTASIA
 Alright.

Wendy walks towards her bed; she reaches under the mattress and pulls out a sketch book.

She opens the first page and shows Anastasia; Anastasia’s gesture shows a gesture only something impressive could generate.

An excellent drawing of a landscape lies right under her eyes.

 ANASTASIA
 Wow. This one is really good.

Wendy smiles.

 WENDY
 You really think so?

 ANASTASIA
 Of course.

As Anastasia turns the pages to see more drawings, Wendy says –

 WENDY
 That’s my dream to be a famous artist and have my work in museums.

Anastasia twirls her mouth.

 96.

 ANASTASIA
 Well, you have potential; you just have to find a way to stand out.

Wendy smiles again.

 WENDY
 Thank you.

She takes the sketchbook from Anastasia and closes it in her lap.

 WENDY
 What about you?

 ANASTASIA
 What about me?

 WENDY
 What do you want to be when you grow up?

 ANASTASIA
 A veterinarian. I really love animals and I want to care for them.

 WENDY
 I used to have a cat named Cukas; I know funny name.

 ANASTASIA
 Cukas?

 WENDY
 That’s what I miss most from back there; the only thing that is worth going back for.

Anastasia slowly and with incredible humbleness says –

 ANASTASIA
 Look Wendy; You are a great friend and you listen to everything I say. I’m here to listen to what you want to tell me too.

 WENDY
 Thank you; I never knew what it felt like to have a friend. It’s nice to have you.

 SISTER ABIGAIL
 Alright girls time to go to bed.

97.

Wendy hugs Anastasia.

 WENDY
 See you tomorrow.

Wendy walks towards her bed.

 ANASTASIA
 Yeah.. See you. . . . tomorrow.

INT. GIRLS’ ROOM – MINUTES LATER

Anastasia is sleeping in bed; she rises to see herself standing in the entrance of –

EXT. MAZE – CONTINUED

She turns back to see Cukas; who is standing in anticipation.

 CUKAS
 Go on.

Anastasia looks down to see that her usual ruby red dress is now armor to fight.

Her blonde wavy hair is pulled up in a pony tail.

She grabs the bag where she carries everything; she looks down to see the magical stone and the magical sword.

She closes the bag; sighs and walks into the maze.

INT. MAZE – CONTINUED

Just as her whole body enters; the leaves close in on themselves; leaving Anastasia without turning back.

She continues walking forward and sees two paths; she chooses the right one.

INT. RIGHT PATH – CONTINUED

She continues walking.

A high pitched scream is heard behind her; she runs ahead as fast as she can.

She crosses two rows of paths; she continues walking ahead; ignoring them.

98.

Dead end.

She turns back to see a skinny and bald creature running towards her.

SUNK!

The magical sword sinks inside the creature’s throat.

When she pulls the sword back, the wound glows with an aqua color and the creature vanishes.

She runs towards the path that she passed and walks to the left.

INT. LEFT PATH – CONTINUED

A very short path with three ways to go; two on the right and one on the left.

She walks towards the second right.

INT. SECOND RIGHT PATH – CONTINUED

Stairs leading to a balcony welcomes her.

She goes up the stairs.

EXT. BALCONY – CONTINIED

She sees the whole maze in a high point of view.

To her right she sees the big square area; surrounded by intersecting paths of tall bushes.

She turns to the right to see a bigger rectangular space; she sees a hint of gates.

She looks left again; she sharply studies the path and walks down the balcony through the other side.

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUED

 ANASTASIA
 Right.

Anastasia turns right and continues running.

 ANASTASIA
 Right.

99.

Anastasia turns right once again and runs.

 ANASTASIA
 Third left.

She passes two paths going to the left and turns on the third one.

 ANASTASIA
 Second right.

Anastasia passes a path going to the right and turns on the second one.

 ANASTASIA
 Left.

Anastasia turns left as something big welcomes her.

INT. SQUARE SPACE – CONTINUED

A treasure box sits in the middle of the space; she runs towards it and opens it to find –

A key; odd symbols printed on it; the middle symbol glowing in a lime color.

She opens the bag and puts the third and last magical item inside.

ROARR!

She pulls out the magical sword as four large birds fly towards her.

SLASH!

As the birds circle around Anastasia; she slashes one of them across the body.

It falls down; she stabs it on the floor.

The second bird throws itself at her; she slashes its throat.

The third bird distracts her by flying in different directions.

She throws the sword in the air and it buries itself inside the bird’s chest.

All of the sudden Anastasia is halfway up in the air as the last bird is taking her by the hands.

100.

She catches the sword in the air and sees as the bird flies over the maze.

She spots the second square space and she pulls on the birds legs.

The bird screams as Anastasia holds its wings in place.

The bird shoots down towards the square space with the inability to fly.

Just when they are five feet from hitting the ground, Anastasia frees its wings and jumps off.

INT. BIG SPACE – CONTINUED

Anastasia watches as the bird flies away.

A beat.

She looks to the left to see very tall black gates; they slowly open as Anastasia sees two yellow glowing circles.

ROAAAR!

Blue fire escapes through the opened gates as a giant claw appears before Anastasia.

The black head of a long mouthed dragon sticks out; it notices Anastasia and roars.

The whole black body comes out.

A fifty feet long dragon with a spiked back and hints of red in the bottom.

Anastasia holds the sword right in front of the dragon and waves it back and forth; back and forth.

The dragon gets distracted; of course before exploding with rage.

It blows fire at Anastasia’s sword; the sword seems to be taking the fire and creating it into a yellowish glow.

The glow sits around the sword; the dragon roars and chases Anastasia; who is already running.

The dragon claws at Anastasia; it produces a great slash across her arm; she gasps in pain.

101.

She slashes the sword at the dragon’s paw, which was still in the air.

Two dragon fingers fall off its paw and land right in front of Anastasia’s feet.

The dragon roars in pain.

The sound of Max can be heard near; she turns to see him.

It’s flying through the nearest bushes; a figure on its back.

Cukas.

 ANASTASIA
 No! You said you would die if you came here.

 CUKAS(from mid-air)
 Only if I stay long enough, we are in this together!

Cukas fires a few arrows at the dragon; they stick to the dragon’s forehead; which only seems to madden it even more.

As Max flies around the dragon, Cukas fires more arrows, Anastasia hits the creature’s chest with the sword; creating little damage.

The dragon lowers its head as he takes Anastasia on top of his forehead.

The head rises and Anastasia finds herself in the air; on top of a dragon’s head.

She stabs the sword at its forehead.

The wound glows in yellow.

She pulls out the sword and the dragon cries.

The dragon drops her.

A few arrows hit its back.

The dragon looks down at her and blows some more fire.

The sword catches the fire; the yellow glow turning more into a white glow.

Some fire catches Anastasia’s arm; she holds her arm in agony.

The dragon claws at Max who is in mid air; Max falls.

 102.

 ANASTASIA
 Hey!

She throws the sword; it sinks into the creature’s chest section.

The next thing she knows, she’s riding Max towards the dragon.

She pulls out the sword and Max backs away.

A white glow leaves the wound.

The dragon; weaker this time; blows fire; Anastasia catches it with the sword.

The white glow turns into white flames; heavenly fire.

The dragon opens its mouth once again as more fire comes out.

 ANASTASIA
 Prepare some arrows.

Cukas weakly prepares three arrows; Anastasia holds the sword in front of him.

The dragon opens its mouth.

 ANASTASIA
 Fire!

The arrows escape the bow and pass thorough the sword.

They catch the white flames like a virus and sink into the inside of the dragon’s mouth.

The dragon screams as all the wounds that he had has white flames escaping.

He burns with them until there’s nothing left but ashes.

Max flies down and gallops towards the center.

Anastasia gets off and looks around her; all the bushes burn white and dissolve.

Soon enough, Anastasia is being surrounded by absolutely nothing as she notices that the maze is now a flat land.

103.

From the end of the bridge, new bushes rise, leading a clear path to the headquarters of the castle; Anastasia finds herself in between the bushes.

She can see the castle more clear now.

Stone structure; blue brick roofs; thirteen towers connected by more structure.

 ANASTASIA
 We did it Cukas!

- Silence.

Anastasia turns around to see Cukas on the floor.

 ANASTASIA
 No!

She runs towards the body and kneels down.

A lifeless body rests right in front of her.

 ANASTASIA
 No, don’t you die on me! Please not you!

Tears start coming as Anastasia hugs the body; a body that hangs off her arms.

 ANASTASIA
 No!

She cries; tears falling into his resting body.

She touches his eyelids and closes them.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. HEADQUARTERS OF THE CASTLE – CONTINUED

Anastasia and Max stare into a space of dirt; both of them crying.

Anastasia waves her hand to create a tombstone; it reads:

104.

***IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CUKAS
The Most Faithful Friend anyone
could ever wish for.***

With another wave of the hand; she creates a bunch of beautiful flowers; that lie on the tombstone.

 ANASTASIA
 He died for me.

She pulls out the sand clock; it’s a little bit more than halfway done.

CUT TO:

INT. CASTLE – CONTINUED

Anastasia walks in to find two crystal thrones at the end of the big ball room.

Rows of silver pillars lead to them.

On each side of the ballroom are stairs that wrap themselves around into another floor.

More rooms to be explored appear to be everywhere.

Overall the castle is a combination of stone, crystal, and hints of gold and diamond.

A white shape walks down the stairs; the queen.

Anastasia’s main instinct is to bow down.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Rise up, princes Anastasia of the Crystal Kingdom.

 ANASTASIA
 Queen Analyssa.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 You have been faithful to this kingdom and overall clever.

105.

 ANASTASIA
 Thank you.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Before the last grain of sand falls to the bottom that hourglass you bare; you will be the queen of the Crystal Kingdom.

 ANASTASIA
 But you –

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 - Me, queen? No. Maybe a long time ago I was. I died off and put a spell of immortality on Melark. I’m just a projection.

 ANASTASIA
 A projection from where?

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Well isn’t that the question of the day?

 ANASTASIA
 Well why didn’t you put the spell on yourself?

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Well that would be selfish of me. And a queen should never be selfish. Right now Melark is probably dying.

 ANASTASIA
 Dying?

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Yes, once his job is complete, the spell is broken and he dies of old age.

 ANASTASIA
 So I proved myself a queen?

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Not quite. You got the towers of hope running again, you defeated the dragon of the seven biomes and more. But a true queen will be willing to make sacrifices.

 ANASTASIA
 So –

 106.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 All you have to do to rule all of this…

Queen Analyssa points to a big map of the huge kingdom.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 And all you have to do to get the magical world starting again and get all the other kingdoms rebuild is pour your blood in that well.

Queen Analyssa points to a closed well next to the throne.

 ANASTASIA
 Why?

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 The well is meant to carry the blood of the queen to authorize total control. So when the first drop falls into the well; you’re automatically the queen. Now you found the three magical items, am I correct?

Anastasia pulls out the magical sword, stone and key.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 The magical key can open any door that exists in the kingdom; including the well. It can also open; not literally; people’s minds and hearts.

Anastasia looks down at the key.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 The magical sword kills any evil you could face; it also turns bad powers into good powers; for you will not only be a queen but also a warrior. Once the sword cuts into your hand and receives your blood; it will bound to you like a faithful friend.

Anastasia holds the sword tightly.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 And finally; the stone will give you light in the darkest of places but it’s seeked by many for its second power; the power to enhance a wish to anyone who gets their hands on that stone.

 ANASTASIA
 I can wish anything?

 107.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 Anything. Health to someone back in the normal world; or something from this world. You can even make a wish for yourself.

Anastasia walks towards the throne; she closes her eyes around the stone and wishes.

She opens her eyes.

 ANASTASIA
 Did my wish work?

The castle doors open and the sound of little boots approaching Anastasia are heard.

Anastasia turns around and smiles to see him; running towards her.

Cukas.

 CUKAS
 I wake up on top of a grave and the next thing I know I’m in front of the castle. He-He-He.

Anastasia throws herself at Cukas; who holds tightly into her.

 QUEEN ANALYSSA
 No time to waste; you must finish now; I can feel the sun starting to shine in the other world.

Anastasia takes out the hourglass; the last grains of sand are falling down.

She grabs the magical key; inserts it into the keyhole and twists.

The doors open as a yellow glow comes out of the well.

She looks down to see Crystal clear water.

Anastasia pulls out the magical sword; she puts the tip in her hand and applies pressure.

She’s bleeding.

The blood in the sword disappears as if it was absorbed by the sword.

The sword glows a yellowish colors as if the sword was accepting to a commitment.

108.

ON THE HOURGLASS

The third to last grain of sand falls over.

ON ANASTASIAS HAND

The bloody hand is placed over the well.

ON THE HOURGLASS

The second to last grain of sand falls over.

ON THE WELL

The first drop of blood falls into the well and is about to touch the water.

ON THE HOURGLASS

The last grain of sand falls over.

CUT TO WHITE.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

On a clock; it marks 7:12 am.

A white room; surrounded by the only people who’ve been there for her.

INT. HOSPITAL – CONTINUED

Sister Theresa, Wendy and Frankie stand next to her bed.

A radiography of her skull and chest is hanging behind them. She lets out a limited breath with wheezing.

In between breaths, she painfully manages to say.

 ANASTASIA
 What happened?

Sister Theresa closes her eyes tightly as tears make their way down to her mouth.

 SISTER THERESA
 They found it in your heart and brain.

 109.

 ANASTASIA
 So.. that mean- means. I’m go- going to –

More tears come when Theresa nods.

Frankie and Wendy also look devastated.

 WENDY
 Whatever happens, we will be right here with you.

Anastasia smiles.

Wendy slowly makes her way to Anastasia’s bed and hugs her tightly.

 WENDY
 You were my best friend. I will never forget you.

Wendy cries into her shoulder, Anastasia replies.

 ANASTASIA
 Likewise. Thanks for understanding.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 My next tough lesson was learned. Some day you are going to acknowledge death and let it take over you; the power leaving your hands as it does. This was the day; unexpected sure, but real.

Frankie hugs her right after Wendy.

Anastasia says the following with struggle and determination.

 ANASTASIA
 Could you leave me with Sister Theresa; just for a moment.

 WENDY
 Of course. (To Frankie) Come on.

Wendy and Frankie leave the hospital room.

Anastasia looks up at Sister Theresa.

 SISTER THERESA
 Annie.

 ANASTASIA
 You have to promise me, please, you will adopt Wendy and Frankie. Please.

110/

Sister Theresa holds Anastasia’s hands tightly around hers.

 SISTER THERESA
 I promise. Thanks to you, life is going to be so much easier for them.

Anastasia breathes again; kind off. A breath that stops in its track before it can finish.

 ANASTASIA
 I-I-It’s T-t-Tim-time.

Anastasia’s breaths begin softening.

ANASTASIA’S POV

Her vision starts darkening; when her eyes open again she sees Frankie and Wendy; crying over her.

She begins breathing fastly; suffering every time she does.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 The war was over. You can say life won the war, but not really. Life made me a favor.

SHOT OF ANASTASIA’S HAND.

It wraps tightly around the sheet of the bed.

Anastasia’s breathing of suffocating starts calming; being replaced by the sound of a heart monitor flat lining.

SHOT OF ANASTASIA’S HAND

Her hand lets the sheet go.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 Dying with a smile on your face is the best way to die.

Her eyes close as the smile fades.

She’s gone.

Sister Theresa bends over the bed and puts her head in between Anastasia’s legs; crying uncontrollably in between them.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Today we’ve lost a very special friend.

111.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. CLASSROOM – CONTINUED

Sister Theresa is giving a speech to the whole class; Wendy and Frankie sit in the front row.

 SISTER THERESA
 Anastasia Hastings was someone who tried to enjoy life as much as she could; even under her disability.

MUTED MEMORIES OF ANASTASIA

Bald Anastasia smiling when Wendy helps her with the bible.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 A very wise girl who dreamt big.

Anastasia playing tetherball for the first time; a huge smile printed on her face.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 A girl who was a great and faithful friend.

Anastasia explaining her fairy tale book to Wendy; smiling as she does.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Very selfless. Even under the circumstances of her sickness; she always put other people’s needs before hers.

Anastasia smiling over the bay as she talks to Sister Theresa.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Always surpassing people’s underestimations and then again teaching me lesson after lesson.

We leave the memories for a second to see Wendy and Frankie crying on the speech.

Sister Theresa cracking between almost every word.

BACK TO MEMOREIS OF ANASTASIA

112.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Number one. You can always find lightness in the darkest of places.

Anastasia entering the dark cave as the stone gives her light.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Number two. Dreaming big is not a sin. No matter who you are or what you do.

Anastasia looking out the window of the orphanage.

 SISTER THERESA(V.O)
 Third. Always enjoy life at its fullest, because you never know when you’ll go.

Anastasia smiling as she leaves the world.

BACK TO REALITY

 SISTER THERESA
 And last but not least. The end could also be the beginning.

We fly through lake of the Crystal kingdom; over the glow of the three towers.

We fly to the castle were millions of magical creatures are waiting; up to the clouds until lightness replaces everything.

CUT TO WHITE.

 ANASTASIA(V.O)
 The end could also be the beginning.

Anastasia’s laugh fills the screen.

The END

7/9/14