THE UNLIKELIEST OF HEROES

Written by

Paul E. Zeidman

paul.zeidman@gmail.com 1-415-812-3562

EXT. 37TH DIMENSION - DAY

A metallic golden sun shines over a lush, technicolor landscape.

Idyllic countryside and sprawling metropolis smushed together, with swirls of sparkling color EVERYWHERE.

Creatures and beings from every fairy tale, folk legend and mythology roam hither and yon.

Only one word can describe this place ... Magical.

SUPER: The 37th Dimension - The Dimension of Magic

SKY

A floating billboard shows a TRAFFIC COP BEAR with the caption "FLY RESPONSIBLY". A FIGURE on a flying broom zooms past it, then swoops and careens through the other flying entities.

CATALINA, 17, a witch and the type of friend who'd actually show up to help you move, skims A THICK BOOK balanced on BROOM, an ordinary-looking broom.

ICKY, an orange cat, clings to Broom's straws. He points ahead.

ICKY

Catalina!

She glances up.

CATALINA

Hmm? Whoa!

They swerve to avoid a PURPLE DRAGON in glasses and a bow tie.

PURPLE DRAGON Eyes on the sky, lady!

CATALINA

Sorry!

ICKY I did say traffic would be bad.

CATALINA You're supposed to aid and assist, Icky, not criticize. We'll make it.

They cut off a SOCCER MOM PEGASUS and her THREE COLTS.

SOCCER MOM PEGASUS Hmph! You're not the only ones up here, you know. Sorry!

Broom shudders.

ICKY Did you feel that? You're pushing Broom too hard.

Catalina pats Broom.

CATALINA Don't mind him, girl. You're doing great. Let's go! Fast as lightning!

They weave through more aerial traffic, oblivious to the angry shouts and shaken fists in their wake.

ICKY Mel's warned you about being late.

CATALINA He probably won't even notice.

They fly towards a majestic stone tower that juts into the sky.

SUPER: Spellcasters Council Tower

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

MEL, a white rabbit in a snazzy zoot suit, sits behind his desk. He sneaks a peek at a hovering hourglass. The red sand inside flows UP.

LEOPOLD, goat Spellcaster, and ANDROMEDA, Elven Spellcaster, stand before him. A large orb floats above the desk.

An image inside the orb shows ZORR, devilishly handsome, purple gem amulet. He blasts purple lightning at ROCK MONSTERS.

If People Magazine did a "Sexiest Evil Wizard Alive!" issue, Zorr would be on the cover.

LEOPOLD Rumors continue that the Dark Wizard seeks to seize control of the realm.

The image changes to Zorr floating above an immense dam. He waves his hand. The dam bursts. Water gushes.

The image changes to Zorr ripping the tag off a mattress.

Zorr knows nothing but chaos! He must be stopped!

MEL If we could find him. He remains a mystery, even after all this time. What do you suggest?

Leopold and Andromeda share a look. Leopold waves a hoof. The orb morphs into an ornate silver scepter. Mel sputters.

MEL Absolutely not! Especially after what happened with --

The door bursts open. Catalina and Icky SWOOSH in. Leopold and Andromeda duck. They regard her with disdain. Mel looks like this is par for the course.

Catalina pulls back on Broom.

CATALINA

Whoa!

They come to a stop. Catalina and Icky jump off. Broom hops to the corner.

CATALINA ICKY Mel, I am SO sorry! I didn't- I told her we were going to-

Mel cocks an eyebrow. They both clam up.

The scepter dissolves. Mel faces Leopold and Andromeda.

MEL We'll discuss this later.

An illuminated doorway appears out of nowhere. Leopold steps through. The doorway vanishes as Andromeda snaps her fingers and dissolves into mist.

The hourglass, top-heavy with red sand, floats to Mel's hand. He shoots Catalina the side-eye.

MEL A Spellcaster-in-training also needs good time management skills.

Catalina shuffles her feet.

CATALINA Sorry, Mel.

ICKY

Told you.

MEL

Ichabod.

Mel adjusts his lapels. A pince-nez materializes on his face. He adjusts it, looks at the clipboard that appears in his paw.

MEL

Big day tomorrow. Ready for one last run-through?

CATALINA Mm-hmm. You know how nervous I get with tests, but to finally become a full-fledged Spellcaster?

She catches her breath.

CATALINA Just hope my magic is strong enough.

He gives her a reassuring smile.

MEL Remember. One's true strength comes from within.

The hourglass flips over.

MEL Let's begin.

LATER

The room looks like the aftermath of an angry tornado. Mel surveys his cracked-in-half desk.

MEL That could have gone better.

Icky, his fur all poofy, shakes back to his normal appearance.

ICKY At least the tower's still standing.

MEL

Ichabod.

Catalina holds a dustpan. Broom sweeps debris into it.

CATALINA

I could practice for a thousand years and still not get it right. Maybe...

She looks to Mel.

CATALINA You were talking about the Scepter when we got here.

ICKY Whoa, whoa, whoa. The Scepter? Are you crazy?

An image of the silver scepter seen earlier appears.

MEL

The Scepter of Dynamic Influence unlocks access to a pocket dimension of pure magic.

The Scepter's head GLOWS. The glow expands to show an endless void awash with sparkly multicolored swirls.

MEL Even the most experienced Spellcaster would have trouble controlling it. You're not ready for that much power.

The image changes to Catalina holding the Scepter. She waves it, confident. It creates sparkly swirls that get brighter and fly faster. Image-Catalina panics.

The swirls merge into a sphere that swallows up Image-Catalina, then EXPLODES IN A PUFF OF SMOKE.

MEL Like in the Tragic Tale of --

Catalina fans the smoke away.

CATALINA I'm not going to go FAZOOM!

ICKY

I agree.

CATALINA

See?

ICKY With Mel. It's too much for you.

MEL The answer is still no.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Hulking monstrosities occupy every seat. The aptly-named SQUADRON REPULSIVE (aka SQUADRONITES): combine Frankenstein with a gorilla, then whack with an ugly stick.

OFFSTAGE

Zorr paces.

ZORR (to himself) I am strong. I am powerful. I am strong. I am powerful.

AUDITORIUM

Zorr steps onstage to RAUCOUS CHEERS AND APPLAUSE. He takes center stage, holds up his hands. The adulation cuts short.

ZORR My Squadron Repulsive! Tomorrow we execute the masterplan!

He snaps his fingers.

ZORR

Wainwright!

WAINWRIGHT (O.C.) Coming right up, Boss!

WAINWRIGHT, Zorr's right-hand flunky, the biggest, scariest, and most repulsive Squadronite of all, rushes up. He pulls down a large screen, then runs off.

The lights dim. A spotlight shines on Zorr.

A slide appears of a massive set of double doors in a foreboding stone passageway. Above the doors a sign reads "THE VAULT".

ZORR Step one. Infiltrate The Vault within Spellcasters Council Tower.

The slide changes to an image of the Scepter.

ZORR Step two. Obtain the Scepter of Dynamic Influence.

The slide changes to an upside-down Zorr with the Scepter image taped to it.

ZORR Step three. With the Scepter, I become absolute ruler!

Zorr notices the slide.

ZORR

Wainwright!

WAINWRIGHT (O.S.) Whoops! Sorry.

The slide slides off, then reappears right-side up.

More CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.

INT. JOE CYCLOPS' BROOM GARAGE - WAITING AREA - DAY

Power tools BUZZ and WHINE as GOBLIN and INSECT MECHANICS in coveralls service brooms on hydraulic lifts.

WAITING AREA

JOE CYCLOPS, beer gut, lumberjack beard, hands Broom to Catalina.

JOE CYCLOPS She's good to go. The usual wear and tear, but maybe cut down on those high-speed flights.

Catalina pats Broom.

CATALINA She's tougher than she looks.

Joe dons glasses with a single lens and fills out a form.

JOE CYCLOPS You ever want to trade up, I can get you a good deal on a new one.

Broom trembles. Catalina shoulders Broom, rubs it.

CATALINA No thanks. Had her since day one. Can't imagine flying any other broom.

INT. CATALINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A small sparsely-furnished space dotted with spellbooks, scrolls and magical paraphernalia.

Catalina pores over the thick book seen earlier.

She cracks her knuckles and waves her hands. A flowerpot full of dirt appears. A rose grows and blooms. Catalina beams.

The rose catches fire, much to her surprise.

EXT. CATALINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Icky sits on a fence. He watches Catalina run around inside with the burning flower. An OWL lands next to him.

OWL Hey, Ick. How's it going with your Spellcaster-in-training?

Icky gestures towards the window. Catalina waves a hand. The room starts to fill with foam. She slips and disappears beneath the foam.

OWL When's her test?

ICKY

Tomorrow.

The foam rises past the window. A jet of foam blasts out the chimney. A blob PLOPS onto Icky's head.

OWL Maybe she can still turn it around.

Icky sighs.

INT. CATALINA'S HOUSE - LATER

Broom sweeps foam out the door. Catalina wipes foam off a picture frame. Icky jumps onto the table. He flicks away some foam and sits.

ICKY Okay. Things might seem a little bleak right now, but-

CATALINA A little? It's the Spellcaster test, Icky! One and done. What it's been all about all this time.

Catalina sets the frame down. It shows an ecstatic preteen clutching an orange kitten and holding Broom over her head like Excalibur, all under a sign: Orphanage.

CATALINA

I see how the Spellcasters look at me. Like I'm not good enough to be one of them.

ICKY Mel doesn't think so. He believes in you. And I always have. You'll do fantastic tomorrow.

Catalina responds with a half-smile, scratches under his chin.

CATALINA Thanks. Let's finish cleaning up.

She takes a step and slips on some foam, then lands in an even bigger pile of it - SPLAT! Icky buries his face in his paws.

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Catalina clutches Broom. She and Icky stand before Mel. Icky gives her a thumbs-up (or a cat's equivalent of one). She smiles in appreciation.

MEL

Ready?

Catalina takes a deep breath, squares her shoulders.

CATALINA

Ready.

MEL Alright. Good luck.

He waves a paw.

INT. TESTING ROOM - DAY

Catalina and Icky stand in a small square chamber with brick walls and a shimmering floor.

ICKY Be ready for anything.

The walls RUMBLE. The room closes in from all directions.

ICKY

Like that!

Catalina gulps, waves a hand. A green square materializes underneath them. They drop through.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Catalina and Icky fall out of another green square - in midair. Catalina grabs Icky and climbs onto Broom.

CATALINA

Go!

Broom blasts forward.

A path of floating flags appears. Catalina steers. She maneuvers numerous twists and turns. She clears most of the flags, but clips a few along the way.

The path leads into a pitch-black circle. They fly into it.

INT. BLACK CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Catalina falls into an illuminated circle on the ground. She looks around. Icky and Broom are nowhere to be seen.

CATALINA

Icky? Broom?

Heavy footsteps and raspy snarls come from the darkness. Catalina springs to her feet, whirls around. She has no idea from which direction it's coming.

The snarls turn into a deafening ROAR! She spins and raises her hands. An opaque green bubble materializes around her just as a TWELVE-FOOT OGRE bursts into view and punches the bubble.

The bubble cracks, but stays intact. Catalina strains to stay focused. Her breathing quickens.

The Ogre hits the bubble again. It shatters. Catalina curls up in a fetal position, terrified.

All goes SILENT.

Catalina opens one eye, then the other. No shattered bubble. No Ogre. She sits up, cautious.

A ball of fire ignites in front of her, then expands into a ring that surrounds her.

Catalina waves a hand. Small clouds appear over the flames, then quickly dissolve from the intense heat. She recoils as the flames get bigger.

INT. CATALINA'S HOUSE - DAY

Catalina stands in the middle of the room, which appears darker and more sinister.

PHOTO NEGATIVE CATALINA (O.S.) I don't know why you even try.

A PHOTO NEGATIVE VERSION OF CATALINA emerges from the shadows.

NEGATIVE CATALINA You can barely do a simple spell. A mangy cat for a familiar. A piece of junk broom. Puh-leeze.

Catalina trembles.

CATALINA That's not true.

PHOTO NEGATIVE CATALINA And Mel. He only works with you because he feels sorry for you.

CATALINA No! They all believe in me!

PHOTO NEGATIVE CATALINA Pssh. You don't even believe in yourself. Why should they?

Photo Negative Catalina goes nose-to-nose with her.

PHOTO NEGATIVE CATALINA Face it. You don't have what it takes to be a Spellcaster.

Catalina shoves her with hands that glow sparkly green.

CATALINA

I DO!!

Catalina fires a sparkly green blast that hits Photo Negative Catalina, who freezes, cracks and shatters.

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Catalina stands before Mel's desk. She sees Mel, Icky and Broom. Mel looks disappointed.

MEL You performed admirably. But you still lack faith in yourself. A Spellcaster needs that. CATALINA

But, I --

MEL I'm sorry, Catalina.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A GUARD stands before the doors leading to The Vault. Vigilant. Armed to the teeth. Total badass.

Wainwright trudges up. He bulges out of much-too-small armor and wears an obviously fake mask of a human face.

WAINWRIGHT Greetings, fellow Guard human! I'm here to relieve you!

The Guard gives Wainwright the once-over, suspicious.

GUARD By whose orders?

Wainwright pauses.

WAINWRIGHT

Um...Steve?

GUARD

Who?

WAINWRIGHT Steve! You know. Steve.

The Guard squints, unsure. He grabs for his sword, but not fast enough. Wainwright's mighty fist slams him into the wall. The Guard sinks to the floor, out cold.

> WAINWRIGHT Who doesn't know at least one Steve?

He sets down a small silver disc. It shimmers, then expands and rises to reveal Zorr and a dozen Squadronites.

Zorr strides towards the doors, totally ignoring Wainwright. The Squadronites snarl, their weapons pointed at Wainwright.

WAINWRIGHT Guys! Wait! It's me! Wainwright!

Wainwright removes his mask. The Squadronites relax.

Wainwright tosses the mask.

WAINWRIGHT Thanks for the mask, Steve.

STEVE (O.S.)

No problem!

Zorr regards the doors. Wainwright and the Squadronites congregate behind him.

ZORR The fools and their pathetic counterspells.

He points at the doors. They glow sparkly purple.

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Icky and Mel console a distraught Catalina. Broom hovers nearby.

CATALINA Flat on my face. I knew it.

ICKY It'll be okay.

MEL And your skills can be applied elsewhere. A myriad of opportunities!

CATALINA

Like what?

Mel struggles to provide an answer.

MEL You could... Or... And there's always...

An ear-splitting alarm rings out.

MEL The Vault! Stay here!

A hole appears. Mel dives in. The hole disappears.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Mel, Leopold, Andromeda, and a dozen other SPELLCASTERS block the shattered remnants of the doors.

They fire magical blasts at Zorr, who deflects them with ease. He shoots purple lightning back at them.

INT. MEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Catalina climbs onto Broom.

CATALINA C'mon, Icky! We're going to help.

ICKY Mel just said to stay here.

CATALINA We've got to do something!

Icky hops on behind her.

ICKY I'd tell you this is a terrible idea, which it is, but why start listening to me now?

Catalina waves her hand. A green square illuminates beneath them. They fall through.

EXT. TUNDRA - DAY

An intense blizzard howls.

A green square appears in midair. Catalina, Icky and Broom fall out and PLOP into the snow. Icky gives her the stinkeye.

> CATALINA Wait, wait. I can do this!

EXT. AMUSEMENT PARK - DAY

A green square appears just above the track of a rollercoaster that looks like "what if Salvador Dali had a 3-D printer?". A huge load of snow pours onto the track.

Catalina pops out, snow piled high atop her head.

CATALINA

Darn it!

Somewhere nearby - the CLACK-CLACK-CLACK of ascending rollercoaster cars.

A cat-shaped snowman shakes off snow to reveal Icky.

ICKY

This is better?

The CLACK-CLACK-CLACK stops, replaced by INCREASINGLY-LOUDER-AND-GETTING-CLOSER SCREAMS.

Catalina and Icky look at each other, then up the steep grade. The rollercoaster barrels straight for them.

BOTH

Aaugh!

Broom rises and lifts them clear, just before...WHAM! The rollercoaster punches through the snow.

Catalina steadies herself, waves a hand.

CATALINA

Okay. I think I've got it this time.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

One by one, Zorr's lightning strikes its targets.

ANDROMEDA We'll fight you to the end, Zorr!

ZAP! Andromeda goes down.

ZORR Yours. Not mine.

Behind Zorr, a phalanx of Guards battles the Squadronites. The scales quickly tip in the latter's favor.

ZAP! Leopold falls. Only Mel stands between Zorr and The Vault.

The Squadronites wipe out the last of the Guards. They hold back behind their master.

MEL You've used a lot of magic, Zorr. You're weaker.

Zorr grimaces. His hands glow sparkly purple.

ZORR Once I have the Scepter, nobody will be able to stop me. Mel's paws glow sparkly green.

MEL Not gonna happen.

Looks like an epic magical battle royale is at hand!

A vertical green square materializes between them. Catalina, Icky and Broom fly out and crash into Mel as Zorr fires a purple lightning bolt.

Mel shoves Catalina aside. The bolt hits him. He drops and looks to Catalina, desperate.

MEL Stop...Zorr.

Mel passes out.

CATALINA

No!

The Squadronites surround her. She clutches Broom. Icky trembles between her feet.

WAINWRIGHT What about these two, boss?

Catalina looks at Mel, then scowls at Zorr.

CATALINA Go ahead. Do your worst.

ICKY Don't give them any ideas!

Zorr regards his amulet. The glow within it dims.

ZORR The Scepter first.

Zorr marches towards The Vault, pauses next to Mel. He sneers.

ZORR And I thought a rabbit's foot was supposed to be lucky.

He strides into The Vault.

The Squadronites look at each other, confused. A look of realization from Wainwright.

WAINWRIGHT Oh! Because he's a rabbit, and the Boss beat him, so he's unlucky!

SQUADRONITES

Oh!

They erupt with UPROARIOUS LAUGHTER. Wainwright holds up a hand. The laughter stops.

WAINWRIGHT And now for the Squadron Repulsive Song of Victory!

They break into "song", which SOUNDS LIKE OPERA PERFORMED BY A HERD OF TONE-DEAF MOOSE. IN KLINGON. Catalina and Icky wince, cover their ears.

INT. THE VAULT - DAY

Zorr passes alcoves of magical artifacts. Each probably has an amazing backstory, but right now they're just part of the decor. At the far wall, a silver scepter sits in a solitary alcove.

THE SCEPTER OF DYNAMIC INFLUENCE.

Zorr approaches, almost reverent. He shivers with anticipation.

ZORR Strong. Powerful. Yes!

He reaches for the Scepter. Something prevents him from touching it. He pushes against something that's there, but *not* there.

ZORR

An inaccessibility spell. Ingenious.

His hands glow sparkly purple as he "grabs" the Scepter. It appears to float between his hands. He pulls it clear.

ZORR

But futile.

The sparkles intensify. Tiny cracks develop in the invisible field around the Scepter.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Zorr emerges with the Scepter. More cracks surround it. Wainwright and the Squadronites' singing turns to RAUCOUS CHEERS.

Momentarily ignored by their captors, Catalina whispers to Icky.

CATALINA I'm going to do a blackout spell.

18.

ICKY So we don't see it coming? Sounds good to me.

CATALINA

Just be ready.

Catalina discretely waves a hand.

EVERYTHING turns stark white. It looks like a pencil sketch.

CATALINA

Darn it!

The Squadronites freak out and run amok. They slam into each other - and Zorr. Catalina scoops up Icky and jumps on Broom.

CATALINA

Go!

No!

Broom blasts towards Zorr and the disoriented Squadronites. Catalina snatches the Scepter from Zorr's grip.

ZORR

They zoom down the hall and around the corner.

EXT. SPELLCASTERS COUNCIL TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

They streak up into the heavy sky traffic. Their color slowly restores to normal. Catalina clutches the Scepter. More cracks appear around it.

CATALINA Go, Broom! Fast as lightning!

They disappear into the crowd.

BOOM! A sizable chunk of the Tower EXPLODES. Zorr stands in the opening. To say he looks furious would be putting it mildly. His color gradually fades in. He jabs a finger skyward.

ZORR

FIND HER!!

Numerous eyeballs of varying sizes appear. They scan the sky with telescopes, magnifying glasses, binoculars, etc. All but one eyeball and telescope vanish.

EYEBALL'S POV - THROUGH TELESCOPE

Catalina weaves in and out of traffic.

ZORR (V.O.)

There!

BACK TO SCENE

A flying carpet appears. Zorr jumps on and whooshes away. The Squadronites jump onto assorted creepy flying creatures (vulture, bat, wasp, pterodactyl, etc.) and swoosh after Zorr.

WAINWRIGHT Why not just zap her, Boss?

ZORR The Scepter could be damaged, which would be catastrophic! Capture her.

EXT. SKY - DAY

Catalina rockets forward at breakneck speed. Numerous cracks develop around the Scepter. Icky holds on for dear life.

ICKY Claws don't fail me now!

He shoots a look back, sees Zorr and the Squadronites plowing through everybody. He tugs on Catalina's sleeve.

ICKY We need to go faster!

CATALINA Broom's already at the limit.

Icky points back.

ICKY They're gaining on us!

Catalina looks behind them. She spots their pursuers. A look of panic, quickly replaced with one of concentration. She starts to wave her hand.

CATALINA I'll get us out of here.

Icky swats her hand down.

ICKY No! We could end up in a volcano or something! Try slowing 'em down!

Catalina's mind races, then...an idea! She waves her hand. A dozen duplicates of the three of them appear.

ICKY

Yes!

Catalina smiles with a twinge of surprise.

The images shimmer and transform into:

-anime

-stick figures

-hieroglyphics

-Betty Boop-style

-marionettes

-ragdolls

-hippies

-punk rockers

-steampunk

-cavemen

-Picasso cubist

-clowns

ICKY

Then again...

Catalina points behind her.

CATALINA

Everybody! Go!

The duplicates head towards Zorr and the Squadron.

CATALINA

That should buy us a little time.

The two sides fly into each other. It quickly turns into a crazy airborne confrontation straight out of Looney Tunes.

A Squadronite crashes into the Cavemen, who fizzle away. The marionettes and stick figures get hit and fizzle. More fizzling of duplicates takes place.

One Squadronite screams as the clowns chase them.

Two Squadronites fly through the fizzling punk rockers and Picasso cubist, respectively, and crash into each other.

ZORR

Enough!

Sparkly purple blasts take out the remaining duplicates. The ragdoll fizzles away just before Wainwright grabs it.

WAINWRIGHT Aw, I almost had her!

ZORR She's getting away, you fools!

The pursuit resumes.

Broom jerks and sputters, slows down.

CATALINA

No, no, no! C'mon, Broom! Keep going! You can do it!

The severely-cracked field around the Scepter shatters. Catalina fumbles it, but hangs on.

Zorr and the Squadronites close in. Zorr gestures to Wainwright. He points down, then up. Wainwright nods. He leads several Squadronites downward.

Zorr's fist glows sparkly purple. The sparkly purple expands into a pair of gigantic hands that fly towards Catalina and Icky.

Icky spots the hands. He dons a blindfold, pulls out a bugle and starts to play TAPS.

CATALINA

NOT! HELPING!

The hands close in, ready to snatch them up. Wainwright and the Squadronites fly at them from below.

The hands swipe at Catalina and Icky. She swings the Scepter in self-defense. KA-TANG! The impact knocks a hand away, but also cracks the Scepter's head.

An intense light shines from within the Scepter as Catalina holds it aloft.

ICKY

Are you crazy? Its magic is too strong! You could go FAZOOM, like T-

CATALINA We can't let Zorr get it!

She waves the Scepter.

ZORR What are you doing? No! Stop!

CATALINA Get us as far away from here as possible!

The Scepter sparkles and glows; the crack moreso.

A BLINDING FLASH AND THUNDERING BOOM FILL THE SCREEN.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. SPACE

The planet Earth.

SUPER: The 3rd Dimension (that's us)

EXT. LANDFILL - DAY

Trash and refuse as far as the eye can see.

SUPER: CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

A jagged bright green line appears in midair. It swells, then bursts open and spits out Catalina, Icky and Broom.

They crash-land into a small clearing. The tear seals up and disappears. Catalina and Icky groan as they struggle to sit up. Icky meows.

(NOTE: WHENEVER ICKY "SPEAKS", WE HEAR MEOWS AND CAT SOUNDS. ITALICIZED TEXT PRESENTED AS SUBTITLES)

> ICKY Ooh, my sacroiliac.

He freezes, stares wide-eyed. He utters the start of a meow, slams a paw over his mouth. Catalina leans in, her fear growing.

CATALINA

Icky?

He meows again, louder and longer this time. ICKY What happened? Why can't I talk? He paces. His tail twitches. ICKY Do something! CATALINA Don't panic. Let me try something. ICKY I just said that! She waves a hand, pauses. CATALINA I can't feel any magic. ICKY There has to be! Catalina flexes a hand, collects herself. CATALINA Okay, okay. It's fine. I'll just use the Scepter to ... She regards her empty hands, looks around. She goes pale. CATALINA Where is it? She panics. CATALINA Where'd it go? ICKY You just had it! She hyperventilates, grabs Icky. CATALINA It's gone! THE SCEPTER IS GONE!! One of the most powerful magical artifacts ever and I've lost it! She takes in their surroundings.

> CATALINA And now we're stuck here, and I don't even know where this is!

They look at each other and SCREAM. Their screams fade to silence. Catalina looks on the verge of tears.

CATALINA

I'm sorry.

Icky squares his shoulders. He pads to her, pats her arm.

ICKY We'll figure it out.

She sniffles, smiles.

CATALINA

I don't know what you just said, but I'll assume it was encouraging.

He purrs and nuzzles against her.

CATALINA First we figure out where we are.

She wipes her nose, gets to her feet. She composes herself and dusts off her robes.

CATALINA Let's take a look around. Broom?

Broom lies motionless on the ground. Icky gives Broom a nudge.

ICKY

C'mon, buddy.

Catalina and Icky share a worried look. She kneels next to Broom, picks it up.

CATALINA

Broom?

Nothing. It hits Catalina.

CATALINA No magic, no Broom.

Catalina cradles Broom like a baby.

CATALINA You'll be okay. You don't expect me to fly on another broom, right?

She chuckles with a tinge of heartbreak.

ICKY

So what now?

Catalina looks around. She points.

CATALINA That looks like the way out.

EXT. RURAL ROAD - DAY

Catalina and Icky emerge onto a lonely two-lane strip of asphalt.

A road sign on the opposite shoulder reads:

"<-New York

Philadelphia->"

Next to it sits a smaller, weather-worn sign:

"WELCOME TO DARRING, NEW JERSEY. PRIDE OF THE PINE BARRENS!"

CATALINA We'll start there. At least there's no sign of Zorr.

EXT. PANGAEA - DAY

Several CHICKEN-SIZED DINOSAURS run through a prehistoric jungle of overgrown flora.

SUPER: PANGAEA, THE SUPER-CONTINENT - LATE JURASSIC PERIOD (150 MILLION YEARS AGO, GIVE OR TAKE A MILLION)

A jagged green line appears above a tall palm tree. The line swells and bursts open. Zorr, Wainwright, and six Squadronites drop into the palm fronds.

Wainwright and the Squadronites scramble clear and jump down. They hit the ground, ready for action! Wainwright looks up into the tree.

WAINWRIGHT

You okay, Boss?

Zorr's face and hands look like they're made of video static. He yelps and hides behind a large frond. He holds the amulet close and concentrates.

The amulet glows. The static fades. Zorr looks normal again. He pokes his head out, nervous. Did anybody see that? The Squadronites congregate around the trunk, none the wiser.

ZORR (whispered) I am Strong. I am Powerful. (MORE)

(confident, bold) Wainwright!

Wainwright gets into position and spreads his arms. Zorr drops. Wainwright catches him with ease, sets him down, dusts him off.

> ZORR I can't feel any magic here.

WAINWRIGHT Even your neck thingy?

Zorr covers his amulet in a protective way.

ZORR I can't risk taxing it further.

Wainwright points.

WAINWRIGHT Hey, maybe that guy can help. He looks friendly. (waves) Yoo-hoo! Over here!

They all look at who Wainwright addresses: A TYRANNOSAURUS REX. The dinosaur looks in Wainwright's direction, then at the camera. It smiles a smile of gigantic razor-sharp teeth.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Catalina and Icky stroll down the middle of the street. Both take in their surroundings.

CATALINA What is this place? It's so --

ICKY

Boring.

CATALINA

Non-magical.

HONK HONK! A car horn blasts as a car cruises past. They jump out of the way.

CAR DRIVER Get out of the road, ya moron! This ain't the turnpike!

They stare, bug-eyed.

ICKY

What was that?

Catalina eyes PEDESTRIANS on the sidewalk.

CATALINA I think we're supposed to walk there.

EXT. SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

PASSERSBY stare as Catalina and Icky walk. They pass TWO WOMEN talking. One holds a leash attached to a SLOBBERING BULLDOG.

ICKY Perfect. Dogs AND no magic.

The Bulldog barks, much to their surprise. They continue on.

CATALINA I don't think animals can talk here.

ICKY Ugh. Could this place be any worse?

CATALINA That's terrible. Not even being able to cast a spell.

Catalina stops. Her face lights up.

CATALINA Like in a spellbook! We need to find a library!

She looks around. A BOOKISH MAN approaches.

CATALINA

C'mon!

They scamper up to him.

CATALINA

Excuse me? Hi.

Bookish Man pauses, looks Catalina over.

CATALINA We're...not from around here. Is there a library nearby?

He sighs, points.

BOOKISH MAN Left on Bon Jovi, right on Sinatra, left on Springsteen. You one of those "Halloween all year" types?

Icky steps forward.

ICKY What's Halloween?

Bookish Man spots Icky, SHRIEKS.

BOOKISH MAN Aaugh! A cat! Shoo! Shoo! I'm allergic! Oh, I feel faint!

He swoons as Catalina scoops up Icky and runs.

CATALINA Thank you! I hope you feel better!

ICKY Allergic to a cat? That's like being allergic to happiness.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

STORYTIME ROOM

ED FORRESTER, late 40s, bald and plain, reads a storybook. His voice hovers just above a monotone.

ED "The dragon breathed a mighty fireball at brave Sir Eugene, who blocked it with his magic shield."

He displays the page showing a knight and dragon. SIX BORED 5-YEAR-OLDS stare back. One picks her nose.

> ED "And now, dragon," said Sir Eugene, "prepare to-"

A SNORE interrupts. The kids giggle.

ED "Prepare to-"

A LOUDER SNORE cuts him off. The kids laugh. Ed puts the book down. He's used to this.

ED

Garroway.

ΕD

Garroway. Wake up, boy.

Ed nudges him again. The dog tips over, snores, still asleep. The kids ROAR, which wakes Garroway up. He stretches. His tail wags a mile a minute as he lets out a happy bark.

ED

And now back to Sir Eugene.

He holds up the book. The kids' moods take a dramatic downturn.

KIDS

Aw!

Ed lowers the book, checks his watch.

ED Okay. We'll stop for today. See everybody next time.

The kids scramble out. Garroway looks at Ed like a loyal dog would, which garners him a scratch behind the ears.

ED Good dog. C'mon.

Ed strolls out. Garroway scampers after him.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Catalina and Icky sit on the floor between two sets of shelves. She skims a book, then sets it atop a messy pile of books.

CATALINA

I need teleportation, and all I get are card tricks! Let's go.

She stands, grabs Broom and stomps off. Icky follows.

Seconds later, Ed and Garroway turn the corner. Ed sees the pile, sighs. He picks up the books, shelves one.

LATER

MYRTLE, 70s, librarian, energetic, vivacious, stretches behind the checkout desk. Ed and Garroway approach.

Garroway makes his way to a doggie bed under the desk. Myrtle scratches him behind the ears, then slides a small box on the counter towards Ed.

MYRTLE This week's periodicals, Ed.

Ed opens the box and sorts magazines.

ED Thanks, Myrtle.

MYRTLE How was storytime today?

ED Same as last time. And every other time before that.

Myrtle executes some standing side-stretches.

MYRTLE Because you're always playing it safe. Put some 'oomph' into it!

She emphasizes 'oomph' with a punch.

ED I'm not much for 'oomph'.

MYRTLE I'm taking my mom skydiving this weekend. Want to come? Really gets your engine going.

ED

Pass.

MYRTLE Suit yourself. Cup of tea?

ED

Please.

MYRTLE Back in a jiff.

She zips off.

A magazine falls off the counter, lands at Ed's feet. He reaches down to retrieve it, sees what it's open to.

INSERT - PAGE: A photo of a pristine scorch red 1971 Plymouth Hemi 426 'Cuda.

Ed picks up the magazine, admires the slick ride. He gazes out the window at a beat-up minivan in the parking lot. Ed sighs, sets the magazine down. His phone CHIMES. He nudges Garroway with his foot.

ED

Let's go. Don't want to be late.

Garroway hops up, follows Ed towards the door.

EXT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Catalina and Icky sit on the curb next to the minivan.

CATALINA No magic. No spells. I don't know how we're going to get home. Or if.

A BIRD lands near Icky. He licks his lips, slinks towards it.

ICKY Who can think on an empty stomach?

He leaps. Catalina grabs his tail as the bird flies away.

CATALINA This is no time to think about food!

ICKY I'm starving! It's the perfect time to think about food!

He wriggles free and disappears into some nearby bushes.

CATALINA

Get back here!

She scrambles after him into the bush. She gets halfway in, so her butt sticks out. Ed and Garroway stroll towards the minivan. He sees Catalina, rolls his eyes as he and Garroway climb in.

The minivan's engine starts up. It pulls away. Catalina extracts herself. In the now-vacant parking spot, she reads a stenciled "Reserved for Head Librarian".

CATALINA

Icky!

Icky sticks his head out.

ICKY What? What is it?

She indicates the stencil.

CATALINA A Head Librarian would know where all the books are. Including spellbooks!

The minivan drives away.

CATALINA That's them! Hurry!

ICKY Great. More running.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

The building looks like a tacky gingerbread house. The sign in front reads "GINGERBREAD HOUSE ICE CREAM PARLOR".

In front of the faux confectionary structure, VAL, 22, clad in a Mother Goose-type outfit and stuck in this godforsaken job, sits in a bench swing.

A VW Beetle blaring Men Without Hats' "Safety Dance" drives past, toots its horn. Val feebly waves with one hand as she focuses on the iPad in her lap.

The iPad shows a 3-D model of a snarling woman in hi-tech battle armor, captioned "Lady Powerfist 3.1".

PETE (O.S.)

Val!

PETE, mid 30s, manager who's taken full advantage of the employee discount on ice cream and then some, stomps up. He's not happy.

PETE (thick Jersey accent) How many times I gotta tell you - no video game design stuff on the job!

Val stashes the iPad.

VAL Sorry, Pete.

PETE

Mrs. Gingerbread's gotta be warm and welcoming. Who's gonna think that with you waving like this?

He mimics her half-assed wave.

PETE When it should be like this! He smiles big, waves like he was just crowned Miss America.

The door swings open. MARCI, mid 30s, co-manager built like a defensive lineman, wields a mop.

MARCI

(equally thick accent)
Pete! Freezer two's on the blink
again! Get your butt in there and fix
it or we'll be up to our frickin'
eyeballs in banana fudge ripple!

PETE Dang it, Marci. You said you took care of that.

He zips in, shuts the door.

The minivan drives by, toots its horn. Val sighs and waves, exaggerated smile and all. Her attention returns to the iPad.

She fails to notice Catalina and Icky run past.

CATALINA

This way!

EXT. L. FRANK BAUM MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

DEREK, 12, the result of an insane growth spurt, holds a book high out of the reach of TYLER, 12, not yet impacted by the onset of puberty.

> TYLER Give it back, Derek!

DEREK Or what, shrimp?

Derek regards the book's cover of a rugged Victorian sea captain battling a huge octopus. Its title: "CAPTAIN KIRBY & THE TENTACLED TERROR OF TORONADO BAY".

DEREK Pfft. Looks stupid.

TYLER It's not stupid! My dad gave it to me, before he...

DEREK (mocking) My daddy gave it to me. (normal voice) Take it, loser. Derek sneers and tosses the book aside. He strides away. Tyler retrieves the book, dusts it off.

The minivan pulls up. Tyler trudges over and climbs in.

TYLER (defeated) Hey, Uncle Ed.

The minivan drives away.

Catalina and Icky stagger into view.

CATALINA Don't they ever stop moving?

INT. ED'S MINIVAN - DAY

Ed drives. Tyler slouches in the backseat. Gloomy, he watches a video on his phone. Garroway lies next to him.

On Tyler's phone: a cartoon squirrel slips on a banana peel and lands on its head.

ED Sammy Squirrel, huh? Rough day?

TYLER I don't talk to him. I go out of my way to avoid eye contact. Why won't he just leave me alone?

ED I know it doesn't seem it, but it'll get better. That's what your dad always told me when we were kids.

TYLER

Did it?

ED Eventually.

Tyler puts the phone down, regards the book.

TYLER I miss him. And Mom.

ED

Me too.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - DAY

The minivan pulls into the driveway of a small, modest house that could really use a makeover. The spacious backyard surrounded by dense foliage appears to go on forever.

A SQUIRREL pops up in the grass next to the house.

The minivan's rear door opens. Garroway dashes out and darts towards the Squirrel.

The Squirrel takes off like a shot and scrambles up into the sanctuary of a nearby oak tree. Garroway reaches the tree and BARKS UP A STORM.

Ed sorts through the mail, removes a tag from an envelope. It reads "Garroway" and their address.

ED A-ha. Garroway! Come here, boy.

Garroway fires one last bark at the Squirrel, then trots to Ed. Ed attaches the tag to his collar. Garroway licks his face.

> ED You're welcome.

Val's car rolls up next to the minivan. She climbs out, slams the door and rushes inside. Ed and Tyler share a concerned look.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Val drums her fingers on the counter. Ed and Tyler approach.

ED Everything okay, Val?

VAL What if my game sucks? What if they say I suck? I don't want to end up stuck at a dead-end job in this dink town like --

She makes eye contact with Ed. She looks away, embarrassed.

VAL -Sorry, Uncle Ed. I didn't mean --

Ed puts on a brave face.

ED You'll do great. Any game company would be lucky to hire you. Your mom and dad would be really proud.
She smiles, semi-appreciative.

VAL Thanks. Just wish I could figure out how you win the big boss battle.

ED

The what?

TYLER

C'mon, Uncle Ed. The big boss battle! When you take on the last bad guy in the game.

ED Oh, <u>that</u> big boss battle.

VAL Win that and you win the game. And in my game, it's...

She opens the iPad to the image of the armored woman.

VAL Lady Powerfist, against --

She flicks the screen. It shows a sinister, witchy-looking woman.

VAL

Madam Mayhem, and...

Another flick. An ugly brute wields a humongous two-bladed axe.

VAL Brother Battleaxe.

Tyler makes fists.

TYLER And Lady Powerfist zaps 'em with her laser gauntlets! Pew! Pew!

ED How about we use our laserfists to start on dinner?

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Icky lounges on a bench. Catalina paces, waves her hands.

CATALINA Ugh. Still nothing. How can you just lie there? ICKY I've got four legs. You've got two. Therefore, I am twice as tired.

He stretches, yawns.

ICKY

A few winks and I'll be good as new.

He curls up and shuts his eyes. His breathing turns to snores. She sits next to him.

CATALINA Fine. We'll just --(yawns) rest our eyes.

Her head falls forward. Her snoring accompanies his.

EXT. PANGAEA - DAY

The T-Rex traps Zorr and the Squadronites in an enclosed canyon. It edges towards them. Its teeth shine from all the drool.

WAINWRIGHT Boss, I know you don't want to use your neck thingy, but I really think you should use your neck thingy!

Zorr grimaces, knows Wainwright is right. He clutches the amulet. His hands glow sparkly purple.

The T-Rex ROARS and charges! Zorr and the Squadronites vanish. The T-Rex stops short, looks around. Where'd they go? It snaps its fingers in frustration.

EXT. SWISS ALPS - NIGHT

Raging snow and wind bombard the frozen desolation.

SUPER: THE SWISS ALPS

Zorr, Wainwright, and the Squadronites materialize midair. They fall into a deep snowbank and flail about. Zorr feels his face. Seems normal. This puts him at ease.

Wainwright and the Squadronites throw punches at the whirling snowflakes, which yields exactly the results you'd expect.

WAINWRIGHT There's too many of 'em, Boss!

Zorr sighs.

ZORR It's snow, you idiots!

The Squadronites pause.

SQUADRONITES

But they're so tiny! And it tastes terrible! Why don't they explode when they hit the ground?

Zorr flexes his fingers.

ZORR

Still no magic. Wainwright! Get us out of here.

Wainwright wipes snow from his face.

WAINWRIGHT Sure thing, Boss. Let me see...

Wainwright gazes around, scratches his head.

From within the storm comes THE LOW STEADY RUMBLING of an engine, along with the approaching glow of a pair of headlights. A Snowcat rolls out of the storm, stops. The DRIVER leans out.

DRIVER (French accent) 'ello? Iz someone zere?

Wainwright smiles. He cracks his knuckles.

MOMENTS LATER

The Driver YELLS as he flies through the air, lands in the snow.

INT./EXT. SNOWCAT - CONTINUOUS

The Squadronites hang onto the outside. Zorr and Wainwright sit jammed in the cockpit. Wainwright regards the controls, unsure.

ZORR

Well?

Wainwright presses a button, flicks a switch, grabs the wheel. He steps on the gas. The Snowcat jerks, rolls backwards.

EXT. ED'S STREET - NIGHT

Ed walks Garroway.

ED That's me. Stuck in a dead-end job in a dink town. Can't blame Val for wanting more.

Garroway sniffs a bush, lifts a leg.

ED Some role model. For her or Tyler.

Garroway scratches behind his ear.

ED "It'll get better." Yeah, that'll keep the bullies away. Fat lot of good it did me.

He looks away, wistful.

ED They both deserve so much more.

He chuckles.

ED Or at least a little 'oomph'. Just wish I wasn't so...insignificant.

Garroway pants and stares at Ed. Ed pats his head.

ED Good dog. And a good listener.

Up in the sky, a green flash illuminates behind the clouds.

EXT. SKY - NIGHT

A bright green zigzag appears. It pulsates, gets brighter. It bulges, as if being inflated. THE SCEPTER BURSTS OUT, spins endover-end as it falls.

EXT. ED'S STREET - NIGHT

Ed and Garroway stroll towards the house. The Squirrel zips past. Garroway barks and lunges for it, which yanks the leash out of Ed's hands.

The Squirrel takes off, with Garroway in hot pursuit. The animals sprint behind Ed's house.

ED Garroway! Stop! Heel! Get back here!

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

The Squirrel disappears into the brush. Garroway stops in the middle of the yard, eager but confused. Ed stumbles up and grabs the leash.

ED

Gotcha!

A WHOOSH-WHOOSH-WHOOSH from above gets louder. Ed and Garroway both look up.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Catalina and Icky sleep. A green flash pops way off in the distance. Catalina jerks awake. She looks around, uncertain. She readjusts and goes back to sleep.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Catalina and Icky stand on a corner. She looks one way, then the other, then back.

CATALINA Now which way was the library again?

ICKY We were just there yesterday!

She huffs. He hmphs.

CATALINA Maybe there's hidden magic here.

A LOW RUMBLE develops from far away.

CATALINA And the right spell could uncover it.

THE RUMBLE GETS LOUDER. Catalina does a variation on jazz hands.

CATALINA Um, "magic appear!"

Icky shoots her a look - "Are you serious?" as THE RUMBLE BECOMES DEAFENING.

CATALINA (shouting) You hear something?

A blur zooms past. The resulting SONIC BOOM bowls them over. They watch the blur streak away, then at each other.

TCKY

CATALINA

Maqic!

Magic!

They scramble to their feet and run after it.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

The blur approaches. ULTRA SLOW-MOTION KICKS IN to reveal the blur as Garroway running with an overjoyed Tyler holding onto his leash and being pulled horizontally.

ULTRA SLOW-MOTION SHUTS OFF! Garroway and Tyler blur once again and rocket away. Their powerful wake bends everything towards them, then snaps back like rubber - BOING-OING-OING!

Catalina and Icky scamper through.

EXT. ED'S STREET - DAY

Catalina and Icky stagger, gasp for breath. Something catches her eye.

CATALINA

I think that's the one we want.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

An elaborate snowfort sits where Ed's house should be. It turns into a giant pumpkin.

A monster truck sits in the driveway. It turns into a go-cart, a Roman chariot, then the minivan.

CATALINA The head librarian was in that!

Catalina and Icky rush forward. The pumpkin becomes a castle with an alligator-laden moat. The moat transforms into a vicious spiked wrought-iron fence.

> ICKY I don't think they want visitors.

A gate in the fence swings open.

CATALINA

Now!

They zip through just before the fence becomes a wall of fire.

They reach the front door. It turns into an ornate curtain, then Han Solo in carbonite, then bamboo poles. Icky gestures - "after you". Catalina knocks.

WHOOSH! Everything - house, car, door - changes back to normal. Rushed whispers can be heard from inside.

VAL (O.S.) Don't worry. I'll handle it!

The door opens a crack. Val peeks out.

VAL Yes, can I help-

She sees Icky and flings the door open with A SQUEAL.

VAL EEEE! You are ADORABLE!

Garroway nudges his way past Val's legs. His nostrils flare.

GARROWAY

I smell a cat.

CATALINA Wait. So animals <u>can</u> talk here?

The door opens the rest of the way to reveal Ed and Tyler (whose hair remains wind-swept).

TYLER Can your cat talk too?

CATALINA Well, usually.

ED Is this connected to that thing that fell out of the sky?

CATALINA

What thing?

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Assorted household items float around the room. Catalina and Icky sit across from the family. Ed holds the Scepter.

ED After I woke up, I could do stuff like this. He waves a hand. Val's Mrs. Gingerbread uniform walks through - totally devoid of somebody wearing it.

ED

And this.

He lifts the couch - with the others still on it - with one finger, then sets it down.

Catalina reaches for the Scepter.

CATALINA

May I?

Ed hands it to her.

ICKY Careful! It may still hold some residual magic.

VAL What did he say?

GARROWAY Something about residual magic.

TYLER You can understand him?

GARROWAY A little. He's got a thick accent.

ICKY

Excuse me?

Catalina examines the Scepter, runs a finger along the crack.

CATALINA No magic. Somehow it got transferred into the two of you. I wonder if there's a way to reverse it.

Ed appears concerned.

ED Reverse it?

ICKY Hold on. It's the Scepter of Dynamic Influence. Or have you forgotten the-

Catalina huffs.

CATALINA No, I did not forget. VAL

Forget what?

CATALINA ICKY The Tragic Tale of Todd. The Tragic Tale of Todd.

> TYLER The what of who?

CATALINA The Tragic Tale of Todd.

INT. THE VAULT - DAY

The Scepter sits in its alcove.

CATALINA (V.O.) Todd was a Spellcaster-in-training. Like me.

TODD, scrawny, hooded robe, slinks towards it. (NOTE: TODD'S FACE STAYS HIDDEN)

ICKY (V.O.) And impatient. And reckless.

Todd grabs the Scepter with no problem. He swings it, creating sparkly trails of color.

CATALINA (V.O.) He tried to tap into the pure magic, but it was too strong for him.

The swirls increase in size and number. They form a glowing ball around Todd.

CATALINA (V.O.) He went FAZOOM.

The ball explodes in a puff of smoke. Only the Scepter remains.

ED (V.O.)

Fazoom?

ICKY (V.O.)

Fazoom.

A distraught Mel sets the Scepter in its alcove. He waves a paw. Golden sparkles appear around the Scepter.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Catalina grips the Scepter.

VAL Is it dangerous?

CATALINA

No.

Everybody crowds in closer.

CATALINA

In theory.

Everybody but Ed takes a step back. Catalina mutters and waves the Scepter. A faint glow shines inside it, then quickly fades.

ED I don't feel any different.

GARROWAY

Me either.

ICKY You'd think <u>something</u> would have happened.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

A pinprick of intense bright green appears. It flickers, gets brighter and brighter. BLAM! It explodes. A green shockwave shoots out.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

PEDESTRIANS walk. The shockwave passes through. Everybody flips and walks upside down.

EXT. PARK - DAY

AN OVERBEARING WIFE walks a tiny dog that yaps nonstop at her HENPECKED HUSBAND.

OVERBEARING WIFE Mother will be staying with us for a few weeks, maybe a few months.

HENPECKED HUSBAND

Yes, dear.

OVERBEARING WIFE You'll need to paint the spare room. Right after we get Baby's medicine.

HENPECKED HUSBAND

Yes, dear.

The shockwave passes through.

OVERBEARING WIFE The vet says it causes explosive diarrhea, so make sure youuuuu-

She and the dog drop into a gaping, seemingly bottomless hole. He stops at the edge, glances down.

HENPECKED HUSBAND

Dear?

EXT. FARM - DAY

A FARMER picks cherries off a tree. The shockwave passes through. The Farmer grabs a cherry. Its stem burns like a lit fuse. Startled, she tosses it. BOOM!

Multiple hisses can be heard. She looks up. Lit cherries fill the tree.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

A TODDLER has a full-blown tantrum. Her MOTHER ignores her. The shockwave passes through. The Toddler turns into a hideous DEMON. Her cries grow into ROARS.

MOTHER Crying won't do you any good. I said no and I meant no.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

A MAN peruses bouquets. The shockwave passes through. His nose twitches. A sneeze seems imminent.

MAN

Achoo!

FWOOSH! He sneezes A BLAST OF FLAME. The bewildered FLORIST regards the charbroiled plants. Several collapse into ash.

FLORIST

Gesundheit?

The shockwave passes through. Catalina staggers. Ed rushes over, catches her.

CATALINA The magic. I can feel it.

She flexes her hands.

CATALINA It's stronger. Much stronger.

ICKY Sounds like pure magic.

Icky freezes, stunned. Everybody stares at him.

ICKY You heard that, right?

He clears his throat.

ICKY There once was a cat from Sheboygan-

CATALINA (cutting him off) Ickv!

ICKY:

TYLER So freakin' cool!

Icky looks to Garroway.

ICKY "Thick accent"?

Broom, propped up in the corner, rises and drifts to Catalina.

VAL A flying broom. Naturally.

CATALINA

Broom!

ICKY We're back, buddy!

Catalina grabs Broom and hugs it.

ED Does this mean you can fix the Scepter?

CATALINA

I don't know.

She beams at Broom.

CATALINA

But I'm sure gonna try.

Ed appears disappointed, but keeps it to himself.

Icky gazes out the window, troubled.

VAL

What's wrong? You can talk again.

ICKY Yeah, but pure magic in a non-magical dimension? I don't like it.

EXT. SWISS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE - DAY

A storybook Alpine hamlet complete with snow-topped roofs. ECHOING YODELS get drowned out by TERRIFIED SCREAMS! VILLAGERS run in terror.

Zorr strides away from the Snowcat wedged between two smashed cars. He takes in this strange new land. Just behind him strut Wainwright and the Squadronites.

Zorr pauses.

ZORR There is magic here.

WAINWRIGHT Great! So we can go home now?

Zorr gasps.

ZORR It feels like... It is! Pure magic.

WAINWRIGHT Which can get us home. Right, Boss?

ZORR The Scepter must be here. Somewhere on this world.

His hands glow sparkly purple. He revels in how it feels.

ZORR We will find it, and make it mine! WAINWRIGHT We're not going home, are we?

They all vanish.

EXT. DARRING MAIN STREET - DAY

In a flash of sparkly purple, Zorr and the Squadronites materialize in the middle of the street.

Zorr winces. His hands sparkle even more. Wainwright and the Squadronites watch with concern. Zorr stumbles.

ZORR The magic! I can't control it!

WAINWRIGHT Boss! Watch out or you'll go FAZOOM!

Zorr shouts in pain.

ZORR

Aaugh!

His hands unleash a powerful blast of purple sparkles. As the kickback slams them all into the brush of a nearby park, the blast hits an apartment building across the street. IT BURSTS INTO FLAMES!

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Garroway cocks an ear.

GARROWAY Did you hear that?

TYLER

Hear what?

Garroway sniffs, gasps.

GARROWAY There's a fire! Let's go!

The front door swings open. BOOM! Garroway's gone.

ED

Garroway!

CATALINA Wait! You're not used to --

Ed vanishes.

Catalina climbs onto Broom.

CATALINA Things could get out of hand <u>really</u> quickly. Everybody on!

TYLER

Yes!

He scampers on behind Catalina.

VAL All of us on one broom?

CATALINA She's stronger than she looks. Hurry!

Val climbs behind Tyler. Icky jumps into her arms. They swoosh out. The door slams shut.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Wainwright and the Squadronites surround the unconscious Zorr.

WAINWRIGHT Boss? Boss? You okay?

Two Squadronites glance behind them at...

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The flames rage. Trapped TENANTS shout from their windows. FIRE CREWS spray water at the fire, to no effect.

FIREFIGHTER Why isn't the fire going out?

A CROWD develops. Garroway screeches to a halt. Ed appears next to him.

GARROWAY What do we do first?

ED Um...get the people out!

Giant slides lead from each window down to enormous pillows.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

The two Squadronites gawk.

SQUADRONITE #1 Hey, Wainwright. Check this out!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Tenants slide down the slides. They land safely in the pillows. Catalina and the others arrive.

CATALINA It's still burning? Have you tried talking to it?

ΕD

What?

CATALINA Oh yeah. Not magical fire.

Ed starts to wave his hands.

ED I'll put it out.

She stops him.

CATALINA

You're not used to pure magic. It's too risky with people still inside.

ED

But-

CATALINA Just try to keep it under control while we get them out. Icky, help Val and Tyler with the slides.

ICKY

Right!

They hop off.

CATALINA Garroway, start at the bottom. Grab anybody in there. I'll take the top.

GARROWAY

Got it!

BOOM! Garroway zooms inside. Ed looks frustrated as Catalina flies toward the top floor.

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

Wainwright and the Squadronites spot Catalina.

WAINWRIGHT Huh. That looks like the Spellcaster who stole the Scepter.

Zorr, dazed, sits up.

ZORR

Spellcaster?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

As the fire blazes, Garroway zips TENANTS out of apartments. Catalina helps a MOM and TWO LITTLE KIDS onto Broom.

CATALINA

Hang on!

They fly away.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Wainwright holds up a wobbly Zorr.

WAINWRIGHT She was there a second ago, Boss.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

A LADY in a garish tracksuit WHOOSHES down a slide.

TRACKSUIT LADY

Whee!

She slams into a pillow. It bursts open and spews feathers.

A deluge of feathers descends on Zorr and the Squadronites, and also obscures the view of Catalina flying out the Mom and Kids.

Garroway runs up to Ed.

GARROWAY That's everybody!

ED

Right.

Ed eyes a nearby fire hydrant, flicks a finger at it. The hydrant pops its top. A geyser of water erupts and turns into a giant cobra that coils around the building, then squeezes.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Water gushes inside, extinguishes the fire.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Everybody cheers as water surges out the ground floor. Ed gestures like a symphony conductor. The water collects into one large mass that arcs UP AND OVER the crowd...towards the park

EXT. PARK - CONTINUOUS

The water slams into Zorr and the Squadronites, sends them sprawling and washes away the feathers. One Squadronite gets swept into the street. Water carries it along the curb.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Icky, perched on Catalina's shoulder, spots the Squadronite just before it gets sucked down into the sewer.

ICKY The Squadron Repulsive!

Catalina tenses. She looks around, panicked.

CATALINA Any sign of Zorr?

A sopping wet Zorr, Wainwright, and the remaining Squadronites head towards the rear of the crowd.

ZORR

Spellcaster!

A few people see them. Screams and scrambling ensue. It quickly devolves into mass chaos.

Zorr's hands glow intense sparkly purple. He staggers. The sparkles envelop a Squadronite. The Squadronite vanishes.

VACATIONERS stroll. The Squadronite appears in a flash of purple sparkles. Everybody sees him and runs away screaming. TWO SNOOTY WOMEN give him the once-over.

SNOOTY WOMAN #1 That's what Ethel looked like <u>before</u> the facelift.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Zorr stumbles. Wainwright holds him up.

WAINWRIGHT Careful, Boss. That pure magic is powerful stuff.

Catalina grabs Ed's arm.

CATALINA We need to get out of here! Now!

ED But the building-

CATALINA

NOW!!

ED Okay, okay!

Ed snaps his fingers. The building looks fully restored.

Zorr and the Squadronites emerge from the dissipating crowd. Catalina and the others have vanished. He fumes, fists clenched.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ed and the others appear, plop onto the couch. Ed and his family look joyous. Catalina and Icky, not so much.

TYLER That was so cool!

VAL Great job, Uncle Ed.

Garroway ahems.

TYLER You were awesome, too. Tyler scratches the spot that gets Garroway's leg going.

GARROWAY Oh yeah. Right there.

CATALINA I need to fix the Scepter before Zorr finds it.

ED If he shows up, I'll just zap him.

A tiny spark appears in his palm. It crackles like electricity.

ED Problem solved.

CATALINA

What? No!

ICKY That is so many levels of bad idea.

ED How about this?

He waves a hand. A full SUIT OF ARMOR wielding a sword and shield appears. It advances and swings the sword. The sword slashes the couch, then turns towards Val and Tyler.

VAL

Uncle Ed!

ED

I got it.

Ed waves a hand. The Suit swings the sword faster.

ED

Wait! Stop!

The Suit advances. Val and Tyler scramble into the dining room. The Suit turns and follows them.

CATALINA Stop the spell!

ED

I'm trying!

The Suit cleaves the dining room table in two, bears down on Val and Tyler. They scream as the Suit raises the sword, ready to deliver the final blow! A DOZEN GARROWAYS jump at the Suit at once and take it down. They all sit on the Suit, which struggles to get clear.

ICKY Now <u>that's</u> a duplication spell.

The Suit and eleven Garroways disappear. Ed rushes to Val and Tyler, embraces them.

ED

I'm so sorry! Are you guys okay?

He looks to Catalina.

ED

You're right.

He holds out his hand. The Scepter floats towards Catalina.

ED You need to fix this and take the magic back.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Catalina holds the Scepter. She yawns.

ICKY You've been at it for hours. You need a break.

CATALINA But what if Zorr --

ICKY

Go. Eat.

CATALINA I am kind of hungry.

She heads into the kitchen.

Val snuggles Icky. He emits a very contented purr.

VAL Can you do magic too?

ICKY No. I'm Catalina's familiar, so I --(air quotes) "Aid and assist".

VAL So, like a sidekick? Icky takes offense to the question.

ICKY

Advisor.

VAL I could use one of those. Somebody to help steer me in the right direction.

ICKY You don't have anybody like that?

VAL Well, I guess Uncle Ed.

Val ponders the words, as if coming to a realization.

ICKY I tell Catalina all the time she's better than she realizes, but she needs to believe that herself. I bet it's the same for you.

Val scratches under his chin.

VAL She's really lucky to have you.

ICKY I tell her that all the time too.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Catalina floats on Broom. She dips a spoon into a jar and savors the creamy white contents. Ed stares at her from a lawn chair. He sips from a coffee mug, not sure what to think.

> CATALINA This is delicious! What do you call it again?

ED Mayonnaise.

CATALINA

Incredible.

ED That pure magic is powerful stuff. I bet you're pretty good with it. No. I mess up. A lot. One time my spell made my instructor bald and grow a really thick beard.

She has another spoon of mayo.

CATALINA

Boy, was she mad.

Ed chuckles, runs a hand over his smooth scalp.

CATALINA

I hardly ever get it right. Apart from Mel and Icky, nobody takes me seriously. They look at me like I'm a big joke. You probably don't know what that's like.

ED Only my entire life. And welcome to New Jersey.

He takes a sip.

ED Frustrating as it is, I try to learn from my mistakes so I can hopefully do better the next time.

He holds up his mug.

ED To finding success, no matter how many times we fail.

CATALINA And keep trying.

Spoon clinks against mug.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - ROOF - NIGHT

Numerous sparkly green swirls flow out of the pinprick. They spread out across the town.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Wainwright and the Squadronites sleep. Zorr shakes. His fists tremble.

70RR (under his breath) I am strong. I am powerful. (forceful) Pure magic within my grasp! I will make it mine. Wainwright stirs. His eyes open ever so slightly. Zorr's amulet flickers. He morphs into a SCRAWNY, PIMPLY-FACED TEENAGE BOY, then back - unaware this has happened. Wainwright's eyes pop open. He sits up with a start. WAINWRIGHT Boss! You alright? You looked like somebody else. Like, a real dork. Zorr freezes, terrified. WAINWRIGHT It's the magic, isn't it? Doing all kinds of crazy stuff. Zorr hesitates, then nods slowly. ZORR Yes. Exactly. WAINWRIGHT I knew it!

Zorr breathes a sigh of relief.

PRE-LAP: A phone rings.

ED (V.O.) Hey, Myrtle. What?

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ed speaks on the phone.

ED (into phone) Okay. On my way.

He hangs up faces the others.

ED Weird stuff going on at the library. (to Catalina & Icky) You two going to be okay with the Scepter?

CATALINA I think so. And better to do it on our own.

VAL C'mon, Tyler. Let's get you to school.

TYLER But I want to stay.

ED No. Catalina's right.

GARROWAY I can stay. Couldn't hurt to have a little magic on standby, right?

ICKY That's not necessary.

CATALINA Icky, hush. Thank you, Garroway.

ICKY

Ugh. Fine.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Catalina whispers and waves her hands over the Scepter. Icky and Garroway watch. Icky shoots a side-eye at Garroway, then scootches away, putting a little more space between them.

The Scepter glows, sparks. A spark lands on Broom. Broom jerks, REVS like a Harley. It zooms around the room, heads straight for Icky and Garroway.

ICKY

Look out!

They drop. Broom continues to circle.

CATALINA Broom! Stop that!

Broom picks up speed and crashes out the window. Catalina scrambles to the broken window and peers out to see Broom make a beeline down the street.

Catalina flings the front door open.

CATALINA

Come on!

GARROWAY

Wait!

WHOOSH! Garroway zooms down the hall. WHOOSH! He returns in the blink of an eye with his leash in his mouth.

ICKY

No. No way.

up on foot.

Catalina scoops up Icky and clips the leash to Garroway's collar.

CATALINA No time to argue! Go!

GARROWAY

Hang on!

BOOM! They rocket out. The door slams shut behind them

EXT. STREET - DAY

Garroway zooms. Catalina holds the leash and flies horizontally. Icky holds onto her.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Zorr, Wainwright and the three Squadronites huddle behind a bush, which does a terrible job of concealing them.

ZORR The Spellcaster must be near. Find her and bring her to me.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A parked ICE CREAM TRUCK plays a tinkly "Farmer In The Dell". The VENDOR hands ice cream cones to TWO KIDS.

A Squadronite runs up. He clutches his ears.

SQUADRONITE Aaugh! Make that hideous noise stop!

The Kids and Vendor scream and run away.

The Squadronite rocks the truck back and forth. It tips over with a CRASH. Frozen treats cascade out as the music runs down. The Squadronite regards the spill and grabs one.

The wrapper shows a boy eating an ice cream bar. The Squadronite gobbles it. Wrapper, stick, the whole shebang. His taste buds go to work.

Euphoric bliss.

He gulps it down, scarfs another, then another. This will not end anytime soon.

EXT. SKY - DAY

A Google Maps-esque view of the entire town. A small blur crisscrosses the grid of streets.

ICKY (V.O.) How hard can it be to find an out-ofcontrol flying b

EXT. YET ANOTHER STREET - DAY

The VW sits at a red light. It blasts Soft Cell's "Tainted Love". Wainwright staggers out of a nearby alley, mesmerized.

> SOFT CELL (V.O.) (singing) Now I know I've got to --

BUMP BUMP! Wainwright's hips move in sync with the beat.

SOFT CELL (V.O.) (singing) Run away! I've got to get away.

His legs join in, then the rest of him. A prime example of "dance like nobody's watching".

A sparkly green swirl hits the VW. A 60ish MAN WITH A GRAY PONYTAIL jumps out and runs away. The music continues as the car transforms into a enormous metallic beetle and skitters away. Wainwright follows, gets down with his bad self.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

A TEACHER holds a dixie cup over a paper maché volcano.

TEACHER And when the vinegar hits the baking soda...whoosh!

She mimes a volcano erupting.

TEACHER

Ready?

She empties the cup into the volcano. A sparkly green swirl curls out of the floor and up into it. Tyler spots the swirl.

TYLER

No, wait!

TEACHER Don't worry. It's perfectly safe.

DEREK (under his breath) Nerd.

The volcano rumbles, spits out puffs of smoke. Then a spark. And another. The smoke turns black.

TEACHER That's not supposed to happen.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Sparkly green swirls fly everywhere. Myrtle chases books scurrying about on tiny legs.

MYRTLE

Get back here, you!

A LIBRARY PATRON screams and runs past. FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER lumbers after her.

FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER

Friend!

ROBIN HOOD swings down from a bookshelf, nocks an arrow and lets it fly. SCARLETT O'HARA flitters to RHETT BUTLER.

SCARLETT O'HARA Oh, Rhett! Rhett! Where should I go? What shall I do?

RHETT BUTLER Frankly, my dear, I don't give a-

The clatter of swordplay between D'ARTAGNAN and KING ARTHUR interrupts. GEORGE WASHINGTON and HIS CREW row past. The boat leaves a wake as if the floor was water.

GEORGE WASHINGTON Put your backs into it, men! CREWMAN (to himself) If my face was on the money, I wouldn't be rowing either.

Ed steps in, takes it all in. He rolls up his sleeves.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Garroway continues to run ridiculously fast. Broom zooms through the intersection ahead of them.

CATALINA There she is!

They whoosh around the corner.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Val approaches the door. Multiple CLIPPETY-CLOPS get louder. She stares at THREE CENTAURS galloping past, then pulls out her phone and types.

SUPER - To: Uncle Ed. Things are getting WEIRD.

A SCREAM from inside startles he

INT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Val bursts in to see Pete and Marci brace the storeroom door, desperate to keep it shut. Inhuman groans emanate from inside.

MARCI

Push harder!

PETE There's too many of them!

VAL Too many of what?

The groans get louder. Marci and Pete lose ground.

Inside the display cooler, HANDS MADE OF ICE CREAM smack against the glass. Val jumps back, startled.

PETE I can't hold it!

The door smashes open. Pete and Marci get thrown backwards. TWO DOZEN GINGERBREAD ZOMBIES stream out. Six inches tall. Deformed. Hideous. Possibly delicious.

The glass on the display cooler shatters. ICE CREAM BOOGEYMEN (mannequins made of partially melted ice cream) climb out.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

An ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN roars as it struggles against being sucked back into a book. SHLOOP! It vanishes within the pages. Ed closes the book. It floats to a shelf, slides into place.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Sparks fly from the volcano. The smoke gets thicker. The rumbling gets louder. The room shakes; at least a 4 or 5 on the Richter Scale.

KABOOM! The volcano erupts, spews smoke and ash. Fiery red lava flows down its tiny slopes.

TEACHER That is definitely not supposed to happen!

EXT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Broom hurtles past the parking lot. Garroway catches up and runs alongside. Catalina reaches out, grabs Broom. She swings Broom underneath her and climbs on.

CATALINA

Broom! Stop!

Broom slows and bucks like a wild bronco. Icky gets thrown and lands on his feet, because - cat. Catalina holds firm.

CATALINA

Steady! Steady!

Broom calms down. They land. Garroway doubles back, runs to them. Catalina holds onto Broom as she climbs off.

> CATALINA What's gotten into you?

ICKY Maybe the Scepter can fix her.

CATALINA If I can get it working.

ZORR (O.S.) So you DO have the Scepter. Catalina whirls around to face Zorr. Icky hisses at him. Garroway growls.

ZORR Give it to me.

Catalina steels herself.

CATALINA

No.

ZORR A most unwise decision.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Ed sees Catalina and Zorr outside. He makes for the door.

ED I'll be right back!

TARZAN hoists a thrilled Myrtle.

MYRTLE

Take your time!

EXT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Zorr steps towards Catalina. She takes a step back.

WAINWRIGHT (O.S.)

Boss! Boss!

Wainwright runs between them. He wears a MIAMI VICE-esque white suit and pastel t-shirt, and holds an oversized boombox.

WAINWRIGHT You gotta hear this! It's the perfect Squadron Repulsive Song of Victory!

He hits PLAY. A DRUMBEAT kicks in.

TONI BASIL (V.O.) (singing) Oh Mickey, you're so fine. You're so fine you blow my mind. Hey Mickey! Hey Mickey!

Wainwright shakes his groove thang, which obscures Zorr's view.

ZORR Move, you fool! Zorr shoves Wainwright. The music cuts short. Ed steps in front of Catalina. He does his best to look tough. It doesn't work.

> ED Leave them alone. Or...I'll zap you!

Zorr responds with a textbook "Seriously?" look.

Garroway joins Ed, gestures to Catalina and Icky.

GARROWAY Go! We've got this.

Catalina and Icky hop onto Broom and fly away. Zorr seethes.

ZORR

Wainwright!

Wainwright lumbers up, looms tall behind Zorr. Zorr points to Ed and Garroway.

ZORR Deal with...these. I've a Spellcaster to catch.

Zorr runs off. Wainwright rips off his suit - back to his regular attire - and cracks his knuckles.

WAINWRIGHT

My pleasure.

INT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Val swings a mop at a ROCKY ROAD BOOGEYMAN. Marci flings spoons at a PISTACHIO BOOGEYMAN. Pete smashes Gingerbread Zombies with a plunger; each piece grows into a new Gingerbread Zombie.

The confectionary terrors close in on the trio.

INT. L. FRANK BAUM MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Students and Teachers run. Smoldering lava flows after them.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Catalina and Icky zoom on Broom. ZAP! Broom swerves as a purple lightning bolt sizzles past. Catalina and Icky look back. Zorr grimaces as he flies erratically towards them.

ICKY He's tapped into the pure magic! CATALINA Then so will I.

ICKY No! It's too risky!

Another lightning bolt flies perilously close; so close it singes one of Icky's whiskers.

ICKY Then again, life <u>is</u> about taking risks.

Catalina waves a hand. A brick wall appears in front of Zorr. WHAM! He crashes into it like Wile E. Coyote into a painting of a tunnel, then thuds unconscious onto the pavement.

Catalina and Icky share a shocked look.

EXT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

A gigantic sledgehammer knocks Wainwright back. He shakes it off and advances.

The sledgehammer turns into a cannon. Its fuse burns down. BOOM! A cannonball screams towards Wainwright. KABLAM! It hits him dead center, but he stomps forward.

> WAINWRIGHT You're wasting your time, shorty.

Garroway zooms a coil of rope tight around Wainwright's ankles. Wainwright teeters, flexes his legs. The rope snaps.

Wainwright swats at Garroway. He snags Garroway's collar. It SNAPS. The dog tumbles clear. Ed rushes up. He sports oversized boxing gloves.

ED

Hey! Ugly!

Wainwright turns. Ed swings and just clips Wainwright's chin. Wainwright, surprised, staggers. His arms flail, which backhands Ed and sends him sprawling.

INT. L. FRANK BAUM MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The lava creeps towards the trapped Students and Teachers.

STUDENTS & TEACHERS Help! Help! Please! Somebody help! Tyler's eyes light up.

INT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Gingerbread Zombies and Ice Cream Boogeymen close in on Val, Marci and Pete. Marci clutches Pete.

MARCI Do something!

PETE

HELP!

Marci smacks him.

MARCI I could've done that.

Val whips out her phone.

EXT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Wainwright roars and charges Ed and Garroway. A banana peel appears in front of him. He slips on it, flips up - way up - into the air.

A giant four-fingered cartoon glove appears and swats him down HARD. He crashes, sprawls out in an unconscious heap. Ed breathes easy.

ED Thank you, Sammy Squirrel.

SPLIT SCREEN

-Tyler crosses his fingers, takes a deep breath.

-Val's fingers fly on her phone. She hits SEND.

BACK TO SCENE

Ed's phone DINGS.

TYLER (O.C.) (echo) Garroway! Help!

Garroway's ears perk up.

Ed reads his phone.

SUPER - HELP!!!

ED So's Val! Go!

BOOM! Garroway rockets off.

Ed waves his hand. A door appears.

INT. L. FRANK BAUM MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Lava closes in. Everybody looks terrified. CRASH! Garroway smashes through the wall. He streaks ahead of the lava and digs - faster than you can possibly imagine. Dirt and rubble fly.

A deep trench soon separates the lava and its intended victims. Garroway leaps clear just before the lava pours in. Everybody cheers.

Garroway teeters, panting heavily. Tyler rushes up, hugs him.

TYLER I knew you'd come!

Garroway, exhausted, licks Tyler's face.

GARROWAY Always. I'm pooped. Can we go home?

Tyler nods, pets Garroway. His hand stops on the dog's neck.

TYLER Where's your collar?

INT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Gingerbread Zombies and Ice Cream Boogeymen close in around Val, Marci and Pete. Ed steps out of a doorway. It vanishes. He waves his hands.

A giant tub labeled "Marshmallow Sauce" appears and tips over. The sticky contents spill towards the Gingerbread Zombies. It stops them where they stand.

A ring of glowing heat lamps appears around the Ice Cream Boogeymen. They thrash and moan as they meet their demise.

Ed stumbles. Val splashes through ankle-deep melted ice cream, props him up.

VAL Just in time. You okay?

Ed responds with a feeble smile.

ED Suddenly feel exhausted.

VAL Let's get you home.

She guides him towards the door.

VAL Taking the rest of the day off. See you guys in the morning!

Marci and Pete, each splattered with ice cream and marshmallow, stare speechlessly.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Val's car pulls away. An Ice Cream Boogeyman staggers after it.

An extremely fat Squadronite, barely recognizable as the one that attacked the ice cream truck, speed-waddles towards the Boogeyman and FLINGS ITSELF at it.

They fall out of frame. We hear roars, gulps and slurps.

The Squadronite pops back up, ice cream all over its face and hands. It shoves in the last bite of ice cream and gulps it down. Its body rumbles and swells.

Marci and Pete, still dazed, shuffle out the door.

MARCI Ugh. I don't want to even think about ice cream for a long time.

PETE

Me either.

Something wet EXPLODES offscreen. Ice cream and...other stuff rains down on them.

INT. ED'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Eyes closed, Catalina holds the Scepter. She whispers. The Scepter glows. Icky watches with keen interest.
EXT. STREET

Wainwright wakes up, shakes off the cobwebs. He sees something nearby on the ground, picks it up.

WAINWRIGHT

Huh.

EXT. ANOTHER STREET - DAY

Zorr sprawls out, still unconscious.

WAINWRIGHT (O.S.)

Boss! Boss!

Wainwright runs up, sees his knocked-out master.

WAINWRIGHT Hang on, Boss! I'll save you!

Wainwright kneels and leans in, ready for mouth-to-mouth. Zorr's nostrils flare. His eyes pop open. He recoils.

ZORR

Eugh!

WAINWRIGHT You're okay! Time for the Squadron Repulsive Song of Victory!

ZORR No! Did you defeat the magic-user?

Wainwright hangs his head in shame.

ZORR Curses! Now we'll never find the Spellcaster! Or the Scepter!

WAINWRIGHT I snagged this off the short one. Think it'll help?

Wainwright holds out Garroway's collar - with the new tag that shows Ed's address.

VING ROOM - DAY

The Scepter glows in Catalina's hands. Tyler runs in, Garroway in his arms.

TYLER Garroway stopped a freakin' volcano! Val enters, doing her best to keep Ed on his feet.

VAL You guys are not going to believe what just happened!

ICKY

Shhh!

They go silent, watch Catalina and the Scepter. The crack gets smaller. Catalina flexes her hand.

CATALINA It's working! The balance of magic is being restored.

Garroway sags in Tyler's arms. Ed goes limp.

ED Why do I feel so tired?

ICKY The magic's being taken out of you. Turning you back to normal.

Tyler clutches Garroway.

TYLER

Garroway?

GARROWAY It's okay, Tyler.

Icky panics.

ICKY But if you can feel the magic, that means so can --

KABLAM! The front wall explodes. The smoke clears. Zorr hovers outside. He glows sparkly purple. Wainwright stands behind him.

WAINWRIGHT Way to go, Boss!

Zorr spots Catalina and the Scepter.

ZORR I'll take that.

She grips the Scepter tight. Zorr sneers. His glow intensifies.

ZORR Then suffer the consequences! He launches a purple magic blast at her. She flinches as an opaque green bubble forms around her. His blast bounces off and smashes through a nearby wall.

Zorr scowls, blasts again. It ricochets off the bubble and heads back towards him. He ducks. Wainwright doesn't. The blast slams into him like a runaway freight train.

Catalina catches her breath, looks to Icky.

ICKY

Do it!

Catalina nods, waves a hand. A sparkly green blast fires at Zorr. A protective shield appears around him. It repels the blast, which takes out another section of wall.

Green and purple blasts fly back and forth. The house sustains A LOT of damage.

Wainwright sits up, dazed. A green blast bounces off Zorr's shield and conks Wainwright in the noggin. He goes down.

A purple blast ricochets off Catalina's bubble and beelines towards an unaware Icky. Broom flies in front of the blast. KA-RACK! THE IMPACT SNAPS BROOM IN HALF.

Icky and Catalina freeze, stunned.

ICKY

Broom?

Catalina shakes with rage. She stares daggers at Zorr. He sneers in triumph. Her eyes ablaze, Catalina screams and points the Scepter at him. It launches a blindingly white blast at him.

Zorr's arrogance quickly turns to terror. The blast bears down. He can't get clear fast enough. It shatters his shield and hits him square in the chest.

KABLAM! The explosion flings him backwards. Wainwright gets to his feet - just as Zorr crashes into him. They both go down.

The others rush to Broom. Catalina sets the Scepter down. Her hands tremble as she collects Broom's two halves.

CATALINA (voice cracking) You'll be okay. I can fix you.

She attempts to fit the two halves together. Green sparkles appear around the break, then fizzle away.

CATALINA

No!

ICKY

Catalina.

She pushes him away, grabs the Scepter and points it at the break. Nothing happens.

CATALINA (sobbing) I have to fix her!

Purple smoke wafts from Zorr's shattered amulet. His body distorts and goes all scrawny. His face and hands flicker. The flickering stops. Zorr struggles to stand.

WE DON'T SEE ZORR'S FACE.

WAINWRIGHT Boss! That thing happened to your face again! And the rest of you!

The others look to see Zorr feel his body, then his face. HIS HANDS OBSTRUCT OUR VIEW.

TODD (terrified, squeaky) No!

He lowers his hands. Catalina and Icky gasp. Zorr's studly visage has been replaced with that of the Pimply-Faced Teen, hereafter referred to as...

CATALINA Todd. You're Todd.

ED

Todd as in "The Tragic Tale of ...?"

SERIES OF SHOTS

-Todd's face is clearly visible as he steals the Scepter.

-Todd loses control of the Scepter.

-Todd goes FAZOOM.

BACK TO SCENE

Todd sneers, rips off his busted amulet.

TODD

I don't need this! I am strong and powerful! Now give me the Scepter!

He holds out a hand. The Scepter starts to fly out of Catalina's grasp. She grips it tight and digs her heels in.

CATALINA

No!

Todd gets caught off-guard. He grimaces. His hands shake. The Scepter gets caught in a magical tug-of-war. Neither has any intention of giving ground. Todd scoffs.

> TODD It's too much for you. Even now you feel yourself losing control.

Beads of sweat appear on Catalina's forehead. This is really pushing her to the limit. She resets her stance.

> VAL Don't listen to him!

TYLER Yeah! You got this!

Ed nudges Garroway.

ED C'mon. We can still help her.

GARROWAY

Right!

Ed and Garroway charge forward.

WAINWRIGHT I got 'em, Boss!

Wainwright runs defense, body-checks both of them. Ed and Garroway crash into what's left of the wall.

VAL

TYLER

Uncle Ed!

Garroway!

Val and Tyler run to them. Todd scowls at Catalina. Catalina trembles. Not from fear or lack of confidence; she's running out of gas.

TODD Did you really think you could beat me? Once I have the Scepter, there's nowhere you can hide!

Catalina pauses.

CATALINA (whisper) Hide. (aloud) All of you! Get behind me! ICKY

Catalina?

CATALINA

NOW!!

Icky scrambles behind her. Val and Tyler help Ed and Garroway. Catalina mutters something under her breath. Icky notices. The Scepter glows.

THE SCREEN FILLS WITH A SHIELD-YOUR-EYES-BRIGHT FLASH!

The flash subsides. Todd and Wainwright stand alone. The Scepter hangs in midair, then drops to the floor with a CLANG! Todd scoops up the Scepter, dances with unbridled glee.

WAINWRIGHT

You did it, Boss!

Todd quickly composes himself.

TODD

Naturally.

WAINWRIGHT So we can go home now?

Todd clutches the Scepter, grins a maniacal grin.

TODD A dimension begging to be ruled and no Spellcasters to stand in my way? We <u>are</u> home.

He waves the Scepter.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

The pinprick changes from green to purple. It gets brighter and brighter until... It BURSTS OPEN with an ULTRA-MEGA-BASS BOOM. A purple shockwave pulsates outward.

EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS

The shockwave passes over EVERYTHING.

EXT. STREET - DAY

TOWNSPEOPLE run in terror from rampaging TROLLS. They pass A LINE OF ARMORED UNICORNS. Somewhere a bugle blows "CHARGE!" Both sides run at each other.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

AN OBLIVIOUS MAN takes a bath in a clawfoot tub that walks out the door.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

Somber organ music plays from inside, then cuts short. A few seconds of silence, then panicked screams! Frantic MOURNERS run out. A MAN runs right up, looks into the camera.

MAN

I can't tell you! It's too gruesome!

EXT. POCKET DIMENSION

Catalina, Icky, and the family float in an endless void filled with sparkly colored swirls.

ICKY Are we dead? This isn't how I imagined it.

Tyler brushes his hand against a passing blue swirl. Blue drips down his fingers. An orange swirl runs along Garroway's back. A yellow swirl curves around Val.

> VAL Where are we?

CATALINA The pocket dimension within the Scepter. Full of pure magic.

Ed ducks a passing red swirl.

ED Within? Like, INSIDE? We are literally inside the Scepter?

TYLER

So. Cool.

They all take in the spectacle.

CATALINA It was the safest place I could think of. Zorr, I mean Todd, probably thinks we all went FAZOOM.

ICKY That's the spell you were casting!

Catalina looks away, embarrassed.

CATALINA I wasn't strong enough to stop him.

ICKY Excuse me? Not strong enough?

Icky floats around to face her.

ICKY You outsmarted a Dark Wizard AND got us to safety. That takes the kind of strength a true Spellcaster has.

Her sheepish smile grows.

CATALINA Sorry I pushed you.

He waves it off - no big deal.

ED We can get out of here, right?

TYLER Not me. I'm staying.

A globe of sparkly blue bricks materializes around Tyler.

VAL

Tyler!

Val works a ridiculously oversized sparkly yellow jackhammer against the globe. Ed floats over. The jackhammer vanishes.

ED Tyler? Come on.

He taps the globe. It disintegrates into red sparkles. Tyler looks sullen.

TYLER Why would I want to go back?

ED We'd miss you, for one thing. And sometimes we have to do things we don't want to.

Ed puts a hand on Tyler's shoulder.

ED

Magic or no magic, it's up to us to face everything that comes our way with what's in here...

He taps Tyler's chest.

ED

And here.

He taps Tyler's temple.

ED

It'll be tough, but we'll be okay.

All eyes look to Tyler. He gives in.

TYLER

Okay.

Family hug.

TYLER But it still sucks.

Garroway glows sparkly orange as his torso stretches and wraps around all of them several times. He pulls them in tight. They laugh. Garroway returns to his normal length.

> CATALINA Looks like being here has infused all of you with pure magic.

Tyler's eyes go wide.

TYLER We've got magic inside us?

He crackles, covered in sparkly blue.

TYLER THIS. IS. AWESOME!!

ICKY It also increases your chances of going FAZOOM.

Tyler's glow fades.

TYLER

Aw.

A light bulb lights up over Catalina's head. She plucks the bulb and tosses it. It crashes offscreen. Ed looks to Tyler, Val and Garroway. They nod.

ED

We're in.

Icky salutes.

ICKY Ready to aid and assist.

CATALINA

Okay. Here we go.

She waves her hands. Sparkly multicolored swirls whiz around them, faster and faster, brighter and brighter. They collect into a sphere that crackles with magical energy, then VANISHES.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - DAY

In the driveway, a boulder sits atop the pancaked minivan. The sphere appears next to it, then dissipates. Catalina, Icky and the family take in the devastation.

Ed sees what's left of the house - like it had been attacked by an overzealous wrecking crew. Val picks up the iPad, now dark with a cracked screen. Tyler finds a charred Captain Kirby book.

ICKY (O.S.)

Catalina.

Catalina rushes over. She pales at what she sees. Icky stands over Broom's broken halves. Catalina picks them up with the greatest of care, fits them together.

CATALINA

I can do this.

Nothing happens. She takes a deep breath, exhales.

CATALINA

I <u>will</u> do this.

A tiny ring of green sparkles appears around the break. It swirls, fades in and out.

Icky and the family watch, eager.

CATALINA (barely a whisper) I will. More sparkles appear around the break. Then more. They merge into a solid ring. The ring covers the break. The two halves fuse together. Catalina slowly releases Broom. Broom hovers.

ICKY

You did it!!

Catalina wipes a tear and embraces Broom.

CATALINA

Can't imagine flying any other broom. You ready?

Broom shakes. Catalina climbs on. Icky hops on behind her. She looks to the family.

CATALINA I'll deal with Todd. Do what you can to get things back under control.

ICKY And be careful!

They fly away.

Ed faces the house, spreads his arms. The wreckage glows sparkly red. The house begins to slowly rebuild itself.

The iPad glows sparkly yellow. The cracks vanish and the screen lights up to show the image of Lady Powerfist. Val now sports the armor of Lady Powerfist.

(NOTE: VAL'S VOICE IS DIGITIZED WHILE SHE'S IN THE ARMOR)

VAL

Nice.

A futuristic motorcycle matching her armor rolls up. Val climbs on, guns the powerful engine and peels out.

TYLER

My turn.

The burned book glows sparkly blue. Tyler scrunches his eyes shut, then opens them. He holds the now-pristine book and wears the seafaring garb of Captain Kirby.

SAILORS (0.S.)

Ahoy, Cap'n!

Ahoy!

Tyler looks up. THE SOUND OF CRASHING OCEAN WAVES GETS LOUDER as a majestic schooner sails down OUT OF THE SKY. Tyler salutes.

TYLER

The ship glides towards them. A rope ladder drops down. Tyler scrambles up as the vessel heads skyward.

ED

Tyler!

TYLER

I know, I know! I'll be careful!

Ed and Garroway watch the ship sail up and away. Garroway looks to Ed.

GARROWAY

Try to keep up.

BOOM! Garroway leaves a trail of sparkly orange sparkles as he rockets away.

Ed faces the house. The rebuilding continues. He regards the boulder and what's left of the minivan. He gets ready to snap his fingers, then pauses. A big grin, then...SNAP!

A scorch red 1971 Plymouth Hemi 426 'Cuda sits in the driveway. The driver door opens as the motor vrooms to life: 425 horses in all their glory.

Ed climbs in, puts on his seat belt. He adjusts a pair of sunglasses that weren't there a second ago. The car burns rubber as it roars away.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Val rolls up. The front wall EXPLODES. Val leaps, lands in a defensive stance.

Madam Mayhem strides out. Something about her appearance seems familiar. Brother Battleaxe emerges behind her. His face also rings a bell.

MADAM MAYHEM Ah. Lady Powerfist.

BROTHER BATTLEAXE Great! Time for a little mauling.

VAL Marci? Pete? Don't worry, guys. I'll fix this.

MADAM MAYHEM

You'll die!

Madam Mayhem charges Val as Brother Battleaxe flings his axe. Val jumps clear from Madam Mayhem.

VAL Hey! I'm trying to help!

She ducks as the axe WHOOSHES past, then boomerangs back.

ZAP! Val's gauntlets fire. Lasers hit the axe. It spins wildly off-course and THUNKS into the Gingerbread House.

A shadow falls on Val from behind. She spins to see Madam Mayhem airborne, about to hit her with a flying elbow. Val scrambles clear. Madam Mayhem slams into the ground.

Brother Battleaxe yanks his axe free, faces Val. Madam Mayhem springs up behind Val and traps her in a bearhug. She squeezes with all her might. Val winces as her armor cracks.

BROTHER BATTLEAXE The perfect target.

He raises his axe and lets it fly!

ZAP! Val's gauntlets blast Madam Mayhem's feet. Madam Mayhem howls and releases her. Val backflips up and over Madam Mayhem. WHAM! The axe wallops Madam Mayhem in the face. She snarls.

> MADAM MAYHEM You did that on purpose!

The axe flies back to him.

BROTHER BATTLEAXE Don't blame me 'cause you screwed up!

MADAM MAYHEM I screwed up? Maybe if you'd actually been paying attention-

Brother Battleaxe gestures "blah blah blah".

MADAM MAYHEM

That does it!

Madam Mayhem launches herself at Brother Battleaxe.

BROTHER BATTLEAXE

Bring it!

He rushes her. They CRASH into each other head-on and collapse. Neither moves. Val inches closer. Her helmet pixilates away. She eyes the unconscious pair.

> VAL That's how you win the big boss battle! (MORE)

Yes!

EXT. SCHOONER - DECK -DAY

Tyler and A BURLY SAILOR peer ahead through telescopes. Burly Sailor points.

BURLY SAILOR Off the starboard bow, Cap'n! An old friend rearin' his ugly 'ead.

Tyler swings his telescope in that direction.

TYLER'S POV - THROUGH TELESCOPE

A gigantic OCTOPUS thrashes a playground.

BACK TO SCENE

Tyler digs out his book. The octopus ahead matches the one on the cover, albeit significantly bigger.

TYLER The Tentacled Terror of Toronado Bay.

BURLY SAILOR Change course, Cap'n?

Tyler stashes the book, sizes up the octopus.

TYLER Full speed ahead.

Burly Sailor smiles.

BURLY SAILOR

Aye aye!

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

The schooner sails towards the immense cephalopod. Tyler swings on a rope towards its head.

TYLER Prepare to have your butt kicked!

A tentacle whips around him, yanks him down. Tyler struggles in its vice-like grip. He hangs upside down between the octopus's scowling eyes.

> OCTOPUS Where you think you're going, shrimp?

Tyler stares.

TYLER

Derek?

The Octopus laughs.

TYLER

Let...me...go!

Tyler's hands glow sparkly blue. The tentacle ices over. Tyler slips out, lands on one below it.

TYLER

I don't care how big you are.

Another tentacle whips towards him. Tyler grabs the iced-over one and runs. Two more come at him. He dodges them and leaps onto another.

TYLER

You're just a bully.

He hurdles yet another tentacle, then zigzags past another one. He gives the one in his hands a hard yank.

> TYLER And I'm not afraid of you.

The octopus struggles, all its tentacles tied up in crazy knots.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

The marquee reads: "TODAY - CARTOON MATINEE" and "TOMORROW - JAPANESE MONSTER FILM FESTIVAL". A TEETH-RATTLING RUMBLING reverberates. A CROWD bursts out and scatters.

The theater's roof explodes. A sixty-foot-tall cartoon squirrel emerges: glowing eyes, fangs, armor-like spikes along its back.

SQUIRRELZILLA.

The monstrosity ROARS. It crashes out of the theater as the terrified Crowd rushes down the street. They part as they flow around Garroway, who growls.

A cage materializes around Squirrelzilla. The beast DOES NOT like that. Its spikes glow. It unleashes A BLAST OF PURPLE FIRE, then thrashes and shatters the cage. It trudges forward.

Garroway zooms around Squirrelzilla's feet. The gargantuan rodent tries to stomp him, but misses. The shockwave bowls Garroway over.

He gets to his feet, shakes it off. He leaps at Squirrelzilla's left rear paw. CHOMP! His teeth dig in.

Squirrelzilla bellows and attempts to flick him off, but the determined canine holds on tight.

Swirls of sparkly purple gush from the puncture. Squirrelzilla sags and deflates like a balloon.

Squirrelzilla's drained husk soon blankets the street. Garroway lets go, wags his tail.

GARROWAY Who's a good boy? (indicates himself) This guy!

EXT. STREET - DAY

The 'Cuda zooms, then makes a hard sharp turn - just before the metallic beetle drops into the road.

The muscle car screeches to a halt. Ed hops out to the sound of A THUMPING BASS AND BLARING HORN SECTION.

WANG CHUNG (V.O.) (singing) Everybody Wang Chung tonight!

Ed turns. A giant fist wallops him.

WANG CHUNG (V.O.) (singing) Everybody have fun tonight!

Ed sails through the air towards a nearby building. An oversized spring appears. He lands on it and BOINGS to safety.

Wainwright, now twice as big with steroid-level muscles, sparkles purple as he lumbers towards Ed.

WAINWRIGHT Back for more, shorty?

Thick chains wrap around Wainwright. He takes a deep breath and flexes his muscles. The chains snap and break into pieces. Wainwright bounces to the beat as he dusts himself off.

> WAINWRIGHT Scrappy. I like that. Once I'm done with you, should I go after the boy or the other one?

Ed's eyes flare.

You know what they say about taking on somebody from New Jersey?

WAINWRIGHT

No. What?

A construction crane appears behind Ed. A massive wrecking ball swings at Wainwright. WHAM! He crashes into a brick wall. Ed speaks through the noise.

> ED -k around and find out.

Wainwright steps clear and smiles at Ed. The music gets louder. Wainwright swings his hips.

> WANG CHUNG (V.O.) (singing) Everybody have fun.

WAINWRIGHT The perfect sound to pulverize a puny little nothing like you.

ED A puny little nothing who can do...this!

Ed holds out his hands, palms up. A tiny red spark appears in each hand. He "pushes" them towards Wainwright, who's not sure what to make of all of this.

WAINWRIGHT Is something supposed to happen?

The sparks crackle like electricity. The crackling builds and builds, until... ZAP! Each shoots a bolt of red lightning at Wainwright. BOOM! Wainwright explodes in a puff of smoke.

The smoke dissipates to reveal a mirrored disco ball on the ground. Wainwright's image appears in every square. They all look around, cocky.

WAINWRIGHT (multiple voices) You think this is going to hold me?

ED Yep. Time to change the station.

The music stops. AN UPBEAT DRUMBEAT kicks in.

THE B-52'S (V.O.) (singing) If you see a faded sign at the side of the road that says fifteen miles to the Looocove Shack!

The Wainwrights all clutch their ears, yell in agony.

WAINWRIGHT (multiple voices) Aaugh! Make it stop! It burns! Oh, the humanity!

Ed wipes his hands. That's that.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

Todd hovers a few stories up. He revels in the magical chaos all around him.

TODD A ruler needs a proper home!

He waves the Scepter. A massive stone castle rumbles out of the ground. A pair of giant steel-toed boots appear. They stomp the castle into rubble.

TODD

WHO DARES??

Catalina stands on Broom and rises up behind Todd. Wow, does she look defiant.

Icky sits on Broom's straws, regards Todd in that condescending way cats do.

CATALINA

I do.

Todd whirls around, scowls.

TODD So you didn't go FAZOOM after all. I'll make sure this time!

The Scepter fires a sparkly purple blast at them. Catalina deflects the blast, but struggles to stay balanced. She steadies herself, looks defiant once more.

Todd stares, astonished. He grips the Scepter tight. The Scepter fires a bigger blast.

A giant slingshot appears in front of Catalina. It catches the blast, stretches to an inch from her nose. She remains unfazed.

The elastic snaps the blast back at Todd. He dives clear just before it explodes.

A dark cloud appears over Todd. It rumbles, then unleashes several green lightning bolts at him. He barely dodges them. One zaps him in the derriere.

TODD

Ow!

Multiple throwing stars spin towards Catalina from all directions. With incredible speed and dexterity, she snags each one out of the air, then crushes them into a glowing orb the size of a baseball.

She winds up like a baseball pitcher and flings the orb at him. It changes into an elephant stampeding towards Todd. A sparkly purple wall appears. The elephant smashes through and slams into Todd. He spins ass-over-teakettle, then rights himself.

> TODD Impossible! A nobody like you is no equal for all this power!

Catalina stands tall, proud.

CATALINA I am NOT a nobody! I. Am. A. SPELLCASTER!

She launches a hail of intense sparkly green towards him. At first intimidated, Todd deflects it with a wave of his hand.

TODD Not as powerful as you think.

CATALINA

Think again.

The green curls back around and flows into the Scepter, which glows white.

TODD What did you do?

CATALINA You want power? Take it! All of it!

The glow expands. It envelops Todd. White swirls fly around him. He trembles. His voice quivers.

TODD It's too much! I can't control it!

More swirls appear. A sphere of sparkly white takes shape.

CATALINA

You thought you were ready for this. Then, and now. You thought wrong.

TODD

No! You won't stop me! I will be the strongest, the most powerful-

The sphere swallows him up. It shines blindingly bright, then EXPLODES IN A PUFF OF SMOKE.

The smoke dissipates. Only the Scepter remains, crackling with magical energy. It hangs in the air for a second, then plummets.

CATALINA

No!

Catalina zooms down after it. Broom shakes from the intense high speed.

CATALINA

C'mon, Broom! You can do it!

Catalina snags the Scepter just before it hits the ground. Energy crackles up her arm. She screams.

CATALINA It's too much!

ICKY

You can do this!

CATALINA

I can't!

He puts a paw on her shoulder.

ICKY (calm) Yes. You can.

Catalina holds the Scepter with both hands. She shuts her eyes, steadies her breathing. The crackles retreat into the Scepter, then fade away. Catalina opens her eyes.

CATALINA

Did it work?

Icky jumps into her arms, hugs her. She reciprocates, then gives Broom a pat.

CATALINA I knew you could do it. A sparkly green swirl flies past them. Then another. And another. More swirls fly past.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-Multiple swirls converge on the Gingerbread House.

-Everything in town changes back to the way it was.

-Madam Mayhem and Brother Battleaxe revert into Marci and Pete.

-The giant octopus shrinks and becomes Derek.

EXT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

Numerous swirls fly into the pinprick. Also in the mix - the assorted Squadronites and Wainwright's disco ball.

The family stands nearby. Their respective swirls flow out of them and join the green ones.

Catalina and Icky land and hop off Broom. She holds the Scepter.

CATALINA It'll close up once all the magic goes through. We need to go.

TYLER Are you sure you can't stay?

ICKY It's a nice dimension, but it's not home.

Catalina indicates the Scepter.

CATALINA And I need to get this back. Thanks for everything. All of you.

A hug between her and Ed.

ED I hope you keep trying.

CATALINA

You too.

Val snuggles Icky.

ICKY

Go get 'em.

Tyler pets Garroway.

Catalina offers a sympathetic smile. She climbs onto Broom.

CATALINA

Let's go, Icky.

Icky pads towards her. He stops near Garroway.

ICKY Good job. For a <u>dog</u>.

Garroway responds with a big slobbering lick. Icky recoils, but still manages a smile. He hops on behind Catalina. Broom rises.

The family waves. Icky and Catalina wave back as they fly into the pinprick with the last of the swirls. The pinprick seals up and vanishes.

> GARROWAY I wonder how long until the magic sto-

His voice changes to a bark. Ed waves a hand. Nothing happens. Tyler's shoulders sag. Val puts her arm around him. Tyler pets Garroway, who whimpers.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - DAY

The house sits in all its restored shabbiness.

The minivan pulls into the driveway.

ED (V.O.) Like it never happened.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Derek terrorizes a SMALL BOY.

Tyler walks in. He sees them and turns away, then stops. He turns back and strides up to Derek.

TYLER Leave him alone, Derek.

DEREK Or what, shrimp?

Tyler steps closer, stares Derek down. No fear. No hesitation.

Or you'll be very. Very. Sorry.

Derek scoffs. Tyler's expression remains the same. Derek gulps, releases Small Boy and hurries away. Small Boy regards Tyler with total awe. Tyler heads to his desk with a grin of triumph.

INT. GINGERBREAD HOUSE - DAY

Val steps in. She sees her portfolio on the counter, flips through it.

MARCI (O.S.) About time you got here!

Marci stomps in, boxes of ice cream cones under each arm.

MARCI Jeez, put that away. We got restocking to do.

Pete rolls in a dolly of boxes.

PETE Toilet's acting up again, Val. Take care of it, willya?

Val glances at her portfolio, then back to Pete and Marci.

VAL

I quit.

She turns and strides out.

Pete and Marci stare, slack-jawed.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

STORYTIME ROOM

Ed holds up an illustrated storybook. He smiles, exaggerates his gestures. The half-dozen Kids hang on his every word.

ED "The dragon breathed a mighty fireball at brave Sir Eugene, who blocked it with his magic shield!"

The Kids cheer.

ED "And now, dragon, said Sir Eugene, prepare to-" He pauses, looks down next to him.

Garroway pants, stares back.

ED "Prepare to-"

The sound fades as Ed reads in a very animated style.

INT. DARRING PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY

Ed shelves a book, then rolls the empty cart back to the checkout counter.

Ed sits. Garroway snoozes in his doggie bed.

Myrtle sets down two cups of tea.

MYRTLE How'd it go today?

ED Better. Think I put just enough 'oomph' into it.

He adds a little punch to 'oomph'.

MYRTLE See? Told you it would work! Speaking of which...

She hands him a brochure for bunge jumping.

MYRTLE Got any plans for next weekend?

He hands it back.

ED Maybe too much 'oomph' for me.

MYRTLE

Suit yourself. Mom loves it.

Ed leans back, looks around. He smiles.

INT. SPELLCASTERS COUNCIL TOWER - DAY

AUDITORIUM

A fully-recovered Mel stands at the lectern. Catalina, Icky and Broom stand next to him.

Broom's handle sports an engraved medal.

A miniature medal hangs around Icky's neck.

MEL Catalina, in recognition and gratitude for your extraordinary accomplishments, it gives me the greatest of pleasure to officially bestow on you the rank of Spellcaster!

Catalina beams to deafening cheers and applause.

Mel goes to shake her hand. She responds with a tight hug. Surprised at first, Mel reciprocates and pats her on the back.

> CATALINA Can I still come to you for training?

MEL Of course. Just try not to be late.

INT. THE VAULT - DAY

Catalina holds the Scepter before the empty alcove.

She gazes at the Scepter, pulls it close.

For a split second, it GLOWS.

Content, she sets the Scepter in its alcove. She waves her hand. Golden sparkles envelop the Scepter.

She turns and heads towards Icky and Broom waiting outside.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Catalina carries Broom. She and Icky walk away from The Vault (and a bandaged Guard).

ICKY So what was that back there?

CATALINA What was what?

ICKY The Scepter. What did you do?

Catalina smiles. She ain't tellin'.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

The family lounges on lawn chairs. They gaze up at the stars. Garroway rests at Tyler's feet.

None of them notice the solitary green sparkle that floats down and lands on Garroway.

VAL Think we'll ever see them again?

ED I don't know.

TYLER It was cool having the magic.

```
GARROWAY (O.S.)
It was, wasn't it?
```

They all sit up, stare at Garroway. He looks back, nonchalant.

GARROWAY

What?

Garroway freezes. His eyes narrow as he spots the Squirrel zip out of the woods and bound towards its tree. The dog crouches with a grin.

GARROWAY Be right back.

BOOM! He's gone.

SQUIRREL'S POV - GARROWAY

The dog rockets right at us.

SMASH BLACK