

Crossing Over

by

Bill Lae

4511 Barnard St.  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
818-605-9940  
Bill@BillLae.com

FADE IN:

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION (SOUTH BEACH) - DAY

A Mediterranean Revival Mansion nestles in groomed gardens.

EXT. DETACHED GUEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A "Guest House for Rent" sign lies atop garbage cans brimming with boxes. Newspapers litter the ornate, Saltillo tile walkway. Miami Herald Headlines: "Florida Execution Monday - Three Years After Confession." A muffled voice emanates from the window.

INT. GUEST HOUSE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

STEVEN DORSON, 26, thin, boyishly cute with bangs, poses shirtless in the mirror. Man-potions cover the counter: Vita-Man-Pak. Bulking Formula. Enlarging pills. Man-this. Man-that.

Steven holds an iPhone to his ear while he does a pathetic muscle pose. An iPad sits nearby in a speaker dock. The screen reads: "Streaming Live: Man-Up with Vic Goodman." Steven exhales and deflates what little mass he mustered.

STEVEN

(into phone)

Epic penis. Try it! Seriously. Just stick it in. See what happens.

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

You texted your blind date you couldn't make it because you just injected yourself with an epic penis?

STEVEN

Yes. No. It auto-corrected epi-pen. Try texting epi-pen! See what--

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

Why didn't you check--

STEVEN

Because I was having a seizure!

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

Surely you followed up with--

STEVEN

She blocked my number and changed her online profile to lesbian. That's how things always ends up.

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

Every date becomes a lesbian?

STEVEN

No. They block or ghost me.  
I never even make it to first base.  
Heaven forbid I ever get to use my  
... little batter.

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

You're a virgin?

STEVEN

Can you help me or not? I'm  
terrified of being outed!

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

So you've done it with a bro?

STEVEN

No! Outed as a virgin! Or worse. An  
incel! I've never been intimate with a  
man either. But I want to be with a  
girl. Woman. Lady. There's this... Her  
name is Mary. I asked--

VIC GOODMAN (V.O.)

You need to run with the wolves. Get  
some masculine role models for God's  
sake. Go to a club or bar. Fit in. Can  
you boast about a manly job or activity?

STEVEN

I do helm heavy machinery.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MOVING - DAY

A paper wad bounces off Steven's head. He drives a loaded  
bus, looks up in the mirror, watches a skirmish. BRETT  
BERNHARD, 11, hefty-goon, sits across the aisle from  
MATIAS ARTEMIS, 6, pip-squeak.

BRETT

Give me your milk money, sissy boy.

STEVEN

Hey Brett! Leave him alone.

BRETT

Just making sure Artsy here isn't  
armed. Like mother like son.

Steven sees Brett unbuckle, cross the aisle, shove Matias.

BRETT

My dad said your lesbo mom's gonna  
fry. On the bright side, you'll fit  
in better with one mother.

STEVEN  
Sit down. Now! I mean it.

Brett shoves Matias. Steven lifts his foot over the brake. Matias lifts his hand. Steven taps the brakes. Brett falls. Every last kid laughs at Brett, facedown in the center aisle.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

Brett exits the bus to see Steven kneel and dust off Matias.

STEVEN  
That's some mighty left jab!

BRETT  
I'm telling my dad.

STEVEN  
What? That he's created a monster?

Brett leaves. Steven stands. Matias hugs his legs. Steven freezes. His eyes dart about in surprise. He then kneels for a hug. Brett watches from a bush. His pout softens. Matias goes. Steven rises into MRS. BALTRIM, 56, hair-up, glasses-on.

STEVEN  
Principal Baltrim!

MRS. BALTRIM  
Oh no! Mr. Dorson! Children should never be touched! You'll end up in prison like his mother!

STEVEN  
What? His mother touched him?

Mrs. Baltrim moves Steven to the side and pulls him close.

MRS. BALTRIM  
That's Matias Artemis. They're executing his mother for murder. I know you're new in town but honestly.

STEVEN  
What? But then... that poor kid. Don't you think he needs--

MRS. BALTRIM  
No! He was too young to ever know her.  
(whispering)  
And he still has another mother.

STEVEN  
He has two moms so this is okay?

MRS. BALTRIM  
Shhhhh! Mr. Dorson. You're gonna  
traumatize the children.

STEVEN  
I didn't say anything about the  
execution. You did!

MRS. BALTRIM  
I'm talking about announcing he has  
two moms! You can't say that. It's  
grooming them to be--

STEVEN  
Kind? Have actual family values?  
Someone's already spruced up a few  
into bullies.

MRS. BALTRIM  
Drop it. You benefit from don't  
ask, don't tell as much as anyone.

STEVEN  
What are you implying? I'm--

MRS. BALTRIM  
(hand over Steven's mouth)  
Don't tell. And there's nothing you  
can do for him.

STEVEN  
Nothing? That's the crime. I wish  
with all my heart I could help that  
poor boy. AND his mothers.

EXT. 13TH STREET - NIGHT

Steven, draped in an XL, sleeveless Tee, stares at the Neon  
Night Club across the road. He turns and sees a book in a magic  
store window: "Love Potions and Spells for Attraction. Make Your  
Dreams and Wishes Come True."

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BOOK AISLE - NIGHT

Steven spots the book, pulls it down and rips it open.

STEVEN  
(reading)  
There are no accidents. You have called  
this book to you. Your encounters are  
not by chance. Take action. Now.

EXT. 13TH STREET - NIGHT

Steven crosses the road with a Magick Shoppe bag. He pulls out his phone and scrolls the contacts. His thumb hesitates over "Mary from Library." He stows the phone and enters the bar.

INT. NEON CLUB - NIGHT

Music pounds. Dressed-to-the-max ladies cross in front of men facing outward from the bar. Steven's book bag sits behind him on the bar. On his right, guys knock beer bottles with DETECTIVE HARRY WILMOT, 36, mustache, buzz cut, muscle-Tee.

GUY 1

Way to go. That bitch is frying!

GUY 2

Here's to South Beach's finest.

STEVEN

(to Wilmot)

You some kind of hero?

Wilmot's eyes remain ogling the parade of women. He sets his beer down, pulls out a smart phone and reaches to shake hands.

WILMOT

I got the confession from that butch gardener after I put the pieces together.

(crushing Steven's hand)

Detective Harry Wilmot, South Beach PD.

(remains ogling with phone)

I'd like to phone her muff.

Wilmot glances down, presses an APP labelled "One of the Boys" and aims the phone like a remote towards the women. An electronic man-voice, like Siri's low-life brother, responds.

VOICE FROM APP

How about some dirty work at the crossroads? If ya know what I mean.

The guys at the bar roar. Wilmot aims at another woman.

STEVEN

I'm Steven Dor--

VOICE FROM APP

You look like you're in need of some vitamin F. If ya know what I mean.

STEVEN

(to woman)

Yeah. Uh. How about some... horizontal refreshment... if ya know what I mean.

Wilmot stares. The woman slaps Steven. The guys roar again.

WILMOT

You're funny. How about a beer?

A twenty-something female BARTENDER with a buzz cut and pride shirt moves close in as Wilmot turns to the bar.

BARTENDER

Maybe you can throttle back from macro to mere micro-aggressions.

WILMOT

We used to call it flirting. See how they're dressed? *She too!*

Wilmot sees the bag labelled Magick Shoppe on the bar.

WILMOT

Oh, that is so gay.

BARTENDER

Are you some kind of Terminator sent from 1986?

WILMOT

More likely you're a robo-dyke sent from a woke future to cancel us boys.

BARTENDER

Boys. Yeah. I know what you mean. But, until now, I truly thought that toxic masculinity was a myth perpetrated by Karens and queens who like to scold immature men on whatever they disapprove of.

WILMOT

Thanks for clearing up your disapproval of my invading your hunting grounds. But no way you can keep up with me in your Birkenstocks.

BARTENDER

I didn't realize today's the day we set our clocks back to 1978. If ya know what I mean.

WILMOT

Don't get your fanny pack in a bunch. Just work your guns and get this pup a beer.

(to Steven)

You going to bedazzle us?

STEVEN

It's... Chicks dig magic. Everyone--

WILMOT

You gonna prance around and put on a show? Who has time for that? I'm here for some sudden impact. If ya know what I mean.

STEVEN

Sudden? Believe me. My vehicle doesn't go as fast as yours. It's more like I'm driving in reverse.

WILMOT

Reverse? You're an ass bandit?

STEVEN

No! No! I'm not an ass burglar. I'm a snatch muffler. A muff snatcher. Look. I don't... I'm straight. All this code is confusing me.

WILMOT

In my line of work, you're only thrown if you're caught in some made-up story. You in the right bar?

STEVEN

Yes. I just need a... a...

A NEW GUY nears. The bartender returns. She hands Steven a bottle, reaches up, and sweeps his nerdy bangs to one side.

BARTENDER

...A tiny make-over.

WILMOT

More like a do-over.

Wilmot clinks his beer bottle with the new guy's bottle neck.

STEVEN

(to bartender)

I'm sorry. I'm fine with les...gay...LGBTQ uh. I mean. I just happen...I have friends who--

BARTENDER

Stop. Please. With the exception of this jerk, it's not a crime to be straight, so don't apologize. And seriously, virtue signaling's harder to stomach than this  
(motioning to Wilmot)  
walking billboard for a mercy castration.



NEW GUY  
 (referring to Wilmot)  
 Bartender, please get this Mensch  
 another beer. Keep the change.

The New Guy lays down a twenty. The bartender grabs it.

BARTENDER  
 Thank you.  
 (Out loud to Wilmot)  
 You can learn some manners from  
 your friend here.  
 (Quieter to Steven)  
 And you don't have any gay friends.

STEVEN  
 How can you say something so--

BARTENDER  
 One would've stopped you from  
 wearing that shirt. You'd have  
 better success in my pride shirt!

NEW GUY  
 Justice prevails! Can you believe  
 it's been three years since the night  
 of that murder?

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION (SOUTH BEACH) - NIGHT

SUPER: "3 years Earlier - The Night of *That Murder*"

MARCUS WALDEN, 29, coiffed, waxed, upholstered in a fuchsia  
 hibiscus shirt, walks past the mansion and lit gardens, up the  
 ornate, Saltillo driveway. He opens mail, pulls out a photo.

INSERT PHOTO

Total-Hair-Fail Selfie: Parents sporting pompadours --infant  
 between their cheeks with moussed hair-tuft pompadour.

MARCUS (O.S.)  
 Sorry kid. It could be worse.  
 That's just a flesh wound.

Manicured fingers flip the photo. Handwritten: "Marcus,  
 thanks for hooking up my mommy and daddy. Love, Windsor."

MARCUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Oh. It's worse. You'd think they  
 welcomed a Labradoodle into the family.

Marcus taps the photo back into its envelope and waves to  
 SAMANTHA ARTEMIS, 29, gardener with earbuds in. Sam waves back  
 and starts a gas leaf blower in the brightly lit gardens.

SPARKLES, a snowy Pomeranian with pink bow, scrambles to the guest house and pushes open the unlatched door. Marcus follows behind on the familiar Saltillo walkway past the garbage cans.

INT. GUEST HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Head-shots of people aged 20-30 cover a cork board. Red yarn links pairs with the word "match" in a heart. Marcus enters.

ANASTASIA WALDEN, 33, red cape dress, accented beauty mark, Disney-villain allure and beauty, looms in from the dark. Her glossy black nails contrast the papers held in her hand.

MARCUS

Judas tap dancing Priest. Why are you in here? I hoped a little girl from Kansas dropped a house on you.

ANASTASIA

(nondescript accent)  
Divorce papers. Signature please.

MARCUS

What's up with that new accent?

ANASTASIA

A dab of an exotic, mysterious culture is like an erotic perfume.

MARCUS

At least no one can accuse you of appropriation. That dialect's so mysterious I can't pin-point any known country. And what's with that dress? I wouldn't be caught dead in it. Unless I killed myself because I couldn't get out of it.

ANASTASIA

(touching fuchsia shirt)  
Yet somewhere there's a 1967 Winnebago missing seat covers.

MARCUS

This is haute couture.

ANASTASIA

It's a wonder anyone believed this charade of a marriage was anything other than an arrangement.

MARCUS

Well I did it for love. For Andy. He talked me into this. Not you!

ANASTASIA

Lust talked you into this. That's why--

MARCUS

Jealous? Do you a tiny bit regret--

ANASTASIA

Andrew Rosalind has left the building. And, with your help, he left it to me! The Rosalind mansion now belongs to me. Anastasia Walden.

Anastasia twirls around, flaunts her dress and bows. Marcus turns to his cork board. He removes a link of yarn and adjusts photos. Anna takes the yarn's end.

Sparkles yelps. Anna opens the unlatched door. The dog runs out. She pushes the door near shut, leaving it open a crack.

ANASTASIA (CONT'D)

You could've gotten a doggie door.

MARCUS

It's your dog.

ANASTASIA

I never liked that dog. I got it to accessorize. Kinda like I got you.

Marcus loops the red yarn around Anastasia as he walks by. Anna holds Marcus's gaze, grabs scissors and chops the yarn.

MARCUS

You've a real talent with ending things. You couldn't wait to be rid of Andy. And stupid me fell for him.

ANASTASIA

That was stupid. A little bit sweet, but a serious impossibility. You should brush up on your pronouns. HE should never have even been a thing.

Anna nears the board. She pulls the pin from a photo of a handsome young man next to a photo of Marcus. It drops.

ANASTASIA (CONT'D)

If you truly loved Andrew you would let him go. You're very selfish.

MARCUS

You ruined everything.

ANASTASIA

Au contraire. It's all back on track. And your infatuation with another man would have faded soon enough.

MARCUS

We'll never know. I didn't think his instant departure was part of the deal.

ANASTASIA

Seriously? As is, you almost blew my immigration interview when you sashayed in wearing a belted blazer.

MARCUS

Congratulations. Your metamorphosis into a total bitch truly is complete.

ANASTASIA

You don't understand how serious it is to maintain this secret. Forever.

Anna picks the photo off the floor and crumples it.

MARCUS

Yeah. I was thinking the same thing. I rather like it here. Til death do us part, sweet heart.

ANASTASIA

Those were empty vows. Sign and go!

MARCUS

I was betrayed.

ANASTASIA

You know nothing of betrayal. Even renegeing on our deal doesn't qualify.

MARCUS

Would telling our tiny secret qualify?

Anna pulls out a gun and shoots the ceiling. Marcus screams.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You bitch! What happened to you? That's an aged copper ceiling tile!

ANASTASIA

Patina. Beautiful, but unstable. Reactive. Even toxic. Keeping it indoors, under the roof, dangerous.

MARCUS

How dare you threaten me. What are--

ANASTASIA

Not me. I'm a new woman... This was all dreamed up by your beloved Andrew. You didn't really know him, them, well at all. Looks like a surprise ending.

Outdoor light sweeps from the opening door onto Marcus's face.

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION GROUNDS - CONTINUOUS

Sam's gas leaf blower sputters. In the distance: BANG! Sam pulls out an earbud. Her neck cranes.

MARCUS (O.S.)  
No! Andy! What are you doing?

BANG. BANG. Sam ejects the blower from her back and runs.

EXT. GUEST HOUSE WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sam runs past the garbage cans to the guest house.

INT. GUEST HOUSE - NIGHT

The door swings open to reveal Steven Dorson. He pauses.

SUPER: "Present Day"

Steven shivers. Looks at the thermometer outside the door reading 80 degrees. He shrugs and enters, passing the corkboard now with inspirational slogans and girlie photos.

INT. GUEST HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - LATER

Dumbbells on the floor, motivation posters on the wall. Steven sits on the carpet reading a chant from the book.

STEVEN  
Nunc Facientque Hominus.

His iPhone rings. A photo and name "Mary from Library" appear.

STEVEN  
My God. It's working already!  
(into phone)  
Mary! Helloooo.

Marcus fades up in a cloud of sparkles. He gasps at his transparent hands, focuses in on a nail, and buffs it. He sees and waves at Steven. Steven talks on the phone. Oblivious.

STEVEN  
What? But... I have tickets... an experimental musical mythology on gender fluid Greek Gods. Agdistis, Hermaphroditus. Ben Shapiro's head's going to explode.

Marcus rolls his eyes and disappears flapping at Steven.

STEVEN

Well. Ok. Read what I post about it on Wikipedia. Maybe I'll see you at the school library. Toodiloo.

Steven hangs up, walks forward and kicks the spell book.

INT. GUEST HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Magazine clippings cover the table: Muscle pix, babes, and kids. Steven picks up photos of a child and a ball. He holds them together, smears glue on the backs, and places them down onto a poster-board filled with images.

STEVEN

Let's hope this works better than a magic spell. I'll need to lose my virginity to actually have a family.

Marcus re-appears, his eyes pop with shock. Steven leaves. Marcus frowns at a cover photo on "New Family" magazine: A tiny hand grasps a father's index finger.

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - LATER

The SOUND of a shower stops. Steven enters with a towel around his waist. He looks at the clippings on the table.

MARCUS

What is this hot mess?

Steven turns, sees Marcus and SCREAMS! Marcus screams!

MARCUS

You can finally see and hear me?

Steven, now frozen, gapes.

MARCUS

Use your words. I've been--

STEVEN

Get out! I'm calling the police.

Marcus motions at the wall covered with man-o-phernalia.

MARCUS

Go ahead! This is a crime!

Steven grabs his iPhone and dials 9-1-1. The phone reads "No signal." Steven picks up a dumbbell with 5 pound weights sans weight clips. He holds it over his head.

STEVEN

Stand back. Or I'll ...abuse you.

MARCUS  
Anything's less painful than hearing  
you on another hopeless call.

STEVEN  
You're spying on me? You pervert!

Marcus surveys the table full of photos of kids and adults.

MARCUS  
Some nerve calling me the perv.

With dumbbell overhead, Steven nears the door and re-dials.

STEVEN  
It's a vision board. To get the  
things I want into my life.

MARCUS  
So there's a picture of me on it?

STEVEN  
You're not what I want. Not even  
the right category. Get out!

OPERATOR ON PHONE  
9-1-1 emergency.

STEVEN  
There's an intruder in my--

Steven's towel slips. He whips down the phone as a make-shift  
codpiece. CAMERA CLICK. He panics. One unfastened weight on  
the dumbbell slips off. As the unbalanced bar flips, the  
other falls too. Double bonk to the head. He hits the floor.

OPERATOR ON PHONE  
9-1-1. Hello? Hello? Dispatching...

INT. HOSPITAL E.R. - DAY

Steven wakes in a bed semi-encircled with privacy curtains.  
Marcus fades up and sits nearby.

STEVEN  
Where am I?

MARCUS  
The hospital. You ...abused yourself.

STEVEN  
Are you some kind of stalker?

MARCUS  
Oh, yes, Steven. I want you so badly,  
and, clearly, I'm the only one.

STEVEN

Who are you? Why are you--

MARCUS

Mary, Marcie, Frannie.

STEVEN

How do you... you know them?

MARCUS

Never met one. None ever made it  
beyond 'the phone call.' Toodiloo!

STEVEN

That's my signature way of saying  
"so long." I hate goodbye.

MARCUS

We need to work on your signature  
or all you'll get is goodbye.

STEVEN

What do you mean: we?

A nurse and doctor watch Steven talking to himself.

DOCTOR

He reported an intruder. But the  
police had to break in to get him.  
They found him nude at his door.

NURSE

He should have a 24 hour head  
injury observation and psych eval.

DOCTOR

No insurance. Cut him loose.

The ER doors blast open. Docs run. Paramedics rush in a  
gurney with an unconscious woman in an oxygen mask.

PARAMEDIC 1

I don't have a pulse.

The back and forth talk from the medics and ER staff blurs  
into a din. From Marcus's POV, the ER overlaps with stars. A  
VORTEX of light opens. An apparition of the woman on the  
gurney rises from her body and disappears into the vortex.

MARCUS

You see that? She got up and left.

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Steven holds an ice-pack on his head. Marcus stands opposite.



STEVEN

You see dead people? And you're a ghost?  
Right. And I see hallucinations.

MARCUS

You bonked your brain AFTER I appeared.

STEVEN

I'm delirious. I can't tell what  
happened when.

MARCUS

I can prove you're not imagining me. Have  
you ever even heard of the word Jooge?

STEVEN

Jooge? Can you use it in a sentence?

MARCUS

Exactly. You're not equipped with  
that vocabulary.

STEVEN

So you're a ghost. Prove it! Walk  
through a wall.

MARCUS

I did... I was in the bathroom last  
night... You sing in the shower.

STEVEN

So? Maybe you could hear me--

MARCUS

That's not the only thing you did.

STEVEN

What?

MARCUS

It's ok. Everybody does it.

STEVEN

Does what!?

MARCUS

You know. ...Washes their hair.

Steven blanches. Immobile.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Now you look like you see a ghost.  
Luckily all that washing didn't  
make you go blind.

Marcus sticks his hand THROUGH the wall.

INT. GUEST HOUSE BATHROOM SHOWER - CONTINUOUS

Piercing the wall, Marcus's hand points to a round sponge.

MARCUS (O.S.)  
And most guys don't use a loofah!

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Ghost-busters abound --waving meters, taking readings. One has a vacuum on his back. A green blob slurps into a clear plastic chamber fashioned from an enlargement pump under a dust buster on his contraption. Only Steven sees Marcus.

GHOSTBUSTER  
We got it! A class 4 ectoplast.

MARCUS  
My mother had one of those.

STEVEN  
A penis enlargement pump?

MARCUS  
A Hoover!

GHOSTBUSTER  
What kind of sicko are you?

STEVEN  
And this is a vacuum cleaner spray  
painted silver. Get out of here!

The "busters" exit bumping into VIOLCA, old, dyed jet black hair, gypsy. Before Steven speaks she lifts her hand.

VIOLCA  
Don't speak! I sense a presence.

Violca sweeps around on the side of Steven opposite Marcus.

MARCUS  
I sense a swindler.

VIOLCA  
Old world. Like maybe a queen.

MARCUS  
Oh no she didn't.

VIOLCA  
Super high maintenance.

Steven nudges Violca out. He shuts and locks the door.

INT. GUEST HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY - LATER

Steven ZOOMS on his laptop at the table amongst the magazine clippings. ENCHANTRA, 40s, a burly woman with false lashes, colorful stage make-up and gold lamé turban appears.

STEVEN  
Enchantra?

ENCHANTRA  
The one and only, honey. You have a poltergeist problem?

STEVEN  
How did you know that?

ENCHANTRA  
I plucked it from the ethers.

MARCUS  
You put it in the subject line you--

STEVEN  
Can you get rid of a pest... ghost?

ENCHANTRA  
Nobody can. They're earthbound for a purpose. And it must be fulfilled.

STEVEN  
What? What purpose?

ENCHANTRA  
Does the ghost know who it was?

MARCUS  
Of course! I'm Marcus. Marcus... uh...

STEVEN  
Drawing a blank there.

ENCHANTRA  
Sometimes they don't even know they're dead. There's two basic types.

MARCUS  
Two? Honey. Is this woman current?

ENCHANTRA  
Light and dark spirits. Ghosts usually died an untimely death. Often murdered. But to cross over into a dark realm, some egregious breach of something sacrosanct would have to have happened... creating a morbid obsession.

(MORE)

It can keep them here by  
essentially invoking a curse. Is  
the presence angry? Evil? Menacing?

STEVEN

No. He's more ...surly. But no way  
malevolent. He used the word jooge.

ENCHANTRA

Visions of their life or death are  
often instigated by a phrase or  
word or name... or if the entity  
can get close to an object they're  
connected to. Did it have a pet?

STEVEN

This place was loaded with dog hair.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Marcus sits on the floor and cuddles the dog which now sports  
a pink tutu. Anastasia stands with a leash near the door.

MARCUS

Miss Sparkles wants to stay in the  
guesthouse with me. Don't you boobie?  
Show me where Mommy touches you.

ANASTASIA

Is that tutu supposed to be funny?

MARCUS

Don't take it personally. The dog  
just knows how to rock a dress.

ANASTASIA

What would you know about dresses,  
Mr. Queer Eye for the Virgin Guy?

MARCUS

You're not allowed to be jealous of  
my clients. I pick clothes for those  
boys and get 'em on dates. You think  
I don't know you hit on them!

Anna pulls a photo off the board and admires it.

ANASTASIA

I made a few... selections.

MARCUS

I never should have let--

ANASTASIA

Those boys got what they wanted. It was a fair exchange. I got my... special... needs met, and I "showed them the ropes."

MARCUS

To the gallows?

RETURN TO PRESENT

MARCUS

I know why I'm here! I know why I'm here! I helped boys like you. But, you're like my Mount Everest. It's like a grand finale.

STEVEN

What?

MARCUS

You need to get laid! And I can take care of that!

STEVEN

You wanna DO ME? You want to get into my pants!

ENCHANTRA

What is it with you wackos?

Enchantra cuts out as "Zoom Ended" appears on-screen.

MARCUS

No! I want to change those pants! I'm like your fairy godmother. I'll prep you for the ball! Screw the pumpkin. We gotta pop that cherry.

STEVEN

Whoa. Wait! What makes you think--

MARCUS

I know things from beyond the veil, You're an ashamed closet Virgin. Involuntarily celibate. I helped--

STEVEN

You are not helping me... in the bedroom. Or anywhere! I can take care of myself.

MARCUS

That's not really considered sex.

Steven hammers the keys of the laptop on the table. He picks up his smart-phone and begins swiping and scrolling.

MARCUS  
I don't think porn sites count either.

STEVEN  
Look. I'm not some sad sack who lives  
in his mom's basement addicted to porn-  
hub. And I'm... I'll deal with you  
later. I've got to get on with my  
life. Maybe you should get on with  
...your death.

MARCUS  
(reading APP)  
Smarty Hearties dating? Really?

STEVEN  
I'm getting a casual lunch date.

MARCUS  
Nice! What shall I wear?

STEVEN  
Godmothers do NOT go to the ball!  
Go back to wherever you came from!

MARCUS  
Do a dinner date too. Let's get busy!

STEVEN  
Go help someone who really needs it.

EXT. CHINESE RESTAURANT PATIO - DAY

Steven's disheveled hair and clothes need serious attention.  
CINDY FETTERS, 27, cute, smiling, waltzes in.

CINDY  
Hi! Steven? I'm Cindy!

Steven smiles, sees Marcus appear, then grimaces in silence.

MARCUS  
Well, are you gonna say something?

STEVEN  
If you'd just be quiet!

CINDY  
What? I'm so sorry. I thought you--

STEVEN  
No no no not you! I have one of  
those cell phone things in my ear.

CINDY  
Wow. It's really a small one.

MARCUS

That phrase always puts a boy at ease.

Steven gives Marcus the stink eye. Steven blurts.

STEVEN

I'm a fan of gadgets. How about you?  
Show me yours --your cell phone.

CINDY

I never had a date ask about--

STEVEN

I like to whip mine out right off.  
It says so much about a person.  
Droid or iPhone? ...You sounded so  
clear when we talked.

MARCUS

You're even prettier in person than  
your voice sounded on the phone.

STEVEN

You're pretty, not like how you  
sound on the phone.

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marcus stands opposite Steven.

MARCUS

I offered to help you!

STEVEN

You're the one who messed me up! I  
don't need any more voices in my  
head. It's like there's a conclave up  
there whenever I'm even reminded of  
the possibility of sex or nudity.

MARCUS

Conclave? You mean a committee?

STEVEN

My mother wanted me to be a priest.

MARCUS

Am I being punked? A Sherpa couldn't  
help you summit with all this baggage.

STEVEN

You're reading too much into this.

MARCUS

Do you think boy things are bad?

STEVEN

What the hell is a boy thing?

MARCUS

Anything someone says it is when they want to use it against you.

STEVEN

The only boy thing I wanted to do--

MARCUS

Was shoot a gun! Say it! Say it! Me too!

STEVEN

I was going to say "catch grasshoppers." But my mother--

MARCUS

Shamed you with the toxic masculinity card? Shame on her!

STEVEN

I don't exactly think--

MARCUS

People have weaponized it like original sin.

STEVEN

I think she just didn't like hurting creatures. Or aggression.

MARCUS

That's not the same as being a little aggressive. It's necessary.

STEVEN

Or you'll end up stuck. Alone.

MARCUS

We don't have time to unpack all of this now. Here's a little work-around. Name your penis. Then you can separate yourself from its evil doings. Like good cop, bad cop.

STEVEN

What makes you think I haven't?

MARCUS

I'll bet it's something passive like "Mr. Winky." Call it "The Drill Sergeant!" And I think you should shoot a gun while you're still alive. Leave the clothes to me this time. I know a great thrift shop.



EXT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT PATIO - DAY

Steven looks at his arms in a seersucker jacket and sits beside Marcus who dons a sombrero and sunglasses.

STEVEN

This jacket doesn't say "Drill Sergeant."

MARCUS

The jacket is for her!

STEVEN

And why are you wearing that?

MARCUS

I'm incognito.

STEVEN

You're invisible.

MARCUS

The sun is bad for dead people.

STEVEN

You're not a vampire.

MARCUS

Maybe I just like dressing up in a theme. I think it and poof, I'm wearing it. Total perk. Probably why you never see a naked ghost.

STEVEN

A theme? More like a stereotype. If you were alive today you'd get cancelled for cultural appropriation.

MARCUS

Would a little fun kill you?

STEVEN

You tell me. Did it?

MARCUS

Honestly. If I didn't know better I'd say you're the living dead. Mortally wounded from that stick up your--

STEVEN

I'm a little nervous.

MARCUS

I understand. You're about to have a "near life" experience. Just repeat what I say. Here goes: "You look great in that dress."

STEVEN  
What if she's wearing pants?

MARCUS  
REPEAT!

STEVEN  
You look great in that dress.

A handsome young waiter walks by.

MARCUS  
Good God you're hot!

STEVEN  
Good God you're hot!

Steven, seemingly alone, ducks behind a menu. Marcus removes his sunglasses. The waiter stops, pivots, and approaches.

STEVEN (CONT'D)  
I mean. You heard that? I'm an actor. I was just practicing my li--

WAITER  
You're pretty cute yourself.

The waiter stoops and gazes into Steven's eyes.

STEVEN  
You think I'm cute?

WAITER  
You wanna run some lines?

STEVEN  
My date will be here any second.

The waiter stands and scoots off.

WAITER  
Lucky guy.

STEVEN  
He's a she.

WAITER (O.S.)  
I'm good with that. You should take her to that Greek musical at the Orpheus.

STEVEN  
No! She's a she. A woman. Date. I like 'em that way. You know.  
"She looks great in that dress."  
(to Marcus)  
What are you doing to me?

MARCUS  
What? Was that so bad?

STEVEN  
He was coming on to me!

MARCUS  
News flash. All he said was "you're kinda cute." You are! And so dapper.

STEVEN  
I better order a stiff drink.

MARCUS  
Good idea. Otherwise you may have to actually resort to manhood.

A BIKER CHICK, 48, leathered, tattooed, pierced, approaches in chaps. Marcus goes catatonic.

BIKER CHICK  
Steven Dorson? My God. You really are wearing seersucker.

STEVEN  
(to Marcus)  
Say something!

BIKER CHICK  
I just did. You deaf?

STEVEN  
You look really great in that dress.

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marcus trembles and primps in the mirror, fluffing his hair.

MARCUS  
I panicked. I wasn't prepared for that. Don't people use accurate photos online anymore? ...How do I look?

STEVEN  
I don't know. You look like you.

MARCUS  
Is it so wrong to compliment another guy on how he looks? Women--

STEVEN  
What does any of this have to do with your helping me... date?

MARCUS

You're so worried what others think  
when you talk you say next to nothing.

STEVEN

I talk plenty. Ask me anything. I  
win at Jeopardy every time.

MARCUS

"Oh, phrase it like a question. I'm  
almost there!"

STEVEN

Some girls like smart guys.  
Besides. I want a smart girl.

MARCUS

Get personal! The museum talk is  
calorie free. Beneath every smart  
hetero girl is an instinct craving  
man-flesh! If they don't get it  
they pig out on fried chicken!

STEVEN

Are we talking about women or you?

MARCUS

Why! Do I look fat? That astral  
projection went straight to my hips.

STEVEN

I just think--

MARCUS

Don't think! Look. You have to be  
vulnerable at some point. We all hate--

STEVEN

Rejection.

MARCUS

Exactly. Big deal. It's not like it's  
your mother or something. ...Can you  
imagine? Probably why I never told mine  
I was... liberal. Ask her to tell you  
about herself. Women love that.

STEVEN

What if there's an awkward silence?

MARCUS

Say, "Go ahead. I'm listening. Tell  
me more about that." The real trick  
is to find out what you have in  
common right away.

Steven pulls out the iPhone and hits his APP.

STEVEN

Great. I'll search on paranormal enthusiasts and ghost whisperers.

MARCUS

Good idea. We can have a three way.  
(off stare)  
Conversation. The things you think.  
Let's do a late dinner.

STEVEN

Jack pot! Detective Wendy Thomson.  
Maybe she's one of those psychic  
cops you hear about. Perfect!

MARCUS

She might know something about me.

STEVEN

Maybe if you knew your last name.

MARCUS

Giuseppe!

STEVEN

Your last name is Giuseppe?

MARCUS

No. It's the perfect place!

INT. GIUSEPPE RISTORANTE - NIGHT

Steven sits in a booth. WENDY THOMSON, 28, attractive, curvy, short hair in back, long in front, arrives. Steven jumps up.

STEVEN

Wendy! You're even prettier in person than your photo on the APP.

WENDY

Thank you. That's awfully nice.

MARCUS

Drill baby drill!

STEVEN

Do you like gadgets? Are you a Mac or a PC? Fire Tablet? Apple Watch?

Marcus flaps a "cut it out" with his hands and mouths "NO."

STEVEN

I'm sorry. I'm nervous meeting someone so smart and attractive.

WENDY

Oh that's so sweet. And I love gadgets. I stream everything on my iPad. I LOVE Housewives!

MARCUS

That doesn't sound good.

STEVEN

The TV SHOW. I'm sensing that you like "Long Island Medium" too.

WENDY

On Discovery Plus! You sensed that?

Marcus looks back and forth, watching the tennis match.

STEVEN

No. I read your on-line profile.

WENDY

Oh! Duh! Of course. It'd be amazing to solve a case that way. I've never seen any proof. It's fun to hope though.

MARCUS

Hope? We picked her because we thought she believed in this stuff.

WENDY

The problem is we're all wired to find meaning in the world. Our brains put unrelated things together looking for patterns.

STEVEN

A good skill for a detective.

WENDY

Indispensable. But it also leads to false connections. We often make unrelated things mean something.

STEVEN AND MARCUS

What do you mean?

WENDY

Magical thinking. It starts in childhood. You notice that when you eat ice cream, you win at tag. So the rest of your life you eat your lucky flavor before anything important.

MARCUS

Or if you thought that if you were good at sports, your father might not have disappeared. ...Hypothetically.

WENDY

Some people do bad things simply because they believe they're bad... because they were so shamed as kids.

STEVEN

A self fulfilling prophecy.

WENDY

More like self-inflicting, but yep. You know what I do. What do you do?

STEVEN

I drive a school bus. For now.

MARCUS

It sounds pathetic. Anything else?

STEVEN

I'm a Wikipedian!

MARCUS AND WENDY

A what?

STEVEN

I contribute to Wikipedia. I mean, a lot. Anyone can, but I do... more. I know a lot of facts. Things. ... I watch Jeopardy!

MARCUS

Oh my God. Say anything else. The Bachelor. Here Comes Honey Boo Boo!

WENDY

Really? I love Jeopardy too!

Marcus's eyes pop.

STEVEN

Are you smart? I mean: Are you SMART!

MARCUS

You're pretty and smart. That's so--

STEVEN

Refreshing.

WENDY

What's refreshing?

Marcus pats his forehead and fans himself.

STEVEN

That you're both pretty and smart.

WENDY  
Are you for real?

STEVEN  
Why do you say that!?

WENDY  
You're just so sweet.

STEVEN  
Really? Wouldn't any guy say that?

WENDY  
The first thing every other date  
asks is who I voted for or do I  
have any children?

MARCUS  
Oh my God! Find out who she voted for!

STEVEN  
I'll take "stupid things to say on  
a first date for two hundred!"

Wendy laughs and plays along.

WENDY  
"Your place or mine?"

MARCUS AND STEVEN  
Mine. Definitely mine.

WENDY  
Excuse me?

STEVEN  
What?

WENDY  
"Stupid things to say on a first date"  
is the category. I gave an answer.

Marcus looks down at the menu on the table.

MARCUS  
Do they serve fried chicken here?

STEVEN  
Then you should have said "What is  
your place or mine?"

MARCUS  
I'm so confused... and famished.  
Has the Manwich been cancelled?

WENDY  
You thought I was asking you over?



STEVEN  
Uh.... Go ahead. I'm listening.  
Tell me more about that.

MARCUS  
Toodiloo!

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Steven paces around Marcus.

STEVEN  
I can get those kinda results all  
by myself. Some Fairy Godmother.

MARCUS  
She wasn't right for you.

STEVEN  
Wasn't right? She has an iPad,  
iPhone, she's open to the  
paranormal, and she loves Jeopardy.

MARCUS  
Exactly. It's like you're evil  
twins. That always ends badly.

STEVEN  
She flat out rejected me when sex  
even mistakenly came up.

MARCUS  
Damaged goods. If she couldn't--

STEVEN  
Maybe I'm supposed to help you.  
You're not helping me at all.

MARCUS  
No one can help you get laid.  
Clearly, raising the dead is easier!

STEVEN  
Raising? You think I summoned you?

MARCUS  
Last night. You were reading  
something. This. This here!

Marcus looks at the subtitle on the spell book on the floor.

MARCUS  
"Get Whomever You Want." Seriously?

STEVEN  
Everything's failed. So what the heck?  
A spell to be manly couldn't hurt.

MARCUS  
SPELL? What did you read in here?

Steven picks up the book and thumbs to a page.

STEVEN  
Page 43. A spell to become manly.

MARCUS  
"Make me a Man." This spell is to  
conjure forth a man. Can you read?

STEVEN  
And like, you're a REAL man?

MARCUS  
Just what is that supposed to mean?

STEVEN  
I mean you're not even a ...alive.  
How long have you been dead? And  
just what are your pronouns?

MARCUS  
What the hell are you talking  
about? Why don't you just check out  
page 44?

Steven flips the page then reads aloud.

STEVEN  
Once the subject has been brought  
forth into this dimension--

MARCUS  
Stop! Ever watch movies? Curses  
invoke when you read them out loud.  
Stop it, or we'll end up bunking  
with Jack LaLanne. Go on...Silently!

STEVEN  
Oh no! The spell can't just be  
reversed. Only those with unfinished  
business manifest.

(reading)  
The caller must help settle all  
affairs related to their death. And  
the one called forth must help the  
caller move on in life.

(to Marcus)  
Oh God! I have to solve your murder!

MARCUS  
And I have to solve your suicide.

STEVEN  
What suicide?

MARCUS  
It's heading in that direction.  
...READ!

STEVEN  
The next page is something about  
changing a frog into a prince.

MARCUS  
Let me see that! I dated a French man  
once... wait... This thing  
is missing pages. What's after that?

STEVEN  
How to mix a truth serum. Why's  
that in here?

MARCUS  
Clearly, you've never been in a  
relationship. You better go exchange  
that book so we can read those pages.

STEVEN  
It's 10pm. I need some space.

Steven heads for the door and Marcus heads in the opposite  
direction. They both weaken and collapse.

STEVEN AND MARCUS  
I don't feel so good.

Steven doubles over and retches.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Stop! Not on the carpet.

Marcus cups his hands and waddles over. They both stand up.

STEVEN  
That's funny. I feel fine again.

MARCUS  
It weakens us to separate.

STEVEN  
I can't live with anyone.

MARCUS  
Let me guess. Intimacy issues? It's  
ok. We've already showered.

STEVEN

No fair. I didn't see yours ...you.  
I mean, I didn't see you there.

MARCUS

Always seeing if you measure up...  
We have a big day tomorrow. I  
suggest you get some sleep.

STEVEN

And just what are you going to do?

INT. GUEST HOUSE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steven lies in bed, eyes wide open, clothes on. He pulls the sheets to his chin. Marcus lies atop the sheets next to him.

MARCUS

Relax. It would be hard to get  
physical since I'm not even physical.

STEVEN

I've never slept with--

MARCUS

A man. I know. Got it.

STEVEN

I was going to say "anyone."

MARCUS

Oh. No one? Ever? When you were a kid?  
...not with your parents? No slumber  
parties? Summer camp? Drunken accident?

Steven nods "no" after each question and appears frightened.

MARCUS

Wow. Never sleeping with anyone is  
probably worse than not having  
slept with someone.

STEVEN

Stop making me feel abnormal.

MARCUS

Oh! I'm... sorry. That wasn't what  
I... I just feel it's sad and lone--

STEVEN

Stop so I can pretend I'm alone.

MARCUS

Sorry buddy. You're going to need to  
learn pillow talk. Believe me, it's  
harder and more treacherous than--

STEVEN

Is this really what sleeping together  
is like? When do you stop talking?

MARCUS

Just, calm down. You're safe. We'll make  
it through this. All of this. Together.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / FRONT SALES ROOM - DAY

Charms and crystal balls cover the counter. A hand-mirror hangs  
on the wall labelled: "Magic Mirror 50% Off!" Steven walks in  
and rings the desk bell. A voice bellows from a beaded archway.

ENDORA (V.O.)

Please enter my private chamber.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - DAY

The boys walk in. Steven carries the book. Purple felt and  
bookcases line the walls. Endora, "Enchantra" from the ZOOM  
call, rises from her computer desk and flaunts her violet  
feathered boa. Endora does not see nor respond to Marcus.

MARCUS

Oh my God. How many Muppets had to  
die to make that thing?

STEVEN

You're the medium!

MARCUS

Medium? She's a Plus 16 or 3X.

STEVEN

Enchantra?

ENDORA

That's my online handle.

MARCUS

She looks really familiar in person.

STEVEN AND ENDORA

You were the one on ZOOM!

ENDORA

Heavens to Venus you're that perv!

MARCUS

Venus! Now I recognize her. He. Him. They.

ENDORA

Go away. I communicate with the  
dead. I'm not into weirdos.

MARCUS  
Tell Eduardo I said Hi!

STEVEN  
Who's Eduardo?

ENDORA  
What! How do you know that name?

MARCUS  
She's a he. Or was a he. Eduardo!

ENDORA  
Are you some kind of stalker?

STEVEN  
Stop it already! I hope you  
communicate better with the dead  
than the living. Do you have another  
one of these books? This one is--

ENDORA  
Missing pages?

STEVEN  
So you can read thoughts too?

ENDORA  
No. People rip out the pages like  
in cookbooks. No common decency.

Endora goes to a bookshelf and retrieves an identical book.

STEVEN  
Page 45. ... And maybe 46.

ENDORA  
My rate is a hundred an hour.

STEVEN  
Dollars? For what? I'll buy the book.

ENDORA  
It's my reference copy. I can order--

STEVEN  
I need it now. Will you take a check?

MARCUS  
Oh forget it. I'll read it.

Marcus goes behind Endora and starts reading. Steven pulls  
out a check and fills it in at the desk.

MARCUS  
(reading)  
Move towards love... in life...  
(MORE)

in death. Being damned literally means damming or stopping energy. Once its death is resolved, if the undead entity helps the living caller from withholding love, then the entity will be released and can cross over to re-join with love in heaven or be reincarnated to live and love again.

MARCUS AND STEVEN  
There's such a thing as reincarnation!

ENDORA  
Why did you say that?

MARCUS  
(reading)  
All entangled must be freed before the midnight on which the cycle of the moon completes.

STEVEN  
When's the new moon? Or else what?

Endora presses the book up to her chest to cloak it.

ENDORA  
The new moon is in two days --Sunday.

Endora takes Steven's book and examines it.

ENDORA  
You ripped this page out. And memorized it! Is that it?

STEVEN  
Yes. I have nothing better to do than punk phony drag witches.

ENDORA  
I'm not a fake! I'm ...Endora!

Endora waves her hand as if doing a miraculous magic trick. Steven grabs the book from Endora whose voice lowers.

ENDORA  
Stop or I'll cast a--

Steven shoves a check into Endora's hand. Endora examines the check and heads out of the room towards the front desk.

STEVEN  
(reading book)  
During the inter-dimensional time window, either entity may cross over.

(MORE)

The living can cross to the astral plane using the corollary hex a single time.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / FRONT SALES ROOM - DAY

Endora picks up the phone. A Crystal ball on the counter flutters. Endora stares at it and places the phone back down. She lifts the ball and looks underneath, feeling the bottom.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - DAY

Marcus reads from the book Steven holds.

MARCUS

If the transaction is not complete by the new lunar cycle, or if a physical entity involved dies to the world of the living, all entangled will be damned to oblivion for eternity. Alone.

STEVEN AND MARCUS

Never to love or be loved.

MARCUS

Sounds like a typical day in the life.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / FRONT SALES ROOM - DAY

Marcus and Steven walk into the front room.

STEVEN

And you can't kill yourself.  
There's no escape.

Endora ducks behind the counter. She raises a crystal ball.

ENDORA

What? Get out you maniac!

STEVEN

How are we going to take care of your murder by Sunday night?

MARCUS

What about you getting laid?

STEVEN

I can't just have sex. It's about love. Relation. It says so right here!

ENDORA

Do not take another step you freak!



Endora fumbles the ball as it flutters to a solid glow.

ENDORA

The ball senses a presence. You're possessed! You need an exorcist to evict that nasty demon!

Marcus looks over into the magic mirror. He double takes between the big-wig-wearing cross-dresser he sees in person and the petite, cisgender woman in the mirror.

MARCUS

My God it really is a magic mirror! She looks... beautiful.

STEVEN

You're a beautiful woman?

ENDORA

What did you say?

STEVEN

Marcus says you're beautiful. And you are ...a ...woman.

ENDORA

Marcus? Who's Marcus? Marcus who?

Endora inspects the address on Steven's check. She mumbles.

ENDORA

This address. My book...

Endora digs through a filing cabinet under the counter.

STEVEN

Like in Snow White. The Magic Mirror cannot tell a lie.

Endora continues to dig through her files.

ENDORA

No. No. Everyone gets that messed up. A magic mirror reveals the truth... shows the true self in the reflection.

Steven looks into the mirror. Endora still looks the same. Marcus looks in the mirror. A beautiful woman's image oscillates with the drag queen image.

MARCUS

The mirror is fluttering between both images. It's showing me a totally different Eduardo. Endora.

STEVEN

I only see... you... Endora.

ENDORA

The mirror on the physical side can only reflect the physical. The other side is different.

MARCUS

Why is it fluttering so much? Maybe one's soul is not...doesn't have a--

STEVEN

It's Non-binary. New term. Keep up with the living.

MARCUS

Or maybe your thoughts from moment to moment affect it. If you're not true to yourself. Unsure of your identity.

Endora MATCHES the check address to the one in the book.

ENDORA

Marcus Walden! ...You live in that guest house! He's the one inside you? Oh holy living hell!

STEVEN

He's not inside me! Your last name is Walden?

ENDORA

He was shot to death by Artemis. It's been in the news for years.

MARCUS

Samson? Sam? My gardener?

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. GUEST HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marcus's POV from the floor: Sam rushes in through the open door, kneels and reaches to Marcus. Sam screams. She pulls back a bloody hand.

RETURN TO PRESENT

MARCUS

No. Samson's a sweetheart. I just called her...she was so strong. Anyways. I remember she found me on the floor. Someone else shot me.

STEVEN

Wait! Sam didn't kill Marcus. Someone else did.

ENDORA

That wacko wife of his! Anastasia!  
I never trusted--

MARCUS

Wife? I was married? ...to a woman?  
The one with the dog?

ENDORA

She came out of nowhere. Inherited the  
old Rosalind Mansion from some guy.  
She needed a green card to stay.

MARCUS

She shot me? But I... Why? And why  
can't I stop thinking about an And--

STEVEN

Murder solved. Case closed. You can  
move on! Wow was that easy!

ENDORA

Samantha Artemis is to be executed  
midnight Sunday. Who doesn't know  
this? Do you watch TV? Read? Stream?

STEVEN

Whoa whoa whoa wait a minute. That's  
the woman who's being executed?

MARCUS

What about her wife and boy, Matias?

STEVEN

Whoa whoa whoa wait a minute. That  
was three years ago. Matias is six.  
It can't be. This cannot be.

ENDORA

Who is Matias?

STEVEN

Her son! I drive him to school every  
morning. I wished I could help...and  
then I found this magic shop and the  
book. We're in deep trouble.

ENDORA AND MARCUS

What are you talking about?

STEVEN

Sam is innocent. If she dies before  
we solve your, Marcus's, murder,  
it's game-over.

MARCUS

She doesn't need to be alive to  
solve the murder.

STEVEN

(reading book)

...if a physical entity dies to the  
world of the living, all entangled  
will be doomed to oblivion for  
eternity... devoid of hope...  
We have to stop the execution!

ENDORA

What could ever stop that?

MARCUS

Tell them you did it! Isn't that  
what a REAL man would do?

STEVEN

Tell them I did it!? That's retarded.

ENDORA

Heavens to Venus! Don't ever say  
retarded! You'll be cancelled.

STEVEN

Least of my immediate problems.  
Nobody's gonna believe--

MARCUS

You have a better idea?

ENDORA

The police station, it's just  
around the corner.

STEVEN

I'm not going to march myself in  
there. I'll never get out!

ENDORA

Use your cell phone.

STEVEN

And broadcast who I am?

ENDORA

Pay phone. Use the one outside!

STEVEN

There's still such a thing?

MARCUS

Call Wendy. She may still be some use.

STEVEN  
No way I'm telling her who's calling.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

A neon "Elysian Motor Lodge" sign flashes above the booth. Marcus's head pokes through the glass. Steven dials reading the number on his phone. A man's voice answers. Steven panics and drops the receiver. He picks it up missing the man's name.

MAN ON PHONE  
Hello? Is anyone there?

STEVEN  
Yes. Hello. I have new information regarding the Marcus Walden murder.

MAN ON PHONE  
You're lucky caller number 25 today.  
Nice try, but the bitch is toast.

MADONNA, 40s, a scrappy hooker, bangs on the booth door.

STEVEN  
(to hooker)  
Don't you have a cell phone?  
(into phone in booth)  
No! I have proof he didn't do it.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Detective Harry Wilmot from the bar speaks on the phone.

WILMOT  
Bullshit.

INTERCUT BETWEEN PHONE BOOTH AND POLICE STATION

MADONNA  
I need to make a call. Now!

Steven blindly pulls out his iPhone and hands it to Madonna.

WILMOT  
Do you know how many of these calls we get?... People trying to stop an execution or get attention?

STEVEN  
I did it! Ok. I confess.

WILMOT  
Know how many of those calls we get?

STEVEN  
You're kidding. People confess to  
something they didn't do?

WILMOT  
All day. Everyday.

STEVEN  
My God. Aren't Tik-Tok views enough  
for desperate people?

MARCUS  
There were three shots. Two hit me.

STEVEN  
I shot Marcus two times.

WILMOT  
That was in all the news.

STEVEN  
But I fired three shots. One  
missed! Is that enough?

WILMOT  
How did--that's enough to question you.

MARCUS  
No! Four shots were fired. That bitch  
shot one of the ceiling tiles. Why in--

STEVEN  
No wait. Four shots were fired.

WILMOT  
You should have stuck with three,  
pal. I was at the scene myself.

STEVEN  
You what? Who are you?

WILMOT  
Detective Harry Wilmot. Who's this?

Steven slams down the phone.

MARCUS  
What?

STEVEN  
We're screwed. She's dead.

MARCUS  
They already killed her?

STEVEN

No! That was the detective who put Sam away. You think he's going to destroy his reputation? And career?

MARCUS

They'll listen to you now. You really can present new evidence.

STEVEN

So I hand them evidence and say I did it. Are you retar... crazy?

MARCUS

Do you want to live?

STEVEN

Yes. Exactly. And not on death row.

MARCUS

This is just a stop-gap measure to stop the execution until we can prove who killed me.

STEVEN

You suddenly remembered four shots were fired? And your wife shot the ceiling? It's gotta be her.

MARCUS

It's weird. It just popped in...up.

STEVEN

I'll do anything to live. Just don't ask me to die.

MARCUS

I'm not! This is just getting good! Look, if you lived life like you were going to die tomorrow you wouldn't be in this predicament.

STEVEN

And if you didn't live it up--

MARCUS

They'll never convict you. The murder weapon was never found.

STEVEN

Uh. Hello. That didn't stop the Samantha Artemis conviction.

MARCUS

What motive would you have? We just need a suspect and new evidence. Now!

(MORE)

Or Matias is raised by a single mother,  
and we're dead. Undead. Forever.

Madonna returns to the booth.

MADONNA

Thanks for the phone, hon. No one's  
ever trusted me with anything.

MARCUS

It's a sign from God. Remember that  
thing about no accidents? She was  
sent here for you.

MADONNA

I'm Madonna. What's your name, hon?

Marcus's eyes explode. He gestures "see that" with his hands.

MARCUS

This could be like the flip-side of  
an immaculate conception. The  
awkward-copulation with the  
anything-but-virgin Mary.

STEVEN

I never thought about it. Trust.  
Being so important.

MADONNA

It's something money can't buy.  
Kinda like love.

MARCUS

We can get you squared away right  
now. Look. She's almost in tears.  
There's a motel right here!

STEVEN

I can't just... I want to make love!

MARCUS

Would you just take one for the  
team? It's for your own good!

Madonna falls onto Steven embracing him, clinging to him.

MADONNA

Are you for real?

STEVEN

No. I mean yes. You look good in that  
dress. Tell Me more about that.

MADONNA

This will be special. I trust you.



STEVEN  
No. It's. Look. I'm scared. I don't  
...I'm ...a virgin.

EXT. MOTEL SECOND FLOOR BALCONY WALKWAY - NIGHT

Madonna rushes, no, drags Steven down the Motel walkway as if heading to the ER. She stops and jams a key into the door.

MADONNA  
I've still got another half hour on  
this room. This one's on me!

MARCUS  
It's like a free trial. Or First  
issue free type thing.

MADONNA  
I'll be gentle. Promise. I'm a  
professional.

STEVEN  
Is this a kind of thrill for you?

MADONNA  
Oh no no, honey. I want to help.  
I've helped many shy boys cross  
over to manhood. It's my pleasure.  
No. It's a privilege. An honor.

The lock clicks. Madonna pushes open the door.

MADONNA  
My mother always told me that if  
you want to get into heaven you  
have to take someone with you.

Madonna walks into the room. Steven stops cold outside.

STEVEN  
Your mother told you that?!  
That's... that's beautiful.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Madonna undresses. Steven enters then turns to Marcus outside.

STEVEN  
You! Stay close but out here! I've  
got enough performance anxiety.

Steven closes the door and turns back. Madonna sits naked on the bed. MOLLY, a GIRL GHOST, 8, flowing hair, teary eyes, semi-transparent, walks towards Steven. He screams. (Madonna can only see and hear Steven.)

STEVEN

Oh my God! What the hell?

MARCUS (O.S.)

It's gotta be similar to your porn  
collection under the bed.

Madonna pulls the sheets over herself for cover.

MOLLY

Can you help me find my body?

STEVEN

What happened to your body?

Madonna drags the sheets into the bathroom and slams the door.

MADONNA (O.S.)

How can you be so cruel?

MOLLY

You can see me?

MARCUS (O.S.)

Just pull out "The Drill Sergeant!"  
And... apply pressure.

STEVEN

Would you get in here!

MADONNA

Go away! You monster!

Marcus hovers through the door and sees the girl ghost. Molly  
sees Marcus and screams. Marcus screams. Steven screams.

MOLLY

It's a ghost!

MARCUS

She can see me? What the--

STEVEN

Can you show some compassion here?

MADONNA (O.S.)

You bastard!

MARCUS

This is really depressing. All  
these undead people milling about.

MOLLY

I need my medicine... in my pocket.

Steven whispers to Molly. Madonna no longer hears him.

STEVEN

Baby. It's ok. What's wrong?

MOLLY

A strange man took me. I ran. I could see my body there, but now I don't know my way back to it.

STEVEN

We can help you.

MARCUS

My God. Is this like extra credit?

STEVEN

You know what the best remedy for depression is?

MARCUS

Lady Gaga? Why you bringing her up now?

STEVEN

It's getting your attention off of yourself... by helping someone else. If you did a little more of that while you were alive, you probably wouldn't be in this mess.

MARCUS

You're in it too, Mother Teresa.

Molly's head droops down as Marcus and Steven argue.

STEVEN

Exactly. A wise person once said that you can't get into heaven without taking someone with you.

MARCUS

Are you kidding me? Duh! That was a whole two minutes ago!

STEVEN

Repeating what even she recognized as words of wisdom.

MARCUS

My God. I can't even think straight!

Steven tilts his head and eyes Marcus. He lets the opportunity go. He opens the door. They walk out.

EXT. MOTEL SECOND FLOOR BALCONY WALKWAY - NIGHT

MARCUS

Wait! A good deed! You think this kid  
can get me into heaven? Brilliant!

STEVEN

You're not following me here.

MARCUS

Go towards the light, honey.

STEVEN

Cut it out! A portal straight to  
hell is going to swallow you up any  
second...and badly jooge your hair.

MARCUS

Nice try. Look. This could be some  
kind of short-cut or work-around.

STEVEN

Or maybe it's a little girl who  
just happens to be lost where only  
we can see and help her.

MARCUS

Really? Then why can't I see into  
these walls? It's not for us to  
see. It's not part of OUR business!

STEVEN

Maybe it's a test! Are you a good man?

Steven kneels down to Molly.

STEVEN

Do you remember who took you?

MOLLY

He had a beard and a blue cap.

MARCUS

The only thing I can think to do  
with a lost kid is call the police.

STEVEN

We're already headed that way.

MARCUS

Maybe the wizard will take her home  
after fitting you with a brain.

Steven gets up and presses his finger to Marcus's chest.

STEVEN  
Good thinking, Tin Man.  
(to Molly)  
Honey, I'm going to get some help.

MARCUS  
What do you mean you?

STEVEN  
We can't separate her farther from  
her body. She's already weak.

MARCUS  
And what about us? Just how far do  
you think you can be away from me?

STEVEN  
Endora said the station's around  
the corner. I can last that long.  
(to Molly)  
Honey.

MOLLY  
Molly. My name is Molly Henderson.

STEVEN  
Molly. I need for you to stay  
here... and keep an eye on Uncle  
Marcus. How about if he... uh..

MARCUS  
I can paint your nails.

Nail polish appears in Marcus's hand. Molly nods.

INT. POLICE STATION / MAIN RECEPTION - NIGHT

Steven sweats and doubles over in pain. Wendy approaches.

WENDY  
Steven. What are you doing here?  
What's wrong with you?

STEVEN  
I really need your help. I mean, I  
can really help you.

WENDY  
Which is it?

STEVEN  
Is there somewhere we can talk?

INT. POLICE STATION / CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Wendy sits at a table opposite Steven.

WENDY

Psychic? Are you kidding me?

STEVEN

I don't care what you call it. I wish I weren't a part of this.

WENDY

You're playing me because I admitted liking "Long Island Medium," right? Did you plan--

STEVEN

Look. I know two things. Samantha Artemis did not kill Marcus Walden and the kidnapping of Molly--

WENDY

Henderson? You know where she is? Steven! How do you know about her? That's not public information.

Wendy stands. A pale Steven sweats and wheezes.

STEVEN

She needs some kind of medicine.

WENDY

She's diabetic. Steven. You're really scaring me. Where is she? She could be in a diabetic coma.

STEVEN

That's how... yes. A coma. She's alive... Barely. I think she's in the Elysian Motor Lodge.

WENDY

Steven. That's around the block.

STEVEN

"Eye of the hurricane." It's brilliant. Right next door.

WENDY

Brilliant? Steven, did you have--

STEVEN

Can't you just go check it out?

WENDY

I can't go with you alone. I...

STEVEN

Don't trust me. Bring the police. The whole force! To search that place.

INT. POLICE STATION / MAIN RECEPTION - NIGHT

Harry Wilmot stands, arms crossed, in front of Wendy.

WENDY

We have to check it out! Now!

WILMOT

Admit it. You're a rug muncher. How else can you explain that hair?

WENDY

Admit it. You were one of the Village People. How else would you explain that mustache?

WILMOT

How are you going to get into those rooms without a warrant?

WENDY

No need if the manager opens them up. We'll threaten to leave a black and white parked in front 24/7.

WILMOT

If anything turns up, my number one suspect is your psychic friend.

Steven wobbles in, bent over, holding his stomach.

WILMOT

I know you. At the bar. I was--

STEVEN

Bedazzled?

EXT. ELYSIAN MOTEL - DAY

The sun rises over the motel. Three squad cars sit in front. Marcus's hands rest on Molly's shoulders. Steven stoops down to the fading Molly. Cops file up the exterior stairs.

MARCUS

She's been fluttering in and out.

STEVEN

Do you remember anything at all?

MOLLY

It was dark. And I couldn't hear anything. The TV was too loud.

Steven stands and shouts to the second floor walkway where Wendy, Wilmot, uniforms and manager prepare to open a room.

STEVEN

She's in a room with a loud TV.

The group splits up and runs from room to room listening. In the parking lot, Molly fades away. Room 209's TV blasts.

STEVEN

Molly! Molly! Follow my voice.

(to others)

Find her NOW! We're out of time.

UNIFORMED OFFICER 1

Over here! It's 209.

All the cops converge and bang on the door of 209. No answer. The manager unlocks the door. The cops and detectives pile in.

INT. ELYSIAN MOTEL / ROOM 209 - DAY

Empty. A TV blasts a PREACHER. The cops sweep the room.

PREACHER ON TV

The epitome of evil is having  
spiritual leaders condone hate, in  
the name of God, against others...

A cop kicks into the bathroom. A woman screams. The cop backs out, bombarded by paper cups, lotion, and courtesy shampoo.

WOMAN

What are you doing in here?

Wilmot hangs back and turns to Wendy with a grimace.

WENDY

You. Why is your TV on so loud?

WOMAN

Is that a crime now? If I knew that  
then I would have called myself.

WENDY

What are you talking about?

WOMAN

That ass-hole downstairs. I wanted  
to wake his ass up because he kept  
me awake all night with that TV.



The room clears faster than it filled. The woman comes out.

EXT. ELYSIAN MOTEL - DAY

Steven stands below in the parking lot, in front of room 109.

WENDY

It's 109! She's in 109!

Steven looks up to see everyone running down the long, long walkway. Steven runs, rams the old door and falls into 109.

INT. ELYSIAN MOTEL / ROOM 109 - DAY

Steven sees tiny feet tied together between the twin beds.

STEVEN

Molly! Molly! Follow my voice.

Steven crawls the floor then presses his head to her chest. He jumps back, digs through her pockets and pulls out the insulin syringe. He injects her leg. The others descend and pull Steven away. He struggles to return.

WILMOT

What'd you shoot her up with freak?

STEVEN

It's insulin you dick. Molly!  
Molly! Remember what I said.

Wilmot burns an "I told you so" glare at Wendy.

WILMOT

It's always someone they know.  
Cuff this creep!

Steven busts free and nears Molly's ear. The officers pull his arms. He hovers long enough:

STEVEN

Baby. Your mommy and daddy love and miss you so much. Of all the little girls in the whole world, how did they end up with the very best one?

Wendy holds her hand over her mouth. The cops cuff Steven.

WILMOT

Get Mr. Psychic Psycho out of here.

Molly wakes and screams from the floor.

MOLLY

You leave him alone! He helped find me.

WENDY

Wilmot! It's true. Back off!

WILMOT

I know this is very confusing, but this man took you. You know him.

MOLLY

He was with me last night. His friend Marcus isn't very nice.

WENDY

Marcus?

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Steven, hand cuffed, sits next to Marcus in the back seat.

MARCUS

Total FAIL. Nice guys finish last.

EXT. ELYSIAN MOTEL - DAY

Paramedics wheel Molly towards an ambulance. Steven watches her parents arrive. Tears stream their faces. They embrace Molly. Wendy walks into earshot of the open window squad car.

STEVEN

I wouldn't change a thing.

MARCUS

Then why are you crying?

INT./EXT. POLICE CAR - DAY - INTERCUT WENDY/STEVEN

Wendy hears Steven seemingly talking to himself.

STEVEN

Look at her parents. This feeling. Right now. It's what I imagine heaven would be like.

MARCUS

It's as close as you're going to get. You realize we're now all doomed. Me. You. Artemis. Her kid.

STEVEN

No. Samantha and Matias can be released from all this, and we saved Molly too. More than most anyone could hope for in any lifetime.

Wendy leans into the police car window.

WENDY  
Steven? Who are you talking to?

MOLLY (O.S.)  
There! That's the man who took me.

EXT. ELYSIAN MOTEL STREET FRONT - DAY

A bearded man in a blue baseball cap drops a bag and runs.

WILMOT  
Get him! Block the street off!

INT./EXT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Wendy opens the squad car door next to Steven.

WENDY  
You had me worried there. Actually,  
you still have me pretty worried.

STEVEN  
At least you're thinking about me.  
Even if you don't trust me.

WENDY  
You said something about Artemis.  
And Marcus Walden. Who's Matias?

STEVEN  
Matias is the Artemis boy. Her kid.  
Samantha Artemis did not kill Marcus  
Walden. We have to stop the execution.

WENDY  
The only thing that could do that  
is new evidence that incriminates--

STEVEN  
At my place! I live at the murder  
scene...long story. Get a CSI team.  
I can explain on the way over. Am I  
free to go? Can we ... together?

WENDY  
On police business. Yes.

INT. GUEST HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - DAY

A crime scene investigator stands on a ladder, prying a  
bullet from the ceiling. Another talks to Wendy.

CSI #1

It happens. It's not impossible to miss something so far off target.

The CSI types bag the bullet and leave.

WENDY

Steven, it's not going to be enough. Artemis was found guilty.

STEVEN

But you said new evidence--

WENDY

--that incriminates someone else. This doesn't exonerate Artemis. And it sure as hell doesn't prove Walden's wife or lover did it. And what makes you think--

STEVEN

I did it.

WENDY

Steven. Nice try. Do you really--

STEVEN

--no, I really don't. I have to. I'm turning myself in. Along with the new evidence. Will that stop it?

WENDY

Temporarily. But, Steven, you'll immediately be sent to jail --it took less to convict Samantha Artemis, which I never understood.

STEVEN

I suspect "Don't say Gay" didn't apply to her headlines.

WENDY

Look, you have until tomorrow.

STEVEN

Anastasia Walden either shot Marcus or had someone shoot him. We need to--

WENDY

Do you have psychic ability or not?

STEVEN

My ability is... a painful process.

WENDY

A confession or testimony is all that's possible and very improbable.

MARCUS  
Tell the truth? That bitch lied--

STEVEN  
Truth! From her! Yes! That's it!

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - DAY

The spell book lies open on the page with the truth serum recipe. A pot boils on an electric plate. Endora stirs.

WENDY  
It's official. You're a psycho.

ENDORA  
Psychic.

WENDY AND STEVEN  
We'll know soon enough.

WENDY  
(reading)  
The serum only acts-on and invokes  
when the words "truth be told" are  
directed at the recipient. Warning:  
The mixture must be atomized and  
inhaled. Ingestion may be fatal.

STEVEN  
Can you get like a wire set-up?

WENDY  
We're just skipping over that last part?

STEVEN  
No one will drink it! The wire?

WENDY  
Are you kidding? We'd need a court  
order. That would take days if we  
had reasonable cause for it.

MARCUS  
The book didn't say anything about  
solving the murder in a court of  
law. We need to save Samantha.

STEVEN  
I'll record your wife's permission  
and confession on my phone.

MARCUS  
Wow. Way to Man-Up!

WENDY

Really? Maybe she'll also hand over  
the gun and photos after appetizers.

A timer DINGS. Endora sucks the melange out with an eye  
dropper and squeezes it into a purple vial on a chain. She  
caps it with a top with a tiny hole like a perfume sampler.

STEVEN

It's the moment of truth.  
Literally. You're going to have to  
sniff it. There's no other way for  
YOU to know if it really works.

WENDY

It's deadly poison!

STEVEN

I have my epi-pen at the ready.

WENDY

You have an epi-pen?

ENDORA

Whiff me. I've got nothing to hide.

MARCUS

You're kidding. Your entire outfit  
is a giant cloaking device.

STEVEN

Seriously. You? A transvestite  
joke? What do you have against--

ENDORA

Heavens to Venus! Don't ever say  
that word in public! And I'm not a  
cross-dresser. I'm not hiding  
anything! This IS my identity!

MARCUS

I missed the gender-reveal party.

STEVEN

I didn't. I don't. I mean. I'm  
sensing a little hostility from the  
spirit world. Wow. I didn't realize  
I have so many questions.

ENDORA

We don't have time for invasive  
curiosity and woke issues right now.

STEVEN

How do I keep ending up in the  
middle of a mine field?

Endora snorts the vial.

STEVEN  
Truth be told, I want to know...

ENDORA  
Yes. I still have a penis. Happy?

STEVEN  
That's not at all what I was going--

WENDY  
He's right. That doesn't mean a thing to me.

ENDORA  
Yeah. Times are changing so fast.

WENDY  
(to Steven)  
What are you going to ask me?

Wendy grabs the vial.

STEVEN  
Just... breathe in. Lightly.

WENDY  
(sniffing)  
Great. I already feel light headed.

STEVEN  
Truth be told, what is the password  
to your online bank account?

WENDY  
Johnny99. Oh my God. Steven!

STEVEN  
Who is Johnny?

WENDY  
My ex-boyfriend. Steven. That's  
enough. Ok. I'm convinced.

STEVEN  
Was he hot? Did you jump his bones?

WENDY  
Yes. Every chance I got.

STEVEN  
Will you jump mine?

WENDY  
As soon as I get a chance. How dare  
you! Steven! Now I'm embarrassed.

Wendy sticks her fingers in her ears and runs out humming.

WENDY

La La La. I can't hear you.

ENDORA

I'm gonna sell this by the tub.

STEVEN

We need to put this on something.

ENDORA

Flowers, doll. It's perfect!

MARCUS

White roses. She loves them.

INT. ROSALIND MANSION / PARLOR - DAY

BERNIE, 38, incredible hulk, leads Steven into an opulent room wallpapered with roses. Stuffed, mounted birds, fish, deer and a tiger rug adorn the room. An antique chest sits in the corner. Steven holds a bouquet. Marcus looks Bernie over.

MARCUS

I'm feeling a little nelly.

STEVEN

Do you work out? How about those... sports figures?

MARCUS

Honestly. It's like you get in the car and floor it before you even know where you're going.

Bernie leaves. They notice a stuffed Pomeranian dog with a pink sequin bow and red nails in the corner near the oak chest.

STEVEN

She really has a hard time letting go of the living.

MARCUS

My Dog! She stuffed my dog. She hated Miss Sparkles.

STEVEN

It's a male for godsakes. Look.

The endowed dog poses unneutered.

MARCUS

So? What's your point? He looked cute in a pink bow and red nails.



STEVEN

Are you sure the dog didn't just  
end it all?

MARCUS

What? He backed himself up into the  
fluff injector at "Build-A-Bear?"

STEVEN

Yes. That's exactly what I meant.

MARCUS

Just... Turn on the APP!

STEVEN

Already recording.

MARCUS

Test one. Test two.

STEVEN

It doesn't pick up the dead.  
There's no APP for that. Yet.  
Just stay quiet. You mess me up.  
(off walls)  
Good call on the roses.

MARCUS

It looks like Laura Ashley dropped  
acid in here. ... There's my chest!

Anastasia traipses in. Haggard hair. Circles under her eyes.  
She looks older than before but still has that allure along  
with a neckline plunging through cleavage to larger breasts.

ANASTASIA

I'm Anastasia. How may I help you?

MARCUS

When did you get that boob job?

Steven turns from the antique chest and looks at her boobs.

STEVEN

Oh! I'm sorry. I was just admiring  
your chest! ...It's really big. Old.

ANASTASIA

White roses! My father bred them.  
In his eyes they were perfection.  
How did you know I envy them so?

Anna takes a deep breath smelling the flowers. She caresses  
and stares into them, transfixed.

ANASTASIA

They're exquisite. Flawless.

STEVEN

Marcus told me you loved them. I ...worked on his computer. ...He never mentioned how incredibly beautiful you were. Are.

MARCUS

Oh God. It's like I'm helping in an assisted suicide.

STEVEN

As you know, I live in the guest house.

ANASTASIA

You do? I had a service rent it. I guess I should have taken a more ...personal... interest in it.

Anna invades Steven's personal space.

STEVEN

That would have been...really...personal.

MARCUS

Do the Truth thing!

STEVEN

Well. TRUTH BE TOLD. I just--

Anna's eyes flutter. Her head tilts and stops for a moment.

ANASTASIA

Come closer. It's been so long since a real man touched me.

STEVEN

But... You think I'm a real man? I mean, you want me to touch you?

MARCUS

Stay on point.

ANASTASIA

TRUTH BE TOLD you're makin' me hot.

Steven pauses. His eye lids twitch.

MARCUS

What! What are the odds? Let's get out or you'll spill your guts.

STEVEN

Maybe I better come later.

ANASTASIA

I can help you with that.

MARCUS  
Stop. This can't be good.

STEVEN  
But I need to get laid. Isn't that  
what we both want?

ANASTASIA  
It's like you read my mind!

MARCUS  
She's got... crabs... no... herpes!  
Herpes with a side of crabs. She's  
seducing you, you idiot. And you're  
telling her what you want!

STEVEN  
I'm sorry!

ANASTASIA  
Don't be. Take me now, pool boy!

STEVEN  
I live in the guest--

ANASTASIA  
He didn't want me. He wanted Andrew.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION ENTRY WAY - DAY

ANDREW, handsome manboy, beams in the doorway.

RETURN TO PRESENT

MARCUS  
And I can see why. Wowza.

ANASTASIA  
He wanted out. He used me.

MARCUS  
That's not true! What's happening?

STEVEN  
Did you?

ANASTASIA  
Did I what?

MARCUS  
She used me to get what she wanted.

STEVEN  
How could you live that way?

MARCUS	ANASTASIA
It was horrible. Like SHE put some kind of spell on me.	It was horrible. Like HE put some kind of spell on me.

MARCUS  
Ask her about the murder already!

STEVEN  
Who killed Marcus Walden?

ANASTASIA  
I shot him. In your bungalow.

MARCUS  
But what about Andrew? If she shot  
me, what happened to him?

STEVEN  
Oh. My. You did what?

Steven cants the cell phone on his belt towards her.

MARCUS  
Your acting is horrendous.

ANASTASIA  
That's why you came here.

STEVEN  
Yes. So. You're confessing.

ANASTASIA  
Of course you could never prove it.

Marcus's mouth moves without sound. He whips his head back and forth and dissolves away. Steven sees Marcus vanish.

STEVEN  
No. But... now I know for sure. That  
solves everything. What a relief!

ANASTASIA  
You'd never do anything to hurt me.

STEVEN  
(entranced, in-rhythm)  
I would never do anything to hurt you.

ANASTASIA  
Marcus had it coming to him.

STEVEN  
Marcus had it coming to him.

ANASTASIA

You got what you came here for. But  
I still don't have what I want, my  
delicious, potent little virgin.

Anna presses up against Steven and cups his crotch. He gasps.  
His chin quivers. She kisses his neck.

ANASTASIA

I trust you with my darkest secrets.  
And I'll free you of yours.

STEVEN

Oh my God! I... I...

Anna covers Steven's mouth. Her other hand reaches down.

ANASTASIA

You have my very soul.  
May I have yours?

Anna devours Steven with her mouth. The circles under her  
eyes evaporate. Her hair softens and sheens. She lowers in  
front of Steven, out of frame. Steven's eyes pop.

STEVEN

That's where your soul is? Oh God!

Steven pulls his shirt over his head and off.

STEVEN

Wait! I want to do it now! I don't  
know if I can hold it.

ANASTASIA

You must. That way I can keep you  
UNDER MY SPELL!

Anna flings her hands up in the air. Lightning FLASH! Steven  
freezes. Anna backs away and takes a stance.

ANASTASIA

You would do anything for me.

STEVEN

I would do anything for you.

Anna retrieves a gun from the chest in the corner.

ANASTASIA

Can you hold onto my gun for me?

With both of her hands, she puts the gun in his fingers and  
positions them to fire the weapon. She steps away and motions  
her fingers. BANG! The gun fires. A hole appears in the far  
wall. A small line of blood traces her side.

ANASTASIA

Go put this in a safe place. Your car is very safe. After that, you will forget the last few minutes.

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION - DAY

Steven paces down the drive, stopping at his old, white Mini-Cooper. He places the gun in the back hatch and closes it.

INT. GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Steven enters and sweats like he left a cardio work-out.

WENDY

What happened? You're all sweaty. And where's your shirt?

STEVEN

I thought she was gonna mount me like a Pomeranian. She didn't do--

WENDY

What? Steven. She didn't do it?

STEVEN

She did it. But we didn't. I'm a little foggy. And a lotta horny.

WENDY

What? Did you get her confessing?

STEVEN

Yes. Samantha is clear now.

WENDY

We need to take care of this.

STEVEN

Yes. Right now!

Steven kisses her full bore. He sweeps her to the bedroom.

INT. GUEST HOUSE BEDROOM - DAY

Steven and Wendy lie in bed side by side.

WENDY

What are you thinking about?

STEVEN

I finally did it.

WENDY  
(turns to face him)  
That's what you're thinking?

STEVEN  
Well... I... yes. But I didn't  
think this was about words. I...

WENDY  
What are you feeling then?

STEVEN  
I feel great.

WENDY  
Yep. You're a man all right.

STEVEN  
You don't know how much that means--

WENDY  
That wasn't a compliment. After  
making love it's nice to... you  
know... use your words. And no  
mansplaining! Say what you're  
feeling. Otherwise how do I know--

STEVEN  
--that I care for you? Believe me.  
I couldn't do this otherwise. I  
waited for someone special.

Wendy laughs. Steven pulls the covers up to his chin to hide.

STEVEN  
Why are you laughing?

WENDY  
That's the inside of a greeting  
card. I'm a detective, remember?

STEVEN  
Fine. I was scared. Ok. I was trying to  
live up to my idea of what women want. Of  
who I thought I wanted to be. An action  
figure. But, uh, how did I... do?

WENDY  
Shhh Shhh Shhh. Relax. This isn't a  
competition. That's such a guy thing!

STEVEN  
I did another guy thing! That's the  
second best thing you said!

INT. GUEST HOUSE BATHROOM - DAY

Steven sweeps all of the man-potions into the trash can.

INT. GUEST HOUSE KITCHEN - DAY

The vision-board and photo clippings fill a trash can. Steven and Wendy sit at the empty table. Steven sets his iPhone down.

STEVEN

We better listen to it first.

WENDY

It may not be admissible as evidence.

STEVEN

It's enough to make sure there's justice for Artemis and me. And Marcus.

WENDY

Why are you so sure?

STEVEN

Because you're here, and Marcus isn't.

Wendy scrunches her forehead and opens her mouth. Steven hits the APP on the phone and presses play. The audio quiets Wendy.

STEVEN ON APP

It doesn't pick up the dead.  
There's no APP for that. Yet.

WENDY

What are... who are you talking to?

Steven fast forwards.

STEVEN ON APP

You did what? ... Would you? ... Oh my. You did what? ... Yes.

WENDY

Why don't I hear anyone else?

STEVEN

Maybe she's a lot quieter than me.  
I should put my AirPods in.

Steven fast forwards again and reaches for the ear buds case.

STEVEN ON APP

Marcus had it coming to him.

WENDY

Steven?



Steven pulls the AirPods from the case (automatically muting the iPhone speaker) and jams them into his ears.

STEVEN ON APP

Wait! I want to do it now!

Steven screams.

WENDY

What? What is it? Can you hear her?

STEVEN

No. She's not there.

WENDY

Steven. What the hell's going on?

STEVEN

She's not recorded.

WENDY

How is that possible?

STEVEN

She's--

MARCUS (O.S.)

Dead.

Marcus materializes seated across the table. Steven jumps and screams. Wendy screams at Steven's outburst.

MARCUS

Actually. Undead is more accurate.

WENDY

Steven! What the hell?

STEVEN

She's--

MARCUS

A witch. That wart's a dead give-away. Beauty mole my ass.

STEVEN

She tricked me.

MARCUS

Entranced you.

STEVEN

Where were you?

MARCUS

She trapped me in the bedroom.

WENDY

Steven. I've been in this--

Steven holds up his hands.

STEVEN

Stop. Wendy. Do you trust me?

WENDY

Well. Yes. I guess. But--

STEVEN

I haven't exactly told you everything.

WENDY

That's how you follow "do you trust me?"

STEVEN

I haven't lied. I don't think.

WENDY

I don't feel so good. How can I be such a bad judge of character?

STEVEN

You aren't. You're a great detective. Because you listen to your heart... and with your heart.

WENDY

That's really sweet. It's exactly the kind of endearing, smart, diabolical manipulation a psychopath would use.

STEVEN

No. I'm serious. Marcus. Marcus Walden is here! Sitting here. He's my connection. Would a psychopath say something so crazy?

Steven points to a seemingly empty chair where Marcus sits.

WENDY

Oh my God you're just insane.

STEVEN

Marcus! Do something.

MARCUS

Like what? I'm totally impotent.

STEVEN

Wait wait wait! The truth serum!

Steven grabs the purple vial and takes a whiff.

STEVEN  
Ask me something. Anything.

WENDY  
What's your bank account password?

STEVEN  
Chris92.

WENDY  
And just who is this Chris? She hot?

STEVEN  
He was my baby brother. He died.

WENDY  
Oh! Oh my God! I'm so sorry. This  
is not going quite like I thought.

Wendy goes behind Steven, cheek to cheek and hugs him.

STEVEN  
It's ok. It was a long time ago.  
Just ask me about Marcus.

WENDY  
I believe you think you are in contact  
with him. Maybe you see him, but that  
doesn't mean he's really there. Here.  
You hit your head, remember? Well, do--

Wendy caresses the bump on Steven's noggin.

STEVEN  
I found Molly! I talked to her! I  
can prove he's here. Tell him  
something. I'll go outside.

Steven heads for the door. He turns around.

STEVEN  
And be cryptic. You know. Say  
something like LGBTQIAexpialidocious.

Steven shuts the door behind him. Wendy hesitates.

EXT. GUEST HOUSE - DAY

Marcus flitters through the closed door.

MARCUS  
Wendy says, "I'll take trust for  
three hundred and nine dollars. And  
Ricky Ricardo was the husband on  
this TV show."

STEVEN  
Three hundred and nine dollars?

Wendy opens the door and steps outside.

WENDY  
Impossible odds to just guess.

STEVEN  
I Love Wendy.

MARCUS AND WENDY  
You're supposed to phrase it like a question. And you're wrong.

WENDY  
What is "I Love Lucy!" is the answer!

STEVEN  
No. It isn't.

They run, hug, kiss, do Wuthering Heights.

MARCUS  
Consummate this thing, and we're half way home.

STEVEN  
We already did.

WENDY  
We already did what?

MARCUS  
You did what?

STEVEN  
Oh. Wendy. Uh. This is Marcus.

WENDY  
Oh my God. Was he there when we...?

MARCUS  
When you did... When did you? You did?

STEVEN  
No. He wasn't. Anastasia knew he was present and pulled him away.

MARCUS  
She was able to un-tether us.

STEVEN  
She's a witch. Anastasia Walden is some sort of walking-dead witch. We could not record her.

WENDY

Shouldn't you be pacing yourself with this stuff? You just told me Marcus Walden is somehow the walking-dead on the other side. How is it now that his wife is walking-dead on this side? Undead.

MARCUS

She somehow uses people.  
She takes their life force...  
virgins preferably.

STEVEN

She somehow sucks energy from  
people.

STEVEN

Virgins!?

MARCUS

Their purity is somehow... better  
for her skin. A real pick-me-up.

WENDY

Luckily you don't qualify.

STEVEN

Right. Yeah. Luckily. Anyway. We're  
back to square one with this.

WENDY

I need to know everything you both  
know. Don't hold anything back.

MARCUS

You should grow your hair out.

STEVEN

It's already Saturday night!

MARCUS

Remember the hex! We can have you  
cross-over and join me. Take her  
from behind. I mean... you know.

STEVEN

We gotta go see Endora.

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION - DAY

A BLACK SUV veers onto the house drive. Wilmot emerges,  
marches to the door and rings the bell. Anastasia answers.

ANASTASIA

Officer Wilmot. What took so long?

Wilmot stares, transfixed. He touches blood on her dress.

ANASTASIA  
I've got some probable cause for you.

WILMOT  
For what?

ANASTASIA  
To get into that car.

Steven's Mini backs out with Steven, Wendy, and Marcus.

WILMOT  
A Mini? That is so gay.

ANASTASIA  
An unexpected twist, but you can  
still be the hero of this story.  
It's why I cast you in this role.

INT. STEVEN'S CAR - MOVING - DAY

Wendy drives and glances to the back where the two huddle.

MARCUS  
The book said that you could cross-  
over into the realm of the dead.

STEVEN  
The plan is usually to avoid that.

MARCUS  
No. It isn't. You need to keep  
moving. Evolving. Going somewhere.

STEVEN  
What are we going to do on the other  
side? We can't kill her. She's dead.  
Undead. Living challenged.

MARCUS  
She's gotta be stuck... something  
like us. We have to release her and  
flush her down the Astral toilet.

STEVEN  
What if something goes wrong? What  
about Samantha?

MARCUS  
Record a confession on your iPhone  
just in case. Text it to Wendy.

STEVEN  
And what was my motive to kill you?

MARCUS  
You burgled me. Got in my--

STEVEN  
I have a better idea.

Steven gets his iPhone, ducks, faces down and presses record.

STEVEN  
I, Steven Dorson, shot Marcus Walden.

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

Endora examines people-with-horns photos in a giant book as Wendy, Steven, and Marcus rattle through her beaded archway.

ENDORA  
She's probably a succubus.

WENDY AND STEVEN  
A What?

ENDORA  
A female demon who seduces men through sexual intercourse. That's how she's able to remain in-the-flesh. Pun intended.

STEVEN  
(off Wendy's stare)  
What? Oh. So she seduced Marcus.

Steven looks away. Endora reads from the book.

ENDORA  
An undead entity can remain incarnate by sucking the life energy from the living. To kill a succubus or entity with similar attributes, a person must draw the symbol of the masculine upon the ground. With candles and...

Endora fumbles to turn the page.

MARCUS  
Oh please God, don't say a dildo.

ENDORA  
...and with full resolve, kneel upon the masculine symbol of all the succubus craved and intone the words that follow: "By the forces of Heaven and Hell, draw to us this woman fell.

(MORE)

Rend from her foul desire, that she  
may perish as a moth to fire. Per  
vires coeli et inferni."

STEVEN

Why are some spells in English and  
others not? What's with the Latin?

ENDORA

The language isn't important. It's  
the intention behind the words. So  
long as everyone gets it. Oddly,  
people believe more in it if it's  
in Latin. It's... exotic.  
Mysterious. It's purely romantic.

STEVEN

How do I draw the symbol of the  
masculine? Do I have to sketch a  
ding-a-ling?

ENDORA

Just the circle with the arrow.

MARCUS

Really? How are you ever going to  
be a man if you can't call it a...  
anything more manly!

STEVEN

We need a man with full resolve.

Wendy plants an oxygen depriving kiss on Steven.

STEVEN

I'm gonna man handle that wee-otch!

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

Steven lies on the floor surrounded by Wendy, Endora, Marcus,  
and stuff for the trip: white candles, crystal ball, magic  
mirror, the black magic spell book and a vial of holy water.

STEVEN

Are you familiar with the phrase  
"you can't take it with you?"

Endora shoves the things into a pentagram embossed satchel.

ENDORA

These magic objects don't need to cross  
over. They already exist on both planes.

STEVEN

Holy water? Candles? She's not a vampire.



MARCUS

She sucked the life out of me.

ENDORA

Maybe the candles will set her on fire. Or holy water will melt her. Let the magic book guide you!

WENDY

She has magical powers. She could do God knows what to Steven.

ENDORA

The spells only work if you believe in 'em. Pretty much like any words.

MARCUS

Don't be nervous, pal. I got you.

WENDY

We don't poison Steven or anything, right? No Romeo and Juliet crap.

ENDORA

It's just words, honey. If you think it's all nonsense, then there's nothing to worry about. And if it ain't, then he's just going for a little visit. Like it says.

WENDY

Ok. But I will not wait too long. I'll do whatever to revive him.

Wendy lays Steven's head in her lap. Endora lifts the book off Steven's chest, opens it, and hands it to him. He reads.

STEVEN

Love is the essence of life. Life is changed, never taken away. Ad vitam paramus. Amor est vitae essentia. Memento vivere. Vita mutatur, non tollitur.

Steven opens his eyes and looks around. A tear rolls down Wendy's face. She moves and rests her head on Steven's chest.

STEVEN

Why didn't it work?

WENDY

I can't hear his heart. No. There's a weak pulse. Are you sure he's ok?

STEVEN

I'm right here.

Steven hinges his bare torso up in front of Wendy. He looks to see her with his physical body where his spirit body sits.

STEVEN

Oh God. I didn't think this through.

MARCUS

Maybe imagine some clothes on.

STEVEN

My Body!

MARCUS

I've already seen it. All the way down to that cute little birthmark. I'll show you mine.

STEVEN

No. It's OK! Really!

Marcus pulls the right side of his pants down just enough to expose a crescent-shaped birthmark on his hip.

MARCUS

See! I have one too.

Steven averts his eyes and points to his physical body.

STEVEN

No... look... my body!

MARCUS

That must be freaky. I never saw my body. I wonder if she had it stuffed.

Steven closes his eyes. Clothes form on his spirit body. He stands and walks away from Wendy and Endora who fade.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. MAGICK SHOPPE - NIGHT

Steven looks to see the room walls fade off into darkness and starry space. The floor trails away. Objects float about, tethered to the room but adrift on a sea of waves of energy. Steven stands up. The Satchel and book rise with him.

STEVEN

Endora was right. The stuff is here too! Except for the holy water.

The book falls out of the bag, floats, and opens.

STEVEN

Hey. It's guiding us like Endora said. This page is about releasing the undead. You must give them what they need.

MARCUS  
She needs a new pair of Jimmy Choos.

STEVEN  
Can't you be serious?

MARCUS  
That isn't serious?

STEVEN  
One day I'll explain the difference  
between want and need to you.

MARCUS  
Really? You have no idea how to get  
or do anything you really want to.

STEVEN  
Bullshit. I help people. I want  
them to be happy. It's what I want.

MARCUS  
But if you're not living your life  
you can't be happy. And you can't  
give away what you don't have.

STEVEN  
Where did you get that chestnut?

MARCUS  
A reading from the book of whores.

STEVEN

Let's go find that witch.

MARCUS

Let's go find that bitch.

Marcus grabs Steven, and they shoot through the walls.

INT. ROSALIND MANSION PARLOR MIXED WITH ASTRAL PLANE - NIGHT

The boys stand in the opulent room where Steven met Anastasia. This room, like everything else, appears semi-transparent and mixes with waves of energy and stars in the Astral Plane.

STEVEN  
How do we sneak up on her?

MARCUS  
The way you would a Bengal tiger.

BANG! Steven and Marcus jump. A THUMPING sound repeats.

STEVEN  
What the hell is that?

Marcus takes off down the hall. Steven follows, whispering.

STEVEN  
What happened to sneaking?

MARCUS  
She'll never hear us. Believe  
me. I know that sound.

The noise grows louder and continues in rhythm. Moans overlay  
in the ruckus. The two reach the open bedroom double doors.  
Anastasia, face down, thrusts up and down atop the bed.

STEVEN  
Oh my God. She's... We've got to...  
She's on top?

MARCUS  
Perfect. While she's sucking the  
life force out of that poor  
schmuck, we can get ready.

Marcus cracks open the satchel. Steven storms the room.

INT. ROSALIND MANSION MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

STEVEN  
Get off of that... poor schmuck!

Steven grabs a white candle from Marcus and draws a circle  
with an arrow on the hardwood floor.

MARCUS  
That's how you use the candles?

STEVEN  
It just came to me now.

Steven drops a knee and trumpets:

STEVEN  
By the forces of Heaven and Hell,  
draw to us this woman fell. Rend  
from her foul desire, that she may  
perish as a moth to fire.

Anna, face down, shrieks and screams.

MARCUS  
I've never been more attracted to  
you in my whole life! Death!

STEVEN  
Yeah. I really put my balls into it.

The scream pauses a split second and then continues in  
bursts. It evolves into a diabolical laugh.

ANASTASIA

I've been waiting for you.

Anna spins face-up as the bed sheets wrap around her. She hinges from horizontal to vertical in a swift, magical move that exposes an empty bed.

ANASTASIA

Oh if I only had a man in my bed.

STEVEN

By the forces of Heaven and Hell...

ANASTASIA

Sugar. You have to believe in the words for them to work.

Steven stands tall and struts up to Anna.

STEVEN

I believe it.

ANASTASIA

But I don't. Here's something a little more potent... you PUSSY!

Steven's brow loosens a bit. He slumps.

ANASTASIA

You're just a wimp. Wuss. Sissy.

Steven deflates.

MARCUS

Don't listen to her. It's not true. Sticks and stones break your bones.

ANASTASIA

But the words can tear you to pieces! ... Eh Fag!... Homo!

STEVEN

You leave him alone you bitch!

ANASTASIA

Or what? Are you gonna call your mommy? Or how about... Daddy!

Steven withers.

ANASTASIA

Oh that's it. Da Da. Where was pops?

MARCUS

Steven. Forget about Daddy. You're a man. A good man. Can't you see?

Marcus grabs the satchel and pulls out the magic mirror.

MARCUS

Look. See for yourself.

Marcus holds the mirror to Steven. Steven sees a scared boy's image fluttering with a confident image of himself.

He looks over the reflection of his shoulder to Anna. A five year old girl stands there, shredding white roses. Steven's head whips back around. Adult Anastasia still stands there. He looks back and forth.

STEVEN

You're just a brat! I should put you over my knee.

ANASTASIA

Finally some action. Spank me, Daddy.

Steven looks back in the mirror. He notices that the child quivers, sad and harmless. Not angry or bratty.

STEVEN

Wait a minute. You don't have a clue. You're just like me. Look!

Steven grabs and faces the mirror to Anastasia. She thrusts out an open palm. A shock wave emanates. The mirror shatters. Shards float about. She grabs one and raises it to Steven.

STEVEN

You can't kill me. We're dead. Undead. This is not my real body.

ANASTASIA

It's more real than the other one. If you believe that you die in this plane, you cease to exist forever.

MARCUS

Nobody said anything about that.

STEVEN

Marcus! Help me!

MARCUS

Maybe we better go with giving her what she needs. Wants. Something.

ANASTASIA

I want a man.

MARCUS

I think she needs you to man up.

Steven struggles holding back Anna's hand.

STEVEN  
This isn't manning up?

MARCUS  
Show her your magic wand.

Marcus ducks over and pulls Steven's pants down. Anna stops. Steven breaks away, stumbles, pulls up pants. The two run.

STEVEN  
Do you think that's what being a man is all about?

MARCUS  
Hell no. I don't care if you're gay or straight, man or woman, they or zir, alive or dead, people stop and look when there's full frontal.

INT. ROSALIND MANSION HALLWAY - NIGHT

The boys run down the transparent hall/Astral Plane.

MARCUS  
Screw you!

ANASTASIA  
Steven first. He's a much bigger man than you, Marcus.

STEVEN  
It's the enlargement pills.

MARCUS  
So we all agree. Size does matter.

STEVEN  
The size of your heart.

MARCUS  
Oh! Now I know ghosts can throw up.

ANASTASIA  
If you love something, set it free.  
If it comes back...

As they run away from Anna, they run right into her.

ANASTASIA  
It's yours.

Anastasia throws her hands into the air. FLASH!

INT. ROSALIND MANSION MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marcus and Steven lie face to face, bound in Anna's bed.

STEVEN

It's like Poltergeist meets  
Brokeback Mountain.

MARCUS

You really could use a mint or an  
oral rinse.

STEVEN

Why don't you just think of a knife  
to cut the rope or imagine us free?

MARCUS

What do you think I've been doing? Free-  
basing your cologne? It's not working.  
She's still... on top... somehow.

ANASTASIA

Little boys. So easy to cast spells  
over. Husbands, judges, juries,  
gardeners, detectives. So many lies to  
leverage. Of course, little girls are  
my secret favorites. Let's get Wendy  
into this ménage. She's just gonna die!

Anastasia zips away. Steven struggles. THUNDER CLAPS sound.  
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Lightning flashes.

STEVEN

Anastasia! Stop! Take me! I'm yours.

BOOM! BOOM! FLASH!

INT. MAGICK SHOPPE / BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

BOOM! Wendy pounds Steven's chest. Endora pulls the epi-pen  
from Steven's thigh. Steven jolts up.

STEVEN

Forget Wendy! Anna! Come back to me!

WENDY

Anna? Steven?

STEVEN

Marcus? Marcus! Anastasia has him, and  
she's coming for you! You gotta leave  
town. Hide! She's gonna kill you too!

ENDORA

But she can't hurt Marcus. Can she?



WENDY  
That doesn't make sense.

STEVEN  
The mirror. If I could have just showed her... She's just a scared little girl.

ENDORA  
Did you use the chant?

STEVEN  
I have to go back.

ENDORA  
It's a one time trick. Remember?  
Let's get you kids out of town.

STEVEN  
Wendy go. You have to.

WENDY  
You want me to go alone?

STEVEN  
No, but she has supernatural powers.  
She controls people with spells. She  
has Wilmot under some spell too! I  
have to figure out how to deal with  
her now. In THIS world.

WENDY  
I can help! Maybe she has a record  
or something the police missed  
before. I can look it up.

ENDORA  
Why don't you just GOOGLE her?

Wendy and Steven look at each other. They race over to  
Endora's computer. They search "Anastasia Walden."

ENDORA AND STEVEN  
That's impossible.

WENDY  
It is pretty weird.

The search results read zero. A blank field fills the screen.

WENDY  
It should show other results.

STEVEN  
Like, "Widow of murder victim" or "buy  
Anastasia on Ebay." Anna on LinkedIn.

WENDY  
Try just Anastasia.

Steven types. The screen fills with entries.

WENDY  
Anastasia the movie. The hotel. The  
salon. Perfume. Salad. Roses. City.

STEVEN  
Roses? GOOGLE that! Anastasia Rose.

Wendy clicks. Text and images of white roses appear. Wendy  
clicks the "Anastasia Rose" Wikipedia entry.

WENDY  
(reading)  
Anastasia. The Greek name meaning  
resurrection redirects here.

STEVEN  
Don't redirect. Keep reading.

WENDY  
(reading)  
Anastasia Rose: White cross-bred  
roses hybridized in the 1930s by  
the Reverend Clarence Rosalind.

STEVEN AND ENDORA  
Rosalind!

STEVEN  
Search Rosalind Mansion.

Wendy types. An image of the mansion comes up.

WENDY  
(reading)  
Built by the hellfire preacher,  
Clarence Rosalind. Burnt to the  
ground in 1940. The fire started in  
their child's bedroom. It took the  
lives of the entire family.

Wendy scrolls. Images appear: the mansion in 1940s.

STEVEN  
Look. There's an old photo of the  
property. There's no guest house  
back then. Just two--

STEVEN AND WENDY  
Headstones.

WENDY

Ok. That's creepy. The guest house covers their graves.

STEVEN

Geezus. Thank God they don't haunt me. Look at them.

CLOSE ON: Old daguerreotype-like sepia photos of two frowning old-timers in black. The Rev holds a Bible.

WENDY

(reading)

The mansion is--

STEVEN

(reading)

--thought to be haunted.

(to Wendy)

Not by The Rosalinds. By Anastasia. I saw a young girl in the mirror.

ENDORA

I thought Anastasia emigrated from somewhere. The green card, remember?

WENDY

What if she emigrated from some-WHEN.

STEVEN AND ENDORA

What?

WENDY

What better way to go unnoticed as an immortal? You'd eventually need to re-invent yourself and inherit your belongings. And keep it a guarded secret.

STEVEN

(reading)

The house lay in ruins for years until Andrew Rosalind rebuilt it.

WENDY AND STEVEN

Who in the hell is Andrew Rosalind?

WENDY

Was he their kid? But it said the whole family was burned to death.

ENDORA

Marcus talked about someone named Andy. He must have survived.

WHAM! The door explodes open. Wilmot and two other police officers enter the room with guns drawn.

WILMOT  
Hold it right there.

WENDY  
Wilmot!

STEVEN  
You gotta find Anastasia Walden. She's--

WILMOT  
Your lover. And apparently you were  
doing both her and Marcus Walden.

Wilmot holds up a gun in a plastic bag.

WILMOT  
We found the Marcus Walden murder  
weapon in your car.

WENDY  
You did what?

STEVEN  
What? I didn't even live here then.

WILMOT  
And we tracked your cell phone. You  
were at the Elysian Motel before we  
got to Molly Henderson. And you  
called some drug dealer from there.

STEVEN  
What? Oh wait. That was the hooker.

WENDY  
Hooker? I thought you never--

WILMOT  
Nice dick-pic by the way. And you were in  
the ER two days ago with self inflicted  
injuries. And there's this...

WENDY  
Dick-pic? Who are you?

Wilmot plays an MP3 on a smart-phone.

STEVEN ON RECORDING  
Wait! I want to do it now! I don't  
know if I can hold it.

ANASTASIA ON RECORDING  
You would do anything for me.

STEVEN  
How'd you get that? With her on it?

WILMOT

We have warrants for everything.

Wendy slaps Steven across the face.

STEVEN

Wendy. No. It was only a near blow job.  
She barely grazed me then entranced me.

Wendy races out. Wilmot turns Steven around and cuffs him.

STEVEN

If I was in this triangle, why did  
I kill Marcus? Jealousy? Prove--

WILMOT

Mrs. Walden showed me the will, Mr.  
Beneficiary to the Walden estate.

STEVEN

What? She just created that. She...  
It's the perfect motive.

WILMOT

It sure is. And we've pulled all of  
your messages and texts. Fascinating.

Wilmot plays the text message video confession that Steven  
sent Wendy earlier. Wilmot skips through it.

STEVEN ON RECORDING

I, Steven Dorson, shot Marcus Walden. We  
were lovers.

WILMOT

Now that is seriously gay. And  
first degree murder.

ENDORA

That's impossible.

STEVEN

I just made that up to stop the  
execution. I don't... I didn't even  
know Marcus before he was killed.

ENDORA

I never even met Steven until he  
came in here with Marcus. His dead  
body. I mean spirit body. Ghost.

STEVEN

You're really not helping here.

WILMOT

Oh Eduardo here's helping out fine!  
(to Endora)  
(MORE)

Stay put if you don't want this place  
closed down. Again. I don't think  
you'll be able to re-awaken your  
Kundalini one more time.  
(to Steven)  
You have the right to remain silent...

INT. POLICE CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

Wilmot drives. Wendy rides shotgun. She stares ahead.

WILMOT  
It doesn't look so good, us finding  
you there with him. Promise me you  
had nothing to do with this.

WENDY  
I don't know what I was thinking. I  
guess... he just seduced me, somehow.  
Some trance? A drug? That potion!

WILMOT  
More like masterful psychopathic  
charm. I told you he took Molly  
Henderson. He killed Marcus Walden.  
And he shot Anastasia Walden this  
afternoon. With the very same gun.

WENDY  
What? But I... Oh my God. He was in  
her place. I sent... Is she dead?

WILMOT  
No. They didn't even keep her at  
the hospital. She's at home in bed.

WENDY  
Shit shit shit. He's a Wikipedia  
expert. He wrote up that Rosalind  
story. But. I just can't imagine.  
It's gotta be some sort of trick...

WILMOT  
You're not going to tell me something  
stupid like your heart is saying  
something else? Steven Dorson played  
both of them. He'd inherit that entire  
estate with them gone. He played you--

WENDY  
Even if he did, I--

WILMOT  
Did I tell you we found hundreds of  
photos in his guest house trash?  
Men. Women. Children. He's psycho.

Wendy stares out of the passenger window.

WILMOT

You think I don't understand. I was young and naive once too. I believed what I wanted to. But that's not a luxury a detective can have. Did you review your thinking? False patterns? Hopeful connections? You never know what's going on in someone's head... or heart. The truth can only be found in the evidence. The facts.

Wendy stops her blank stare. She faces Wilmot.

WENDY

The truth. Be told. Good idea.

INT. JAIL CELL BANK - DAY

Steven sits in a holding cell. An adjacent cell holds a bald muscle man, 35. Two sets of doors lead to the cell bank area.

A red light flashes as the first door opens. It closes. The second door opens revealing Wendy in a police jacket accompanied by a guard. Steven jumps up.

WENDY

(to guard)

Can we have a minute alone?

The guard retreats through the double layer of doors.

STEVEN

What's the use. I don't know if I can believe me anymore either. Hell, maybe I've been entranced and done all sorts of horrible stuff.

WENDY

I want to believe you. It's just--

STEVEN

I had a murder weapon in my car. There's a recording of me getting it on with whatever Anna Walden is, and I have an invisible friend.

WENDY

And motive. Compelling evidence.

STEVEN

At least Sammy Artemis will not fry.

WENDY

You definitely put a stop to that.

STEVEN

Why are you here?

WENDY

If I was wrong about you I am the worst judge of character ever, and I've no business being a detective.

STEVEN

No. You are a great judge of--

WENDY

Were you seduced by her?

STEVEN

No. I mean yes. But I didn't--

WENDY

Steven. I want to... I understand.

STEVEN

No. You don't. Even I don't understand. I don't even remember getting back to the guest house.

WENDY

But you remember the near miss hummer.

STEVEN

Well, yes. That left an impression.

WENDY

I just want to know ...when we made love, was it for real? Were you under a spell or was it really you? I really have to know if you care and you're telling me the truth.

Wendy unzips her jacket. The purple vial of truth serum hangs on her necklace. Steven grabs it through the bars.

STEVEN

It was real. More real than anything I've ever imagined. And your not trusting me is killing me. Give it to me right now.

WENDY

No Steven. Stop! Listen.

STEVEN

What are you waiting for? Come on.

WENDY

I was so mad at you I brought this to use on you.

(MORE)



But now I, if I do this, then it means I don't trust you. Steven, I do trust you.

STEVEN

Let's seal the deal with proof.

The muscle guy sits catatonic. Steven pulls at the vial.

STEVEN

Final Jeopardy. In thirty seconds everyone will know the answer.

WENDY

It will only prove what I already know. But, if you snort it, you'll never trust me again.

STEVEN

You don't want me to sniff it?

They lock eyes and hold the vial between the bars.

WENDY

No. It would destroy us. It's a weapon. You can't use a weapon on someone you... love.

STEVEN

You love me?

The red light from the outside door flashes.

WENDY

Do you want me to take a whiff?

They kiss through the bars. Tears roll down the muscle guy's cheeks. Wilmot bursts through the inner door --gun drawn.

WILMOT

Back away from the bars. Both of you!

Wendy and Steven retreat in opposite directions.

WILMOT

The murderer and a junior detective, getting it on.

WENDY

Wilmot. No. Listen.

WILMOT

Looks like your heart, or his dick, got the better of you after all.

MUSCLE GUY

Leave them alone you animal.

WILMOT

You're a disgrace to the uniform.  
But you'll be losing that soon  
enough. ... One way or another.

Wilmot's drawn gun points at Wendy. He grabs his crotch.

WILMOT

Should I unholster my weapon?

Wendy looks down at his crotch and the vial in her hand.

WENDY

I guess that is how you'd use it.

Wendy flicks the vial of liquid toward Wilmot's face. A few drops fly out of the tiny hole in the top.

WENDY

Truth be told, I'd like to have a  
heart to heart.

While Wilmot shakes his head and flutters his eyes, with one swift move she cuffs his hands together behind his back.

WILMOT

What are you doing you crazy bitch?

WENDY

I don't want to get into your pants.  
I want to get into your head.

Wendy pushes Wilmot's back against the bars of Steven's cell. Wilmot slides down to the floor. Wendy pulls his gun away.

WENDY

How would you feel if I let another  
man hold your weapon for you?

Wendy hands the gun, potion vial, and her pink-cased iPhone to Steven. Steven hits the record APP.

WILMOT

I'd love for him to grab my  
package. You bitch. Stop this!

WENDY

What? You're gay? You sleep with--

WILMOT

I've never slept with anyone.  
You've just signed your death warrant,  
bitch. You're dead.

WENDY

How exactly did the Marcus Walden murder  
weapon get into Steven Dorson's car?

Wilmot struggles to keep his mouth closed.

WILMOT

You... Anna... Anastasia made Dorson put it there. She gave it to him. Do you really think you're going to win this? You can't escape her.

WENDY

I thought she was recuperating.

STEVEN

From what?

WILMOT

She made it look like Dorson shot her.

WENDY

Who shot her?

WILMOT

She nicked herself with a bullet from the Walden murder weapon to incriminate Dorson here.

WENDY

Why exactly did she have Steven put the murder weapon in his own car?

WILMOT

To make sure that he is convicted of killing her husband.

WENDY

Who killed Marcus Walden?

WILMOT

She killed that little fa... fa...

WENDY

If you haven't guessed it by now, that was truth serum. Name calling is just more bullshit.

WILMOT

None of this changes anything. This is a confession at gunpoint. Induced by psychotropic drugs.  
(to muscle man)  
You tell 'em. I'd say anything.  
(to Wendy)  
You're going to reflect back on this when I'm cleared and free to hunt you down.

STEVEN

Reflect. You can reflect.

Steven stows the iPhone and empties the gun behind Wilmot.

STEVEN

There's no way you win, Wilmot.  
We've got three witnesses.

WENDY

And, gosh, we know some dark secrets.  
What will the other homophobes say?

STEVEN

Wendy! It's ok, Wilmot. We know  
Anastasia Walden's entranced you.

WILMOT

Screw you. Like I'm gonna trust you?

STEVEN

No. But, Wendy, I need you to  
trust me. ... Trust me.

Steven raises the vial of truth serum, using his teeth, he  
pulls off the little plastic stopper with the tiny hole.

WENDY

Steven? No! Stop!

Steven sucks down the serum. His eyes roll back. He slumps.

Wilmot grabs the gun, whips around and shoots at Steven.  
CLICK! He whips the gun to Wendy and then the muscle man.  
CLICK. CLICK. The empty gun never fires. GHOST Steven smiles.

A frozen moment as Wilmot realizes he has no bullets. Wilmot  
jumps, pulls his cuffed hands under his feet. Steven screams.  
Wilmot slams Wendy's head into the wall. The room noise gives  
way to a ringing tone.

RED LIGHT. The first door opens. Wilmot slams Wendy's head a  
second time against the wall. Everything goes black. Silence.

Wilmot tosses the gun into the muscle man's cell. The second  
security door opens and guards with weapons drawn enter. The  
muscle man picks up the gun with a Zen-like calm.

WILMOT

He's got a gun!

The guards turn and shoot the muscle man. BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

WILMOT

I was ambushed. It was detective  
Thomson. She was in on it!

APPARITION OF WENDY

You rotten son of a bitch.

Wendy observes that Wilmot and the other officers cannot hear her. She looks down and sees her body. She looks at the transparent hands of her apparition body. She screams.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. HOLDING ROOM - DAY

The holding room fades off to the left into a dark area. A vortex opens with a flash! Wendy looks over in terror.

A LITTLE GIRL runs out of the vortex towards the apparition of the muscle-man materializing. His face becomes gleeful as he sees the child. The girl runs into his arms.

A MAN of similar build joins them. He hugs the muscle-man and little girl. The muscle-man puts the girl on his shoulders. The other man kisses him, takes his hand, and walks them all into the closing vortex. Wendy, dazed, follows.

STEVEN

Wendy! Stop! That's for him. That's his family! You're not dead... yet.

INT. AMBULANCE - MOVING - DAY

Wendy lies on one side, Steven on the other. Paramedics work on each. A paramedic rips Steven's shirt open wider. The pink iPhone falls out of the shirt pocket onto the floor. The screen shows: "Recording." A paramedic steps on it. CRACK.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE - DAY

Steven and Wendy drift in the Astral plane.

STEVEN

I'm so sorry, baby. You weren't supposed to be here. I'm an idiot.

WENDY

Steven. The serum. It's deadly.

STEVEN

It's ok now. If I stop Anastasia Walden, everyone can go... home.

Steven takes her hand and they zip away.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. ROSALIND MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

Steven and Wendy arrive. Marcus lies tied up on the bed. Shards of the broken mirror revolve and float about.

WENDY

Is that Marcus?

MARCUS  
Wendy? She's here? Thank you.

STEVEN  
You're welcome.

MARCUS  
Not you. Wendy. Thank you.

WENDY  
For what?

MARCUS  
For... loving him.

Steven beams and unties Marcus. He turns to Steven.

MARCUS  
This doesn't mean I like you!

INT. AMBULANCE - MOVING - DAY

The cardiac arrest squeals as Paramedics hover over Wendy.

PARAMEDIC 1  
She's flat lining. We're losing her.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. ROSALIND MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

FLASH! A vortex opens up. A WOMAN and MAN appear.

WENDY  
Daddy? Mom? Is that you?

FLASH! The vortex flutters.

INT. AMBULANCE - MOVING - DAY

The paramedic finishes one zap of the defibrillator on Wendy.  
The whine of the re-charge grows higher and higher.

PARAMEDIC 1  
Clear!

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. ROSALIND MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

WOMAN IN VORTEX  
It's not your time, sweet girl. We  
love you. Know that.

WENDY  
Mom. Dad. I've always known that.

BOOM! Wendy flies backward. Images race past as she flies into the ambulance and back into her body.

INT. AMBULANCE - MOVING - DAY

PARAMEDIC 1  
I have a pulse.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. ROSALIND MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

MARCUS  
What the hell happened to her?

STEVEN  
It's ok. She's safe.

FLASH! Anastasia Walden appears.

ANASTASIA  
Goody for her.

Anna lets loose an electrical arc that zaps Marcus and Steven.

MARCUS  
You evil bitch.

Steven smashes his eyes shut. White roses appear in his hand.

STEVEN  
Annie! Stop baby. It's ok. You're going to be ok. They couldn't be saved.

MARCUS  
Annie?

Marcus looks to see a 9 year old in Anastasia's place. Steven gets on his knees before the child with bowl-cut hair in an oversized dress with a torn, ratty hemline.

INT. POLICE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Wilmot sits across from detectives. One hangs up the phone.

WILMOT  
She was working with Dorson all along. You confirmed Steven Dorson's prints were on my gun. And powder marks from the Walden murder weapon also used to shoot Mrs. Walden were on his hands.

FEMALE DETECTIVE  
Sam Artemis will be released tomorrow.

MALE DETECTIVE

You nearly got an innocent woman  
fried. She's been in jail three years.

WILMOT

Wendy Thomson was working from the  
inside. I had no idea.

The door swings open. A woman enters with a pink iPhone.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE AND INT. ROSALIND MANSION BEDROOM - DAY

Steven kneels in front of little girl Anastasia: "Annie."

STEVEN

I know you're scared. We will find  
your mommy and daddy.

ANNIE

They're gone. I couldn't save them.

The bedroom dissolves into a child's bedroom of 1940. Marcus  
now squirms atop a child's bed next to a night stand with a lit  
oil lamp and a vase of white roses. Annie holds scissors.

Apparitions of Annie's parents run into the room screaming.  
The Reverend Clarence Rosalind uses his preaching volume. The  
Mrs. ignores Annie and rushes to the vase on the table.

MRS. ROSALIND

My precious white roses! You cut them!  
It took your father years to help  
realize God's work in breeding these.

CLARENCE ROSALIND

Andrew! What did you do to your  
hair? And your mother's dress?

MARCUS

Andrew. Oh my God. Beautiful Andy!

Dazzling tendrils of pink, red, and orange energy emanate  
from Annie and encircle her parents.

ANNIE

I was just playing dress up. I'm  
beautiful now. Don't you see?

CLARENCE ROSALIND

Boys don't wear dresses!

MRS. ROSALIND

You will burn in hell, Andrew!

ANNIE

I'm a girl! My name is Annie.



MRS. ROSALIND  
Ludicrous! God doesn't make mistakes!

ANNIE  
Why is daddy changing the roses?

MRS. ROSALIND  
He's making them better... bringing out their true beauty. God's working through him. God's not working through you. He didn't make you a girl.

ANNIE  
Yes SHE did.

CLARENCE ROSALIND  
Look! These are roses. Saying they're petunias doesn't make it so.

ANNIE  
I was never Andy. I'm Annie!

MRS. ROSALIND  
Oh really? Well we only love Andy.

CLARENCE ROSALIND  
Child. You have sinned a great sin.

Angry storm clouds deliver lightning and thunder. The energy tendrils from the child darken, wither and disintegrate.

CLARENCE ROSALIND  
I'll be damned if my son...

The Rev rips the dress off and knocks the child into the table and onto the floor. The lantern falls on the dress that Clarence holds. Oil spills and flames engulf the cloth and travel up the Rev's arm and body. Annie stands in underwear.

MRS. ROSALIND  
You little demon! Heaven will forbid you to enter!

Mrs. Rosalind pushes over and rolls Clarence. She catches fire.

MRS. ROSALIND  
The fires of hell will consume you!

ANNIE  
(to Marcus and Steven)  
Papa said bad girls and boys go to hell.  
(becoming Anastasia)  
And I refuse!

The parents explode. A flowing gown enrobes adult Anastasia.

STEVEN

Don't you get it? That's what  
landed you in hell. You believed  
them! Heaven is waiting on you.  
You're a wonderful kid. They sinned  
the most abominable sin of all. How  
could anyone ignore such love  
...and betray their own child?

Steven hugs Anastasia. She melts back into Annie. The room  
vanishes. Myriad white rose petals float over the floor.

STEVEN

You can go to heaven any time you  
want. Just let go. ... GO!

Clouds wispy through the petals. A vortex opens. Annie looks.

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION FRONT DOOR - DAY

Police officers kick down the door.

EXT. ASTRAL PLANE - DAY

Annie lets go of Steven. A figure appears in the vortex.  
Annie glides through the roses towards it.

SCREECH! The venomous Rosalinds lunge up through the petals.

MRS. ROSALIND

You're coming with us you little brat.

CLARENCE ROSALIND

Only Andrew can enter the kingdom.  
I can fix you just like I did the  
roses. Annie is the devil's work.  
You made her up. ...Nobody loves  
Anastasia.

Child Annie falls to the floor sobbing. Marcus runs in and lifts  
the child up from behind. She grows into adult Anastasia.

MARCUS

That's not true. I love her.

CLARENCE ROSALIND

That's impossible. She's a he.

MRS. ROSALIND

We don't believe it.

ANASTASIA

But, I ... I do. Sweet Marcus.

INT. EARTHLY PLANE / MANSION MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Police break into the bedroom. Anastasia Walden lies on the bed. They approach with guns locked on her.

ASTRAL PLANE

Marcus rests his chin on Anastasia's shoulder from behind. He turns his head and kisses Anastasia on the side of her head. The faces of the Rosalinds contort and seethe with fury. Mrs. Rosalind grabs a floating mirror shard, screams, and races towards the two. She raises her hand to jab Marcus in the head.

EARTHLY PLANE / MANSION MASTER BEDROOM

Anastasia shrieks as she lunges her torso upwards in the bed while throwing her right hand forward. BANG! A cop fires. A bloody hole rips into Anna's raised palm.

ASTRAL PLANE

Anna's bloody palm holds the shard in her mother's hand back from Marcus's head. They struggle. Anna pivots the mirror shard towards her mother. Reflected light shines onto Mrs. Rosalind's eyes. She screams. The Rev runs up to look into the mirror. He wails. They both turn, run, and vanish.

EARTHLY PLANE / MANSION MASTER BEDROOM

Anna sits motionless. Eyes wide open. Bloody palm extended.

POLICE OFFICER 1  
Anastasia Walden. You are under arrest  
for the murder of Marcus Walden.

Anastasia falls back onto the bed. Her hand drops. Her eyes close. Guns drawn, the police reach her body on the bed.

ASTRAL PLANE

Anastasia convulses into a sobbing child.

The voice of the cop echoes into the astral plane. Annie looks up. Steven motions "no!" and nudges the child on.

STEVEN  
Don't listen to them. You're not in  
trouble. It's ok.

A beautiful young woman in late 1800s clothes walks out of the vortex. She changes, aging into a white haired old lady in 1940s attire. She holds out her arms.

ANNIE

Grandma?

OLD LADY

There's nothing you could do to keep  
you out of heaven except not decide to  
come in. It's our judgements that keep  
us out. Not God's.

As Annie walks, Marcus kneels then hugs and kisses Annie on  
the forehead. Annie takes Grandma's hand and walks away.

MARCUS

Andy really was ...a girl. I mean,  
now I remember. She became Anastasia.  
I was furious. I was so selfish. I  
didn't accept her. And I've been so  
mean to Endora too. It's hard to wrap  
your head around this stuff.

STEVEN

A wise man once told me "Don't  
think!" You gotta wrap your--

MARCUS

Don't say "heart." Seriously. I'm  
warning you. I'm still woozy.

The clouds and vortex envelop Annie and Grannie.

ANNIE

Will I see Mommy and Daddy in heaven?

OLD LADY

When they choose to enter. They still refuse  
to see the truth. They've "been saved" for a  
later time. When their judgments go away.

ANNIE

I miss them. I still love them.

OLD LADY

Of course you do, sweet child.  
That's how they hurt you so.

Gram and Annie disappear into the heavenly vortex.

EARTHLY PLANE / ROSALIND MANSION MASTER BEDROOM

POLICE OFFICER 1 removes his middle fingers from Anastasia's  
neck. He nods "no."

SLOW FADE UP OF WHITE LIGHT. WHITE OUT.

POLICE OFFICER 2 (V.O.)  
That's impossible. I only shot her  
through the hand.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (V.O.)  
It's gotta be a cardiac arrest.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

A heart monitor BEEPS. Steven lies in a hospital bed. Wendy,  
enters the doorway with a bandaged head. She argues with and  
pulls ahead of the trailing, middle-aged, female DOCTOR.

WENDY  
It's just a bump. Let me see him!

DOCTOR  
You need to be horizontal, and we  
have no idea how much of whatever  
that neurotoxin was got into his  
system. He's not out of the woods.

WENDY  
What did it do to him?

DOCTOR  
His pulse is too slow. But we don't  
see anything wrong with his heart.  
It's his head. Neurotoxins attack--

The heart monitor beeps faster and louder. Steven sits up.

STEVEN  
Where am I? I'm not dead?

The doctor and Wendy rush over. Wendy pushes away the doctor.

WENDY  
You're in the hospital.

STEVEN  
Hospital?... What day is it?

WENDY AND DOCTOR  
It's Sunday night.

The wall clock shows 11:50. Steven whispers.

STEVEN  
We did it! We're free!

The cardiac arrest alarm shrieks. Steven's body falls back.  
His spirit-body remains sitting forward over his body.

WENDY

Steven! ...Marcus! Help him!

CODE BLUE sounds over the loudspeaker. A crash cart and medical team roll in, push Wendy away, and work on Steven. A CHAPLAIN, 70, black vestments, enters the hospital room.

STEVEN (SPIRIT)

What the hell is going on? I'm dying! ...Again?

INTERCUT AND OVERLAY ASTRAL PLANE AND HOSPITAL ROOM

MARCUS

It's almost midnight! The curse is still... you said you got laid!

STEVEN

I did!

MARCUS

Was it safe sex? Like, really safe?

STEVEN

Yes. No. It was sex. Ok. And it involved intimacy. Grand slam.

MARCUS

Then what's going on? We settled each other's affairs.

STEVEN

Move towards love. Stop withholding love. I love Wendy with all my heart. What are we missing?

MARCUS

I'm feeling really sick.

STEVEN

Maybe we're supposed to be married.

MARCUS

My mother would be so happy.

STEVEN

Not you... me to Wendy!

Steven walks into that one. Marcus gives a "gotchya" look.

MARCUS

Do you really think that will have some magical affect? It's just a ritual... a bunch of ...words.

STEVEN

You mean holy vows!? Spoken words  
with intention! ... Probably only  
if I believe in that spell!

DOCTOR

Clear!

The doc ZAPS Steven. He jolts awake, facing the doctor.

STEVEN

Marry me!

Wendy pushes the doctor out of the way.

WENDY

Yes! Of course I will.

STEVEN

Right now!

DOCTOR

This man just had a cardiac arrest!

WENDY AND STEVEN

Get out of the way!

WENDY

I always wanted a church wedding.

STEVEN

Screw the church! Sorry, chaplain.

CHAPLAIN

I'm prepared for last rites. That's  
an entirely different sacrament.

WENDY AND STEVEN

Switch gears.

CHAPLAIN

We need a witness.

DOCTOR

Uh. Ok. I guess.

CHAPLAIN

Do you, ...what's your name?

WENDY AND STEVEN

STEVEN!

CHAPLAIN

Do you, Steven, take-

WENDY AND STEVEN

WENDY!

CHAPLAIN

Wendy, to be your lawfully wedded wife? To have and to hold. Until death do you part?

STEVEN

No! I mean. Yes. I do! Except the death part. Death will not part us.

CHAPLAIN

Do you, Wendy, take Steven to be your lawfully wedded husband?

WENDY

I do. ... You may kiss the bride.

CHAPLAIN

Right. Go ahead!

They kiss. The clock shows 11:58 pm. Steven falls back.

WENDY

Steven? Steven! Doctor!

Steven appears on astral side (over his body). Marcus weeps.

STEVEN

What? What's going on?

MARCUS

I always cry at weddings.

STEVEN

It's a funeral.

MARCUS

Even worse. Are my eyes puffy?

STEVEN

I didn't even have to get married.

MARCUS

That's the least of your worries.

STEVEN

No. I mean. I wanted to.

MARCUS

At least you found somebody to love you before you died.

STEVEN

We didn't lift the curse. I'll never see her again. And I wanted to be a father. To do it right.



MARCUS  
You've been like a father to me.

STEVEN  
And you've been like a mother to me.

MARCUS  
Seriously. A rimshot now?

STEVEN  
I found love. I know what it feels like. I love. So take that you stupid spell. That can't be taken away. Even if I end up banished for all eternity. I will remember loving and being loved. That's all the heaven I need, and I'm taking it with me.

MARCUS  
Oh my God. That is so sweet. I don't know if anyone ever loved me.

STEVEN  
No one ever told you so?

One of the glass shards from the magic mirror floats by. Steven grabs and stops it. He does not look into it.

STEVEN  
How could I have been so stupid?

4-year-old Marcus trembles in the mirror that faces away from Steven.

STEVEN  
Those magic words. Empires have risen and fallen using or withholding them.

Steven puts his head over Marcus's shoulder hugging him. He kisses his head. The two spin. On the half turn, Child Marcus replaces Adult Marcus. Steven whispers into the child's ear.

STEVEN  
Of all the little boys in the whole world, how did I get so lucky to know and love you?

Child Marcus turns his head and kisses Steven on the side of his head. Marcus's small fingers reach to and wrap around Steven's middle finger. They both look down to see Marcus's tiny hand holding Steven's adult hand.

Marcus releases his grip and becomes a man again. Steven places his right hand on Marcus's heart.

STEVEN

I love you, Marcus Walden.

MARCUS

I love you too.

STEVEN

Yeah. I know you do. I can feel it.  
And I... I feel like... a Man! And  
you know what's almost as good? I  
actually feel ...understood ...for  
the first time in my life.

MARCUS

Being understood. Wow. That is an  
unexpected perk. Did I mention I'm  
starting to like you too?

STEVEN

You're a good man. And a beautiful soul.

MARCUS

So are you, Steven.

STEVEN

Yeah. I know. I KNOW IT!

A FLASH reveals a pathway of rose petals into a vortex.  
Electrical fingers of energy pull Marcus towards it.

MARCUS

Heaven. My God it's so cliché.

STEVEN

Because now you think it should look  
like Annie's. What do you want?

Marcus blinks his eyes. FLASH! A stairway with chasing color  
lights appears. Disco music plays. He reconsiders as his eyes  
close, remain shut for a moment, and then reopen. Thousands  
of floating candles encompass spectacular church-like columns  
and arches. A boys choir sings. Steven's eyes widen.

MARCUS

I can't help it. This really is  
what I think it should be like.  
...what I want it to look like.

Marcus's white Pomeranian yelps and prances atop the stairs.

MARCUS

Miss Sparkles. Er, uh... Sparky!

Marcus starts up the stairs. Silhouettes of people approach  
the top to greet Marcus. Steven fades a bit. Marcus turns.

MARCUS  
Have a beautiful life, Steven.

STEVEN  
Just one thing's gonna be missing.

MARCUS  
Til Life do us part!

Steven drifts to his body in a solidifying hospital room.  
Marcus floats up towards heaven.

STEVEN  
We'll see each other again. I can  
feel it. You just have to want to.

MARCUS  
Hon. More than anything! I will  
always watch over you.

STEVEN  
Could you just close your eyes when  
I'm... doing anything naked?

MARCUS  
I have an after-life too you know.

Marcus rushes up the stairs and stops one last time.

MARCUS  
Don't forget, Steven! Always  
believe in spirits.

Steven and the hospital room disappear as he crosses over.

MARCUS  
(quietly)  
Especially your own.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Steven awakes in Wendy's arms. Doctors and nurses stand by.  
The wall clock shows 12:01 am. It spins forward to 9 am.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

Cameras flash. Police restrain reporters. Samantha lifts Matias  
and twirls him. Samantha's wife embraces both.

EXT. ROSALIND MANSION YARD - DAY

SUPER: Four years later.

Wendy and Steven push a three-year-old on a swing in the Rosalind yard. A crescent-shaped birthmark shows below the toddler's shorts. Endora sets a picnic nearby with Bernie.

STEVEN

You know what?

THREE-YEAR-OLD

What, Daddy?

STEVEN

I just love you!

Steven and Wendy cross from behind and arrive on each side of the child in front of the swing. Steven raises his iPhone.

WENDY

Of all the little kids in the world--

STEVEN

How did we get the very best one?

As the toddler reaches the height of their faces, Steven snaps a selfie of the three, child in the middle.

INSERT PHOTO

Wendy and Steven smile. The child beams with glee. Its hair stands straight up in a pompadour from the motion.

FADE OUT.