

CHOSEN

"Pilot"

by  
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COLD OPEN

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

In the center of a lush forest stands a large column made of thick ivy. It looks menacing, unnatural.

THEATRICAL MUSIC begins to play in the distance, the type of music that could very well be a famous hero's theme song.

Suddenly, the brush surrounding the column MAGICALLY PARTS to reveal LISA (30), intimidating with long, blonde hair and wearing wizard's robes.

LISA  
(breathless)  
We made it.

Lisa looks over her shoulder and we see SEVERAL PEOPLE following her. They're dressed like hipster wizards except for TWO HOT DUDES who are inexplicably shirtless. Everyone but Lisa looks roughed up, they fought hard to get here.

Lisa waves her hand and the MUSIC STOPS - she was controlling her own theme music. Her hair blows in the wind, there's anticipation in her eyes - it's all very dramatic. Then:

LISA (CONT'D)  
(annoyed)  
Damn it, Blaze, you're obviously not supposed to touch it!

REVEAL: One of the hot dudes, BLAZE, has touched the wall. The ivy column starts to grow. Large branches reach out towards them, ready to attack.

One branch seizes Blaze around the waist and lifts him into the air. Blaze SCREAMS in terror.

LISA (CONT'D)  
I *know* I told you not to touch anything hypnotically alluring, I wrote it on your hand for safety.

Blaze stops screaming and looks down at his hand. "DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING HYPNOTICALLY ALLURING" is scribbled across it.

LISA (CONT'D)  
If you're not careful, I'll realize I've really loved strong, silent Dylan all along.

In the background, the other hot dude, DYLAN, does a small victory fist pump.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 (waving her hand)  
 Calminium!

The spell hits the ivy, causing it to wilt. The ivy drops Blaze and keeps wilting until the column is completely gone. In its place stands a sparkling STONE ALTAR with a large oyster on top of it.

Everyone stares at it in wonder. A member of the entourage, KOBU, films all of this on her PHONE.

KOBU  
 (whispering to camera)  
 Only The Chosen One can lift the Cursed Pearl from its oyster prison. Lisa wanted to share this game-changing moment with you, her lucky followers.

Lisa approaches the altar and looks out at her entourage.

LISA  
 I've waited my whole life for this,  
 glad you're all here with me.

Everyone present SHOUTS encouragement. Lisa lunges her hand into the oyster and pulls, but nothing happens. She pulls harder, her face contorting in confusion.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 What the hell?

Lisa sticks both hands into the oyster and pulls furiously.

INT. TENT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

AGATHA (60), a polished woman with silver hair, sits inside a tent watching Kobu's live footage of Lisa.

AGATHA  
 Well shit.

Agatha flips through papers on her desk. Something on them catches her eye. She pauses for a moment, mortified.

EXT. JUNGLE - BASE CAMP - CONTINUOUS

An encampment on the outskirts of the jungle. Agatha exits and rushes through the crowd. Everyone she passes nervously watches the live stream. A PANICKED WOMAN spots her.

PANICKED WOMAN  
 Agatha, what is going on?

AGATHA

It seems I made the tiniest typo on  
the prophecy sixteen years ago -  
(quickly)  
-and we've been training the wrong  
girl this entire time. Please, no  
one panic.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

BACK ON Lisa and her entourage. Lisa now kicks the altar, her  
face turning red as she pulls at the pearl - fully PANICKING.

KOBU

Should I turn the camera off?

LISA

YES. TURN THE FREAKING CAMERA OFF.

Kobu obeys. Blaze steps up, thoroughly confused.

BLAZE

Wait, so if Lisa's not The Chosen  
One, then who is?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE KITCHEN - DAY - SAME TIME

A painfully average office kitchen that's made even bleaker  
in contrast to what we just saw. RUTH (30), a tired woman in  
khakis, stares vacantly at her popcorn in the microwave.

RUTH

One, tw-

POP!

RUTH (CONT'D)

One, tw-

POP!

RUTH (CONT'D)

One-

(sniffs the air)

Shit!

Ruth grabs the blackened bag out of the microwave. Smoke hits  
her face as she opens it. She looks like she might cry.

**TITLE: CHOSEN**

**END COLD OPEN**

**ACT ONE****INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY**

Ruth sits in her cubicle picking the least burnt pieces of popcorn out of the bag to eat.

HEATHER (O.S.)  
Who keeps burning popcorn in here?

Ruth shoves the popcorn in the trash and tries to look innocent as HEATHER (40s), in a fitted pantsuit that makes it clear she's the boss, storms over to the cubicle area.

HEATHER (CONT'D)  
The microwave is a privilege, and you should know, I'm not afraid to take that privilege away.

Heather exits. OTHER EMPLOYEES exchange awkward looks. SHANNON, a well-meaning coworker, approaches Ruth.

SHANNON  
Hey Ruth, maybe you could just start bringing fruit or something so we don't lose the microwave.

RUTH  
Oh, it's not just me--

Shannon gives Ruth a patient look.

SHANNON  
It's you, it's always you. And Carol really needs the microwave for her Cystic Fibrosis medication.

CAROL (30s), the sweetest woman you've ever seen, pokes her head over the side of the cubicle wall and waves to Ruth.

RUTH  
Yeah okay, I'll stop using the microwave. Sorry, Carol.

CAROL  
It's okay, sweetie. Popcorn can be tricky.

Ruth sinks into her chair, looking like she wants to die.

INT. RUTH'S APARTMENT - COMMON AREA - THAT NIGHT

Ruth enters her small apartment and tosses her keys on the kitchen counter. Her roommate, JULIE (29), Ruth's lifelong, optimistic best friend, sits on the couch watching TV.

RUTH

I hit a new low today.

JULIE

You fell asleep on the toilet  
*again?*

RUTH

No, I almost killed Carol because I  
suck at making popcorn.

JULIE

You have to stop letting her push  
you around.

RUTH

I'm not pushed around. She's nice,  
and sick.

Ruth plops down on the couch next to Julie.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I just can't believe I turned  
thirty last week, and this is where  
I am. A job I hate, perpetually  
single, pretty sure all my NeoSims  
are dead. I forgot my password.

JULIE

I'm sure turning thirty was very  
hard on you. As someone still in  
their twenties, I can't relate -

RUTH

You turn thirty in two months.

JULIE

(ignoring Ruth)

But you just need to shake things  
up. Try something new for once.

RUTH

I try new things. I introduced us  
both to pistachios last year.

JULIE

See, when you say things like that,  
I worry.

(MORE)

JULIE (CONT'D)

You should do something crazy,  
something bigger than trying new  
types of nuts.

RUTH

Maybe you're right. I think I will  
try something new --  
(with gravitas)  
Something I thought was impossible.

Ruth gets up and exits. Julie shouts after her:

JULIE

Taking a shot of gin doesn't count.  
It's only you who thinks that's  
impossible.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ruth bursts into her room with a determined look on her face.

INT. RUTH'S CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Ruth stands on a chair in her closet, removing a very dusty  
box from a top shelf.

Ruth climbs down from the chair and dramatically blows dust  
off the top of the old box. She slowly opens it to reveal  
UNUSED WORKOUT CLOTHES.

SMASH CUT:

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ruth struggles to fit into a workout shirt with a built-in  
bra. It's not a pretty sight. There's some heavy breathing.

As she tries to figure it out, her hand brushes across her  
chest and she freezes. She seems confused and a little scared  
as she cups her boob.

RUTH

Julie!

Julie rushes into the room.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Feel my boob real quick.

JULIE

Uh, I'm glad you took my advice and  
want to try new things, but being  
gay doesn't mean I'm interested in  
any old set of boobs.

RUTH  
I think I found a lump.

Julie looks apprehensive. She slowly reaches her hand out, touches Ruth's boob, then immediately pulls back.

JULIE  
Eww, yeah that's lumpy!

RUTH  
(scared)  
Really? What do I do?

JULIE  
I don't know, I'm in my twenties,  
I've never had a tumor.

RUTH  
Stop saying you're in your  
twenties!

JULIE  
Sorry, I'm a little freaked out.

RUTH  
I always said working out would  
kill me. This is why I don't listen  
to you!

JULIE  
Just go to the doctor or something!  
And pull your shirt down, I don't  
want to see your cancer boob.

RUTH  
Maybe I should wait a week, see if  
it goes away?

JULIE  
I'm not a professional, but I don't  
think tumors are one of those  
things that just go away. They're  
not like chlamydia or herpes.

RUTH  
Wow, our high school's sing-along  
Sex-Ed class really failed you.

INT. DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM - A WEEK A LATER - DAY

Ruth looks nervous while she sits in a waiting room surrounded by women much older than her.

A curt NURSE enters the room.

NURSE  
Ruth Cole, mammogram.

Ruth jerks, instinctively touching the breast with the lump.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ruth and the nurse walk down a hallway.

RUTH  
You probably think I'm too young  
for this.

The nurse ignores her and stops at Room 7.

NURSE  
In here.

RUTH  
If it is cancer, I think I'll start  
an upbeat blog about my journey.  
Maybe this will be my thing.  
(off her non-reaction:)  
Like how your thing is helping  
people, being a nurse. I don't have  
a thing.  
(the nurse remains stoic)  
Can I use the restroom beforehand?

NURSE  
No.

The nurse turns and walks away.

INT. ROOM SEVEN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ruth sits fully dressed on the examination table. The  
MAMMOGRAM MACHINE stands large and ominous nearby.

Feeling anxious, Ruth stands and walks around the room. She  
approaches one of those overly detailed BREAST ANATOMY models  
and bends over for a closer look.

The DOOR OPENS quickly, causing Ruth to jump and knock the  
anatomy model to the ground. It breaks into several pieces,  
and Ruth scrambles to put it back together.

RUTH  
Oh sorry, I wasn't touching it. I -  
(struggling to figure out  
how to put it together)  
I don't know what most of these  
are. Are they all boob parts?

Ruth looks up to see Agatha beaming back at her. Agatha has done a terrible job of dressing up like a doctor.

AGATHA

Ruth Cole! It's so good to finally meet you! Don't worry about the boob statue.

Ruth stands as Agatha sweeps the pieces of the model away with her foot. Unseen by Ruth, they perfectly reassemble themselves in the corner of the room.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

I'm Agatha and I have a lot to tell you, so maybe we should sit down.

RUTH

(nervous rambling)

Really? Is this a complicated procedure? I read online that it's not supposed to hurt. But I also read that I have a seventy-eight percent chance of dying, and that the tumor was probably caused by my toothpaste - I still use the bubble gum kind for kids - and I know I'd be a terrible blogger-

Agatha puts a hand on Ruth's shoulder.

AGATHA

Calm down, you don't have a tumor.

RUTH

But I found this lump...

AGATHA

Have you ever felt you were different, Ruth Cole? Like something inside you was setting you apart from all the other little girls, like you possibly had powers they didn't?

RUTH

I think you have the wrong file.

AGATHA

I'm sorry, I don't usually give this speech to grown women. Normally I'm talking to cute, little pre-teens, so this is new territory for both of us.

RUTH

A lot of pre-teens need mammograms?

AGATHA

Of course not, but let's do that part first. Maybe it'll make this easier.

Agatha loops her arm through Ruth's and guides her towards the Mammogram machine.

RUTH

You should probably leave while I put on a paper gown or something--

AGATHA

No, no time for that.

Ruth's worried eyes dart between Agatha's excited face and the imposing metal machine they're standing next to.

RUTH

Is there a different nurse who could do this?

Agatha SNAPS her fingers and suddenly Ruth already has her shirt pulled up, her bra off, and her breasts inserted in the mammogram machine. Too confused and disoriented to understand what happened, Ruth tries to remain calm.

AGATHA

Oh, I'm not a nurse.

Ruth looks over and Agatha is already seated at a chair, now wearing glasses and studying the MAMMOGRAM MONITOR like it's the most interesting thing in the world.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Wow, would you look at that.

RUTH

It's bad, isn't it? How long do I have? Somehow, I knew I wouldn't outlive my cat.

AGATHA

Look for yourself.

Ruth glances over to the monitor which is showing a BRIGHT GLOWING STAR that PULSES in the center of her chest.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You have magical powers, Ruth Cole!

Ruth pauses briefly, trying to process what she's looking at.

RUTH

That's my lump? What the hell is it?

AGATHA

Think of it like a second heart. Sort of like what worms have, but more shiny and cool because it's the source of your mystical energy.

Ruth stares at the image, a concerned look on her face.

RUTH

...I'm gonna get a second opinion.

Ruth starts to mess with the gears, trying to free herself from the machine.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Can you let me out of this thing?

Agatha snaps her fingers and Ruth is freed with her shirt pulled back down into place.

AGATHA

We would've found you sooner, but I misread the prophecy. I thought it said, "The Chosen One is a child born in a *Walmart* parking lot." But it was a *Walgreens* parking lot. And just like that, we wasted 16 years.

RUTH

(nervously putting a hand over her chest)

I don't know what's going on. I just want this thing removed.

AGATHA

Removed!? Did you not hear me? It's the source of your abilities. It's what allows you to do this!

Agatha dramatically flings her arms out to her sides.

BAM! LIGHTNING crackles across the ceiling causing GOLDEN STARS to stream down and dance around the room.

A tasteful END TABLE with a TEACUP on top of it pops up in front of Ruth. The teacup starts turning into a cute bunny and then back again over and over as a CONFETTI BALLOON opens over Ruth's head.

It's all very pretty, Ruth is mesmerized.

Then Agatha turns into a GIANT DUCK. Ruth SCREAMS and cowers in the corner of the room.

POP! In an instant, Agatha returns to normal, and everything magical in the room vanishes as quickly as it appeared.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Sorry, was the duck too much? That normally goes over great. Kids love ducks.

Ruth timidly stands.

RUTH

I-I think I should go.

AGATHA

You can't go. You're The Chosen One. The one girl born in a generation meant to protect us. Sure, recruiting you at this age is unconventional. You're a sad adult woman who apparently still uses children's toothpaste, you have a rapidly declining BMI score, and you peed when I turned into a duck -

Ruth looks down to see a wet stain spread across her jeans.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

But you're still our hero! And there's no escaping that.

Ruth gives Agatha a defiant look and darts for the door.

INT. DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ruth bursts into the waiting room and sprints toward the exit. The CHECK-IN NURSE calls after her.

CHECK-IN NURSE

Wait! You still have to pay your co-pay!

The door SLAMS behind Ruth as she continues running.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWOINT. RUTH'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Ruth is in her cubicle. She seems on edge but tries to focus. She's changed her pants, so the pee stain is gone.

On her computer screen: Ruth has searched "Is magic real?"

RUTH  
 (muttering to self)  
 You're fine. This is fine. Your  
 tumor is just so bad, it's making  
 you hallucinate.

On her computer screen: Her search comes up with one hit reading, "You can't escape destiny. - Agatha."

CAROL (O.S.)  
 Hey Ruth!

Ruth jumps, but relaxes when she sees it's Carol.

RUTH  
 What do you need, Carol?

CAROL  
 My daughter's selling wrapping  
 paper for her school, and we're  
 really trying to get that grand  
 prize this year. It's a yurt!

Carol holds out a catalog full of useless things. Before Ruth can respond, Heather approaches and interrupts.

HEATHER  
 You asked for one hour off this  
 morning, and you took two.

RUTH  
 I know. It was an awful doctor's  
 appointment. I'm so sorry.

Heather goes to sit her coffee on Ruth's desk. She gives a long SIGH. It's clear she's about to launch into a speech, then suddenly she FREEZES - her coffee an inch from the desk.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
 Don't fire me. I might have cancer!  
 (noticing that Heather's  
 frozen)  
 Are you okay?

Heather doesn't move. She doesn't even blink. Ruth looks over to Carol who also seems frozen, a dumb smile across her face. Ruth stands. Above her cubicle, she can now see that everyone and everything in the office is frozen except for her.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
 (tentative)  
 Agatha?

WOMAN (O.S.)  
 That bitch isn't here.

Ruth turns. THREE WOMEN, each in matching leather jackets with different badass nicknames stitched across the back, stroll down the hallway toward her. They look SO COOL.

The woman with TEMPEST on her jacket is clearly the leader.

TEMPEST  
 We play on a different team than Agatha, and let's cut straight to the chase: we're here to convince you to join our squad, not hers.

RUTH  
 Look, I know you people think I'm some sort of chosen hero, but you don't want me. I'm terrible at everything. I can't ride a bike!

TEMPEST  
 Have you ever considered maybe you're not good at anything because you're meant to be doing magic?

Ruth gives Tempest a look, *woah the bad girls are deep.*

TEMPEST (CONT'D)  
 Besides, we're not looking for a hero. We just want you to join our little group. We all have cool powers, too. Venom here can sense what other people hate.

VENOM, a woman with a mischievous twinkle in her eye, SNAPS her fingers and the office microwave EXPLODES. Ruth can't help but be impressed.

RUTH  
 Okay, I *did* hate the microwave.

TEMPEST  
 If you join us, you also get one of these awesome jackets.

Ruth eyes the jacket longingly. Venom points to frozen Carol.

VENOM  
(re: Carol)  
Wow, and you really hate this lady.

Tempest and the other woman, MACE, look genuinely shocked.

RUTH  
No, I don't hate...

TEMPEST  
Jeez, Ruth.

MACE  
She looks so nice.

RUTH  
She, well... she can be annoying.

VENOM  
Then she's dust.

RUTH  
WHAT? No!

Venom is about to snap her fingers when Agatha appears out of nowhere next to Ruth. Agatha grabs Ruth's arm.

AGATHA  
You're coming with me.

Agatha and Ruth disappear.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY - SECONDS LATER

Agatha and Ruth reappear on a crowded street. Before Ruth can gain her bearings, Agatha begins walking with purpose towards a storefront. Ruth hurries to keep up with her.

RUTH  
What just happened? That cool biker chic could tell things, and then you were there, and... Is she dust?

AGATHA  
Is who dust?

RUTH  
Carol!

AGATHA  
I wouldn't worry, Tempest won't mess with me.

RUTH

They knew a lot about me.

AGATHA

The chosen one is a big deal in our world, now that people know who you are, they're going to keep coming. You have to pick a side.

RUTH

Are you kidding? I don't even know what I'm choosing between.

AGATHA

It's literally, do you want to work for the good guys or the bad guys?

RUTH

When you say it like that, I feel like I have to pick 'good guys'.

AGATHA

Great! Happy to have you on board, no one else need die.

RUTH

Wait, what? Is Carol dead or not?

AGATHA

Pretty sure the answer is 'not dead'. But we don't have time for that right now.

Agatha stops abruptly by a brick wall.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

We're here.

(with meaning)

Are you coming in?

Ruth looks around. There's no entrance to anywhere, just an ad for cold sore ointment. It shows a sad woman with a cold sore about to open a RED DOOR. On the other side of the door, the same woman stands smiling, her cold sore gone.

Ruth wrings her hands, nervous.

RUTH

You guys need me, right? Like you think I might be the best at -- whatever this is?

Agatha eyes Ruth, poorly disguising her unease.

AGATHA

Well, you are the *best* chance we have.

Agatha leans her hand against the door in the ad and it begins to GLOW.

RUTH

We walk through the cold sore advertisement, don't we?

AGATHA

That's the idea.

RUTH

Won't people notice?

AGATHA

Nah, people without magical abilities never notice anything. They're too hyper-focused on their -  
(mock serious voice)  
Very serious, busy business lives.

Agatha takes Ruth's hand and they step through the door in the advertisement. Across the street, a GROUP OF TOURISTS stand dumbfounded.

TOURIST WOMAN

Holy moly! Those women just disappeared through that wall!

All the tourists react excitedly, taking pictures of the ad.

INT. SORCERESSES EMBASSY - MOMENTS LATER

Agatha and Ruth enter a gorgeous, Nancy Meyers kitchen-esque office. WOMEN in business attire bustle around importantly.

RUTH

(very relaxed)  
It smells good in here.

Ruth looks down to notice that she is slowly moving through the building even though she's standing still. The antique wood floor carries her along like a seamless moving walkway.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Huh. I'm moving.

AGATHA

Feeling good, are you? They pump a calming potion through the vents in here.

(MORE)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

It helps with stress, and lowers  
the amount of people who get work-  
madness, but it has side effects.

Agatha motions toward a MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, stripped almost  
completely naked, drinking a glass of wine at her desk.

RUTH

(drugged)

That's really nice.

INT. AGATHA'S OFFICE - DAY

The moving walkway carries them into a sunny corner office.  
Agatha quickly closes the door and ushers Ruth into a chair.

AGATHA

Don't worry, you'll be back to  
normal soon. I don't let them pump  
that shit in here.

Agatha sits behind her desk. It's covered in typical desk  
tchotchkes, but with a magical twist. The relaxed expression  
fades from Ruth's face as her eyes track the movements of a  
desktop zen garden that calmly rakes its own sand.

RUTH

Can you make that stop?

AGATHA

No, actually. It's been driving me  
crazy for years, but my mother-in-  
law puts a spell on her gifts so  
she knows if you throw them away.

RUTH

(needs it to stop)

Just make it invisible.

Agatha hesitates, then waves her hand and the zen garden  
disappears. She looks like she could kiss Ruth.

AGATHA

(amazed, to self)

So stupidly simple.

(to Ruth)

Look, I'm sure you have a million  
questions, but to be frank, they're  
really annoying. So that's why we  
made this video to help you adjust!

Agatha waves her hand and a holographic image of MILDRED  
(50s), a woman wearing a mauve suit, appears. She stands next  
to the desk with a pointer in her hand, motioning toward a

holographic chalkboard. She's stiff, speaks robotically, and in grainy 2D.

MILDRED

Well hello there. I hear you're this generation's Chosen One. That's pretty exciting, isn't it?

RUTH

(to Agatha)  
What is this?

Mildred shakes her pointer at Ruth's face.

MILDRED

Questions are reserved for the end of the video, where I can answer fun inquiries like, "What's my life expectancy now that I'm The Chosen One?" or "Can I use magic to get James Spader to take me to prom?"

Mildred gives Ruth a wink.

AGATHA

It's outdated, but it works.

MILDRED

Less than one percent of women are born with magical powers.

Hundreds of simplistic drawings of little girls appear on the chalkboard. One of them jumps and turns red.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

We find these young women and help them hone their abilities.

A drawing of a castle appears on the board. A line of little red girls stretches from the entrance, waiting to get in.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

They attend the finest magical academy in the world, Squidwelts.

RUTH

Seriously? I could've gone to wizard boarding school?

AGATHA

Yeah, I can't really sugarcoat that one, you missed out.

Mildred clears her throat to regain their attention.

MILDRED

Out of all those girls, only one  
can access the power within the  
ancient cursed pearl. Through it,  
she becomes the strongest and  
coolest of all her peers. This  
girl, chosen by fate --

On the board, several red girls standing in a row, approach  
the stone altar from the Cold Open, and try to remove the  
pearl. After two failed attempts, the third girl succeeds,  
raising the pearl above her head in triumph.

MILDRED (CONT'D)

-- is meant to lead the fight  
against --  
(Mildred's lips move, but  
a different voice speaks)  
The Evil Empress.

Ruth looks to Agatha for explanation.

AGATHA

We had to dub it over because the  
villain changes every few years.

On the chalkboard, The Chosen Girl places her hands on her  
hips and stares out - ready to take on the world.

MILDRED

Only when the current Chosen One  
dies, is a new girl selected.

A DRAGON appears on the board and sets fire to the girl. TINY  
SCREAMS of agony emanate from the chalk figure. Ruth watches  
in horror as the girl meant to represent her burns to death.

LISA (O.S.)

God, you're so lucky.

Ruth turns to see Lisa has entered the office and is standing  
behind her, wistfully watching the video. She's a mess and  
looks very different from the woman we saw in the Cold Open.  
Learning she's not the Chosen One really took a toll on her.

AGATHA

Ah, Lisa! We were going to come  
find you after the video.

Agatha waves her hand and Mildred and her chalkboard vanish.  
Lisa staggers over and plops down in a chair next to Ruth.

LISA

I remember when I watched the welcome video - greatest day of my life.

AGATHA

You say that about a lot of days.

LISA

Well yeah, I've had plenty of amazing days. I spent my young adulthood at Squidwelts, defeating bad guys with my group of lovable friends, and being in a sexy love triangle! That's what you're taking away from me.

RUTH

If it makes you feel any better, I'm really scared, and confused, and worried that something will happen any second to make me pee my pants again.

Lisa glares at Ruth, who looks sympathetic.

LISA

You don't deserve my life.

AGATHA

Now Lisa, don't be rude. Since she obviously can't attend Squidwelts at this age, I was hoping you could help train her.

RUTH

(still trying to diffuse tension)

Last week, I was at such a low point, that I was considering grad school. This is so much better.

LISA

(turning to Ruth, dead-eyed)

Part of "training" is being left in a pit of fire goblins with nothing but a tampon to defend yourself.

Lisa stands.

LISA (CONT'D)

So good luck with that. Try not to pee.

Lisa storms from the office. Ruth looks to Agatha, worried.

AGATHA

She made that up.

(calling after Lisa)

I was hoping you could take Ruth home. She's had a long day, and she'd be safest with you.

(to Ruth)

She'll be back.

RUTH

Maybe you should just let her be The Chosen One.

AGATHA

If only it worked that way.

RUTH

Seriously, I'm really accident prone. There's no way I survive in a pit of... fire goblins?

Lisa slowly renters the room.

LISA

Fine. I'll take her home, but only because you're right that she's safe with me, because I'm the best!

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER - NIGHT

Ruth and Lisa stand awkwardly in an elevator together.

RUTH

So, you like working here?

Lisa rolls her eyes.

LISA

I don't *work* here. I fulfill my sacred duty and protect the world I love, here.

RUTH

Right, right.

EXT. SORCERESSES EMBASSY PARKING LOT - LATER

Ruth and Lisa walk out to the parking lot. There are some cars, but also several magical modes of transportation. A skateboard that hovers, what's clearly a glowing portal to another dimension, a unicorn? Lisa tosses Ruth a BROOM.

RUTH

No. No way. If this is what I think it is, I'm not doing it. I woke up this morning thinking I had cancer, now I'm like a witch that people are mad at? I'm drawing the line at using cleaning supplies to fly.

LISA

Suit yourself.

Lisa pulls car keys from her pocket and clicks them. The lights on a HONDA CIVIC flash. Ruth looks relieved.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HONDA CIVIC - LATER

Ruth and Lisa ride in silence in the civic... which soars across the night sky. Ruth grips the armrest and squeezes her eyes shut. Lisa gives a small laugh at Ruth's appearance.

RUTH

What?

LISA

I was scared my first time, too.

Ruth relaxes a little, *are they going to be friends?*

LISA (CONT'D)

But I was twelve.

RUTH

You don't have to be so mean. Especially if you're going to be the one training me.

LISA

You want training? Here's your training: You're an old, sad-sack who missed all the good parts of this, all you have left to look forward to is a bunch of people trying to kill you. Especially The Evil Empress.

Lisa snaps her fingers and a picture of THE EVIL EMPRESS, a stunning middle-aged woman with electric purple hair, appears in her hand.

LISA (CONT'D)

Remember this face. Because all she wants in this world is to see you brutally, publicly, murdered.

Lisa leans over Ruth who jumps back, scared. Lisa is incredulous as she opens the car door, they're now on the ground in front of Ruth's building.

LISA (CONT'D)

You need to toughen up. At least I know you won't be around long.

Ruth takes this in as she exits the car.

INT. RUTH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ruth enters her living room looking dazed. Julie sits on the couch nervously fixing her hair.

JULIE

Hey! You're friend just got here.  
Any chance she's single?

Before Ruth can answer, THE EVIL EMPRESS steps into view from the hallway. Instead of looking at Ruth, she examines one of the bookshelves judgmentally.

EVIL EMPRESS

Julie, it's awfully dusty in here.  
(noticing Ruth)  
Hello there, my little Chosen One.

Julie rushes over to the The Evil Empress with a rag.

JULIE

Ugh, that's embarrassing. I am so sorry.  
(accusatory, to Ruth)  
You always skimp when it's your week to clean.

Off Ruth's terrified expression:

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE****INT. RUTH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

As we were. The Evil Empress just exited from the hallway.

RUTH

Julie, we need to leave right now.  
This woman's dangerous.

JULIE

Relax, she already explained to me  
that magic is real. I didn't  
believe her until she made this  
adorable puppy appear from thin  
air! I named him Willie.

Lisa holds up a precious DACHSHUND PUPPY that licks her face.

RUTH

Aww! That's so much better than how  
Agatha showed me magic.

EVIL EMPRESS

I realize Agatha got to you first  
and made you think we're the bad  
guys, but it's not that simple.

Ruth begins to back toward the kitchen counter where there is  
a SET OF KNIVES.

EVIL EMPRESS (CONT'D)

It broke Venom's heart that you  
didn't want to be her friend. She  
was trying so hard to impress you.

JULIE

(apologetic)

She does that. Sometimes Ruth is so  
in her own head, she doesn't  
realize she's being rude.

(to Ruth)

Ruth, apparently there's some pearl  
we need to help her get.

The Evil Empress turns to Julie.

EVIL EMPRESS

I really did tell you too much. But  
you're so easy to talk to.

Julie blushes.

Ruth takes the opportunity to grab a KNIFE. She closes her eyes, this is her chance.

Ruth lobs the knife at The Empress' back! But it goes straight through her like she's a ghost, lodging in the wall barely an inch from Julie's head. Julie cradles the puppy.

JULIE

Jesus Ruth, chill out!

EVIL EMPRESS

(turning back to Ruth)

You really think I'd take my body out of hiding just to meet you? This is my astral projection. You can't touch me, and I can't touch you, so let's just have a nice chat where no one throws knives at anyone else.

RUTH

Get out of my apartment.

EVIL EMPRESS

What would you say if I told you we could get rid of the restrictions the council put on magic years ago?

RUTH

I just found out about all this today, so that's actual nonsense to me. If you can't hurt me, I need to go to sleep. I have work in the morning, and one of my coworkers might be dead.

EVIL EMPRESS

Only Agatha could dream up the torture of making you keep your day job. If you're with us, you won't have to work anymore.

Ruth perks up at this, momentarily considering.

EVIL EMPRESS (CONT'D)

You can live in our castle where we're attended to by slaves.

(off Ruth's horrified look)

It's not what it sounds like, they're these troll creatures that are born into indentured servitude.

(more defensive)

They're white, sickly pale really.

RUTH  
You're making it so obvious that  
you're evil.

EVIL EMPRESS  
I AM NOT THE EVIL ONE!  
(composing herself)  
Fine. If you've chosen *them*,  
there's no reason for me to be  
here.

The Evil Empress disappears in a flash of smoke.

JULIE  
She had fun stuff for us to do, and  
it could only be done tonight!

Those words land on Ruth

JULIE (CONT'D)  
You always sabotage me whenever I  
meet someone I could be interested  
in.

Ruth grabs her keys.

JULIE (CONT'D)  
And where could you possibly be  
going?!

RUTH  
I'm sorry, Julie. I have to go  
toughen up.

JULIE  
Ugh, Crossfit is so lame.

EXT. STREET - A LITTLE LATER

Ruth stands on the street by the cold sore ointment ad that  
leads to the Sorceresses Embassy. She pounds on the wall.

RUTH  
Agatha, let me in! Someone, please!

A SMALL SCREEN like a security monitor appears in front of  
Ruth's face. It's fuzzy for a moment before focusing to show  
Agatha, in a bathrobe, holding a glass of wine.

AGATHA  
Ruth? It's after hours, no one's in  
the office except the creepy troll  
slaves that clean at night.

RUTH

Okay, we should discuss how casual everyone's being about having troll slaves, but The Evil Empress was just at my apartment, and I'm pretty sure she's going after the Cursed Pearl. Tonight!

AGATHA

Calm down. The Cursed Pearl is ridiculously well protected.

RUTH

She told my roommate--

AGATHA

Ruth, I'm in a world of trouble right now. I can't really afford to call in a sorcery squad because the The Evil Empresses tricked you.

RUTH

It seemed pretty real.

AGATHA

She's an evil genius. She didn't just gossip about her plans with your roommate. Now go to bed.

Agatha hangs up. The screen goes fuzzy, then disappears. A CRAZY WOMAN rushes up to Ruth.

CRAZY WOMAN

Be careful! People disappear in and out of that wall. It's either the government, or aliens, or BOTH!

INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - LATER

In a lavish apartment, Lisa sits alone at a dinner table eating a microwave meal. Blaze and Dylan are on a couch nearby playing video games. There's a KNOCK at the door.

LISA

Come in.

She waves her hand, and the door opens to reveal Ruth.

RUTH

Hey, Lisa...

LISA

What do you want now? Come to gawk at the pathetic ex-Chosen One?

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Eating alone like a loser because  
my *entire* entourage left me, and I  
have no one left in this world?

BLAZE

We're still here! Love you forever,  
boo. Me more than Dylan though.

Dylan GRUNTS in agreement.

LISA

Thanks, guys.

Ruth steadies herself, she has something to say.

RUTH

As a kid, I fantasized that I was  
special, like there was something I  
was born to do. But then I was bad  
at everything I tried. Soccer,  
fencing, reading, soccer again--

LISA

(holding back laughter)  
Oh my God, is this a speech? Am I  
in *Remember The Titans*?

BLAZE

Good burn, babe. Great movie  
though!

RUTH

(confident voice)  
I get it. I'm jaded too. Constant  
failure beat me down and made me  
scared. But The Evil Empress is  
going after the Cursed Pearl  
tonight, and I might not really  
know what that means, but I'm going  
to try and stop her. I'm ready to  
start being good at something!

LISA

(perking up)  
The Empress has an evil plan?  
That's all you had to say. I live  
for this stuff.

Lisa stands, waves her hand, and her THEME MUSIC STARTS UP.

LISA (CONT'D)

Let's go save the world!

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - LATER

Ruth trudges through the jungle swatting a bug away from her face. Lisa is a few steps ahead. The THEME MUSIC still plays.

RUTH  
 (re: the music)  
 It's just the same four bars over  
 and over again...

LISA  
 Shh. We're close.

As she says this, dozens of SCARY WOODEN SOLDIERS step out from behind the trees in front of them. They look like wood nymphs on steroids wielding giant swords.

WOODEN SOLDIER  
 Who disturbs this sacred place?

LISA  
 Shut up, Nancy, you know why I'm  
 here.

WOODEN SOLDIER  
 You've come without reinforcements  
 this time. Prepare to die.

The wooden soldiers ATTACK. Lisa fights them off, backflipping over her attackers and hitting them with various stunning spells. She's really badass. Ruth watches in awe.

LISA  
 This is less of a workout than  
 cardio barre, you limp, wooden -

HUNDREDS MORE WOODEN SOLDIERS come out from behind the trees.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 Shit.

Ruth steps up between Lisa and the LARGEST SOLDIER.

RUTH  
 Stop!

All the wooden soldiers stop. Look down at Ruth. And burst out LAUGHING. The Largest Soldier swats Ruth with one of his long branches and she goes flying.

The soldiers start to close in on Lisa. There's no way she can fight them off. All looks lost. One soldier lifts its sword, about to stab her. Ruth watches from the ground.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
 (screaming)  
 NOOO!

In a flash, all the wooden soldiers are reduced to ash. For a moment, there's quiet as the ashes blow in the wind. Lisa and Ruth share meaningful eye contact.

The sound of APPLAUSE breaks the silence. REVEAL: Blaze and Dylan, who were following behind the girls, clapping wildly.

LISA  
 I think you saved my life, loser.

Lisa extends a hand to help Ruth stand.

RUTH  
 I-I don't know how I did that, but that was amazing! I thought we were going to die and then BAM! It's like I just knew what to do, and it felt so right, you know?

LISA  
 (genuine)  
 Yeah, I know.

The clouds part. MOONLIGHT illuminates the IVY PILLAR from the cold open.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 Blaze, if you touch it, I swear I'll kill you.

Blaze, his hand outstretched to touch the ivy, backs away.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 (waving her hand)  
 Calminium!

The ivy disappears, revealing the altar with the oyster.

LISA (CONT'D)  
 Go on, you're who gets this, even if you did just decimate the last remaining wood nymph population.

RUTH  
 What's going to happen?

LISA  
 You'll absorb the power that's been trapped in the pearl.  
 (MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

Past Chosen Ones have said it stings like a full body UTI, but they probably just wanted to sound tough.

RUTH

I really am sorry it can't be you.

LISA

(holding back tears)  
Whatever.

Ruth takes a deep breath - she's ready. Lisa uses her PHONE to film Ruth approach the altar.

LISA (CONT'D)

This is a moment that deserves to be live-streamed. I wish we'd had time to change your outfit, and hair... and personality.

Ruth gets to the altar, grabs the pearl, and pulls. Nothing happens. Ruth can't move it either. Lisa storms toward her.

LISA (CONT'D)

You must be doing it wrong. Here.

Lisa goes to help, but Ruth is still trying to lift the pearl on her own. Lisa moves in, and the second both their hands touch it, the pearl starts to GLOW. Together, they lift it into the air. Neither Ruth nor Lisa releasing their grip.

INT. AGATHA'S HOME - SAME TIME

Agatha, still in her robe, watches the live stream - shocked.

AGATHA

No. No way. I quit.

Agatha downs her glass of wine.

EXT. JUNGLE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ruth and Lisa now hold the pearl together above their heads.

BLAZE

(so confused)

Wait, so are you like *both* The Chosen One? How does that work?

Ruth and Lisa share an uncertain look.

**END ACT THREE**

**TAG****INT. THE CASTLE OF THE EVIL EMPRESS - NIGHT**

In a dark, creepy castle, the Evil Empress paces back and forth in front of a gathering of her supporters.

EVIL EMPRESS

That's not how it was supposed to go! How are there two Chosen Ones?!

TEMPEST

(nervous)

M-Maybe they were twins separated at birth, estranged from the family that might have loved them?

EVIL EMPRESS

Ugh, just because that happened to you, doesn't mean it's the answer to everything. Move on, Tempest.

A TROLL SLAVE, about three feet tall and so pale he's almost transparent, approaches with a Diet Coke on a silver tray.

TROLL SLAVE

Refreshing beverage, your evilness?

EVIL EMPRESS

I told you not to keep Diet Cokes in the castle anymore! Do you want me to die of brain cancer?

The Troll gives an unseen look that makes it clear he *does* want her to die of brain cancer.

EVIL EMPRESS (CONT'D)

They may have the pearl, but we'll have the last laugh. It's on to evil plan B! Carol, we'll need you to keep a close eye on her.

REVEAL: Carol, Ruth's coworker, stands in the crowd.

CAROL

Sure thing! No one in the office has caught on that I'm actually a soulless demon. I think it's my relatable jokes about Mondays! Humans don't like those, right?

The supporters all grumble in agreement, *Mondays do suck*.

**END OF SHOW**