

THE FLORIDA PROJECT

Written by

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INT. MAGIC CASTLE - STAIRWELL - DAY

MOONEE (6) and SCOOTY (7) are outside The Magic Castle Motel, purple and run-down. The kids sit against the wall in the shade of an alcove under the stairs outside the main office.

The two take turns playing a game on a phone.

They hear a small boy, DICKY (7), calling from the distance.

DICKY
Moonee! Scooty!!

MOONEE
What!?

DICKY
Mooneeeeeeeeeee!

Dicky makes his way to the enclave moving fast.

MOONEE
WHAT!!??

Steadicam: Begin close on Dicky's screaming face and CONTINUOUS move from the side road parallel to Route 192 to behind Dicky, following him running towards the motel.

MOONEE (CONT'D)
WHAT!!!!?

Dicky arrives at the enclave.

DICKY
Freshies at The Future!

Moonee and Scooty are enthralled.

MOONEE / SCOOTY
Freshies at The Future!!!

They jump up and exit frame. We hold on the purple wall.

"Celebration" by Kool & the Gang blasts over the OPENING TITLES that play out as we continue to hold on the wall.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Dicky make their way to the end of the motel's driveway. PAN RIGHT to follow them and reveal Route 192 in full.

The kids run to the adjacent property -- FUTURELAND INN (located a block West from The Magic Castle).

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Moonee/Scooty/Dicky arrive at the entrance to FutureLand. Scuffed-up retro-futuristic rockets adorn the weather-damaged sign in front, its logo embedded within a constellation. A faded 'Stay in the future... today!' sign dangles below it.

Moonee/Scooty/Dicky run off the sidewalk and onto the lawn of the shanty motel.

They peer around a dirty wall. Their eyes widen.

DICKY

That one. The blue one.

The kids run upstairs to the second floor and look toward the ground halfway down the walkway. They begin spitting downward.

DICKY (CONT'D)

I can get it farther than you, Moonee.

MOONEE

No way. I'll totally get it much farther than you!

SCOOTY

Yeah but I bet none of you can get it on the top!

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - DAY

GRANDMA STACY (younger than your average Grandma) steps out onto the walkway. She lights a cigarette, taking in her new environment. She looks to her left where a YOUNG MAN and his PITBULL are lounging down the walkway. She nods to him.

She continues to smoke. Something grabs her attention. She approaches her blue 90's Toyota Corolla to see a spit-covered windshield. A gob of spit shoots down onto it from above. She looks to the upper floor.

GRANDMA STACY

What the fuck? HEY!

Moonee/Scooty/Dicky slide back and laugh.

GRANDMA STACY (CONT'D)
 Are you kidding me over here? You
 get down here and clean this shit
 up now!

The commotion causes Jancey and her young sister LUCI (4) to
 emerge from the room.

The kids continue to LAUGH HYSTERICALLY.

Moonee jumps up and spits blindly through the rail.

DICKY
 Go home, you ratchet bitch!

SCOOTY
 You ain't shit, jit!

MOONEE
 You are shit!

Jancey gets hit by a gob of spit.

JANCEY
 Gramma, he spit on me.

MOONEE
 (offended)
 It wasn't him, it was ME, stupid
 THOT!

GRANDMA STACY
 Hey! I'm coming up there and I am
 fucking telling your parents!

Moonee/Scooty/Dicky get up and race down the walkway of the
 second floor, the screaming back and forth persists.

MOONEE
 Try it, bee-otch. I don't even live
 here!

Moonee/Scooty/Dicky LAUGH hysterically while running away.
 Stacy fumes. Jancey and her little sister Luci stand by the
 door, confused.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Dicky race to the other side of FutureLand
 and down the stairs. They run onto the parking lot.

GRANDMA STACY (O.S.)
 Get the fuck back here!

DICKY'S DAD (40's) is sitting on a ratty lawn chair on the second floor, he spots them racing away.

DICKY'S DAD
Hey! Dicky... not another step. Get
your ass over here. Now.

Dicky stops as Moonee and Scooty keep running. Grandma Stacy yells up to Dicky's Dad.

GRANDMA STACY
Are they your kids?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DAY

Moonee and Scooty return to their home motel and run up the stairs to the third floor.

WIDE on the two little kids as they walk down the entire length of the motel toward the elevator/stairwell in the back (this is the first big reveal of the geography of The Magic Castle grounds).

They reach Moonee's home -- Room 323.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Moonee slides the window open from the outside, sticks her right arm in through the curtain and opens the door.

HALLEY (22) is in pajamas and lying on the bed, smoking and watching "The Price is Right" on an old 19-inch tube television.

Moonee and Scooty enter the room through the window, jump on the bed and hop over Halley.

HALLEY
Hey, take your shoes off.

Their shoes come off as they grab all the pillows in sight to make a fort.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Grandma Stacy, Jancey and Luci burst into the lobby. A tired-looking AMBER (40's, day clerk) looks up.

GRANDMA STACY
I want to speak with the manager
right now.

AMBER
Can I help you with something?

GRANDMA STACY
Are you the manager?

AMBER
No, but I'm in charge of...

GRANDMA STACY
I want to speak with the manager
now.

AMBER
Can I ask what this is regarding?

GRANDMA STACY
Two little shits that live on this
property!

AMBER
(turns toward offscreen)
Bobby!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

HARD KNOCKS on the door of room 323.

HALLEY
Yeah, what?

Moonee runs over to the door and opens it to reveal BOBBY (50's), the motel manager -- focused, overwhelmed and cynical. He wears a wedding ring.

He stands with Grandma Stacy/Jancey/Luci. Shy little Jancey stands behind her livid grandmother and peers inside. Moonee immediately SLAMS THE DOOR in his face and walks back to the bed.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
Moonee? Who's that?

MOONEE
Nobody.

HALLEY
Shit, Moonee. What did you two do?

SCOOTY
Nothin'.

Halley gets up off the bed. She drops her cigarette in her Mountain Dew can. Bobby begins speaking before the door swings all the way back open.

BOBBY

This woman's from next door. Says Moonee did something to her car.

HALLEY

You in 322?

BOBBY

No, FutureLand.

HALLEY

Oh.

GRANDMA STACY

Her and her friend Scoot spit all over my car and my kid here.

SCOOTY

(from under the bed)
It's Scooty, not Scoot!

Halley almost laughs.

HALLEY

You saw them do this?

GRANDMA STACY

I did. Their friend's father told me that your kids are always pulling this shit.

HALLEY

He ain't my kid.

GRANDMA STACY

Well, those two, whoever those are.

HALLEY

(pointing at Moonee)
She's mine.

GRANDMA STACY

I don't give a shit. They spit on my car and over my Jancey here.

BOBBY

Okay, Halley, one, sort this out. Two, you smoke in the room again and you're outta here.

HALLEY
I'm not smoking.

BOBBY
Last warning, Halley.

HALLEY
Yeah, well, I'm not.

Grandma Stacy watches Bobby walk off.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
C'mon, get some paper towels, you
two.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LAUNDRY AREA - DAY

Moonee/Scooty approach BERTHA (40's) who is folding laundry.

BERTHA
Hola, Scooty y Moonee.

SCOOTY
Toalla de papel.

MOONEE
Por Favor!

Bertha grabs a roll of paper towels and hands it to Moonee.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

The entire party (Halley/Moonee, Scooty, Grandma Stacy/Jancey/Luci) make their way over to FutureLand Inn.

HALLEY
These all yours?

GRANDMA STACY
These aren't mine. Well, they're
mine now. My daughter made me a
grandmother when she was 15. So I'm
looking after them until she stops
acting like her stupid father.

Halley offers Grandma Stacy a smoke. She accepts. Jancey is quiet and stays close to her mother.

GRANDMA STACY (CONT'D)
(pointing to Jancey)
She was on methadone for the first
four weeks of her life.
(MORE)

GRANDMA STACY (CONT'D)
 (pointing to Luci)
 Thank God, she had these two when
 she was locked up.

HALLEY
 When'd ya move in, Gramma?

GRANDMA STACY
 Today.

HALLEY
 Whatta they charging you a week?

GRANDMA STACY
 \$255.

HALLEY
 You can get that shit down to \$240.
 Maybe even less knowing that
 shithead who works the front desk
 over there.

EXT./INT. FUTURELAND INN - DAY

Grandma Stacy smokes a cigarette as she and Halley watch
 Moonee and Scooty wash the spit-covered car.

HALLEY
 Got another one of those?

Grandma Stacy rolls her eyes as she gives Halley a cigarette.

As Moonee/Scooty clean the spit off the car, they both make
 small talk with Jancey who watches curiously from the shadows
 near her motel room.

MOONEE
 What's your name?

JANCEY
 Jancey.

SCOOTY
 What kind of a name is Jancey?!

MOONEE
 Hey, Jancey? I'm Moonee. And hey...

JANCEY
 Yeah?

MOONEE

It sure would be a whole lot easier
if we had someone else to help us.

Scooty catches onto Moonee's plan.

SCOOTY

It sure would.

MOONEE

What would happen if someone was
nice enough to volunteer?

SCOOTY

They would get an award and it
would say 'the bestest ever!'

Jancey grabs a paper towel and goes over to help them.

GRANDMA STACY

HEY! Jancey, honey, what are you
doing?

JANCEY

I'm cleanin' up!

GRANDMA STACY

No, sweetheart, that's not your
job. It's those two that have to
clean up!

Moonee winks at Jancey. Jancey smiles.

MOONEE

Aren't you glad this happened
because now it's cleaner than it
was before!

HALLEY

Oh let her fuckin' help.

GRANDMA STACY

They're having too much fun. This
is not supposed to be fun this is
supposed to be work. This is not
okay. Not okay at all.

HALLEY

Let them have a good time, it's
kids being kids.

GRANDMA STACY

I think it was very disrespectful.
Not okay.

MOONEE

Hey! We should clean that inside too, it's a giant MESS!

Scooty cheers.

HALLEY

You think they're gonna get along if they don't socialize?

GRANDMA STACY

Oh just like you?

HALLEY

Yeah like me, what are you trying to say? Look, you check them for lice yet?

GRANDMA STACY

Lice?

HALLEY

Half the kids here have lice. I can help you but you wanna be mean to me. So fine. I know this shit.

The kids continue to playfully clean the old car.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - OUTSIDE ROOM 341 - DUSK

Halley and ten other RESIDENTS of The Magic Castle are socializing, drinking and smoking on the balcony.

Halley is hanging with her best friend and Scooty's mom, ASHLEY (23) on the stairs outside Room 341 where music is blasting. Some of the rooms' doors are open and some closed. GLORIA (60's) struts over.

GLORIA

Hey! Listen up, motherfuckers. You have one of two choices. You can all keep it down OR... you can get a lady a beer.

Gloria sits down and joins the crowd and pops open a beer which spills all over her.

ASHLEY

I'm off tomorrow. Want me to take Moonee?

HALLEY

No, it's cool, we got our appointment tomorrow. Now, what would happen if we smoke the fattest of blunts right now?

We hear Bobby off-screen.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, let's wrap it up. We have over twenty guests this weekend and we're already having noise complaints.

A few residents can be heard protesting off-screen.

INT. SOCIAL SERVICES - DAY

HALLEY is seated with a CASE WORKER (female, 30's). Moonee is messing around with another LITTLE KID (4) while the adults talk.

HALLEY

Most of those ratchet-ass bitches were doing extras... ya know, in the back room.

(gives a handjob gesture)

I'm not doin' extras. I'm fuckin' dancing for tips. That's what I do. I said no... two days later with no warning Hector fires me... after not letting me up on stage all fuckin' night. Fuckin' bullshit.

CASE WORKER

Okay, well... this will affect your TANF.

HALLEY

No shit. That's why I'm here.

CASE WORKER

Okay, you need to make a concerted effort to find at least thirty hours.

HALLEY

(frustrated)

Yeah, well you find me thirty hours! I have applications in at every shithole up and down Irlo Bronson and the parks ain't going to hire me.

CASE WORKER

You can cover those up, Halley.

Halley is thrown off for a second. She then realizes the case worker is referring to her tattoos.

HALLEY

No, my record. And now that it's summer and I got her during the day... C'mon.

CASE WORKER

I get it. But you've got to give benefits three job contacts a week or you'll be considered non-compliant.

(reading file)

And no child support.

Halley just shakes her head.

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)

When is he getting out?

Halley shakes her head again.

EXT. WAFFLE HOME / ORANGE WORLD - DAY

Moonee and Scooty sit in front of a "Welcome to Florida" mural. They are nodding off. An off-screen WHISTLE wakes them up.

Scooty's mom Ashley stands in the front entrance of the fast food waffle joint next door. She motions for them to go in back.

As they run to the back, reveal that the two kids were sitting on the side of the huge ORANGE WORLD dome right next door.

EXT. WAFFLE HOME - BACK AREA - DAY

Scooty and Moonee wait out back. Ashley comes out with a doggy bag.

MOONEE

Thanks, Miss Ashley. My mom wants to know if you want to go to O.B.T. tonight.

ASHLEY

It's Saturday night, isn't it?

MOONEE
 (to Scooty)
 What was yesterday?

SCOOTY
 Yesterday? That was... Friday.

MOONEE
 (to Ashley)
 Yes, today is Saturday.

ASHLEY
 Okay, then we're gonna go.

MOONEE
 Okay, I'll tell her. Bye, Miss
 Ashley!

SCOOTY
 Bye, Mommy!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Moonee/Scooty/Halley eat the Waffle Home food picnic-style in a dilapidated playground next to the parking lot of the motel.

A HELICOPTER loaded with TOURISTS lifts off next door. The kids give it the finger as it lifts off for a tour.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - CORNER ROOM

Halley and Ashley are dressed up and ready to party. They deliver Moonee and Scooty to a NEIGHBOR's room.

HALLEY
 Thanks again. Let me know if they
 misbehave.
 (to Moonee)
 Behave, okay?

EXT. ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Halley and Ashley are in party mode. Latin food trucks, tricked-out cars, smoke, blasting music. The two girls make their way around, socialize, eat food and watch as the cars drag race up and down the parking lot.

ASHLEY
 This is the best burrito I've ever
 eaten.

We follow the girls docu-style as they socialize. They get alone time as they eat their food.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
They chose Simone.

HALLEY
Are you fuckin' kidding me?

ASHLEY
I know. I been there way longer than that bitch.

HALLEY
I can't even believe it. Fuck that.

ASHLEY
The second I'm a manager you're totally hired, I mean it.

Halley's night is ruined.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - DAY

Moonee and Scooty approach Dicky's room on the first floor of FutureLand. Dicky's Dad is lounging outside as usual.

MOONEE
Can Dicky come out and--

DICKY'S DAD
Dicky's being punished. He can't come out.

A MEAN CHIHUAHUA is staring at the kids. They walk away. Moonee stops and turns back.

MOONEE
Wait.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - DAY

Moonee and Scooty knock on Jancey's door. Grandma Stacy answers.

GRANDMA STACY
Yeah what?

MOONEE
Can Jancey come out and play?

GRANDMA STACY

What? You gonna take her to spit on someone else's car?

MOONEE

No, we're just playing.

GRANDMA STACY

What are you playing?

MOONEE

I dunno. Just playing.

GRANDMA STACY

Jance, those kids from the purple place wanna know if you wanna play?

JANCEY

I wanna play.

GRANDMA STACY

No further than Magic Castle, okay?

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey run away.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - FRONT DRIVEWAY - DAY

Moonee/Scooty/Jancey walk past the front of Magic Castle headed West.

JANCEY

Don't you live there?

MOONEE

Yeah but we have things to show you.

JANCEY

My grandma said no further than here.

MOONEE

Well we need ice cream. And this is a tour. Follow us. It's okay.

Jancey hesitates, then makes a decision to take her first step into uncharted territory.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - WIZARD GIFT SHOP - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey walk by a gift shop on Route 192 that has a large Wizard sculpture over it.

JANCEY
You think we're going too far?

MOONEE
Just come on!

Jancey stops and looks up at the giant wizard, entranced.
After a beat, she moves on.

SCOOTY
That's Wizzy. He'll protect us.
It's safe.

MOONEE
Yeah, Wizzy's a protector! Come on!

Jancey continues to follow her two new friends.

EXT. ABANDONED CASTLE - DAY

They walk by a boarded-up old castle attraction.

MOONEE
That's an old castle. Many battles
must've happened there once.

EXT. THRIFT STORE - DAY

The three kids walk past a thrift store. Jancey looks ahead
and smiles.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - TWISTEE TREAT - DAY

They approach a structure that looks like a giant ice cream
cone alongside the highway.

MOONEE
And THIS is where you get free ice
cream.

JANCEY
Really?

EXT. ROUTE 192 - TWISTEE TREAT - DAY - LATER

The three kids beg for change from a TOURIST MOTHER AND
DAUGHTER.

MOONEE

Excuse me, Miss? Would you be so kind as to give us your change so we can have cones too?

SCOOTY

Hopefully one day we can make enough money and then pay you back.

The mother fishes for some change in her purse.

SCOOTY (CONT'D)

The doctor said we gotta eat ice cream right away.

MOONEE

Yeah, we have cancer and need ice cream.

Jancey is in awe of the con job taking place before her eyes.

EXT. MEDICAL CENTER CLINIC - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey walk by a group of HOMELESS living in boxes outside a boarded-up Medical Center.

MOONEE

Here is where the homeless people live.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey share a cone as they approach the Magic Castle. Moonee pops the last bite in her mouth, then stops herself. Moonee passes the last piece to Jancey.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY

Moonee and Scooty continue to give Jancey their tour into the grounds of The Magic Castle. They stop and point at every door. The sequence will play as if we are condensing a documented tour with jump cuts between every line of dialogue.

SCOOTY

216 is Abigahil. She's a nice woman with lots of pillows. And sells drugs sometimes.

MOONEE

And 217 is a family that has a brother who stabbed someone on Valentine's Day.

The kids pass the elevator.

MOONEE (CONT'D)

And nobody ever uses the elevator cause it smells like pee.

The kids round a corner.

SCOOTY

And 222 is a family that fights like all day.

MOONEE

And the woman who lives in here thinks she's married to Jesus.

They approach the laundry room. Bertha is exiting the utility room and enters the laundry room.

SCOOTY

And that's Bertha. She smokes weeds.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - OFFICE - DAY

Bobby is at his computer when the power goes off. The lights, monitors and the hum of the air conditioning cut out.

BOBBY

Aw... shit.

AMBER (O.S.)

'The shit just happened?

Bobby sits in the dark.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

The electricity is shut off across entire motel.

Bobby exits the lobby door. He's pissed.

WIDE SHOT, LONG TAKE of the entire East wing of the motel. This allows us to see many of the motel's residents filtering out of their rooms in anger. (Gloria, RICO the Pool Guy, CUBBY, Haley, Ashley + Troy + 30 BACKGROUND)

Bobby continues to walk rapidly toward the back of the building trying to defuse the situation. We see Moonee, Scooty and Jancey hastily enter room 323.

We hold on the complaining residents. A few take the opportunity to chill out and light up.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - UTILITY ROOM - DAY

Bobby enters the small room and sees a thrown switch. He flips it back on.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

The electricity goes back on and Bobby makes his way back outside as the residents CHEER.

Bobby waves to the residents, triumphantly.

BOBBY

Drama's over. You can all go back to your rooms now, folks. Have a nice day.

People filter back inside the rooms.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Amber is behind the counter trying to calm down THREE ANNOYED RESIDENTS, one of them is Gloria.

GLORIA

Totally unacceptable! I pay good fuckin' money for my room and that includes A.C.-- ya know what I mean by A.C.? A Cunt. As in you are a cunt!

Bobby enters the lobby. He's pissed. He beelines to the back office.

AMBER

Bound to happen at least once this summer. Everyone's blasting their AC. Then you got microwaves, hot plates... fucking crock pots. These rooms weren't designed to be extended stay suites.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - BACK OFFICE - DAY

Bobby is reviewing the CCTV as we hear Amber continuing to try to calm down the residents. He squints at one of the camera feeds.

BOBBY

Amber?

Amber enters the office.

AMBER

Yeah?

BOBBY

Wasn't crock pots.

He points to the CCTV monitor. On one of the feeds is an image of Bertha leaving the utility room... and in come three little bodies entering and pulling the switch.

AMBER

Of course.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Bobby exits the lobby, fast. He walks up the stairs and pauses at Bertha pushing her cart on the walkway.

BOBBY

Bertha, you leave that utility room unlocked again and you're gone. And don't think I don't know what you're doing in there.

Bobby makes a "smoking weed" gesture.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

None of that on the premises, comrende?

He continues to the third floor.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley is sitting on the bed smoking a blunt. Huddled next to her are Moonee, Scooty and Jancey. They are playing a game on the iPad.

A LOUD KNOCK at the door. The kids look at each other.

HALLEY

Yeah?

BOBBY

Halley. Open the door.

Halley looks over at the three kids. They look guilty.

HALLEY

(even-keeled)

Fuckin' A. What did you do now?

She snubs out the blunt and grabs a can of air freshener and blasts the air.

BOBBY (O.S.)

Halley, open up, now.

Halley gets off the bed and approaches the door, pissed.

MOONEE

(whispering to Jancey)

Don't act guilty.

Halley opens the door.

HALLEY

Yeah?

BOBBY

I have a video of the kids
illegally entering the utilities
closet and pulling the power.

JANCEY

They told me that I could be part
of the club if I did it.

Halley laughs -- causing Moonee and Scooty to laugh.

HALLEY

That's lit.

BOBBY

Funny right? Happens again and
you're gone. Second week of summer
and there's already been a dead
fish in the pool--

MOONEE

It was an experiment. We were
trying to bring it back to life!

BOBBY
 ...and water balloons at some
 tourists. You don't mess with
 tourists.

SCOOTY
 They didn't tip us!

MOONEE
 Damn non-tippers!

HALLEY
 (turns to Bobby)
 Oh God. Are you serious?

BOBBY
 Quite serious.

HALLEY
 My God. This is unacceptable.

Bobby realizes she is being facetious.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
 I've failed as a mother. Moonee,
 you've disgraced me!

Halley bursts into a laughing fit that causes Moonee, Scooty
 and Jancey to join in with giggles.

BOBBY
 Don't fuck with me right now,
 Halley.

HALLEY
 Kids having fun. C'mon bro.

BOBBY
 Yeah, so, I lost three hours of
 work. Work. You know what that is?

Halley laughs.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
 And I'm talking to Ashley, by the
 way. If your friend leaves you in
 charge of her kid, he becomes your
 responsibility and you ain't taking
 responsibility. And this one, isn't
 she from FutureLand?

HALLEY
 Oh whatevs. You gotta relax, man.

BOBBY

You gonna redo my expense reports with your whatevs? Your kid just killed my night. I wanted to watch the game. You gonna pay me for the three hours I gotta work later?

HALLEY

Hey guys, pay the man for his three hours.

MOONEE

I don't have any money.

SCOOTY

I don't have any money.

JANCEY

I have fourteen cents.

HALLEY

We only has fourteen cents. You're shit outta luck.

BOBBY

Speaking of... I haven't gotten this week's rent from you.

HALLEY

You don't think I know that.

She closes the door. Bobby stands outside their door and does breathing exercises to calm down.

JANCEY

I think I want to go home now.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR MISCELLANEOUS ROOM - DAY

Bobby and JACK (28) are wrapping a mattress in plastic.

JACK

Well, the purple looks nice. How much did that put you all back?

BOBBY

Narek spent 20K on it.

JACK

And he can't afford an exterminator?

BOBBY

Here.

Bobby hands Jack duct tape. Jack rips a strip and seals the plastic. Bobby stops him.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

No, Jack, I told you! Longer strips.

JACK

Then you do it.

BOBBY

I was just saying, you know better, you have to use longer strips. C'mon.

They continue to seal the mattress. Jack is focused on the job and barely notices Moonee and Scooty as they peer in.

MOONEE

Whatcha doin?

BOBBY

Top secret work.

SCOOTY

Really?

BOBBY

Guys, I need you outta here.

MOONEE

You guys are boring anyway.

BOBBY

That's right. See you later.

The kids run off. Bobby and Jack continues to work in silence. Eventually Bobby begins removing the headboard.

JACK

Jesus.

BOBBY

Oh, worse than I thought.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - DUMPSTER - DAY

Bobby and Jack throw the sealed mattress in the dumpster. No words are spoken between them.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY

Moonee and Scooty sit in the lobby licking dripping ice cream cones. Their faces are covered with melted ice cream.

We reveal that Bobby has been watching them intently. Arms crossed, leaning against the counter.

Scooty's melting cone breaks apart and a piece hits the floor.

BOBBY

Okay, out! I warned you. One drop and you're out. Now out.

MOONEE

Oh come on!

SCOOTY

It's gonna melt outside!

BOBBY

Obviously it's melting inside too.

The two kids exit the lobby.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ENCLAVE - DAY

Moonee and Scooty lounge in the enclave, remnants of ice cream all over their faces. Something grabs Scooty's attention...

SCOOTY

Gloria!

Gloria is strutting towards the pool with a towel in a bikini.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - DAY

Moonee/Scooty pound on Jancey's door, winded and panicking. Dicky has joined the group. Grandma Stacy answers.

GRANDMA STACY

Hey, one light knock will do.

MOONEE AND SCOOTY

We need Jancey!!!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - POOL AREA + BATTLEMENT - DAY

Moonee/Scooty/Jancey/Dicky run onto the second floor balcony and perch over the castle battlement to look down at the pool area --

Gloria sunbathes topless. The kids giggle as they spy on her chanting "Boobies, boobies, boobies!"

Bobby eventually saunters into the pool area.

BOBBY

Gloria, cover it up, please. I've told you this before. Thank you.

Gloria resists.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

These kids don't need a health class right now.

GLORIA

Kids are in school, honey.

BOBBY

They're right there.

(pointing)

It's summer break, Gloria.

GLORIA

Are you kidding me?

She stands up, revealing her chest in all its glory.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

You gonna stand there and give me shit about these? Are these making you uncomfortable, Bobby?

BOBBY

Cover it up. Thank you.

The kids laugh and chant while Gloria continues to protest. Finally Gloria covers up. The kids are upset.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DUSK

On the driveway of The Magic Castle, Jancey and Dicky are walking home. Moonee and Scooty slip into the lobby.

DICKY

I better get home before I get grounded again.

PATRICE (30's), the Magic Castle night manager, rolls up and steps out of his BEAT-UP CAR.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Patrice enters, nods to Bobby. Moonee and Scooty are whistling into a fan.

SCOOTY
I can't whistle.

Scooty makes an annoying sound into the fan.

PATRICE
Kids. Out.

Patrice passes Amber wrapping things up behind the desk. Amber begins packing up and getting ready to go.

PATRICE (CONT'D)
Yep.

AMBER
Yeah.

Bobby is sitting at the desk, tending to emails. He never looks away from the screen.

PATRICE
Hey, boss.

BOBBY
Narek will be in next week so we just need to take care of the invoices tonight, oh and do me a favor, put in that paint order, will ya? That tower needs touch-ups.

AMBER
And that effing ice machine has been out of order for three months.

MOONEE
Yeah, fix that effing ice machine!

SCOOTY
We need ice! People need ice.

BOBBY
That thing can't be fixed. I'll deal with it.
(to Patrice)
(MORE)

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Just talk to him about the re-order. Thank you. Oh, and keep your eyes on 151. There's been traffic in and out all day.

Patrice studies Bobby for a moment.

PATRICE

Are you... Bobby, that room's been hot all week. I thought you were letting 'em slide?

Patrice lights his candle. Bobby just stares. He rubs his face.

BOBBY

I'll take care of it tomorrow.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DUSK

Bobby leaves the lobby... he walks three steps and enters the closest motel room to the office -- Room 101. He slams the door to his home.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DUSK

Amber leaves.

AMBER

Have a great fucking night.

Patrice settles behind the counter.

PATRICE

What did I say? Get outta here!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - STAIRWAY - NIGHT

Halley, Ashley, Moonee and Scooty sit on the stairs. Moonee plays a game on the iPad while Halley and Ashley listen to hip-hop on their phone.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAWN

Outside Room 151, Bobby is watching a couple packing up and leaving.

DEALER GIRL

This is fucked up, son.

BOBBY

Don't want to hear it. Let's go.

DEALER GIRL

I paid for the week, man. I want a refund.

BOBBY

Get the fuck outta here.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - NIGHT

Moonee and Scooty sit on the steps of the front stairwell near the lobby. They are lit by the sodium-vapour lamps that illuminate the parking lot. In the background, residents of the motel are out on their balconies socializing.

A TAXI pulls into the parking lot. Moonee/Scooty perk up.

INT. LOBBY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Patrice takes the candle out of his bag and searches for a lighter.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - NIGHT

The cab parks under the awning outside the lobby. A CABBIE (50), shocked HUBBY (40) and confused WIFE (30) exit the car.

HUBBY

Wait, hold on, Sir. I think you got the wrong place.

CABBIE

This is the address you gave me.

WIFE

(Portuguese)
What did he say?

The driver removes luggage from the back of the taxi.

HUBBY

Wait, I think we have a problem here. This isn't where we are staying.

Moonee and Scooty approach. The wife looks at them.

CABBIE

Well, you want to check that address?

WIFE

(Portuguese)

We are going to the Magic Kingdom... you said you booked a hotel at the Magic Kingdom. That everything was taken care of. What is this place? We are not even on Disney property.

HUBBY

(Portuguese)

Shit. I mean... Joao booked it for me. I don't know.

WIFE

(Portuguese)

You had your assistant book our honeymoon hotel? Are you fucking kidding me?

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - NIGHT

CUT TO a conversation already in progress between our Hubby and Patrice. The Husband has his phone to his ear. Moonee and Scooty are watching. The Cabbie is smoking a cigarette outside.

PATRICE

(into walkie talkie)

Bobby, can you help me out in here?

Patrice turns back to the husband.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

I can give you the AAA rate, how about that?

HUBBY

No. No no, I am not asking for a discount.

PATRICE

Well I've already said, because you booked it online, if you want a refund you have to do it online, you'll get it back on your statement within 2-3 weeks.

The husband hangs up the phone and turns to his wife.

HUBBY
 (Portuguese)
 He's not answering.
 (to Patrice in English)
 No, you don't understand. I don't
 care about a refund. We just need a
 place to stay.

PATRICE
 And you got a place to stay. You
 have room 325.

MOONEE
 That's two rooms down from my room!

Bobby enters the lobby.

BOBBY
 What's up?
 (to kids)
 You two. Out.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - NIGHT

The cabbie impatiently smokes his cigarette. The kids stare
 through the window.

SCOOTY
 That lady is pretty.

MOONEE
 Yeah. But... I think she's going to
 cry. I can always tell when adults
 are about to cry.

The cabbie opens the door of the lobby.

CABBIE
 Hey man. I'm going to have to
 charge you waiting time. I got
 other calls.

WIFE
 (Portuguese)
 What is he saying?

The husband is overwhelmed.

HUBBY
 Wait, Sir. I'll get the new
 address. Hold on.

CABBIE

Hey, look, just call the company
when you're ready, it's a busy
weekend for us. I'm losing fares.

The cabbie snubs the cigarette and enters the lobby. We see that he is settling the bill with the husband as the kids watch through the glass.

Moonee eyes the luggage and then looks to Scooty. He nods and winks. The two kids grab the couple's luggage and move it into the lobby.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - NIGHT

The cabbie exits and drives away. The husband is busy on his phone, scouring the internet.

BOBBY

It's almost midnight, one of the
busiest weekends of the year around
here. The only other room you'll
find tonight is another single
somewhere along this stretch. Take
your pick.

HUBBY

Listen, do you see my wife there?
She's Brazilian. They LOVE this
place. She's been coming here since
she was a kid and her dream was to
have her honeymoon in Disney.

MOONEE

You just got married?

Wife notices kids have taken the luggage inside.

BOBBY

Listen, trust me. If I brought my
girl to this place on our
honeymoon, she would have divorced
my ass. I feel for you. But what do
you want me to do, fella?

WIFE

(very broken English)
Hey! Get away from that!

PATRICE

They're just trying to get a tip.

MOONEE

You can't leave stuff out there.

SCOOTY

Yeah, there's punks out there.

WIFE

(Portuguese)

What are these stray children rummaging about? This is a welfare, slum motel. We're spending our honeymoon in a gypsy project? Find another place. Check The Polynesian first. Or Grand Floridian. Maybe The Contemporary but only Bay Lake Tower!

HUBBY

(Portuguese)

I'm checking, okay? This is their independence holiday. Very popular. The resorts are booked.

The wife begins to cry. Moonee looks over at Scooty.

MOONEE

Told ya.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ENCLAVE - DAY

Moonee and Scooty sit in their favorite spot once again.

SCOOTY

Hey, you wanna see something cool?

MOONEE

Of course!

SCOOTY

Make sure you don't tell anyone.

Scooty whips out a lighter he took from Patrice.

SCOOTY (CONT'D)

It has a naked lady on it!

Moonee gasps! Halley yells down from upstairs.

HALLEY (O.S.)

Moonee!

MOONEE

What, Mom!?!

HALLEY (O.S.)
Get off your butts and go get some
waffles!

EXT. WAFFLE HOME - DAY

Moonee/Scooty pick up food from the back of Waffle Home. As Ashley hands Scooty a doggy bag, she notices how filthy the two kids are.

 ASHLEY
You have shit all over your face,
get over here.

She proceeds to wipe off both of their faces with her apron.

 MOONEE
Oh, my mom wanted extra maple
syrup.

Moonee smiles as Ashley loads up the bag. Moonee whispers in Scooty's ear.

 MOONEE (CONT'D)
It's actually for me.

Scooty joins her in a giggle.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Moonee/Scooty/Halley once again eat their food picnic-style. Moonee drowns her waffle with the extra syrup.

Silent eating. Wind blows through their hair. Halley is focused on her smartphone.

INT. ROUTE 192 PERFUME WHOLESALERS - DAY

Halley haggles with a PERFUME WHOLESALER while Moonee tries out samples.

 HALLEY
Can I get a discount if I buy over
twenty?

 PERFUME WHOLESALER
Umm... this is wholesale.

Halley pays cash and leaves with a bag full of sealed boxes of perfume.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Halley and Moonee attempt to sell perfume to HOTEL GUESTS.
Moonee puts on her best "cute face."

(Shot "candid camera"-style with a hidden camera. Actors will attempt to sell perfume to real pedestrians.)

HALEY

Excuse me. We are selling perfume.
Would you like to help my daughter
and I and buy a bottle? They smell
great.

MOONEE

These will make you smell like
Justin Bieber!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Bobby is behind the counter with Amber. Magic Castle Owner
NAREK (50's) is reading reviews on his phone.

NAREK

...what does "ratchet" even mean?
Listen, Amber, you need to tell
everybody you know, I need better
Yelp reviews. Not just Yelp.
Expedia, Priceline, all those. I
need five-star reviews. This is
killing me.

AMBER

Why don't you offer the residents
like a discount to give a good
review.

NAREK

That's not a bad idea. I like that.

Something catches Bobby's eye. He looks up. It's Halley,
headed straight for the office. "What shitstorm will this be
now" is written all over Bobby's face.

Halley enters and marches up to the counter.

HALLEY

Oh, sorry to interrupt. I just
wanted to pay you for the week,
Sir. \$240.

Halley plops down two hundreds and two twenties.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Our stay has been delightful so far. The pool temperature is perfection. Have a great day.

Halley exits. Amber counts the cash.

NAREK

Did you see these fake reviews The Wishing Star has? That woman was murdered there last month. No way anyone in their right mind is giving that shithole four stars.

AMBER

I kinda miss counting \$240 in singles.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Narek and Bobby walk and talk, passing RESIDENTS and CURIOUS KIDS. Moonee, Scooty and Jancey watch the adults from the stairs. Scooty is playing with the lighter. Narek points up to the bikes locked onto the railings on the second and third floors.

NAREK

Okay, see? That's finable now. Make a flyer. Put it under the doors. It should say they have to remove the bikes and lock 'em in the back. If there are any bikes remaining on the rails we're going to cut them on August first. Got it?

BOBBY

Yes.

Watching from overhead, Moonee let's out a sigh.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - PARKING LOT - DAY

Moonee/Scooty/Jancey and other kids watch as Dicky and his Dad move out. Their old station wagon is packed to the brim. Dicky's Dad throws some stuff in to the dumpster and gives toys away to Moonee, Jancey, Scooty and the rest.

DICKY'S DAD

Dicky, wanna say bye to your room?

Dicky shakes his head, he doesn't look happy that his 99-cent-store knock-off Woody and Buzz toys are being given away.

DICKY'S DAD (CONT'D)

I told you, New Orleans, new toys.
There's not an extra inch in this
thing. Let's get rolling.

Dicky walks over to his friends.

MOONEE

My mom says to say good-bye.

DICKY

Well, see ya around, I guess.

The kids hug and fist-bump him good-bye. Moonee seems indifferent. She's been through this before. Never good to get too emotional over anyone. Like her mom taught her.

Dicky's father gives the kids a cardboard box of remaining toys and bric-a-brac.

The kids wave and watch as the car leaves the driveway.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - TWISTEE TREAT - DAY

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey split an ice cream outside the Twistee Treat. Moonee holds the cone and passes it to her friends.

MOONEE

One lick for you... (to Jancey) one
lick for you... (to Scooty) and one
lick for me... (Moonee licks again)
two licks for you... (to Jancey)...
two licks for you... (to Scooty)
and one, two licks for me (Moonee
licks twice).

TWISTEE TREAT EMPLOYEE

Hey. Hey! You guys can't hang out
there. Seriously. You can't sit
there.

The kids don't move an inch.

SCOOTY

We're paying customers!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley is wearing a bathing suit. She grabs a towel and passes by the sleeping Moonee. She exits.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

Halley and Ashley are in the pool. They smoke and drink and laugh. They converse about the kids and their single status.

Bobby is making his nightly rounds.

BOBBY

Girls, you know very well that
night swimming is a no-go.

HALLEY

Did you just say no-go?

The women laugh.

ASHLEY

Wanna go skinny dipping, Bobby?

Bobby gives up and continues on his patrol.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - OUTSIDE HALLEY AND ASHLEY ROOMS - NIGHT

The two women return to their respective rooms.

ASHLEY

Good night, bitch. I love you.

HALLEY

Love you, bitch.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Moonee/Jancey/Scooty/Mia/Jazlyn/Other Kids play in the playground. Two dogs, BUNSEN and BOONEE, frolic with the kids.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley and Moonee eat a cheese pizza on the bed.

MOONEE

Where's the iPad?

HALLEY

Sold.

MOONEE

What?

HALLEY
Had to sell it.

 MOONEE
But why?

 HALLEY
Whatever, Moonee. This room costs
money.

Moonee is disappointed.

 MOONEE
You know I like pepperoni.

 HALLEY
Pepperoni costs money.

The two sit in silence while watching the TV. Halley side-eyes her daughter. She knows the Moonee is upset.

Halley gets off the bed and grabs a bag of gummy bears.

 HALLEY (CONT'D)
But look...

She sprinkles gummy bears onto the pie.

 HALLEY (CONT'D)
We got gummy bear pizza!

Moonee loves it.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Halley pulls out a wad of cash and hands it to Bobby.

 BOBBY
Seriously, if you're going to be
late again, you got to let me know.

 HALLEY
It was due yesterday.

 BOBBY
Yeah, exactly, it was due
yesterday.

 HALLEY
Whatevs.

Bobby counts the cash. Halley exits.

EXT. ABANDONED CONDOS - DAY

A quarter of a mile up Route 192 is a fenced-off set of pastel-colored condos, weather-damaged and abandoned.

Moonee, Scooty and Jancey ignore the "Private Property: Do Not Enter" sign. Jancey looks concerned.

MOONEE

C'mon. This is gonna be a haunted scary adventure.

SCOOTY

Yeah, there's ghosts in there.

JANCEY

Ghosts?!

They run around the exteriors of the dilapidated condos.

SCOOTY

And there are killer gators in there that chase pirates!

Scooty points to the water as Jancey moves away from it.

They enter the condos.

INT. ABANDONED CONDOS - DAY

Peeling paint, water damage, collapsed ceilings and floors... all results of the hurricane back in '08.

Scooty jumps out and tries to scare the girls, pretending to be a ghost of these "haunted" buildings.

MOONEE

Someday we'll live in a place this big.

JANCEY

Can I come over and play?

MOONEE

Of course, Jancey! And this is where my bed will be.

Moonee points to different sections of the empty space.

MOONEE (CONT'D)

No, I'll put my bed there and that's where my toys will go there.

Scooty runs off to another room and has fun breaking some windows, throwing debris from the second floor, etc.

Moonee and Jancey break away from Scooty. Moonee approaches a fireplace filled with debris.

JANCEY

I never lived in a house that had a fireplace.

MOONEE

Well, you do now! Wait! I got the bestest idea!

JANCEY

You do?

MOONEE

Scooty! We need your lighter!

INT. ABANDONED CONDO - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Moonee and Jancey watch as Scooty gets his lighter to spark.

EXT. ROUTE 192 FUTURELAND LAWN - DAY

Moonee, Jancey and Scooty run down the side of Route 192 onto the lawn of FutureLand.

SCOOTY

We're in so much trouble!

MOONEE

No, it'll be okay. We just have to pretend we weren't there!

Jancey veers off and Moonee/Scooty keep running.

MOONEE (CONT'D)

(yelling to Jancey)

Don't-tell-anyone-Jancey-okay-see-ya-just-go-home-no-one-say-a-word-okay-later-k-bye!

JANCEY

(screaming)

Okay!

SCOOTY

Hurry!

MOONEE
OKAYYYYYY!

JANCEY
OKAYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!!!!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DAY

Moonee and Scooty run down the balcony to their respective rooms as residents exit their rooms and look to the sky. Someone calls 9-1-1, some panic, some are excited but everyone rushes to the scene.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Amber peeks around the corner of the back office.

AMBER
Yo, I need help out here.

Bobby exits the back office.

BOBBY
What's going on?

A family of three is checking in: NEW GIRL (11), NEW BOY (7) and NEW FATHER (35) are standing in front of the counter. New Father is deaf and being assisted by his daughter. Amber motions to the guest registration sheet.

AMBER
I can't explain it any better than I already have. The address thing.

NEW GIRL
My father doesn't understand what he did wrong.

BOBBY
Let me see. Oh, yeah. No problem. Just initial here. States that the address on your ID is your permanent address.

New Girl and New Boy turn to the father and translate in sign language. He speaks back to them in sign language.

NEW GIRL
He says he told her that that's our old address.

BOBBY

Yes, so, is there a new permanent address?

The kids turn and translate. The father replies.

NEW GIRL

He says he wouldn't be moving his family into a motel if we had a permanent address.

BOBBY

Tell him I'm trying to help him here. Legally I can't rent a room if you're homeless.

NEW GIRL

Well, we're not homeless.

Bobby raises his eyebrows.

BOBBY

And that's exactly what my boss wants to hear... so writing down a permanent address will help with that. Got me?

Again, the kids translate. All the while, residents are running by the lobby windows. It's distracting to Bobby.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Excuse me a second.

Bobby walks to the doors as Amber takes over the check-in.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Perplexed, Bobby steps out of the lobby to watch the excited residents running toward Route 192. He notices a huge cloud of black smoke in the distance.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 223 - DAY

The door is open and Ashley watches the residents leave the parking lot. She is excited about seeing the fire.

ASHLEY

C'mon, Scooty... don't you wanna see the burning house?

SCOOTY
No, it's okay. I'm just going to
watch TV.

She knows something is wrong.

ASHLEY
Scooty. Please tell me you didn't
have anything to do with this?

SCOOTY
No. I didn't.

ASHLEY
Scooty. Don't fuck with me right
now. If you did this, I'm in so
much trouble.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY

We see Halley and Moonee at the end of the walkway.

HALLEY
Hurry your ass, bitch. I don't want
to miss this.

Ashley leans out of her door.

ASHLEY
I'll meet you there.

HALLEY
Okay, hurry, bitch!

Halley and Moonee take off.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 223 - DAY

ASHLEY
You tell me the truth right now.
You understand what will happen to
us if you did this? You want the
fuckin' DCF down here, Scooty?!

Ashley is starting to lose it, scaring Scooty.

SCOOTY
I didn't do it. Moonee and Jancey
did it.

Ashley gets in Scooty's face.

ASHLEY

And how do you know that? Were you there, Scooty?

EXT./INT. ABANDONED CONDOS - DUSK

The excited CROWD watches as FIREFIGHTERS attempt to put out the inferno. A crowd of ONLOOKERS are pumped and very vocal. Halley is offered a beer by some guys. She accepts. Fun all around.

The fire is put out against the purple dusk sky.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DUSK

Gloria is smoking outside the front lobby as Bobby walks by.

BOBBY

You got another one of those?

GLORIA

For you? Why not.

Bobby lights up. Bobby sits down as Gloria stares at the remaining smoke fading into the red sky.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Could've been arson.

Bobby shrugs, looks down.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

They were so fucking ugly I was thinking of burning them down!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - BACK BALCONY - DAY

MOONEE

Nobody said anything right?

Jancey and Scooty confirm.

MOONEE (CONT'D)

Okay, good. Manhunt!

Moonee, Jancey and Scooty play Hide & Seek. Scooty begins counting as the girls run away.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - BACK OFFICE - DAY

Moonee and Jancey run into the office and hide under the desk. They are forced to be very close to one another... and to Bobby's feet.

MOONEE

Even though you have your boots laced up, I can still smell your stinky feet. They smell, right?

Jancey giggles. Bobby rolls his eyes.

BOBBY

These stinky feet are going to kick you in the face if you don't shut up. And please go outside.

Jancey starts to get up. Moonee stops her.

MOONEE

We're hiding. This is serious.

JANCEY

Bobby, you should probably buy some Dr. Scholls or talcum powder.

Scooty runs in.

SCOOTY

(to Amber)

You see Moonee and Jancey?

Amber points to the back office. Scooty runs to the back. Bobby points to under the desk.

MOONEE

(to Bobby)

Oh man! C'mon!

SCOOTY

(to Bobby and Amber)

You guys aren't supposed to tell me!

BOBBY

(doesn't care)

G'bye.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - FRONT STAIRS

Jancey is counting on the bottom of the front stairs. Scooty and Moonee run up the stairs to hide and run into livid Ashley. Ashley grabs Scooty and drags him away.

ASHLEY

You think I was joking? I told you,
you ain't playing with those two
anymore.

Moonee is perplexed.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Huge BRAWL with 5 BRAWLERS and 10 BRAWL WATCHERS in the middle of the parking lot.

Moonee watches from the 3rd floor balcony with Halley. Halley, smoking a blunt, CHEERS ON the violence. She looks down to the second floor balcony and sees Ashley watching.

HALLEY

Yo, Ash, you believe this shit!?

Ashley looks up, acknowledges, does not answer.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Bitch, what's good?

Ashley has retreated to her room.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

'Fucks wrong with her?

A car SPINS OUT and RUNS OVER one of the brawlers. The crowd goes crazy.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT - LATER

Bobby, in boxers and a T-shirt, stands outside room 101 watching the car fly by. He calls 911.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - OUTSIDE LOBBY - NIGHT

Flashing police lights illuminate the interior. 4 POLICE OFFICERS are standing outside the office asking questions of residents.

A previously-seen resident is complaining to an officer that they should have left the kids alone and let the fight continue. Bobby and Patrice watch on.

PATRICE

What was I supposed to do?

BOBBY

No more checking in parties larger than five unless it's a family. No more open containers of alcohol outside the rooms. No more kids hanging up in the stairwell. And how 'bout this? How 'bout no more letting people run over other people in the fucking parking lot? How 'bout that?

PATRICE

I couldn't do anything, Room 217 joined in before I even got out!

The kids are fascinated with the officers.

EXT. FANCY HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Continuation of the "candid camera" style. Halley and Moonee attempt to sell more perfume to pedestrians. Moonee sells just as hard as her mother.

After one too many rejections, Halley asks a GOLFER if he could spare a couple of bucks. The man hands over a few singles.

Halley is distracted from a perfume sale, she turns to see a SECURITY GUARD approaching in a gold cart. She grabs Moonee and begins to walk swiftly out of the parking lot.

SECURITY GUARD

Hey! Come back!

HALLEY

It's fine. We're leaving.

SECURITY GUARD

I need you to come with me.

Halley speeds up the pace, pulling Moonee.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

You hear me? You were soliciting.

HALLEY

You're not a real cop.

SECURITY GUARD

You can't do that on our property. Police are on the way and I need to confiscate that.

A tug of war over the bag of perfume ends in the entire bag exploding onto the pavement.

HALLEY

Fuck! You fucking bitch!

Halley grabs Moonee and drags her away.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Halley is stressed, but then attempts to keep the mood fun by having Moonee hop on her back. Halley attempts to suppress tears as she walks Moonee back toward Magic Castle.

MOONEE

Why did we let her have our perfume?

HALLEY

It's complicated, baby.

MOONEE

But why?

HALLEY

Just c'mon.

MOONEE

But we just left all our stuff there?

HALLEY

I can't get arrested again, Moonee!
Now come on!

EXT./INT. WAFFLE HOME - DAY

Moonee and Jancey approach Waffle Home. Moonee motions for Ashley to meet them out back in a humorous way.

Ashley asks a CO-WORKER to help her with an order and goes to the door.

EXT. WAFFLE HOME - BACK DOOR - DAY

Ashley opens the back door.

ASHLEY

Moonee, tell your mom, I can't be giving away food, okay?

MOONEE
Oh, okay, well, is Scooty here?

ASHLEY
Nope.

MOONEE
Oh... he's not at home.

ASHLEY
He's at my friend's.

MOONEE
Oh. Well, it's Jancey's birthday
and we wanted to know if Scooty--

ASHLEY
You can't come around here no more,
okay? I don't want you playing with
Scooty anymore, got it?

Moonee leaves, confused.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DUSK

Haley, Moonee and Jancey walking down Magic Castle driveway.

HALEY
You sure Scooty don't want to come?

MOONEE
That's what Ashley said.

HALEY
Ashley said what?

MOONEE
That they're not coming.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - OSCEOLA COUNTY SIGN - MAGIC HOUR

Halley is hitchhiking. Moonee and Jancey stand next to her. Jancey seems a bit confused why they're on the side of the road so close to oncoming traffic.

INT. CAR - MAGIC HOUR - TRAVELING (MOVING INTO NIGHT)

The DRIVER, a clean-cut man in his upper 20's who is clearly on his way to work at Magic Kingdom looks in his rear view mirror, having second thoughts if picking up these three was a good idea.

Halley leans over and changes the radio from a local station playing a 1982 EPCOT Center instrumental track to a rap station. Halley is very excited to hear "BOSS ASS BITCH".

Halley begins to rap along with it. Moonee joins in. Eventually, Jancey joins as well on the most explicit lyric.

HALLEY

Okay right up here is good.

INT. CAR / EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

DRIVER

This is a dead end...

HALLEY

Yep. Thanks, dude.

EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - NIGHT

The three step into a clearing at the end of the road in the middle of nowhere.

HALLEY

This is as close as we can get.

JANCEY

Where are we going?

MOONEE

Shhh! Just follow us.

EXT. DESOLATE ROAD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The three sitting on the grass in the dark. The sodium-vapors light them from above. Halley pulls two 99-cent-store no-name-brand cans of soda and a 40-ounce malt liquor from her bag.

The kids drink their soda, Halley smokes and drinks her 40.

JANCEY

But why are we in the middle of nowhere in the night?

MOONEE

Shhhh! You'll see.

FIREWORKS explode overhead. Jancey is in complete awe from the explosions of magic. Moonee smiles. Halley is excited.

HALLEY
 Happy birthday to you! Make a wish,
 big girl.

 MOONEE
 Happy birthday, Jancey.

 JANCEY
 Wow!

Jancey blows out a candle on a cupcake.

 MOONEE
 Did you make a birthday wish?

 JANCEY
 Of course!

The finale is spectacular, it's cacophony of lights, sounds and colors bouncing off Jancey and Moonee's pie-eyed faces.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Moonee watches Jerry Springer while Halley is waking up with a hangover.

 HALLEY
 Go run and get some Waffle Home,
 baby. And where the fuck is Scooty?

 MOONEE
 I'm not allowed there anymore. And
 Scooty is with that family in 246.

Extreme delayed response. Loooooong Beat.

 HALLEY
 What?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 246 - DAY

Halley knocks hard on the door. ROOM 246 FATHER answers. Scooty sits on the bed with a 4 year-old ROOM 246 LITTLE GIRL.

 FATHER
 Hey, Halley.

Halley looks inside and address Scooty.

HALLEY
Moonee's gonna hit the pool, you
wanna come hang?

FATHER
Ashley doesn't think that's a good
idea right now, so--

HALLEY
'The fuck does that mean?

ROOM 246 FATHER
Okay, Halley... let's not go there.

ROOM 246 MOTHER walks over.

ROOM 246 MOTHER
We don't need your drama.

HALLEY
You haven't seen me get dramatic,
bitch.

ROOM 246 MOTHER
You define drama queen, bitch.

HALLEY
What did Ashley say about me?

Halley ignores the mother's attempt to shut down the conversation and continues to create drama. The mother slams the door on her.

INT. WAFFLE HOME - DAY

Halley marches into Waffle Home with Moonee. She sits down and Ashley's co-worker comes over to take the order.

HALLEY
(points to Ashley)
Sorry, but can she take our order?

The co-worker recognizes Moonee and smiles.

CO-WORKER
Oh, it's you. Never seen you inside
before. Okay, hold on.

The co-worker approaches Ashley and gestures to Halley. Ashley approaches the table.

ASHLEY
Yeah.

HALLEY

Yeah?

ASHLEY

How can I help you, Halley?

HALLEY

What's going on?

ASHLEY

What do you mean?

HALLEY

Moonee's been telling me she ain't welcome here anymore.

ASHLEY

She's allowed to come into the establishment, but I can't be giving any more food out.

HALLEY

Oh shit, you get in trouble?

ASHLEY

And I don't want Scooty hanging out with her or that new kid from FutureLand anymore.

HALLEY

Okay, so you ain't in trouble. What's goin' on then?

ASHLEY

Nothing. Nothing to discuss.

HALLEY

Really?

ASHLEY

Really.

Ashley begins to walk away.

HALLEY

Yo. What type of service is that. You going to take our order?

Ashley takes out her order pad.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Moonee, order whatever the fuck you want.

MOONEE

Yes! I would like a strawberry waffle with extra warm syrup and eggs and bacon and more strawberries. And blueberries. And coke. Two of 'em.

HALLEY

That's it? You could order more.

MOONEE

Extra bacon. And extra, extra syrup.

ASHLEY

You got money for all this?

CUT TO:

INT. WAFFLE HOME - DAY - LATER

A bunch of empty plates and mugs surround little Moonee. Halley looks over to Ashley.

HALLEY

You wanna have a burping contest?

Moonee's eyes light up. She lets out a huge BELCH.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Whoa, nice one.

Ashley slaps the bill on the table. Halley lifts up the bill and looks at it.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

I want the rest to go.

Ashley brings a container and bag to the table and begins to turn away.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Ya gonna pack this for us or do I call Waffle Home Central and tell them what I think of one of their employees?

Ashley packs the containers. All sides are humiliated. Moonee, oblivious, finishes the last of her waffle.

MOONEE

Say hi to Scooty for me.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Halley is dragging Moonee home with one hand along the side of US-192. Halley is walking way too fast.

In an act of rage, Halley chucks the bags into the middle of oncoming traffic.

A car SCREECHES.

From OFF-SCREEN, an ANGRY DRIVER screams at Halley who returns a middle finger over her shoulder.

MOONEE

Mom! Why did you do that?

Halley holds back tears.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Moonee and Halley are in their room. Hip Hop plays from the phone. Halley is changing into a bikini.

MOONEE

Bobby says we can't go night swimming.

HALLEY

Well first off, screw Bobby. Second, we're not going swimming... we're going to take swimsuit selfies!

MOONEE

Swimsuit selfies!

Moonee gets excited. She changes into a bathing suit as well.

HALLEY

Swimsuit selfies! That's right! You take some of me then I'll take you.

MOONEE

Okay!

Moonee grabs the phone and takes some shots of her mom posing in various sexy poses.

HALLEY

Wait, hold up.

Halley carefully removes the pictures of her with Moonee on the bathroom mirror behind her.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
 Okay, now. Ready.

 MOONEE
 You know, selfies are actually when
 you take photos of *yourself*.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Bright daylight. A CHURCH GROUP is handing out bagged loafs of white bread to various families. Bobby and Magic Castle Owner Narek stand and watch from a distance. A VICTIM of domestic abuse stands in line.

 NAREK
 Do they have to do it right here?
 Guests come right through here, for
 Christ's sake, Bobby.

 BOBBY
 Guys, can we move the van to the
 back, please? Thank you.

 CHURCH VOLUNTEER
 Of course, no problem, Bobby.

Moonee shoves her way through the line of people.

 MOONEE
 Excuse me. Coming through.

 CHURCH VOLUNTEER
 Hi, what would you like?

Moonee points to some bread.

 MOONEE
 I want that!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Moonee plays by herself in the bathtub. A cheap radio sitting on the top of the toilet blasts some hip-hop.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 + EMPTY ROOM - DAY

In a MONTAGE sequence, Bobby watches as Moonee and her daughter make a bunch of trips from their room to a VACANT MOTEL ROOM (being used as a storage room) located near the office.

Halley becomes more and more belligerent by carrying less items on every trip, dragging out the process.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - WALKWAY + EMPTY ROOM - DAY

Bobby is carrying three large plastic bags full of clothes behind Halley and Moonee.

BOBBY

You know the deal. No reason to express your opinion about it.

HALLEY

I have an idea. Why don't you just say we did this.

BOBBY

I'm not going through this again. The sooner you're out, the sooner you're back in. Let's go.

HALLEY

I don't understand why we got to even do this, it's stupid.

BOBBY

I'm not going to explain this to you every time, Halley... I'm not letting you establish residency. Don't think I think you're as dumb as you want me to think. You'll fuck me. You don't want to do it then you can go.

HALLEY

But who will know if we do this or not?

Bobby points upwards to one of the many CCTV's.

BOBBY

And I'm being serious right now... I'm being straight with you... you have to square up by Friday.

HALLEY

You need to get laid, son. C'mon, Moonee.

BOBBY

See you in twenty four hours.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Halley and Moonee exit the Magic Castle driveway and walk to the motel directly across 192...

INT. ARABIAN NIGHTS MOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Halley, holding her duffel bag, stands in front of the Arabian Nights manager JIMMY (Male, 40's). Moonee waits with her backpack.

HALLEY

Hey hey. It's that time of the month.

The manager smirks, obviously familiar with Halley. He begins taking out the paperwork to check her in.

JIMMY

Forty five, my dear.

HALLEY

Forty five? No no. I come here one night a month and the rate is thirty five.

JIMMY

One night is forty five.

HALLEY

But the Magic Castle discount...

JIMMY

(motions over his shoulder)

I know. I know. The new owner is not honoring the discount.

HALLEY

Not honoring my fuckin' ass. Oh, owner! Owner, will you come out here please?

The ARABIAN NIGHTS OWNER, a South Asian Woman, enters from the back office.

OWNER

Is everything alright here?

HALLEY

Everything is not alright. I'm right across the way at Magic Castle. I come here once a month and the rate's \$35.

OWNER

Yes, well, our policy has changed.

HALLEY

You can't just change your policy.

OWNER

I certainly can.

HALLEY

Oh fuck this right now.

Halley takes out her phone and dials up Bobby on speaker.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hey Bobby, these fuckos at the Arabian wanna charge me--

She extends her arm out to hold the phone closer to the Owner.

JIMMY

Forty five.

HALLEY

Forty five bucks. Can you tell them it's thirty five.

JIMMY

Hey, Bobby -- it's out of my control here.

BOBBY

(on phone)

Hey Jimmy. What's going on?

The owner interrupts.

OWNER

Hello. This is the new owner of Arabian Nights. Any agreements or deals your motel had with the previous owners are no longer being honored or recognized. Thank you.

BOBBY
 (on phone)
 Who's this?

OWNER
 This is the new owner. Thank you.

BOBBY
 (on phone)
 Okay, but what is your name?

OWNER
 That is not important. We are very
 busy here. Thank you.

HALLEY
 Busy? This place is empty, Bobby.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Bobby crosses Route 192 headed to the Arabian Nights.

INT. ARABIAN NIGHTS MOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

Bobby enters the lobby. Halley and Moonee are splayed out on the couch. Jimmy and the Arabian Nights Owner are behind the desk.

BOBBY
 Hey, what's going on?

JIMMY
 Yeah, thought you got the memo. No
 more discounts for any of the
 motels. Not just the Castle.

BOBBY
 Please to meet you, Ma'am. I'm
 Bobby Horton, I manage the Magic
 Castle across the way. There's been
 an agreement in place for a while
 where we give a little break to
 each other's tenants for one night
 for--

OWNER
 I'm well aware of the arrangement
 you used to have in place with our
 motel but as I have said five times
 now this is no longer being
 honored.

JIMMY
(under his breath)
Just went through this for The
Enchanted Inn.

BOBBY
Can you perhaps just--

OWNER
This is not up for discussion.

HALLEY
See what I'm sayin', Bobby?

MOONEE
She's a real dickwad.

They all look to Halley, who is holding in laughter.

HALLEY
What are you lookin' at me for? She
said it.

Bobby does a quick breathing exercise. He then whips out a
ten dollar bill from his wallet and slams it down on the
counter.

BOBBY
(to Moonee)
Magic Castle discount. There ya go.
Sleep tight.

HALLEY
Awww... the feels. You so sweet,
Bobby. I'm sorry I was a dickwad to
you earlier.

Bobby looks at Moonee, to see if she heard her mom say that.

MOONEE
Don't look at me, she said it.

OWNER
We don't need your business. All of
you kindly leave. Thank you.

HALLEY
What?

OWNER
If you could please leave. Thank
you.

HALLEY

I have the forty five. You can't do that.

Bobby and Jimmy know this is a no-win situation and keep quiet.

OWNER

Listen to yourself and your child. No wonder you are in this situation. Please leave the property.

Halley walks forward and spits at the owner. It gets the intended response. She grabs Moonee and exits into magic hour.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - DUSK

Halley and Moonee approach the motel.

INT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Big sleepover with Grandma Stacy/Jancey/Luci/Halley/Moonee.

Much has changed in this room. Grandma Stacy has completely moved her family in, feels more lived-in than Halley's room.

HALLEY

Damn, girl, this shit looks fancy in here.

GRANDMA STACY

Thank you.

HALLEY

You an interior decorator or some shit? It's mad cozy.

Little Luci plays in one corner. Jancey shows Moonee some of her stuff in another. Grandma Stacy and Halley sit on the bed.

MOONEE

Mom, they have so many toys. Why can't I have this many toys?

JANCEY

Gramma, if you'll be in the one bed with Luci then can I be in the other with Moonee and her mom?

GRANDMA STACY

Sure, honey.

HALLEY

(pointing to crock-pot)
What's that?

GRANDMA STACY

What, that? That's a crock-pot.
That's where I make my rice and
peas.

HALLEY

Damn, I have to learn how to cook
or something 'cause those
Lunchables hurt Moonee's stomach.

MOONEE

Lunchables suck.

GRANDMA STACY

(nods)
Crock-Pot.

JANCEY

Gramma, can they sleep here every
night?

MOONEE

Yeah!

JANCEY

This is gonna be the bestest
funnest sleepover ever.

HALLEY

Since it's bedtime can we finally
go outside and smoke a blunt?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - EMPTY ROOM + ROOM 323 - DAY

Bobby unlocks the storage room for Halley and Moonee.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PLAYGROUND - DAY

Moonee, Jancey and Cubby (now with 2 casts on his arms) are
playing on the dilapidated swingset. Two dogs, BUNSEN and
BOONEE, frolic with the kids. A SUSPICIOUS MAN (70's)
approaches.

SUSPICIOUS MAN

Hi, Kids. Having fun?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 3RD FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Bobby is up on a ladder painting the gutter of the third floor walkway. Bobby notices the Suspicious Man speaking with the kids down below. A full bucket of purple paint falls and almost hits a LUCKY RESIDENT.

LUCKY RESIDENT
What the fuck, Bobby?!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Bobby exits the stairwell and makes a bee-line towards the playground. Lucky Resident wipes paint off himself.

Bobby turns and walks towards the playground. The commotion has caused the Suspicious Man to look over and see Bobby approaching. He begins to walk away.

BOBBY
Excuse me? Can I help you?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
No, that's okay.

BOBBY
What's okay? You a guest here?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Um, no. Just looking for um, a soda machine.

BOBBY
Yeah, come to a motel to get a soda?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Yeah, it's okay. Thanks anyway.

BOBBY
No, no, no. Follow me.

SUSPICIOUS MAN
No really, it's okay. I'll find a convenience store.

BOBBY
I'll show you where the machine is. Come with me.

The suspicious man reluctantly follows Bobby.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
You parched?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Oh yeah.

BOBBY
Got to whet that palate?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Yeah. I never did get used to this humidity.

They walk by the drying paint.

SUSPICIOUS MAN (CONT'D)
Looks like you have stuff to tend to here. I'll just go ahead and find it somewhere else.

BOBBY
No, it's right over here. Come on.

Bobby escorts the nervous old man over to the soda machine near the utility room.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Look at those choices.

The man stands there nervously.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
What are you waiting for?

The man puts coins in the machine and chooses a Fresca.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
What a choice.

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Okay, thank you.

BOBBY
Wait. Thought you were thirsty. Not going to drink it now?

The jittery man cracks open the can and drinks. Extremely awkward silence.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Good?

SUSPICIOUS MAN
Yeah.

The man takes a swig and Bobby slaps the can out of his hand.

BOBBY

Get the fuck out of here now.

The man turns around and begins walking toward the front of the motel. Bobby is right on his back, very threatening.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

(through gritted teeth)

I see you back on this property again and you won't be leaving it, understand?

SUSPICIOUS MAN

I don't know what you're talking about.

BOBBY

Yeah, you don't know what I'm talking about? Gonna play it like that?

They are passing by the lobby at this point, Bobby grabs the man in a semi-headlock and reaches into his front pockets. The feeble man is scared and squirms. Bobby quickly yanks out a wallet. He opens it and looks at the driver's license.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Alright... Charles Coachman of Cherry Hill, New Jersey...

SUSPICIOUS MAN

What business is that of yours?

Bobby chucks the wallet over his head. The man pathetically chases after it.

BOBBY

Calling in your name to the precinct, motherfucker. See you here again and I swear to God...

The man swiftly walks away towards Route 192.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Moonee is in the bathtub, eyes closed. The radio plays a HIP-HOP SONG. She dips her head in the water so only her nose and mouth are not submerged.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE PARKING LOT - DAY

A church group is parked at The Magic Castle. Residents take advantage of the food being passed out.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER
Excited to go back to school?

MOONEE
No.

CHURCH VOLUNTEER
No? Why not?

Moonee gives her a look that says "stupidest question ever" and grabs a loaf of white bread and jelly.

EXT. PARK - UPROOTED TREE - DAY

Moonee and Jancey sit under a giant uprooted tree. They are eating the jelly and bread.

JANCEY
This is the best jelly I ever
eated.

MOONEE
You love it?

JANCEY
Yeah.

MOONEE
Going to marry it?

JANCEY
Yeah.

MOONEE
You're going to have to kiss it
then.

Jancey laughs and kisses the jelly.

JANCEY
This is a cool place for our new
club to have for a meeting spot.

MOONEE
You know why this is my favorite
tree?

JANCEY

Why?

MOONEE

'Cause it tipped over, and it's still growing.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley wakes up Moonee to take a bath. The clock reads 2:04 AM.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - NIGHT

Bobby sees an UNFAMILIAR MAN exit room 323.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - POOL - DAY

Bobby is busy cleaning the pool as Ashley and Scooty approach. Bobby wraps up his cleaning duties as Ashley and Scooty go swimming.

BOBBY

Hey Ashley, just curious, have you been spotting Halley her rent?

ASHLEY

What? Why would I do that? I don't even talk to that bitch.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 3RD FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY

Halley and Moonee are staring down at the pool from the 3rd floor balcony. Down the walkway, 2 GUYS are drooling over Ashley, a whistle to let her know they are there.

MOONEE

Can I go swimming with Scooty?

HALLEY

You're not going swimming while that bitch is down there.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley and Moonee are talking while they watch TV.

Halley's phone rings. She picks it up and moves away from Moonee.

HALLEY
Okay... go to the back of the
parking lot. Far corner.

Halley gets up and exits the room.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley looks over the balcony. She watches a Volvo park.

 HALLEY
What kind of car you driving?
 (beat)
You're not with any law enforcement
are you?
 (beat)
Room 323, baby.

She hangs up. And walks back into the room.

 HALLEY (CONT'D)
Moonee! Bath time.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - NEAR ELEVATOR - DAY

Bobby and Jack are attempting to drag a broken ice machine
into the elevator.

 BOBBY
I told you, you got to spin it.

 JACK
I am.

 BOBBY
Clockwise.

 JACK
This is clockwise.

 BOBBY
Oh yeah. Okay. Well, counter-
clockwise.

 JACK
I am!

They manage to move the bulky machine a few feet toward the
elevator. Bobby's eyes are racing. Deep breath. Jack notices
this.

JACK (CONT'D)
I wished her a happy birthday for
you by the way.

Bobby straightens up.

BOBBY
But I didn't.

JACK
Push.

BOBBY
I *didn't*. Why did you do that?

Jack is still trying to push the machine. Bobby stops as they
get it half way into the elevator.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Why would you do that? Call her and
tell her I didn't.

The elevator door attempts to close. Bobby uses his foot to
keep it from shutting.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
First you get her on the phone and
you tell her I didn't wish her
anything damn it.

JACK
Ya know what--

Jack backs off the ice machine.

JACK (CONT'D)
Keep your hundred bucks.

BOBBY
Hey. I thought you'd appreciate the
extra work.

JACK
Uh no. It takes an hour and a half
to drive here. Totally screws my
Saturday. I don't need the extra
work. Give your money to him.

Jack turns and points to a resident sitting on the walkway.

JACK (CONT'D)
Or her. They need it. Or just tell
your boss to hire an extra hand.

Bobby thinks for a moment.

BOBBY

Okay then. Just help me get this downstairs.

The men continue to work.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

And tell her I did not wish her anything. We're all out of wishes over here.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 223

Scooty drives Ashley crazy by jumping on the bed.

SCOOTY

Why can't I play with Moonee?

ASHLEY

You can play with other kids.

SCOOTY

I don't want to play with other kids.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Moonee is in the bathtub. We hear a door open off-screen. Moonee looks over.

JOHN (30's) enters the room (we only hear his voice).

JOHN (O.S)

Jesus! There's a kid in here?!

HALLEY (O.S.)

Dude, I said the bathroom was off limits!

JOHN (O.S)

I had to piss. This is your kid?

HALLEY (O.S.)

Moonee, pull the shower curtain.

Moonee pulls the curtain. We hearing the sound of urinating on the other side of the curtain.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - TICKET HUT - DAY

Halley and Moonee visit a nearby theme park ticket hub and Halley attempts to sell four unused theme park ticket wristbands to TICKET HUT WORKER.

HALLEY

Do I look like a ticket scammer?
These were never used, they don't
have the biometric finger print
thingies or whatever they are
assigned to them yet.

TICKET HUT WORKER

I understand but still not
interested.

HALLEY

Who's gonna know?

TICKET HUT WORKER

I don't know what to tell you. Try
at the parks.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - TICKET HUT - LATER

Halley and Moonee loiter a bit further away from Ticket Hut. A rental car pulls into the lot with BRITISH MOM, BRITISH BOY, BRITISH DAD. Dad hops out and walks toward the ticket place.

HALLEY

Hey, you going in there?

BRITISH DAD

I am.

HALLEY

Don't buy from these places, they
rope you into to buying timeshares.
I got some I'm trying to sell.

BRITISH DAD

No thank you.

HALLEY

Dude, they'll make you do a two
hour tour and hard sell you, you
really wanna do that shit on your
vacation?

Moonee holds out the multi-colored MagicBands displayed on her wrist like a used watch salesman.

BRITISH DAD
You're selling the ticket bands?

HALLEY
I have four, they charge \$164 per day so, that's like \$600, so I can do \$400 cash.

BRITISH DAD
And these will work? No tricks?

HALLEY
They're totally unused. My family had to cancel our vacation and they don't give refunds. But we didn't use them, they'll work, I could even go with you to the front gates or whatever so you know I'm for real.

BRITISH DAD
These are Park-Hoppers, yeah?

HALLEY
Sure. Yeah.

TICKET-BUYING DAD
Okay. Yeah. Okay. Shall we say \$250?

HALLEY
Cash?

BRITISH DAD
Yeah.

HALLEY
Lowest I can go is \$300. And that's a steal, man.

BRITISH DAD
Right then.

The dad takes out the cash.

HALLEY
Give the man the bands, Moon.

Moonee reluctantly gives him the MagicBands, Halley takes the cash.

BRITISH DAD
Thanks, sweetheart.

INT./EXT. DOLLAR STORE - DAY

Halley brings Moonee on a shopping spree and plays in the aisles of the Dollar Store. They exit and Halley pushes Moonee home in the shopping cart. They put on British accents, making fun of the dad they just sold bands to.

HALLEY

Are they... pok-hoppahs?

MOONEE

Me needs dem pok-hoppahs!

They giggle as they speed up and ride coast along with their shopping cart.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Halley watches as Bobby scans Halley's rent money, mostly big bills, under the counterfeit detector. Amber is working in the background. Moonee is outside, sitting in the shopping cart.

BOBBY

Back in the work force?

HALLEY

Say what?

BOBBY

New job?

HALLEY

Yeah.

BOBBY

Interesting hours.

HALLEY

What?

BOBBY

Number one, I see you around in PJ's all day, every day. Number two, if you are working, who's looking after Moonee?

HALLEY

Umm, mind you own business, Bro.

Bobby looks and sees Moonee in the shopping cart outside the lobby. Moonee waves.

BOBBY
Get that stolen cart off the
property.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley and Moonee are on the bed. There is pounding at the door. Halley gets up and looks through the peep hole. She turns around and walks back to the bed.

MOONEE
Who is it?

HALLEY
Nobody. Go away asshole or I'm
gonna call the police!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY - CONTINUOUS

We see our bathroom John pounding on the door. He continues as Bobby approaches.

BOBBY
Hey. Hey. Hey. What's goin' on?

JOHN
None of your business, Bro.

BOBBY
It is my business. I'm the manager
here. What's going on?

JOHN
The girl who lives here has
something of mine.

BOBBY
The six year-old?

JOHN
No. The mom.

Bobby knocks on the door and convinces Halley to open it.

BOBBY
This guy says you have something of
his.

HALLEY
I don't know who this guy is.

BOBBY

She doesn't know who you are. Wrong girl. Now c'mon. Gotta to leave the property if you're not staying here.

JOHN

I'm not leaving until she gives me my four MagicBands. She lifted four MagicBands from my jeans.

HALLEY

What the fuck is a Magical Band? I don't what this guy is talkin' about.

JOHN

When I was in the bathroom, you took my family's fucking bands.

BOBBY

Let's go. She doesn't know what you're talking about.

Halley has not changed her blank expression.

JOHN

I know you know what I'm talking about Goddamnit! I want them back NOW! You stole \$1700. That's grand larceny.

That lost profit margin stings Halley but she retains her composure. Bobby intervenes.

BOBBY

Listen, bud, look, I'll be happy to call the cops right now. We'll put in a report. You can tell them what your business was on the premises. Four of those bracelets? So I can assume this was for your wife and children, yeah?

John has calmed down.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Right. So why don't you get the fuck off this property now and don't let me see you here again.

John leaves, defeated.

HALLEY

It's about time you make yourself useful, can you believe that shit?

Bobby takes a deep breath and slowly turns around to Halley.

BOBBY

I am trying to keep this job. And I am going to keep this job. I'm trying to keep this place free of headaches. And *you* are the biggest headache.

HALLEY

I'm your biggest headache? You got MS-13 in 204, dude.

BOBBY

I swear to God, Halley. No more. If you have guests, they have to check in with me at the front desk.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 3RD FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Bobby walks towards the front office, Halley follows, barefoot and in pajamas.

HALLEY

What the fuck are you talking about?

Moonee begins to follow her mother onto the walkway.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Get the fuck back inside, Moonee!

Moonee complies.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

You can't just NOT let me have guests. What gives you the authority!

BOBBY

Um, my job title?

HALLEY

I have friends though, I have a lot friends.

BOBBY

They're gonna have to check in with me. That means ID. They have to leave it at the front desk.

HALLEY

That's like invasion of privacy shit.

Bobby almost laughs.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Bobby enters the lobby followed by Halley. Amber is behind the counter.

HALLEY

Oh fuck you, Bobby, I don't gotta do shit.

BOBBY

Out of the lobby. Now. Seriously. You have three seconds to get out of the lobby or you're outta here tonight. I'm sure the Hope Center has a room for you somewhere.

Stare down.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

One. Two...

Halley leaves swearing her ass off. From outside, she continues to berate Bobby but he ignores her.

Finally, she takes out a maxi-pad from and sticks it to the lobby window. She storms off.

AMBER

And I thought I've seen it all.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LAUNDRY AREA - DAY

Halley and Moonee sit on washing machines in back of Magic Castle. A previously-seen woman comes by, sees Halley, turns around.

HALLEY

Bobby fixed these?

She ignores her and continues to walk away.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
What the fuck is wrong with her?

EXT. BIG FIELD - DAY

Moonee and Jancey play in a field behind Route 192. It begins to rain. They sit under a tree and wait it out.

JANCEY
Moonee, why did you take me on this
adventure?

MOONEE
I didn't know it was gonna rain all
over the place.

JANCEY
Well I hope there's another rainbow
after it stops so we can still
catch that leprechaun.

The rain stops. The girls walk out onto the field. No rainbow.

Cattle and horses pass by.

MOONEE
See? I took you on a safari.

They both share a laugh and a smile.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Moonee and Jancey are walking back, still wet from the rain. Jancey is no longer upset to be wet.

INT. JOHN'S CAR - ROUTE 192 - DAY (TRAVELLING)

While driving along Route 192, John spots Moonee and Jancey walking on the side of the road.

He pulls over abruptly, startling his JOHN WIFE (39) in the passenger seat and his two JOHN KIDS in the back seat.

He parks on the shoulder and jumps out of the car.

JOHN WIFE
What's going on?

JOHN
Stay here.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

The John catches up to Moonee and Jancey on the side of the road.

JOHN
Hey! You two! Hey, girls! Yeah.
Thought that was you.

The kids are frightened.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Don't be scared. I've just got to
tell you something.

He rests his hand on her shoulder and calmly leans in and speaks in her ear.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Guess what? You're going to grow up
and be a prostitute just like
mother. You know what a prostitute
is? It's a whore. And that's what
you have to look forward to. That's
all you have to look forward to.

The John returns to the car.

INT. JOHN'S CAR - ROUTE 192 - DAY (TRAVELLING)

John pulls the car away, his family bewildered.

JOHN WIFE
What was that?

JOHN
Oh, they gave me directions the
other day and I just wanted to
thank them.

JOHN WIFE
Aww, that was sweet.

She looks at her husband with loving eyes.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 223 - DUSK

Halley reluctantly approaches Room 223. She knocks. Scooty answers.

SCOOTY
Mom, it's Halley.

Ashley approaches the door.

ASHLEY
(motioning to walk away)
Scooty.
(to Halley)
What?

HALLEY
Hey, look. I don't know what Moonee did. She probably did some shit and I'm sorry about that. But I don't think that shit should, you know, affect us, you know? They're kids.

ASHLEY
Is that it?

HALLEY
Yeah, well, look. Can you help me with rent this week? I'm ass out.

Ashley chuckles.

HALLEY (CONT'D)
What?

ASHLEY
I think you got it covered.

HALLEY
What are you talking about.

ASHLEY
You don't think everybody knows what's up Halley? Like everybody?

HALLEY
'The fuck are you talking about?

ASHLEY
Bitch...

Ashley leans back and grabs the phone from her night stand. She approaches the door as she pulls up a web page.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
That's you.

Ashley lifts the phone and shows an ad on Backpage.com. It's clearly a photo taken on the "swimsuit selfies" night. Bikini-clad Halley shot from the neck down. A phone number is printed across the image.

HALLEY
That's not me.

Ashley laughs.

 ASHLEY
Are you fucking kidding me?! Those
are your tats bitch! And I swear to
God, if Scooty was ever in that
room when you were whoring out,
I'll fuckin' kill you--

Halley attacks Ashley. The women topple over the bed and Halley proceeds to beat Ashley hard. Three blows to the face.

Halley looks up and sees Scooty watching this, stunned and frozen. She leaves.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Halley runs past Moonee who is sitting on the bed. She projectile vomits in bathroom.

 MOONEE
Mom? You okay?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DAY

Moonee and Jancey wait out the rain.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR BALCONY

Haley smoking in the rain.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

Moonee shows Jancey a rainbow.

EXT./INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

From inside the lobby looking outside...

Moonee and Jancey are sitting in the same chair together. Outside, a car drives by.

In the back office, the elevator monitor shows two individuals at Room 323 (CASE WORKER, seen earlier and a DCF INVESTIGATOR). This grabs Bobby's attention. He leaves the office and passes by Amber.

BOBBY
I think the city's here.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - DAY

Jancey and Moonee come out, trailing after Bobby. They follow him down the entire walkway. Bobby turns around and sees the kids following him.

BOBBY
Hey guys, go back to the lobby
okay?

MOONEE
Wait, you want us IN the lobby now?

JANCEY
This guy is coo-coo crazy.

The kids continue to follow him.

Bobby turns the corner, near the elevator and walks swiftly up the stairs.

He walks onto the third floor walkway. Over his shoulder -- a commotion at Room 323.

BOBBY
Girls, stay here okay? I mean it.

The girls stop at the top of the stairwell. Bobby continues to approach 323.

JANCEY
(to Moonee)
They're at your room.

The camera stays with the kids as the commotion continues down the walkway. We hear shouting from the distance.

HALLEY
(to Bobby as he
approaches)
...you call DCF on me,
motherfucker?

BOBBY
I don't know what you're talking
about. What's this all about?

The DCF Investigator and Case Worker try to explain as Halley starts to flip out.

HALLEY

Ashley called DCF on me, didn't she?

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Ma'am, we received a call and it doesn't matter from who--

HALLEY

You fucking tell me who called you and I'll tell you why it happened. If it was Ashley she's hating 'cause I beat her ass.

CASE WORKER

You're getting into fights?

Bobby notices Moonee and Jancey inching closer and goes back to stop them.

BOBBY

Girls, please, just wait right here, okay, please?

MOONEE

Why is my mom yelling?

BOBBY

She's just talking to these ladies. Jancey, you should go home for now, okay?

JANCEY

Yes, Bobby. Bye, Moonee.

HALLEY

You're not coming into my place, I didn't do nothin' wrong. You don't have no court order!

MOONEE

But why is she so upset?

BOBBY

I don't know. They're just talking.

Halley continues to yell and shout.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

It'll be okay, just some sort of confusion.

Halley notices Bobby talking to Moonee.

HALLEY
You're doing this in front of my
fuckin' kid?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - DAY

We follow Jancey as she walks home alone. She looks back over her shoulder a couple of times from the end of the driveway.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

The DCF Investigator is outside with Bobby and Moonee. We see them through the glass doors. Amber sits in the background.

Halley is sitting on Moonee's chair in the lobby. She is calming down.

 HALLEY
I've been looking after her fucking
kid while she's off making money.
How am I supposed to make any
money, huh? How?

 CASE WORKER
So...

 HALLEY
So what?

 CASE WORKER
So will you take a drug test for
DCF?

 HALLEY
You know I smoke. But that's it.

 CASE WORKER
Refuse the test and start flushing
your system.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Bobby smokes a cigarette. Moonee hides in the enclave.

 DCF INVESTIGATOR
 (to Moonee)
Want to come out here and talk with
me, Moonee?

Moonee just shakes her head.

DCF INVESTIGATOR (CONT'D)

(to Bobby)

Are you aware of any possible neglect of this child? The child being left unattended, going hungry, being in the room while the mother is engaging in illegal activity.

Bobby thinks for a moment.

BOBBY

If I did, you would have heard from me.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Can you tell me the kinds of stuff you do each day, Moonee?

Silence.

DCF INVESTIGATOR (CONT'D)

You ever swim in the pool?

MOONEE

Yeah. Duh.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

The case worker continues to speak with Halley.

CASE WORKER

Okay, well then, DCF has opened an investigation. She's going to be collecting evidence based on the accusations. She could be back here by the end of the week. Hopefully there is nothing to find. You understand?

Halley just stares.

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)

Now, I have to warn you. Staying unemotional when they return is in your best interest. You do what you did today and your actions will be considered detrimental to Moonee. This will not help your case in any way. You understand?

Halley's eyebrows raise -- the ultimate sarcastic, belligerent expression that has "you can go fuck yourself" written all over it.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - NIGHT

Moonee is asleep while Halley lies next to her smoking a cigarette and fighting the tears. Finally, she gets up out of bed and begins pounding the floor with her foot repeatedly. Moonee stirs.

MOONEE

What's going on?

HALLEY

Nothing. Go back to bed.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley and Moonee clean up the room.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - OFFICE - DAY

Bobby, Narek and the DCF Investigator are crammed in the back office.

BOBBY

You understand that we don't have to let them review this, right? Let them get a subpoena.

NAREK

Are you crazy? You want a court case against Magic Castle? That's the last thing I need. They can review all they want. Plus, this is about the possible neglect of a child.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Thank you.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LAUNDRY AREA - DAY

Halley approaches Bertha who is folding towels.

HALLEY

I have a present for you.

Halley hands over a bag of weed.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

This is for you. But make sure you
smoke all of it.

BERTHA

Thank you.

HALLEY

Enjoy that shit for me.

BERTHA

Hey. Halley. Don't worry. It will
all be okay.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DUSK

Bobby walks out of the lobby. Three CRANES stare back at him,
refusing to budge.

Bobby shoos them off the driveway. They slowly move off the
asphalt.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - PARKING LOT - PICNIC TABLES - DAY

Moonee and Halley sit on the picnic tables. They are painting
each other's toenails. They decide to paint each toe a
different color.

They watch as Ashley exits her room with Scooty (this is the
first time we see her post-beatdown). She is bruised badly.
She walks him down the stairs to Room 246.

Ashley then walks silently across the parking lot and down
the driveway in her Waffle Home uniform.

It begins raining hard. The two don't mind.

HALLEY

Adventure?

EXT. FIELD - RAIN - DAY

Halley and Moonee run and frolic in the rain.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - DAY

Halley and Moonee run through puddles after the rain.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Moonee is in the bath, Halley is washing her hair.

EXT./INT. CALYPSO CAY - BUFFET ROOM - DAY

Halley takes Moonee to a much nicer hotel down Route 192 where they go in and partake in the free breakfast buffet. Moonee is most excited about how she can make her own waffles that are shaped as a famous mouse.

Moonee is ecstatic about the delicious food she is eating. Halley tries her best to converse with her daughter but spends most of the time holding back tears. (This scene will be shot holding on Moonee's face as she eats).

MOONEE

I wish forks were made of candy.

(beat)

Then I could eat the forks after my meal.

(beat)

We gotta come here all the time.

(beat)

Mom, you look busted.

(beat)

I'm going to put a strawberry, raspberry and bacon in my mouth at the same time.

Moonee continues to stuff her face. A HOTEL WORKER (female, 20's) walks over, eyeing them.

HOTEL WORKER

Could I get your room number?

HALLEY

323.

HOTEL WORKER

Thank you.

Halley winks at Moonee. Moonee lets out a little smirk.

Moonee continues to eat as Halley sits in silence, her watery eyes watching her daughter at her happiest.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley and Moonee come back from breakfast and walk by two police cars in the parking lot.

The Case Worker, DCF Investigator, a DCF WORKER and Bobby are accompanied by a DCF SUPERVISOR and TWO SHERIFFS.

Halley and Moonee make it to their room. Halley pushes past everyone and opens her room. She turns around and faces everyone.

HALLEY

Can I help you? Because you'll need a court order to get me to take a drug test.

CASE WORKER

Halley, these DCF officers are here in regards to Moonee.

HALLEY

You wanna inspect my room? Be our guest.

The group follows Halley inside the room.

HALLEY (CONT'D)

Wanna shake my cereal boxes to check for buried treasure? Look inside my fridge?

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Halley?

HALLEY

What? What do you want?

DCF INVESTIGATOR

We have security footage that shows nine different men entering and exiting your room over the last three weeks.

BOBBY

Uh, why don't you take little Moonee outside so you can talk privately.

The case worker escorts Moonee outside the room.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

We've also obtained an online classified ad soliciting costumers for sexual activities with your phone number attached.

Halley takes a moment to make eye contact with each person.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

MOONEE

Go? For how many days?

CASE WORKER

It'll only be temporary.

MOONEE

What's temporary?

CASE WORKER

That just means for a little bit of time, can we do that? There will be lots and lots of toys, okay?

MOONEE

I guess so.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

DCF INVESTIGATOR

...but luckily we have a family in Polk County that can take her for the entire course of the investigation.

Halley remains calm and collected. Bobby watches silently.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

MOONEE

Can I say goodbye to my friend Scooty?

CASE WORKER

We don't call it a goodbye but you can give your friend a hug. And you'll see them soon. I'll check to see if that's okay.

The case worker peers back into the room.

CASE WORKER (CONT'D)

She wants to say bye to her friend.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

A nod of approval from inside.

DCF WORKER
I'll take her.

DCF INVESTIGATOR
My colleague will take Moonee
downstairs to say goodbye. In the
meantime, it'd be great if you
could pack her a bag, also maybe a
favorite doll or toy.

Halley silently complies.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 3RD AND 2ND FLOOR WALKWAY - DAY

Moonee is escorted down to Room 223 by the case worker. They
knock on the door. Ashley answers.

ASHLEY
Yes?

DCF WORKER
Hello, Miss. My name is Susan
Watson and I'm with DCF. We have a
quick favor to ask.

MOONEE
Ashley, what happened to your face?

SCOOTY
Hi, Moonee. My mom said you're
leaving?

MOONEE
It's a temporary. We can do a hug
or a high-five.

They choose both.

DCF WORKER
Thank you.

MOONEE
I hope your eye feels better,
Ashley.

ASHLEY
Thank you, baby.

SCOOTY
My mom said you're going to another
family.

ASHLEY

Scooty.

DCF WORKER

Thanks again so much.

Ashley pushes Scooty inside and closes the door as Moonee is walked back toward the stairs.

MOONEE

Why did he say I'm going to another family?

DCF WORKER

You're just going to live with them for a little while.

MOONEE

Wait, are those cops-- are they taking my mom away?

DCF WORKER

No.

MOONEE

Are they taking me to a stranger family?

DCF WORKER

We're taking you to a nice family. Just for a little--

MOONEE

Well I don't want to.

DCF WORKER

Okay, Moonee, your mom knows about this and--

MOONEE

Stop.

Moonee stops following her up the stairs.

DCF WORKER

Your mom know about it and says it's okay--

MOONEE

Stop! You want me to get super angry?

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - LAUNDRY AREA - DAY

Bobby has backed off to the back area of the motel where a WOMAN and CHILD are waiting for their clothes to finish.

BOBBY

I'm going to fix those other machines by the end of this week.

WOMAN

Sure, Bobby.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley is packing Moonee's clothes in a small bag. She takes one of the photo booth strips (of Halley and Moonee) off the mirror and puts it in the bag.

The case worker comes back into the room.

CASE WORKER

Halley, we need you. She's being very emotional right now.

HALLEY

You want me to help you take my child away from me? Are you retarded? You stupid, right?

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR STAIRS - DAY

Moonee refuses to take another step back up towards the police.

MOONEE

I want to say goodbye to Jancey.

DCF WORKER

Which room does Jancey live in?

MOONEE

She's at FutureLand.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

We have to go. We can't go over there right now. You'll be seeing your friends soon.

MOONEE

No, I won't. That's a lie.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

HALLEY

You're literally asking me to help
you take away my fucking kid.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Halley, calm down.

HALLEY

Calm down? You want fucking help?

Halley pours everything she just packed up back onto the bed.

DCF INVESTIGATOR

Hey!

HALLEY

Get the fuck out of my house!
That's what will help!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR STAIRS - DAY

Moonee is more agitated.

MOONEE

You're such a liar!

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley is more agitated.

HALLEY

You're a fucking liar!

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - 2ND FLOOR STAIRS - DAY

Moonee pulls away from the DCF Worker.

MOONEE

STOP!

She breaks free and makes a run for it down the stairs. The
DCF woman lunges for Moonee and trips in the process.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - ACROSS FROM LOBBY - DAY

Moonee runs toward Route 192 alongside the stream next to
Magic Castle. She crosses a damaged wooden bridge.

INT. MAGIC CASTLE - ROOM 323 - DAY

Halley sees commotion outside her room on the walkway.

BOBBY
Which way did she go?

CASE WORKER
(pointing)
That way!

BOBBY
Jesus Christ.

The police officers and Bobby run to the front of the motel.

HALLEY
What's going on?

CASE WORKER
(winded)
Moonee ran away. We think she went
to see her friend at FutureLand.

HALLEY
You let her just run away?

CASE WORKER
Please Halley...

HALLEY
And I'm the one who's unfit? FUCK.
YOU!

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Moonee runs down the sidewalk next to Route 192, passing familiar sites (Orange World, Wizard Gift Shop, Twistee Treat, Burned-Down Condos, etc.)

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - DAY

Moonee makes it to Jancey's room in one piece. She pounds on the door. Jancey answers the door. Moonee is winded.

MOONEE
Jancey.

JANCEY
Hi, Moonee.

Moonee doesn't speak. She is holding back tears. Police sirens are heard in the distance. Jancey is confused.

INT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - DAY

Inside, Grandma Stacy tends to a spill from little Luci in the back of the room.

EXT. FUTURELAND INN - JANCEY'S ROOM - DAY

JANCEY
Moonee, what's wrong?

MOONEE
Please...

JANCEY
You're scaring me.

MOONEE
You're my best friend. And this may be the last time I'm going to see you...

JANCEY
What's going on? Moonee?

Jancey is scared. Moonee is frantic. She can no longer hold back the tears.

MOONEE
...good bye.

Jancey looks back into her room, then back into Moonee's eyes. Jancey grabs Moonee's hand and darts toward Route 192, dragging Moonee with her.

EXT. MAGIC CASTLE - LOBBY - DAY

Bobby sits down on the bench in front of the lobby, pulls out his last cigarette and lights it up.

EXT. ROUTE 192 - DAY

Jancey leads Moonee on a mad dash across Route 192.

INT. CAR - DAY (TRAVELLING)

Tears run down Halley's face as she sits solemnly in the front passenger seat as they circle nearby blocks searching for Moonee.

EXT. VARIOUS ROUTE 192 LOCATIONS - DAY

Jancey leads Moonee off the beaten path, eventually toward a phone line in the shape of a certain mouse.

Jancey and Moonee make their way to Route 535 and then Route I4 leading to the Magic Kingdom.

EXT. ENTRANCE SIGN - DAY

Jancey continues to lead Moonee toward the entrance sign of the THEME PARK property at an even faster pace.

EXT. THEME PARK ENTRANCE GATES - DAY

Jancey encourages Moonee to hurry up and follow her toward a big parking lot entrance gate. A MONORAIL whizzes by overhead.

EXT. THEME PARK - MAIN STREET - DAY

Jancey and Moonee's little torn-up sneakers run past hundreds of tourists' legs, park maps and deflated balloons on the asphalt of the park's "Main Street USA".

Moonee's feet pick up speed. She hops over a spilled MOUSE-SHAPED ICE CREAM BAR. Her feet leap out of frame.

EXT. THEME PARK - DAY

Jancey and Moonee sprint faster than ever...

Weaving through TOURISTS... through CAST MEMBERS...

They race toward a perfect enchanted storybook CASTLE, glimmering in the sun against a dreamlike sky.