

THE TOWER OF TERROR

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ACT ONE

1 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP - NIGHT

1

Candles. Dozens of candles, all burning on a long wooden table. This is a dark place...a secret place where something SINISTER is going on. CAMERA MOVES past the smoky flames and comes upon an ANCIENT BOOK with strange SYMBOLS engraved on the cover. An UNSEEN HAND opens the book and we SEE the writing on the crusty old page is STYLISH CALLIGRAPHY.

CAMERA CONTINUES off the book and COMES TO REST on an engraved invitation to a Halloween Party on October 31st, 1939. It's at the Tip Top Club...on the top floor of the Hollywood Tower Hotel. Slowly, FLAMES lick up from the bottom of the invitation, BURNING IT BLACK. Flames FILL THE SCREEN and we...

SMASH CUT TO:

2 EXT. HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL - NIGHT

2

LIGHTNING FLASHES in dark clouds over the Hollywood Tower Hotel. A storm is brewing. CAMERA MOVES UP past the giant neon "HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL" sign on top of the building into a SKYLIGHT that brings us into...

3 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB - NIGHT

3

A SWING ORCHESTRA blasts out Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" for a dance floor packed with jitter-bugging Halloween party-goers. It's a blow-out dance party, circa 1939. Most of the people sport formal-wear; some even wear fancy Halloween masks. CAMERA MOVES through the flying feet and spinning bodies until we COME TO REST on the BANDLEADER, who swings along with his band...eight to the bar.

4 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

4

Music from the party upstairs plays through a SPEAKER behind the front desk of the busy lobby. It's infectious and everyone seems to be moving in rhythm to the dance music.

A bellhop, DEWEY TODD, struts happily through the lobby in time to the music. He accidentally bumps into a man waiting at the front desk, GILBERT LAWRENCE. Gilbert is Abbott to Dewey's Costello. He's a tall, dapper guy in an immaculate tuxedo. In contrast, Dewey's uniform doesn't quite fit his short, chubby frame.

Gilbert angrily shoves the clumsy Dewey away. He then paces nervously and checks his watch. Someone is late, and he's anxious. He glances up at the clock behind the front desk. The time: 8:02.

5 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB - NIGHT5

Happy party-goers ring the dance floor, crowding forward to watch the swinging dancers.

6 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT6

WIDE ANGLE of the hotel. LIGHTNING FLASHES inside the gathering clouds. Thunder rumbles.

7 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT7

Dewey pushes his way through a crowd of REPORTERS gathered at the front door. He's carrying luggage and gets jostled by the men who are more interested in who is following him. Not far behind him is a stern woman, MISS PARTRIDGE. She means business as she angrily pushes the Reporters back, clearing a path for...SALLY SHINE. Sally is a precious girl of 7 in a party dress who could pass for Shirley Temple. She stops and gives a big smile. She's a star. Flashbulbs pop.

ANGLE: WATCHING IN THE CROWD IS A YOUNG GIRL OF 10. EXCITED FANS PUSH PAST HER TO GET A BETTER LOOK AT SALLY.

8 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB - NIGHT8

The band's drummer pounds out rhythm as the dancers swing.

9 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT9

The clock behind the front desk reads: 8:03. Gilbert paces. Finally, a pretty woman in an evening dress, CAROLYN CROSSON runs up to him. She knows she's late. He quickly takes her by the arm and hurries her toward the open elevator.

Dewey stands in front of the elevator, pumping the button in frustration, but to no avail...the elevator door won't open. Gilbert steps up, presses the LOWER button, and the elevator door immediately slides open. Dewey gives Gilbert a sheepish look. Annoyed, Gilbert shoves Dewey out of the way and he and Carolyn board the elevator.

10 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB - NIGHT10

The rhythm of the dancing builds. It's becoming more urgent.

11 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT11

LIGHTNING FLASHES in the dark clouds over the hotel..

12 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT12

Gilbert and Carolyn wait in the open elevator as Miss Partridge takes Sally by the hand and brings her aboard. Last on is Dewey, still fumbling with suitcases as he takes control of the elevator. Sally waves to her fans in the lobby as the DOORS CLOSE. CAMERA MOVES UP to the FLOOR INDICATOR over the elevator as it slowly rises. 2...3...4...

13 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB (CONTINUOUS)13

The drums pound faster...the dancers spin across the floor...

INTERCUT WITH:

14 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)14

Gilbert is anxious. Sally smiles at Miss Partridge. Miss Partridge gives her a stern look. Floor indicator lights rise. 7...8...9...

INTERCUT WITH:

15 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)15

Lightning flashes. Thunder rumbles.

INTERCUT WITH:

16 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)16

The lights flicker and the elevator comes to a JARRING STOP on 14...CLUNK...one short of the top. CU's of nervous passengers. The controls won't work for a nervous Dewey. Something is wrong, very wrong. Gilbert pushes Dewey out of the way and tries the control handle himself. No go.

INTERCUT WITH:

17 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB (CONTINUOUS)17

The pounding rhythm of the band reaches a climax.

18 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)18

The clock behind the front desk hits: 8:05.

19 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS)19

A GUST OF WIND blows out ALL THE CANDLES on the table.

20 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)

20

LIGHTNING HITS THE HOTEL!

21 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)

21

The passengers look up in terror, shielding their eyes. The whole scene WHITES OUT. There's a SCREAM!

TRANSITION TO:

22 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

22

The SCREAM fades. A SINGLE SPOTLIGHT shines in an otherwise dark room. A SILHOUETTE steps in front of the light, raises a camera, and snaps a picture.

ECU's show what the photographer is shooting. Lying down, lit only by the spotlight, is a STRANGE CREATURE. CAMERA MOVES over it's unconscious body TO REVEAL: Green, scaly skin; lizard-like hands; and large, black eyes. It's human shape, but undeniably...an ALIEN!

SNAP! The photographer takes more pictures.

A SURGEON in scrubs prepares to do an "autopsy". He pulls a cloth off a tray revealing several strange, sharp operating tools. The Surgeon lifts one particularly VICIOUS looking SAW and approaches the Alien.

The Photographer continues to snap pictures....the Surgeon reaches the sharp blade toward the Alien's neck...the photographer shoots...the Surgeon is about to cut into Alien flesh when...the Alien SITS BOLT UPRIGHT!

ANNA (Alien)

Don't even THINK about it!

The Alien PULLS OFF IT'S HEAD to REVEAL...a pretty, 14 year old girl, ANNA PETTERSON. She's in a big-old rubber costume. The Surgeon pulls off his face-mask. He's freaking. *

SURGEON

I didn't know somebody was in there!!

The LIGHTS come on to REVEAL they are in the modern kitchen of a suburban home. Anna was lying on the counter. The photographer is BUZZY CROCKER, an almost-handsome guy in his mid-30's wearing an open shirt over t-shirt and jeans.

BUZZY

How do you think she moved, Olivier?

SURGEON

I...I thought it was animatronic!

Buzzy and Anna exchange "Is this guy for real?" looks. Then Buzzy hurries the "Surgeon" to the back door.

BUZZY

Honest mistake, thanks a lot. I'll send your check to the agency.

SURGEON

How'd I do? Did you believe I was a like, a real doctor?

Buzzy stops and stares the goofy guy right in the eye.

BUZZY

Absolutely, cuz I hate doctors and right now, I hate you. Incredible!

SURGEON

Gee, thanks! I'm available for...

Buzzy pushes him out the door.

BUZZY

Yeah, I'm sure! Bye!

(Closes door, turns to Anna)

Do NOT grow up to be an actor.

Buzzy returns to the kitchen and starts to pack up his photo equipment. Anna, still in "alien" costume, picks up a few colorful TABLOID NEWSPAPERS. Anna is a beautiful girl with very short, rocket-blond hair. It's dyed. In a few years, she'll probably have a nose ring.

ANNA

(Reading)

"Frozen Ghost Found in Freezer",
"Talking Dog Possessed by Spirit of
Mr. Ed"

*
*

(She laughs)

How do you think up this stuff?

BUZZY

It's a gift...a really strange gift.

*

ANNA

Is any of it true?

Buzzy leans down next to Anna.

BUZZY

Don't kid yourself. Aside from Obits
and Sports most legit newspapers are
just as bogus. Truth doesn't count.
Selling papers counts.

*
*
*
*

ANNA

Did you ever wanna write something
real?

*

This stops Buzzy. Tough question. He has no glib answer.

BUZZY

C'mon, I gotta jam.

Anna shrugs and starts to take off the alien costume.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY

23

Anna lives in a typical, contemporary suburban house in the San Fernando Valley. PATRICIA PETERSON, Anna's Mom, walks up the sidewalk carrying groceries. She's a typical, contemporary suburban, San Fernando Valley Mom. She meets...

BUZZY AND ANNA as they come out of the front door. Buzzy carries his equipment in a nylon bag and Anna is now in normal clothes. As pretty and feminine as she is, she always wears oversized, guy-type clothes and clunky boots.

BUZZY

Thanks Trish, I owe you!

PATRICIA

I know, and you can start by...

BUZZY

Oops! Almost forgot!

He digs in his jacket pocket and takes out a PRETTY NECKLACE made of semi-precious stones.

BUZZY

(continuing; to Anna)

For helping me out. Is this the one?

ANNA

Yes! You are wicked great! Thanks.

Anna takes it, then she and Buzzy give each other a SPECIAL HANDSHAKE that only the two of them know, then Buzzy heads for his car...an ancient Saab.

PATRICIA
What about our deal? You gotta help
me plant trees! *

Buzzy doesn't slow down. He packs up his car.

BUZZY
Oh! Right! Owww, I gotta get this
stuff back by two or they'll charge
me double! They're like, criminals!

PATRICIA
So come back after!

BUZZY
I'm on deadline...I'll call you!

PATRICIA
When?

BUZZY
Later! You're the best!

Buzzy guns the engine and roars off. Patricia and Anna stand together. Anna with a smile, Patricia with a frown.

PATRICIA
Someday your Uncle's gonna wake up to
find he's not a kid anymore.

ANNA
Geez, I hope not.

Patricia gives her daughter a worried look, then...

PATRICIA
So it's you and me planting trees...

Anna backs away, just like her Uncle did.

ANNA
Owww! Mom! Sorry, I got homework!
That's got priority right?!

She turns and scoots into the house, leaving Patricia alone, and ticked.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY24

It's a typical, busy day in downtown L.A. CAMERA ESTABLISHES a modern, high-rise office tower.

25 INT. CITY ROOM, LOS ANGELES HERALD - DAY25

"LOS ANGELES HERALD - CITY DESK" is printed on two glass doors. They slide open to REVEAL the busy, modern city room of this large newspaper. It's a mass of organized chaos as worker bees scurry between cubicles, meeting dozens of ongoing deadlines.

JILL WHITMAN strides into the room. She's beautiful, 35ish, and the boss. Jill wears pleated pants, white shirt and suspenders. She's got that great combination of roll-your-sleeves-up authority, without losing her femininity. She walks quickly through the room, not breaking stride as she runs her domain. She passes a Reporter at a terminal.

JILL

I need that storm drain piece Tony!

REPORTER #1

Five minutes.

JILL

That's a ten minute old promise.

Another Reporter passes her, eating a sandwich. Jill gives him a "what gives??" look.

REPORTER #2

The jury broke for lunch! I was hungry!

Jill gives him a warning glare.

REPORTER #2

(continuing; guilty)

Alright alright! I'll go back!

Jill smiles at him and continues on. Then, Jill's assistant, CHLOE, runs up to Jill with a clipboard.

CHLOE

The new fluorescents got here.

Jill grabs the clipboard and signs.

JILL

Finally! I'm going blind.

She hands the clipboard back to Chloe and continues on but...

CHLOE

Jill?

(Cautious)

He's here again.

Jill sighs, and softens. This isn't business and she does NOT want to deal with it right now.

JILL

Tell him I'm upstairs all day.
But...be nice to him.

Chloe nods knowingly and Jill continues on.

26 INT. JILL'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES HERALD (CONTINUOUS) 26

Jill's office is large and modern, fitting her position. There's no outside view, but one wall is a series of floor-to-ceiling glass windows that look out onto the city room. It's like being in a fish bowl. Jill enters quickly, closes the door, and heads for her desk. Instantly, there's a KNOCK. She turns to SEE:

Buzzy stands outside one of the windows, knocking on the frame. He mouths the words: "I gotta talk to you!" Jill deflates. She doesn't want to deal with him, but gives in.

JILL

The glass is being replaced.

Buzzy tentatively sticks out his hand, expecting to hit the glass of the window, but his hand PASSES THROUGH. Oops. No glass. He shrugs off the embarrassment and steps INTO the office through the empty frame.

BUZZY

Jill, I'm on to something huge here
and I'm comin' to you first...

*

*

JILL

Hi Buzzy! How are you?

BUZZY

Uhh...fine, listen...

Buzzy doesn't pick up on the cut. Jill sits behind her desk. Buzzy paces in front. He's charged up.

BUZZY
(continuing; quickly)
Recycling Rip-Off. Sources tell me
a mondo supermarket chain in L.A. has
got a scam where they double-dip on
cans, ripping off recycling companies
AND the public! You interested?

Jill stares at Buzzy for a moment, then...

JILL
No.

BUZZY
No? What...no? If we break this
it's like...national headlines!

Jill stops, thinks, then...

JILL
No.

BUZZY
But this is...!
(Stops, gives in)
Okay! Okay, your loss. I'm not
pushin'. Sorry to bother you.

He turns and heads for the door, but then stops. He looks
back to Jill. Suddenly he seems awkward and boyish.

BUZZY
(continuing)
Hey, uh, remember that crummy little
seafood place in Malibu where the
fish kinda tastes like...shoes?

JILL
(Suspicious)
Yeah?

Buzzy is nervous, and desperately trying to be charming. He
walks back to Jill's desk.

BUZZY
I thought maybe you and I could go
back and see if they forgot how you
dumped chowder in the chef's hat
and...maybe have dinner...together.

That was tough. Buzzy squints, waiting for her reaction.

JILL
Why Buzzy?

Buzzy takes a deep breath. Hesitates, then...

BUZZY
(Sincere)
Cuz I miss you Jill.

Jill sits back. A thousand emotions are rolling around in her head. Finally, she looks Buzzy right in the eye.

JILL
You miss me...
(Waves at room)
Or THIS?

Buzzy stiffens. That hurt.

BUZZY
Oooh! That's...cold. That's
really...forget I asked.

He turns for the door. He's about to open it, but then detours and EXITS through the empty window.

JILL
(To herself)
And you didn't answer my question.

With a sad sigh, Jill goes back to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

27 EXT. BUZZY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER THAT DAY 27

Buzzy's Saab pulls up to the curb in front of a 40's style L.A. courtyard apartment building.

A frail old man, MR. GALVAO struggles with some groceries as he heads toward his apartment. Buzzy scoots up behind him.

BUZZY
Hey, Mr. Galvao. Lemme help.

MR. GALVAO
Thanks Buzzy.

The old man gratefully gives Buzzy the bags. They're heavy and Buzzy has to struggle to hang on.

BUZZY
Whoa! What'dya got here?

MR. GALVAO
Prunes.

Prunes? Buzzy gives Galvao a strange look to the frail man.

MR. GALVAO
(continuing)
Don't ask. How's your mother doing?

BUZZY
My mother? She died ten years ago.

Galvao stops and looks up at Buzzy in confusion.

MR. GALVAO
Oh yeah? Then I just let a ghost
into your apartment. *

On Buzzy's shocked look, we...

CUT TO:

28 EXT. BUZZY'S APARTMENT (SHORTLY AFTER)

28

Buzzy creeps cautiously toward the door of his apartment. He reaches for the doorknob, and finds the door is SLIGHTLY AJAR. Nervously, he steps up and pushes the door open to SEE:

29 INT. BUZZY'S LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

29

An elderly woman sits on Buzzy's couch. She's ABIGAIL GREGORY, a 70 year old sweetheart wearing a dark dress and sweater. She has a large cloth handbag and wears a hint of lipstick, as any sweet old woman would when paying a visit.

ABIGAIL
Hello!

BUZZY
Uh...wh..who are you...?

Buzzy steps in tentatively and Abigail hurries to him.

ABIGAIL
I hope you don't mind, I was
perfectly willing to wait outside but
that nice gentleman insisted.
(She giggles)
He thinks I'm your mother!

Abigail grabs the confused Buzzy and holds him at arms length and sizes him up.

ABIGAIL
(continuing)
You are exactly as I pictured!

BUZZY
Do I know you?

ABIGAIL
No....but I know YOU!

Abigail scurries to her cloth bag.

ABIGAIL
(continuing)
My name is Abigail Gregory, and
you're Buzzy Crocker!

She takes out a thick stack of tabloid newspapers and holds them out proudly.

ABIGAIL
(continuing; proud)
I've read all your work!

BUZZY
(Scoffs skeptically)
My work? What, you're a fan?

ABIGAIL
And why not? Your insight into the
supernatural is very impressive! *

BUZZY
Uhhh yeah, lucky me. What do you
want, an autograph?

Abigail laughs and plops down on the couch. All Buzzy wants is to get her out of there.

ABIGAIL
Oh my no! I've got a story for you!

BUZZY
Ohhh. Abducted by aliens, right?

Abigail laughs, reaches into her purse and pulls out a newspaper photo.

ABIGAIL

Does this building look familiar?

Buzzy takes the yellowed paper and opens it up. It's a large photo of The Hollywood Tower Hotel. Buzzy chuckles knowingly.

BUZZY

Sure, Hollywood Tower Hotel.
Halloween night, 1939. Five people
disappeared mysteriously from the
elevator, including Sally Shine, the
child movie star.

(Hands photo back)

Made little Sally an even bigger
star. Tell me a story I DON'T know. *

Abigail gets a mischievous gleam in her eye.

ABIGAIL

Alright. I can tell you what really
happened that night.

BUZZY

(Laughing)

And why's that?

ABIGAIL

(Dead serious)

Because, young man, I was there.

Buzzy stops laughing. He stares right at Abigail, who offers
him a sweet, knowing smile.

CUT TO:

30 INT. BUZZY'S KITCHEN (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY

30

Several photos of the Hollywood Tower Hotel are spread over
the kitchen table. They're cut from newspapers and magazines
and books. Abigail spreads them out for Buzzy to examine.

ABIGAIL

My family lived at the hotel.
Halloween is my birthday, but there
was no celebration that horrible
night... *

(Looks at a photo)

...because of her.

Abigail lays the photo down. It's a newspaper photo of MISS
PARTRIDGE, a stern, no nonsense looking woman.

ABIGAIL
(continuing; bitter)
Emmaline Partridge. She was...

BUZZY
Sally Shine's nanny. Looks like a
real witch.

Abigail glares sternly at Buzzy. Buzzy backs off.

ABIGAIL
(Stern)
She was INDEED a witch! Her black
magic is what made Sally and the
others disappear.

BUZZY
Uhhh....come again?

Abigail has yet another newspaper photo. It's a publicity
still of a smiling Sally Shine. Abigail looks at it sadly.

ABIGAIL
Everyone loved Sally...
(With a sneer)
...except for Miss Partridge. She
HATED the poor girl. Hated caring
for her, hated her fame.

She drops Sally's photo on to the table. CAMERA MOVES IN on
both photos...Sally and Miss Partridge, side by side.

ABIGAIL
(continuing)
And on that terrible night, her
hatred cost Sally her life.

DISSOLVE TO:

31 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (FLASHBACK - BLACK & WHITE)

31

(NOTE: FLASHBACK sequence is dreamlike, hazy, and in SLO-MO)

We first REPRISE footage of Miss Partridge and Sally Shine
arriving at the crowded hotel lobby.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
Sally Shine also lived in the hotel.
That night she was coming home from
a publicity trip, unaware of the evil
trap Miss Partridge had set for her.

REPRISE of footage of the Little Girl who watched Sally from the crowd. It was Abigail.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
(continuing)
But I knew, because I saw.

32 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (FLASHBACK - BLACK & WHITE)B2

Young Abigail sneaks through the dark basement workshop.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
Earlier that night I followed Miss
Partridge into the hotel basement.
What I saw there, I'll never forget.

Miss Partridge stands in front of the same long bench we saw in the opening sequence. Candles burn everywhere. Partridge's arms are raised as she reads from the Ancient Book that's open on the table.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
(continuing; upset)
She was a witch! And from her Book
of Souls, she summoned the black
powers of the underworld to curse
poor Sally and be rid of her forever!

Miss Partridge laughs evilly.

33 EXT. HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL - (FLASHBACK - BLACK & WHITE)B3

Lightning strikes over the hotel.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
But the evil magic she conjured was
too strong. She couldn't control it.

34 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (FLASHBACK - BLACK & WHITE)

34

REPRISE of the frightened passengers looking up in fear.

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
And later that night, it swallowed
her, along with Sally and the other
innocent people on that elevator.

TRANSITION TO:

35 INT. BUZZY'S KITCHEN (CONTINUOUS)35

Abigail holds Sally's photo, staring at it sadly. Buzzy looks at her skeptically. A long beat. Then...

BUZZY

You sure you weren't abducted by aliens?

Abigail snaps. All her pent up emotion comes out.

ABIGAIL

(Angry)

Don't mock me! I've lived with this horrible knowledge my entire life!

Buzzy jumps up and backs away from her.

BUZZY

Whoa, lady! Calm down! How come you never told anybody?

ABIGAIL

They didn't believe me! I tried to forget but every Halloween the stories begin again. Sally's movies are on TV, people buy her dolls; children wear Sally Shine costumes...it's a curse! I know the truth, but no one believes me!

She backs Buzzy into a kitchen counter, then grabs one of his tabloid papers.

ABIGAIL

(continuing)

But then I read your work. You believe in the occult. You could write a story to tell everyone what really happened...

Buzzy slides away from her.

BUZZY

Whoa, whoa! I hate to burst your strange little bubble, but the stuff I write is bogus. I make it up!

(He grabs a tabloid)

That ghost? It's my niece...in a sheet from my bed. It's got stripes!

ABIGAIL
I don't believe you!

BUZZY
Well...good. Now we're even. I
think maybe you better just...

He tries to lead her out, but Abigail holds firm.

ABIGAIL
Wait! I have proof.

She reaches to her neck and pulls out a TARNISHED OLD KEY on
an ancient silver necklace. She holds it up to Buzzy.

ABIGAIL
(continuing)
This unlocks the basement room where
Miss Partridge cast her evil spell.
The hotel has been empty since that
night, her Book of Souls must still
be there. If you found that book, it
would prove I'm telling the truth.

Abigail takes the key off of the chain.

BUZZY
So why don't YOU get it?

ABIGAIL
I can't go back. The memories are
too painful.

BUZZY
I...I don't know...

ABIGAIL
Buzzy...this is a chance to write a
story people have been wanting to
read for 60 years...
(Holds out key)
...and I'm giving it to you.

She finally hit Buzzy where he lives. Buzzy thinks, then
reaches out, and takes the key.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. THE HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL - THE NEXT DAY

36

The old, abandoned hotel looms up against a backdrop of the
Hollywood Hills.

It's a creepy old place, and a sore thumb compared to it's modern surroundings.

37 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT GATE (DIRECTLY AFTER)

37

Buzzy walks up to the giant wrought iron gates. He takes a step back to look up at the towering building, then enters.

38 EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS (DIRECTLY AFTER)

38

Buzzy walks through the ancient courtyard. The place is overgrown with weeds. The once impressive stone-work is old and cracked. It's creepy. Some WILDFLOWERS grow out of a crack in the reflection pool. Buzzy stops and PLUCKS A FLOWER as...CRAACK! He HEARS something coming from up ahead. Curiously, he goes to investigate.

39 EXT. HOTEL, VERANDA (DIRECTLY AFTER)

39

Buzzy walks on to the veranda of the hotel. CRAACK! There's that sound again. Whatever it is, it's coming from around the corner of the building. Buzzy walks cautiously forward, approaching the corner. He gets close...closer and...

Q

Boo!

Someone jumps out! Buzzy leaps back, startled.

Q

(continuing; laughing)

Sorry man, I love doin' that! Walnut?

He offers Buzzy a handful of walnuts and shells...the source of the "cracking" sound. Buzzy calms down.

BUZZY

No. Thanks. You Chris Todd?

Q

Call me Q. Like Quartermaster. You need it, I can get it!

*

Q is a throwback. He's a 40 year old Venice street-dude with long shaggy hair, a beard, and dresses like he was in a thriftshop explosion. He wears sandals and his old army jacket. He could stand to lose a few pounds.

BUZZY

Thanks for meeting me, uh, Q.

Q
No problemo! This is busy season,
man. Everybody wants to know about
Sally Shine at Halloween. Helps the
cash flow.

He drops a walnut on the floor and smashes it with his foot.
He quickly drops down to his knees to separate nut from shell.

BUZZY
(Realizing)
Oh, yeah, right.

Buzzy grabs his wallet as Q picks through shells.

BUZZY
(continuing)
You're the caretaker?

Q
My great-granddaddy built this place.

BUZZY
You're kidding? That means...

Q stands up and faces Buzzy.

Q
—That means my grandpa was Dewey Todd,
the bellhop who disappeared that
night. I'm a legacy man...
(Grabs \$20 from Buzzy)
...with expenses.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT DOOR (SHORTLY AFTER)

40

Buzzy and Q walk toward the front door.

Q
Mostly I'm a car mechanic. Being
caretaker ain't no big deal. I just
pay the taxes and hire maintenance
dudes to keep it from fallin' down..

They arrive at the front door and Q unlocks it.

BUZZY
Who pays you?

Q
Great-grandude's estate. He was so freaked out by what happened he closed the place up. It's in his will, nobody touches nothing till somebody figures out what happened to his son. Spooky, huh?

Buzzy shrugs. Q pushes the door and it slowly CREEEKS open.

BUZZY
So what DID happen?

Q
(With a shrug)
No clue. But I'm the last relative, man. When the mystery gets solved I inherit the works. Cha-ching! *

Buzzy starts inside, but then stops and looks back to Q.

BUZZY
You coming?

Q
(Laughing)
Me? No way! The place is haunted.

Buzzy double-takes at Q. Q laughs strangely, and backs away. Buzzy watches the odd guy for a moment, then heads inside.

41 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (DIRECTLY AFTER)

41

It's dark and creepy inside. There's no power, so no electric lights. The only light comes from rays that slash through cracks in the boarded up windows. Buzzy steps inside and takes a small flashlight from his jacket. When he shines the light around, he SEES: THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL. It looks exactly as it did in 1939, except there's a thick coating of dust. It's as if everyone simply...left. Wine glasses are on tables...a Mah-Jong game sits unfinished...a newspaper lies open on a couch. It's like a museum...or a crypt.

Lying on the floor near the front desk is a VASE with MUMMIFIED FLOWERS. Buzzy picks it up and places it reverently back on the front desk. He tries to arrange the flowers, but they're dust. Instead, he takes the WILDFLOWER he picked outside and puts it in the vase. It's like putting flowers on a grave.

Buzzy then leaves the front desk and walks past a large, dusty statue of a HAWK in flight.

As Buzzy passes it, CAMERA HOLDS on the statue. Suddenly, the head of the statue TURNS to watch Buzzy, and it's eyes GLOW RED. Uh oh.

Buzzy walks past the famous ELEVATOR. The FLOOR INDICATOR is stuck on 14. Buzzy takes a folded up paper from his pocket and examines it as if it were a map, then heads off.

42 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, SERVICE ELEVATOR (SHORTLY AFTER) 42

Using the flashlight, Buzzy walks past the service elevator doors in the basement. He refers to his map, and heads off.

43 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS) 43

Buzzy unlocks the door and enters. We should recognize the room by now. It's large, and full of ancient equipment. Buzzy scans around with the flashlight until he finds...

BUZZY

No way!

The workbench. It's just as we saw it before but the candles are burned down to the tabletop. Then, something UNDER the table catches his attention. Buzzy shines the flashlight on to a bunch of old manuals and blueprints. He reaches in and...A BAT FLIES OUT, flies TOWARD CAMERA and FLASHES OFF. *

Buzzy SCREAMS and jumps back, falling on his butt. He then collects himself, looks back under the table, gingerly reaches in, and pulls out...THE BOOK OF SOULS! It looks to be hundreds of years old, with strange symbols engraved on the cover. Buzzy stares at it in disbelief, then starts to laugh. He can't believe it's actually here.

CUT TO:

44 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (SHORTLY AFTER) 44

Buzzy moves quickly but cautiously past the elevator, clutching the old Book of Souls. He stops before leaving to take a last look at the lobby. But then, something catches his attention. It's the vase he placed on the front desk.

ANGLE: THE WILDFLOWER IS GONE! HUH?

Buzzy walks back to the front desk and curiously looks around. Where could it have gone?

BUZZY
(Calling)

Q???

No answer. Buzzy notices something else on the front desk. It's the HOTEL LEDGER. Curiously, he spins it around to examine the entries.

ANGLE: BUZZY IS BEING WATCHED. FROM HIGH OVERHEAD, A POV LOOKS DOWN ON HIM.

Buzzy puts his hand down flat on the desk next to the ledger.

ANGLE: THE OVERHEAD POV MOVES...FALLING RIGHT AT BUZZY! IT FALLS FASTER...FASTER...AIMED RIGHT AT BUZZY'S HAND!

Suddenly, the PAGE of the ledger turns, as if blown by the wind. Surprised, Buzzy instinctively reaches for it and...

CHONK! An old-fashioned FOUNTAIN PEN imbeds itself in the desk, right where Buzzy's hand was! It's as if it had fallen from above! If Buzzy hadn't moved his hand, it would have stabbed him! Buzzy looks up in surprise. Where did THAT come from? He's a little creeped now, so he quickly picks up the Book of Souls and heads for the front door.

Buzzy quickly EXITS. CAMERA MOVES away from the front door and comes to rest on a MIRROR in the foreground. Suddenly, a FACE APPEARS in the mirror! It's MISS PARTRIDGE...or rather, it's her ghost, and she looks angry! The ghost image LEANS OUT of the mirror, looks to make sure Buzzy is gone, then settles back into the mirror. With one final SCOWL, Miss Partridge vanishes!

FADE OUT:

ACT TWO45 EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE - DAY45

Buzzy relaxes in a wheelbarrow, reading from the Book of Souls. Behind him, Patricia struggles to plant a small tree.

BUZZY

(Reading, dramatic)

*"I call forth the Mighty ones to
bring fire energy to the night."*

(Turns page, academic)

*"The spell of passion can only be
countered by it's contrary."*

(Skeptical)

Who writes this stuff?

PATRICIA

Uhh...Merlin? Would you conjure me
up a little help!

*

BUZZY

This could be a great story, and it's
TRUE! I've got Abigail, I've got Q,
I've got THIS.

(Thinks, scheming)

Only thing missing is a picture of
the hotel's most famous ghost.

He looks to Patricia, gauging her reaction. Patricia looks
up at him, suddenly realizing EXACTLY what he means.

PATRICIA

No! Absolutely not!

Buzzy hops out of the wheelbarrow and kneels by her.

BUZZY

Aww, come on Trish...!

PATRICIA

I thought you wanted a TRUE story?

BUZZY

I do! I just need something visual
to go with it. It's like artwork.

PATRICIA

Well you're not using Anna. Last
time you nearly got her head cut off.

She jumps up to get away from Buzzy. Buzzy follows.

BUZZY

There's no danger this time. Nothing sharp, I swear!

PATRICIA

Buzzy, I don't criticize what you do for a living, but I don't like Anna being part of these phoney stories.

ANNA

But this one isn't phoney!

Anna pops out from around the corner of the house. She's been listening the whole time.

ANNA

(continuing)

It's a cool story that people care about and it might get Uncle Buzzy back onto a REAL newspaper.

Buzzy looks at his niece and smiles proudly. It's two on one, and Patricia is losing.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. ANNA'S HOUSE (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY

46

Anna sits in the passenger seat of Buzzy's car. Patricia kneels outside, talking to her through the open window.

PATRICIA

I'm not comfortable with this.

ANNA

Mom! Most of the stuff in papers is bogus anyway! At least this is real!

PATRICIA

(Frowning)

Did Uncle Buzzy tell you that?

Buzzy jumps into the driver's side.

BUZZY

Let's roll!

Buzzy tosses something into Anna's lap. Anna picks it up and holds it out as if it were diseased. It's a CURLY WIG.

ANNA
WHAT is THIS?

Buzzy laughs, guns the engine and takes off, leaving Patricia on the sidewalk looking worried.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. HOTEL - LATER THAT DAY

47

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the old, decaying hotel.

48 EXT. FRONT OF HOTEL (DIRECTLY AFTER)

48

An OLD CAR is in the driveway. Q is behind the wheel trying to start it. It won't turn over. Frustrated, he gets out and rounds to the front where Buzzy is looking under the hood.

Q
Man, I can't even get a spark!

BUZZY
Try connecting the battery.

Q looks under the hood, smiles, and wags his finger at Buzzy.

Q
You're good, man. You're very good.

Q goes to work under the hood. Buzzy looks up at the hotel.

BUZZY
So what do the ghosts look like?

Q
Never saw one.

BUZZY
I thought you said it was haunted?

Q
It is! But I've never been inside.

BUZZY
You've NEVER been inside?

Q
No way dude. It's haunted!

Buzzy is trying to follow the logic. Then...

ANNA (O.S.)
 UNCLE BUZZY?! I'M NOT COMIN' OUT!

Buzzy starts in, then turns back to Q.

BUZZY
 There's an actress comin' by, would
 you send her in?

Q
 Ten-four!

Buzzy heads for the hotel. Q catches his finger in the
 engine and YELPS! Owww. He's a lousy mechanic.

49 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (DIRECTLY AFTER)

49

Buzzy enters the hotel lobby, looking for Anna.

ANNA (O.S.)
 If my friends see this, my life is
 over.

She steps out from behind a pillar dressed in a cute "Sally
 Shine" outfit. It's a little pinafore dress, patent leather
 shoes and the curly wig. Anna is WAY too big to be dressed
 this way. She looks absolutely miserable. Buzzy chuckles.

BUZZY
 Nobody's gonna know you after I
 doctor the pictures. *

ANNA
 If they do I'm moving to France.

Anna wants to die. Buzzy takes his camera out of a bag.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
 Excuse me?

Anna and Buzzy turn to SEE: A PRETTY WOMAN walks
 tentatively into the lobby. She looks to be in her 20's.

CLAIRE
 You called for an actress?

Buzzy is momentarily taken by her beauty. She's stunning,
 with long dark hair and a period evening dress from the
 1930's. She fits right into the surroundings.

CLAIRE
(continuing)
My name's Claire. Claire Poulet.

Claire is sweet, and shy, but her voice has a distinct New York/BBQ accent that surely limits the roles she can take.

BUZZY
Hi. I'm Buzzy, this is Anna.

ANNA
Poulet? That's "chicken" in French.

CLAIRE
(Horried)
Oh don't tell me that! Really?

BUZZY
Wait, the agency sent YOU?

CLAIRE
(Anxious)
What's wrong? The dress, right? Too much, I knew it! I got others! I'll go change...

BUZZY
No the dress is fine, it's just
—you're...too young! Miss Partridge was an old witch!

Claire's lip quivers as if she's going to cry.

CLAIRE
Perfect! Another "too" job. Too young, too old, too skinny too fat too everything but what you need. Sorry I bothered you.

She turns and heads for the door. Buzzy runs to head her off.

BUZZY
Wait! It's okay, you'll do fine. I gotta retouch the pictures anyway.

CLAIRE
You're not just saying that?

BUZZY
No. You'll be great.

Her tears make her even more adorable. Buzzy moves to wipe her cheek, but Claire beats him to it. She smiles at him. Buzzy smiles back. Anna rolls her eyes.

ANNA
Could we do this? I don't wanna...
(She stops because
she heard something)
What was that?

Buzzy and Claire listen too.

BUZZY
I don't hear anything...

Then he hears it too. It's far off, and faint, but it's definitely MUSIC. Big band music.

CLAIRE
It's music.

ANNA
Where's it comin' from?

They listen.

BUZZY
Upstairs. You guys wait here.

Buzzy walks off, headed deeper into the lobby. Claire and Anna stay put, listening curiously.

CUT TO:

50 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 2ND FLOOR (SHORTLY AFTER)

50

Buzzy walks cautiously out of the stairwell into an upstairs corridor. The long corridor stretches out in two different directions, meeting at a 90 degree angle. Like the lobby downstairs, the corridors haven't changed since 1939. The walls are covered with dark, flock wallpaper. Light sconces are next to each of the guest rooms.

The MUSIC is louder. It's definitely coming from this floor. Buzzy walks cautiously to the far end of the corridor, and stops. The MUSIC is even louder. He takes a nervous breath, hesitates, then LOOKS around the corner to SEE...

Nothing. It's just another corridor. Buzzy relaxes, takes a step back, turns and runs into...

BUZZY/ANNA

Ahhhhh!

Anna. They both jump back in surprise. Anna has taken off the wig, but still wears the pinafore dress.

BUZZY

I told you to wait downstairs.

ANNA

I wanna see too! Hey, no music.

Indeed the MUSIC stopped. But then, they HEAR another SOUND. It's a clicking sound, or rather, tapping. It's TAP DANCING. They listen curiously for a moment, then Buzzy takes off back toward the stairwell. Anna is right behind him.

They reach the corner, look around and SEE: Nothing. The corridor is still empty. But the TAP DANCING is louder, and they also HEAR a small, far-off voice SINGING.

SINGING VOICE

"It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring"

Creepy. Buzzy walks down the corridor. Anna stays with him.

SINGING VOICE

(continuing)

"Bumped his head and he went to bed and he didn't get up till morning"

They reach the end of the next corridor, turn the corner and LOOK to SEE: Nothing. Another corridor. Except ALL THE DOORS are open. The tap dancing and singing stop. Then: SLAM SLAM SLAM SLAM! One by one, the doors slam themselves shut, getting closer and closer to Anna and Buzzy. Anna hugs her uncle in fear as the LAST DOOR closest to them slams shut.

A beat. Then....CREEEEEEEEK! A DOOR halfway down the corridor SLOWLY swings open. Buzzy and Anna watch with wide eyes as an EMPTY SWIVEL CHAIR rolls out of the room. The chair then turns and starts to roll toward Buzzy and Anna!

ANNA

I...wanna be someplace else.

The two turn and HURRY the other way, back toward the stairwell. They reach the end of the corridor, but when they round the corner, they stop and SEE:

A SUPERNATURAL RAINSTORM! Shimmering GREEN RAIN falls like a ghostly curtain halfway down the corridor! Buzzy and Anna stare in shock as the TAP DANCING returns. Then, within the "rain storm" a silhouette appears. It's a LITTLE GIRL, and she's TAP DANCING. She has no features, she's like a CUTOUT inside the "storm"

SINGING VOICE

"It's raining, it's pouring, the old man is snoring."

Buzzy tries to raise his camera to take a picture, but his hands are shaking and he can't do it. Anna SEES something in the OTHER DIRECTION and her eyes grow wide with shock. She nudges her uncle and points. Buzzy looks to SEE: *

The SWIVEL CHAIR has followed them! Except, now sitting in the chair is a HEADLESS BODY wearing a tuxedo! *

SINGING VOICE

(continuing)

"Bumped his head and he went to bed and he didn't get up till morning!" *

The CHAIR STOPS. The Headless Body sits there, limp. *

ANNA *

It...it's a dummy. *

Suddenly, the Headless Body jumps to it's feet! Anna SCREAMS! She turns and runs for the stairwell. Buzzy is right after her. *

CUT TO:

51 EXT. FRONT DOOR OF HOTEL (SHORTLY AFTER)

51

Claire and Q sit on the steps of the hotel eating walnuts.

Q

I coulda been an actor except for one thing...I can't act.

Suddenly Anna and Buzzy come running out of the hotel.

ANNA

It's haunted! It's really haunted!

CLAIRE

What happened?

Buzzy and Anna are psyched to the max and gasping for air.

BUZZY

It was incredible! There was, there was GREEN RAIN and SINGING and this CHAIR with a HEAD thing and GEEZ my brain is exploding!

ANNA

What do we do?

BUZZY

I don't know! Yes I do! Tomorrow! Tomorrow I'll bring Jill from the Herald. She won't believe me if she doesn't see for herself! *

Buzzy finally catches his breath. He steps back and looks up at the hotel.

BUZZY

(continuing; in awe)

This is the most incredible story in history. Ghosts are real, and I've got the proof. *

Q

And tomorrow's Halloween!

Everyone walks off the veranda. HOLD on the front door as SLOWLY, the door CLOSES BY ITSELF.

FADE OUT:

ACT THREE52 INT. CITY ROOM, LOS ANGELES HERALD - LATER THAT DAY 52

The office is busy, as usual. Jill stands at a cubicle working. She LOOKS up to SEE: Buzzy enters quickly, looking for her. Jill DUCKS DOWN and dodges behind cubicles, trying to avoid him. There's a short cat-and-mouse chase as she tries to lose him. Finally, Buzzy spots her.

BUZZY

Jill!

Busted. Jill hurries for her office.

53 INT. JILL'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES HERALD (CONTINUOUS) 53

Jill runs into her office, closes the door, and locks it. Buzzy heads right for the window with no glass and...SMACK! The glass is back. Oops. Buzzy's face SHMOOSHES against it and he falls on his butt.

JILL

Buzzy!

Jill runs to the door and opens it up to see if he's alright. Instantly, Buzzy pops back up as if nothing happened.

BUZZY

We gotta talk!

Jill tries to get back into her office, but Buzzy barges in.

JILL

Not today Buzzy! I've got...

Buzzy intercepts Jill, grabs her by the shoulders and pushes her back so she's sitting on her desk.

BUZZY

Yes today! Forget everything I ever pitched you before because I got something that will blow...you...away!

Jill folds her arms skeptically. Buzzy's trying desperately to contain his excitement as he paces in front of her.

BUZZY

(continuing)

WHEN? Halloween, 1939. WHERE? The Hollywood Tower Hotel. WHO? Sally Shine and four others. WHAT? They all disappeared from the elevator...

JILL

EVERYBODY knows that story...

Buzzy slowly walks toward Jill until they're nose to nose.

BUZZY

Wrong! Nobody knows the story cuz nobody's got what I got. I got "WHY?" I know why the biggest child star in history went pfffft!

JILL

(Intrigued)

How?

BUZZY

I've got a witness. Abigail Gregory. She lived there and saw everything.

For the first time, Jill is interested. Buzzy smiles. She breaks from him and sits at her desk, making notes.

JILL

So what happened? Where did they go?

Buzzy smiles, laughing to himself in giddy glee.

BUZZY

That's the best part! They didn't!

JILL

Excuse me?

BUZZY

They didn't go anywhere! They're still in the hotel! They're ghosts!

Jill stares at him for a beat, then throws down her pen.

JILL

Get out! GET OUTTA HERE!

Buzzy runs to her, takes her by the hands and pulls her toward the door. Jill fights him, trying to pull away.

BUZZY
No I'm serious! Come with me Jill,
you gotta see for yourself. *

JILL
Let me go! Buzzy, let me go!!

BUZZY
I swear this isn't bogus! I saw
them! I can prove it. I can prove
it all! Please, Jill this is the
biggest story of my life!

JILL
STOP!

Jill pulls away from him. She is livid. Buzzy is cowed.

JILL
(continuing)
Why, Buzzy? Why is it always about
the biggest story of your life? Why
can't it just be about the truth?

BUZZY
This IS the truth.

JILL
—That's what you said five years ago.

This stings Buzzy. Obviously it's a sore point. There's a
long beat as they collect themselves.

BUZZY
(Painfully soft)
I need this Jill.

JILL
What you need is to find the voice
you lost a long time ago.

Buzzy has no response. He backs off toward the door.

JILL
(continuing)
Buzzy?
(He stops)
Don't come back here anymore.

They share eye contact for a moment, then Buzzy drops his
head and EXITS. Jill watches him for a moment, then angrily
picks up her pen and throws it across the room.

She plops back down at her desk, angry and upset. Then, her eye catches something on the desk. It's her note pad. Jill looks at it, thinks, then picks up her phone.

JILL
(continuing)
Chloe? Please run a background check
on a woman named...
(Checks pad)
...Abigail Gregory.

DISSOLVE TO:

54 INT. BUZZY'S LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

54

On a TV screen is an old B&W movie. It's Sally Shine tap dancing and singing: "It's Raining It's Pouring". Behind her is a Big-Band, 1930's style. She's very cute, in a Shirley Temple sort of way.

A HAND reaches in and TURNS OFF the TV. It's Abigail. She smiles at Anna who is on the phone.

ANNA
(Relieved)
Thank you!

As Anna talks on the phone, she scans through a stack of VIDEOTAPES. They're all "Sally Shine" videos, with various pictures of Sally on the box covers. Abigail sits down at a table, pouring over the Ancient Book of Souls.

ANNA (INTO PHONE)
No, I WANNA stay tomorrow, we're, uh,
gonna go trick or treating!
(Rolls eyes, makes
"gag" sign)
Mo-om! Yes I'm telling the truth!

The DOOR OPENS and Buzzy comes in, looking depressed.

ANNA
Gotta go! I'll call ya!

Anna slams the phone and runs to Buzzy.

BUZZY
Show's over. She's not interested.

ANNA
Doesn't matter! Wait'll you hear
what Abigail found!

ABIGAIL

This is far more disturbing than I
imagined.

BUZZY

Perfect, I could use some cheering up.

Buzzy heads for the kitchen.

55 INT. BUZZY'S KITCHEN (CONTINUOUS)

55

Buzzy opens the fridge, takes out a gallon of ice-cream and
a spoon, and eats right out of the container. Abigail and
Anna follow him in. Abigail holds open the Book of Souls.

ABIGAIL

Miss Partridge used Black Magic to
try and banish Sally to the
underworld for an eternity of pain.
The spells are all right here.

BUZZY

Nice nanny.

ANNA

But she did it wrong!

ABIGAIL

To complete the curse, the witch must
have an "identifier". Something that
belonged to the intended victim.

From the pages of the book, she takes a lock of curly hair.

BUZZY

Aww, don't tell me that's Sally's
hair. Yu-uk!

He gags on the ice cream, his appetite gone.

ABIGAIL

But she didn't have an identifier
from anyone else on the elevator.

ANNA

So instead of zapping Sally, the
curse kind of half-zapped everybody,
including Miss Partridge!

Anna takes the spoon from Buzzy and eats ice cream. Buzzy
reaches for a lace handkerchief that was pressed in the book.

BUZZY
What's this?

ANNA
E.P. Emmaline Partridge!

ABIGAIL
If I read this correctly, the spell
trapped those poor people in limbo,
between this world and the next.

ANNA
Their ghosts are stuck in the hotel!
But we can help 'em!

ABIGAIL
Tomorrow night is all Hollow's Eve,
the night of the curse.

BUZZY
And your birthday, right?

ABIGAIL
It's the one night I can use this
book to break the spell and release
those poor souls.

Buzzy is becoming intrigued.

BUZZY
You mean, like a seance?

ABIGAIL
A conjuring. But I'll need items
that belonged to each of the victims
to undo the curse.

ANNA
We can find the stuff ourselves!
Let's do it Uncle Buzzy!

Buzzy thinks, then looks to Abigail.

BUZZY
You know a lot about this stuff.

Abigail closes the book and sits down at the table. She now
looks like a tired, sad old woman.

ABIGAIL

I've lived my whole life with the
knowledge of what happened that
night...and the hope that one day I
could put things right again.

She chokes back tears of emotion.

ANNA

We gotta do it.

She puts a consoling hand on Abigail's shoulder, who smiles
in gratitude. Buzzy picks up the lock of hair, and gags.

DISSOLVE TO:

56 INT. BUZZY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

56

Anna is asleep on Buzzy's couch. Buzzy sits on the floor
next to her, reading the Book of Souls. The only light comes
from the TV, where the video of Sally Shine is playing. The
sound is down.

BUZZY

(To himself, softly)

*"The spell of passion can only be
countered by it's contrary."*

Buzzy thinks, then takes a note on a pad of paper. Anna
roles over. She's awake. She watches him for a beat, then...

ANNA

Why's this story so important to you?

A beat. Buzzy thinks hard on this one. There's no glib
answer coming.

BUZZY

It's been a long time since I wrote
something I believed in.

ANNA

So the truth DOES count.

Buzzy smiles, and pulls the blanket up to her chin. He then *
turns off the TV and Anna closes her eyes.

DISSOLVE TO:

57 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT GATE - THE NEXT DAY57

Buzzy, Anna, Abigail and Q stand outside the front gate. Q wears an old-fashioned bellhop cap. He hands a piece of paper to Buzzy.

Q
Gilbert Lawrence and Carolyn Crosson.
He was an actor-dude, she was gonna
sing at the Halloween party. Both
had rooms, I'm not sure which ones.

ANNA
We'll find 'em.

Q
And this beauty...
(Takes off cap)
...belonged to granddad Dewey. From
grandma's cedar chest, to you.

He presents it to Abigail.

ABIGAIL
Thank you, Q.

Q
Don't thank me. You crack this case
and I got me a hotel! Cha-ching!

ANNA
What about Miss Partridge?

Abigail steps away from the group and looks up at the old hotel, remembering. She holds Miss Partridge's hanky.

ABIGAIL
Beware of her. Evil does not die.

Everyone exchanges sober looks. Then...

BUZZY
Well, on that happy note, let's start
this scavenger hunt.

He and Q head for the hotel. Anna approaches Abigail.

ANNA
Sure you won't come?

ABIGAIL
No, child. I should prepare.
(Touches Anna's cheek)
Be careful.

ANNA
Happy birthday Abigail!

Anna smiles and runs off. Abigail looks up at the building with dread.

58 EXT. FRONT DOOR OF HOTEL (DIRECTLY AFTER)

58

Buzzy and Q head toward the hotel. Anna scoots up between the two and grabs the paper from Buzzy.

ANNA
Whose room do we find first?

CLAIRE (O.S.)
TA DA!

Claire poses on the veranda of the hotel now wearing a much frumpier period outfit...befitting an old nanny. With a big smile, she spins for all to see.

CLAIRE
Do I look old and frumpy now?

BUZZY
I don't think that's possible.

He's obviously infatuated with Claire. Anna rolls her eyes. Maybe there's a touch of jealousy there.

ANNA
We don't have time for pictures.

CLAIRE
(Disappointed)
Oh no! I thought...

BUZZY
Yes we do!
(To Anna)
It's been sixty years, another couple minutes won't matter.

He bounds on to the veranda like a schoolboy with a crush. He leads Claire off. Anna is ticked. She turns to Q.

ANNA
Let's go.

She starts for the hotel, but Q backs off.

Q
Me? In there? Negatory. I got work.

He's too scared. Q scoots off, leaving Anna alone. She was all charged up, but now has nothing to do. Frustrated, she plops down on the steps of the hotel in a huff.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY

59

Buzzy snaps pictures of Claire, who is having a ball. She makes exaggerated poses while smiling broadly. Buzzy laughs.

BUZZY
You're supposed to be a scary old ghost.

CLAIRE
Oh. How's this?

Claire makes a scary face and holds her arms out as if walking in a trance. Buzzy laughs.

BUZZY
Perfect! I'm terrified.

Claire laughs too. She's having fun.

BUZZY
(continuing)
I'll bet the camera loves you. What other stuff have you done?

CLAIRE
Oh, this and that. You know.

BUZZY
Like what?

CLAIRE
Like...like...

Claire suddenly stops posing. Her energy falls.

CLAIRE
(continuing)
This is my first job. Second,
actually. The first didn't work out.

BUZZY
(Stunned)
No way! You're beautiful!

Claire sits down on a bench, dejected.

CLAIRE
That's sweet, but I'm not all that
beautiful and I'm a lousy actress.

Buzzy kneels by her.

BUZZY
Don't say that. You just haven't
caught the right break.

This is tough for Claire. Obviously, it hurts.

CLAIRE
No, I've had a lot of chances.
(Pause)
It's tough when you aren't good
enough to do what you love most.

*
*
*

Buzzy doesn't know how to respond. Claire shrugs stoically.

CLAIRE
(continuing; flirty)
Of course you wouldn't know about
that, Mr. Hot-shot reporter.

*
*

This hits Buzzy. He looks to Claire. Claire frowns,
realizing she said the wrong thing. Buzzy gets up and EXITS.

60 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT DOOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)

60

Anna paces in front of the hotel. She tosses stones, bored
to death. Finally, she can't take it anymore. She gets an
idea, turns to the hotel and with determination, heads inside.

61 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (DIRECTLY AFTER)61

Anna enters the dark lobby quickly, then slows down. After all, it IS haunted. She takes out the piece of paper from Q, checks it, then heads for the front desk. *

She spins the ledger so she can read it.

ANGLE: ANNA'S FINGER DRIFTS DOWN THE PAGE OF HAND-WRITTEN ENTRIES UNTIL SHE FINDS: "GILBERT LAWRENCE - ROOM 712" AND "CAROLYN CROSSON - ROOM 813"

ANNA

Seventh floor?! Oh man!

With a determined huff, Anna leaves the front desk. CAMERA STAYS ON DESK. A beat, then, a BOTTLE OF INK next to the ledger begins to SHAKE by itself.

ANGLE: ON THE LEDGER. THE BOTTLE OF INK FALLS OVER, SPILLING INK ON THE PAGE AND OBLITERATING THE ENTRIES.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS (DIRECTLY AFTER) - DAY62

Buzzy packs his photo equipment back in his photo bag. Claire approaches him cautiously.

CLAIRE

Did I say something wrong?

BUZZY

Nah. We're more alike than you know.

CLAIRE

You're NOT Mr. Hot-Shot reporter?

BUZZY

I used to be. I wrote for the Herald...front page stuff. People read my work every day.

CLAIRE

That's terrific.

BUZZY

Yeah. Then five years ago a guy came to me with a hot story. He had a videotape. It showed the Mayor taking a bribe from the Mob.

CLAIRE

Wow!

BUZZY

Yeah that's what I thought. The paper loved it. It was the biggest story to hit L.A. in years and they pushed it hard. Front page for a week: MOBSTER MAYOR!

CLAIRE

So what happened?

BUZZY

Turns out the video was a fake.

CAROLYN

Oh no.

BUZZY

It got ugly. There were lawsuits and threats...people stopped buying the paper. The Herald dumped the entire blame on me. They didn't care so much about the truth when papers were selling, but when the bottom fell out, somebody had to take the blame.

(Pause)

—No legit paper has hired me since.

Buzzy zips up his bag.

BUZZY

(continuing; brighter)

But that was then, this is now, and I'm comin' back!

He picks up his bag and EXITS.

CUT TO:

63 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 7TH FLOOR (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY 63

Anna pokes her head out of the stairwell door on the 7th floor. It looks very much like the lower floor she and Buzzy were on earlier. She cautiously creeps down the corridor, checking numbers on the doors. 708...710...712! This is it! Anna tries the doorknob. It's open. Gulp. She takes a breath, collects her nerves, then opens the door and enters.

64 INT. HOTEL, GILBERT'S ROOM (CONTINUOUS)64

Anna enters to SEE: A hotel room that hasn't changed since 1939. There's a double bed, a few upholstered chairs, and a dressing table with a LARGE MIRROR over it. An OPEN SUITCASE is on the bed, and everything is covered in a layer of dust.

Anna steps into the room, passing a closed CLOSET DOOR. As she passes the door, it SLOWLY OPENS a few inches. Uh oh.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. HOTEL VERANDA (DIRECTLY AFTER)65

Buzzy hurries along the veranda. Claire catches up with him.

CLAIRE

How is THIS going to bring you back?

BUZZY

Are you kidding? We got proof ghosts are real! We're talking global headlines, no, we're talking *history*!

CLAIRE

I thought you wanted to help the ghosts?

Buzzy stops and turns to Claire.

BUZZY

How? With some bogus voodoo? Get real!

(He laughs)

Abigail's a sweet old lady but she's dancing on a strange planet.

CLAIRE

So all you care about is your story?

BUZZY

This isn't just a story Claire, it's redemption. This gets me back in the game! People will believe me again.

(Pause)

Why should I care about some moldy old ghosts I don't even know?

Claire stares at Buzzy for a long beat, then backs away from him. She's obviously disappointed.

BUZZY
(continuing)

What?

Upset, Claire turns and runs off, leaving Buzzy confused. *

CUT TO:

66 INT. HOTEL, GILBERT'S ROOM (DIRECTLY AFTER)

66

Anna explores the room. She looks at the suitcase, but it's empty. She then walks to the dressing table with the wall mirror. On the table is a dust-covered array of gentleman's grooming articles, circa 1939. Anna scans the table, then picks up a POCKET COMB. Perfect. She takes off her small back pack and is about to put the comb inside. When suddenly... *

SLAM! The closet door slams shut behind her, startling her and making her drop the backpack.

GILBERT (O.S.)
(Quoting Hamlet)

"That skull had a tongue in it, and
could sing once: how the knave joels
it to the ground as if it were Cain's
jawbone, that did the first murder!"

Anna freaks. She doesn't know which way to turn, or to run. Finally, she bolts for the door and...SLAM! It slams in front of her! Anna tries to open it, but it's locked. She yanks on it for all she's worth, but it's no use. Anna spins back to the room and SEES:

On the floor, her backpack starts to move as if something in it were alive. Bravely, Anna walks back to it, bends down and picks it up. She gathers all her courage and...

ANNA

Don't mess, we're here to help you.

...opens it up!

ANGLE: NOTHING ODD INSIDE. *

GILBERT (O.S.)

"Thou dost lie in't, to be in't, and
say it is thine..."

Then, in the mirror behind the dresser, GILBERT appears!
He's dressed as Hamlet and holds a skull.

GILBERT
"...tis for the dead, not for the
quick; therefore thou liest!"

Anna is frozen in shock. Gilbert then TURNS and LOOKS to Anna, and TOSSES HER THE SKULL! The skull comes OUT of the mirror, and Anna catches it. She looks at the skull, SCREAMS, then drops it and runs for the door. This time the door opens and she runs out.

67 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 7TH FLOOR (CONTINUOUS)

67

Anna blasts out of the room, turns one way and SEES...

DEWEY TODD, the bellhop steps out of a room, blocking her way.*

DEWEY
Don't you want to hang around? *

He smiles evilly and holds up a large NOOSE! Anna SCREAMS *
and takes off in the other direction. She reaches the end of
the corridor, rounds the corner and SEES:

Gilbert is there, dressed as Hamlet. His back is to us.

GILBERT
Don't leave now! The performance has
just begun!

He turns to Anna and...his head is a SKELETON HEAD! Anna
runs in a THIRD direction. This takes her to...the ELEVATOR.
There's no where else to run. She's trapped. When she turns
back, she SEES:

MISS PARTRIDGE stands there, looking as cross as ever.
Slowly, Miss Partridge walks toward Anna.

MISS PARTRIDGE
You are a bad girl. A very bad girl.

Anna backs away in fear. Her back hits the closed elevator
doors and instantly...DING! Anna spins to look at the doors
as they SLIDE OPEN. But there is NO ELEVATOR, only an empty
shaft. Anna looks DOWN to SEE:

ANGLE: ANNA'S POV. IT'S A LOOOONG WAY DOWN! SHE DROPS
HER BACKPACK AND IT FALLS ALL THE WAY DOWN.

*
*

Anna turns back. Miss Partridge advances and lets out an
EVIL LAUGH. Anna's heels are right on the edge of the
elevator shaft. She looks over her shoulder at the long
drop. This is not good.

*

FADE OUT:

ACT FOUR

68 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 7TH FLOOR - (CONTINUOUS) 68

Anna teeters on the edge of the elevator shaft as Miss Partridge advances on her, laughing evilly.

69 EXT. HOTEL GROUNDS - (CONTINUOUS) 69

Q is working on another car. He tries to start it, but it won't turn over.

Q
(Frustrated)
C'mon dude! Gimme a break!

Buzzy leans in to him.

BUZZY
Where's Anna?

Q shrugs. Buzzy looks around, worried.

70 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 7TH FLOOR - (CONTINUOUS) 70

Miss Partridge raises her hands as if to push Anna.

ANNA
I...I'm not afraid you old witch!

Suddenly, Miss Partridge stops.

MISS PARTRIDGE
Go away girl! Leave us alone!

With that, Miss Partridge VANISHES! Behind her, standing alone in the hallway, is SALLY SHINE.

SALLY
You want to help us?

ANNA
Y...yeah!

SALLY
Can you fix the elevator?

ANNA
Elevator? Why do you...?

SALLY

We have to get to the party.

With that, Sally VANISHES. Stunned, Anna can't move for a moment, then she gathers her wits and RUNS OFF.

CUT TO:

71 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (SHORTLY AFTER)

71

Anna blasts through the lobby, headed for the front door.

72 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT DOOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)

72

Buzzy is looking for Anna. Anna comes running out of the hotel, frantic.

ANNA

I talked to them! I talked to the
ghosts!

*

BUZZY

You went in there alone!?!

Anna takes him by the hand and pulls him toward the hotel.

ANNA

It's the elevator! C'mon!

She pulls Buzzy into the hotel.

CUT TO:

73 EXT. WESTCHESTER SANITARIUM GROUNDS - DAY

73

It's a beautiful, sunny day. Patients stroll the grounds, some with nurses. Though it's an institution, the colorful flower beds and wide stretches of grass look inviting.

DR. DANIELS hurries out of the building. He's in his 50's and a bundle of nervous energy that comes from having too much to do and not enough time to do it. He greets...

Jill Whitman, who is waiting outside.

DR. DANIELS

Ms. Whitman? I'm Dr. Daniels,
Supervising Psychiatrist here at
Westchester.

They shake hands.

JILL
Hello. You didn't have to come out.

DR. DANIELS
But this is an occasion! Abigail
NEVER gets visitors. You're a friend?

JILL
Uhhh, we have mutual friends.
(Holds up a wrapped
gift)
It's her birthday, right?

*
*
*
*

DR. DANIELS
I didn't know! That's wonderful!

He motions for Jill to follow him and they stroll off.

DR. DANIELS
(continuing)
And how is the dear girl adjusting?

JILL
Adjusting?

DR. DANIELS
She's been here for quite some time.
It was only recently I thought her
—well enough to venture off the
property alone.

JILL
Just...HOW long has she been here?

DR. DANIELS
Let me think...I believe she first
arrived in summer, no it was spring...

JILL
Last spring?

DR. DANIELS
(Laughing)
Heaven's no! The spring of 1940!

Jill holds back her shock and the two stroll off.

CUT TO:

74 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 8TH FLOOR - DAY74

Buzzy and Anna poke their heads around a corner.

ANNA

Carolyn Crosson was in room 813.

They sneak out and creep cautiously down the hall.

BUZZY

Why does she want the elevator fixed?

ANNA

To get to the party.

BUZZY

Aren't they a little late?

They stop at Room 813. Gulp.

75 INT. HOTEL, CAROLYN CROSSON'S SUITE (CONTINUOUS)75

The door CREEEKS open and Buzzy and Anna creep in. THE ROOM is larger than Gilbert's. It's more of a suite. Next to the vanity is a WREATH OF DEAD FLOWERS with a yellowed "GOOD LUCK" ribbon around it. Next to it is a tarnished CHAMPAGNE BUCKET. The CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE is still in it...unopened. Buzzy SNAPS a few pictures.

BUZZY

It's like a crypt.

ANNA

We gotta find something that belonged to her.

Anna steps up to the vanity where LADIES TOILETRIES are spread out. Buzzy picks up the champagne bottle.

BUZZY

Does this count?

Anna picks up a tarnished old LOCKET, and opens it. What she SEES inside makes her eyes grow WIDE WITH SHOCK.

ANNA

(Stunned)

Uncle Buzzy? You better look at this.

Buzzy puts the champagne back in the bucket and walks to Anna. CAMERA HOLDS on the champagne. It starts to SHAKE.

Buzzy takes the locket from Anna and looks at it. He goes white. The two look to each other, stunned.

BUZZY
This is a joke, right?

POP! The champagne cork SHOOTs out of the bottle and bubbly pours out. Buzzy and Anna grab each other for support.

GILBERT (O.S.)
I assure you old man...

Gilbert MATERIALIZES next to the bucket. He's back in his tuxedo, but it's seedy and old. He lifts the champagne from the bucket and pours himself a glass.

GILBERT
...this is no joke.

Then, Dewey MATERIALIZES.

DEWEY
Hey! We were saving that!

GILBERT
Oh DO shut up fat boy.

He takes a sip as Sally MATERIALIZES.

SALLY
Don't call him fat boy!

GILBERT
Please child, go somewhere and tap something.

They take off on a 3-way argument, with Dewey upset that Gilbert opened the champagne, Sally defending Dewey, and Gilbert wanting them all to leave him alone.

Buzzy and Anna continue to hug each other, watching in shock.

CAROLYN (O.S.)
Stop!
(The arguing stops)
We're making a bad impression.

GILBERT
And I suppose you're going to make a grand entrance now.

Dewey, Gilbert and Sally step back as CAROLYN CROSSON MATERIALIZES in the room. She's dressed in the same evening gown she wore the night of the accident. Like Gilbert's tuxedo, it too is old and worn. Anna and Buzzy stare at her in open mouthed shock. We only SEE her from behind. She slowly walks toward Buzzy and Anna.

CAROLYN

Carolyn Crosson is my real name.

She holds her hand out to Anna for the locket.

ANGLE: ECU ON THE LOCKET. THERE ARE TWO PICTURES INSIDE. ONE IS OF GILBERT, THE OTHER IS...CLAIRE!

CAROLYN

My stage name is...Claire Poulet.

~~REVEAL that Carolyn Crosson is indeed, Claire Poulet.~~

CAROLYN/CLAIRE

And maybe I'm not such a bad actress after all.

Buzzy and Anna stare at her in shock. Claire is a ghost!

CUT TO:

76 INT. CORRIDOR OF SANITARIUM - DAY

76

Jill and Dr. Daniels round a corner. It's more like an institutional apartment building than a hospital.

JILL

She lived her whole life here?

DR. DANIELS

Since she was ten.

JILL

Why?

DR. DANIELS

Let's just say the accident had a profound effect on her.

They arrive at a door. Dr. Daniels knocks.

DR. DANIELS
(continuing)
Abigail, you have a birthday visitor.
(No answer)
She must be out. I would be too
after 60 years.

JILL
Could I leave the gift inside?

Daniels thinks, then shrugs. He takes out a set of keys and opens the door.

77 INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM AT SANITARIUM (CONTINUOUS)

77

The room is institutional, but cozy. Abigail has made it a home with curtains, slipcovers, and simple artwork.

Jill and Daniels step in. Jill takes in every detail.

JILL
What accident?

DR. DANIELS
You know...THE accident, when Sally
Shine disappeared. That's when her
troubles began.

JILL
Why did it effect her? Was she a big
fan or something?

DR. DANIELS
Ms. Whitman, Abigail was Sally
Shine's sister.

Jill's knees go weak. She half falls half-sits in a chair.

JILL
Her SISTER?

BEEP BEEP BEEP. Daniel's beeper sounds. He turns it off.

DR. DANIELS
Oh what now? I'll be back.

Daniels exits. Jill is left alone, stunned.

CUT TO:

78 INT. HOTEL, CAROLYN CROSSON'S SUITE (DIRECTLY AFTER) - DA

Buzzy and Anna huddle together in fear and amazement.

CAROLYN

I'm sorry I fooled you, but I had to know why you were here.

GILBERT

Oh be honest, you were infatuated.

(To Buzzy)

It was the flower you put in the vase, old man. Very sensitive.

Gilbert has a real Jeremy Irons/Peter O'Toole thing going. Carolyn turns to him angrily.

CAROLYN

I thought he could help us.

GILBERT

You thought he was cute.

DEWEY

(Whiney)

He wants to tell people about us Carolyn! In the newspaper! We'll be like zoo animals!

GILBERT

Thanks to you!

DEWEY

For the one-millionth time, it wasn't my fault! I don't know what happened.

He sits down, pouting. Sally pats him on the back.

SALLY

We know it wasn't your fault, Dewey.

DEWEY

(Whining)

Oh maybe it was. I don't know.

(To Buzzy/Anna)

I had one job, to run the elevator, and I couldn't even do THAT right.

GILBERT
The truth hurts, doesn't it?

CAROLYN
Gilbert!
(Then to Buzzy/Anna)
We don't KNOW the truth. We were in
the elevator, there was a flash of
light and...and...

GILBERT
And here we are. All dressed up and
no place to go. Cheers!

He drinks some champagne, but it SPILLS on the floor. He's
a GHOST after all.

GILBERT
(continuing)
Oops. Pity.

SALLY
I was gonna see my family at the
party.

GILBERT
And I had a most important engagement.

CAROLYN
And I was going to be on stage for
the first time. Singing. But none
of us made it and we don't know why.

The ghosts fall silent. The truth DOES hurt. Buzzy and Anna
are stunned. Then, Anna gets brave.

ANNA
W...we know why.

Gilbert, Carolyn, Dewey and Sally look at her with surprise.
Anna stands, gaining confidence.

ANNA
(continuing)
It was Miss Partridge.

GILBERT/DEWEY/CAROLYN
(Confused)
What? What do you mean? How? ETC.

MISS PARTRIDGE (O.S.)
DID SOMEBODY CALL MY NAME?

Suddenly, Miss Partridge MATERIALIZES, looking more stern than ever. Anna backs toward her Uncle, hugging him.

CUT TO:

79 INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM AT SANITARIUM - DAY

79

Jill snoops around Abigail's room. She sees a small table with a scarf over it. She kneels down and pulls away the scarf to REVEAL: A large, old STEAMER TRUNK.

CUT TO:

80 INT. HOTEL, CAROLYN CROSSON'S SUITE (DIRECTLY AFTER)

80

Miss Partridge stands with arms folded.

MISS PARTRIDGE

I thought we scared them off?

GILBERT

We tried. Carolyn keeps intervening.

Anna can't take it anymore. She jumps to her feet.

ANNA

It was YOU, you old witch!

Buzzy stands and tries to pull Anna back.

BUZZY

Okay, shhh, don't tick her off...

Anna pulls away from Buzzy. She's angry.

ANNA

We know all about your Black Magic!
You cast a spell on Sally cuz you
hated her but it backfired and you
ALL got zapped! It was YOU Miss
Partridge! It's YOUR fault
everyone's trapped here!

Buzzy pulls Anna back protectively. Miss Partridge stares down at Anna. What will she do? Lash out? Scream? Cast another spell? After a beat, Sally runs over to Miss Partridge and hugs her. Partridge hugs her back.

MISS PARTRIDGE

I don't know where you came up with that fairy story lass, but I couldn't love Sally more if she were me own daughter. I protected her in life and I'll continue until I get her back safe with her parents.

Miss Partridge has a slight Irish Brogue. For the first time, she comes off as a sweet old woman.

DEWEY

Emmaline wouldn't hurt Sally.

CAROLYN

Of course not!

GILBERT

She's a crusty old dame but she loves the girl. Can't imagine why.

Anna and Buzzy exchange confused glances.

BUZZY

So...if she didn't, who DID?

CUT TO:

81 INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM AT SANITARIUM - DAY

81

Jill has Abigail's steamer trunk open. While listening for Dr. Daniel's return, she picks through the contents. Most of the stuff inside is typical old-lady junk: Books, crocheted items, perfumes, a puzzle, etc.

She's about to close the trunk, when she SEES something odd. There's a TEAR inside the lid. She examines it curiously. When she PULLS on it, the lid moves! Jill pulls harder, and the lid comes out. It's a SECRET COMPARTMENT!

The entire contents of the compartment spill on to the floor. It was jam-packed with PICTURES, dozens of pictures...all of Sally Shine. They've been cut from newspapers, magazines and books. They're black & white and color, glossy and newsprint. Some are old and yellowed, others look fairly new.

But, what Jill SEES, makes her blood run cold. ALL of them are DEFACED. They're slashed, and cut and scribbled on. The words "HATE" "SUFFER" and "PAIN" are scrawled over the pictures. Jill sifts through them in horror. This is the work of a deeply disturbed person.

Finally, Jill picks up a small DOLL that fell from the compartment. It's a kewpie-size "Sally Shine" doll, complete with the pinafore dress and curly hair. However, the doll's HEAD has nearly been cut off. It hangs by a thread.

CUT TO:

82 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT GATE - DAY

82

Abigail holds on to the wrought iron gates, staring up at the hotel with a crazed look. Slowly, she begins to laugh. It's an evil, knowing laugh that tells us she isn't the sweet old woman she pretended to be.

FADE OUT:

ACT FIVE

83 INT. ABIGAIL'S ROOM AT SANITARIUM (CONTINUOUS) - DAY 83

Jill continues to scan through the "hate" items from the trunk. She quickly stuffs some of them in her jacket as...The DOOR OPENS and Dr. Daniels returns.

DR. DANIELS

What are you doing? You can't go through someone's...

(Registers pictures)

Oh my!

He looks at the pictures, his horror rising.

JILL

Did you know about these?

DR. DANIELS

(Flustered)

I...I knew Abigail still had some issues to work out but...

JILL

Issues? You call these ISSUES?
She's CRAZY!

Dr. Daniels backs away, horrified. His mind is racing.

DR. DANIELS

(Nervous)

This is...disturbing. I never would have released her if I knew she was still...

(Focuses on Jill)

Give me those!

He lunges at Jill, grabbing at the photos.

DR. DANIELS

(continuing)

I'll deny everything! If you tell anyone I'll have you arrested for trespassing.

*
*

Dr. Daniels now holds all the photos.

JILL

Is she dangerous?

Daniels looks at the defaced photos, and swallows hard.

DR. DANIELS
(Sober)

Off the record? You tell me.

Jill looks at the mangled photos with dread.

CUT TO:

84 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (SHORTLY AFTER) - DAY

84

*

Buzzy uses a crowbar to pry open the elevator doors. Anna, Gilbert, Carolyn, Dewey, Miss Partridge watch. With a final PULL the doors OPEN. Buzzy leans in and looks UP the shaft.

ANGLE: THE ELEVATOR CAN BE SEEN SEVERAL FLOORS ABOVE.

BUZZY
It's up there alright.

DEWEY
It's stuck on 14, one floor short.

MISS PARTRIDGE
If we could just get to the party the curse would be broken and...

BUZZY
Uhh...guys. The party's been over for sixty years.

GILBERT
You're wrong old man. The party never ended.

MISS PARTRIDGE
We hear it every Halloween. They're waiting for us.

SALLY
But we can't get to it cuz the elevator's stuck.

DEWEY
We tried the stairs, but we can't get past fourteen. It's like a curse.

*

MISS PARTRIDGE
Then at 8:05 the party ends, until the next year. It's torture.

The ghosts fall silent. They feel it's hopeless. Buzzy looks to them, then to Anna. He thinks, then...

BUZZY
So let's fix it.

SALLY
Really?

ANNA
How?

Buzzy looks back up the shaft. His mind racing.

BUZZY
How hard could it be?

ANNA
You know about elevators?

BUZZY
No, but...
(An idea)
I'll bet Q does!

MISS PARTRIDGE
Q?

BUZZY
(Growing excitement)
Dewey's grandson. He knows the building, he's a mechanic.

GILBERT
We're doomed.

DEWEY
No we're not! Q can do it!

MISS PARTRIDGE
But it must be tonight! Halloween!

BUZZY
Then Q's all we've got.

GILBERT
We ARE doomed.

A beat. Then Carolyn walks up to Buzzy.

CAROLYN
I thought you didn't care about moldy
old ghosts you didn't know.

BUZZY
(With a shrug)
But now I know you.

CAROLYN
Is this about your story?

Buzzy looks to Anna. Anna waits for his response.

BUZZY
(Sincere)
No, I want to help you. I really do.

Anna smiles in relief. So does Carolyn. She backs off to
join the others.

CAROLYN
Then I was right about you after all.

BUZZY
Uhh...what ever happened to the
actress I hired?

CAROLYN
(Sly smile)
I scared her off. I AM a ghost.

DEWEY/PARTRIDGE/SALLY/CAROLYN
Good luck Buzzy. Thank you lad. Etc.

Then, they all VANISH.

BUZZY
That really freaks me out.

Anna gives Buzzy their SPECIAL HANDSHAKE.

ANNA
You are wicked great...and we're
wasting time!

She runs off. Buzzy is surprised at her "take charge" style,
but shrugs and heads after her.

SMASH CUT TO:

85 INT. BUZZY'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - LATER THAT DAY85

Q spreads out ancient schematics of the hotel on the kitchen table. Buzzy and Anna look on with him.

Q
One word...forget it!

ANNA
Why?

Q
The breakers are ancient, the cables are fried and there hasn't been power there for sixty years!

BUZZY
All fixable.

Q
By who? Me? I'm a car mechanic! A BAD one! This is...this is...hard.

BUZZY
(Encouraging)
But you're Q! The man who can get anything. You're smart, you're resourceful...

Q
I'm a fake! They tossed me out of the Army cuz I was useless. You got the wrong guy.

Q starts for the door but Buzzy heads him off.

BUZZY
But if you pull this off the mystery would be solved and the hotel would be yours. Cha-ching!

Q thinks on this. The idea is appealing. But...

Q
I'm sorry man, I'm too scared to even go IN that place.

ANNA
But the ghosts are cool!

BUZZY
And we'll be with you.

Q
No way, I can't.

ANNA
Dewey thinks you CAN.

Q
He does?

BUZZY
He's your grandfather, Q. He's
counting on you.

Q looks between the two, then walks back to the schematics.

Q
Couldn't they take the service
elevator? They fire that up once a
year. It's in WAY better shape...

ANNA
No, it's gotta be the main elevator.

Q looks at the schematics, thinks, then looks to Buzzy.

Q
You'll be with me, right?

BUZZY/ANNA
Yes! Alright! Excellent!

DING DONG! It's the doorbell.

BUZZY
Abigail! Wait'll she hears THIS!

He EXITS.

86 INT. BUZZY'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM (CONTINUOUS)

86

Buzzy hurries to the door and opens it. Instantly, Jill
blasts in. She's out of breath and excited.

JILL
You are a strange man!

*

BUZZY
Hi Jill, how are you?

The roles have reversed. Jill is charged up.

JILL
Why didn't you tell me the REAL story?

BUZZY
Uhh...what real story?

JILL
That Abigail Gregory was Sally
Shine's sister, you doofus!

Buzzy is rocked. Anna pokes her head out of the kitchen.

ANNA
WHAT?!?

Buzzy is so stunned he has to sit down. Q watches from the kitchen doorway.

JILL
I traced her to the sanitarium where
she's been a "guest" for the last
sixty years...did you know today's
her birthday? *

BUZZY
Uh, yeah, I...

JILL
— Well Happy Birthday, look what I
found.

She hands Buzzy some of the "hate" photos. Buzzy and Anna
look at them, stunned.

JILL
(continuing)
She's a demento who was big-time
jealous of her little sister. Think
about it. Sally's more popular now
than ever! It probably made her even
MORE nuts. *
(Holds out doll)
Nice, huh? *

Anna looks at the items. She and Buzzy are in shock.

ANNA
So, everything she said was a lie?

BUZZY
(Stunned)
How did I miss this?

JILL
You didn't know?

BUZZY
Well I...uh...

JILL
Doesn't matter. You've got a story
here, a TRUE story. Where is she? *

BUZZY
I...I don't know.

Buzzy is still dazed. Jill pulls him to his feet.

JILL
Then here's what you do. Go to the
sanitarium and get a statement...

ANNA
Uncle Buzzy...?

JILL
...then write up the story and have
it on my desk by eight for the wire.

This gets Buzzy's attention.

BUZZY
Whoa, wait. You'll run it in the
Herald?

JILL
(With a smile)
Welcome back pardner.

BUZZY
YESSS!

Buzzy grabs Jill and kisses her. He's through-the-roof
excited. He runs around, searching for something.

ANNA
Uncle Buzzy we got stuff to do!

BUZZY
I'm back! I'm back! Where's my
laptop?

ANNA
UNCLE BUZZY!

Buzzy stops and focuses on Anna.

ANNA
(continuing; hurt)
What are you doing?

Buzzy comes back down to earth. He looks to Jill, then to Anna and Q. This is a dilemma.

BUZZY
(To Jill)
Could we do this tomorrow?

JILL
Tomorrow? Why sure Buzzy! You waited five years for another chance, why NOT put it off? I'll call you.

She heads for the door but...

BUZZY
Wait.

Jill stops. Buzzy is dying. He kneels down in front of Anna and takes her hands.

BUZZY
(continuing)
— I'll come as soon as I can.

Tears of disappointment start to well in Anna's eyes.

ANNA
It'll be too late! At 8:05...

BUZZY
I can't help it...

ANNA
But you promised!

BUZZY
Anna, I've waited a long time for another chance...

ANNA
(Holding back tears)
What about them? They've waited sixty years!

BUZZY
I'm sorry.

Anna holds back tears. Buzzy stands and heads for the door.

ANNA
You lied.

Buzzy stops. Anna is livid, and hurt.

ANNA
(continuing)
You said you wanted to help them, but
you lied.

BUZZY
I didn't...

ANNA
Yes you did! I guess the truth
DOESN'T matter to you.

She takes off the NECKLACE Buzzy gave her.

ANGLE: ANNA DROPS HER NECKLACE ON THE TABLE.

Buzzy is in pain. He shares eye-contact with Anna, then
EXITS with Jill. Q walks up to Anna.

Q
I'm not goin' in there without him.

Anna wipes her last tear.

ANNA
Yes you are, we're still doin' it!

She grabs him by the hand and pulls him toward the door.
They EXIT. CAMERA MOVES across the room until it SETTLES on
a CLOSED CLOSET DOOR. SLOWLY the door CREEEEKS open and
someone walks out. It's Abigail! We follow her as she walks
across the room to the Book of Souls. On top of the book are
the five items...Sally's curl, Dewey's cap, Gilbert's comb,
Miss Partridge's hankie and Carolyn's locket. Abigail picks
up the book with the items on top, holds it out, and LAUGHS.

FADE OUT:

ACT SIX

87 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT 87

Night. The hotel is dark...a black cut-out against the bright neon lights of Hollywood.

88 EXT. HOTEL, FRONT GATE (DIRECTLY AFTER) 88

Anna paces nervously. Q eats walnuts.

ANNA

The power company's cool, right?
There's no problem? *

Q

Check with me again in...
(Checks watch)
...4...3...2...ONE.

They turn to look at the hotel. The giant "HOLLYWOOD TOWER HOTEL" sign on top of the building flickers to life for the first time in 60 years.

89 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS) 89

Electric bulbs flicker and burn bright, casting warm light over the dusty lobby.

90 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 2ND FLOOR (CONTINUOUS) 90

The wall sconces flicker back to life. The hotel is alive.

91 EXT. HOTEL FRONT GATE (CONTINUOUS) 91

Q and Anna stare up at the building in amazement.

Q

We have liftoff.

CUT TO:

92 INT. JILL'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES HERALD - NIGHT 92

Buzzy sits at Jill's desk, writing on a laptop computer. Jill bursts in with some papers.

JILL

Look what I found.

She drops the papers on the desk.

ANGLE: THE B&W PHOTO IS OF TWO GIRLS, CIRCA 1938. IT'S SALLY SHINE AND YOUNG ABIGAIL.

JILL
Sally and Abigail. 1938. Long-lost
sister discovered.

BUZZY
I'm not feeling so hot about this.
I promised Anna...

JILL
Buzzy! Stop with the ghost stories
and WRITE!

She leaves. Buzzy does NOT look happy. Something is
bothering him. Is it his conscience?

CUT TO:

93 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (SHORTLY AFTER) - NIGHT

93

Anna enters first, lugging a tool box and the schematics.
It's heavy. If Buzzy were here it would be much easier. She
drops it and turns back to the door.

ANNA
Come on! It's okay!

Q reluctantly walks in carrying some cable and more tools.
He's scared to death. He starts to whistle. Then...

DEWEY (O.S.)
Grandson?

Q JUMPS and spins to SEE: Dewey stands behind him. Q
SCREAMS, drops the cable and cowers behind Anna. With a kind
smile, Dewey walks up to them.

DEWEY
Why didn't you ever come in?

Q shrugs, but we know why. He was too scared...like right
now. Q can't take it. He bolts for the door but...

DEWEY
(continuing)
Wait!

Q stops and reluctantly looks to the ghost.

DEWEY

(continuing)

When I was alive, there wasn't much I did that turned out right. Pop would've let me run this hotel, but I couldn't even run the elevator.

Q starts to soften, and listen.

DEWEY

(continuing)

Now I finally got the chance to do something right, but I need your help.

(Pause)

What'dya say?

Q stands up straight. His fear is melting away. He looks to Anna. Anna gives him an encouraging smile. Then...

Q

I say let's get this party started.

Dewey smiles. So does Anna. Q and Anna grab the tools.

CUT TO:

94 INT. JILL'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES HERALD - NIGHT

94

Buzzy is at the computer, but he can't concentrate. He stares at the photo of Sally Shine and Abigail. Jill is on a portable phone, pacing.

JILL

I love you! Check the wire at eight.

(Hangs up)

Tonight's your night. AP's on board.

BUZZY

(Concerned)

Why did Abigail make up that witchcraft stuff?

JILL

Because she's a LOON!

BUZZY

But she was so specific...about the book and the identifiers and...

JILL

Rational behavior does not come from irrational people. You can quote me.

Suddenly, Buzzy jumps up and heads for the door.

JILL
(continuing)
Where are you going?

BUZZY
To the sanitarium.

JILL
You have to finish the story!!

BUZZY
I know.

He exits. Jill isn't sure of what to do, so she follows.

CUT TO:

95 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM - NIGHT 95

FLASH! SPARK! Q dives back from the ancient circuit-breaker panel. He threw the breakers and they short-circuited. Smoke fills the room. Q huddles next to Anna and Dewey.

ANNA
That can't be good.

Q
It's these old breakers. I gotta jury-rig new ones.

DEWEY
Then do it.

Q
Can't you take the service elevator?

Dewey shrugs and shakes his head. Q thinks, then throws open his toolbox.

CUT TO:

96 INT. JILL'S CAR - NIGHT 96

Jill drives. Buzzy is deep in thought.

JILL
You're going to miss the deadline.

Buzzy looks at his watch.

BUZZY

I wonder if they got the power on.

Obviously, his mind is on events at the hotel. Exasperated, Jill continues to drive.

CUT TO:

97 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

97

The lobby is empty. Then, someone creeps in wearing a dark cloak and carrying a black bag. The person hugs the walls, trying not to be seen. The person hides behind a pillar and removes the hood of the cloak. It's ABIGAIL. She scans the lobby as if dark memories were flooding back, then gets an evil gleam in her eye and creeps off.

CUT TO:

98 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM - NIGHT

98

The breaker box is now jury-rigged with wires and clamps.

Q

Banzai!

He throws the main breaker switch and....POOF! Another flash of light and blast of smoke. Sparks fly.

Q

(continuing)

This is hopeless, man!

DEWEY

You're doing fine. Try again.

Q looks to Dewey, then with new resolve he jumps back in.

CAMERA MOVES away from him to SEE: The door leading to the rest of the basement is open. Abigail peeks her head around the corner, then covers up with the cloak and sneaks past.

CUT TO:

99 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

99

The SPEAKER behind the front desk crackles and comes to life. The sound of BIG BAND MUSIC comes through.

Gilbert, Carolyn, Miss Partridge and Sally APPEAR. They step up to the desk and look at the speaker.

SALLY
It's the party.

GILBERT
We're not going to make it by 8:05.

CAROLYN
Where is Buzzy?

CUT TO:

100 INT. JILL'S CAR - NIGHT

100

Jill drives. Buzzy looks anguished.

BUZZY
Why did she want that book?

JILL
Who knows? She's nuts, maybe she
thinks she's a witch.

Uh oh. The blood drains from Buzzy's face. His mind races.
It's all coming to him in a sudden rush of realization.

BUZZY
No, no, NO! Turn around!

JILL
What?

BUZZY
TURN AROUND, NOW!

Buzzy leans over, grabs the wheel, and spins.

101 EXT. CITY STREET (CONTINUOUS)

101

Jill's car does a death-defying U-turn in the middle of the
busy street, barely missing other cars.

102 INT. JILL'S CAR (CONTINUOUS)

102

Jill fights for control of the wheel.

JILL
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU???

BUZZY
We gotta get to the hotel!

JILL
Why???

BUZZY
Miss Partridge didn't cast the spell,
ABIGAIL did...and she's gonna do it
again, TONIGHT!

CUT TO:

103 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP - NIGHT 103

Abigail lights a candle. The workshop table is set up EXACTLY as it was sixty years ago. Dozens of candles burn. Abigail lays out the five "identifiers"

CUT TO:

104 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT 104

The Big Band Music continues to play. Gilbert walks to Carolyn and offers his hand. Carolyn hesitates, then smiles and stands. The two dance to the old-time serenade.

CUT TO:

105 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM - NIGHT 105

Q works frantically to re-wire the breaker box. He checks his watch. Anna and Dewey exchange worried looks.

CUT TO:

106 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP - NIGHT 106

Abigail holds the Book of Souls. The ceremony begins...

ABIGAIL
I call forth the might of the starry
realm to once again bring fire energy
to pierce the night.

CUT TO:

107 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT 107

Like in 1939. Storm clouds begin to brew in the night sky.

108 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT 108

Gilbert and Carolyn are still dancing, but stop when they HEAR...THUNDER. They look up.

MISS PARTRIDGE
The storm. It's back!

CUT TO:

109 INT. JILL'S CAR - NIGHT

109

JILL
(Ticked)
You blew it. I got you back in the
game and you just...blew it.

BUZZY
Faster!

Buzzy jams his foot down on the accelerator and the car
lurches forward.

110 EXT. CITY STREET (CONTINUOUS)

110

Jill's car flashes down the road.

CUT TO:

111 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

111

The dark clouds are gathering over the hotel.

CUT TO:

112 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM - NIGHT

112

Q works feverishly on his re-wiring.

DEWEY
It's getting late grandson.

Q
Anna, get my large wire cutters.

Anna runs for the door.

113 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)

113

Another TOOLBOX is open next to the elevator. Anna runs up
to it. But then, something catches her attention. Across
the basement, a STRANGE LIGHT glows from the open door to the
workshop. Huh? Curiously, Anna goes to investigate.

114 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS)

114

Abigail is at the workbench, performing her spell.

ABIGAIL

It is the midnight hour of ancient
power. Dark light of the underworld,
be my guide.

Anna sneaks in to the workshop, keeping to the shadows and
watching Abigail in wonder.

ABIGAIL

(continuing)

What was then, will now be again. I
summon the black forces to turn back
the clock and complete our revenge.

Instantly FOUR CANDLES magically ignite.

CUT TO:

115 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)

115

DING...DING...DING! The ghosts all look up at the clock
behind the front desk to SEE: The hands, long stuck on 8:05,
wind BACKWARDS until they come to rest on 7:45.

116 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM (CONTINUOUS) 116

Dewey throws the breaker switch. With a loud GRIND, and then *
a HUMMMM...the gears to the elevator begin to turn. Dewey *
and Q watch in wonder. *

117 OMITTED

117 *

AND

AND

118

118

119 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)

119

The elevator begins to descend TOWARD CAMERA!

120 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM (CONTINUOUS) 120

Q runs around the machine room, inspecting the moving cables.

Q

It's comin' down! IT'S COMIN' DOWN!

DEWEY

You did it grandson!

121 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)121

Sally runs to the closed doors of the elevator to SEE: The floor indicator arrow is moving down.

SALLY
It's coming!

The others join her and stare up at the indicator.

GILBERT
The idiot's grandson isn't an idiot!

122 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS)122

Anna watches in horror as Abigail holds the five "identifiers".

ABIGAIL
Strike them down, one and all, and
cast their souls to the underworld of
eternal misery.

ANNA
STOP!

Anna jumps out from her hiding place to confront Abigail. Abigail spins to her in surprise.

ANNA
(continuing)
It was you! You cast the spell!

ABIGAIL
This is none of your business child.

ANNA
Don't do it Abigail, please.

ABIGAIL
But it's done. The spell is cast and
the elevator will crash, just the way
it was supposed to sixty years ago.

*
*

She laughs evilly. Abigail is truly a nutbag.

123 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (SHORTLY AFTER)123

Dewey runs in, buttoning his bellhop jacket. The others are waiting in front of the elevator. Dewey walks right up to Gilbert and looks him in the eye.

DEWEY
What do you say now, smart guy?

124 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (DIRECTLY AFTER) 124

Abigail holds up the final "identifier" It's the lock of Sally's Shine's hair. She laughs.

ANNA
I'm not gonna let you do it.

Anna turns and runs for the door. *

125 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (DIRECTLY AFTER) 125

The floor indicator hits "L". DING! The ghosts look to the doors with anticipation. Then, the doors slide open to REVEAL: THE ELEVATOR. It's old and dusty like the rest of the hotel, but it's here. The ghosts exchange nervous glances. Dewey straightens his cap, stands up tall, and enters. He takes his position at the controls.

DEWEY
Going up!

The other ghosts smile, and step on board.

126 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 126

Jill's car screams up and skids to a stop. Buzzy and Jill jump out and head for the hotel.

127 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS) 127

The Ghosts are on the elevator in the same positions they took sixty years ago.

DEWEY
Everybody set?

GILBERT
Get on with it!!!

Suddenly, Anna comes running into the lobby.

ANNA
STOP! DON'T CLOSE THE DOOR!

At that instant, Buzzy and Jill run into the lobby.

BUZZY

ANNA?

The elevator doors start to close and...SALLY JUMPS OUT!

SALLY

Anna?

ANNA

Stop the elevator!

Anna jumps on the elevator just as the doors slide shut!

128 OMITTED

AND

129

128

AND

129

*

Buzzy and Jill run up to the closed elevator doors. Buzzy pounds on the door in frustration and anger.

BUZZY

ANNA???

JILL

What is happening?

BUZZY

History's gonna repeat itself, and my niece is along for the ride.

They look up. CAMERA MOVES to the floor-indicator arrow. It's rising.

FADE OUT:

ACT SEVEN130 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)130

The floor indicator continues to rise.

JILL

Buzzy, what is going on?

(Spots Sally)

Trick or treat, right?

Q runs up.

Q

I did it! It's running...

(Sees Sally)

Whoa, 'nother ghost! Hey why aren't
you on board???

Buzzy looks to Sally, his mind racing. He then takes off running toward the basement. Sally follows. Q and Jill follow, confused. CAMERA MOVES to the CLOCK behind the front desk. The time...7:55.

131 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)131

Anna grabs the control handle, trying to stop the elevator.

ANNA

It's gonna crash! We gotta stop it!

The ghosts exchange confused, and scared glances. Dewey tries the handle, but the elevator continues to rise.

132 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, SERVICE ELEVATOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)132

Buzzy runs through, headed for the workshop.

133 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)133

Dewey slams the handle. The elevator grinds to a STOP.

DEWEY

I got it!

134 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)134

But the creekly old elevator starts to move up again.

135 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)

135

DEWEY
I don't got it!

Gilbert pushes Dewey out of the way and tries the handle.

136 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (DIRECTLY AFTER)

136

BANG! The door flies open and Buzzy runs in, followed by Q and Jill, but NOT SALLY.

BUZZY
Abigail! Stop it!

Abigail guards the table, Buzzy, Jill and Q stand opposite.

ABIGAIL
Why would I stop it? I've waited my whole life for this!

Q
But lady, she's your SISTER!

JILL
Somebody wanna fill me in here?

ABIGAIL
(Venomous)
You don't understand. No one understands. She was everyone's sweetheart. They all loved her. Even I loved her...
(Pause)
...but no one cared that Sally Shine had a big sister. No...I couldn't sing...I couldn't dance. Even our Nanny ignored me...
(Tears of emotion well)
...and it was my birthday! No one even knew because all that mattered was Sally! Always...Sally.

*

BUZZY
So you got rid of her.

ABIGAIL
(Laughs through tears)
But I didn't! I made her a legend!
(more)

*

*

ABIGAIL (cont'd)
 She's been everywhere, haunting me
 for 60 years...but not anymore.

SALLY (O.S.)
 Buzzy?

They all look to the door to see Sally standing there.

SALLY
 Whose that?

Abigail freezes in shock. It's the first time she's seen
 Sally in 60 years.

137 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS) 137

The minute hand moves on the clock. The time: 7:59.

138 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 138

The old elevator rises very slowly with fits and starts.

139 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 139

The scared group stares at the floor indicator. 5...6...

140 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (DIRECTLY AFTER) 140

Sally walks up to the group. Abigail stares at her in
 horror, and shame. She doesn't know what to do.

SALLY
 (To Abigail)
 Do you know my sister?

Abigail can't respond. She's controlling a panic.

Q
 Whoa, this is freaky.

JILL
 Yeah tell me about it.

BUZZY
 (Thinking fast)
 Sally, what would you tell Abigail if
 she were here?

SALLY
 I'd tell her...I'm sorry.

Abigail flinches. She's confused. Buzzy pushes.

BUZZY
Sorry for what?

BUZZY
(continuing)
For not getting to her birthday party.

ABIGAIL
(Confused)
B...birthday party?

SALLY
It was a surprise.

Q
Whoa! The big party upstairs was for
Abigail?

Abigail is in a panic. She starts to cry.

ABIGAIL
I...I didn't know! I thought...

BUZZY
You loved Abby, didn't you?

SALLY
Sure. Abby was my best friend. She
didn't care that I was a star.

This is like a knife in Abigail's heart.

ABIGAIL
Oh don't say that!

Sally takes a BRACELET off of her wrist and holds it out.

SALLY
I even kept her birthday present.

Buzzy takes the bracelet from Sally and looks at it.

ANGLE: IT'S A CHARM BRACELET WITH TWO CHARMS. THEY'RE
GOLDEN HEARTS. ONE ENGRAVED "SALLY", THE OTHER "ABIGAIL".

SALLY
It was supposed to mean we'd always
be together, but I never got to the
party to give it to her.
(more)

SALLY (cont'd)
 (Pause)
 I hope she doesn't hate me.

Abigail is on the verge of an emotional breakdown.

JILL
 (To Abigail)
 Looks like somebody DID care about
 Abigail.

141 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 141

The lights on the floor indicators continue to rise.
 Gilbert gives up fighting the handle and hugs Carolyn.

142 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 142

LIGHTNING FLASHES in the clouds.

143 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS) 143

Buzzy steps up to Abigail. Abigail is in tears.

BUZZY
 (Softly)
 A long time ago, a jealous little
 girl made a big mistake. She thought
 —nobody cared about her, but she was
 wrong. Truth is, the person she
 tried to hurt...was the one who cared
 for her the most.

This stings Abigail. She looks to Buzzy, then Sally.
 Finally, she kneels in front of Sally and takes her hands.

ABIGAIL
 (Crying)
 Sally...it's me, Abby. I've grown up.

Sally's eyes open wide with shock.

144 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 144

LIGHTNING CRACKLES in the clouds.

145 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 145

The elevator continues to rise slowly.

146 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS)146

Abigail holds Sally's hands.

SALLY

Abby?

ABIGAIL

(Crying)

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

BUZZY

Abigail?

Abigail turns to him.

BUZZY

(continuing)

Please don't let my niece die.

ABIGAIL

(Through tears)

It's too late. I can't stop it.

147 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)147

The minute hand of the clock hits 8:00.

148 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)148

The floor lights rise...everyone watches in anticipation..

DEWEY

We're gonna make it!

...12...14...with a CLUNK, the elevator STOPS! There are anguished groans.

GILBERT

14. This is where it happened.

149 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS)149

Q

There's gotta be something you can do!

ABIGAIL

The spell is cast. It can't be stopped. At 8:05...

Q
The service elevator! Maybe we can
reach 'em!

Q turns and runs from the room. Buzzy has an idea.

BUZZY
(Remembering)
*"The spell of passion can only be
countered by it's contrary."*

JILL
What?

BUZZY
I read it in the book. A spell can
be countered by it's contrary!
What's the contrary to the spell??

ABIGAIL
I...I don't know!

BUZZY
Then we gotta get up there, c'mon!

He runs out. Abigail and Sally follow. Last out is Jill.

JILL
— I have no idea what's going on.

150 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)

150

LIGHTNING FLASHES in the clouds.

151 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, SERVICE ELEVATOR (SOON AFTER)

151

Q stands inside the open elevator. The control panel is
open. Quickly, and expertly he re-patches the wiring.
Buzzy, Abigail, Jill and Sally arrive and enter.

BUZZY
Does it work?

Q
It not only works...
(Slams shut the panel)
We're taking the express!

He hits the "door close" button and the doors quickly close,
with everyone inside.

152 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS) 152

The minute hand clicks to: 8:02.

153 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 153

The SERVICE elevator rises quickly.

154 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 154

Q is at the controls.

Q
C'mon baby, fly!

JILL
I really don't want to be here.

155 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 155

The ghosts and Anna huddle together.

DEWEY
If we don't get outta here...

ANNA
At 8:05 we're goin' down!

Gilbert dives at the door, trying to open it.

156 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 156

The SERVICE ELEVATOR sails upward.

157 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 157

Q stands at the controls, watching the floor indicator.

Q
Eleven...twelve...fourteen!

158 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 158

The Service Elevator slides up next to the Main Elevator.

158A INT. SERVICE CORRIDOR (CONTINUOUS) 158A *

The Service Elevator doors slide open and Buzzy runs out,
followed by Q and Jill. *

159 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 14TH FLOOR (CONTINUOUS)159

Buzzy rushes out of a door marked "SERVICE CORRIDOR" and runs *
up to the closed Main Elevator doors, followed by Jill and Q. *
Buzzy pounds on the doors. *

BUZZY

Anna?

160 OMITTED

160

*

ANNA (O.S.)
Uncle Buzzy?! The doors won't open!

*
*

161 OMITTED

161

*

Buzzy tries to pull the doors open. Q looks at his watch.

*

Q
8:03 Chief.

BUZZY
(Thinking fast)
Is the service elevator behind there?

*
*
*

Q
Yeah, same shaft.

*
*

Buzzy runs back toward the Service Corridor.

*

162 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)162

Abigail looks down to Sally. She wants to say something, but can't. Then, Buzzy runs back into the elevator and looks up at the ESCAPE HATCH overhead. Q and Jill follow.

*
*
*

BUZZY
Boost me up!

JILL
You gotta be kiddin'?!

*
*

BUZZY
NOW!!!

Q boosts Buzzy up.

163 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)163

Buzzy emerges through the hatch on top of the Service Elevator. In the shaft next to him is the Main elevator. Buzzy looks at it through the tangle of cables, and swallows hard. He looks down.

*
*
*
*

ANGLE: IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN

*

164 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS)164

The minute hand clicks to 8:04.

165 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 165

Lightning flashes inside the dark clouds over the hotel.

166 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 166

ANNA

You guys should just disappear.

CAROLYN

We can't leave you.

GILBERT

I already tried. It didn't work.

167 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 167

Abigail looks to Sally through tears of sorrow.

ABIGAIL

Sally? Can you ever forgive me?

168 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 168

Buzzy takes a deep breath, then LEAPS from the roof of the Service Elevator to the roof of the Main Elevator.

169 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 169

They all hear the THUMP.

MISS PARTRIDGE

What was that?

170 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 170

Sally takes off the BRACELET, looks at it, then looks to Abigail. Q and Jill watch. Then, Q looks at his watch.

Q

Uh oh. Showtime.

171 INT. HOTEL LOBBY (CONTINUOUS) 171

CLICK. The minute hand hits 8:05.

172 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT WORKSHOP (CONTINUOUS) 172

Like in the opening, a GUST OF WIND blows across the burning candles, blowing them all out.

173 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)173

Buzzy pulls open the Escape Hatch and looks down on Anna and the ghosts.

BUZZY
Outta there! Now!!!

174 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)174

A HUGE BOLT OF LIGHTNING hits the hotel!

175 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)175

Instantly, BOTH ELEVATORS start to fall! Buzzy grabs on to a strut and DOESN'T fall with them. *

176 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)176

Anna and the Ghosts fall to the floor in fear.

177 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)177

Q dives for the emergency brake...and pulls it!

178 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)178

Instantly, BOTH ELEVATORS SCREECH to a stop.

179 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)179

Everyone looks around in wonder. A beat.

Q
Emergency brakes. Cool.

180 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)180

BOOM! Lightning hits the hotel again. This time more aggressively.

181 INT. BOTH ELEVATORS (CONTINUOUS)181

Both elevators shoot BACK UP!

182 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)182

Buzzy still hangs from the strut. The Main Elevator rises toward him. When it gets to the top, he reaches down. *

BUZZY
Grab my hand!

Anna jumps up and grabs Buzzy's hand as...

183 EXT HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 183

BOOM BOOM BOOM!! Lightning hits again.

184 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 184

As Buzzy hangs on to Anna, the elevator FALLS AWAY from them, down the shaft. Buzzy dangles from the strut, hanging on to Anna, as the elevators fall away from them. *

185 INT. BOTH ELEVATORS (CONTINUOUS) 185

Everyone SCREAMS as the elevators plummet.

INTERCUT WITH:

186 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 186

The elevators plummet down, passing floors, side by side.

INTERCUT WITH:

187 INT. BOTH ELEVATORS (CONTINUOUS) 187

The two groups of passengers plunge to their doom.

INTERCUT WITH:

188 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS) 188

The elevators plummet PAST CAMERA.

INTERCUT WITH:

189 INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS) 189

Abigail looks to Sally. Sally looks to Abigail. She smiles, and holds out the bracelet to Abigail.

SALLY

I forgive you Abby.

Abigail reaches out...grasps the bracelet and...they are both MAGICALLY ENVELOPED in GLOWING LIGHT...and VANISH!

190 EXT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS) 190

LIGHTNING STRIKES AGAIN. This time, it "ZAPS" the entire height of the building, from the top floor down.

191 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT (CONTINUOUS)191

The Elevators plummet RIGHT TOWARD CAMERA. They both begin to GLOW with electric energy as they hurdle RIGHT INTO CAMERA, FILLING THE FRAME. *

It's a CLIMACTIC MOMENT. Music stops, sound stops. Everything is black. A BEAT, then...

CUT TO:

192 EXT. HOTEL - (DIRECTLY AFTER)192

The clouds pass away from the hotel, revealing a sky full of stars. All is still, all is quiet.

CUT TO:

193 INT. HOTEL BASEMENT, SERVICE ELEVATOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)193

CAMERA MOVES IN to the closed doors. DING! The arrival bell sounds and the doors open to REVEAL: Jill and Q stagger out. They're shaken, but safe.

Q
Whooo! What a rush!

JILL
Are we dead?

Q looks back to the elevator. It's empty. He thinks, then runs off. Jill follows.

CUT TO:

194 INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR, 14TH FLOOR (DIRECTLY AFTER)194

The Main Elevator doors are roughly pushed open on to an EMPTY SHAFT. Buzzy and Anna struggle to climb up to safety. They tumble to the floor tired, dirty, but safe. Anna looks to Buzzy and throws her arms around him. *

ANNA
You are wicked great!

Buzzy hugs his niece, just happy to be alive.

BUZZY
Are you okay?

Anna nods and pulls away. They stand.

ANNA

The spell? Did they crash?

Suddenly, the stairwell door is thrown open. Q and Jill stagger in, winded from their quick climb.

Q

I think I hate this place. *

BUZZY

What happened???

Q

No clue. We were speeding toward death city, then Sally gave Abigail the bracelet and all of a sudden...

DING! The Main Elevator has arrived on the 14th floor! Buzzy, Anna, Jill and Q approach the doors curiously. A beat, then, the DOORS SLIDE OPEN to REVEAL:

All the ghosts are on board, including Sally! They're safe, and smiling. They look EXACTLY the way they did on the night of the accident. Their clothes are no longer old and dusty. The elevator itself looks spit-polished clean, just as it did on that fateful night.

ANNA

You're okay!

JILL

"The spell of passion can only be countered by it's contrary."

Everyone looks to Jill.

JILL

(continuing)

Sally's love for Abigail broke the spell.

(Jill looks to Buzzy,
with a shrug)

I'm starting to catch on.

Carolyn steps to the front of the car.

CAROLYN

I knew you'd help us.

SALLY

Come to the party!

BUZZY
Thanks, we'll take the stairs.

Buzzy herds the others toward the stairs.

DEWEY
Next stop The Tip Top Club! Going up!

The doors slide shut.

195 INT. MAIN ELEVATOR (CONTINUOUS)

195

Dewey glances to the others nervously, pushes the handle, and the elevator moves! Then, with a BRIGHT CHIME, the floor indicator hits...15! They made it! Hugs all around. Dewey steps to the center and turns to the others.

DEWEY
Ladies and gentlemen, we have arrived.

He steps aside as the doors open to REVEAL:

196 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB (CONTINUOUS)

196

The party is in full swing. Everyone is dancing and having a good time.

Buzzy, Jill, Anna and Q enter through the stairwell door.

JILL
Oh I don't BELIEVE this!

They walk to the open elevator as the ghosts step out. Then, the SONG FINISHES and the MUSIC STOPS. EVERYONE turns to the new arrivals, smiling. The BANDLEADER steps up to the mic.

THE BANDLEADER
We've been waiting for you.
(Beckons to Carolyn)
Miss Poulet?

Carolyn starts for the stage, but then turns to Buzzy.

CAROLYN
Thank you.

BUZZY
Knock 'em dead...so to speak.

Carolyn then walks through the crowd to the stage. The band begins an intro to an old favorite tune.

THE BANDLEADER

Ladies and gentleman, appearing in her long-overdue singing debut, the Tip Top Club is proud to present the lovely...Miss Claire Poulet.

Carolyn steps up to the mic.

CAROLYN

That's Carolyn Crosson.

Then the band kicks in and Carolyn sings. It's a great old standard number, which Carolyn sings beautifully. She's great. Everyone dances. As the song continues...

Miss Partridge taps Sally on the shoulder and points. Sally turns to SEE: Her PARENTS are waiting for her with open arms. Sally gives Miss Partridge a kiss, then runs to her parents who give her the biggest hug ever. Then all three VANISH!

Miss Partridge watches them with a smile, then turns to Buzzy, blows him a kiss, and VANISHES.

Dewey steps up to Q.

DEWEY

We got 'em here, safe and sound. *

Q

Yes we did.

GREAT-GRANDDAD TODD (O.S.)

Dewey?

Dewey and Q LOOK to SEE: An older man in a tuxedo waits for Dewey with open arms.

Q

Great grand-dude?

Dewey goes to his happy father and the two warmly shake hands. A happy Dewey turns back to Q.

DEWEY

I'm proud of you grandson, and I'll be watching. Cha-ching!

Dewey and Great-Grandad Todd take a step back, and VANISH.

Carolyn finishes her song to BIG APPLAUSE. She's in heaven. (Well, she will be soon) Gilbert steps up to the microphone.

GILBERT
 (Into mic)
 Forgive me for interrupting the
 party, but there's something I've
 been waiting sixty years to do.
 (Turns to Carolyn)
 Sweetheart, I'd wait a century more
 if I had to.

He holds out...a ring.

GILBERT
 (continuing)
 Will you be my bride?

Carolyn is shocked. She looks at the ring, then throws her
 arms around Gilbert. The audience applauds again.

Carolyn puts on the ring, then looks up to Buzzy, and throws
 him a "thank you" kiss. Then...

THE ENTIRE PARTY VANISHES! ALL THE PEOPLE, THE SOUND,
 THE MUSIC, EVERYTHING. GONE. WHAT'S LEFT IS...

197 INT. HOTEL, THE TIP TOP CLUB (CONTINUOUS)

197

The Tip Top Club looks like the rest of the hotel...as if it
 were abandoned the night of October 31, 1939. It's still
 done up for a party, but now everything is old, and yellowed
 and covered with dust.

Buzzy walks up to the abandoned stage to find...at the base
 of the microphone stand, is the WILDFLOWER that he picked and
 put in the vase in the lobby. He picks it up tenderly, as if
 it's all he has left of Carolyn. The others join him.

BUZZY
 (To Jill)
 I guess I missed the deadline.

JILL
 But not your second chance.

Jill grabs him and gives him a big hug. Buzzy holds on to
 her as if he never wants to let go.

Then...DING! Something has arrived on the elevator! They
 all look to SEE:

The elevator doors open. Riding inside, is YOUNG ABIGAIL.
 She steps out and looks around curiously.

YOUNG ABIGAIL
Am I late for the party?

No one knows what to say. Then...

SALLY
Abby?

Sally has returned. Abigail runs up to her and the two hug like two happy sisters.

YOUNG ABIGAIL
Thank you for the present. I love it.

Indeed, Abigail is now wearing the charm bracelet. Young Abigail then turns to Buzzy, and smiles.

YOUNG ABIGAIL
(continuing)
And thank YOU Buzzy.

BUZZY
Happy Birthday Abby.

The two girls turn, hold hands, run into the room, and VANISH.

Buzzy then turns to Anna, and the two exchange their SECRET *
HANDSHAKE. They all then turn toward the open elevator.
There's a moment's hesitation, then...

JILL/BUZZY/ANNA/Q
Nah! Forget it. Stairs. Let's walk.

They all EXIT, and the elevator doors SLIDE SHUT.

CUT TO:

198 EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT (ONE YEAR LATER)

198

A limousine WIPES BY FRAME to REVEAL a WIDE SHOT of the *
Hollywood Tower Hotel. The place is lit up like new, with *
two kleig lights sweeping the sky. *

198A INT. HOTEL (CONTINUOUS)

198A

It's a gala, grand re-opening Halloween party. Well dressed *
partygoers, some with masks, mill around the brightly-lit *
lobby. A banner reads: "GRAND RE-OPENING" *

The FRONT DOOR opens and BUZZY, ANNA, JILL and PATRICIA *
ENTER. They're all in evening clothes and look very sharp. *

Q hurries up to greet them. He too is wearing a tuxedo, and has cleaned up his act considerably, though he's still "Q" and wears sandals. He shakes Buzzy's hand.

Q
Good things come to those who wait.

A PHOTOGRAPHER comes up to them and they all pose.

PHOTOGRAPHER
Smile everybody!

Q
One...two...three!

BUZZY/ANNA/Q/JILL/PATRICIA
Cha-CHING!

FLASH! FREEZE FRAME. It's a group picture that SINKS BACK
into the front page of a newspaper...it's THE LOS ANGELES *
HERALD. The headline says: "60 YEAR OLD MYSTERY SOLVED. THE *
TOWER IS BACK! Written boldly under the headline is: "By *
Buzzy Crocker". *

FADE OUT:

THE END