

LIVE & LEARN

written by

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INT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - NIGHT

-- SOUND STAGE

We begin in the sound stage of a movie studio called Sequel Studios, where they're filming a movie called The Next Step. The actors (SALLY Langford and JACK Hampton) are shooting a heartfelt scene together.

JACK

Why are you always stuck in the past!?

SALLY

It's not like I can just discard what happened!

JACK

That's not what I mean you idiot, I mean you never learn from your mistakes! Instead you run into them thoughtlessly without reflecting on your words and actions! Think about it, do you ever wonder why nothing ever changes for you?

SALLY

Easy for you to say, everyday of my life I've always had to fight for shit outside of my control just because of my connection to someone else! No one ever loved or hated me, instead of how I didn't measure up to someone else. How on Earth can you comprehend what that's like!?

JACK

It doesn't matter what other people think, that's outside of your control, why not improve yourself so that you can become your own person?

Those words shake Sally to her core, she knows Jack's right but doesn't want to admit it.

SALLY

I mean... How can I? I mean, it's not like I'm great at anything.

Jack SMACKS Sally's head from behind. Ouch!

(CONTINUED)

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JACK

You don't need to be, just find something you love doing and hone your skills on that and always try your best in your **own** way. If you feel like crying, then cry. But never let that distract you from moving to a happy ending where everyone you care about is smiling.

Sally FREEZES. She doesn't emote to that speech. Moreso, she doesn't want to.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

CUT!

Bells ring as the filming crew stop shooting and the DIRECTOR calls his performers to his side.

DIRECTOR

That was great! We're hitting the right notes, but we're gonna need more emotional depth to sell the scene. Sally, this is your low point, the moment where you realize the error of your ways and how to fix that. So you need to put more emotion in your response so that audiences can connect with that.

SALLY

I know, it's just...

DIRECTOR

-- What?

SALLY

You know, the message you're conveying... It's... It's way too personal for me. It hits too close to home.

DIRECTOR

Yeah but that's how we make your character relatable. That's how we create relatable characters, because **that's** what gets audiences going: "Oh my God, I know what that's like!", "Dude, that was LITERALLY me 4 years ago!", "I know what that character's going through!". You feel me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY

Yeah...

Sally is clearly unhappy with the director's advice, even if it's advice.

BUZZ! BUZZ! BUZZ!

Sally's phone starts ringing, and it's from a man called KYLE.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Hello babe, what's up?

KYLE (V.O.)

It's almost dinner time, and Cody got in trouble at school again!

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Really!?

KYLE (V.O.)

Yes, really! You would've known that if you came home more often!

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

I'm sorry, okay!? I'll be on my way after we finish shooting. I swear I'll -- ?

BEEP!!

Kyle cuts off the phone, he's heard enough. What a painful moment for Sally. Getting the cold shoulder from her husband.

Today's not her day. She sighs with deflation.

DIRECTOR

Who was that?

With the director and Jack, Sally fakes her happiness, but her colleagues see through it.

SALLY

My husband.

JACK

Everything okay?

SALLY

No, my son Cody got in trouble at
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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SALLY (CONT'D)
 school. But don't worry, I'll give him
 the scolding of a lifetime.
 (to the director)
 Call it a wrap for today, I've got
 some mother-son bonding to do!

Sally leaves the studio.

DIRECTOR
 I've seen fake smiles before, but come
 on, she's gotta put more effort into
 it than that.

JACK
 Tell me about it.

EXT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

-- CAR PARK

Moments we see Sally enter her small green car, as she finally departs the studio and heads home.

SALLY
 Okey-dokey.

As she starts the engine, we zoom out to a local water tower where we see A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN (AGATHA Thanatos Dunkelheit Nocturna) who appears to be in her early 50s, dressed in an **all black poncho** like the grim reaper. The ethereal and deadly darkness surrounding her reflects that.

She observes Sally driving away with an condescending gaze filled with apprehension and disgust.

AGATHA
 Shameful.

As Sally continues driving away, when she notices the water tower. There's **NO ONE THERE**. Spooky.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

-- CORRIDOR

Sally returns home and goes upstairs to chat with her son. She notices the locked door, things really aren't as rosy as she hoped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

Cody? Cody? Cody?

CODY (O.S.)

Not now Mom. I'm not in the mood.

SALLY

Your dad told me that you got in trouble in school today. I'm here to talk about it.

CODY (O.S.)

Why do you care? Aren't you supposed to be shooting your movie?

SALLY

Actually, I called it quits early, because I wanted to check up on you.

CODY (O.S.)

No, you did that because Dad *forced* you to check on me.

Sally makes a "How did you know that?" expression.

CODY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Don't worry, before Dad left for his late night shift, I heard him call and scold you.

Sally gulps hard, Cody really does know everything and isn't holding back. Sally's lack of preparation is evident by her vacant expression.

With the stress piling up Sally decides to put on her game face. She decides to be a tough mother, and force her son's cooperation.

SALLY

(clears her throat)

Cody Langford! Open the door right now, or you're grounded for the next ten weeks!

Cody opens the door despite her empty threat.

-- CODY'S ROOM

Sally enters her son's room and sits next to her dejected child resting on his bed.

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SALLY (CONT'D)

My threat worked? Damn.

CODY

No, it sucked. And I'd rather not listen to more empty words.

SALLY

Fair enough.

(beat)

So what happened?

Cody sighs, turns around, and faces his mother.

CODY

People were mocking me because I'm the son of a low-tier actress.

SALLY

Really?

CODY

Yes! And I... Got mad. Said I wanted nothing to do with you. And got into a fight over it.

Sally is disgusted by the fact that her reputation is causing her family problems.

Frustrated, she bites her lip and puts her game face on.

SALLY

Those kids. What did they say about me?

CODY

"Look at this Kristen Bell wannabe."
 "Kathryn Hahn's snort laughter is funnier than her." "She couldn't make Charlie Day wince with laughter no matter how hard she tried." "Putting her and Jack Black in the same sentence is a disgrace!". You know? Stuff like that.

Sally grows frustrated and stressed due to everyone's damning opinion of her acting skills.

Determined to restore **her** reputation not her son's, she stands up and prepares to leave. Ending the mother-son conversation on an early and lob-sided note.

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CODY (CONT'D)

Whoa, whoa, whoa, where are you going?

SALLY

To fix this.

CODY

How? You don't know the full story.

SALLY

Don't need to. If I can prove them wrong by putting in an Oscar winning performance and elevating my current film to a smash hit. I'll silence those pesky critics forever!

Sally leaves Cody's room with her son going back to bed annoyed that his mother never heard his side of the story.

-- CORRIDOR

Sally slaps her cheeks as she realizes the gravity behind her recent proclamation.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Big words Sally Langford. Big words.

She walks towards her room trying to hold it together.

As she moves out of focus, an apparition of Agatha reappears **AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORRIDOR**. Shaking her head in disgust once again.

AGATHA

Empty words.

Spooked, Sally turns around. But just like when she was leaving Sequel Studios, Agatha is NOWHERE TO BE SEEN. Sally continues vacantly staring at the other side of the corridor for a few more seconds, before snapping back to reality and goes to her room.

INT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - DAY

-- SOUND STAGE

The following morning, an energized Sally returns to set ready to finish production. She is reunited with the director and her co-star Jack, who once again, immediately see through her facade.

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SALLY

Are we set?

JACK

Yeah, but... What's got you so worked up this morning?

SALLY

A nice, reinvigorating mother-son bonding session can do wonders.

DIRECTOR

I'll say, I haven't seen you this excited since you got this role.

SALLY

I know, right? So let's get started.

Sally leaves for her makeup trailer. But Jack and the director still aren't convinced by her facade.

DIRECTOR

Still not buying it?

JACK

Sadly, yeah.

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

-- LOUNGE

Cody arrives home and greets his father Kyle with a nice embrace.

CODY

Dad!

KYLE

Cody! Welcome back! How was school!?

CODY

Same old, same old. Passed all my tests, dealt with a few bullies and couldn't stop hearing about Mom?

KYLE

Since she's not here, don't tell me.

CODY

Do I really have to at this point?

INT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - NIGHT

-- SOUND STAGE

We return to Sequel Studios, where in between filming Sally receives a call from her husband.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Hey babe!

KYLE (V.O.)

Don't "Hey babe" me! I know it's a rhetorical question, but where are you now?

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

At the studio filming the last scene of the movie. What about you? Is everything okay?

KYLE (V.O.)

Like you have any right to ask that?

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Excuse me? What do you mean by that?

KYLE (V.O.)

Since you're never focused on your family life, I'll unhappily tell you. Cody got accepted into Pine View School in Florida.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Really? That's... That's great. Wait, when did this happen exactly?

KYLE (V.O.)

Last week! You would've known that if you actually paid attention!

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Oh... Sorry about that. If it's any consolation, I've got you both premium seats for the premiere in September.

KYLE (V.O.)

Just as I thought, no matter how much others try to help, it always about you. Isn't it?

Kyle and Sally stay silent for a beat. Letting the tension

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

simmer slightly.

KYLE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(sighs)

You know what? Don't bother calling me or Cody ever again! I'm done constantly compromising *my* desires for a woman too obsessed with her social status instead of her family. New and old.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

Hold on, Kyle, what are you saying?

KYLE (V.O.)

Something I've been meaning to say for the past 9 years, we're **through**.

The weight of those words causes Sally's face to sink.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)

(sweating; panicking)

What? What do you? Kyle, you can't --
!

BEEP!

Kyle cuts off the phone and Sally is left as if a part of herself has been broken.

As the miasma of pessimism and despair starts to creep in, all the criticism she's endured for so long starts cloud her sense of reality.

DIRECTOR

(calling out; muffled)

Sally! Sally! Sally!

Sally's continuing to lose herself to her despair.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

(calling out; clear)

SALLY!

Sally snaps back to her senses and instinctively puts on a fake smile.

SALLY

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DIRECTOR

The weather's about to clear up, come on, we need you.

SALLY

Coming!

Sally gets off her chair and gets on set with the cracks in her facade seeping through.

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

We now enter a desolate yet hauntingly landscape filled with crumbling tombstones, towering mausoleums, and skeletal trees. We move along and witness several SPECTRAL FIGURES and WANDERING SOULS causing a ruckus as they try to enter the NOCTURNAL SKULL a place where A CERTAIN SOMEONE resides. But DEATHLY GUARDIANS prevent the trapped souls from entering.

The atmosphere is heavy with the scent of decay and the echo of distant, sorrowful whispers. The ground is covered in a thick fog that swirls around, giving the impression that the domain is alive with the restless dead.

DEATHLY GUARDIANS

Back off! Stay back! No entries are permitted without the witch's permission!

We zoom past them and enter...

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - CONTINUOUS

-- THRONE ROOM

Where Agatha Thanatos Dunkelheit Nocturna: The Witch of Death, eagerly sits on her dastardly throne made of aging bones, skulls, limbs and rotten plants. Her attire is akin to the grim reaper, befitting for an entity representing death.

She speaks to a CRYSTAL BALL.

AGATHA

Bethany Bradley: the current Sage of Life, I've found your replacement.

VOICE (O.S.)

Seriously!? Her!? You've gotta be kidding.

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AGATHA
Far from it, or...

Agatha summons the Obsidian Scythe, A BLACK SCYTHE with a faint white outlay. It's ethereal presence can be felt due to the harrowing howls and screams emanating from it. Creepy.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
(stroking her scythe)
...Would you like a demonstration what happens to those foolish enough to defy me?

Beat. The message has been received.

VOICE (O.S.)
(reluctant)
No, I would not.

AGATHA
Excellent.

Agatha puts the crystal ball on the floor and smiles menacingly at the camera. Damn, she's FRIGHTENING.

TITLE: "8 MONTHS LATER"

EXT. FILM PREMIERE - DAY

-- RED CARPET

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

8 months later, we arrive at a red carpet for the film The Next Stop. A NEWS ANCHOR representing Daily Film Coverage (DFC) guides us through the early stages of the premiere.

NEWS ANCHOR
(facing the camera)
Good morning its DFC here! We're here live at the premiere for the highly anticipated romance-drama, The Next Step. Starring the spunky Sally Langford, and the elegant and captivating Jack Hampton.
(beat)
On a budget of \$200 million, packed with all-star cast, and lead by a director steadily tapping into his potential. This movie has the makings of a box office sensation.

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A LIMO arrives on the scene. It stops to reveal:

Sally and Jack dripping in a hot dress and suit respectively, truly dressed for the occasion.

The News Anchor approaches the fairly confident Sally and Jack.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

(guiding Sally and Jack to the camera)

Hello Sally and Jack! Good to see you again!

SALLY

Good to see you too!

JACK

It's good to be back!

NEWS ANCHOR

Indeed. So tell everyone what to expect from The Next Step?

JACK

(through the mic)

It's about a story about how not letting go of the past can prevent us from enjoying the present. Explored *brilliantly* through a unique romantic lens.

NEWS ANCHOR

Wonderful! Wonderful! Sally, you've done over 20 comedies but no romance films or shows. Please tell us, what made this movie make you say yes to romance?

SALLY

(through the mic)

Well, I've never been good talking to *anyone* about romance growing up. So I decided, it's just not my forte.

(beat)

But then, our wonderful sent a portion of the script, and it felt like the therapy I needed to push through my insecurities.

NEWS ANCHOR

Fascinating. The screening begins in 10 minutes, any quick messages for the fans?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACK
 (through the mic)
 Always remember: life is a journey,
 you only have one life, so make the
 most of it.

Jack and Sally depart, and the news anchor needs to wraps things up.

NEWS ANCHOR
 (facing the camera)
 What a delightful message. And with that folks, let's embrace "The Next Step" in the film industry together.

BLIP!

The camera shuts off abruptly, like a faulty tape recording.

TITLE: "A YEAR LATER"

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - DAY

A year later in Times Square, New York, the same news anchor from before, has some devastating news to share with us.

NEWS ANCHOR
 (facing the camera)
 Breaking News on DFC! The box office this year is taking shape so, let's it break it down. Starting from the top, "Do or Die!" comfortably sits on top raking in 4.4 billion dollars. Next is "I couldn't care less", accumulating 2.2 billion, and in third we have "In Another World" taking in 1.1 billion.
 (beat)
 Now, let's hear from our partners, MCS, about the tragic fates of the bottom three!

She points to the right and THAT SMOOTHLY TRANSITIONS TO --

INT. MCS STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

-- SHOOTING ROOM

The Movie Culture Supreme (MCS) shooting room, where the MCS REPRESENTATIVE, alerts about the three least profitable films of the year.

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MCS REPRESENTATIVE

Yes, thank you DFC. Now time to share the fates of the movies that weren't as fortunate at the box office. Starting with "I Hate Myself" ranked third-to-last. Only making a return of 19 million, with a budget sixfold of that number, no wonder the studio pulled the plug on all potential sequels.

(beat)

Then second-to-last we have "Why Don't You Listen!?", on a budget of 100 million this animated feature had the potential to be the next revolutionary icon of this generation. But only made 15 million in return due to its divisive messaging and poor writing. What a let down.

(beat; sips his coffee)

Finally, in dead last, we have "The Next Step" by Sequel Studios. On a budget of 200 million this live action rom-com despite having all the creatives needed for comedy gold. Was sadly wasted its potential because of its bland tone and prioritizing fun over actually acting. And it doesn't help that the lead actress: Sally Langford. Had over 400 complaints filed at her by production crew and executives. Resulting in her being sued and the studio shutting down. Catastrophic would be an understatement. Anyway, that's enough from me. Back to you, DFC!

The MCS representative points to the left and WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY**-- LOUNGE**

Sally on the couch, stress-eating to numb the pain.

She overhears the news anchor continues relaying more news about the movie industry, Sally decides to head for the kitchen for more comfort food.

-- KITCHEN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

As Sally opens the pantry, WE SWITFLY REVEAL:

Agatha, arms folded, glares at Sally with the same condescending, apprehensive expression.

AGATHA

Useless.

SALLY

(turning around; notices Agatha)

Huh?

Sally and Agatha exchange glances.

Still confused, like Jerry Mouse (from *Tom & Jerry*) she rubs her eyes with both hands (like Jerry did in the episode "*The Flying Cat*"), refusing to believe what she just saw and heard.

However, once she finishes rubbing her eyes and looks at where Agatha was standing...

SHE'S GONE! Vanished, out of them frame, just like that. Eerie.

Unbothered, Sally continues with her routine, she's not interested.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Oh well, I'm not gonna dwell on it.

(beat)

Anyway, where'd I put the cookies?

The moment she finds them --

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

SALLY (CONT'D)

Now what?

-- FRONT DOOR

Sally goes to the front door and upon opening it, she is greeted by the POSTMAN.

POSTMAN

(handing her the letter)

For... Sally Langford.

SALLY

Why don't you use the slider? It saves

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY (CONT'D)
you the trouble of knocking.

POSTMAN
I'm just a postman, jeez, no need to
be such a jerk about it.

The postman leaves, clearly unhappy with Sally's
impoliteness.

Sally meanwhile, closes and notices the letters are from
executives and *production members* from Sequel Studios.

-- LOUNGE

She heads back to the lounge and reads the first letter which
reveals all members of the production team who filed
complaints against her and why.

-- LATER

Cracks in her facade are now her visible as she reads the
letter from the executives suing her. She discovers she owes
them 342 MILLION DOLLARS! Yikes.

INT. SALLY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS (MOVING)

--Panicking, Sally drives off and calls her husband Kyle.

Kyle doesn't answer, which only heightens Sally's anxieties.

SALLY
Pick up, pick up, pick up, please.
Please, please, please pick up.

BLEEP! No answer.

Sally stops, quickly tries again.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Come on babe, answer me. I need you.

BLEEP! No answer.

In a huff, Sally takes one hand off the wheel and tries
again.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Damn it babe, answer the goddamn phone
-- !

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BAAAAMMM!!!!

Sally suffers a fatal collision which renders her unconscious.

Once the radio static fades, WE EVENTUALLY TRANSITION TO:

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

Agatha eagerly and patiently looks through her crystal ball, like someone watching their favorite program.

AGATHA

Her foolishness never ceases to amaze me, but alas. Now that she's here, it's time to move on to the next stage.

Agatha summons her main weapon, the Obsidian Scythe. Before leaving her personal domain.

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

As soon as she leaves the Nocturnal Skull, a Deathly Guardian hastily approaches her.

DEATHLY GUARDIAN

Great Harvester, where are you going?

AGATHA

To the Vita Council.

DEATHLY GUARDIAN

I see, what about the Sage of Life?

AGATHA

I have that part under control.

Murmurs are heard from dead souls, pleading for another chance at life.

However, with one swift and domineering glare, Agatha silences them. Reinstating her authority over her domain. She leaves with a satisfied smirk. Damn, she's scary.

EXT. YGGDRASIL - DAY

-- SHADE

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Sally awakens in the shade of A HUGE BAOBAB TREE. She rubs her eyes and looks around, and finds no one. Scared, alone and confused, she wonders aimlessly, searching for answers.

SALLY

Hello?

(no response; keeps looking)

Anyone here? Can someone please tell me where I am?

(no response; frowns)

Rude, don't you know who I am?

Sally rubs her stomach, and feels NOTHING. Shocked, she lifts her shirt and sees her wounds have COMPLETELY HEALED. But how? Still sceptical she continues her aimless search for answers.

SALLY (CONT'D)

My stomach?

(frantically checks herself)

My body? What happened to me? Didn't I have a car crash?

VOICE (O.S.)

Yes you did!

Sally turns and looks in a panic, trying to find the voice that spoke to her.

SALLY

Who said that? Who are you?

A MAN (DANIEL Bradley) who looks to be in his early 30s, dressed in a **suave, elegant, and lively white robe**. Emerges from the tree and calmly greets his frightened guest.

DANIEL

Greetings, I am the Sage of Life:
Daniel Bradley. Nice to meet you Sally
Langford.

SALLY

Wait, what? How do you know my name?

DANIEL

I know *everything* about you.

Sally rolls her eyes, she presumes Daniel to be bluffing.

SALLY

Sure you do.

(CONTINUED)

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DANIEL

Even though, we've got more important things to discuss, if you're still doubting my knowledge. I'd be happy to dispel them now.

SALLY

Really?

(smirks)

Let's do it! When was I born?

DANIEL

21st February 1986, in New York City to Mary and Hank Langford. A director and film producer respectively. You attended stage plays and film auditions since you were six thanks to your parent's connections. You've been in 29 movies and 15 TV shows, all immeasurable failures at that.

SALLY

Hey, they didn't all fail!

(voice going small)

They just... You know... Didn't make a profit at the box office.

DANIEL

That's what failure means in the film industry. Seriously, who taught you about success in film?

SALLY

My high school teacher...

(scratching her head)

I think...

(shrugging it off)

To be honest, I never paid attention to her.

DANIEL

Yeah, go figure. Anyway, moving on you got married to Kyle Sanderson an executive at CBH Bank in 2012, after your 6th TV show: A Sheepless Shepard, debuted. And had a son named Cody six years later.

SALLY

(smiling; reminiscing)

Oh yeah, I remember our wedding day, I

(MORE)

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SALLY (CONT'D)

hired bird shooters to scare him and posted his reaction on Instagram the following day.

(giggling)

You should've seen his reaction, it was fricking hilarious. Absolute classic.

Sally shamelessly laughs about pranking her husband, while Daniel observes her inherent lack of decency and self-awareness. Appalled and disgusted.

DANIEL

Hilarious. Anyway, you've almost been run over 80 times for ignoring traffic lights. And almost died of food poisoning 100 times.

SALLY

What can I say? It's New York, no one pays attention to traffic and no one bothers reading expiration dates.

DANIEL

Well you should! You could've died!

SALLY

But I didn't, besides didn't you say, that you brought me here, before I died?

DANIEL

I did, but that's not an excuse to not value your own life!

SALLY

But I do, I mean technically, I didn't actually die. So all in all, I'd say my life was all right.

Daniel shakes his head, Sally has A LOT to learn about life and death.

DANIEL

You know what? We're running late, come on.

Daniel walks outside, Sally follows.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SALLY
Running late for what? Where are we
going?

DANIEL
To meet Yggdrasil and Qliphoth.

SALLY
Who?

DANIEL
The Trees of Life.

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

Sally and Daniel walk towards a massive CLEAN, OPEN and SOOTHING LAKE. Teeming with life and fertility as it fuels Yggdrasil. This is the Fountain of Youth.

SALLY
Whoa... Where are we?

DANIEL
The Fountain of Youth, the endless
lake of rejuvenation that fuels
Yggdrasil and Qliphoth.

SALLY
(approach the lake)
So cool...

Sally dips her toes in the Fountain of Youth, and enjoys the sensation of vitality flowing through her, much to Daniel's shock and horror.

DANIEL
Don't put your dirty feet in the
Fountain of Youth!

SALLY
(offended)
Don't call my feet dirty, I've been on
the front cover for 20 different
fashion magazines!

DANIEL
I know and I don't care! Until the
ceremony is complete, don't put your
feet in the Fountain of Youth!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

(removing her foot from the lake)

Why?

DANIEL

Because the spirits of Yggdrasil and Qliphoth, will mistake you for the Witch.

SALLY

The Witch?

RUMBLE!!!

Before Sally's curiosity and anxieties can be answered, the ground begins to shake violently.

Two LARGE RIPPLES begin expanding and TWO MONUMENTAL FIGURES (YGGDRASIL & QLIPHOTH) emerge from the Fountain of Youth glaring firmly at Daniel and Sally as they approach them.

YGGDRASIL

We sensed an unfamiliar presence not too long ago, could it be the Witch?

Daniel waves his hands, dissuading their fears.

DANIEL

No, no, no, the Witch hasn't entered these grounds in over 10,000 years.

SALLY

10,000 years? She's *old*.

Qliphoth overhears Sally's rude comment and approaches her, unimpressed and slightly unnerved.

QLIPHOTH

Who might this insincere, mild-mannered newcomer be? An Agent?

DANIEL

No, this is Sally Langford, my successor.

Sally waves unconvincingly, Yggdrasil and Qliphoth exchange glances, still not impressed. They expected more.

QLIPHOTH

Daniel, a moment please?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANIEL

Sure.

(to Sally; whispering)

Stay here.

SALLY

Okay...

The trees of life and Daniel moves near the center of the Fountain of Youth to continue their discussion.

YGGDRASIL

What's so special about her? She's ungraded on the life acceptance monitor.

QLIPHOTH

She also has no discipline, takes nothing seriously, yet speaks as if she *deserves* our respect. Who nominated *her* to be the next Sage?

Daniel takes a deep breath and GULPS HARD. He knows they won't like his answer.

DANIEL

The Witch.

YGGDRASIL

Excuse me?

QLIPHOTH

Are you serious?

The tree spirits are perplexed by Daniel's response, which also sparks Sally's attention.

SALLY

Hmm... What are they talking about?

DANIEL

I know it seems bad, but remember, the Witch of Death is not our enemy. She's our opposite.

Yggdrasil and Qliphoth look at each other, confused, skeptical and full of doubts. They still can't comprehend trusting the next Sage of Life to the whims of their natural enemy.

YGGDRASIL

What makes you so sure in the Witch's judgement?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DANIEL

We need the Witch to maintain balance in the afterlife. While we represent eternal salvation in the afterlife. Agatha represents eternal damnation.

QLIPHOTH

We already know that! So tell us why we should trust the Witch's judgement?

DANIEL

You said that Sally doesn't take life seriously, right? Well, her records don't provide the grounds for an counterargument, let's be honest.

Yggdrasil and Qliphoth stare at Daniel, as if to say: *"Once again, we already knew that."*

DANIEL (CONT'D)

But I wasn't the finished article when I got here, I wasn't as careless as Sally. But I learned to take life seriously thanks to the previous Witch of Death: Molgera Nocturna.

Yggdrasil and Qliphoth once again look at each other with unease and skepticism, still unsure about trusting the Witch's judgement.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

If she can teach me the error of my ways, why can't Agatha do the same for Sally?

Yggdrasil and Qliphoth sigh, they surrender, they begrudgingly swallow their pride and doubts and give Daniel the go ahead.

YGGDRASIL

Fine. But make sure she signs the Independency Clause. The last thing we need is you thoughtlessly covering for her mistakes.

DANIEL

Trust me, I've got that part covered. Now, with that settled. Let's get started.

(calling out)

Sally!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SALLY

-- Yeah!

Sally joins the magical trio.

DANIEL

Put your hands out.

Sally puts here hands her hands forward.

Yggdrasil gives a Daniel a seed glowing with a sparkling green. Meanwhile, Qliphoth gives A SPECIAL GOLDEN CUP that looks like the holy grail.

Daniel gives Sally the glowing seed and scoops some water from the Fountain of Youth.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Ready to become the new Sage of Life?

SALLY

Wait, what?

DANIEL

You're about to become the new Sage of Life, you're gonna teach people about what it means to value their lives. As well as heal people, help mother nature. Stuff like that.

SALLY

You know what? Sure let's do this.

DANIEL

Good, now put the seed in your mouth.

SALLY

Okay.

Sally hastily puts the seed in her mouth, but doesn't swallow.

DANIEL

(passing the gold cup)

Now drink this and swallow the seed.

SALLY

Like taking a pill.

DANIEL

-- Like taking a pill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

She drinks the water from the Fountain of Youth in conjunction with the seed of Yggdrasil, like taking a pill. After swallowing, her body starts GLOWING and CHANGING.

SALLY

Whoa... Am I Cinderella? What's going on?

Her clothes begin changing into the same PURE WHITE ROBE that Daniel has. She also receives a wooden staff with a BRIGHT GREEN ORB teeming with vitality and energy. This is the Verdant Staff.

With her transformation complete, Sally checks herself out. Shocked and perplexed.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What happened to me? I look like I got your hand-me-down!

DANIEL

Don't be ridiculous, you're now the Sage of Life, Sally Langford. Now let's get going!

Daniel snaps his fingers and the Sages wisp out of the frame.

INT. VITA COUNCIL - NIGHT

-- COUNCILOR'S OFFICE

Meanwhile, the chubby COUNCILOR of Vita is seen eating meat, fed by his attractive female ATTENDANTS. Shameful.

COUNCILOR

(to an attendant)

Do we have any more?

ATTENDANT

No sir.

COUNCILOR

Well I'll be damned, you're all useless.

AGATHA (O.S.)

That's my line.

The attendants and councilor cower upon seeing the formidable Witch of Death walking towards them, stroking her Obsidian Scythe. Ready for harvesting. Agatha's presence is simply

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

overwhelming.

COUNCILOR

Agatha... I... I... I wasn't... I
wasn't expecting you...

AGATHA

Of course you weren't. It's rare to
meet those prepared for death.

Agatha glares at the attendants, their souls pleading for
their freedom. She snarls. Looking away from their pitiful
and desperate faces.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

(to the attendants)
You're dismissed. Begone.

ATTENDANT

Really? You-you mean it?

AGATHA

Do you know who I am?

ATTENDANT

Y-yes I do. You're Agatha Nocturna:
The Witch of Death.

AGATHA

Precisely. So when *I*, the Witch of
Death, grant you mercy. You willingly
accept it, before I change my mind.

ATTENDANT

Yes ma'am.
(to the others)
Let's go ladies! We're free!

The attendant leaves, happy, hopeful and joyful and the
others follow suit. They're finally free from this hellish
nightmare.

Much to the councilor's chagrin. Who tries to stop them, but
he's immediately stopped by the curved hilt of Agatha's
scythe. Rendering him speechless and immobile.

AGATHA

Now, where were we?
(mock pause)
Ah, yes. Your eternal damnation. Did
you know I've designed an entire
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGATHA (CONT'D)
 mausoleum to you in the Necropolis.
 (like Agatha Harkness)
 That's the world of the damned.

COUNCILOR
 Wait-wait-wait-wait-wait, if you give
 me another chance --

AGATHA
 I have given you *another* chance, and
 you've squandered it on your fleshy
 desires.
 (disgust)
 Like, someone I know.
 (smiles wickedly)
 Now, it's time for your retribution.

COUNCILOR
 -- NO! No! No! No! NO! NOOOOO!!!

SWISH!

With one swift swing of the Obsidian Scythe, Agatha has ended
 the life of the councilor of Vita.

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- MAIN PLAZA

Sally and Daniel are now in the city of Vita. A vibrant,
 lively, city teeming with flourishing trees and an atmosphere
 worth cherishing.

SALLY
 (looking around)
 Where are we?

DANIEL
 Vita. The city of trees all connected
 to Qliphoth and Yggdrasil.

SALLY
 Holy shit... This place is amazing!

DANIEL
 I know, right? Anyway, come on. Let's
 get going.

SALLY
 Where are we going?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL
You'll see.

EXT. VITA CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

Daniel and Sally arrive at the cliffs of Vita, where the sun shines on the glorious scenery of Vita and mother nature in full bloom.

DANIEL
How's this for a view?

Sally is gob smacked at Vita's natural beauty.

SALLY
Damn... I wish I had a camera right now.

She frantically searches for it.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Wait, do I still have it?

DANIEL
No you don't, now pay attention.

Daniel clears his throat.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Vita is one of the strongholds established by Ryan Oswald. One of our predecessors.

SALLY
Really?

DANIEL
Yes, he helped liberate the souls that were held hostage by his nemesis, Schatten Nocturna: A former Warlock of Death.

SALLY
Lemme guess, he kicked his ass until that stupid Warlock realized who he was up against.

DANIEL
No. He struck a deal with the Warlock. Schatten would release the souls he captured, only if saw them value their
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

lives.

Sally frowns, she expected more.

SALLY

That's all?

Daniel smacks Sally's head, she deserved that.

SALLY (CONT'D)

OW! Jeez, what was that for?

DANIEL

For disrespecting our predecessor's achievements. Now listen, once the deal was set in motion, he helped the city by giving it food, shelter, nutrition, and clean air. But most importantly, he gave the citizens life, he gave them the ability to see the inherent value of life.

Sally still feels the story is underwhelming. In her mind, she feels it's missing something.

SALLY

Cool... But, what about the Warlock? What happened to him? I mean didn't he take their souls? He's the bad guy. Right?

DANIEL

That's a morally self-righteous way of looking at it, remember Schatten is the Warlock of Death, it's his job to kill people. It's not like only good people die. Life and Death go hand-in-hand, or do you want to separate the two for your hollow self-validation?

Sally's morally self-centered and simplistic worldview is shut down, those words hit too close to home.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Anyway, where were we? Ah, yes. Our duties as Sages, Witches or Warlocks are to maintain balance. Our case is mortality, the dualistic bond between Life and Death. Got it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY

Okay, got it.

Sally rolls her eyes, she's not on board with her responsibilities, she then notices a large city drenched in an ethereal black. Full of skeletons and corpses.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What's that creepy black place?

DANIEL

That's the Necropolis of Eternal Silence. It's beyond Vita's borders and it's where the current Witch of Death lives. Agatha Nocturna. Don't go there under any circumstances!

SALLY

Okay, I got it.

Sally still feels upset that her shallow worldview has been shattered. Thankfully, Daniel knows how to cheer her up.

DANIEL

Good! Now, who's ready to learn some magic?

Sally's eyes beam, finally something exciting.

SALLY

Hell yeah!

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

In the mystical plains of dried ruins near the eastern outskirts of Vita, Daniel and Sally arrive for the latter's training.

DANIEL

Alright, first things about magic. There are two main types: physical and spiritual. Physical means drawing magic from and interacting with the world around you.

(beat)

Spiritual means drawing magic from within you and sharing it with the world around you.

(beat)

Watch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Daniel stretches his Verdant Staff and closes his eyes.

Beat.

Mana flows from Verdant Staff and into the ground, filling it with life, vitality and energy. It's luscious and refreshing nature moves Sally. A brilliant showcase of spiritual magic.

SALLY

Wow.

Beat.

The plants, grass and trees begin WILTING, with the flow of Mana returning to Daniel's Verdant Staff. A brilliant showcase of physical magic.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Damn... Can I do that?

DANIEL

Let's take it one step at a time, for now let's try the basics. Like, nurturing a seed.

SALLY

Nurturing a seed?

DANIEL

Yes, nurturing a seed into a flower. The basics of spiritual and physical magic.

SALLY

(rolling her eyes)

Fine, how do we get started teacher?

DANIEL

Sorry, but I've got a few errands to run, someone else will be teaching you.

SALLY

What? Who?

DANIEL

(calling out)

BETHANY!!

POOMF!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

An enchantress dressed in SILKY CLEAN SILVER GARMENTS (BETHANY Udon), arrives as if this was preordained. She inspects Sally closely and is unimpressed.

BETHANY

Who is this? A fangirl?

DANIEL

No, this is Sally Langford, the new Sage of Life.

Bethany is shocked, Sally tries to give her an imposing glare, trying to showboat. But Bethany's piercing gaze shoots Sally's confidence down almost immediately.

BETHANY

(to Daniel)

So what am I teaching her?

DANIEL

The basics in spiritual, physical and elemental magic.

BETHANY

Seems fair. Remember our agreement?

SALLY

-- What agreement?

DANIEL

(to Bethany; ignoring Sally)

-- Yes I do. Don't worry, I won't force you to teach her everything. That's *my* responsibility.

BETHANY

Good.

DANIEL

Alright, now I'm off.

BOOM!

Daniel takes off and leaves the frame via flying. Sally is astonished by her predecessor's numerous talents.

SALLY

No way... He can fly!?

BETHANY

Of course he can, now let's get to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BETHANY (CONT'D)
work.

SALLY
I really fucking hate you.

BETHANY
-- The feeling's mutual.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

Meanwhile, in the Nocturnal Skull, Daniel and Agatha converse. Monitoring Sally's training.

DANIEL
Agatha, I... I know...

AGATHA
Spare me your excuses. Your voice,
your posture, your intent, all lack
conviction.

Daniel's stunned into complete silence. Despite having her back turned, Agatha read him like an open book.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
But for all intents and purposes,
choosing Bethany was the best
decision.

Daniel is shocked to receive such a sincere compliment from the prideful Witch of Death.

DANIEL
Thanks... But, why?

Agatha points to the screen, and Daniel sees...

Sally and Bethany bickering like school kids.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Oh brother.

He face palms in disappointment, while Agatha enjoys the squabble with a sadistic smirk.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
What's so amusing?

Agatha glares daggers at Daniel, catching him off guard. He trembles for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA

A little deconstruction and reconstruction can't hurt.

Agatha chuckles with her signature condescending sadistic tone, confusing Daniel as he reverts his attention to his successor and his employee.

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

-- Who are still bickering despite the importance of the task at hand.

BETHANY

What part of "remain focused" wasn't clear!?

SALLY

Everything! I mean, what am I "*remaining focused*" for!?

BETHANY

Mastering your Mana control, so you can fulfill your duties as the new Sage of Life!

SALLY

I didn't ask to be the Sage of Life! I just said yes, because it sounded fun!!

BETHANY

Congratulations! No wonder the Witch hates you so much!

Sally GASPS, remembering something.

SALLY

Oh yeah, that reminds me. Daniel said something about the Witch. Something about her living somewhere close to here... The "Necro" something...

BETHANY

The Necropolis of Eternal Silence. Or the Necropolis, for short.

SALLY

Right, what's so scary and taboo about it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Bethany faces palms hard, she can't believe Sally's ignorance and disrespect.

BETHANY

You're kidding, right? Please tell me you're kidding.

SALLY

(nonchalant; arrogant)
And what happens if I don't?

CRUNCH!

Bethany steps on Sally's foot, so hard you can hear the bones cracking. Painful, but deserved.

SALLY (CONT'D)

OW, ow, ow, what's wrong with you!?
Why'd you that!?

BETHANY

-- Do I need to explain!?

SIZZLE!

Sally hears her foot sizzling, thinking it's burning. But once she takes a look, it's actually HEALING. Catching Sally completely off-guard in a state of pure bewilderment.

SALLY

Whoa...

BETHANY

Good you're focused, now listen closely. The Necropolis is a cold, harsh and eerie place, teeming with death. It crawls with souls of the damned, Deathly Guardians, who protect the Nocturnal Skull which center lays at the center. The Witch's exclusive domain.

SALLY

Really? Is that bad?

BETHANY

-- Yeah, for those who don't value their lives.

SALLY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BETHANY

Long story short, Life and Death are in charge of mortality and the afterlife.

SALLY

The afterlife?

BETHANY

-- Precisely. So if you live a fulfilling life, you get taken to the Fountain of Youth. But if you live a fruitless life, you get taken to the Necropolis.

SALLY

Really? That sucks.

BETHANY

No, that's duality. Those who deserve eternal salvation get saved, and the same applies for those who deserve eternal damnation.

SALLY

(smug; arrogant)

Well sucks to be damned, because I didn't have the greatest life on Earth and look at me!

Bethany scoffs, dismissing Sally's misguided confidence.

BETHANY

If only you knew who *really* summoned you and **why**?

SALLY

What?

BETHANY

Nothing.

(beat)

So, let's go over the basics one more time. Draw Mana from your body and release it into the ground.

SALLY

Got it! But how?

BETHANY

That's it! I'm done! I can't do this
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BETHANY (CONT'D)
anymore! Goodbye!

POOMF!

Bethany vanishes from the frame in a huff. But Sally couldn't care less.

SALLY
Oh, whatever! No one likes you anyway,
you ugly bitch!

During Sally's mini-tirade, we see Daniel eavesdropping, thoroughly aware of what happened.

DANIEL
Who are you calling an ugly bitch?

Sally is jolted by Daniel's surprising return, she panics, trying to find an excuse. But Daniel already knows.

SALLY
Hey Daniel! How, how, how long have
you been standing there?

DANIEL
The whole time.

SALLY
Seriously? The whole time? It didn't
feel that way.

DANIEL
That's because you didn't sense my
presence.

SALLY
Of course I didn't, you seem like the
average Joe to me.

SLAP!

Daniel viciously slaps Sally. She deserved that.

DANIEL
Come on Sally, we've got work to do!
Take this seriously!

Sally rubs her cheek, displeased but deeply aware of the weight of her actions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SALLY
Fine, fine.

Daniel sighs, composing himself. Summons A CONTRACT and a pen. He passes it to Sally.

DANIEL
Okay, I need you to sign this.

SALLY
What's this?

DANIEL
It's an Independency Clause. It's a contract that shows I can trust you take care of yourself in my absence.

SALLY
(eyes light up)
Really? That's it?

DANIEL
Yep.

SALLY
Well then, yes sir!

Sally snatches the contract and pen and signs the contract without a second thought. She passes the pen and contract back to Daniel.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Done!

DANIEL
Alright, I need to show you something.

Daniel leaves the shot. Sally follows. Intrigued.

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- TOWN SQUARE

The Sages return to Vita. Daniel walks ahead, Sally follows close behind. The townsfolk, greet them and they simply wave in response.

SALLY
Where are we going?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL

To meet someone, extremely important.

SALLY

(re: Bethany)

Hopefully, it's not *her* again.

DANIEL

-- What?

SALLY

-- Nothing!

DANIEL

Anyway, the person we're meeting holds valuable information that we need to fulfill our duties on a global scale.

SALLY

A global scale?

DANIEL

Duh! Did you think Vita was the only country in this world!?

SALLY

I don't know, I... I... I... Never mind.

DANIEL

(sighs)

Alright, how's your Mana control going?

SALLY

Easy peasy, I can move rocks, make forests, I'm an Earthbender through and through.

DANIEL

Oh, really?

Daniel summons a rock from the ground and Sally sweats, regretting her boastful proclamations.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Alright, Toph Beifong, it's your turn.

SALLY

Pfft, easy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sally repeatedly stomps the ground blindly hoping that a rock will emerge. But nothing happens. She's just stomping her feet like an idiot.

Daniel's seen enough.

DANIEL
(sighs)
You didn't take your training seriously, did you?

Sally chuckles weakly, trying to hide her shame. But Daniel's fierce gaze shoots her facade down.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Do you remember two types of magic?

SALLY
Spiritual and physical.... I think?

DANIEL
(shocked)
That's correct.

SALLY
Yes! See, I told you I was worth the effort.

DANIEL
Really?

CITIZEN (O.S.)
Sage of Life!

DANIEL
-- Yes? What's the problem, sir?

A citizen of Vita rushes over to Daniel in haste. Ignoring Sally completely.

CITIZEN
My wife! She's been cursed!

Daniel is now on high alert.

DANIEL
What!? Show me!

The citizen guides the Sages to a crowded area where several citizens gather around an ailing woman in tattered clothes. They make space once Daniel arrives but still ignore Sally,

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

much to her annoyance.

SALLY

That's rude they won't let *me* in.

DANIEL

Shut up, Sally! I'm trying to focus here!

(to the citizen; looking at his wife)

How bad is it?

CITIZEN

She's been itching, coughing, and losing skin for the past month. Please, save her.

DANIEL

Quick question, *who* cursed her?

CITIZEN

A-A-According to rumors... It was... Bonesworth?

DANIEL

Bonesworth? I see, she's made her move.

CITIZEN

Great Sage, can you heal her?

DANIEL

Of course I can.

Daniel place his hand over the ailing woman and A GREEN AURA engulfs her body. It gradually heals her wounds, bruises and revitalizes her skin. She's healed. Everyone rejoices. Except Sally who is simply too stumped to celebrate.

The husband and wife share a loving embrace.

CITIZEN

Honey!

CITIZEN'S WIFE

Darling!

They turn to thank Daniel.

CITIZEN

Thank you, Daniel. What can we do to repay you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DANIEL

All I need to know is where I can find Jessica Pluta.

CITIZEN'S WIFE

Her library is the largest building a mile east from here.

DANIEL

Thank you.

Daniel leaves and Sally follows.

SALLY

(unimpressed)

You could've asked for money you know?

DANIEL

What?

SALLY

You healed that guy's wife, but in return, all you asked for was direction to find some... girl. Why?

DANIEL

Because the right thing is its own reward, you don't constantly need wealth, fame and attention to have value. Who you are matters more.

SALLY

-- Tch. Well, a wise man once said: "If you're good at something, never do it for free."

Daniel sighs and face palms hard, he cannot believe how badly Sally misunderstood the quote.

DANIEL

Let's get two things straight. First of all, when the Joker said that, he was reflecting his inability to trust the goodness in others, which is why he always wants something in return. Secondly, it shows how shallow and immature he is, because why you shouldn't do good deeds without a reason. Ask yourself, if you saw a child about to be hit by a car, would you *need* a reason to save them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SALLY

Well... No, I wouldn't.

DANIEL

Exactly, so why should I show *need* a reason to help a man heal his wife?

Sally is silenced. Her shallow worldview came back to bite her.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Case and point. Now let's meet Jessica.

EXT. THE NEXUS CHAMBER - DAY

-- ENTRANCE

Daniel and Sally arrive at their destination. The former's excitement is contrasted with the latter's disappointment.

SALLY

This is it? Really?

DANIEL

Yes! Now remember Sally, best behavior!

Sally rolls her eyes, she hates being treated like a child.

SALLY

Yeah, yeah.

DANIEL

Alright, here we go.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

After a short while, JESSICA Pluta, the great librarian holding her Nexus of Knowledge tightly, as she greets the Sages of Life.

JESSICA

(to Daniel)

You're early.

Jessica takes a fervent look at Sally and just like the citizens of Vita, she's unimpressed by Sally despite being the new Sage of Life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

(to Sally)

And you're morbidly incompetent. And I mean morbidly.

SALLY

Why you -- !

Sally wants to fight, but her impulsivity is brushed aside by Daniel's timely intervention.

DANIEL

-- Alright ladies! Let's take this inside shall we?

Sally and Jessica exchange glares, then they look the other way. Repulsed and disgusted.

SALLY

Sure, whatever.

JESSICA

Yeah, fine.

They make their way inside and resume their conversation in the --

INT. THE NEXUS CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

-- LOUNGE

They all have a seat, but Sally is put off by the never ending amount of books.

JESSICA

So what do you want?

DANIEL

We need to know how the other Sages are doing.

JESSICA

Just as bad as her, Order is so deluded it makes Chaos seem sane, which feels insulting.

DANIEL

Oh.

JESSICA

Introspection has fallen back into her old habits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL

Yikes!

JESSICA

And do I even need to describe Hope
and Despair.

DANIEL

No, please don't.

SALLY

What is she talking about?

DANIEL

Remember when I summoned you here?
Made you the new Sage of Life?

SALLY

Yeah...

DANIEL

Well, it turns out, you weren't the
only one. Three others were summoned,
chosen to be the new Sages of Hope,
Order and Introspection, respectively.

SALLY

Really?

Sally's eyes widen with astonishment. She didn't expect other
people from Earth to be summoned to the same world with the
same dilemma thrust upon them.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Who are they?

DANIEL

Representing Order: Henry Spade.
Representing Hope: Leandre Espoir.
Finally, representing Introspection:
Carla Maria Barbara Jimenez.

SALLY

Damn, I didn't know. So tell me, I'm
the brightest bulb of the bunch
compared to those losers, right?

JESSICA

Were you even listening to me!?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY
I was... Kinda...

DANIEL
-- Moving on! Do you know how the
Witches and Warlocks are preparing for
the upcoming war?

JESSICA
Smoothly. But they request a meeting
with the more accomplished Sages.

DANIEL
Finally! Some good news. So, when is
the meeting?

JESSICA
Right now.

DANIEL
Seriously? Now?

JESSICA
Yes, now get going!

DANIEL
Alright, open the ceiling!
(to Sally)
Remember what I told you. Best
behavior.

SALLY
Trust me, I heard you the first time.

DANIEL
Okay, I'm off.

The ceiling OPENS. Daniel crouches down and FLIES through the
ceiling shocking Sally completely.

SALLY
Oh yeah, he can fly!

JESSICA
Of course, if you were taking your
training seriously, you could too.

Sally grunts. But she knows Jessica's right.

SALLY
Well, whatever. Hey, can you tell me
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SALLY (CONT'D)
more about this place?

JESSICA
Like what?

SALLY
Like the Witch.

JESSICA
Which Witch?

SALLY
The Witch of Death, obviously. Wait,
there's more?

JESSICA
To the table.

Jessica sighs with the same boredom she usually does.

She uses A MAGICAL CHALKBOARD to bring her images to life.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Over 6 billion years ago, Lady Dualita
distributed her essence to the world.
Yang magic. It flourished, teeming
with vitality, structure, optimism and
peace. But it grew too much and the
world became imbalanced.

Sally leans forward, intrigued.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
So she created another form of her
essence, Yin magic. Which was brought
in to balance things out.
Introspection and Vanity.

Images of Mariposa: Sage of Introspection and Gloria Hermosa:
Witch of Vanity are projected.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Order and Chaos.

Images of Henry Spade: Sage of Order and Dementia Eris
Discordia: Witch of Chaos are projected.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Hope and Despair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Images of Leandre Espoir: Sage of Hope and Nigel Desespoir: Warlock of Despair.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

And of course, Life and Death.

Images of Sally Langford: Sage of Life and Agatha Nocturna: Witch of Death are projected. The image of Agatha sparks no fear in Sally, due to ignorance NOT bravery.

SALLY

Wait, that's it? Shouldn't there more?

JESSICA

There was, but Agatha killed the other Witches and Warlocks. This shocked the other Sages into hiding.

SALLY

Really? She killed her own kind? What a bitch.

Jessica rolls her eyes. She can't believe what she just heard.

JESSICA

At this point, I don't even wanna argue.

SALLY

Cool. Last question, if I were to go to the Necropolis, how would I get there?

Jessica gives Sally a map, the route from the Nexus Chamber to the Necropolis, **marked in brown.**

JESSICA

I've created this map using magic. It should guide you to the Witch. Now go on march into your funeral. So I can read in peace.

SALLY

Okay, okay, jeez. Why are you such a jerk?

JESSICA

Speak for yourself.

Sally sticks her middle finger, leaving the Nexus Chamber.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Excited and lively.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

Agatha gleefully observes the ignorant Sally sprint towards the Necropolis.

AGATHA

It's too bad you're too important for me to kill. Because I'd love to give you an early grave.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Still running to the Necropolis, Sally continues her voyage until she notices A MASSIVE GORGE with an EERIE ABYSS below. It reeks of death, decay, finality and a gripping sense of harrowing.

Thankfully, a 50 meter log connects the Necropolis to the cliff. It spans over the gaping abyss. Sally finally decides to take action by hopping onto the log and jogging to the Necropolis.

Once she approaches the other side, she TRIPS and STUMBLES downward until...

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

Sally catches her bearings again. Her wounds begin healing a lot slower, due to a DARK SUBSTANCE that Sally shakes off in fear. Also, A LUSH GREEN GLOW surrounds Sally's body.

SALLY

(frightened)

Get off me! Go away! Jeez...

The dark substance disappears, but Sally's relief is interrupted by a HOWLING SCREAM.

She gasps, and looks around. Amazed and ecstatic. She made it, she's in the Necropolis.

SALLY (CONT'D)

How about that? I made it.

She continues venturing through the Necropolis, she sees a mural inscribed with the name "Envidia Nemesis Zilevo: Witch of Jealousy." She sees another with the name "Miss Kelly

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Savage: Witch of Overindulgence."

SALLY (CONT'D)

So this where the Witch of Death lives. I wonder, what's so scary about her?

Sally notices the Nocturnal Skull in the distance, and gets excited. She runs towards it without thinking. But Bethany steps in to chide:

BETHANY

The fact that she's the most powerful Witch of Taboo, for starters!

SALLY

Ah great, guess who's back?

BETHANY

Hey, watch your mouth! This "party pooper" is here to save your life. You have no idea, what the Witch will do if she knows you're here.

SALLY

Hey, look. Betty Obenga's afraid of a broomstick.

BETHANY

It's Bethany Udon! Airhead! And why can't you see the danger we're in?

Just like Simba in "*The Lion King*", Sally walks to the Nocturnal Skull, full of bravado and swagger. She pompously and flamboyantly poses in front of the door.

SALLY

Danger? What danger? I'm the Sage of Life. You know what that means? I'm the *only* who has the **divine** right to laugh in the face of death.

(bravado & swagger)

Wa-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!

Sally turns around and sees Agatha (shrouded in darkness), **staring directly at her.**

AGATHA

Boo.

Sally SCREAMS and runs behind Bethany. Like a coward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Meanwhile, Agatha slowly emerges from the darkness shrouding the entrance to the Nocturnal Skull. Gently stroking the tip of the Obsidian Scythe. She approaches the fear-stricken trespassers.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Well, what do I have here?

(beat)

A Sage and a Mage? Or two dumbasses?

BETHANY

Listen Great Harvester, ma'am, it was just an error on her map. Trust me, we're just lost. Life can be a bitch sometimes. Am I right?

Bethany walks away and gently pushes Sally, trying to escape, but the bottom of the Obsidian Scythe, halts her in her tracks. Agatha LOOMS over the petrified Bethany.

AGATHA

Tell me about it, thankfully, Death doesn't have such issues. Wouldn't you agree?

Bethany gently removes her trapped clothes from Agatha's scythe.

BETHANY

(weak laughter)

Yeah, I agree.

Sally (still relatively close), looks ahead of her and Agatha has already intercepted her. She instinctively takes a few steps back.

AGATHA

You must be...

SALLY

Sally Langford: The Sage of Life.

Agatha begins closing the distance.

AGATHA

In case you're unaware, this is my home. The Necropolis of Eternal Silence.

(like Agatha Harkness; in Sally's face)

It's the world of the damned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Agatha's unhinged sadistic smiles, creeps Sally out. She slowly back away.

SALLY

That's great, but I don't gets how that's comforting.

AGATHA

It *is* comforting. For me.

Bethany drags Sally away from Agatha. They RUN.

BETHANY

I'm glad you're both getting along, but we'd be better.

Agatha immediately circles around faster than they can react, she points the Obsidian Scythe at them.

AGATHA

Going so soon? There's so much more we need to talk about.

(glaring daggers at Sally)

Isn't that why you came here?

BETHANY

(infuriated; to Sally)

WHAT!?

They turn to see... Sally making a DASH FOR IT. How cowardly. Much to Bethany's disgust and Agatha's delight.

AGATHA

All bark and no bite.

BETHANY

You fucking coward!

Bethany tries to chase after Sally, but she's grabbed by Agatha.

AGATHA

Where do you think you're going?

WITH SALLY

Sally scurries from danger, completely disregarding Bethany. She approaches the hill tumbled down to enter the Necropolis.

SALLY

Alright, how do I get up this hill?

She tries to force her way up, but fails each time. Eventually, she ends falling into...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

A DARK TUNNEL, which leads her to...

AGATHA & BETHANY

Embracing her sadistic tendencies, Agatha forces Bethany into A POOL OF DARKNESS. Sally watches in horror.

AGATHA

The Udonia clan have a high capacity for darkness. Should we test that?

BETHANY

Please Agatha, have mercy I beg --

Agatha shoves Bethany into the pool and all that remains is a HARROWING SCREAM, like her soul has been taken.

AGATHA

Now that was cathartic.

Sally calls to Agatha with the same bravado as before:

SALLY

-- Then you'll love me.

Agatha swings her scythe towards Sally, her smile getting more sadistic than before.

AGATHA

Precisely.

SALLY

-- Crap.

Sally RUNS. But due to not paying attention to her surroundings, she almost runs into another POOL OF DARKNESS. She stops herself and Agatha emerges from it, like a shark when it's prey is near the ocean's surface.

AGATHA

Hallo.

Sally GASPS. Agatha LAUGHS.

Agatha swings her scythe at Sally who narrowly dodges and runs towards...

A MAZE

Filled with murals, gravestones, corpses and statues of Agatha's predecessors. She continues running, full steam

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ahead, until...

Agatha appears in front of her, ready to strike Sally down, but the spooked Sage barges into a wall and breaks through it. She FALLS, until she arrives at...

A DEAD END (UNDERGROUND)

THUD! CRACK!

Sally falls so hard, she hears the bones crack in her right leg, Agatha appears closing in on her pray.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Now that's what I call a dead leg.

Agatha laughs pointing her Obsidian Scythe at Sally. She continues walking towards the cowering Sage who can't muster the courage to beg for mercy.

Eventually Agatha STOPS.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Spare me the heroic intervention. You know she's not worth the effort.

Daniel swoops into restore Sally's leg back to health and with Bethany's body in full health.

DANIEL

Really? Then I suppose you chasing Sally and burning Bethany was you're method of passing the time?

Agatha scoffs.

AGATHA

Precisely.

Daniel is put off by Agatha's sadism. But not surprised. He turns to the timid and confused Sally.

DANIEL

Care to explain yourself?

SALLY

Oh, I was just --

AGATHA

-- She came here out of defiant ignorance to "teach me a lesson".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

(giggling)

Seriously, does her stupidity never cease?

DANIEL

At this point Agatha, even I can't answer that.

(to Sally and Bethany)

Let's go home.

Daniel leads Bethany and Sally back to Vita. Agatha stops Sally whispers into her ear.

AGATHA

Don't let this go to your head, you're not off the hook. Sally Langford. You'll answer for your crimes, on my terms.

Sally backs away in fear as Agatha chuckles boisterously and sinisterly as she makes her exit.

EXT. DRIED RUINS - NIGHT

Daniel walks ahead, Bethany and Sally lag behind with guilt and shame bearing down on them.

DANIEL

Bethany!

Bethany meekly confronts Daniel.

BETHANY

Yes sir...

DANIEL

Thanks for calling me. You're dismissed! I'd like to deal with Sally alone.

Bethany wants to say more, but is shut down by Daniel's stern expression, she's reminded of Agatha and it scares her. She leaves and Sally is left alone with the disappointed Daniel.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(calling)

Sally!

Sally finally approaches Daniel herself, she sits beside him. Doing the bare minimum to hide her guilt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Sally, do you like pissing people off?

Sally raises an eyebrow. She doesn't understand.

SALLY

What?

DANIEL

I said, do you like pissing people off?

Sally shrugs her shoulders and smirks.

SALLY

Depends on the reaction, if I know that I'll get the reaction I want. I go for it. If not, I don't even bother.

DANIEL

To say you don't understand the value of life. Would you be a huge understatement.

SALLY

I do value life, if I didn't, I'd be dead right?

WHACK! Daniel furiously smacks Sally's head with his Verdant Staff.

DANIEL

For the umpteenth time, that's not how it works! You can't just cast off your problems onto the world just because you're alive and remember them when you're dead. Or vice versa!

SALLY

But the Witch --

DANIEL

The Witch kills people because its her job! Again, it's not like only good or bad people die! It's up to you to prove that life is something worth cherishing!

SALLY

Well I've never had any do that for
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY (CONT'D)

me!

DANIEL

Yes you have! But you were too self-centered to realize!

SALLY

Easy for you to say! I've bet you always had so easy you didn't need to rely on --

SLAP!! Daniel furiously slaps Sally's face. Sally is petrified by Daniel's intimidating aura.

DANIEL

Not another word! Tomorrow go outside the Vita Council. Someone's expecting you.

(beat)

Goodbye.

Daniel takes off and leaves Sally alone, upset, confused and hurt.

EXT. VITA COUNCIL - DAY

-- ENTRANCE

Sally hangs around the entrance of the Vita Council, as instructed, impatiently waiting for her visitor to arrive. She begins a shallow rant about Daniel:

SALLY

(mockingly)

"Oh well it's not like only good people die! So respect the Witch." Okay, then tell me, if our job is saving people, then why didn't you save the people Agatha killed. If saving people is our gimmick, then you suck at your job. That's right, shithead. You suck.

A dark, eerie and ominous SHADOW looms over Sally. Much to her annoyance. She moves closer to the door without turning around.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Yeesh, for a country that loves the sun, now it wants to get cloudy. Now I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY (CONT'D)
know how the Brits feel.

Sally finally turns around to see Agatha standing, irritated and indifferent to Sally's ignorance and selfishness. But the Sage FREEZES, unable to muster the courage to speak to the Witch.

AGATHA
So, you're done? Wonderful. Come with me. NOW.

Sally raises an eyebrow in confusion.

SALLY
What? Why? After what happened last time?

AGATHA
Just shut up, and come with me. End of discussion.

SALLY
What do you mean "end of discussion"?
Who gave you --

Sally looks forward and is helpless fear-stricken by Agatha's (literal) death glare. She tightly grips her Verdant Staff for dear life. Ironic.

Agatha signals for Sally to follow and she does without hesitation.

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - NIGHT

-- CORPSE GALLERY

After travelling through the harsh and eerie environment of the Necropolis. They enter an ominous chamber engulfed in BLOOD and DARKNESS. This is the TORTURE CHAMBER.

AGATHA
Ah, yes. Here it is.

Agatha opens the door and smiles wickedly upon seeing the numerous tortured, bleeding and dismantled CORPSES of deceased humans. Sally turns away and holds her mouth, trying to stop herself from vomiting. But Agatha holds her head and firmly turns Sally's head back to the Corpse Gallery.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Don't avert your eyes. I demand your *full* attention. Nothing less.

Sally still struggles to fully concentrate due to the unsightly nature of the decaying corpses and the rotten.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Do you smell you it? Do you see it? The rotten stench of those who *don't* value their lives. As well as my Miasma of course.

Agatha quietly and lightly chuckles, but Sally still can't look at the Corpse Gallery.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Life is fragile and finite, yes it may be beautiful and nurturing. But it's not meant to last, it can't. Which is why death gives life meaning and balance. Without balance, life and death are simply empty words.

Sally listens and turn to Agatha, who hasn't finished yet:

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Life and Death are eternally and dualistically bound forces that coexist to maintain the balance of mortality. This is the last time *I'll* tell you *nice*ly. Understand?

With her point made, Agatha decides to leave. Sally stays put but looks DOWNWARD, away from the horrific display. Then replies-

SALLY

But I'm not *them*. Am I?

Unnerved and irked, Agatha stops.

AGATHA

Excuse me?

Agatha turns and faces Sally.

SALLY

If your point is about punishing those who didn't value their lives, and all that crap. Then why wasn't *I* punished?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Agatha scoffs.

AGATHA

Are you kidding me?

SALLY

No. I'm not. And if I'm being honest, I'll admit my life wasn't the best to say the least. So by your logic, shouldn't I be held to the same standard?

Agatha holds her head in disbelief, she's about to have a migraine because Sally's insufferable nature.

AGATHA

Even after logic, reason, and an exclusive tour of the Torture Chamber. You still selfishly cling onto your delusions of grandeur?

SALLY

(giving the middle finger)
-- They're not delusions, it's the truth. You can't treat me like them, because I'm the Sage of Life and they're not.

Agatha grunts bitterly, she's had enough. Sally walks away.

SALLY (CONT'D)

In other words Witch. Ya basic!

AGATHA

Come again...

SALLY

(nonchalant)
I said, in other words --

Sally's voice drops COMPLETELY when the infuriated Agatha, engulfed in her vicious red aura. Glares daggers at Sally.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

Whacked out of the Necropolis, where she lands headfirst into the dirt behind the log, with her body above the dirt and her head below it, like a cartoon character.

She finally gets her head out of the ground (literally). Then rubs it hard to remove the dirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

Jerk.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - CONTINUOUS

Furious and pushed to her limit Agatha returns to her chambers, a worried Daniel enters trying to quell her anger.

AGATHA

That's it. Her retribution begins tomorrow.

DANIEL

What? Tomorrow?

AGATHA

Yes indeed. Unless you're able to fix this. Quickly. I will nothing on the contrary.

DANIEL

But it for to be this soon... Alright, give me one last chance to talk some sense into her.

AGATHA

In case you weren't paying attention, talking won't resolve this.

DANIEL

It's like a cry on deaf ears.

AGATHA

I know, which is why I've come prepared.

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- TOWN SQUARE

Sally is messing around with fireworks, aiming loosely and not paying attention to the potential hazards abound. She laughs and sings.

SALLY

(singing)

'Cause baby I'm a firework! Baby let your colors burst! Baby -- !

Daniel enters and SWIPES the fireworks out of Sally's grip. Much to her shock and dismay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY (CONT'D)

Hello teacher! Good morning. I'm ready for your next lesson.

DANIEL

Are you sure? Because I'm fairly certain it didn't involve messing with fireworks.

SALLY

I'm not messing around. I'm just... Celebrating bonfire night.

DANIEL

This world doesn't celebrate that.

SALLY

New Year's Day?

DANIEL

That was 4 months ago, and they don't use fireworks.

SALLY

Your birthday?

DANIEL

-- Look, just give me the fireworks.

SALLY

You're the biggest party pooper ever!

DANIEL

NOW!!!

Sally sighs and gives in.

SALLY

Fine.

Sally gives the remaining fireworks to Daniel.

DANIEL

Good, now I spoke to the Witch yesterday.

Sally interrupts, disgusted and confused.

SALLY

You spoke with her!?

DANIEL

Yes, now calm down. She said she's
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

given you one last chance to prove yourself.

SALLY

What do you mean "prove myself"?

DANIEL

Prove yourself worthy of your title.

SALLY

I've already proved it. I ate the seed and drank the water.

(realizes)

Why did that sound a lot more suggestive than I thought?

DANIEL

(grabs Sally; shakes her)

Come on Sally! This is serious!

SALLY

Don't blame me. Blame the Witch you've been making out with. I bet she says

--

("sexy" voice)

-- "Ooh, it feels so good, I could die".

(normal voice)

To that I say, I hope so.

Daniel angrily confronts Sally, who backs away from her predecessor.

DANIEL

Alright young lady, I've tried to be nice. But unless you want this to turn into a bloodbath on a global scale.

You're gonna become *the* Sage of Life.

Whether you like it or not.

SALLY

(smacking her ass)

Not unless you tell Agatha to kiss my ass!

Sally lights a MATCH and throws it behind Daniel, who doesn't react. But eventually realizes A CANNISTER OF FIREWORKS ready to be lit are behind him. He tries to run towards it, but Sally pulls him back, stalling him long enough for the fireworks to go off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

With the fireworks set off, they fly wayward in an upwards direction. Some burst in the sky, while most of the others hit the...

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - DAY

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

With more than 8 hits to the Central Tower, CRACKS start to form and DEBRIS begins to fall.

Daniel and Sally arrive with indifference from the former and shame from the latter. Sally takes a step forward, afraid of the falling tower.

CITIZENS

What happened?! It doesn't matter,
we've gotta get outta here! Move it!
The Central Tower's gonna fall!

Sally stands directly below the Central Tower. GULPS hard.

SALLY

Holy shit...

Daniel speaks authoritatively, taking charge:

DANIEL

Everyone, get to the Town Square! Now!

The citizens heed Daniel's advice and flee, heading for the town square. He gives Sally a stern look as if to say "Do it yourself".

Frustrated, confused, anxious and inexperienced. Sally begrudgingly steps forth. She GRABS the tower, but nothing changes.

SALLY

Come on! I can do this!

SHOOM!

The tower continues crumbling.

Sally pushes even harder. But it makes no difference.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Come on Sally, you've gotta make this work.

(beat; less confident)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY (CONT'D)

Somehow.

SHOOM! SHOOM!

The tower crumbles even further. It's gonna fall soon.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Crap, crap, crap, crap!

SHOOM! SHOOM! SHOOM! SHOOM! SHOOM! SHOOM!

The tower reaches its tipping point, and begins its descent towards the street and Sally.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Uh oh...

DANIEL

-- Sally! Get outta way!

Sally runs and jumps out of harms way.

With his successor safe, Daniel then looks at the falling tower and clenches his fists, ready to take action.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Alright. Let's do this.

Daniel runs to the falling tower, and places his palms on it. Sally spectates in awe and confusion.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Earth style: Mother Earth's Blessing.

Daniel's hands turn GREEN and the broken parts of the Central Tower begin fixing themselves. Restoring the tower back to health.

The citizens return. Praising Daniel and ignoring Sally.

CITIZENS

Thank you Great Sage, you're too kind.
You saved our lives! We owe you big
time!

DANIEL

No worries, I'm just here to help.
Everything's fine, just go back to
living your lives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The citizens disperse and Sally can't hide her excitement.

SALLY

Oh my God, that was amazing! Instead of hooking me up with that loser Bethany. You should've taught me that.

DANIEL

I tried, but you didn't listen! Instead you picked fights with me, Agatha and Bethany. And only cared about *your* childish bad habits.

(sighs)

You know what? I'm done, there's no point in doing this anymore.

Daniel begins walking away, Sally doesn't want to beg, so she lets him continue.

SALLY

Oh whatever, I don't need you! Have fun getting in the Witch's underwear.

(beat)

If she wears any.

Sally scratches her head. Thinking about what she just said. Agatha gently and menacingly descends into frame. Behind the dopey Sally.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Now that I think about it, do grim reapers wear underwear?

Agatha approaches Sally. Circles around her.

AGATHA

Well, well, well, what do we have here? A Sage or a dumbass?

SALLY

Listen bitch, I'm not having the best day right now. My jerk of a mentor ruined my fireworks display. So unless you know where to get some more, please --

CRUNCH! Agatha punches Sally in the abdomen so hard you can hear her BONES CRACK.

Sally tumbles and lands into a nearby building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BOOM!

With debris falling onto her, Sally struggles to recover from that hefty blow. Agatha approaches.

AGATHA

I've tried to be gentle, I've given you warning after warning. And yet you still refuse to wake up from your selfish delusions.

Sally gets up, barely recovered and still winded. Agatha cracks her fists, she's just getting started.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

No matter, I guess I'll have to settle this *my* way.

CRUNCH!

Sally lands a nasty kick on Agatha's genitals. She celebrates thinking she's won. But doesn't realize that Agatha isn't injured.

SALLY

Boom! How's that for a dumbass, granny? You're not an all-powerful Witch. Ya basic.

Sally tries to punch Agatha, but the Witch catches the Sage's weak punch and GRABS her throat.

Still holding Sally's throat she takes flight and brings her nemesis into...

EXT. SKY - DAY

Sally doesn't want to look down and looks at Agatha. Begging for mercy.

SALLY

I'm sorry, okay? Let's just pretend that didn't happen. I'm a can-do type of gal. Just give me another chance to prove it. I swear!

Agatha's expressions turns to one of disgust.

AGATHA

Haven't you heard the old adage?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sally squirms.

SALLY

What?

AGATHA

What goes up, must come back DOWN!!

Agatha, still holding Sally's throat, DESCENDS at a rapid velocity back to...

EXT. VITA - DAY

SLAM!! CRASH!!

Agatha slams Sally into the Central Tower itself, destroying it completely.

Sally emerges with a lot more bruises and cuts than before. She sees people RUNNING AWAY, confused she groggily stands up and sees... CORPSES of citizens caught in the destruction. She shivers and FREEZES. She's reminded of the Corpse Gallery.

Beat.

Sally starts to lose her sense of reality. Seeing this, Agatha SMILES. Sally turns to Agatha.

SALLY

You... What are you?

Agatha shakes her head in disbelief.

AGATHA

You clearly do *not* listen.

SLAM!

Agatha smacks Sally into the ground. She then kicks Sally across the ground, leaving a large trail of dirt that leads to the --

EXT. VITALITY ZONE - DAY

Where the trade of plants and seeds are disrupted by Sally's untimely and unorthodox arrival.

CITIZENS

Who is that? The Sage? Why? How? What is she doing here? And why is she on

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CITIZENS (CONT'D)
the ground?

Sally huffs constantly, her body is badly wounded. Another citizen points to the sky.

CITIZEN
What's that?

EXT. SKY - CONTINUOUS

Agatha looms over the Vitality Zone with a weighing scale.

AGATHA
(to the weighing scale)
Show the comparisons between those who
value their against those who don't.

The weighing scale tilts largely to the left, away from her. Indicating that the vast majority of people do value their lives. She smiles gleefully.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Well, how about that?

Agatha swats the weighing scale out of the frame and scans the Vitality Zone, looking for Sally.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Now, where were we?

She notices Sally still on the ground, unable to move.

EXT. VITALITY ZONE - DAY

Speeding downwards like a comet, Agatha descends towards Sally and grabs her leg.

AGATHA
Let's go for a spin, shall we dear?

Agatha twirls Sally like a yo-yo, she eventually gets bored and flings her nemesis into...

INT. ARBOL MALL - CONTINUOUS

-- MAIN CORRIDOR

Sally crashes into the main corridor of the Arbol Mall, Vita's most decorated mall housed inside a giant tree.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Despite her injuries, Sally musters the strength to kneel. Agatha enters, stalking Sally. Sally tries to get up, but her hairs stand up all across her body. Her heartbeat ACCELERATES.

Agatha performs an ELONGATED SNIFF that spooks everyone, especially.

AGATHA

Your body reeks of death. I love it!

Agatha's smile sends shockwaves of fear, danger, and death into Sally's spine. Agatha's deadly red aura swells as she closes in on her paralyzed victim.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

If you can kneel, you can stand. Now get up.

Sally remains frozen. Agatha tries again:

AGATHA (CONT'D)

I said, get up.

Sally, stricken with fear like never before, RUNS out of the frame.

Agatha smiles confidently, walking in pursuit of her prey.

-- PRIVATE ROOM

Sally rushes into a private room with a bright light overhead and A BIG MIRROR. She talks to her reflection.

SALLY

Relax Sally, this isn't happening. This isn't real, this is just a bad dream. You're gonna wake up soon and realize none of this ever happened.

Sally laughs weakly and unconvincingly. She doesn't believe what she's saying.

SALLY (CONT'D)

That's right, you're gonna wake up and you're gonna be with your husband, looking for a new job while dropping off to school. Yes, this is all just a
--

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sally goes to open the door but --

WHOK!

Agatha punches Sally through the wall before she has anytime to react. She crashes into a...

-- **TOY STORE**

And breaks a rack full of toys and runs away from Agatha. Who doesn't even flinch when Sally begins throwing toys at her.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Get away from me! Stay back! Stay
away! Leave me alone!

Sally throws a few more toys and tries to escape but reaches a DEAD END due to the frightened customers.

She runs to another aisle for another exit but sees Agatha standing on the other side. She freezes.

She tries to take a step back but it sprouts A TREE INTO EXISTENCE. Weird. Before she piece things together --

WHAM! SHATTER!

Agatha kicks Sally through a glass window, it shatters and Sally lands on the shards. Ouch!

SALLY (CONT'D)
(groggy; groaning)
Argh...

She sees Agatha slowly approaching with the same menace she usually does and RUNS.

Undeterred, Agatha extends a hand in Sally's direction. Her palm, wide open.

AGATHA
Death Grip.

SWOOO!!!

Sally FREEZES and starts being PULLED towards Agatha. But she can't resist, no matter how hard she tries, she's heading to one destination: Agatha. Who's expression turns from sadistic glee to unhinged disgust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Pathetic.

SMACK!

Agatha punches Sally so hard she bounces upwards after impact, Agatha pounces on the opportunity and grabs Sally. Lifting her back into...

EXT. SKY - EVENING

Still carrying the same disgust, she begrudgingly pulls Sally in front of her, who continuously huffs over Agatha's dialogue.

AGATHA

You putrid insect. How dare you compare yourself to me and *demand* to be treated as my *equal*. You have no respect for me or yourself. You don't deserve your title, and you know something.

Agatha whispers into Sally's ear, smiling wickedly.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You never did.

She begins laughing sadistically. Infuriated, Sally retaliates by spitting a small pool of blood on Agatha's face. Much to her revulsion and discomfort. She gives a "how dare you"? look, and her red aura SWELLS again.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Alright, if that's how it's gonna be. I'm *done* being gentle. Let the bloodbath. Commence.

Agatha drags Sally down. We hear two SONIC BOOMS as their descent continues.

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

Through a crystal ball, Yggdrasil, Qliphoth, and Daniel observe the beatdown. They're at a loss for words. Yggdrasil turns to Daniel, pleading.

YGGDRASIL

Please tell me she signed the Independency Clause?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL
Yes she did.

QLIPHOTH
Alright, that's cool.

DANIEL
But still... Sally...

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - EVENING

Agatha throws Sally onto a rocky mountain that blocks the gorgeous sunset. She then mounts her nemesis, and PUNCHES her so hard it causes a destructive ripple across the mountain.

RUMBLE!

Agatha summons her weighing scale. It points to the right, towards her. Meaning, that the people in this region don't value their lives.

With rocks falling down towards the city below, Agatha steps away from the rumbling mountain. Sally slides down the mountain.

Agatha floats and observes the destruction.

EXT. CITY - CONTINUOUS

SCREAMS and DEBRIS fill the frame as the rocks collide and submerge the city into shattered debris, broken glass and rubble.

Agatha hovers over the destroyed city, searching for Sally. She eventually finds a WHITE ROBE. Which can only mean one thing...

She lifts the white robe and it's in tatters along with its wearer, Sally Langford.

AGATHA
Surrender?

SALLY
(wounded; groggy; bleeding)
Go fuck yourself --

WHOK!!

Agatha punches Sally with a vicious uppercut, launching her back into the...

EXT. SKY - EVENING

Agatha catches Sally in mid air, looking at her with apprehension.

AGATHA

You overestimate your self-importance, brat. You're *not* the hero of this story. Let tell me you who and what you are.

Agatha gets in close with Sally, more livid than ever.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You're nothing but a worthless careless insect who deludes herself into believing that you're owed respect and a good life. When all you do is whine and run away from your problems like a fucking coward!

BAM!

Insulted and enraged Sally lands a punch on Agatha, but it's so weak it ironically aggravates Agatha further.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

What a waste.

WHOK! WHACK! BAM! BOOM! CRUNCH!

Agatha then launches a barrage of powerful punches that sends Sally flying through the clouds.

From a distance, a trail of black and white specks zoom through the sky, just like the aerial battle Omni-Man and Invincible.

She comes back into focus, holding Sally's throat. Who huffs out BLOOD.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

This is getting stale, why don't we spice things up?

Agatha drags Sally downwards to another region of Vita. She **TOSSES** Sally into --

EXT. LARGE TREE - EVENING

Where Sally collides with a large tree, which begins to tilt

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

towards the city. Citizens begin SCREAMING as they lose their center of gravity.

BOOM! BAM!

Sally lands on the ground, below the tree which continues its descent towards.

SALLY

Oh God...

The tree continues its descent, getting closer to Sally. She runs in fear of getting crushed.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Oh God, oh God, oh God, oh God, oh God!

The tree gets closer.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Oh God, oh God, oh God!

It gets even closer and Sally jumps to evade it.

THUUUUUDDDD!!!!

The tree falls and forms A GIANT DUST CLOUD.

With DEAD BODIES everywhere, Sally is reminded of the Corpse Gallery. She shudders and covers her mouth, trying not to vomit. She looks around but all she can see is the destroyed tree and corpses. She squints her eyes and begins to panic.

Agatha's shadow looms over her.

SALLY (CONT'D)

How could you this?

AGATHA

What are talking about? I'm the Witch of Death, murder is part of *my* job description. So the question you should be asking is why you weren't strong enough to save them.

Sally starts to panic upon seeing the literal blood on her hands. Agatha adds:

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Even though, we already know why.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sally shakes her head and backs away in a state of denial.

SALLY

No! No. I... I didn't... I didn't --

AGATHA

(sharp)

-- "Sign up for this." Is that it?

(smiles; calm)

Of course it is. You really thought a worthless loser like you, should feel entitled to a nice comforting little life in compensation for disrespecting life and death? Lord, what fools these mortals be!

Agatha laughs HARD. The demeaned and crest-fallen Sally tries to run away. But Agatha intercepts immediately.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Going so soon?

(grabs Sally)

Sorry, but we're not done yet.

Agatha looks behind her, hearing something. In the distance she sees...

...Peculiar PURPLE CARRIAGES driven by rhinos called Ramhorn Rails. Heading towards Agatha, full steam ahead. Dozens of them.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Perfect, just in time.

Agatha grabs Sally's head firmly. With her other hand, she stretches it forth facing the Ramhorn Rails. Palm wide open.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Death Grip.

SWOOO!!!

The numerous Ramhorn Rails freeze and start being pulled towards the Witch and Sage like a train.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Hopefully, you get the message.

With the Ramhorn Rails getting closer, Sally struggles to break free from Agatha's grip, but it's pointless.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Eventually...

BAM!

Just like in *Invincible*, Sally collides with the train of Ramhorn Rails with BLOOD, GUTS and BROKEN CARRIAGE PARTS flying all over the frame.

Sally can't handle the pain. Mind, spirit and body. Which obviously delights Agatha.

With the last Ramhorn Rail destroyed, Sally has to witness more dead bodies piling on her conscience. She turns to Agatha, numb and broken. She SMILES condescendingly.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Oh grow up, it's only Vita. You haven't participated in a Magical World War, am I wrong? Compared to that, *this* is only an appetizer.

Sally's broken mental state hasn't changed.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Out of it already? Oh well, I guess it's time I end this farce.

SMACK!

Agatha spin kicks Sally into another...

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

With the night sky and moonrise about to begin, Agatha mounts the injured Sally and begins wailing a shower of brutal punches.

Eventually, she lands the finishing blow on Sally. Yes, Agatha Nocturna: The Witch of Death, has killed Sally Langford: The Sage of Life.

Sally's soul floats into Agatha's palm. She stares at it. Disgusted and disappointed.

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

Still watching through the crystal ball, Daniel and the tress of life (Yggdrasil and Qliphoth), remain skeptical about what will happen next now that Sally's dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

YGGDRASIL
She really did it.

DANIEL
My God...

QLIPHOTH
Well, what about the Sage? Surely
wouldn't jeopardize the agreement.
Would she?

DANIEL
Of course she wouldn't, I'm certain of
it.

Yggdrasil and Qliphoth look at Daniel, confused at his
unwavering confidence in Agatha.

YGGDRASIL
How can you be so sure?

DANIEL
-- Just watch.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

Agatha grows tired of staring at Sally's lifeless body, with
her soul still in the Witch's grasp. She puts Sally's soul
back into her body. Resurrecting her and takes away some of
the damage on Sally's body.

The revived Sage coughs and wheezes out a large pool of
blood. She can't believe she's still alive.

SALLY
What happened? I could've sworn I was
dead.

AGATHA
Yes you were.

Sally's face and heart sin upon hearing the voice and seeing
the face she now despises more than anyone. She tries to get
up and fight, but her body's too weak and she DROPS.

Agatha places her foot on Sally's weakened body. Talks down
to her with the same condescending tone she usually does.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
You may be too invaluable to kill, but
that's solely based on your title. Not
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)
you. So don't get conceited, Sally
Langford. Now listen closely, because
playtime's over.

Sally twitches and gulps.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
You will wake up from your childish
fantasies and become the Sage of Life.
I'll make sure of it. But I have other
priorities I must attend to, so my
Agents will handle your growth in my
absence.

Sally stammers, she can't hide her confusion.

SALLY
Agents?

Agatha gently presses her foot on Sally's body

AGATHA
I *hate* interruptions. But yes, my
Taboo Agents of Death are stationed
across the globe. Each stronger and
sharing more similarities with you and
me than the last. Good and bad.

Agatha licks her lips and smiles.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Therefore, unless you want today to
become the new norm. I suggest you
grow up fast. And remember, wherever
there's life, there will *always* be
death.

Agatha leans in close.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
In other words...
(mocking Sally)
...Ya basic!

Agatha CACKLES as she flies out of the frame. Leaving Sally
alone and barely able to move and remain conscious.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A relaxed Agatha is visited by Daniel.

AGATHA

What do you want?

DANIEL

You didn't kill her? Why?

Agatha scoffs.

AGATHA

Scum like her don't deserve the sweet relief of death by *my* hands. Am I wrong?

Daniel looks away, disappointed and sullen, he can't disprove Agatha's point.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

This is the *only* way she can learn. Crushed by the weight of her personal failures. That way, she can born anew.

DANIEL

What do you want me to do?

AGATHA

I know it sounds ironic, since you're also a Sage of Life. But I want you to put the final nail in the coffin, by hammering home her personal failures one last time.

DANIEL

I mean... Isn't that a bit... Excessive?

Agatha glares at Daniel, her gaze cut through glass. She intensifies the Miasma in the atmosphere. Choking Daniel.

AGATHA

Correct me if I'm wrong, but did I hear *you* disobey *me*? Is that it?

Daniel desperately tries to catch his breath.

DANIEL

No Ma'am... (COUGH)... I'll do it... (COUGH)...

Agatha smiles lightly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGATHA

Good. Now get out.

Daniel runs to the door and stops by the entrance.

DANIEL

(confused)

Hold on, you mean now? I mean, she's barely...

AGATHA

(sharp; annoyed)

-- OUT!!

Daniel leaves the frame, cowering away from the temperamental.

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- NORTHERN BORDER

The following morning in the northern border of Vita, Sally gradually regains consciousness and sees the destruction of Vita. She tries to look away, but she instead draws HATEFUL GAZES from the citizens. Akin to the ones she receives from Agatha.

After taking a few steps back she sees the entire state of Vita and it saddens her deeply.

Daniel enters the frame, just as disappointed as ever.

DANIEL

It's awful isn't it?

Sally doesn't respond.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

This is what happens when an outmatched Sage battles against an all-powerful Witch or Warlock.

Sally still cannot accept the state of Vita.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Kyle, Cody, Bethany, Agatha and I have given you multiple warnings about the dangers of this job. Especially when you don't take it seriously.

Sally hears a FAINT NOISE in her ears, but ignores it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Being a Sage isn't about self-validation, it's about inspiring and accepting balance and duality. Which in our case, is life and death.

While most citizens continue with reconstruction and healing, a small minority begin THROWING THINGS at Sally. Voicing their discontent and anger. Daniel observes.

CITIZENS

How could you!? Why did you upset the Witch!? You've destroyed our homes! You should never have been appointed! You're not a Sage, you're a fraud! You don't belong here! I lost my family because of you!

Sally looks at Daniel for protection and salvation, but he looks away in disappointment.

SALLY

Daniel I'm --

DANIEL

Just go.

Sally's faces sinks. She can't believe what she just heard.

SALLY

W-W-W-What?

DANIEL

You heard me, just like Agatha, Kyle, Jessica and Bethany, I've had enough of you not listening to me and doing your own thing without ever considering the consequences. So just go. NOW!

The crestfallen Sally finally gives up and FLEES. Running away from Vita, Daniel, Agatha and the mess she's made. She enters...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Where she continues running aimlessly, evading all the traps, giants, monsters, and bandits.

She eventually arrives at --

EXT. CENTRAL SANCTUARY - DAY**-- FRONT GARDEN**

Digs a grave for herself and carves her name onto the stone. She tosses her White Robe and Verdant Staff into the dirt. She grabs newer but shoddier clothes as she prepares to give a funeral speech for herself.

SALLY

Today we are here to commemorate the loss of Sally Langford. When it comes to describing her, there are no words that can do her justice. Thank you.

Sally walks out of the frame. She's done.

Beat.

She then runs back into frame, giving it another go.

SALLY (CONT'D)

But I'd be lying if I said, it's not for the lack of trying. She was more than just a person. She was a wife, mother, actress, and writer. Albeit shitty ones at that.

She chuckles weakly, then looks away shamefully.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(walking out of frame)

Yeah, right. Who are you kidding? No one's gonna miss you.

Beat.

-- FRONT DOOR

RAIN DROPS start appearing and Sally approaches the front door of the Central Sanctuary.

She sighs, and knocks on the door.

A lifeless INMATE opens the door for her and Sally sees the same emptiness she feels within and it hurts.

TITLE: "4 YEARS AGO..."

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)**-- LOUNGE**

We see a younger Cody trying to study but is disturbed by the loud music from upstairs. Kyle enters, and is just as frustrated as his son.

KYLE

I've just got back, and she's already blasting music? Doesn't she know that we'll be kicked out if we get another noise complaint?

CODY

You know Mom, she *never* listens.

KYLE

True.

They both shake their heads in disappointment regarding Sally's antics.

CODY

Why don't you get a divorce?

KYLE

Two reasons, one: I don't have enough money for that yet. Two: don't say that out loud, it'll give the wrong impression.

CODY

Well I need to study so I can get into high school, so please get Mom to stop.

Kyle rolls his eyes, he doesn't want to do his. But he doesn't have a choice.

KYLE

Fine.

Kyle walks upstairs, the music gets increasingly LOUDER. As he approaches...

-- SALLY'S ROOM

Where the culprit dances her life away without a care in the world, oblivious to her husband's gaze.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sally continues dancing. Forcing Kyle to unplug the stereo to grab Sally's attention.

SALLY

Aw, man. The song was finally getting to the good part. Damn it Kyle, come on!

KYLE

No Sally, we've gotten 19 noise complaints. One more and we'll be kicked out.

SALLY

(shrugs her shoulders)

Eh, don't worry about about it, I'm filming "A Sheepless Shephard" in LA tomorrow. So if we get kicked out, there's nothing to worry about.

Kyle SLAPS Sally in a fit of rage. She rubs her cheek in disbelief.

KYLE

Listen for once, I've been working overtime ever since our marriage to pay off our mortgages, car insurance, Cody's school fees, and our house bills.

SALLY

See? That's why I couldn't have asked for a better husband. You rock!

Kyle RAISES his hand, ready for another slap, and Sally instinctively backs away in fear.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, okay, I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I'll shut up! Just don't hit me! Please.

Now that he's got his wife's attention, Kyle LOWERS his hand and composes himself.

KYLE

Anyway, as I was saying, I've been doing most of the work around here, including actually raising Cody. We don't have enough money to buy another house right now, so can you please for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KYLE (CONT'D)
once, not screw this up. For
everyone's sake?

Sally pouts and eventually concedes defeat.

SALLY
Ugh... Fine.

INT. CENTRAL SANCTUARY - DAY (PRESENT)

-- KITCHEN

Back in the present, a depressed Sally sits at a table eating breakfast with the same lifeless expression as her fellow inmates.

Beat.

We see three more individuals (CARLA Maria Barbara Jimenez, HENRY Spade and LEANDRE Espoir). All eating their food in a similar emotional state as Henry.

She looks at them and senses the same abundance of dormant Mana dwelling within them. As well as the depths of their depression.

HENRY
Who are you guys?

THE END.