

THE GROUP HOME CHRONICLES

"PILOT"

Written by

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First Draft

Contact information

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. SALEM - WITCH TRIAL - DAY(1692)

A dense crowd encircles a lone WOMAN(30s), bound at the stake. The sky is overcast, heavy with impending doom. TOWNSFOLK murmur and jeer.

WOMAN

"When the two suns hide the light,
your end will be in sight."

A MAN in the crowd, a torch in hand, steps forward. His face is obscured by a hat.

MAN

Your words will burn with you,
witch.

WOMAN

Truth, once ignited, illuminates
more than flames ever could, my
lord.

The Man lights the stake. Flames rise, consuming the Woman, who meets her fate with unnerving serenity as we fade out.

FADE TO:

EXT. SPACE - PLANET PYTHONISSAM - NIGHT(PRESENT DAY)

A celestial ballet: two suns and a moon align, casting an ethereal glow. A surge of cosmic energy pulses forth.

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - NIGHT

The energy streaks across the night sky, like a comet heralding change.

INT. VARIOUS BEDROOMS, BRUNSWICK HOME - NIGHT

The screen splits, showcasing STACY, JACOB, DAVID, CHERIE, and CAMILA; each absorbed in tumultuous sleep as cosmic energy envelops their home.

CUT TO:

STACY'S DREAM:

Submerged in an endless serene ocean, Stacy floats weightlessly. She raises her hands, and the water responds, swirling around her in harmonious patterns.

STACY
I am one with the tide.

DISSOLVE TO:

JACOB'S DREAM:

Standing atop a towering mountain, Jacob faces a tumultuous sky. He stretches his arms out, and the storm clouds part at his command, revealing a clear blue expanse.

JACOB
The sky is mine to command.

DISSOLVE TO:

DAVID'S DREAM:

In a lush, ancient forest bathed in moonlight, David is surrounded by ethereal figures-- spirits of the past.

DAVID
I hear you... I'm not alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

CHERIE'S DREAM:

In a dark void, Cherie stands unafraid as flames dance around her. With a thought, she molds the fire into shapes-- animals, birds, symbols.

CHERIE
Fire is my essence, my strength.

DISSOLVE TO:

CAMILA'S DREAM:

A barren land stretches out before Camila, lifeless and gray. She kneels, touching the ground, and where her fingers brush, vibrant green sprouts forth.

CAMILA
From me, life springs eternal.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - MORNING

The sun rises over a quaint, suburban home. Birds chirping.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

SONYA BRUNSWICK(35-45, in shape)prepares breakfast. The morning is charged with unspoken tension. CHARLES BRUNSWICK(35-45) enters.

CHARLES
Did you feel it last night? The shift?

SONYA
It's begun. We need to be ready-- I'm gonna wake them up for breakfast.

A beat of silent acknowledgement, as they share a look of concern.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - STACY'S ROOM - MORNING

Stacy's room looks like an aftermath of watery chaos. Stacy (16, pretty, long black hair)quickly soaks up water with towels. There's a door knock.

SONYA (O.S.)
Breakfast in ten, Stace.

Stacy panics, hiding the worst of the mess under her bed.

STACY
Be right down Sonya!

Stacy glances at her hands, bewildered and scared.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - JACOB AND DAVID'S ROOM - MORNING

The room is a mix of Jacob's(16, jock)wind-tossed belongings and a cold chill from David's(16, African American)interactions with spirits. They work together in silence, Jacob repositioning a desk lamp, David collecting scattered pages of text.

JACOB

This is insane. Right?

DAVID

We can't let Sonya or Charles see this. They'll...

There's a knock at the door. They pause, exchanging a look.

SONYA (O.S.)

Boys, time for breakfast.

They share a nod.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - CHERIE AND CAMILA'S ROOM - MORNING

Cherie(15, Asian)is flipping her mattress, concealing burn marks, while Camila(15, Mexican)tends to her overly vibrant plant. There's a mix of confusion and awe.

CAMILA

I had this dream-- about making things grow. And now, look.

Cherie nods, understanding, her own fears mirrored in Camila's eyes.

CHERIE

And I. I dreamed of fire. We can't tell anyone.

They mark their secret pact by a pinky swear.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING

Sonya moves down the hall, knocking on Cherie and Camila's room.

SONYA

Good morning Cherie, and birthday girl.

Sonya pauses briefly with a bewildered look before hiding downstairs.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen is bathed in the soft glow of morning sun, and the aroma of freshly made breakfast. Sonya stands by the stove, flipping pancakes, while Charles arranges plates and cutlery on the table. Everyone except Camila is gathered.

SONYA

Camila's still getting ready upstairs. Let's make sure we have everything planned out for her birthday before she comes down.

Stacy, Jacob, David, and Cherie exchange enthusiastic glances.

STACY

(whispering)

We should do something unexpected for her. Camila deserves her special day.

JACOB

Definitely. How about a day out? We could start with her favorite cafe; then maybe hit the beach or a park?

DAVID

Or, maybe we can each write something for her-- like a letter or a poem-- something she can keep.

Cherie, inspired, leans in closer.

CHERIE

I love that idea. And we can work on... Wait. Shouldn't we already have something planned for her birthday today?

Charles, pouring juice into glasses, looks over at Sonya, both sharing a look of approval at the kids initiative.

CHARLES

We have a little something in mind.

SONYA

I'll handle the cake. Let's just make sure this day is memorable.

Camila comes downstairs.

CAMILA

What's everyone talking about? Are you guys planning something special for me?

SONYA

Perhaps.

OPENING CREDITS.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway buzzes with the energy of STUDENTS transitioning between classes. Amidst the chaos, Stacy and SAMANTHA share a quiet moment by the lockers, their chemistry undeniable.

Samantha leans against the locker, a playful smile on her face as she watches Stacy fumble with her books.

SAMANTHA

You know, for someone who's aces everything, you sure struggle with keeping your locker together.

Stacy laughs, her frustration with her locker eases under Samantha's gaze. Stacy takes a step closer, their proximity blurring the noise of the hallway.

STACY

Maybe I'm just waiting for the right person to help tutor me.

Just as Samantha reaches to tuck a stray hair behind Stacy's ear, a loud, jarring voice cuts through their moment.

LACIE (O.S.)

Well, well, well, if it isn't the school's newest power couple.

Stacy and Samantha turn to see LACIE, flanked by NATALIE, REBECCA, and ADAM, each wearing expressions ranging from amusement to outright disapproval.

STACY

Lacie, can we help you with something?

Lacie smirks, stepping closer, her gaze flicking between Stacy and Samantha.

LACIE

Oh, nothing. Just surprised to see you two so... cozy. You two sure love to show the world that you're in love.

Natalie and Rebecca snicker, while Adam looks on, bored but complicit. Samantha steps forward, her demeanor protective yet calm.

SAMANTHA

Maybe you should focus on your own business Lacie, or that idiot you call a boyfriend.

ADAM

Watch it dike.

Samantha jumps in Adam's face.

SAMANTHA

Who you calling a dike, jock itch.

Stacy pulls Samantha back.

NATALIE

Let's just go guys. Why are we even talking to these losers?

Natalie, Rebecca, and Lacie leave. While smirking at Stacy; Adam aggressively pushes past CODY(16, reserved) to get to the water fountain.

ADAM

Gotta stay hydrated. You know how it is?

Stacy rolls her eyes but decides to ignore him, turning slightly away. However, as Adam leans down to take a sip of water, Stacy's emotions simmer. Unbeknownst to her, her clenched fists at her sides become the catalyst for her powers to manifest.

Without conscious thought, the water from the fountain begins to sputter and spray erratically, much to Adam's surprise. He jumps back, water splashing over his shirt and face, looking around bewildered and annoyed.

ADAM (cont'd)

What the--? Who broke the fountain?

Lacie comes back into view glancing once at Adam, and inattentively stares at Stacy. As water continues to spray all over.

Stacy, equally surprised by the sudden outburst of water, realizes her hands are still clenched. She quickly relaxes her fists, and just as suddenly, stops.

SAMANTHA

Did you see that?

STACY

I know. Weird right?

Adam and Lacie leave.

STACY (cont'd)

Don't let them get to you.

SAMANTHA

How were you ever friends with antichrist?

STACY

She wasn't always like that.

SAMANTHA

Really?

STACY

She was an angel once.

They share a kiss.

SAMANTHA

Hey, let's not let them ruin our mood. There's actually something else I've been meaning to talk to you about.

STACY

Sure-- What is it?

SAMANTHA

Well-- There's this environmental protest this weekend-- against that new shopping mall they're planning to build on Greenfield Park. It's such an important green space for the community.

Stacy, still slightly preoccupied with the previous encounter, nods, her expression a mix of support and a touch of disinterest she hopes doesn't notice.

STACY

Oh, wow, yeah, that sounds... really important. Saving the park could be a big win for the environment.

SAMANTHA

Exactly! I thought we could make some signs, maybe even get a group together from school. It could make a real difference, you know?

STACY

Making signs, huh? That could be fun. Count me in.

SAMANTHA

Fantastic! I'll work on the details tonight. Love you.

They kiss real quick before rushing off to their perspective classes.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH - CHEMISTRY CLASS - DAY

The chemistry classroom, filled with the usual array of lab equipment and periodic tables, buzzes with the low murmur of STUDENTS all wearing lab coats. Cherie and her friend MIA both wearing lab coats, are huddled together at a lab bench, surrounded by beakers and test tubes.

MS. CARTER, the chemistry teacher, circles the room, ensuring everyone understands the instructions for the experiment. She pauses by Cherie and Mia.

MS CARTER

Remember, girls, the precise measurement is key in chemistry. Follow the steps carefully, and you'll witness some fascinating reactions.

Cherie nods, her focus on the task at hand. Mia leans in to add a solution to the mixture they've prepared. Cherie's hand hovers over the beaker, her concentration intensifies

and without warning, a warmth pulses through her fingertips, and before she can retract her hand, the solution reacts.

MIA

Is that suppose to happen?

Cherie, equally surprised and slightly panicked.

CHERIE

(whispering)

I... I don't know. Maybe I added too much of something? Let's just pretend it was supposed to happen.

Ms. Carter, drawn by the commotion, approaches their bench, her curiosity piqued.

MS CARTER

Is everything alright here?

The beaker contents begin to boil over. The girls immediately move back.

MS CARTER (cont'd)

That looked like quite the reaction. I didn't see a flame, so that's odd...

CHERIE

Uh, yeah, everything's fine, Ms. Carter. Just a little mix-up with the measurements, I guess. It won't happen again.

Ms. Carter eyes the beaker, then Cherie and Mia, her expression softening.

MS CARTER

Well, chemistry is full of surprises. Just be careful, and make sure to double-check your measurements next time. Safety first.

As Ms. Carter moves away, Cherie lets out quiet sigh of relief.

MIA

(whispers)

Cherie, we need to talk about this later. That was... weird.

CHERIE
(quietly)
Yeah, we will. I promise.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH - HISTORY CLASS - DAY

MR. EDWARDS, the history teacher, a man of keen intellect and passion for his subject. David sits among his CLASSMATES, flanked closely by his friends and fellow teammates, ROCK and GARY.

MR. EDWARDS
Today, we explore the wonders of ancient Egypt, a civilization that thrived by the banks of the Nile. Their understanding of the spiritual world was profound, intertwining their daily lives with a rich tapestry of gods, rituals, and the afterlife.

David, intrigued, leans forward. His Eye of Horus necklace, hidden under his shirt, seems to pulse with warmth.

MR. EDWARDS (cont'd)
One of the most powerful symbols in ancient Egypt was the Eye of Horus, representing protection, royal power, and good health.

At the mention of the Eye of Horus, David's necklace begins to glow faintly, unnoticed by others. David has the urge to close his eyes.

ROCK
(whispers to David)
Hey. You okay man? You look kinda zoned out.

DAVID
Yeah, just... really into the lesson, I guess.

David's focus sharpens, and suddenly, the classroom around him fades. He finds himself astral projecting, his spirit floating above the classroom, looking down on his own body and class.

GARY

Dude, did you just fall asleep?

Panic sets in, as he realizes what's happening. Back in his body, David blinks, the room snapping back into focus; with Mr. Edwards standing over him.

MR. EDWARDS

David, is everything all right? You seemed-- elsewhere for a moment.

DAVID

Sorry, Mr. Edwards. I just... felt a strong connection to what you were saying. It was like I was there in ancient Egypt.

The class laughs.

MR. EDWARDS

Settle down class. That's the power of history David. It connects us to our past, sometimes in ways we can't quite explain. I'm glad to see you moved by the lesson.

The bell rings.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

The hallway is filled with students transitioning between classes. Camila is walking with her best friends MARTHA and ROSIE carrying gift bags for Camila's birthday.

All dialogue in [brackets] is in Spanish.

CAMILA

[Thank you very much, my friends.]
I can't believe you remembered all the things I love.

MARTHA

[Of course,] Camila. How could we forget? Your *Quinceanera* is going to be as amazing as you are.

ROSIE

[And it will be unforgettable.]
Your fiesta will be the talk of the town, or just us.

They all laugh.

MARTHA

My quince was so magical. We had this beautiful garden theme. Ah, and the [dance]! Dancing with [my dad] was so special.

ROSIE

And mine was like a fairy tale come to life. [My family] went all out. The mariachi band was the best part. Everyone was dancing all night!

As they walk and talk, CARLOS, the boy Camila admires, approaches.

CARLOS

[Happy birthday,] Camila.

Camila blushes.

CAMILA

[Thank you,] Carlos. That. That means a lot.

Carlos smiles and continues on his way, leaving Camila momentarily lost in thought before she's pulled back by her friends teasing and giggling.

Camila accidentally bumps into Rebecca carrying a pot of dirt. Rebecca drops it.

REBECCA

Why don't you watch where your going?

CAMILA

I'm so... so, sorry.

Camila puts the dirt back into the pot. Camila notices a small plant grow out of the dirt.

REBECCA

Do you know how long I've been trying to grow this plant out for my botany class?

CAMILA

It looks like it's working.

REBECCA

Oh wow. I guess it is. Okay. Bye now.

Rebecca exits, leaving Camila and her friends bewildered.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIDGE HIGH - LACROSSE FIELD - AFTERNOON

COACH THOMPSON, Jacob, Adam, and their TEAMMATES, are practicing lacrosse drills. APRIL is Jacob's girlfriend watching him from the bleachers.

Adam is known for his aggressive tactics on the field with opponents, decides to aggressively knock fellow teammate MIKE to the ground after Mike scores a few points on him. Mike and Adam almost fight, but Jacob breaks it up.

JACOB

Adam, that's not how we play. You know better. We don't win by hurting our own.

ADAM

Oh, lighten up, Jensen. It's just a bit of contact. Mike needs to toughen up if he's going to survive in a real game.

Jacob's temper flares, the air around him subtly responding to his rising anger. Darken clouds form on what appeared to be a sunny clear day. April watching curiously from the stands. Coach Thompson has the look of mild concern.

JACOB

It's not about toughening up. It's about integrity, about being a team. If you can't play with honor, maybe you shouldn't be playing at all.

ADAM

And who made you the moral compass of this team? I play to win. Maybe you should focus more on that and less on being Mr. Nice Guy. Captain.

Without warning, a stronger gust of wind sweeps across the field, centering on Adam, who stumbles slightly. Jacob extends a hand to Adam, which he hesitates for a moment

before grabbing Jacob's hand. The wind subsides. Everything calm again.

JACOB

We win as a team, Adam. By lifting each other up, not tearing each other down. You're a part of this team, but that means playing by our rules. Respect, integrity, and teamwork.

ADAM

Fine. Whatever you say, Captain.

Adam walks off.

COACH THOMPSON

Alright guys. That's enough for today.

EXT. RIDGE HIGH - LACROSSE FIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The lacrosse practice has ended, leaving Jacob and April alone in the quiet aftermath.

JACOB

I love it when you come watch me practice. Means the world to me.

APRIL

Anytime JJ. But what happened with Adam... it seemed intense. Then there was this weird wind...

JACOB

I'm... okay. Yeah, I'm fine. It's just-- sometimes we clash as a team, but it will make us stronger in the end.

APRIL

That strange wind though. It seemed to center around the two of you when...

JACOB

It was weird... Hey-- I got to go check on something.

Jacob and April kiss. Jacob ready to walk off.

APRIL

Want me to come with you?

JACOB

No. I'll come find you later. It's about Camila's birthday.

Jacob walks off.

APRIL

Tell her I said happy birthday.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH - CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

The cafeteria is buzzing with chattering STUDENTS. Jacob, weaves through the crowd, his eyes searching for his housemates. He spots Stacy, David, Cherie, and Camila sitting at their usual tables. He waves them over.

INT. RIDGE HIGH - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

The library is a haven of quietude, the only sounds are the soft thuds of books being re-shelved by the LIBRARIAN. Stacy, David, Cherie, Camila, and Jacob find a secluded corner table.

JACOB

Okay. I brought everyone together because there is something weird going on.

There's an uneasy look on the group.

JACOB (cont'd)

Okay. I'll start. And this stays between us.

Everyone nods in agreement.

JACOB (cont'd)

When I was on the practice field. Me and Adam got into a little.

STACY

What did that douche-bag do this time?

JACOB

That's not the point. When I was on the practice field today-- There was this-- weird gust of wind out of no where-- I think I caused that to happen.

STACY

I had an experience like that this morning but with water. Any of you guys.

DAVID

I was in class and all of a sudden I could see myself-- like I wasn't in my own body.

CHERIE

I made this experiment in chemistry boil over with just the wave of my hand. Like I could feel my body heat up.

JACOB

And you Camila. I'm sure this wasn't on your birthday list of gifts today?

CAMILA

I-- I dropped or should I say bumped into Rebecca and she was carrying a plant...

JACOB

That doesn't seem so bad.

CAMILA

No. It's what happened to the plant, which was only a pile of dirt in a pot. A small plant grew out of it. It's like I could feel it being alive.

The group sits back in subtle silence, trying to pondering what is happening. Jacob quips in to break the silent tension.

JACOB

So, are we thinking Justice Avengers?

DAVID

Dude. That's a cardinal sin. You're mixing D.C and the Marvel universe together. I think I need to shower.

STACY

How about Aqua Woman?

DAVID

Nope. Sounds too much like Aqua Man.

CAMILA

Plant girl. Protector of-- plant life?

DAVID

No. Sounds too much like Poison Ivy.

CHERIE

Okay. Put your inner nerd away. I could be called Flame-y flames.

STACY

Sounds more like a Queer rock star.

Jacob glances at the clock.

JACOB

Well. Whatever we call ourselves, we need to figure this thing out. The bell's about to ring. We swear to secrecy. I mean it.

STACY

JJ-- We hear you. We know what could happen if we said anything.

DAVID

Government experiments.

JACOB

Let's try to not use our powers during school.

CHERIE

Easier said than done.

JACOB

Okay. We have to go to class. We'll talk later.

Everyone leaves.

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - MID DAY

The gym echoes with the sounds of a CHEER SQUAD practicing their routines. Natalie, Rebecca, Lacie, and the rest of the cheer squad are practicing.

NATALIE

Stop, stop, stop. This isn't working. Lacie, the routine you came up with is just not hitting the mark. It's too predictable.

The squad falls silent, tension crackling in the air.

LACIE

Okay ladies-- Take five.

The squad steps away.

LACIE (cont'd)

Predictable? It's designed to highlight our strengths. If you have constructive feedback, I'm all ears, Nat. But undermining me in front of the squad isn't helping.

NATALIE

Fine. How about we add more dynamic formations? The current setup is too safe. If I were leading, we'd push the envelope, make our routines memorable.

REBECCA

Lacie, maybe we could try incorporating some of Natalie's suggestions? It could be the fresh take we need. And Natalie, let's respect the work Lacie's put into her choreography.

NATALIE

Shut up Becca.

LACIE

Shut up Becca.

LACIE (cont'd)

Okay. Fine-- Alright Natalie, let's hear your plan. But remember, we win as a team. It's not about who's in charge; it's about what we achieve together.

NATALIE

Fine. I'll draft some ideas and show them to you. But let's be clear, there will come a time when the squad listens to me over you.

Lacie spots Stacy walking by, and runs to catch up to her.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Students shuffle by. Lacie catches up to Stacy.

LACIE

Hey gay girl.

Stacy turns around.

STACY

Why do you always have to be so mean? What did I ever do to you?

LACIE

Mean? I'm just stating facts. But maybe you're too busy with Samantha to notice anything else.

STACY

What's your problem with me being with Samantha? You used to be my best friend. What happened to us?

LACIE

Us? There's no us. Things change. People change. Maybe...

STACY

Maybe your jealous of what I have with her and you wish you and your dumb jock boyfriend had something so real.

Samantha walks up.

SAMANTHA

Stace. Everything okay babe?

STACY

Yeah. Everything's fine.

SAMANTHA

This is where you leave.

Lacie shoulder bumps Samantha as she exits.

FADE TO:

INT. MODERN SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATE DAY

Sonya Brunswick, in professional attire, showing PARTNER #1, and PARTNER #2 a house.

PARTNER #1

What's the R-value of the insulation in the attic? Energy efficiency is paramount for us.

Sonya masking boredom with a smile.

SONYA

The insulation exceeds current standards. I'll ensure you have all the specifications, and information needed.

The Couple nods. Sonya discreetly sends a text to Charles.

SONYA'S TEXT:

"Stuck with the excitement of insulation specs. How's the thrilling world of drop-shipping?"

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Charles stands amidst a clutter of boxes, tape, and labels. His phone buzzes, and he chuckles at Sonya's message before replying.

CHARLES'S TEXT:

"Living the dream, one box at a time. Sometimes, I miss the excitement of life."

CUT TO:

INT. MODERN SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Sonya and Partner #1, and Partner #2 are in the kitchen.

PARTNER #1

And these appliances, are they all
Energy Star rated?

SONYA

Yes, everything's up to the highest
environmental standards.

SONYA'S TEXT:

"Everything is ready for tonight. I just wish I was ready
for what comes next."

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Charles looks around the living room. His gaze lingering on
the family photos of him and the children. His phone buzzes.

CHARLES'S TEXT:

"I know you're afraid for them but we must tell them."

CUT TO:

INT. MODERN SUBURBAN HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Sonya is with the Couple in the master bedroom as they look
around.

PARTNER #1

Does the master bedroom get a lot
of natural light?

Sonya looking out the window.

SONYA

It gets beautiful light. Just like
the radiance from my family.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. PYTHONISSAM LAUNCH SITE - DURING ECLIPSE

CLOSEUP of three WOMEN, adorned in regal attire. The sky, a
spectacle of nature's art, is marked by the rare alignment
of the planet's twin suns and its moon. Silently, they
observe the probe's ascent, a silver beacon cutting through
the atmosphere.

CUT TO:

INT. OLD SHED - RIDGE HIGH - LATE AFTERNOON

Stacy, Jacob, Cherie, Camila, and David are gathered in a shed, surrounded by used sports equipment and gardening tools.

STACY

I can't believe we're actually skipping class together.

JACOB

Come on-- It's not every day you get to practice being a superhero.

Cherie, sitting on an overturned bucket, rolls her eyes but smiles. Camila, leaning against a rusty shovel, nods in agreement.

CAMILA

Just think about it. Who knows, maybe we'll save the world one day.

JACOB

Alright. Let's see what everyone can do?

Stacy pulls water out of a bottle, floating it through the air with concentration that furrows her brow. Jacob, not to be outdone, creates a gentle breeze that splashes the water all over them.

JACOB (cont'd)

Sorry.

Cherie, with a flick of her wrist, conjures a small flame in her palm.

CHERIE

I don't know how I'm doing this-- but it seems so natural.

Cherie closes her hand extinguishing the flame.

CAMILA

That's so cool.

Camila reaches for a pot of dirt, but cuts her hand on gardener tool. Pulls back cover her hand that is bleeding.

CAMILA (cont'd)

Owe. That...

STACY

Are you okay?

Camila puts her hand down revealing no marks at all.

JACOB

Wait-- It's gone.

STACY

It's like you healed it.

CHERIE

Oh my god. You're a healer?

CAMILA

No. That's not what happened earlier. I made a plant grow from basically nothing.

DAVID

Maybe our powers are growing already.

STACY

So. D.J? What's your power?

David closes his eyes, concentrating deeply.

JACOB

Is something suppose to happen?

CHERIE

D.J?

Before she goes to nudges him. The group is suddenly startled by David's astral form.

DAVID

Wait. You guys can see me?

JACOB

Yeah. We can see you dude.

DAVID

You wanna see something cool?

David's astral projection passes through the shed wall. David's astral projection disappears as he wakes up.

STACY

Unreal.

DAVID

It's weird you guys could see me
but, the guys in class couldn't.

JACOB

Maybe, we're all connected somehow.
We better get back, but just
remember our pact.

Everyone nods.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Students are shuffling through the hall. Adam, Rebecca,
Natalie and Lacie are walking down the hall. Cody just
closed his locker as they walk past.

Lacie flashes Cody a smile. Cody staring at Lacie brings the
attention of Adam.

ADAM

What's your problem, loser? You
think you can-- you like my girl or
something?

LACIE

Adam stop. Come on-- let's just go.

CODY

Yeah. Back off.

ADAM

What did you say?

CODY

I said leave me alone.

Adam pushes Cody into the lockers. Adam laughs.

ADAM

What are you gonna do?

NATALIE

What a loser.

LACIE

Shut up Nat... Are you okay Cody?

CODY
 (voice trembling)
 Lacie.

NATALIE
 Awe. Are you gonna cry?

LACIE
 I said shut Nat!

Cody, disheveled, haunted eyes pulls a gun out of his waistband.

ADAM
 He's got a gun.

Adam, Natalie, Rebecca, along with other students start running for safety, while knocking Lacie to the ground. Stacy comes into view.

STACY
 Cody. Please-- put the gun down.

Cody points the gun towards Stacy. Lacie is scooting back.

CODY
 Why? I'm so-- sick and tired of them treating me like I don't matter.

LACIE
 You're right. You do matter.

Cody pointing the gun back at Lacie.

CODY
 I don't need your pity. I know who I am.

LACIE
 Okay-- Okay. I hear you.

Stacy motions to Lacie. Cody turns back around to point the gun at Stacy. Stacy notices a fire hose on the wall. Stacy motions her hands.

CODY
 What are you doing? Trying to help your little friend here?

Turns gun back to Lacie.

LACIE
We're not actually friends.

CODY
Shut-- up.

The fire hose on the wall unfurls as reacting to the motion of Stacy's hands, to the curious look of Lacie. Cody whips back around.

CODY (cont'd)
What the hell.

Cody points the gun at Stacy.

LACIE
NO. Please don't.

Lacie waves her hand and a mysterious portal appears as Cody fires off a shot. Stacy disappears into the void, not before the bullet fired grazes her shoulder. Blood falls to the floor.

Stacy reemerges next to Lacie, with the bullet coming out of the portal lodging itself into the wall. Before Cody can turn around to fire another shot at them, they disappear into another portal. POLICE have surrounded Cody guns drawn.

COP #1
Put the gun down now.

CUT TO:

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The air in Stacy's bedroom shimmers and ripples as if a stone were thrown into a still pond, and a portal opens with a pulsing glow. A swirling vortex, Stacy stumbles, lands on her bed slightly bleeding. Lacie emerges from the same portal, landing on top of Stacy.

LACIE
Stacy! Oh my god, are you okay?
Thank you... thank you for what you
did back there. You saved my life.

Stacy winces in pain but manages a small smirk.

STACY
And you saved me... by getting us
out of there. I hope everyone's
okay.

LACIE

I'm sure they are. I saw the police storm in before we...

STACY

Went through some type of weird wormhole vortex?

LACIE

Yeah... that. You need to go to the hospital.

STACY

I'll be fine. It just barley scratched me.

LACIE

That's more than a scratch.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - LATER DAY

There is a heavy POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS and E.M.T presence out front. Cody is in the back of the police vehicle. NEWS REPORTERS, PARENTS and students standing out front being interviewed.

Adam, Natalie, and Rebecca are speaking among themselves. David, Cherie, Camila are speaking with each other. Jacob walks over from speaking with the police.

CHERIE

Well. Where is she?

JACOB

They said everyone is accounted for but the two of them.

CAMILA

So they're not in the school?

DAVID

Look over there.

David points to Adam, Natalie, and Rebecca.

DAVID (cont'd)

I guess Lacie is missing too. Maybe they ran away together.

CHERIE

Right. And I'm a genie...
Although-- I do have mysterious
magical like powers that seemed to
appear out of nowhere. So.

CUT TO:

INT. STACY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lacie is finishing placing bandages on Stacy.

LACIE

You really should get that looked
at.

STACY

Yeah. That sounds like a great
plan. Hey doc. I just got this
injury because I fell into a
magical portal with a bullet that
followed and grazed my shoulder.

LACIE

Well. You don't have to be a bitch
about it.

STACY

Wow. Talk about kettle. So-- How
did you get...

LACIE

My powers? I had this weird dream
that I wanted to travel to all
these different places around the
world-- and suddenly, I was there.

STACY

I had a dream too, but I was in
water.

LACIE

But you hate water.

STACY

Wow. I can't believe you still
remember that.

LACIE

Of course-- we practically grew up
together.

STACY

We did have some good times.

LACIE

We should probably get back. I left my phone in my locker. My mom's probably freaking out.

STACY

The same with mine. We'll not so much my mom then guardian. So-- how does it work?

LACIE

I'm not really sure yet but I waved my hand and thought about... um let me try.

Lacie waves her hand and a portal opens up. Stacy and Lacie step in.

EXT. RIDGE HIGH - FOOTBALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

A portal forms. Stacy and Lacie step out. OFFICER SMITH, and a fellow OFFICER speak with the girls.

STACY

I don't think anyone saw us.

LACIE

We better get...

A police officer walks over startling them.

COP #2

Hey. You two. Are you names Stacy Baez, and Lacie Sobe?

The girls nod.

OFFICER SMITH

People have been looking all over for you two.

EXT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - LATE DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Various PARENTS are picking up students. Rebecca hugs Lacie as she appears. Cherie, Jacob, Camila, David, then hug Stacy.

LACIE
 (to Rebecca)
 Where's Nat, and Adam?

REBECCA
 They already got picked up by their
 parents. I decided to stick around
 to see you were okay.

LACIE
 Thanks for sticking around. I'm
 fine-- and thanks.

Rebecca's MOM is waving her over.

REBECCA
 Well, I gotta go. I'll text you
 later.

LACIE
 Okay. Thanks for staying.

EXT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - LATE DAY - CONTINUOUS

Amidst the chaos, Stacy has a warm embrace by Jacob, David,
 Camila, Cherie.

Camila, noticing Stacy's wounded shoulder, gently places her
 hand over the injury, her fingers glowing with a soft,
 earthly light.

STACY
 Camila, that was... incredible.
 Thank you.

CAMILA
 Of course. We look out for each
 other, right?

Just then, a car pulls up. Sonya and Charles step out and
 run to the children, and give them a warm embrace.

SONYA
 Thank goodness you're all okay. We
 were so worried.

CHARLES
 We're just so glad to see you all
 safe.

STACY

Camila, I... I'm so sorry this happened on your birthday. After everything today, this is hardly the celebration you deserve.

CAMILA

It's okay. Being here with all of you, knowing we're safe... that's the best gift I could ask for.

Jacob glance at Cody in the police car.

JACOB

I just feel bad for Cody. I hope he gets the help he needs.

CHERIE

Where did you go by the way?

DAVID

Yeah. You and Lacie hanging out now?

STACY

No. No... Why would you say that?

JACOB

Because you came out from the back of the school.

STACY

We were just hiding. Trying to stay safe like everyone else.

SONYA

Let's all go home now. We can discuss this later.

They all get in the van and leave.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - STACY'S ROOM - EVENING

Stacy is laying her bed. Her phone buzzes on the nightstand, lights up, revealing a text from Samantha.

SAMANTHA'S TEXT:

"Why didn't you text me today? I was really worried about you."

CLOSE UP on Stacy's phone texting back.

STACY'S TEXT:

"Sam, I'm so sorry. Today was a whirlwind, and I messed up by not texting you. My head was all over the place. I'll make it up to you, I promise. I love you so much."

SAMANTHA'S TEXT:

"Do you think school will be open tomorrow?"

STACY'S TEXT:

"Probably not, I'm gonna get some rest. I'll text you tomorrow."

SAMANTHA'S TEXT:

"LOVE YOU. nite."

Stacy places her phone down on the nightstand.

Suddenly there's a knock on the door.

STACY

Come in.

Sonya comes in.

SONYA

I know you had a rough day... but I think this will be good for all of us to...

STACY

I agree. Camila deserves her special day. I'll get ready.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - CHERIE AND CAMILA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cherie and Camila are laying on their beds watching videos from their phones. Sonya knocks on the door.

SONYA

Birthday girl.

Sonya walks in holding a box with a bow attached, and hands it to Camila.

CAMILA

What's this?

SONYA

Go ahead and open it sweetheart.

Camila opens up the box and finds a beautiful dress.

CAMILA

This is amazing. How did you know I wanted this one?

SONYA

Well. I did have a little help from your friends, plus Cherie here, heard you talking about it.

Camila gives Sonya and Cherie a hug.

CAMILA

Thank you-thank you.

SONYA

Okay girls. Let's get ready to go-- big surprise waiting for you Cam-Cam.

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

Sonya and Charles come downstairs looking dapper. Jacob, Stacy, David, and Cherie are all downstairs, dressed really nice.

CHERIE

You two look amazing.

STACY

Make sure you two are home before curfew.

CHARLES

In that case... we're going to be very late.

SONYA

You all... just look-- so amazing.

DAVID

Thanks. I'm really excited for tonight.

CHERIE

Why? It's not your birthday.

DAVID
Hey JJ. Could you help me with this collar?

JACOB
Sure man.

Jacob adjust David's collar.

CHERIE
It's really nice that you guys are doing this for her. It really means the world to her.

SONYA
So, I guess... we're waiting for the birthday girl.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - CHERIE AND CAMILA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Camila is dressed in a pretty gown and checking herself out in the mirror.

CAMILA
(to self)
Alright. No Quinceanera... but at least they're celebrating your birthday.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

Camila makes a graceful appearance down the stairs. Sonya, Charles, Jacob, David, Stacy, and Cherie look at her in awe.

SONYA
You look so beautiful.

CHARLES
Yeah. Amazing Cam.

Suddenly, there's a honk outside.

CAMILA
Who is that honking?

The kids peek out the window.

CHARLES

That would be the chariot, that awaits.

DAVID

Hell yeah. A limo.

JACOB

That's so cool.

Sonya, Charles, and the kids put on coats to leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A luxurious limousine has pulled up. Sonya, Charles, Camila, Stacy, Cherie, Jacob, and David exchange excited glances. A LIMO DRIVER steps out.

CHERIE

You guys are the best. I can't thank you...

DAVID

Wow, are we going all out for Camila's birthday or what?

SONYA

This limo is exclusively for our birthday girl. Tonight, she deserves all the spotlight.

CHARLES

And our chariot is the van that awaits. Please, feel free to tip the driver. Oh-- which reminds.

Charles hands Camila money.

SONYA

Some money to tip the driving. We'll see you there shortly.

Charles, Sonya, Jacob, David, Cherie, and Stacy load up in the van. Camila approaches the limo.

LIMO DRIVER

Good Evening.

Limo Driver opens the door revealing Camila's friends, Martha, and Rosie.

All dialogue in [brackets] is in Spanish.

ROSIE
Surprise!

MARTHA
Surprise!

CAMILA
Oh. [My god your here.]

ROSIE
You think we would miss our [best
friend's birthday?]

MARTHA
[Happy birthday.]

ROSIE
[Happy birthday.]

Limo Driver closes the door and they drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Rosie, Martha, and Camila are riding in the limo.

CAMILA
I didn't think you guys would make
it because of everything that
happened today.

ROSIE
Well, [my parents] are cool with
it.

MARTHA
My parents told me to celebrate
with you, because we can't live our
lives in fear.

CAMILA
I guess that's a good point.

ROSIE
[Besides.] It's your birthday fool.

MARTHA
We have something for you.

Martha reaches behind her hiding a box, and hands it to
Camila. Camila opens it revealing a tiara.

CAMILA

[For me.]

ROSIE

Yeah. Put it on.

Camila puts it on.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

A limo drives up to the front of a very luxurious hotel. The Limo Driver opens up the door for Camila, Rosie, and Martha. Camila tips the limo driver. The girls stand in awe of the extravagance.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Rosie, Martha, and Camila stop.

CAMILA

Why are we stopping?

Rosie pulls out a blindfold.

ROSIE

Part of the surprise silly.

Rosie and Martha help blindfold Camila.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Rosie and Martha guide Camila into the banquet area of the hotel. Sonya, Charles, Cherie, Stacy, Jacob, David, Samantha, April, Tracy, Rebecca, and Lacie. A MARIACHI BAND starts to play. Everyone sings: "FELIZ CUMPLEANOS" as Camila takes off her blindfold.

Camila see's the extravagance laid out in full. Plus the presents that are spread across a table.

CAMILA
 (wiping tears)
 Thank you all from the bottom of my
 heart for this. This means the
 world to me.

The Mariachi Band starts to play. Charles walks over to
 Camila.

CHARLES
 May I have the honor of the first
 dance?

CAMILA
 You may not be my father, Charles,
 but...

Before she can finish, Charles gently leads her to the dance
 floor. They dance to together while everyone watches, some
 taking pictures and video footage.

Carlos emerges from the crowd. Dressed very dapper in a tux,
 to the surprise of Camila.

CARLOS
 Excuse me, Mr. Brunswick. May I cut
 in?

Charles leaves the dance area.

CARLOS (cont'd)
 May I have this dance, Camila?

CAMILA
 I can't believe this is
 happening...

CARLOS
 You look absolutely stunning
 tonight, Camila.

CAMILA
 Thank you, Carlos. This is the most
 amazing birthday I've ever had.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL BALLROOM - WINDOW - SAME TIME

From the outside looking in, the silhouettes of guests are
 visible through the large, ornate windows.

The POV shifts subtly, indicating someone or something is observing the scene from the shadows. The figure remains unseen, their presence hinted at only by the slow, deliberate movement that tracks the party's goings-on.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURY HOTEL BALLROOM - BALLROOM - SAME TIME

Among the revelry, Sonya stands slightly apart from the group, her demeanor one of casual observance. However, her eyes are sharp, vigilant, scanning the room and its entrances with a protective gaze.

Suddenly, her attention snaps to the window. Charles, noticing distraction, joins her side.

SONYA

Something's not right. I can feel it.

CHARLES

Do you think we're being watched?
Do you think they found us?

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL BALLROOM - WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

The POV outside the window shifts again, more deliberately this time. The watcher's presence is palpable, observing the festivities with an unknown intent.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURY HOTEL BALLROOM - SAME TIME

Sonya uses this moment to discreetly move towards the nearest window, peering into darkness outside. Charles follows closely behind. The mysterious watcher quickly vanishes into the shadows.

CHARLES

What is it?

SONYA

I thought I saw something... or someone. But there's nothing.

CHARLES

I'm sure it's nothing. Let's not spoil tonight. Today was already rough for the kids.

SONYA

You're right. Let's get back to celebrating.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - SECURITY OFFICE - NEXT DAY

The office is quiet except for the hum of computers and the flicker of monitors displaying school corridors. AGENT LOPEZ stands alone before a desk, her gaze focused on the screen as she rewinds the footage of the incident involving Cody.

ON SCREEN, the video plays the crucial moment, Cody holding a gun, firing off a shot, while, Stacy, ends up next to Lacie and a bullet grazing her shoulder.

After a moment of contemplation, she glances around the room, ensuring she's alone, then inserts a thumb drive into the computer. With a few clicks, she deletes sections of video, with a sigh.

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Agent Lopez joins AGENT REYNOLDS in the principal's office. PRINCIPAL MARTIN, a man looking slightly disheveled, addresses them with a heavy heart.

PRINCIPAL MARTIN

Cody's a good kid at heart, mostly keeps to himself. He's been bullied, and I promised to look into it... I failed him. Maybe it's time I retire, effective immediately.

Agent Reynolds nods.

AGENT REYNOLDS

We understand, Principal Martin. Thank you, for giving us insight into what may have happened.

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Agent Reynolds and Agent Lopez are in the hallway with the F.B.I C.S.I analyzing the area. Agent Reynolds notices a drop of blood on the wall and a bullet lodged in the wall. He motions to the F.B.I C.S.I to collect the blood sample.

AGENT REYNOLDS

Make sure this gets analyzed quickly.

Agent Reynolds pulls out the bullet from the wall, bags it, and hands it off to the F.B.I C.S.I.

AGENT REYNOLDS (cont'd)

Did you find anything on the video that could help us?

AGENT LOPEZ

No, nothing out of the ordinary. The footage didn't show much, unfortunately.

CUT TO:

EXT. WILSON FARM - CORNFIELD - NIGHT - A WEEK LATER

The tranquil night sky is suddenly pierced by a streak of light, descending rapidly. It crashes into a cornfield just behind EARL and MARY WILSON'S house, the impact sending shock-waves through the ground.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

EARL WILSON(50's rugged) and his wife, MARY WILSON(50'S kind-faced), are jolted awake by the tremor. Their solace and silence of their bedroom is replaced by confusion and concern.

MARY

Earl! What was that? Did the earth just shake?

EARL

I don't know, Mary. It sounded like something crashed out back.

Mary sits up, clutching the bed sheet.

MARY

Should we... do something? What if it's dangerous?

Earl swings himself off the bed, he grabs a flashlight and his shotgun leaning against the nightstand.

EARL

I'll go check it out. You stay here where it's safe.

MARY

Be careful, Earl. Maybe we should just call the police?

EARL

Let me take a quick look first.

MARY

But, Earl. Curiosity killed the cat... you know?

EARL

Well. I'm holding the curiosity cure right here.

EXT. WILSON FARM - CORNFIELD - MOMENTS LATER

With only the beam of his flashlight cutting through the darkness, Earl cautiously makes his way towards the corn stalks that are flattened in a wide circle. As he approaches, the probe-like spacecraft becomes visible. A hatch is open, revealing an empty interior.

EARL

What in the world...

Earl circles the spacecraft, flashlight sweeping over the craft. With a deep breath, Earl turns back towards the house.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Earl bursts back into the bedroom, urgency clear in his expression. Mary, who has been waiting anxiously looks up at him.

MARY

Earl, what did you find?

EARL

It's some kind of... spacecraft,
Mary. It didn't appear to be anyone
inside. We need to call the police
now.

MARY

I already called them. They're on
their way now.

EXT. WILSON FARM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

The quiet farm is now bathed in blue and red lights of
multiple police cars. Yellow tape cordons off the path
leading to the cornfield. POLICE OFFICERS everywhere.
OFFICER DAWSON, and Officer Smith are talking to Earl, and
Mary, who stand wrapped in blankets.

OFFICER DAWSON

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson... we're doing
everything we can to secure the
area and figure out what happened
here tonight.

EARL

That wasn't any regular crash. That
thing in our field is from another
world, I'm telling you!

As they speak, two black S.U.V's pull up. Agent Reynolds and
Agent Lopez both dressed in black suits.

AGENT REYNOLDS

Good evening, folks. This area is
now an official federal
investigation site.

OFFICER DAWSON

Feds? How the hell did you get here
so fast?

The police officers exchange glances but don't press
further. Officer Smith grabs his radio.

OFFICER SMITH

Alright everyone. Let's pack it
up... the feds are here now.

MARY

(to the agents)
But what about that... thing in our
field? What is it?

AGENT REYNOLDS

It's likely just a piece of plane debris. Nothing to worry about. These things can look quite exotic to the untrained eye.

EARL

I know what I saw, and it wasn't no piece of any plane. If you're going to cover this up, I'll go to the media. People have a right to know!

AGENT LOPEZ

Mr. Wilson, we understand you're upset. But spreading unfounded stories won't help anyone. We assure you, we have everything covered.

AGENT REYNOLDS

Let us handle this. It's for your own safety and the safety of the community.

MARY

What do we do now?

AGENT LOPEZ

I suggest you find someone or somewhere in town to stay for the next few days or so.

EARL

We'll leave, but I'm not letting this go. I know what I saw.

The agents turn to leave, heading towards the cornfield, leaving Earl and Mary standing in the cold.

EXT. WILSON FARM - CORNFIELD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Yellow tape is roped around the area of the crash site with lights surrounding it. The alien-like probe, sits embedded in the earth, a stark anomaly against the rural backdrop. Agent Reynolds and Agent Lopez stand in front in awe.

Agent Reynolds's phone rings, breaking the silence. As he answers.

AGENT REYNOLDS
(into the phone)
Yes... Understood. We've secured
the site, but this is bigger than
we thought.

Agent Reynold listens for a moment, glances back at the
probe and Agent Lopez.

AGENT REYNOLDS (cont'd)
I agree, but... understood sir.

Agent Reynolds hangs up the phone.

AGENT LOPEZ
So. What's the verdict?

AGENT REYNOLDS
They want one of us to stay here,
while the other goes back to
Washington.

AGENT LOPEZ
I'll stay. There's more to uncover
here, I'm sure of it.

AGENT REYNOLDS
First, the satellite chatter, then
the school, and now this... There's
a pattern emerging. Be on your
guard, Lopez.

AGENT LOPEZ
I will. And I'll keep you updated
on anything I find.

AGENT REYNOLDS
For any reason you... You find
yourself out of your depth. I'll be
here first thing.

Agent Lopez nods.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - DAY - WEEK LATER

The auditorium is filled with the buzz of conversation as
STUDENTS, FACULTY members settle into their seats. The stage
is set simply, with a podium and a large banner that
reads "Welcome Back, Ridge High Rhinos!"

Stacy, David, Jacob, Cherie, Camila, Natalie, Rebecca, Lacie, Adam, along with their perspective friends, and partners are in attendance. Agent Lopez, now known as Principal Angela Torres, steps up to the podium, with a speech.

PRINCIPAL TORRES (AGENT LOPEZ)

Good morning, Ridge High! I'm Angela Torres, your new principal. I know this comes as a surprise to many of you, especially with the sudden retirement of Principal Martin. I want to assure you all, I'm here to continue the legacy of excellence that Ridge High is known for.

The auditorium falls silent, every eye fixed on her.

PRINCIPAL TORRES

One of my first orders of business is addressing something that has no place in our school--bullying. Let me be clear--bullying, in any form will not be tolerated. Any student or students found engaging in such behavior will face expulsion.

A murmur ripples through the crowd.

PRINCIPAL TORRES (cont'd)

We are a community, and it's crucial we treat each other with respect and kindness. I believe in being a hands-on principal. You'll see me in the hallways, in the classrooms, and at school events. I want to know you, learn from you, and help make your time here the best it can be.

She pauses briefly before continuing.

PRINCIPAL TORRES (cont'd)

And now, let's remind ourselves who we are. Please join me in our school fight song. "Ridge High Rhinos, we're very strong, with our black and white spirit, how can we go wrong..."

The auditorium erupts in song.

"...we shout for victory, fight! fight! fight! As we sing, we dominate because we are the true jungle king. Go Rhinos! Go Rhinos! Go Rhinos! Go!"

The song ends, and everyone applauds.

CUT TO:

INT. RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Students are shuffling through the bustling hallway. Stacy and Samantha stand near a row of lockers.

STACY

It's weird not seeing Principal Martin around, huh? I hope this new principal, Ms. Torres, is as cool as he was.

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I hope so. Speaking of change, I'm organizing a drive for the local animal shelter this weekend. They really need the support.

As they talk, Lacie, walking with Rebecca, Natalie, and Adam, slows her pace; when she notices Stacy.

LACIE

You guys go ahead. I'll catch up in a sec.

Natalie rolls her eyes. Lacie leaves the group towards Stacy.

LACIE (cont'd)

Hey, Stacy... Can we talk for a minute?

SAMANTHA

What do you want with Stacy? You heard what the new Principal said.

LACIE

Look. I'm not here to make trouble. I just want to talk, alone.

STACY

What's up, Lacie?

SAMANTHA

Okay, I'll leave you two to talk.
I've got to work on some signs.
Catch up with you later, babe.

Samantha kisses Stacy and leaves.

LACIE

Thanks for hearing me out. After
what happened with Cody...

STACY

Yeah. It's really sad. I hope he'll
be okay... But that's not what you
came to talk with me about, is it?

LACIE

I saw what you did. How you moved.
And the fire extinguisher...

Stacy glances around.

STACY

I know. It was... Look, I don't
fully understand it myself... you
have something to do with it too,
don't you?

LACIE

Something to do with what?

STACY

The storm the other night. Vivid
dreams?

LACIE

At first, I thought I was going
crazy but I'm glad I'm not alone in
this. Maybe together, we can find
some answers.

STACY

Let's just be clear, I will meet
with you, but only because you
don't have someone to talk to about
this.

LACIE

Thank you.

STACY

After school. I'll text you the
location.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - LATE DAY

The sun is beginning to dip, casting shadows across an empty field. Stacy, David, Cherie, Jacob, and Camila are standing in the field having a jovial conversation.

STACY

So, if we're picking superhero names, I'm definitely going with Aqua Mistress.

The group chuckles at the idea.

DAVID

I think Phantom Walker suits me... since I can astral project and all.

CHERIE

And I'll be Flame Thrower... or maker. Haven't really worked out the final name, so...

CAMILA

Earth Whisperer, but like Cherie said... name needs to be worked out.

JACOB

Wind Rider-- sounds about right. Catchy, isn't it?

The group laughs. Suddenly, Lacie approaches the group. The laughter, replaced by a tense silence.

STACY

Guys, it's okay. Lacie's one of us. She has her own secret, right, Lacie?

LACIE

Yes, I do. And I promise, your secret is safe with me.

The group exchanges hesitant glances.

LACIE (cont'd)

Watch this.

Lacie focuses, and in an instant, a wormhole appears. Lacie hops in and disappears as the wormhole fades to only open up behind them, as she plops out of it. Dusting herself off.

LACIE (cont'd)

Call me Portal Queen. That's if I get the hang of this.

STACY

Alright, Portal Queen, welcome to the team!

JACOB

Woah, woah, woah. Who said she could join the team?

STACY

Look. She's just like us?

CAMILA

No. She's not.

CHERIE

Besides. You suck.

DAVID

Yeah. You're the worst... with your little crew.

LACIE

Look. I didn't ask to join your stupid club. I can figure this out on my own.

Lacie begins to storm off.

STACY

Wait. Everyone-- just chill out. Look. She saved my life.

JACOB

What?

DAVID

What do you mean saved your life?

STACY

Cody shot at me, while I was trying to calm him down. Lacie made a portal and somehow pulled me in.

LACIE

In your bedroom.

CHERIE

Wait? You were in our house?

STACY

Cherie. She's been in our house before.

CAMILA

That was a long time ago... when you two were friends and she didn't become a complete b-iatch.

LACIE

I deserve that.

CAMILA

And more.

STACY

Okay look everyone. We all got these powers for some reason. I think we should try to master them so they're not such a huge problem.

There is a brief silence.

JACOB

Okay. I guess I'll start.

Jacob raises his hands to the sky. A sudden gust of wind whips around the group, bending the grass and whistling air between the trees.

DAVID

Alright. Here goes nothing.

David sits down in a meditative pose. He closes his eyes, and the group watches as his body becomes translucent, and they looked amazed as his body splits into two halves.

DAVID (cont'd)

Hi guys.

The group waves at him. David astral body goes back inside his, waking him up.

STACY

Who wants to go next?

Camila, with a shy smile, approaches a small pile of dirt, places her hand on it, which causes the dirt to sprout flowers from it.

CHERIE
(to Lacie)
Just know, I'm watching you. And
this may or may not happen to you.

Cherie focuses on a can of soda on the ground. Her hand ignites with a soft glow, and a small fireball appears. She quickly hurls it towards the can striking it and sends it flying.

STACY
She's kidding... mostly.

LACIE
Noted. (to Stacy) And what can you
do?

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD, SECLUDED AREA - CONTINUOUS

From here we CLOSE UP on ROMAN, clad in a sleek, space-like jumpsuit that covers him from head to toe. His eyes, the only visible part of him, shine with interest as he observes Stacy swirling water around in the air.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The group, unaware of Roman's watchful gaze, continues to celebrate their display of powers.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD, SECLUDED AREA - CONTINUOUS

Roman, still hidden, his expression unreadable behind the suit. He takes one last look before leaving the area.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD - SUNSET - MOMENTS LATER

Lacie, Stacy, David, Cherie, Camila, and Jacob marvel at each of their abilities, as the sun begins to set.

LACIE

We need to figure out why we have these powers... and how. There has to be a reason, something that links us all together.

Jacob crosses his arms, raising an eyebrow at Lacie's assertiveness.

JACOB

Great plan, Lacie. And how do you propose we do that? Walk into the library and say-- Hey, got any books on why some random teens got magical powers?

STACY

JJ has a point. We can't exactly research this... but we've all noticed that our powers seem to respond to our emotions, right? Maybe the key is learning to control that. Understanding ourselves.

LACIE

Stacy's right. Every time my... ability activated, it was because I felt a strong emotion. Fear, anger, even excitement. Maybe if we learn to control our emotions...

DAVID

And it's not just about control. It's about understanding the responsibility that comes with these powers. We need to be careful.

CAMILA

Maybe, we are already doing that. Practicing together, sharing what we feel when we use our powers.

CHERIE

I mean... This seems like the perfect spot to be. Nobody seems to be around... so the perfect place.

Lacie looks at her phone. Stacy notices.

STACY

Got somewhere you gotta be?

LACIE
Actually I do.

JACOB
Well. Don't let us keep you
princess.

LACIE
It's my mom.

JACOB
Oh.

STACY
Then it's settled. We'll meet here,
practice, and help each other.
We're a team now, and together,
we'll figure this out.

CUT TO:

INT. BRUNSWICK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Sonya, and Charles, both emanating an aura of solemnity,
face Stacy, David, Cherie, Jacob, and Camila, who have just
returned home.

SONYA
We have something important to
share with you.

STACY
What's going on?

SONYA
It's about your heritage, your
powers, and our true roles in your
lives.

JACOB
Wait. What?

CHARLES
We are not just your guardians. We
were royal guards on Pythonissam,
tasked with protecting you, the
chosen ones, from forces that wish
to use your powers for evil.

The room falls silent, with confused looks from the kids.

CAMILA

A pie-though what now?

CHARLES

Yeah. That's Planet Pythonissam.

DAVID

So you're saying... we're space aliens?

CHERIE

Yeah, how is it fair to keep this a secret? To just drop this on us like it's nothing?

DAVID

You're telling us now? After all these years?

SONYA

I know you're all mad.

JACOB

That's a big understatement.

SONYA

We kept this from you to protect you, to give you a chance to grow up without the weight of this knowledge.

CAMILA

Am I even Mexican?

CHARLES

Actually yes Cam... you are.

CAMILA

How?

SONYA

Well. Life on earth really started on our planet. Early settlers cultivated and helped society along here on earth.

DAVID

So. You're saying that humans on earth are really aliens.

CHARLES

Well. Technically... They are more mixed throughout time.

STACY

But what about Lacie? She has powers too. How can she be part of this if she's not... with us?

SONYA

Lacie is also from our planet. The regulations for guardianship on this planet meant we could only officially care for five of you. Lacie was placed with a foster family, but we've always kept a close watch on her.

CHARLES

She's just as much a part of this as any of you. Our mission was to ensure all of you were safe, even if it meant making difficult choices.

CAMILA

So, we're really... aliens? Chosen ones?

JACOB

This is insane. I mean, it's incredible, but... insane.

SONYA

It's a lot to take in.

STACY

A lot to take in would be telling us that we are not actually space orphans.

SONYA

Well-- technically, you're not orphans.

CHERIE

Where are our parents?

DAVID

Yeah. Are our names even our names?

CHARLES

No. But we'll get into that in a bit.

SONYA

We are here to guide you, to help you understand your powers and your heritage to our planet.

JACOB

Are we safe, here... on this planet? The people that are after us.

SONYA

You are in good hands with us.

CUT TO:

INT. PLANET PYTHONISSAM - ROYAL COURTROOM - DAY

The grandeur of the royal courtroom on Planet Pythonissam(pie-thought-knee-some)stands in stark contrast to the grim conversation. LILITH, WICS, and JINN, dressed in Royal robes; the three sisters who have usurped control, stand at the center, across the ornate floor.

LILITH

Roman must not fail in his mission to locate the chosen. The prophecy is clear, and with the chosen ones under our control, we can finally bring about the peace our planet desperately needs.

WICS

Roman is diligent, but he is also from the house of PREX. His loyalty, while useful, could become a liability if he discovers his daughter.

JINN

And what of his daughter? If Roman learns of her significance and chooses to protect her... he may need to be removed.

LILITH

Then we must be prepared to act against Roman if necessary. Our vision for our planet's future cannot be jeopardized, not even by one of our own.

WICS

We must tread carefully.
Eliminating Roman could raise
suspicions among the other houses.
His followers are great in number.

JINN

Let us not forget, we wield powers
that have kept us in control thus
far. Roman, like any other, will
fall if he stands in our way.

The three sisters, nod in agreement.

LILITH

Then it is settled. We continue to
monitor Roman's progress and
prepare for all eventualities. Our
planet's destiny rests in our
hands, and we will shape it as we
see fit.

CUT TO:

INT. FBI FIELD OFFICE - WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

Agent Reynolds sits at his desk, surrounded by piles of
files and a computer screen aglow with reports. The phone
RINGS, and he answers.

AGENT REYNOLDS

Forensics? Yes, I've been waiting
for your report on the blood
sample.

He listens, his brow furrowing.

AGENT REYNOLDS (cont'd)

What do you mean it's no match for
any blood type?

Agent Reynolds places the call on speaker.

FORENSICS EXPERT (V.O.)

Exactly, Agent Reynolds. The sample
doesn't correspond to any known
human blood type.

AGENT REYNOLDS

Are you saying it's not human?

FORENSICS EXPERT (V.O.)
It's composition is unlike anything
we've encountered before. It's...
alien, for a lack of a better word.

AGENT REYNOLDS
Not human... This changes
everything. Thank you. Have a good
night.

FORENSICS EXPERT (V.O.)
You're welcome, and you to.

Agent Reynolds hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. AGENT LOPEZ'S CAR - EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

Agent Lopez seated in her car, parked from the Brunswick
House. The car's engine is off and it's dimly lit, except
for her phone that lights up because she is being called by
Agent Reynolds.

She places the call on speaker.

AGENT LOPEZ
Reynolds. What's up? Is there a
development?

AGENT REYNOLDS (V.O.)
Are you busy? I need to loop back
to you on something urgent. I've
just received the forensics report
on the blood sample we found at the
school.

AGENT LOPEZ
Go ahead. What did you find?

AGENT REYNOLDS (V.O.)
It's... not human. The sample
doesn't match any known human blood
type. We're dealing with something
entirely out of the ordinary here.

Agent Lopez briefly pauses.

AGENT LOPEZ
Not human? You mean to say, we have
evidence of a possible non-human
entity at school here?

AGENT REYNOLDS (V.O.)
That's exactly what I'm saying. I'm
booking a flight out tonight.

AGENT LOPEZ
Understood. I'll pick you up from
the airport. Have a good night.

AGENT REYNOLDS (V.O.)
You too. This will make our
careers.

Agent Lopez hangs up the phone.

FADE OUT.