

Cut from the Wild



Written By:

Andrew Aidman
&
Daniel Kitron

Property of:

Candle Cinema 

ContactCandleCinema@gmail.com

CREDIT SEQUENCE:

FADE IN:

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM- DAY

A dusty photo album sits on a desk in an empty bedroom.

Someone enters the room with a CREAK of the door.

A white gloved hand clicks on a vintage lamp next to the album. As the album opens, a toy piano tune accompanies.

The same hand straightens the album on the desk, and opens it gently. On the page is a collage of family photos of a happy little girl and her parents.

A second gloved hand reaches in from a different angle to turn the page.

A third hand flips to the next page from a third angle- there are three hands, and they take turns flipping pages in a circle. As the album progresses, the father becomes absent, and the girl becomes less happy, as do the collages.

Towards the end of the album, the collaging style grows much darker and more jagged as the father is replaced by a new man, a nerdy type who the girl clearly disdains.

Once the album ends and the credits finish, the room's visitor clicks off the lamp and exits the room.

CUT TO BLACK.

AMY (V.O.)

I just wish I knew some cooler people. Everybody I know is either mean, or stupid, or just plain lame.

CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

It's Autumn, and the year is 1992.

AMY ALMOND, the girl from the photo album, now 12, sits at the breakfast table in mismatched pajamas. Between bites of cereal, she cuts and pastes colorful images from a magazine into her notebook for a collage.

Amy cuts and glues furiously to create a collage depicting a magical wedding party in the forest with various animals in attendance.

STEVE, (Straight out of the eighties- 40; yet still a nerd) sits across from Amy preparing a bowl of cereal. He is the "new man" from the album. His laptop tapping annoys Amy.

As Steve tries to type and eat a spoonful of cereal simultaneously, Amy slaps down hard on the table. The sound causes Steve to flinch and spill milk all over his tie.

STEVE

Son of a butler, Amy! This is my last clean tie.

AMY

Classic.

The phone starts RINGING. Steve picks it up on his way to grab a paper towel.

STEVE

Amy, go get ready for school.
(picks up phone)
Hello?

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone)
Peterson!

Though the phone's earpiece we can hear **MR. WALLENSTEIN**, Steve's rude and overbearing boss.

STEVE

Mr. Wallenstein, sir-

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

Did you finish up those balance sheets I asked for?

STEVE

Yes, sir. I left them on your desk just like you asked.

Steve turns around and sees Amy playing with her food. She's bitten holes out of her toast and is wearing it like a mask.

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone)
Good! I'm gonna wanna go over them with you first thing, you hear?
(CLICK!)

STEVE

Yes, sir. First thing. Hello?
 (hangs up)
 Amy, get dressed already will you?
 You can't afford to be late again.

AMY

I heard you! For real, listen, I'm
 not going to school today.

As Steve attempts to clean his tie in the sink, Amy's mother
BEE (35; overworked) walks into the kitchen.

BEE

Excuse me?

AMY

I'm sick!

BEE

Here we go. What is it this time?

AMY

I've got... Leprosy! Agghhh!

Amy turns to her mother with fruity pebbles stuck all over
 her face.

BEE

Oh God, Amy, clean your face!
 You're not sick, and you have to go
 to school!

AMY

But my stomach really hurts, on the
real though.

BEE

No it doesn't!

Amy pretends to vomit her cereal milk back into the bowl.

AMY

Blagh!

BEE

That's disgusting.

Steve rejoins Amy at the table.

STEVE

You know, when I was your age I
 loved school. I used to play
 foursquare.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Do they still have foursquare? You should play foursquare!

AMY

Foursquare?! Gosh Steve, tell me more!

STEVE

Well, you get a ball and three other friends all together around gym time --

AMY

(interrupts)

Oh, we're back in gym times now! So that was way back before they invented *sarcasm*, huh?

Steve looks hurt. Amy returns her focus to her collage.

BEE

Amy! You're being rude.

AMY

Thorry Thteve.

BEE

Amy, please go get ready.

AMY

But I'm not finished.

Amy reaches for some waffles and keeps collaging.

STEVE

Bee honey, will you pass the funnies?

While passing the paper, Bee catches a glimpse of Steve's computer screen.

BEE

Finally got all the bugs out huh?

Steve quickly shuts his laptop.

STEVE

No, no, no. She's not ready yet.

BEE

Steve, what sense is there in developing the world's first fully functional auto-accounting thingy...

STEVE

It's a fully automatic corporate auditing system.

BEE

Right, well what sense is there in spending 3 years developing one of those if you aren't ever going to bother showing anyone?

STEVE

I'm going to, all right? I just wanna make sure I get all the kinks and pickles ironed out before I pull back the curtain.

BEE

Well, from what you showed me it works perfectly fine, and God knows we could use the extra money it might bring in.

Bee sighs as she adds Amy's cereal bowl to an ever growing stack of dirty dishes.

STEVE

(turning to Amy)

You know, with my software, an auditing company could completely streamline its accounting process. I call it "Account-Ability." Get it?

AMY

Wow, Steve, you're like a genius.

STEVE

Aw, shucks, Amy, thanks.

AMY

A genius at being boring! Gosh!

BEE

Amy, go get changed *now!*

AMY

Fine!

(gets up)

I'll go today, but y'all will be sorry tomorrow when I'm so sick I collapse and bleed all over the floor and come back as a Frankenstein and eat your stupid faces!

Amy mimics Frankenstein as she stomps off to her bedroom.

BEE

She's sick, all right. Sick in the head.

Steve laughs slowly.

EXT. COMMERCIAL STREET - MORNING

Amy trudges to school wearing a grungy sweater and jeans. She passes a bike shop. She looks inside the store window and sees a beautiful purple cruiser sitting front and center.

THE SHOP OWNER sees Amy staring at the bike. He flips over the price tag so Amy can read it. \$250.

With a sigh, Amy moves on.

EXT. STREET - FURTHER ON

Amy walks down the street with headphones on. As she passes one house, a **BIG MEAN DOG** BARKS, runs up to the gate and SNARLS at Amy. Amy screams and runs away.

Something else watches Amy from around the corner with muffled, heavy breathing.

EXT. AMY'S SCHOOL - MORNING - ESTABLISHING

Kids bustle into the school's front door. Amy walks towards the school, stops, considers skipping, but gives in to her better instincts and goes in.

INT. AMY'S SCHOOL- HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Amy trudges through the hall, alone, with rambunctious **STUDENTS** playing all around her. It's like she's invisible as kids bump into her repeatedly.

TORY-LYNN, the blond and preppy queen of the middle school passes by, her equally plastic besties **KIMBERLY** and **TIFFANY** at her side. As they pass, they bump Amy, knocking her down.

Picking herself up off the floor, Amy looks up to see **CODY**, the good looking and well dressed popular boy. Cody stands by his locker cracking jokes with his two cronies **TOM** and **MAX**.

As Amy eyes Cody from afar, the first period bell RINGS meaning everyone left in the hallway is now late.

INT. AMY'S SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

All the **OTHER STUDENTS** are already sitting at their desks as Amy finds her seat.

Her teacher, **MISS SILVERSTEIN**, a prematurely grey-haired woman, calls her out.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Late again, Amy!

AMY

But-

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Butts need to be in their seats when the bell rings.

AMY

I know Ms. Silverstein, It won't happen again.

MISS SILVERSTEIN

You're lucky I don't send you to the office. Just apologize to the class and take your seat.

Amy looks at her fellow classmates. Most of them bullies, even the girls.

AMY

Sorry class.

Amy takes her seat.

As Ms. Silverstein begins her daily English lesson, Amy surveys the classroom. One of the slower kids, a big oaf of a bully named **PAUL** sits sniffing paste.

Already bored, Amy looks into her book bag and takes out an old National Geographic magazine.

Thumbing through the magazine, Amy discovers a page containing a picture of a tiger.

Amy pulls out another magazine from her book bag, this time it's Vogue. She flips to a page containing fashion models dressed in bright red, blue, and yellow tuxedos. She lays out the images so that it appears as if the model in the red tuxedo has a tiger's head.

Satisfied, Amy picks takes out her rainbow scissors and prepares to start clipping.

BERRY, the red headed boy who wears a rat tail and sits near Amy, turns towards her to whisper something.

BERRY

Psst. Hey!

She ignores him.

BERRY (CONT'D)

Hey Amy, Amy, Amy Amy AmyAmyAmy!

AMY

What?!

BERRY

Everyone thinks you're the weird girl in class, did you know that?

AMY

I know.

BERRY

So why do you act so weird? You're not even like the bad kids, just weird.

AMY

I don't know.

BERRY

Are you sure you're not stupid? Maybe you're just stupid.

AMY

Nah, I don't think I'm stupid, but you know what? I might just be CRAAAZY!!!

Amy turns towards Berry while making a face that resembles a mad scientist bent on world domination.

AMY (CONT'D)

Muhuhuhahaha!

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Amy! What are doing?

AMY

Nothing.

Miss Silverstein walks over for a closer inspection, and sees the scissors and magazines on Amy's desk.

MS. SILVERSTEIN
Then what's all this?

AMY
I was just, um...

MS. SILVERSTEIN
If I open this notebook, am I going
to find today's notes or another
one of your collages?

AMY
Um... Today's notes?

Miss Silverstein picks up Amy's notebook and flips it open. Inside the notebook are a week's worth of in-class collages. Miss Silverstein sighs and snaps the notebook shut.

CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

Amy exits the principle's office with an eye roll, then takes off running down the hall towards the cafeteria. She sprints past a "no running" sign.

INT. AMY'S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LATER

Kids in the cafeteria chow down and Amy is the last one out of the lunch line. She searches for a spot, but everything seems full.

Cody can be seen hanging over by the popular girls' table.

He's flirting with Tory-Lynn, whose loyal gaggle of popular girls sits around her.

CODY
Cool, we'll see you later then.

Cody and his two cronies leave Tory-Lynn's table. When Amy sees Cody walking in her direction, she is petrified because she's got a massive crush on him. As he passes:

AMY
Hi, Cody.

CODY
Hey.

His friends laugh. Amy blushes.

Tory-Lynn and Kimberly take notice of Amy's affection towards Cody. Tory-Lynn is not pleased.

Amy sits down at an empty table next to the popular girls, and picks up the ketchup. When she squeezes the bottle, it produces only flatulent sounds- empty.

The popular girls look at her with disgust.

AMY

Sorry... It's the ketchup. Um, can I use yours?

Tory-Lynn narrows her eyes at Amy, then grins widely.

TORY-LYNN

(Overly friendly)

Sure! Kimberly, won't you pass...
Oh I'm sorry, what's your name?

AMY

Amy.

TORY-LYNN

(shadily)

Won't you be a gem and pass our friend, AMY, the ketchup?

KIMBERLY

Sure thing, Tory-Lynn.

Kimberly hands Amy the ketchup.

AMY

Thank you.

As Amy reaches for it, Kimberly squeezes the ketchup bottle causing it to squirt out all over Amy's sweater.

KIMBERLY

Oops!

As the popular girls all burst into laughter, Amy's face becomes red with embarrassment.

KIMBERLY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, oh, look what I did.

TORY-LYNN

Don't apologize Kimberly! With that sweater, you did her a favor.

Amy picks up her lunch tray and tries to escape.

Before she can get far, Amy finds her path blocked by that paste eating big oaf of a bully, Paul.

PAUL

You want fries with that?

Paul picks up the french fries from Amy's tray and dumps them all over her head. The onlooking students let out a roar of laughter as Amy shoves Paul out of the way.

Humiliated, Amy runs out of the cafeteria.

EXT. STREET - LATER THAT DAY

Amy walks home in the cold, still wearing her ketchup-stained sweater. As she picks out the last remaining fry from her hair, the big mean dog from earlier scares her yet again.

As Amy takes off running past camera, we boom down towards the street gutter. In the shadows of the gutter, three glowing sets of eyes suddenly appear, watching her.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Amy unlocks the door and storms in. She throws her backpack on the sofa and then takes off towards her bedroom.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - STEVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Steve sits at his desk, burning a cd on his laptop. He doesn't notice as Amy storm past the open door.

STEVE

Okay... and, burn to disc. Presto chango!

SLAM! Steve looks up at the sound of Amy's door.

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Still steaming, Amy struggles to yank her sweater up and over her head. After dunking it into the hamper she runs to her bed and flops face first into her pillow.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Steve is at the door.

STEVE (O.C.)

Amy?

No response.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Amy? Is everything okay?

Still silence.

STEVE (CONT'D)
I have to go pick up your mom from
work, you wanna keep me company?

AMY
Go away!

STEVE
Well okay, but I guess I'll just
have to eat all that frozen yogurt
by myself then...

Amy looks up from her pillow with temptation in her eyes.

AMY
Froyo?

INT. STEVE'S CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT - POST FROYO

Steve and Amy sit finishing their froyo in a strip mall
parking lot, waiting for Amy's mom.

STEVE
Mmm, this hits the spot, huh? How's
that Lemon on a Prayer?

Too busy eating to reply, Amy just lets out a grunt of
approval.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Can I try some?

Steve reaches over with his spoon but Amy is quick to growl
his hand away like a dog guarding a bone.

AMY
Grrrrrrr...

STEVE
Okay! Fine, but then you can't
taste any of my Susstacchio.

Amy doesn't care. She returns her attention to her own froyo.

STEVE (CONT'D)
So... How was school?

Amy stops eating takes a moment to think about her day at school. She turns towards Steve, considering opening up to him, but before she gets a chance, Amy's mother opens the car door and hops in the back seat.

BEE

Oof, what a day!

STEVE

Hey, honey.

Bee leans over the divide to give both Steve and Amy a kiss hello.

BEE

Hey, sweets. Thanks for picking me up. Did you remember to put an order in for takeout? 'Cause I do NOT feel like cooking!

STEVE

Fear not! For we are en route to pick up a batch of the finest noodles the Thai Palace has to offer.

BEE

Thank God!

Steve starts to pull off but is forced to slam on the brakes when a rusty pickup truck nearly sideswipes them.

STEVE

Hello!

AMY

Hey!

Amy reaches over and honks the horn. Steve tries to stop her, but Amy persists. The truck driver slams on his brakes and then reverses towards them.

BEE

Amy, stop!

STEVE

Stop, stop!

Finally, Bee reaches over and manages to pull Amy off the horn.

Amy rolls down her window and half-climbs out to yell at the guy.

BEE

Amy!

AMY

Hey! You nearly hit us, jerk!

A bearded **REDNECK** wearing a leather jacket gets out of the truck and starts walking towards Steve's window.

REDNECK

You got somethin' to say?

Steve keeps his window up.

STEVE

Nope, nothing. No problem. My mistake. So sorry.

REDNECK

Uh huh. That's what I thought.

The redneck heads back to his car.

AMY

"So sorry?" Steve, are you kidding me! That guy nearly killed us, and all you have to say is you're sorry?

BEE

Amy, enough. Steve, can we please get out of here?

STEVE

Yeah, yeah of course.

Steve double checks his blind spot before pulling out this time.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Amy, Steve and Bee sit around the table. Bee and Steve tear into their meals, but Amy just pouts.

BEE

What's the matter sweetie, is the food too spicy?

AMY

You know, dad would've smashed that guy.

BEE
Amy, let it go!

There is a long pause of silence at the table when suddenly the phone starts to ring. Steve moves to pick it up but is pulled back into his seat by Bee.

BEE (CONT'D)
Let the machine get it.

STEVE
But it could be work...

Bee shoots Steve the look of death.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Okay, okay. So, Amy. You never told me how school went today.

AMY
(sullen)
It was fine.

STEVE
You know, when I was a kid, we would all sit around the table and talk about our days. Sharing can be very therapeutic, you know, like this one time-

BEE
Steve...

Finally the answering machine takes the call. Miss Silverstein can be heard by everyone over the speaker.

MISS SILVERSTEIN
(on machine)
Hello, Mrs. Almond, this is Laura Silverstein, Amy's home room and English teacher. I'm sorry to call at dinner time, but we've had some discipline issues with your daughter, and--

Bee stomps over and grabs the phone.

BEE
Hello, Mrs. Silverstein, this is Amy's mother... Yes, what did Amy do? ...Uh-huh... Uh-huh.

Amy tries to slink off, but her mom stops her with a snap.

BEE (CONT'D)
(to Amy)
Park it.

Amy sits back down.

BEE (CONT'D)
Okay. Okay. I'll talk to her. Thank
you. Goodbye.

She hangs up.

BEE (CONT'D)
(to Amy)
What is wrong with you?

AMY
I don't know mom, maybe I'm stupid.

BEE
Steve?

STEVE
What'd she do?

AMY
Steve's not my dad! He doesn't get
a say.

STEVE
I know I'm not your dad, Amy, but
if you ask me, it wouldn't hurt to
be a little nicer to people, just
for starters. That kind of thing
goes a long way towards getting
along in life.

AMY
I am nice! I'm the nicest person I
know! It's everyone else who's a
jerk!

Amy storms off towards her room.

STEVE
(quietly, to Bee)
See, it's the temper. That's why
she doesn't have any friends.

BEE
Steve-

Amy storms back in.

AMY
(shouts)
I heard that! What about you,
Steve, who are *your* friends?

Amy storms off again and slams her door.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - LATER

Amy sits on the floor surrounded by magazines. She raises her trusty rainbow scissors and starts to cut away feverishly.

AMY
(mutters)
Pfft, friends. Who needs 'em.

She cuts through both a *National Geographic* and a *Vogue* magazine, then pastes the cutouts down on the paper in front of her. She works quickly, and tapes her newly created collage up on the bedroom wall.

The camera pulls back to reveal Amy's creations: Three different animal heads pasted on three colored suits.

There is a tiger's head atop a red-tuxedo'd body, a ram's head on a blue-suited body, and a canary's head on a yellow-suited body.

As Amy admires her work, lightning strikes and thunder crashes outside, and the lights flicker in and out.

The alarm clock flashes 12:00 repeatedly. A strong gust of wind blows in from the open window, scattering Amy's magazines and clippings.

To stop the wind from tearing down her collage, Amy rushes towards the window and struggles to slam it shut. Finally, the window gives, and as it slams down, the lights cut out.

The screen is dark for a brief moment before the lights in Amy's room slowly fade back up to a eery dim level.

Amy turns from the window to see three figures lurking in the shadowy corners of her bedroom. Slowly, they step out into the light and reveal themselves to be real life manifestations of the characters from her wall collage.

All three characters are played by humans wearing brightly colored suits and papier-mache animal masks. Although their costumes are colorful, their eyes are black and hidden.

The red-suited tiger speaks up first.

MASKED TIGER MAN

(with a British accent)

Hello.

Amy is petrified.

The Masked Tiger Man steps toward Amy. Quickly, she grabs the scissors up off the floor and brandishes them.

MASKED RAM MAN

(has a Jersey accent)

Oh, this little girl's gotta a lotta freakin' guts.

MASKED FINCH WOMAN

(always manic, anxious, rapid)

Lotta guts, lotta little guts.

AMY

Get back! I mean it!

MASKED TIGER MAN

Oh, come now.

The Masked Tiger Man nonchalantly walks over to Amy and proceeds to take the scissors from her hands.

MASKED RAM MAN

Nice and easy...

The finch woman laughs madly.

AMY

Are you going to eat me?

MASKED TIGER MAN

Hahahaha! By no means! You're far too rough, and tough, and lean.

AMY

What do you want?

MASKED TIGER MAN

Why, not a thing, Amelia. And you?

The tiger man raises a pipe to his lips. The finch lady and ram man dance and cackle eerily behind him.

Suddenly, the lights cut out again.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Amy wakes up in her bed. At last, it was just a dream. Or was it? Amy flings off her blanket, revealing that she is still clutching on to her trusted rainbow scissors.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Amy walks into the kitchen looking like someone who could use a strong cup of coffee. She sits down at the breakfast table and begins to fix herself a bowl of cereal.

Across from her sits Steve. He sips a cup of black coffee while reading the morning paper.

STEVE

Good morning Amy. Sleep well?

AMY

Shhh... Too early to talk.

Amy begins to pour milk into the cereal bowl.

STEVE

Amy, about last night--

AMY

Steve, forget it, just pass the...

Amy freezes when she looks up to find that the masked figures have all appeared in the kitchen. The Tiger and Sheep men stand behind Steve and the Finch woman sits on his shoulders.

STEVE

(oblivious)

Amy...

Amy startles as the Ram Man pulls out a butter knife and holds it up, then begins to spread butter on a piece of toast. The Finch Woman pours the Tiger Man a cup of coffee from her perch on Steve's shoulders.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Amy, watch the milk.

AMY

What?

STEVE

You're making a mess!

AMY

Oh!

Amy looks down and sees that she's spilling milk all over the table. Steve tosses her a napkin.

STEVE

Here, clean it up and then get
ready for school! You can't afford
to be late again!

Steve heads out of the kitchen to get ready for work while Amy pats the milk up with a napkin. When she looks up from the table, the animals have all disappeared.

EXT. COMMERCIAL STREETS - NEAR AN ALLEYWAY - DAY

Amy walks down the street making her way to school. Behind her, all three of the masked animal figures sneakily poke their heads out from an alleyway.

They follow Amy down the street and she can start to feel their presence. Right before Amy spins around, all three figures manage to duck behind mail boxes and street lamps.

Brushing it off, Amy continues on her way.

EXT. COMMERCIAL STREETS - CROSS WALK - MOMENTS LATER

Amy comes to a busy crosswalk. She waits for the signal and then proceeds across the street. While crossing, Amy notices a man reading the newspaper on a nearby bus stop bench. When he pulls the newspaper down, she sees that he's wearing the tiger mask.

Terrified by the sight of the tiger mask, Amy stops walking in the middle of the street.

The Tiger Man goes out of view as a bus pulls up to the stop. Then Amy notices that the driver of the bus is the Sheep Man, and The Finch Woman is a passenger. Both stare Amy down.

HONK! A car swerves past Amy, who is still in the road. She finishes crossing the street and looks back towards the bench, but the Tiger Man has disappeared.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - FOUR WAY STOP - MOMENTS LATER

Continuing on her way to school, Amy reaches an intersection, but is terrified when she sees that the three masked figures are each standing on one of the corners.

The ram man spins Amy's rainbow scissors on his finger.

Amy turns heel and runs as fast as she can, soon passing the house with the big mean dog. It runs after her like before, only this time the gate is left open.

After Amy turns a corner, she sees the 3 masked figures waiting for her. She tries to stop, but loses her balance and falls to the sidewalk. As she starts to get up, she sees the big mean dog snarling at her.

As the dog approaches, the 3 masked figures jump between Amy and the dog. They snarl and growl fearsomely, scaring the dog away.

With the dog now gone, the 3 masked figures turn their attention toward Amy.

AMY

Don't come any closer!

The strangers come to a halt.

AMY (CONT'D)

Who are you people?

MASKED RAM MAN

Heh heh. Ya hear that? She thinks we're people.

The finch lady laughs in a fully unhinged manner, and falls to the ground clutching herself in hysteria.

MASKED TIGER MAN

Why Amelia, we're your friends of course.

The tiger man extends his hand to help Amy stand back up.

MASKED TIGER MAN (CONT'D)

Come now. It's alright.

Amy takes his hand, stands back up, and brushes herself off. Shes notices a large scrape on her elbow from the fall.

MASKED TIGER MAN (CONT'D)

Why that's a rather ripe looking raspberry you've got there. May I?

The Masked tiger man reaches out to examine her injury, but Amy is quick to pull her elbow away.

AMY

Who are you?

MASKED TIGER MAN

Ah, how rude of me. Please. Allow
us to introduce ourselves.

The tiger man takes a bow, and the background fades to black. When he stands up straight, he is hit by a spot light to mark the beginning of an elaborate little song-and-dance routine.

MASKED TIGER MAN (CONT'D)

(rhythmic)

We're pleased to meet you Amy, it
truly is a joy. We exist to aid and
assist every girl

MASKED RAM MAN

or boy

MASKED FINCH WOMAN

or girl!

ALL THREE IN UNISON

(grand finale; singing)

Who is in need, and yes indeed, we
have agreeeeeeed... That you are
our kind of child.

MASKED FINCH WOMAN

Cha cha cha!

Each of the three figures strikes a pose while pyrotechnics and confetti cannons bring the song to its grand conclusion.

AMY

Okay... that was weird.

MASKED TIGER MAN

Thank you very much.

AMY

And I still don't know who you guys
are.

MASKED TIGER MAN

Ah. I have forgotten my manners for
the fanfare. My name is Ruby Rhyme,
and these are my colleagues: Hubie
Hyme...

HUBIE HYME

Yo.

RUBY RHYME

And Lemon-Lime.

LEMON LIME

Hello!

AMY

I've lost my mind.

Lemon pulls a walnut out of her pocket.

LEMON LIME

Is this it?! No wait, that's mine!

Lemon shoves the walnut in her ear with a POP.

RUBY RHYME

Know this, Amelia, our plans around you involve nothing nefarious.

HUBIE HYME

But there's somethin' we gotta be sure about before we get started.

LEMON LIME

Will you be our friend?!

AMY

Do I have a choice?

RUBY RHYME

Why, by all means! If you wish, of course, we'll take our leave, but having friends like us around has benefits you won't believe. Come now, stick out your hand, boppitt.

Ruby extends his open palm to Amy, and she slowly places her hand in his. He then turns Amy's arm over and examines her injury. With his magic, he waves his other hand over the scratch and makes it disappear.

LEMON LIME

Show-off.

AMY

How did you do that?

RUBY RHYME

Piqued your curiosity, have I?

AMY

Okay. Well I guess we can be friends.

RUBY RHYME

Splendid!

HUBIE HYME

Two points!

LEMON LIME

Put 'em on the boooaaaard YES!
(laughs insanely)

AMY

But no funny business!

Lemon cuts her laugh and all three friends freeze in foolish poses.

EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Amy approaches the school. Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon follow, each wearing a backpack.

LEMON LIME

Oh jeez, our first day of school,
new kids, new teachers, so nervous,
so scared.

AMY

Wait a minute, you guys aren't
coming in are you?

HUBIE HYME

(ignoring Amy)
Hey Lem, relax! Quei ch'è fatto, è
fatto.
(Italian for "whatever
will be will be")
If someone gets in your grill on
the first day of school... POW! Ya
hit'em with one of these. Ruby
baby, you know what to do. Hit me.

Ruby "drops a beat." Hubie sheds his backpack and starts break-dancing.

HUBIE HYME (CONT'D)

Uh. Uh-huh.

AMY

(embarrassed)
Oh God.

Amy begins to walk away from the friends.

Some kids pass as Hubie ends his break-dance spin with a stylish pose.

HUBIE HYME

Yo, whatup.

They don't see him. Ruby stops beat boxing and follows Amy.

RUBY RHYME

Excuse me.

LEMON LIME

Oh no, it's starting already! We're not cool!

HUBIE HYME

Oh, believe me, we're cool, baby.
As a freakin' bomb pop.

LEMON LIME

But what if we're not?! Wait, I know how we can get popular! We could research for decades to develop a method for performing cold fusion and solve the world's energy problems in one fell swoop and live in a utopia of love and discovery and it's OURS! We made it happen so we're in charge and everyone worships us as gods on high! Or else!

(laughs maniacally)

HUBIE HYME

Lemon, you crazy.

A **KID** walks by Lemon without noticing her.

AMY

(to Ruby)

Wait, am I the only one who can see you?

Ruby pulls out a decorative legal contract for Amy. Hubie and Lemon appear behind her as she peruses.

RUBY RHYME

See here, in article 8, section two: we retain the right to reveal our sight to only the chosen few.

AMY

Right cause you're all like magic or whatever, I get that. But this contract? Does it mean that you guys work for me?

RUBY RHYME

Indeed, you may consider us at your service. There are merely a pawful of restrictions which apply to the trial period of our friendship. For example.

LEMON LIME

No touching!

HUBIE-HYME

Which is to say that you cannot ask us to strike, whack, or directly come in contact with anyone.

AMY

Fair enough.

As Amy looks over the contract, the school bell rings.

AMY (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

Amy runs off towards the school's front door, leaving the friends in the schoolyard.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Amy runs down a deserted hallway to her classroom door. She enters.

INT. CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Amy attempts to walk to her seat unnoticed. It doesn't work.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Amy?

AMY

Yes, Ms. Silverstein?

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Do you know what time it is?

Amy looks up at the clock and sees Lemon turning the hands back to 8:00 am.

AMY

Yeah. It's eight o' clock. Right on time. The bell must be messed up.

Amy points to the clock on the wall. Ms. Silverstein turns around and is bewildered to see that it is indeed 8:00.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Go to your seat. Class, please open
your books to page 42...

Amy takes a seat. Ruby and Hubie can be seen sitting in the seats behind her. They high-five.

INT. SCHOOL - THE FUN AT SCHOOL MONTAGE

Up-tempo music plays over the following montage of Amy and her friends running amok throughout the school.

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Amy struts down the hall between classes. The friends walk behind her doing various gymnastics like cartwheels and handsprings.

Paul, the big oaf, notices Amy walking by.

PAUL

Hey, Fry-Face!

AMY

(carefree)

How's it going, Paul?

Hubie runs past Paul and, with a spin move, cuts Paul's belt with his scissors. Paul's pants drop to his ankles, and the other kids in the hall laugh at his tighty whities.

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME

Lunch time again. Amy and her friends, each with a tray, pass the popular girls' table.

TORY-LYNN

Hey, Amy!

AMY

Hi, Tory-Lynn.

TORY-LYNN

You know, I think your weirdness
might be getting ahead of you.

TIFFANY

Yeah, better ketchup!

AMY
 (mocking a valley girl)
 Ohemgee, that's so funny! Really
 girls, y'all are like so hilarious.
 Alright well, enjoy your lunch now
 Okay? Okay then buh-bye!

Amy continues on her way and Tory-Lynn turns to the other popular girls.

TORY-LYNN
 What a weirdo...

Amy and her friends cross the lunch room. They stop at a corner table, and she gives them the nod.

Each shakes up a box of milk: Ruby plain, Hubie chocolate, Lemon strawberry. Then, they each launch their box in a high arc over the lunchroom.

SPLOOSH. Each box lands right on target in the center of the popular girls' table, soaking them all with tricolored milk. They panic and scream. Amy just grins.

Hubie, wearing a soccer jersey and shin guards, runs and jumps into a powerslide all along the milky table as the lesser popular girls scream and fall.

HUBIE-HYME
 GOOOAAAALLLLLLL!!!!

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

Back in the classroom, Miss Silverstein gives a droning, mind-numbing lecture. All the kids are bored to tears except for Amy who enjoys the sight of her friends making mischief around the classroom.

Ruby uses scissors to cut the chalk into tiny nubs. Lemon covers Miss Silverstein's chair in glue and feathers.

Hubie takes a pair of scissors to Berry's rat tail and snips it off. Amy can barely hold back her laughter.

MISS SILVERSTEIN
 Amy, are you paying attention?

AMY
 Yes Miss Silverstein, I totally am.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Well then perhaps you wouldn't mind
telling the rest of the class what
an allegory is?

AMY

Al who?

MS. SILVERSTEIN

That's what I thought.

Ruby runs over and whispers in Amy's ear.

AMY

Oh, you mean an ALLEGORY! An
allegory is a story, poem, or
picture that can be interpreted to
reveal a hidden meaning, typically
one based on moral or political
principles!

MISS SILVERSTEIN

(surprised)

Oh, wow. Okay, good.

Lemon stands over Miss Silverstein and squirts some glue into
her hair.

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER

The bell rings as Amy and her friends exit the school amidst
a crowd of students. Lemon and Hubie lift Amy atop Ruby's
shoulders and parade her like a queen above the other kids.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Miss Silverstein sits in her chair, finishing up some paper
work. She runs her hand through her hair and the glue causes
it to stick straight up.

She gets up from her chair with feathers stuck to her butt.
She then looks into a nearby window and notices both the
feathers and her hair in the reflection.

MISS SILVERSTEIN

What the...?

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

Amy sits at the dinner table with Steve and Bee. Amy eats as fast as she can, while Bee tries to make small talk. The telephone RINGS. Steve runs picks up the phone.

STEVE

Could be work.

BEE

Don't you dare!

STEVE

Hello?

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone, rapid and
fuzzy)

Peterson!

STEVE

Mr. Wallenstein, how are you?

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone)

What did I tell you about the
profit and loss reports?

STEVE

You said to have them on your desk
by the end of the day. Which I did.

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone)

And I also said that they needed to
be investor ready, which they are
not!

STEVE

What do you mean?

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)

(on phone)

I mean that we're reporting losses
for both October and September, and
that's doesn't look good. I'm gonna
need you to get me a new report on
my desk first thing tomorrow.

STEVE

But Mr. Wallenstein-

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)
 (on phone)
 I don't care how you do it. Just
 make the numbers work!

CLICK. Mr. Wallenstein hangs up on Steve, who then rejoins
 Bee and Amy at the kitchen table with his head hung low.

BEE
 Did you show anyone your software
 yet?

STEVE
 Huh?

BEE
 The software!

STEVE
 (avoiding)
 Hang on, honey, need ketchup.

Steve goes to the kitchen. Bee sighs and then turns to Amy.

BEE
 And what about you? How was school
 today?

AMY
 Good.

BEE
 Should I be worried when phone
 rings it's gonna be your teacher
 again?

AMY
 Possibly... just to sing my
 praises. Glory, glory hallelujah!

Amy licks her plate clean and then shoots her mom a sauce
 covered smile.

AMY (CONT'D)
 All done, can I be excused?

BEE
 Put your dish in the sink.

AMY
 (ala Andy Kaufman's Latka)
 Thank you very much.

Amy puts her dish in the sink and then sprints off to her bedroom.

AMY (CONT'D)
 (pokes head back in)
 Steve, let me know if you need any
 help with your homework.

Bee and Steve look at each other and shrug.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - OUTSIDE AMY'S ROOM - LATER

Bee and Steve walk over to Amy's room. They can hear snarling and animalistic roaring coming from within. Steve knocks.

STEVE
 Amy?

Heard OS: "Shh!", some shuffling, then a moment of silence.

AMY (O.S.)
 Yeah?

BEE
 Can we come in?

AMY (O.S.)
 Sure.

Steve and Bee open the door to find Amy sitting on her bed innocently reading a national geographic magazine.

BEE
 We just wanted to tell you that
 we're happy your feeling better
 today.

AMY
 Oh, okay. Is that it?

BEE
 Yeah.

AMY
 Alright then. Good night.

BEE
 Good night, sweetie.

Satisfied, Bee and Steve close the door to Amy's room and start to head down the hallway.

RUBY, HUBIE, & LEMON (O.S.)
 Good night!

AMY (O.S.)
Shh!

Bee and Steve pause and look back. Did they hear something?
 The light in Amy's room flicks off. Bee and Steve move on.

INT. AMY'S SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

It's school as usual and the students sit in various states of boredom as Ms. Silverstein prepares to start class.

MS. SILVERSTEIN
 Alright kids, clear off your desk
 and I'll start passing out the
 quiz.

All the kids let out a unified groan.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 (mocking)
 Aww, aww. Don't worry, this will be
 a breeze as long as you've made a
 little effort to brush up on the
 material. But if studying wasn't on
 your agenda this week well...

Miss Silverstein places a copy of the quiz on Amy's desk.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 (directed at Amy)
 Tough cookies.

Amy picks the quiz off her desk and looks it over.

AMY
 Crud muffins.

LEMON LIME
 What's the matter Amy? Didn'tcha
 study?

Amy puts the quiz down to discover Ruby, Lemon, and Hubie sitting at the adjacent desks.

HUBIE-HYME
 'Course she didn't, that's why
 she's sweatin' like a turkey in
 November.

LEMON LIME

Oh no, we're gonna fail! Abandon
ship!

Lemon ducks under her desk.

RUBY RHYME

Ignore her.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

You have until the bell rings. Good
luck.

INT. CLASSROOM - 30 MINS INTO THE TEST

While all the other kids work to finish their quizzes, Amy is stuck. A glimpse at her quiz reveals she has yet to answer a single question.

Amy looks up from her quiz after hearing a tap on the adjacent window. Behind the glass stands Ruby, beckoning her to come out and play.

Amy gestures, "How?"

Ruby points to a British-Style phone booth that wasn't there before. Confused at first, Amy raises an eyebrow. Suddenly, she gets it and urges Ruby to get on with the plan.

Lemon and Hubie tumble and chase each other in the grass as Ruby meanders towards the phone booth, spinning a cane in a 360° in rhythm with the second hand on the clock in the room.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - PHONE BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Ruby puts in a quarter and dials the school's main office. Behind him, Hubie and Lemon gamble on dice.

RUBY RHYME

(into phone)

Hello, yes, this is the father of
Amelia Almond. Yes, I'm afraid
there's been a bit of a family
emergency... Yes, her, erm...

(looks at his hand)

Her grand... paw. No, that won't
do. I'm here now actually. Simply
send her out. Yes, thank you.

Ruby hangs up, and pulls back his quarter which was attached to his finger by a string. Nearby, Hubie and Lemon's game has descended into a fight.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy and the other kids are still working on their quizzes when an office aid enters the classroom to hand Ms. Silverstein a small note.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Thank you.

Ms. Silverstein reads the note.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

Amy, are you finished with quiz?

AMY

Just finished...

Amy quickly circles the last few answers at random and draws the anarchy "A" symbol for the fill-in-the-blank.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Good, your father's here to pick you up.

The whole class looks at Amy, who can barely suppress a grin as she makes her way out.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Amy exits the classroom and then walks briskly down the hallway before breaking into a full sprint towards the school's front exit.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Amy dashes down the school's front steps and lets out a hearty howl in celebration! She runs over to the friends who are jumping for joy at the success of their breakout.

Hubie waves a flag that reads "Freedom!" And Lemon throws rose petals into the air. Ruby picks Amy up, spins her around, and then places her back on the ground.

LEMON LIME

Oh no she didn't! Amy gone AWOL!
Amy gone AWOL! Amy gone--

HUBIE HYME

They ain't built the school that
can hold Amy Almond!

Hubie rebelliously javelins the freedom flag at the school.

AMY

I really owe you guys one! That test was eating me alive!

RUBY RHYME

(rhythmic)

You know Amy, I believe I've got a trick you can use to recall your devices of speech. Devote a little time to memorize these rhymes and an 'A' is within your reach.

Ruby suddenly becomes professor-ly, wearing glasses and a mortarboard, and using a pointer and chalkboard as he rhymes.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

Alliteration, a fav among my friends, involves repeating consonant sounds. Fe fi fo fum fiddly diddly doo, is where my explanation ends. Now assonance too, is about repetition--

Hubie interrupts by going behind the chalkboard, picking it up, and throwing it away.

HUBIE HYME

Yeah yeah, if she'd wanted a lecture, she'd a stayed in the slammer.

RUBY RHYME

(sarcastic)

Of course, it's only our dear Amelia's education. *Let's go have fun!*

AMY

Oh, come on, Ruby. It's a skip day! I promise you can help me study later.

LEMON LIME

Yeah but for now let's go crazy! Amy what should we do first do you wanna whatta do to day to day to do to doodley oodley oodley doooo--

HUBIE HYME

LEM. Take it one notch down.

LEMON LIME

Do. We'll do what you wanna do.

AMY

Well for starters, let's get as far
away from here as possible!

They all look to Ruby, who stops sulking.

RUBY RHYME

Okay fine, I like your taste! You
heard the lady! Away! With haste!

Amy and her friends let out a loud cheer as they head off
into town.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Barry watches Amy through the classroom window as she skips
down the street and out of view. Suddenly Miss Silverstein's
yard stick smacks down on his desk.

MISS SILVERSTEIN

Barry! Eyes on your paper.

BARRY

Sorry, Ms. Silverstein.

Ms. Silverstein looks out the window to see what Barry was
looking at but sees nothing as Amy is already out of view.

EXT. PET SUPERMARKET - STREET - SKIP DAY MONTAGE - DAY

Music in the vein of Paul Simon's "Kodachrome" plays over
Amy's skip day montage. The montage begins with Amy and her
friends making their way into town.

The first thing Amy notices in town is the Pet Supermarket
across the street. She points out the store to her friends
and the four of them head inside.

INT. PET SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Amy and her friends run down one of the supermarket aisles.
Amy grabs a cat toy off the shelf, and she and Hubie use it
to play keep away from Ruby.

Meanwhile, Lemon has a conversation of tweets with some caged
parakeets.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Ruby holds the door open for Amy and the others as they enter a local ice cream parlor.

INT. ICE CREAM STORE - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Inside the parlor, Amy's eyes grow wide as the store employee hands her a cone stacked high with 4 different flavors.

Behind Amy, Hubie and Lemon hurl their ice cream scoops at one another in an impromptu food fight.

EXT. STATE FAIR - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Quick shots of Amy and her friends enjoying rides at a local state fair. They fly high on the swings and roll fast down a roller coaster.

Amy and the friends run behind one of those face in the hole boards. An old couple takes a polaroid for them.

INT. PET SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Back at the Pet Supermarket, Amy stands at the checkout counter. Behind her the friends continue their game of keep away.

AMY

Can I get this bird seed, this lint roller and...

Amy grabs a bag of catnip off a nearby shelf.

AMY (CONT'D)

Throw in that bag of catnip.
Thanks.

CLERK

You got it.

As Amy finishes her transaction with the sales clerk, Lemon tosses the pet toy high into the air. Ruby makes a dive for it but ends up crashing into a pile of dog food.

EXT. STATE FAIR - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Amy and her friends go for a ride on the tea cups. As they exit the ride, they are so dizzy they can barely stand.

Lemon runs over to a nearby trash can and sticks her head inside to vomit.

As Ruby runs over to take care of Lemon, Hubie notices the fair's petting zoo, full of sheep.

HUBIE HYME

Oh, what the Bo Peep! Amy help me
out here, will ya?

Amy and Hubie take off for the petting zoo.

EXT. STATE FAIR - PETTING ZOO - CONTINUOUS (MONTAGE)

Amy runs over to the **WORKER** overseeing the petting zoo and taps him on the shoulder. He turns to face Amy, and while his back is turned, Hubie opens the gate to the petting zoo.

As all the animals flood out to freedom, Hubie stands tall above them with a shepherd's staff like a modern day Moses.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. STATE FAIR - PARKING LOT - ALMOST SUNSET

Amy and her friends make their way out of the state fair marking the end of the skip day montage. Amy shakes the Polaroid she took earlier to speed its development.

RUBY RHYME

I say, what a wonderful way to
spend the day.

HUBIE HYME

Regular buncha hopscotchers, the
way we skip.

RUBY RHYME

Indeed! Well then, Amelia, what
will it be? What's next on your
list that you'd like to see?

LEMON LIME

Why don't we dig a hole to China
and pop out of a volcano and get
famous in China and have a reality
TV show called Amy and Friends and
make millions on merchandise and
spend it all on kung pow chicken
and then we have to go to fat camp
and we meet Yao Ming and he'll give
us all a piggy back ride home!

RUBY RHYME

Lemon, you crazy!

Amy looks down at the Polaroid to see that the picture has developed, only something's missing. Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon aren't in the picture. This gets Amy thinking.

AMY

Ruby? Can I ask you something?
Where do y'all come from?

RUBY RHYME

Beg pardon?

LEMON LIME

Why do you ask? Do you want us to leave? Oh, I'm so pecking stupid! I overstayed my welcome!

HUBIE HYME

Calm down Lemon, I'm sure that ain't it. Unless it is? Hey wait a minute, are you giving us the bum rush?

Hubie attempts to get in Amy's face, but Ruby holds him back.

RUBY RHYME

Forgive him Amelia, Hubert here is quick to heat, but when discussing where we're from, we must always be discrete. Now if you would excuse us, we three need to briefly meet.

Ruby grabs Hubie and Lemon into a huddle. From inside the huddle, we can hear their discussion.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

So what do you think? Is she ready to see? Tell me Lemon, what will it be?

LEMON LIME

Oh peck yeah! Amy da best!

HUBIE HYME

Not so fast. If you had asked me I woulda pointed out she's a bit of a punk. But then again, I like that.

LEMON LIME

Well I think even if she's not ready, she's ready.

RUBY RHYME

And I agree. It's settled then, now
break on three.

ALL THE FRIENDS TOGETHER

Three thousand!

The three friends break their huddle and return to Amy.

RUBY RHYME

Now Amelia, I apologize for closing
the curtain, but we think that
you're ready, in fact, we're quite
certain!

AMY

Ready? Ready for what?

LEMON LIME

The party in the woods at night!

AMY

The woods?

HUBIE HYME

It's where we're from, kid. That's
all you need to know right now.

RUBY RHYME

Now Amelia, this is no simple
matter, if you do submit. To join
our club, you'll be put on trial.
If you're unwilling, then so be it,
but we'll be quite saddened by your
denial.

Ruby gets on bended knee.

LEMON LIME

What do ya say?

Amy takes a moment to think it over.

AMY

Alright, I'm in!

Amy and her friends head towards the forest on the edge of
the fairground parking lot.

EXT. MYSTICAL FOREST - SUNSET

Ruby leads the group deep into an amber colored forest. The light from the setting sun causes the leaves to burn bright and the trees to cast long shadows.

AMY

Is it much further? It's gonna get dark soon.

Amy slows to a stop and looks at the setting sun.

RUBY RHYME

Now now, no need for hesitation.
'Tis a few short steps further
'till we reach our destination.

They continue.

EXT. MYSTICAL FOREST - INNER SANCTUM - SUNSET

Fog and mist fill the air as Amy and her friends arrive at the entrance to the forest's inner sanctum. The sanctum's entrance is marked by two tall oak trees whose trunks have entangled to form an archway.

AMY

Woah! What is that?

LEMON LIME

The arc of the woods. Our home is on the other side.

RUBY RHYME

Are you ready, Amy? For now is the time.

Amy nods.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

Then read out loud these words divine.

Ruby places a piece of rolled up parchment in Amy's hands. She unravels the scroll and begins to read what's written.

AMY

(reading)

I Amelia Almond, of the Glorious
Four, swear to walk out the window,
and peer through the door.

After Amy finishes reciting the sacred oath, a warm light begins to shine on her face. She looks up and sees the light coming through a foggy mist on the other side of the archway.

RUBY RHYME

After you...

Ruby gestures to the gateway but Amy is nervous and unsure. She looks to Hubie and Id who each nod in encouragement. Amy swallows her fear and steps through the gateway.

EXT. MYSTICAL FOREST - INNER SANCTUM - CONTINUOUS

Alone, Amy passes through the fog and arrives at the outskirts of a party. The party guests are all wearing a mix of animal masks and formal wear.

Some guests enjoy drinks outside the party's main entrance, while others bump into Amy, paying her little attention.

PARTY GUEST 1

Watch where you're going!

PARTY GUEST 2

You nearly made me drop my
casserole! Stupid girl!

Curious, Amy follows the two party guests towards the party's main entrance where a figure wearing an **OWL** mask stands behind a red velvet rope alongside **TWO SMALL ASSISTANTS- a MOUSE and a FROG.**

OWL

Right this way.

PARTY GUEST 2

Thank you very much.

OWL

Enjoy the festivities.

Amy walks over to the Owl.

OWL (CONT'D)

Ah yes, and are youuuu on the list?

AMY

The what?

OWL

Whooo are youuuu?

AMY
Oh, um... I'm Amy.

OWL
Hm... let's see here... "Imamy"...

The owl shuffles through the names on the list.

OWL (CONT'D)
No, no, I'm afraid you're not on the list.

ASSISTANT 1
Besides, her mask is freakish!

ASSISTANT 2
Grotesque! What kind of mask is that anyhow?

OWL
Are youuuu sure you're in the right place?

Hubie steps forward, pissed.

HUBIE HYME
There a problem here?

OWL
I'm afraid so, Huuubert. Your companion is not on the list, and, as you well know, we have a strict policy, so if youuuu wouldn't mind...

The owl opens the rope for two new **GUESTS** and lets them through. Hubie gets in his face.

HUBIE HYME
Don't pull that not on the list crap with me my friend, not unless you want your wings clipped!

Ruby and Lemon also step forth and join Hubie behind Amy in a show of force. Ruby holds up a tiny scroll.

RUBY RHYME
My good man, if Amelia here is not on this list, it's only because she need not be! Amelia is tonight's honorary inductee, pending judgment of course.

OWL
 Oh, it's yoouuu! I beg your pardon
 Madam! I did not realize.
 (to his assistants)
 Lift the rope, you idiots!

The Owl smacks his assistants over the head.

HUBIE HYME
 Typical.

OWL
 Please, allow me to show you toooo
 your table.

EXT. MYSTICAL FOREST - INNER SANCTUM - PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Amy and her friends follow the Owl inside the tent where the forest party is in full swing. White Christmas lights hang above the dance floor, where couples wearing animal masks and ballroom attire waltz to the sound of a STRING QUARTET.

The Owl arrives at a long banquet table, where he invites Amy and the friends to sit.

OWL
 Here you are. I'll alert the
 council to your presence.

AMY
 The council?

RUBY RHYME
 A thousand thank yous.

Ruby slips the Owl a twenty.

OWL
 This is only twenty thank yous. But
 much appreciated.

The Owl walks off. Ruby waits until he's out of earshot.

RUBY RHYME
 Amy, to join our society, you must
 first be deemed worthy and of a
 stand-up variety.

Amy watches as the Owl walks across the room to where the council of elders sit enjoying cocktails. Each of the elders wears a different animal mask. A **LION**, a **BULL**, and an **EAGLE**.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

The council consists of movers and shakers and what's left of the dreamers and great mask makers.

Owl whispers in the Lion's ear, and then points back toward Amy and Ruby.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

They'll judge you and your deeds to determine your merit, and should you succeed it's gold you'll inherit. But be careful they do not find you *too* toothsome, for then this night may take a twist most gruesome.

With a wave of his hand, the Lion calls for the silence from string quartet. With the dancing stopped, all eyes, including those of the elders, turn towards on Amy.

HUBIE HYME

Looks like the trial's begun.

RUBY RHYME raises his glass to the Lion who then leans in towards the Bull and Eagle for council.

LION

Step forward, initiate.

Amy steps toward the Lion, the Bull, and the Eagle.

LION (CONT'D)

You've been recommended for membership in this organization by some friends of mine. If you really are as swell a gal as they say, you'll have no trouble being accepted, but many have joined, and precious few remain. Lift your arms please.

The council gives Amy a thorough inspection- The lion circles Amy as the eagle sniffs her over (pits included), and the bull checks her ears, nose and throat.

BULL

Say 'Ahhh.'

AMY

Ahhh.

The lion leans in towards the Bull and Eagle for council.

RUBY RHYME

Now is the moment her fate is
determined. How long it may take,
there's no being certain.

LEMON LIME

It's too much pressure, I'm gonna
blow!
(screams)

RUBY RHYME

Don't just sit there and scream,
you useless two. Raise up your
glass! Hey, nitwits! I'm talking to
you!

HUBIE HYME

You talkin' to me? Oh, wait.

The three friends raise their glasses to the elders.

LION

This one is a strange animal, but
sound of heart and endorsed by
three pillars of the woods. We have
but one final question to ask you
Amy Almond... Can you dance?

A wave of excited chatter among the party guest can be heard.

PARTY GUEST 3

She doesn't look like a dancer.

PARTY GUEST 4

No, not at all.

PARTY GUEST 5

She isn't tall enough!

LION

Silence! Maestro, if you will.

The leader of the string quartet strikes up the band and
together they play a quick tempo tango.

The Lion charges towards Amy and then lunges into the air in
a style resembling ballet. Unsure and intimidated, Amy steps
to the side just in time to watch the Lion, Eagle, and Bull
all break out into a series of impressive dance moves.

Amy glances back at her friends, who nudge her on. She takes
a deep breath and then lets loose with a series of wild and
energetic dance moves.

The royal council and Amy continue to dance with each other until the tango reaches it's climatic crescendo. With the music stopped, the room is silent. Amy freezes in her pose.

The Lion turns towards Amy.

LION (CONT'D)

So Amy, you are a dancer after all.

The Lion turns to the anxious crowd of guests, the to Amy.

LION (CONT'D)

Congratulations.

She makes a sassy "aw shucks" face. All the party guests burst into applause. Amy comes running to Hubie, Ruby and Lemon for hugs.

LEMON LIME

Yes! I knew they'd love you!

HUBIE HYME

Way to go, kid. You're one of us now.

Ruby gives Amy a handshake instead, then rises to his feet and raises his glass to the entire party.

RUBY RHYME

Excuse me, everyone! May I have your attention please!

A spotlight lands on Ruby as he addresses the party guests.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

By charge of the three trustees.

Ruby raises his glass to the Lion, the Bull, and the Eagle.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

I am very pleased to present young Amelia Almond as an honorary member of our ring of friends.

The guests all cheer raucously.

HUBIE HYME

(aside, to Amy)

This thing of ours, it's not just about friendship and rainbows, y'understand? It means we all got each other's back, no matter what. Then there's the upshot. You think we were havin' fun before?

(MORE)

HUBIE Hyme (CONT'D)

Well now you can think about what
you'd do, if you could do anything.
No limits, baby.

Amy looks at Hubie, wanting to say something, but Ruby speaks
up before she can.

RUBY RHYME

Owlfred, if you'd please!

The sound of a DRUMROLL is heard as the Owl walks over to Amy
and pins a beautiful brooch on her jacket lapel. The guest
all cheer once again.

OWL

Well? What dooooo youuuu have to
say?

All eyes are on Amy.

AMY

Um.... Thank you, I guess. This
seems like quite the club.

FROM THE AUDIENCE

Here here!

RUBY RHYME

Lemon, hit it!

Lemon, now standing behind some turntables, drops the needle
and lets the party music play! Moments later, Amy is getting
down on the dance floor alongside her, Ruby, and Hubie.

As the music bumps and the disco ball spins, a great time is
had by all.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - FOYER - LATER THAT NIGHT

Careful to be quiet as they enter, Amy, Ruby, Hubie, and
Lemon all attempt to sneak back into Amy's house. As they tip-
toe towards Amy's room, they hear the sudden sound of Bee and
Steve having a fight off screen in the kitchen.

STEVE (O.S.)

Bee, I've told you a hundred times,
it's not the right time!

BEE (O.S.)

You're making excuses!

Amy and the others turn their attention towards the kitchen.

LEMON LIME
They're fighting! Is it my fault?

AMY
(whispers)
Shhhh. Follow me.

Amy leads the others towards the kitchen.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Bee sits at the kitchen table sorting through a pile of overdue utility bills and short term credit loans.

BEE
If we don't pay by the end of the month, they're gonna shut off the gas!

STEVE
Well what do you want me to do?

The camera pans to reveal Steve, elbow deep in a tub of mint chocolate chip ice cream.

BEE
Something! Ask for a raise, or better yet, *show someone the freaking program!*

STEVE
It's not 100% ready!

BEE
But it works! Do you want us all to freeze to death because you're shy?!

STEVE
Honey--

BEE
Forget it. Maybe I can ask for more hours at work.

Bee rubs her head as she shuffles through the pile of bills.

Amy steps into the room.

STEVE
Amy?

Bee looks up to find Amy standing in the kitchen doorway.

BEE

Hey honey. Do you want me to heat you up something to eat?

AMY

I'm not hungry. But you know what? If I was, I wouldn't sit here and complain about it, I'd go out and hunt.

Amy gives Steve a look of disgust before storming off towards her bedroom. Bee is concerned but Steve is quick to shrug it off and return to his ice cream.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Amy runs into her bedroom and shuts the door. She runs over to her bed, reaches under, and pulls out an old photo album. It's the same one we saw earlier during the opening credits.

Amy lays the photo album out on the floor and starts to feverishly flip through.

Having found what she was looking for, Amy stops flipping through the photo album. We see a close up of the picture she's looking at. It's a picture of Amy, Bee, and Amy's real father.

LEMON LIME

Who's he?

Suddenly, Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon, appear huddled around the photo album.

AMY

That's my real dad.

HUBIE HYME

Your real dad? Not that it's my business but, what happened to him?

AMY

When my mom left him the judge said he wasn't allowed to see me anymore.

The camera pans to the other side of the photo album where we see a picture of Bee, Steve, and Amy, Amy looking annoyed.

AMY (CONT'D)

What does she see in him anyway?

LEMON LIME

Maybe he gives her something your
dad didn't?

HUBIE HYME

Oh, he's givin' her something
alright.

RUBY RHYME

Hubert, please!

AMY

Yeah, well, if you ask me I'd say
we were better off without him.

Amy takes the picture of Steve out of the photo album. She then picks up her favorite pair of rainbow scissors.

AMY (CONT'D)

I think it's time we cut Steve out
of the picture.

LEMON LIME

How?

AMY

Hit him where he lives- his job. If
he gets sacked then mom will see
him for what he is, a broke loser.
And just like that...

With one swift cut of the scissors, Amy slices Steve out of the photograph.

AMY (CONT'D)

No. More. Steve.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. AMY'S ROOM - EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

The alarm clock by Amy's bed strikes 5:00am and goes off. The sound wakes up Amy, who sits up in bed resolutely and slaps the alarm off.

The animals stand at attention in their PJ's at the foot of Amy's bed. She gives them the nod, and they nod back.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The door to Amy's room opens from the inside. Hubie pokes his head out, makes sure the coast is clear, and then leads the others into the hallway.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Amy and Lemon hop onto the kitchen counter. Hubie takes the sugar jar and slides it over to Amy while Ruby pulls a box of baking soda out of the fridge.

Together, the three of them pour the baking soda into the sugar jar and let out a mischievous laugh.

INT. AMY HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy and her friends poke their heads up from behind the washing machine. Ruby opens up the machine's lid, and Amy dumps a basket full of Steve's white work shirts inside.

RUBY RHYME

Say goodbye to plain old white...
and "Hello!" to fashion's most
fabulous sights!

Amy and Lemon each drop a handful of red magic markers into the washer machine.

AMY AND LEMON LIME

(fabulously)
Heyyyyyyy!

Hubie slaps his forehead in embarrassment as Ruby slams the lid shut.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - BEE AND STEVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

As Steve and Bee lay sleeping in their bed, Amy and the others sneak into the bedroom.

RUBY RHYME

Are we sure about this, old chums?

LEMON LIME

Oh, come on.
(smacks her belly)
Don't be so yellow-bellied!

Steve lets out a mighty SNORE as they tip-toe over to his night stand.

HUBIE HYME
Holy smokes! Do you hear this guy?

LEMON LIME
So manly!

RUBY RHYME
Quiet, you two! Cover your necks!
Amy, please hurry and fetch us the
specs.

AMY
Right.

Amy steals Steve's glasses off the night stand and presents them to Ruby. Using his tiger claws, he puts deep scratches into the lenses.

At that moment, the 6am alarm goes off. Amy throws the glasses back on the night stand and then dashes out of the bedroom. They make it out just before Steve and Bee wake up.

INT. AMY HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy, Ruby, Hubie and Lemon all run into Amy's bedroom.

RUBY RHYME
Quick, Amy! Pretend you're asleep.
Lemon and Hubie, not a sound nor a
peep.

Amy jumps into her bed and hides beneath the sheets.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - BEE AND STEVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

With Steve still sleeping, Bee climbs over him to turn the alarm clock off.

BEE
Rise and shine, you big lump.

STEVE
I'm up, I'm up.

After sitting up in bed, Steve picks up on glasses and puts them on.

STEVE (CONT'D)
What the heck? My glasses are all
scratched up.

BEE

Oh Steve, you just got those.

Bee puts on her robe.

STEVE

They were perfectly fine last night.

BEE

Well I guess you'll just have to wear your old ones.

STEVE

My old ones broke, remember? That's why I got the new ones. Dang it, I can't see a thing.

BEE

Well aren't our prescriptions the same? Just wear one of mine.

Bee leaves the bedroom to go wake up Amy.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy pretends to be fast asleep as her mother enters the bedroom and sits on the bed.

BEE

Morning sweetie.

AMY

(faking it)
Morning already?

BEE

Did you sleep alright?

AMY

(stretches and yawns)
Like a cat.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - BREAKFAST TIME

Bee brews some coffee while Amy finishes eating breakfast at the table. Steve sits across from Amy with his face hidden behind a newspaper.

STEVE

Well, at least I can still read.

As Steve closes the newspaper, he reveals that he's wearing a pair of Bee's old glasses. The pointed retro frames make Steve look very lady like indeed. Amy fights not to laugh.

AMY

Wow, Steve. That's a really good look for you.

BEE

Amy, be nice.

AMY

No, I'm serious. He's a regular Blanche Dubois.

STEVE

Yeah, yeah, laugh it up, but hey-function over form, right?

Bee brings Steve his morning cup of coffee.

BEE

Oh, babe, if only you were a woman, you'd realize how wrong you are.

STEVE

I told you before, you don't need to dress up to impress me.

While Steve turns towards Bee for a kiss, Hubie pops up from beneath the breakfast table.

BEE

See, what men don't realize is that women don't get dressed up to impress them. They get dressed up to impress other women. Besides, you couldn't tell me what to do even if you wanted to.

STEVE

But I don't want to.

BEE

And that's why I love you.

They share a kiss.

Deftly, Hubie places the sugar jar onto the table and then ducks out of view as Steve turns back around. Amy watches Steve grab the jar and spoon the "sugar" into his coffee.

AMY

Mom, can I please be excused? I'm all finished and I don't want to chance being late again.

BEE

Of course honey. Have a good day at school, alright?

AMY

I will.

Amy throws on her book bag and bolts out the kitchen.

BEE

Love ya!

AMY (O.S.)

Love ya too!

As the front door slams behind Amy, Steve goes to drink his coffee. The taste of baking soda in place of sugar causes him to spit the coffee out.

STEVE

PFFT! Oh, God!

BEE

Oh, Steve you got coffee all over your shirt.

Steve looks down at the huge brown stain on his shirt.

STEVE

Son of a biscuit! This was my last clean shirt.

BEE

(in a rush)

Don't worry, I ran a load this morning- just dry one of those. I gotta run. Can't miss the bus. See ya after work, okay?

STEVE

Yeah.

Bee gives Steve a quick kiss on the forehead and heads out. Now alone, Steve picks up his coffee and decides to give it another taste. Nope, still disgusting, he spits it back into the mug.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Amy and her three friends set off towards school. Then, Amy finds a gnarly looking nail on the ground and picks it up.

AMY

Perfect.

Amy runs over to Steve's car and stands the nail up right behind the back tire, then skips away towards school.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING - DAY

It's ten minutes before 1st period as Amy and her friends walk towards the front steps of school.

AMY

I can't believe he was actually wearing my mom's glasses! What a dork! I really hope he gets sacked today.

RUBY RHYME

Oh, let's not be cruel, I thought Steven looked like quite the prize for a man adorned in lady eyes.

LEMON LIME

Speaking of boys with pretty eyes, Look who it is, Amy!

Lemon points out Cody (Amy's secret crush) and his two cronies standing at the foot of the school's front steps.

HUBIE HYME

That's your man, ain't it? Go lay down some game!

AMY

You really think I should go talk to him?

LEMON LIME

Yeah! And look, his friends are leaving! Now's your chance!

Cody fist bumps his two buddies goodbye as they head off to class, and pulls out his discman.

AMY

Okay, hold my bag, I'm going in.

Amy hands Ruby her backpack, takes a deep breath and then proceeds to approach Cody, who now has headphones on.

LEMON LIME

Get it, girl!

RUBY RHYME

Ah, the sultry dance of young romance.

AMY

Cody?

He can't hear. Amy taps him on the shoulder, and he turns to her, surprised.

CODY

Huh? Oh, hey. Amy, right?

AMY

Yeah.

CODY

What's up?

AMY

Nothing, I was just wondering if you happened to fancy yourself a froyo fan.

CODY

Huh?

AMY

You know, froyo, as in frozen yogurt.

CODY

Oh, froyo! F'sho, bro. Love me some froyo.

AMY

Cool, because there's this new place I was gonna try out after school today and I was thinking that maybe you'd wanna join?

CODY

Today? Ah man, today's no good for me. Already booked.

AMY

Well what about tomorrow then?

CODY

Yeah, like, tomorrow's no good for me either. I'm kinda, like, booked up for a while.

AMY

Oh. I see...

Just then, Tory-Lynn walks up behind Cody, and covers his eyes with her hands.

TORY-LYNN

Guess who!

CODY

Babe, you do this every morning!

TORY-LYNN

(with puppy eyes)

I'm sowwy, are you mad at your wittle smoochy bear?

Tory-Lynn throws her arms around Cody. Amy tries to slink off, but Tory-Lynn catches her eye.

TORY-LYNN (CONT'D)

What is SHE doing here?

Tory-Lynn pops a piece of bubblegum in her mouth and starts chewing loudly.

CODY

Oh, do y'all know each other? Amy just asked if I wanted to get some froyo after class.

TORY-LYNN

Froyo? What are you, ten?

AMY

Um, I'm twelve.

TORY-LYNN

Wait. Oh my God, I can't believe it but I think freakazoid here actually has a crush on you!

Embarrassed beyond belief, Amy turns and runs away.

TORY-LYNN (CONT'D)

How sad. You know, I actually kinda feel bad for her.

CODY

Really?

TORY-LYNN

Nope!
(laughs cruelly)

Cody throws his arm over Tory-Lynn's shoulder and the two of them head off to class. Meanwhile, Amy rejoins her friends.

LEMON LIME

So? How'd it go?

AMY

I don't wanna talk about it!

Amy rips her book bag out of Ruby's hands and then storms off to class.

HUBIE HYME

You kiddin' me?! That little puke turned her down! I swear to Moses, if I ever get my hands on that kid I'll...

RUBY RHYME

Now now Hubie, there's no need to start. For sooner or later, everyone learns the lessons of a freshly broken heart.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

We cut back to Steve as he makes his way to the laundry room. Wearing nothing but boxers and a coffee stained shirt, he opens up the washer.

STEVE

What the...?

All of his white dress shirts are now pink in color. He searches for maybe one that's still wearable, but all he finds are two red magic markers.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Son of a bagel baker!

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Amy sits in class as Ms. Silverstein lectures. Still broken hearted by the morning's events, Amy is too distracted to pay attention to Language Arts.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Now class, one tradition that nearly all ancient cultures have in common is the use of animals in myth and religion. Often, animals were used as metaphors to help explain how the world worked.

While Ms. Silverstein continues her lecture, Barry attempts to twirl a pen between his fingers like a drumstick.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

For example, the Iroquois Native Americans told stories about a cosmic turtle who carried the entire Earth on top of his shell.

The pen falls out of Barry's hands and rolls across the floor near Amy. Amy notices the pen and picks it up.

BARRY

Psst... That's mine.

With a click of the pen, Amy shoots Barry a defiant "it's my pen now" kind of look. She then uses the pen to start doodling on a piece of paper.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

In many of these myths, Animals were known to have dualistic qualities. As the symbols of nature's power, they represented both the world's ability to create and destroy.

Ms. Silverstein looks over at Amy and sees her sketching away.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

I'll take this.

Ms. Silverstein lifts Amy's sketch off of her desk.

AMY

Hey! That's mine!

While looking over the sketch, Amy's teacher looks concerned.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

See me after class.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - END OF CLASS

The bell rings and all the students begin packing their things and start heading for the door. Just as Amy is about to exit the classroom, Ms. Silverstein calls to her.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Amy...

Amy sighs and goes to stand by Ms. Silverstein's desk.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

Take a seat.

Amy sits down in the chair nearest Ms. Silverstein's desk.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

Don't worry, I'm not going to hold you for long. Amy, last night I finished grading the quizzes. Do you want to see your grade?

AMY

Whatever.

Ms. Silverstein hands Amy her quiz back and the results aren't good. 20%, an F.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

You can still pass the class, but you really have to work, okay? If you don't get an 'A' on the final, you're gonna fail.

Amy rolls her eyes.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)

Amy, you should know that I write poetry in my spare time, so I'm well aware that there is a time and place to be creative, but it's not in class. When you're in here, you have to focus, okay?

Ms. Silverstein looks up and catches Amy making a "yap yap yap" gesture with her hand.

Ms. Silverstein takes out the sketch Amy was working on and places it on the desk, face up. It's a disturbing image: Sad animal masks, broken hearts, and wilted flowers.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Amy, this is pretty dark stuff. Is there anything on your mind that you want to share?

Suddenly, Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon can be seen sitting in the classroom behind Amy.

AMY
 Not with you.

MS. SILVERSTEIN
 Are things okay at home?

Amy says nothing.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Listen, I know that you probably just think of me as your boring old teacher, but I want you to know that you can always come talk with me if you ever feel like you need a friend.

The word "friend" triggers something in Amy. Perhaps because it reminds her that she has none (no real ones anyway.)

AMY
 What's your problem? Nothing's wrong, alright?! I don't need a friend and if I did, it wouldn't be you, you crêpe.

Amy picks up her book bag and storms out of the classroom, leaving Ms. Silverstein speechless.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Steve gets in his car wearing a pink shirt and lady's glasses. He starts the car, puts her in reverse, and...

"POPffffff." The tire audibly pops and deflates.

STEVE
 (shouts)
 Aw, hell!!!

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LATER THAT DAY

Amy finishes loading up her tray with food and then looks for a seat in the cafeteria. As she passes the other students, she notices that they're all looking at her.

While some of the students are pointing her out to their friends, others laugh as if they're in on a real juicy joke.

Tory-Lynn's friend Kimberly and Cody's bro Max walk by Amy.

MAX

Nice food, eat much?

KIMBERLY

Yeah, just be sure you save some room for froyo!

Max and Kimberly laugh in Amy's face. Amy turns red with embarrassment. As she looks around the lunch room, it becomes evident that everyone knows about her crush on Cody.

The laughter continues to escalate until the whole cafeteria seems to be in hysterics. Kids tease Amy with a mixture of puckered kissy faces, exaggerated swooning, or pantomimed froyo eating.

ALL THE KIDS

(teasing/chanting)

Froyo, froyo, froyo, froyo! Froyo Baggins!

After looking at all the mocking faces, Amy's eyes finally land on the face of the horrible girl who started it all, Tory-Lynn. That bitch.

Cody beside her, Tory-Lynn shoots Amy a spite filled smile and kisses Cody on the cheek. That's it. Amy snaps!

AMY

Enough!

Using all her might, Amy send her lunch tray smashing on the ground, the sound of which silences the cafeteria.

With a growl in her throat, Amy charges towards the popular kids' table. Once there, she begins knocking off their lunch trays, spilling food and drink on those nearest.

Some of the kids get up from their chairs and Amy uses the empty seats to hop on top of the table. Once on top, she kicks the remaining food onto Tory-Lynn.

TORY-LYNN

What are you doing, you psycho?

Amy turns towards Tory-Lynn and looks her dead in the eye. After a brief moment between the two of them, Amy takes a deep breath and then lets out a mighty...

AMY
ROARRRRRRRRRR!!!

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kids flood out of the cafeteria into the hallway in a panic.

Music in the vein of Tame Impala's *Elephant* plays as Amy kicks open the cafeteria doors and bursts into the hallway.

Amy, a lioness unleashed, reigns supreme. As she struts down the hallway, she roars at anyone who dares stand in her way.

Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon suddenly all walk into frame. The three friends act like Amy's entourage as they strut behind their queen in triangle formation.

Hubie smacks several books out of the hands of oblivious students walking past.

Further down the hall are two girls in the middle of a conversation. One of the girls is wearing a fur trimmed parka jacket. As Amy passes, she grabs the collar of the parka, dragging the girl down the hall until she lifts her arms and lets go.

VICTIM GIRL
(crying)
Why?!

Lemon helps Amy put on the fur coat while Hubie pins her secret society brooch onto it. Proudly wearing her new fur, Amy looks fiercer than ever.

Amy looks over at another group of students and lets out a menacing GROWL. The sight and sound of Amy sends the students running in the opposite direction.

Amy stomps through the abandoned hall to the fire exit and Lemon and Hubie kick the double doors wide open for. As Amy and her friends storm out, the PA clicks on.

THE SCHOOL PA SYSTEM
Attention, Amy Almond. Amy Almond,
please report to the main office.
(static; overheard)
Can we get this shit under control?
(beat)
Oh, crud!
(PA clicks off)

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER PARKING LOT - LATER THAT DAY

Amy continues her strut into town. As she makes her way through a parking lot, Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon all dance-walk behind her, crouched, snapping a la the West Side Story gang members.

Amy unwraps a lollipop as an old woman holding a bag of groceries walks by.

OLD WOMAN

Shouldn't you be in school young missy?

Amy boss-checks the old woman causing her to flinch and drop her groceries. Showing no remorse, Amy and her friends just keep on strutting.

EXT. COMMERCIAL STREET - ALLEY WAY - LATER THAT DAY

Amy and her friends rush to put the finishing touches on a graffiti mural. Once finished, they toss their empty spray paint cans on the ground and take off running. The camera pulls back to show a painting of three thug caricatures of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon.

EXT. BIKE SHOP - LATER THAT DAY

Amy, Hubie, and Lemon can be seen hanging out in the alley adjacent to the bike shop. Hubie nonchalantly spins the scissors on his index finger, as Amy keeps an eye out.

LEMON LIME

Oh geez, Amy, I got a bad feeling about this.

AMY

Can it, Limey, we're doing it. Now!

Once the coast is clear, Amy gives Hubie the signal. In slow motion, Hubie pockets the scissors and then struts towards the bike store's front window.

Ruby appears from the opposite side of frame with a folding chair in hand. Ruby tosses the chair to Hubie who then chucks the chair into the bike store window. Glass shatters, and sparks fly, a la WWF.

EXT. CITY STREET - LATER THAT DAY

Cut to Amy and her friends biking in the middle of the road. Still wearing her fur coat, Amy rides her dream bike front and center. Behind Amy, the friends pull awesome bike stunts.

Ruby and Lemon launch over cars and fire hydrants, while Hubie pops an epic wheelie.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

That night, after a long day's worth of gangsta living, Amy and her friends loiter around the swingset at a local park.

HUBIE HYME

Dios mio, what a day!

RUBY RHYME

So Amelia? How does it feel to have flaunted the very wheels you always wanted?

AMY

I won't be happy until all the idiots who are trying to ruin my life are taken care of.

RUBY RHYME

Hmmm. I see. Well then, what next? What will it be? How can we quench your craving for chaos?

HUBIE HYME

Hey Ruby, look what I got...

Ruby turns around to find Hubie holding out the bag of catnip Amy bought at the pet store earlier.

RUBY RHYME

Is that... catnip?

HUBIE HYME

You want it, don't you, ya filthy nippy?

RUBY RHYME

Yes, please.

Hubie tosses Ruby the catnip. Ruby tears it open and then gives it a good smell.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, that's the stuff.

All of the sudden, the park is flooded with the blue and red lights of several police cars. Sirens begin to sound.

HUBIE HYME

Oh shizz, it's the fuzz! Everybody
scram!

LEMON LIME

(running in circles)
No no no no no no no!

RUBY RHYME

I've got two strikes already! Hide
this!

Ruby tosses the catnip to Amy as he, Hubie, and Lemon all run for the hills. They each manage to make it out of view just before three cop cars come rolling onto the playground.

Amy calls out to her friends.

AMY

Wait! Where are you going? Don't
leave me!

POLICE

(over car megaphone)
Put down the drugs, and step away
from the bicycle.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER THAT NIGHT

Amy sits behind bars in the local police station. From her holding cell she can see Bee and Steve entering the station.

OFFICER WATSON

She's right over here.

POLICE OFFICER WATSON leads Bee and Steve over to Amy.

OFFICER WATSON (CONT'D)

You got visitors, kid.

The officer uses his keys to unlock Amy's cell. As soon as the doors are open, Bee rushes to Amy and hugs her.

BEE

Are you okay? Did anybody hurt you,
cause if they did I swear to God...

AMY

Mom, I'm fine.

BEE
(cold)
Good. Then come on.

INT. POLICE STATION - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

Amy sits in a chair and waits while Bee speaks with Officer Watson at his desk. Through a window, Steve stands in line for the vending machine behind some big thugs.

OFFICER WATSON
I spoke with the bike store owner and he was just as surprised as we were to discover that this was the work of a kid, and not some hardened felon. That said, he's not pressing charges.

BEE
Oh thank God.

OFFICER WATSON
So you'll just have to pay for both the damages to his store and the cost of the stolen merchandise, which amounts to two thousand dollars. We've also given your daughter a five hundred dollar ticket for mischief.

BEE
Twenty-five hundred dollars?!

AMY
But I'm... free to go?

OFFICER WATSON
As soon as your parents fill out these forms.

Officer Watson slides some release forms over to Bee.

BEE
How on earth am I supposed to afford all this?

OFFICER WATSON
If you'd like, I can have one of our loan officers give you a call.

BEE

Yeah. Yeah, okay. That guy out there is Amy's... not stepdad but... Her dad lives across town.

OFFICER WATSON

Okay ma'am.

As Bee gets started on the paper work, Amy sits next to her, twiddling her thumbs.

BEE

Amy, go get Steve will you?

Amy obeys, leaving the room. The officer exits too.

Bee, left alone, looks at the papers, picks up the pen, and then puts it down and holds her head in worry.

INT. POLICE STATION - BOOKING AREA - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Amy walks into the hallway to find Steve in line for the vending machine.

AMY

Mom wants you.

STEVE

Okay, well I'm starving so just let me grab something.

Behind Steve, Amy notices police officers escorting two new thugs into the station. One of them is the big bearded trucker from earlier!

STEVE (CONT'D)

You know, you would not believe the day I had. I was going to actually ask for a raise today, but instead Wallenstein chewed me out for being late and wearing "unprofessional attire."

AMY

Oh yeah?

STEVE

Yeah. So thanks for throwing this on the pile.

Steve looks mad, but is distracted by the fact that it's his turn to use the vending machine.

Amy sees that the trucker is now standing near Steve. With Steve's back turned, Amy flicks the trucker's butt before jumping to his right, thus framing Steve.

TRUCKER

(in Steve's face)

You! Man, if I had half a brain
I'da knocked your block off when
you tried to cut me off before.
Your lucky we're here, man, but I
swear to you right now, you touch
me one more time and I'll do
something we both regret.

STEVE

Um, okay! Jeez, sorry!

The trucker slowly turns away from a terrified Steve, and, immediately, Amy gives the trucker's butt a hearty SLAP.

That's it. Trucker guy head butts Steve right in the nose. Steve falls backwards and Amy's face reads, "Oh, shit."

Through the window, we see Bee stand up and see the event.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Bee and Amy burst through the front door of their home.

BEE

Get inside. Now!

AMY

I'm coming, I'm coming, hold your
horses.

Amy enters the house.

BEE

No, I will not hold my horses! Do
you have any idea what you've put
me through tonight?! I had to
scramble to get my shift covered at
the last minute because my twelve
year old daughter decided it was a
good day to commit a *felony*, and
just when I thought it couldn't get
any sweeter, you get your step
father attacked by some backwoods
psychopath! Is there anything else?
Now or never.

Amy just pouts.

BEE (CONT'D)

Alright, I'm going to the hospital
to check on Steve. You STAY HERE.
You hear me?

Amy just looks away.

BEE (CONT'D)

AMY!

Still, Amy says nothing.

BEE (CONT'D)

Really? Not a word? No "thanks for
springing me from jail, mom"? Fine,
play it that way, see where it gets
you. I'm out of here. You don't
even realize how selfish you are do
you?

Bee heads out the front door, slamming it as she exits.

HUBIE HYME

Yowee, what jumped up her butt?

When we cut back to Amy, we can see that the three friends
have all returned and are huddling around her.

LEMON LIME

The nerve of some people...

HUBIE HYME

Someone should teach her some
respect.

Amy spins around to face the friends.

AMY

Respect? Where was your respect
when you left me for the pigs!

LEMON LIME

Don't be mad!

AMY

No! You were supposed to be there
for me!

RUBY RHYME

Now Amelia please, I assure you...

AMY

You just abandoned me! All of you
did!

RUBY RHYME

Amelia...

AMY

No! This is all your fault! I
thought you were my friends but
instead you're just a bunch of lily-
livered, litter-licking, scaredy-
cats!

RUBY RHYME

Excuse me?

AMY

You're excused! Because you know
what? We're done!

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY / AMY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Amy runs down the hallway and the music grows tense and
dissonant. Turning into her bedroom, Amy runs over to the
collage. With tears in her eyes, she begins violently tearing
down the cutouts of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon from the wall.

When she's done ripping up the collage, Amy exits her bedroom
and heads towards the kitchen.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Amy runs over to a counter and starts searching through a
stack of old letters. When she can't find what she's
searching for, she starts opening drawers until... At last,
an old envelope addressed to her real father.

INSERT SHOT: Arthur Almond, 5232 Old Creek Rd., Atlanta GA.

With the letter in hand, Amy heads for the front door.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

All alone, Amy runs out the front door and heads off into the
night.

EXT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - LATER THAT NIGHT

The camera pans down onto a run-down apartment complex. Amy runs into frame and stops on the street corner to read the sign. "Old Creek Rd." She has arrived.

INT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - MOMENTS LATER

Amy exits the elevator and walks through the 4th floor hallway. The carpet is stained, and the wallpaper is peeling.

Sketchy characters can be seen hanging out in the hallway. They eye Amy as she walks past.

After turning the corner, Amy finally arrives at Room # 406. She knocks on the door. Nothing. She knocks louder.

ARTHUR ALMOND (O.S.)

I said I'd pay you next week, Dex!
I'm sleepin'!

AMY

Umm... it's not Dex!

Muttering and clamor from inside. While waiting for her father to open the door, Amy is shocked to see Barry and his **FATHER** walking through the hallway.

Barry's father is carrying a pizza box while Barry holds onto a two-liter bottle of cola. Barry's father struggles to unlock their apartment door, and kicks the door.

BARRY'S FATHER

Stupid friggin' key!

Barry spots Amy standing in the hallway. The sight of her causes Barry to drop the cola.

BARRY'S FATHER (CONT'D)

What are you lookin' at? Pick that
up, you clumsy little moron!

Barry hesitates, making eye contact with Amy. Barry's father grabs him by the shirt collar and tosses him against the wall of the hallway, then opens his door and goes inside.

Barry picks up the bottle. After standing back up, he looks back at Amy.

BARRY'S FATHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Get inside! Won't say it again.

Barry follows his dad inside, and shuts the door behind.

For a moment, Amy is left standing all alone in the hallway. Then, the door to her father's apartment begins to open. Amy looks up and sees her real father for the first time in three years.

ARTHUR ALMOND

Amy?

AMY

Hi dad.

INT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - APARTMENT #406 - CONTINUOUS

Amy follows her Dad into his run down apartment. There is a sea of beer cans on the floor and a nearly finished one in his hand.

ARTHUR ALMOND

Sorry about the mess. I wasn't expecting company.

AMY

It's okay.

Arthur clears some old magazines from a chair.

ARTHUR ALMOND

Here, sit down.

Amy sits down and Arthur sits across from her.

ARTHUR ALMOND (CONT'D)

Does your mother know you're here?

AMY

No.

ARTHUR ALMOND

You could get me in a lot of trouble by being here you know?

Amy doesn't know what to say.

ARTHUR ALMOND (CONT'D)

My god, pumpkin.

Amy's father reaches over the TV tray to pick up Amy and hug her. After a long, heartfelt hug, he sets her back down.

AMY

I'm not a pumpkin, I'm a predator, like you, dad.

Amy's dad laughs quietly. Then, a moment of silence.

Arthur reaches for a bottle of the hard stuff.

AMY (CONT'D)
You're still drinking?

ARTHUR ALMOND
Honey, don't ever judge a man. Your mother judged me, and that's why I left. Hey, she seeing anyone, your mother?

Amy hesitates.

ARTHUR ALMOND (CONT'D)
She is, huh? That tramp.

AMY
Hey, don't talk about her like that, you jerk!

ARTHUR ALMOND
Yeah, what do you know? You're what, ten?

As Arthur takes a swig of his whiskey bottle, Amy swings her arm across the coffee table and knocks off all the other liquor bottles.

ARTHUR ALMOND (CONT'D)
(flips out)
HEY!

Amy gets up and runs towards the door.

ARTHUR ALMOND (CONT'D)
Amy! Get back here!

INT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Amy flings the door open and runs for the stairwell as her drunken father can be heard yelling off screen.

INT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Amy runs as fast as she can down the stairwell until she reaches the first floor exit.

EXT. RUN DOWN APARTMENT COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

Amy runs out into the street and heads for home. As she flies past the camera, it whips around to follow her before tilting up to the night sky.

TIME LAPSE TO
MORNING TIME -

INT. AMY HOUSE'S - AMY'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Amy wakes up with dark circles under her eyes. After crawling out of bed, she stops to look at her bedroom wall. Where there were once cutout versions of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon, now only paper shards remain.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Bee pours the morning coffee. She then brings a mug and some prescription pill bottles over to Steve who is sitting at the breakfast table with his face buried in the day's newspaper.

BEE

Go easy with these, okay? The doctor said they have a drowsy effect.

STEVE

In that case, I'll just have eight. I called in sick.

Steve closes his newspaper halfway to reveal the bandage over his broken nose, and his black eye.

BEE

Oh Steve, how does it feel?

STEVE

Oh you know... Like I got head butted in the face.

Steve puts down the newspaper and reveals Amy standing behind him in the kitchen doorway.

AMY

Mom...

BEE

Nope. I don't want to hear a word out of you.

AMY

But...

BEE

Just eat your breakfast and get ready for school. I'm driving you there myself.

INT. CAR - ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL - LATER THAT MORNING

Amy rides shotgun as Bee drives her to school. While waiting at a traffic light, Amy clicks on the radio. An awful pop song plays for all of two seconds before Bee shuts it off.

AMY

Hey!

BEE

Amy, don't even get me started...

Amy, sees the seriousness in her mother's eyes and backs down.

They drive on. As they pass Main Street, Amy sees the bike shop, its shattered window now covered in police tape.

EXT. SCHOOL - LATER - DAY

Bee pulls up to Amy's school and parks. Amy begins to get out of the car.

AMY

Bye Mom.

BEE

Amy, wait.

Amy turns towards her mother.

BEE (CONT'D)

Promise me that you're not going to get into any trouble today.

AMY

I promise.

Bee seems frustrated.

BEE

Are you upset with me?

AMY

What?

BEE

Is it something that I did or said that's making you act this way?

AMY

Mom...

BEE

It's just that I don't know what to do anymore. You're skipping school and stealing bikes and for whatever reason you won't talk to me or Steve about it.

AMY

Would you even care?

BEE

Amy, of course we'd care. How could you even say that? I mean, I know that I've been busy with work lately, but that doesn't mean I don't wanna know what's going on with you. Amy, all Steve and I want right now is for you to talk to us. Look, I know things at school are hard right now but if you don't tell us about it we can't help you and well... I just... I need you to try thinking about someone else for once.

There is a moment of silence as Amy sees her Mom on the verge of tears.

BEE (CONT'D)

Don't be late.

INT. CLASSROOM - BEFORE THE BELL

Ms. Silverstein sits at her desk and prepares for class. Amy walks in, the first student to arrive. Amy wants to say something, but can't as Ms. Silverstein avoids eye contact.

Amy takes her seat and get ready for class in silence. She stares outside at the playground. As the room fills up, Barry enters. He looks at Amy as he takes his seat but the two don't exchange words.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Alright class, as you all know,
next week we have our final exam.
It will test your knowledge of over
50 different literary devices. When
the review packets come to you,
take one and pass the rest back.

INT. HALLWAY- AFTER CLASS

Amy walks down the hallway. Everywhere she goes, eyes are on her. A ripple of WHISPERS are heard: *"There she is!" "That crazy girl." "Don't piss her off, man." "I dare you to talk to her!" "No way, you do it, man!"*

INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCH LINE - LUNCH TIME

Amy gets in line behind some SMALLER KIDS. As soon as they see her, they move out of the way and let her go ahead. The entire lunch line follows suit.

INT. CAFETERIA - TABLES - LUNCH TIME

With her lunch tray in hand, Amy looks for a place to sit in the cafeteria. As she walks past the popular girls, they all look down to avoid eye contact. They dare not look at her.

Amy walks over to a corner table with a few empty seats. As soon as she sits down, all the other children at the table get up and leave. Amy is more alone than ever.

INT. CLASSROOM- AFTER SCHOOL- DETENTION

Amy sits at a desk in the middle of a classroom with the word DETENTION written on the chalkboard. The greasy **DETENTION MONITOR** sits at the front, half asleep.

The clock says 4:45, and ticks with agonizing slowness.

EXT. STREET - WALK HOME - SUNSET

The sun is setting. Amy passes the house of the big mean dog. When the dog sees Amy, he perks up and barks. Suddenly, the door of the house opens and the tank-topped body of the dog's owner steps outside wielding a rolled up magazine.

DOG'S OWNER

(brandishing the magazine)
SHUT UP!! BAD DOG!!! SHUT UP!!

The dog tries to go to it's owner, but he slams the door in its face.

DOG'S OWNER (CONT'D)
You keep quiet!

The dog sits down and whimpers, and stares longingly at Amy.

INT. AMY HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amy unlocks the door and walks inside, where no lights are on. She startles slightly at the sound of Steve's obstructed snore- he is passed out on the couch with his pain pills.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The shredded scraps of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon lay scattered across Amy's bedroom floor. Amy looks at them with remorse before starting to pick up the pieces.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Amy stands back from the wall and looks at her new collage. Using lots of scotch tape, she has managed to piece the friends back together in an attempt to bring them back.

To complete the séance, Amy sets the clock to midnight, lights a couple candles, and then opens her bedroom window.

With her eyes closed tight, she makes a wish. Suddenly a gust of wind flows through the window and ruffles the new collage.

Amy then slams the window shut and spins around, expecting to welcome her friends back.

But her room is empty. The séance didn't work.

Frustrated, Amy throws her hands into the air and falls onto the carpet. With her back on the floor, she looks up towards the colorful mobile made of spiraling stars that hangs from the ceiling.

Amy then rolls over onto her side. From this position, she can see under her bed and spots the original National Geographic she used to cut out Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon.

Flipping through the magazine, Amy notices a large dollar sign peering through one of the holes she cut out.

She turns the page to discover that the dollar sign is part of an advertisement geared towards inventors. It reads:

"BIG IDEAS? Pitch your tech invention to Georgia Technology Capital Group! Get \$\$ BIG MONEY \$\$ to fund your startup!"

Amy's eyes light up and, with one swift motion, she rips the ad out of the magazine.

INT. AMY HOUSE - STEVE'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Amy walks over to Steve's office. The door is ajar enabling Amy to peer inside, where Steve is fast asleep in his chair.

Tip-toeing, Amy makes her way to his desk. She tries her best not to make a sound as she ejects a CD-ROM labeled *Account-Ability* from Steve's PC.

CD in hand, Amy begins to exit the office. On her way out, she steps down on a pencil and SNAPS it. The snap causes Steve to toss and turn. Now awake, Steve sits up in his chair. Luckily, Amy manages to duck out in time and Steve remains clueless.

EXT. CITY STREET - SKYRISE OFFICE OF GTCG - LATER THAT DAY

With *Account-Ability* in hand, Amy crosses the street and enters the front door of a large corporate building with a sign on it that reads, "Georgia Technology Capital Group."

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Amy sits at the breakfast table eating some cereal. In her right hand she holds her list of literary devices.

AMY

Assonance is found, when the vowels
repeat the sound. Anagrams are
humbled when they find their
letters jumbled.

Half dressed for work, Bee walks past the kitchen. She does a double take when she sees what appears to be Amy studying.

AMY (CONT'D)

Anecdote. Hmmm... I don't mean to
gloat, but here's an anecdote...

BEE

Um, Amy?

AMY

Yeah mom?

BEE
What are you doing?

AMY
Studying.

BEE
I don't believe you.

AMY
No, I really am. A friend of mine
taught me an old memory trick where
you make up little rhyming phrases.
It's kinda fun actually.

BEE
I see...

Surprised, yet satisfied, Bee leaves Amy to it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Amy sits in her bedroom with her back against a wall. In her left hand she holds the list of literary devices, in her right hand, a rubber racquetball. She bounces the ball against the wall à la *The Great Escape*.

AMY
Hyperbole's a fitting course, for
one so hungry, they'd eat a horse.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMY'S BEDROOM - LATER THAT DAY

Amy paces around her bedroom still clutching on to her list of literary devices.

AMY
Symbolism. Symbolism applies to
dreams, wherein things mean more
than they seem.

While reciting her rhyme for symbolism, Amy walks over to the bedroom wall and straightens the paper version of Ruby.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - THE DAY OF THE TEST

Ms. Silverstein stands in front of the classroom with a stack of final exams in hand.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Alright, guys. Clear your desk. You can write in either pencil or pen, as long as I can read it. You'll have until the end of class to finish the exam. Good luck.

As Ms. Silverstein passes out the exam, Barry frantically searches for a pen or pencil. He taps the kid sitting in front of him.

BARRY

Hey, do you have an extra pencil?

KID # 1

Nope.

Barry turns to the kid sitting on his right.

BARRY

Hey, extra pen or a pencil?

KID # 2

Sorry.

BARRY

(to himself)

Oh, no.

AMY

Psst. Psst.

Barry turns around to see Amy holding the pen she took from him earlier.

AMY (CONT'D)

Here you go.

Amy tosses Barry the pen.

BARRY

Thanks.

Ms. Silverstein places a copy of the test on Barry's desk.

MS. SILVERSTEIN

Eyes facing forward Barry.

Ms. Silverstein hands Amy a copy of the test.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Good luck, time starts now.

INT. SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - 40 MINS LATER

A dissolve on the classroom clock tells the audience that 40 minutes have passed. All the students are still working on the test as Amy circles her last answer. Now finished, she double checks her work.

AMY
 (under her breath)
 Let's see... metonymy economy,
 synecdoche connect with me,
 annnd... Puns buns. Okay.

Satisfied, Amy gets up from her chair and places her exam on Ms. Silverstein's desk.

AMY (CONT'D)
 All done.

MS. SILVERSTEIN
 Okay.

Amy waits at Ms. Silverstein's desk as if she's expecting her to congratulate her.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 You can take a seat.

AMY
 I was hoping maybe you could grade
 it now.

Ms. Silverstein hesitates to comply, but after seeing how the rest of the class is still busy working...

MS. SILVERSTEIN
 Alright. Why not?

Ms. Silverstein uncaps a red marker and begins to grade Amy's paper. Amy stands by anxiously awaiting the results.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Well... What do you know?

Ms. Silverstein flips the exam around so that Amy can see the test results. 102%

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
 Well done.

Amy heads back to her seat, but Ms. Silverstein stops her.

MS. SILVERSTEIN (CONT'D)
Amy, wait. I think it's fair to say
that you've earned this back.

Ms. Silverstein pulls Amy's old collage notebook out of her desk and then hands it back to Amy.

AMY
Thanks, Ms. Silverstein.

Failing to hide her inner joy, Amy returns to her seat.

INT. SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME

Lunch tray in hand, Amy heads towards her seat. On the way, she sees Tory-Lynn, Cody, and the other popular kids sitting at their usual table.

Amy stops and realizes that perhaps she owes them an apology. She puts her tray down, and then proceeds to approach them.

AMY
Tory-Lynn?

TORY-LYNN
What do you want?

AMY
Listen, about the other day... I
just wanted to say I'm sorry for
freaking out on you guys like that.

TORY-LYNN
Yeah, whatever.

AMY
No, I'm serious, I was acting like
a total animal.

CODY
Hey bro, don't sweat it. No bigs.
It was kind of rad, actually.

TORY-LYNN
Shut up Cody! Can't you see she's
just trying to impress you by
acting all righteous?

AMY
No really, I just wanted to
apologize.

(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

I'll leave you alone from now on.
You run with your herd, I'll run
with mine.

TORY-LYNN

(turns to her group)
What herd? You don't have anyone,
you loser.

Amy has already turned and walked away.

CODY

Jeez Tory-Lynn, grow up, will yah?

TORY-LYNN

Cody! How could you say that to me?

CODY

And also, back up a little. Your
breath smells like fungus.

TORY-LYNN

Fungus!? Kimberly, give me a stick
of gum right now.

Kimberly searches through her bag for some gum.

TORY-LYNN (CONT'D)

(snapping her fingers)
Hurry up!

KIMBERLY

I'm all out!

Tory-Lynn cries and checks her breath frantically- it stinks.

TORY-LYNN

(traumatized)
Oh god!

Elsewhere in the lunchroom, Amy walks cheerfully by Paul, who
eats lunch alone. She grabs some fries off his tray.

PAUL

(with his mouth full)
Hey! Thath my frieth!

Paul is stunned as Amy gives him a little pinch and smack on
the cheek.

AMY

Quei Ch'è fatto, è fatto.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTER SCHOOL - DAY

Bee walks into the kitchen and finds Steve frantically searching through the drawers and cabinets.

STEVE

Where is it? No, no, no... Son of a bobsled!

BEE

What's wrong honey?

STEVE

Account-Ability!

BEE

What about it?

STEVE

I can't find it anywhere!

BEE

Did you check your office?

STEVE

Of course I checked my office! It's not in any drawers, or under any papers.

The sound of Amy entering the house can be heard off camera as Steve continues tearing the kitchen apart.

BEE

Well, where was the last place you saw it?

STEVE

In the CD-tray, but that was the first place I looked!

Amy enters the kitchen. She heads for the fridge in search of chocolate milk.

AMY

Hey-o! What's cracka-lacking?

BEE

Amy, have you seen Steve's program anywhere?

AMY

Steve's program?

STEVE

Account-Ability! I backed it up onto a CD-rom last week, but now its gone missing.

AMY

What's the big deal? Can't you just burn another?

STEVE

I can't! The only reason it was on a CD to begin with was because I had to reformat the computer. Now that CD is my only copy!

AMY

Your only copy, huh?

STEVE

I was out of blank cds. Son of... I knew I only needed three *Ace of Base* mixes. Dang it, if only I'd seen the sign!

BEE

Don't beat yourself up, it has to turn up.

AMY

Actually, I might know where it is.

STEVE

You do? Oh, sweet salsa! Where is it, Amy?

AMY

Don't get mad, okay? I might have given to a venture capital firm.

STEVE

What?!

AMY

Okay, so I saw this ad for a company that invests in new technology and I took the CD from the office and. . .

INT. GTCG - LOBBY - DAY - FLASH BACK

We see Amy's imaginative retelling of her siege on the Georgia Technology Capital Group.

AMY (V.O.)

I was like a crazy stealthy bank robber and then as soon as I got into the building

Amy enters the building lobby.

RECEPTIONIST

Hi there, what can I help you with?

AMY (V.O.)

I used my jedi mind tricks on the front desk lady so she would let me talk to the big cheese. . .

Amy waves her hand towards the RECEPTIONIST like Obi-Wan Kanobi and the receptionist lets her pass.

INT. GTCG - TOP FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER - FLASH BACK

Amy exits an elevator and begins making her way down a long corporate corridor.

AMY (V.O.)

... and on my way up they tried to stop me but I was like BABOOM, and KASMACK!

TWO NINJAS, dressed in black pop into the hallway and rush towards Amy. Using Kung-fu, Amy effortlessly flings them out of her way.

INT. GTCG - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - FLASH BACK

Now wearing suspenders and slacks, Amy stands atop a table in the middle of a conference room. Pacing back and forth, she pitches Account-Ability to a group of CORPORATE BIG WIGS.

And I when at last I got to the top office I pitched the heck out of it.

STEVE (V.O.)

You pitched it?

AMY (V.O.)

I pitched it like a five-finger knuckleball of DEATH and the suit in big office liked it so much he offered to invest like a zillion dollars on the spot!

(MORE)

AMY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And now we're rich! Rich I tellz
 ya!
 (laughs maniacally)

The CEO of GCTG shakes Amy's hand as the rest of the board stands cheering with fists full of money.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY - END FLASH BACK

BEE
 You're joking with us.

AMY
 Maybe a little, but I did pitch it!

STEVE
 But it wasn't ready!

AMY
 It WAS ready! And here's the proof!

Amy pulls a contract out of her back pocket. Bee takes the deal memo from Amy to look it over.

BEE
 (reading)
 ... 50% of net profits plus a
 hundred thousand dollar advance due
 at signing. My God, Amy is this
 real?

Steve takes the contract from Bee.

AMY
 You bet your butt it's real. Oh and
 by the way, I changed the name.

STEVE
 (reading)
 "Account Dracula?"

AMY
 I thought it had more bite. Zing!

STEVE
 Gee, Amy, I don't know...

AMY
 Listen Steve, you're a nice guy and
 all, but you've gotta learn to quit
 being so freakin' yellow-bellied
 all the time! You've got value,
 man.

Steve looks Amy in the eye and then turns towards Bee. After a deep breath, Steve dashes to the kitchen phone and starts dialing.

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)
 (on phone)
 Hello?

STEVE
 Hello, Mr. Wallenstein.

MR. WALLENSTEIN (O.S.)
 (on phone)
 Peterson. What are you doing calling me at home?

STEVE
 Sir, I was just calling to let you know that... I freakin' quit!

CLICK. Steve slams the phone and then turns to Amy and Bee.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 Ahahahaha!!!

Bee squeals. She and Steve run towards each other, embrace, and then jump up and down in celebration. Amy takes the opportunity to sneak out of the kitchen.

INT. AMY HOUSE - AMY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Amy runs over to the collage cut outs of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon.

After looking them over for a moment, she begins taking them down and placing them in her book bag.

INT. AMY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN / FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Now wearing her book bag, Amy heads for the front door. Right as she's about to leave, Bee steps into the foyer and notices her.

BEE
 Amy?

AMY
 Yeah, mom?

BEE
 Where are you going?

Steve walks over, and joins them in the foyer.

AMY

I was just going to meet up with some friends of mine. I have something I wanna give 'em.

STEVE

Okay, but be back for dinner. We're getting a monster pizza! Heck, invite your friends. We're celebrating! Wooh!

AMY

Will do! See ya later!

Steve twirls Bee. Amy smiles at how happy they are and then exits out the front door.

EXT. HILLTOP - LATER THAT DAY - DUSK

The beginning of magic hour as seen from a hilltop. The clouds are velvety purple against an orange sunset. There is a stillness in the air as Amy walks up and into view.

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST - MINUTES LATER

Amy arrives at the edge of the woods. She looks back to make sure she wasn't followed and then pulls up her hoodie and enters the forest.

EXT. DEEP FOREST - VARIOUS SPOTS - MINUTES LATER

Amy walks deeper and deeper into the forest. Kat Edmonson's melancholy song, "I Don't know (reprise)" accompanies again.

EXT. MYSTICAL FOREST - HOBO CAMP SIGHT - DAY

Eventually, Amy comes across an old hobo campsite and sets her book bag down. She takes out the three paper dolls of Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon and lays them in the fire pit.

Amy pulls a matchbook out of her pocket and strikes a match.

AMY

I'll always wonder where you went, but without a doubt, you were heaven sent. Now to the wind you may return, just want to say, burn baby burn.

Amy kneels down by the leaves and proceeds to set Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon ablaze in a ceremonial cremation.

Smoke rises towards the orange sky, spiraling as it ascends.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF THE FOREST- MINUTES LATER

Amy makes her way out of the forest. With her eyes focused on the ground, she doesn't notice that Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon have all magically reappeared behind her.

RUBY RHYME
(announcing his presence)
Ahem.

Amy stops dead in her tracks. Could it be? She turns around slowly.

RUBY RHYME (CONT'D)
Leaving so soon?

AMY
Ruby!

Amy takes off running towards the three friends, who in turn run towards her.

AMY (CONT'D)
Hubie! Lemon!

As the friends embrace in a hug, their overexcitement causes them to lose their balance and tumble over into a big heap on the ground.

The friends all throw leaves at one another before Amy sits up.

AMY (CONT'D)
Where have you been? I thought you were dead or something!

HUBIE-HYME
Waddaya ya nuts?

LEMON LIME
No one can kill Lemon Lime! Hahaha!

AMY
It's just that, after the other night I thought I might never get a chance to tell you that...
(MORE)

AMY (CONT'D)

well, that I'm sorry. I totally lost my cool. Do you guys think you could still imagine staying friends with me?

RUBY RHYME

Oh Amelia, we forgive you.

AMY

You do?

RUBY RHYME

Of course. After all, even the best of friends have their lows and their highs. That doesn't mean we say goodbye.

AMY

But what about the cutouts?

HUBIE-HYME

What about em?

AMY

First I ripped them up and then I like totally cremated them and I don't know, don't you guys need them to survive or something?

LEMON LIME

Pfft!

RUBY RHYME

Amelia, we aren't just the product of some scrapbook paper art.

AMY

You aren't?

RUBY RHYME

Of course not. We come somewhere closer to the heart.

Ruby kneels down to Amy, addressing her face to face.

AMY

Don't ever leave again, okay?

RUBY RHYME

The funny thing about a mask... Your loved ones can't be fooled by it.

Ruby places Amy's hand on his cheek. Amy slowly lifts the mask off. When we cut to the reverse, Ruby, Hubie, and Lemon have all suddenly vanished.

The tiger mask slowly disappears in Amy's hand. Perplexed, Amy turns and begins her journey back home.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - BIG MEAN DOG'S HOUSE - SUNSET

The dog who was once big and mean is now chained up to a metal stake in the middle of the yard. Amy watches him from the other side of the fence and smiles at the sight of his big tongue comically dropping out of his mouth.

BARRY

Amy?

Amy looks up and sees Barry walking down the sidewalk.

AMY

Hey Barry. Whatcha doin'?

BARRY

Missed my bus, so, looks like I'm walkin' today.

AMY

Bummer.

BARRY

Well, the sky's pretty and I'm in no rush to get home, especially.

AMY

It is pretty, isn't it? Say... Do you like pizza?

Barry and Amy walk together. Credit music begins to slowly fade in.

BARRY

Is this a trick?

AMY

No, we're having a pizza party at my house. Come on over.

BARRY

Okay, but it's not Hawaiian is it? I'm allergic to pineapples. They make my tongue swell up and I talk like thith.

AMY

If that happened you'd be in trouble because you're always too stuffed up to breathe through your nose.

BARRY

I know, last time I had pineapple I almost died.

AMY

That's cool. Did you see heaven?

BARRY

No, it was actually rather unpleasant.

AMY

Oh, sorry.

BARRY

It's okay. I got froyo after.

AMY

I love froyo! What kind of toppings do you get?

BARRY

The usual, pepperoni, olives...

Amy gives Barry a playful shove before they disappear below a hill and the sunset. Ruby, Hubie and Lemon dance along behind them, soon joined by the dog and other forest animal friends.

THE END



Cut from the Wild