

MagicLand

by

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COLD OPEN

**EXT. MAGIC LAND THEME PARK - 1996 - DAY**

It's a beautiful spring day in 1996. A mustachio'd man (CHARLES) with a cane and a topcoat saunters through the brand new MagicLand theme park, a little boy (NICK) wandering after him, astounded by the sights.

CHARLES

Yes, all this took our family years to build, with the one purpose of putting the MAGIC back into people's lives. One day it'll all be yours Son! Just like my father gave it to me!

NICK

Wow!

CHARLES

I know you're just a boy still, but you must never forget that real magic isn't magic at all!

Charles bends down and looks Nick dead in the eyes.

NICK

It's dreams and hopes and wishes!?

Charles tussles his hair.

CHARLES

Completely wrong! It's sweat and tears and hard work every single day that makes real magic like this possible.

Behind them a little boy is dragged along by his mom.

LITTLE BOY

I don't feel good.

The little boy BARFS all over the pavement.

Charles hands his son Nick a mop.

CHARLES

Go make some magic Nick.

**INT. MAGIC HOUR DINER**

Just 10 minutes from the world famous "MagicLand" theme park is a tiki dive bar where tired park workers take solace. It's grimey and greasy, but easy and homely.

Sitting vacantly at the bar is NICK, now in his thirties, a sweet but cynical spindle of a man, and CLARENCE THE MAGIC CAT, (A cat styled theme park mascot), at the bar.

NICK

--so the kids leave popcorn all over the front row, and I'm hungover as hell so I just left it there! I think when I first started I would have happily picked it up and smiled. You know, for "the magic"-- but not anymore! I'm done with the whole place. Screw Dad and screw Magic Land!

Clarence nods and 'sips' his drink.

A grimy DAVE THE COOK (60's, dour, oblong) saddles up and slaps a plate of eggs and bacon in front of Nick, pours Clarence another beer.

DAVE THE COOK

Another round for Clarence, and for you the prince of Magicland, I present the magical SPECIAL! Abara Cadabra!

Dave does a flourish with his towel and accidentally smacks Nick on the face.

NICK

(dry)  
Thanks.

DAVE THE COOK

It's all part of the magic of magicland prince Nicholas. You're welcome.

Dave waddles off.

Clarence takes both paws onto his beer, puts his hands over his face and leans into the bar. Nick sluggishly starts into his breakfast.

NICK

I remember how excited I was the first day in the New Adults Program. You know, the slave labor thing they sucker college kids into? Finally I'd get a chance to be prove myself. Maybe dad would trust me to rise through the ranks and run the whole park like he promised! I could prove that I deserved it.

Nick picks up a piece of bacon and inspects it closely.

NICK

Not just because I'm the son of Charles Magic, but because I earned it, you know!

Nick bites off the end of his bacon and throws it back on his place in disgust. Clarence puts a paw on Nicks shoulder.

NICK

Thanks, I'll be okay. Hell, I'm so frustrated with the place but I don't know who I'd be without Magic Land. It's practically been my identity for my whole life and where's it gotten me? Cleaning up puke and popcorn!

Clarence abruptly puts his drink down and points to a clock on the wall, panicked.

NICK

What? What is it?

Clarence points more assertively. Nick Looks.

NICK

Time?

Clarence holds up a four fingered hand.

NICK

For?

Clarence mimes a magical flourish.

NICK

Magic?... Time for Magic? Crap!  
I'm late for work!

Nick rushes out. Dave the cook walks over to their spot.

DAVE THE COOK  
You didn't touch your breakfast!

He inspects the plate. Takes the toast off and bites into it.

DAVE THE COOK  
Guess I'll handle the disappearing  
act for this breakfast.

He flourishes his towel over the plate.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

**INT. MAGIC LAND - EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM**

A bland beige breakroom holds half asleep employees.

RICHARD, a dashing old fox in glasses, walks around the room and hands out paper assignments with the flair of a showman.

RICHARD  
First contestant: Tara

TARA, early twenties, a chubby, sheltered Marilyn Monroe wannabe, raises her perfectly manicured hand over her vampire romance novel.

RICHARD  
You're on Princess duty today.

TARA  
Yuss!

She fist pumps and her glasses almost fly off her face.

Across the room PRISCILLA, a stunning and vain twenty-something social media queen, gasps as her head snaps up from her pink phone.

PRISCILLA  
Richard, I told all my Twine  
followers to come see me because I  
was going to be the princess  
today!

RICHARD  
For the Zillionth time Priscilla,  
call me Mr. Coates please. I'm  
your shift manager, remember?

Richard taps on his name badge. Priscilla bats her eyes at Tara.

PRISCILLA

Why don't you switch with me Tara?  
I'll give you a big shoutout on  
Twine if you do? You always get to  
be princess!

TARA

I've been preparing to be the  
princess my whole life Priscilla.  
Not a chance in H-E-Double-Hockey-  
Sticks. I'll never give you  
princess duty as long as I'm  
breathing.

Priscilla exhales a storm of venom and promptly gets back to  
tapping furiously on her phone.

PRISCILLA

(under breath)

This isn't over yet, not by a long  
shot. I'm going to be princess  
today even if it kills you.

RICHARD

Raul, you've got balloon duty with  
Priscilla.

Sitting patiently behind the sea of chairs is RAUL, Early 20's,  
well pressed, hispanic, he rolls his eyes and crosses his arms.

RAUL

(sarcastic)

I'll try and keep her away from  
her "adoring Twine fans."

RICHARD

Sounds good. Anthony.

In a corner, ANTHONY, a twenty-something handsome, nerdy black  
man looks up from his blipping Pikachu Nintendo Switch.

ANTHONY

What's good?

RICHARD

I'm gonna need you to play the  
prince today.

ANTHONY

(affecting)

It would be my honor sire, to play  
the role affix'd to me.

RICHARD

Right. Now has anybody here seen--

Nick bursts through the door and skids into the middle of the conference room

RICHARD

--Nick.

NICK

(sarcastic)

Ta-Da!

RICHARD

Nice timing. You're on Magic Room duty today.

Nick beelines to the coffee machine and swills down some brown brew.

NICK

Ugh, I'll be pulling scarves out of my butt all day.

RICHARD

Come on, no attitude today. That's not what Amos Randhorne Magic would have wanted.

Richard waves to a portrait on the wall of an elderly figure. It's what Nick is gonna look like in 60 years.

NICK

The Magic Room is stupid Richard, even my grandpa thought so. Give me a challenge for once.

RICHARD

Okay, If you'd rather have vomit duty with T-DOG that could be arranged.

A LARGE, MOUTH BREATHING PIMPLE FACTORY suddenly floats from the dark recesses of the break room. T-DOG, as the urban legends go, once made a coach burst into flame by either breathing at it or sitting on it. Nobody knows which.

T-DOG

Barf Day. Barf Day.

NICK

(hastily)

Heh, looks like Magic Room it is.

T-DOG shrinks back into the corner, hurt. Richard flips through his papers.

RICHARD

Great!, Also we're getting a new employee today. So everybody be on best behavior.

NICK

Another "New Adult"? They're always too chipper.

TARA

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE the New Adult Program!

NICK

See what I mean?

RICHARD

--Oh...And if anyone; ANYONE sees Miles in the park they are to report to me immediately. I'll not have him lounging around and sucking out the magic for the guests anymore.

Richard balls up his announcement sheet and chucks it at the waste bin. It rebounds off a printout of a smirking grey 50 something's face (Miles) hung up there.

NICK

Richard, you do know Miles is a paying customer. Right?

Richard turns on him like a rabid dog.

RICHARD

Just because he has a season pass that gives him the right to bilk us out of all the food, drink, and whatever else he wants? Not to mention HE CAN'T LIVE INSIDE THE PARK!!!

Everyone stares back at Richard blankly. They've seen this fury before.

NICK

Richard, he's not living here.

RICHARD

Oh yes he is! I just know it!

Crickets in the room. Richard clasps his hands together and takes a calming breath.



RICHARD  
 Fine, then I'll have to prove it  
 to you... Now, everyone, let's  
 make some Magic today people!

Richard enthusiastically claps and everyone sets off for the day.

**INT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC ROOM - DAY**

The victorian guts of the main street Magic Room.

Nick stands behind the mahogany counter in a suave velvet purple smoking jacket. A crowd of MagicLand guests have gathered around him.

NICK  
 (dry)  
 Now looks up my other sleeve. Do  
 you see anything?

DUMB KID  
 There's Nuthin!

NICK  
 Now think very very hard. Think  
 about something that you can latch  
 on to. Like the thought that  
 you're forever stuck in the  
 liminal space of MagicLand.

DUMB KID  
 Huh?

Nick pulls a card out of the kid's shirt pocket.

NICK  
 Is this your card?

DUMB KID  
 Wowee! That's it!

The dumb kid snatches the card from Nick and stares hard at it, utterly bewildered.

DUMB KID  
 How'd ya do that mister?

NICK  
 I've concentrated my mental  
 anguish into telepathic powers.

DUMB KID  
 What...

NICK  
Sorry, I meant to say "Magic". It  
was MAGIC.

Nick sarcastically waves his fingers around. The kid leaves,  
clutching the card.

MILES, the same wild haired fifty something that Richard thinks  
is living in the park, whips around from browsing the store.

MILES  
Nah man, you're not finished yet.  
You gotta do a trick for me.

NICK  
Fine Miles, but no hassle today,  
okay? Richard is on the hunt for  
you.

MILES  
That's nonsense! I paid good money  
for my season pass and I'll be  
damned if I don't get my worth out  
of it.

NICK  
Fine. Fine. Pick a card.

Miles picks a card, eyes Nick suspiciously, then abruptly RIPS  
it up and EATS it.

MILES  
I've got you by the balls now  
Magic Man.

Miles chuckles at his own cleverness.

NICK  
I was going to ask you to put it  
back on the deck, but never mind.

Nick puts the deck back behind the counter and straightens out  
his jacket.

MILES  
Look kid, you've worked here for a  
while and always struck me as  
bright. So what the hell are you  
still doing around this place?

NICK  
I don't know man. Sometimes I ask  
myself the same question.

MILES

Hmm. I've been giving some thought to your predicament, and I think I have an idea. Now pull a quarter out of my ear.

Nick lazily leans over the counter and pulls a quarter out of his ear, hands it to him.

NICK

What's the idea?

MILES

Well, You feel hopeless because nobody's giving you a chance. Right? To them you're just the guy who's washed up and keeps phoning it in. A glutton for pain. A lifer in the big house known as MagicLand. Right?

NICK

Right...

MILES

So you need to change the way people think of you. Maybe even change the way you think of you. You gotta really shake things up.

NICK

But how?

MILES

You should quit!

NICK

Quit!?

MILES

Yep. You should quit right now.

NICK

I never thought about quitting.

MILES

Why not? If I hadn't quit my lucrative software company I never would have moved here. And look how that turned out!

Miles points at his ear and Nick pulls another quarter out of it.

NICK

Well, Maybe I should think about it.

MILES

What's to think about? Now what was my card?

NICK

Ace of Spades.

PTHEW! Miles spits out a piece of card and it is indeed the ace of spades!

MILES

Good one kid. Now do that quarter trick again so I can buy a soda.

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - PATHWAY - DAY**

Priscilla and Raul cheerlessly dawdle along the paved pathway, handing out balloons to park visitors as they go.

Priscilla talks into her phone, unconcerned with her handful of balloons that are whacking Raul in the face.

PHONE POV:

PRISCILLA

Hello fellow Twiners out there. Priscilla Princess update. I've been bounced from being princess in favor of Tara. Hashtag awful! Twine me back for support and updates. Bye!

Priscilla puts her phone in her special phone shaped purse.

RAUL

Priscilla, could you please be a little more concerned with helping me? You've been whacking me in the face with your balloons.

Priscilla turns to Raul, the sad look of the victim on her face.

PRISCILLA

Raul, I basically signed up myself to be a servant to the MagicLand New Adult Program in the sole hope that I would be the princess. This isn't fair, and this isn't right.

(MORE)

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

I'm the worthiest! I'm more of a princess than Tara ever was!

RAUL

I'm also part of the New Adult Program, remember? My family lives in Mexico and I really need this job because they're depending on me. Okay Priscilla? So maybe be a little nicer please?

The weight of this completely misses Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

I'm not rich enough to marry a real prince and I don't speak Danish and so this was basically my only hope Raul. What's my life turning into! A tragedy!? Or worse! A workplace comedy!?

RAUL

Hey! Earth to Priscilla. You have it easy only being worried of being popular or pretty. If you grew up how I grew up then maybe you would have a different perspective on what the word "tragedy" means. Okay?

PRISCILLA

Hold that thought. There's a kid coming.

A wide-eyed white EAGER DAD and his HAPPY BOY walks down the path toward them.

EAGER DAD

Hola guys! A wonderful day at Magic Land! Isn't it!?

Raul hands the dad a balloon.

RAUL

Have a magical day!

The dad address his child.

EAGER DAD

You know sport, one day when you grow up, you might be a Magical Engineer and make one of the rides they have here at Magic Land!

HAPPY BOY

Wow, that sounds great!

PRISCILLA

Don't hold your breath kid, trust me. I came here to be the princess and I'm handing out balloons to ding-dong ping-pongs like you. Think about that when you try to sleep at night.

Priscilla whips out her phone to "Twine" herself and the child, who begins to cry.

PHONE POV:

PRISCILLA

Special update. Kids here are crying because I can't be princess today like they'd hoped for. See you later Twiners! Like and subscribe for more updates!

The child runs off in a tizzy.

EAGER DAD

Great work. Now my wife's gonna get full custody.

RAUL

That was so horrible of you! You just made that boy cry.

PRISCILLA

Damn right I did. I'm gonna be princess today if I have to make every kid in this stupid park cry.

Priscilla grabs one of Raul's balloons and digs her nails into it, POP!

RAUL

You're crazy!

PRISCILLA

I have yet to begin to be "Loca" Raul!

Priscilla brandishes her Nails and snarls.

PRISCILLA

TAR-AH! Your crown will be mine!

Priscilla's howl sounds across the park all the way to:

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - DAY**

Richard roots around the base of a life sized replica medieval castle. He finds a loose panel and pulls it aside to reveal a small encampment inside the hollow interior of the castle.

RICHARD  
I knew it! Son of a...

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE GUTS**

Richard snoops around the human rat's nest. He picks a few things up and marvels at them. There's a rudimentary cot, gas stove, bottled water, rations, a ton of souvenirs, etc.

RICHARD  
Oh ho ho, I've got you now Miles.  
I'm on to you. You are the hunted.  
I am the hunter. You are the  
fugitive. I am the law. You are  
the road runner. I am the coyote.

Richard pulls out the walkie talkie from his belt.

RICHARD  
(into radio)  
Security. This is FIREBIRD. I  
think I've found LITTLE SQUIRREL.

Over the radio comes the voice of EARL, a laid back 'too cool for school' type guy.

EARL  
Earl here. What's up?

RICHARD  
Dang it Earl! I told you to use  
our code names!

EARL  
Alright, What's your 6?

RICHARD  
I'm in the Whimsical Castle. Miles  
has a bed in here.

EARL  
That's impossible. Nobody lives in  
the castle. Over.

Richard fumes and kicks the cot, hurting his foot. Recomposes himself.

RICHARD

I'm right here in his dang living room! He must have found a loose panel and set up camp here.

EARL

Richie. I already told you that's not possible, so I don't know what to tell you. Over.

Richard grips the radio so hard his knuckles go white.

RICHARD

It's FIREBIRD!

EARL

Whatever. Over.

RICHARD

I am telling you that he's found a way to live inside the castle. I'm standing in his living room right now.

EARL

And I'm telling you that's impossible Richard. Nobody lives in the castle. I'm going on break. Over.

Richard grips his radio tightly and does his best to slam it back onto his belt. He ends up fumbling the thing onto the floor under the cot.

RICHARD

AUGH!!! DARN NAB IT.

He gets on his knees and searches for it under the cot, spotting a chewed up piece of playing card.

RICHARD

(to self)

What in the world?

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY**

We're on a pathway that runs straight through the center of the whimsical castle and into the deeper recesses of the park.

Tara and Anthony are dressed in Prince and Princess garb, standing right where the path cuts through the middle of the castle.



TARA

Wishes really do come true! I've always known that I'd be the princess of whimsical castle! Even when I was a little girl I knew!

ANTHONY

This armor is completely unrealistic and would do nothing to stop a broadsword at all. Look at these joints. Huge gaps! What am I supposed to do? Dance bad guys to death?

TARA

A wish is a dream that comes true and wishes are true at MagicLand! Hooray!

ANTHONY

Get a ranged unit in here and they'd crit on me all day long. I'm cooked!

An innocent LITTLE GIRL comes up to Tara and Anthony.

LITTLE GIRL

Take my picture please!

They pose together with her and all smile! CLICK! The little girl turns to marvel the princess.

LITTLE GIRL

When I grow up I wanna be just like you princess!

TARA

Then read your books, drink your milk, talk to animals, and you can be a princess too!

Tara gingerly places a toy tiara on the little girl with a wink. Anthony bends down to talk to the little girl.

ANTHONY

Excuse me young lady, but do you think this armor could resist a mounted unit or an enchantment mage?

The little girl is confused, but charmed enough to leave with a delighted smile.

TARA

I love this job! I get to be a princess and a role model to little girls! Maybe one day I could even lead the whimsical night parade!

ANTHONY

I'm sure I'd get a boost to agility and speed. Maybe that's the tradeoff here. Lighter armor class for speed. That's it! I've been thinking about this all wrong. This is ranger armor! Not paladin armor! Egads!

Priscilla stomps up to them with Raul in tow.

RAUL

She's lost it guys. Watch out!

TARA

A princess is worried only about her prince... and women's rights!

PRISCILLA

I deserve to be the princess!

Priscilla brandishes her fingernails with a snarl. Anthony steps in front of Tara and holds his large arm out in front of himself.

ANTHONY

Stop! Violence is never the answer Priscilla!

Raul tries to hold Priscilla back as she claws up the 'armor' on Anthony's arm.

ANTHONY

Aha! An attack successfully defended!

Raul pries Priscilla off.

RAUL

Stop this! We're all going to get kicked out of the New Adults Program!

PRISCILLA

Fine then Raul. I have an idea! Twine me!

She throws her phone to Raul. Who fumbles with it.

PRISCILLA

Tara Frankman. I call upon my magical right to demand-- A Princess-off!!!

ANTHONY

A challenge for the title of Magical Princess must be answered under threat of banishment! What say you Tara?

Everyone Gasps! Tara steps forward.

TARA

How dare you challenge me! You know that I am the ultimate princess!

PRISCILLA

Yea, You might know the nonsense stories they tell you here, but I know about poise, style, and royalty! I am a REAL princess and you're-- you're just a storybook copy of the real deal!

TARA

Then I accept your challenge you... you... RUDE JERK!

Tara takes off her long white glove and slaps Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

(to phone)

You heard it here first Twiners. More updates soon as I thrash this fake princess.

Priscilla grabs the phone back from Raul and cradles it.

TARA

Anthony, you know a ton about being a real prince and medieval stuff and Raul... Raul, I think you have a heart of gold. You should be the judges.

ANTHONY

M'Lady.

Raul is struck by this compliment he puts his hand over his heart.

RAUL

Thank...Thank you so much.

PRISCILLA  
 DON'T MESS THIS UP FOR ME RAUL! I  
 WILL SHIP YOU BACK TO GUADALAJARA.

Raul cowers.

**INT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC ROOM - DAY**

Nick takes a stack of quarters out of the drawer and puts them in his suit jacket. In staggers Richard, crazed and disheveled.

RICHARD  
 I finally have proof that Miles is  
 living in the castle! Quick! You  
 have to come with me and see this.

NICK  
 You're crazy Richard. Nobody lives  
 in the castle. We've been trying  
 to tell you that.

Richard wipes the sweat off his forehead and composes himself.

RICHARD  
 Why won't anyone believe me?!  
 Fine! You either come find Miles  
 with me or-- or it's back to vomit  
 duty with T-Dog!

T-Dog appears from nowhere again, creeping like an ugly fog toward Nick.

T-DOG  
 Barf Day?

NICK  
 Richard, You don't have to be so  
 harsh with me man.

RICHARD  
 It's Mr. Coates Nick! I'm your  
 manager and you have to listen to  
 me! If I say Miles is living in  
 this park then that's the TRUTH!.  
 YOU of all people should believe  
 me because you've been here the  
 longest. You-- You say you want to  
 run the park one day but you can't  
 even--

Richard notices a small piece of chewed up playing card, picks it up.

RICHARD

--He.. He was here?! And you  
Didn't say anything to me?! That's  
it. Vomit duty for a month for  
you!

T-Dog is delighted and starts to drool.

NICK

Oh come on. That's no fair.

RICHARD

Three Months! You and T-Dog are  
gonna be best friends.

NICK

Actually, I quit! I hate this  
stupid place.

T-Dog frowns, deeply injured that Nick would quit, abates back  
into the shadows. Richard is gobsmacked.

RICHARD

What?! You can't quit! I need you.  
The new hire is gonna be here any  
second! She's from Ocean Universe!  
You know, our biggest competitor!  
And nobody besides you is even  
near qualified to show her the  
ropes. And besides! You can't  
quit! Your family IS MAGICLAND!

Nick somberly packs his things up and takes his name tag off  
his velvet jacket.

NICK

I don't care! I never wanted this  
life anyways! Even if the new hire  
is Scarlett Johansson herself I'm  
outta here. I wish I'd never even  
heard of this stupid park. Stupid.  
STUPID! STUPID!!!

Nick chucks his name tag on the ground and whips around to  
leave, walking straight into KELLY, poised, stunning, 30's.  
Knocking her paperwork out of her hands.

KELLY

Oh! Sorry! First day luck.

She's on the floor picking up her papers. Nick frozen, wide  
eyed. Smitten. She gathers them all and stands to shake Nick's  
hand.

KELLY

Ah, you must be Nicholas Magic,  
right? I bet nobody knows more  
about this park than you. Wanna  
show me around?

Nick does a 180 right back to Richard.

NICK

(instant regret)  
You know Richard, I guess it  
couldn't hurt to finish out the  
day...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

**INT. MAGIC LAND - SECURITY CAVE**

A whirring and buzzing security lab with cavernous rooms to  
spare.

Around a card table various security guards play poker with  
EARL (the voice on the radio, even weirder now in person).  
Richard rushes in and they slam their poker hands down with a  
sigh. Everyone except Earl, that is.

EARL

Looks like I have to fold this  
hand Gents. Sorry.

Richard leans over Earl and whispers loudly into his ear.

RICHARD

He's here Earl. I swear to God  
he's living right above us. Right  
now! You gotta believe me.

EARL

Sure sure sure. I believe you.

RICHARD

So what's the issue?! Let's arrest  
him!

Earl hauls himself up and leads Richard by the shoulder through  
beeping and whirring machines that keep MagicLand secure and  
monitored.

EARL

Listen Richie, I like you, but it's not as simple as you think it is.

RICHARD

What?! Just go find him and catch him! You're the security chief, right? As the cast manager on duty I'm asking you to get this guy! Now MOUNT UP!

Earl grabs a beer from a nearby glass door fridge. It's stocked with them. He pops it and swigs.

EARL

Let me explain something Richie. I can't just go and catch this imaginary "Miles" as you call him because it would mean that I've fundamentally failed as a security chief. Wouldn't it? Because someone is able to "live" in MagicLand, Inside my park, for so long undetected. It would be a severe failure.

RICHARD

Well.. Umm..

EARL

That might mean I should be... reprimanded... replaced... fired...

RICHARD

Well I... I wouldn't want...

Earl pats him on the back with false comfort.

EARL

Oh, I know that you wouldn't want that Richie, but the fact is this place isn't run by you. You're just a middle manager for someone higher up the totem pole who's smoking cigars and drinking brandy in some boardroom somewhere, throwing darts at a picture of your stupid little chubby face.

RICHARD

Wait a second! Excuse me?!

Earl has led Richard to a corner of the cavern that doesn't seem to have anything in it.

EARL

Richie, I like you. I really do.  
But I have a card game to get back  
to... And you've got to go dry  
off.

RICHARD

Excuse me?

Earl throws aside a heavy curtain and SHOVES Richard down a WATER SLIDE!

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - DAY**

Richard, screaming the whole way, is flung from the side of the magic castle via water flume into the moat, landing with an enormous SPLOOSH!

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY**

Tara and Priscilla are both in princess outfits, empty bottles of wine, heels, makeup lay around, exhausted.

PRISCILLA

Three to zero loser. Ready to give  
up?

TARA

So what? So you know about fancy  
bumble-bee-hockey like makeup and  
wine. But are you a real princess?

PRISCILLA

Of course I am.

TARA

Then can you do this?

Tara starts to sing an aria. Priscilla rolls her eyes and starts Twining on her phone.

PRISCILLA

Update. Cow sings the song of her  
people. ReTwine me for likes.

Pricilla puts her phone away.

ANTHONY

Incredible!  
(MORE)



ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I believe she is channeling the ability of the Bard to summon our courage. It's lovely!

RAUL

Wha...What are all these squirrels doing here?

All the park's squirrels swarm around Tara and chitter in time with her singing.

ANTHONY

By the gods, she's a masterful druid and one with nature as well. Summoning animal familiars is at least a level 10 feat.

PRISCILLA

Whoa.

RAUL

...Why aren't you twining this!?

Tara finishes with an exquisite aria. And looks at all the animals.

TARA

Thank you animal friends.

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - WALKWAYS - DAY**

Nick shows Kelly around the park. She's taking notes on a legal pad.

NICK

-- and over to the right is Merlin:The Ride, it normally Evacuates's around three or four times a week whenever some kid tries to get off the ride and meet the wizard. Normally doesn't go so well when they find out he's a robot.

KELLY

Mmhmm. Sounds like you didn't effectively impart to the ride attendants their important place in a guest's magical day.

NICK

...I guess?

They walk on.

NICK

Over here is the ice cream stand,  
the refrigeration unit goes in and  
out so some days it's open and  
some days it's not. It's kinda  
crapshoot.

KELLY

That doesn't sound magical.

NICK

Well things here aren't as magical  
they seem. Okay? They kinda suck  
actually.

KELLY

Jeez Nick, You sound just like  
some of my old coworkers back at  
Ocean Universe.

NICK

What's that supposed to mean?

They walk up on a pirate style ride.

KELLY

Here. I'll do your bit for you.  
(affecting Nick's speech)  
Clarence's pirate ship doesn't  
work most days because we didn't  
ask the mechanics to fix the--

Kelly looks over at Nick for a fill-in-the-blank.

NICK

--seats--

KELLY

--seats. Instead, every time it  
breaks down we choose cast  
ourselves as the victim in our own  
lives instead of working hard for  
what we believe in.

A pause, Kelly smirks at Nick with an "Am I right?".

NICK

Actually Clarence's pirate ship is  
opening later this month.

KELLY

But close, right?

NICK

I bet you make a lot of friends like this. This 'work harder' bit play well normally?

KELLY

Sorry Nick, It's my first day. Let me off the hook, will ya?

NICK

...Well today's my last. I'm outta here.

KELLY

What? Are you kidding me? The grandson of Amos Randhorne Magic wants to quit Magic Land?

NICK

Anything's got to be better than this place.

KELLY

What-- What's happening?

NICK

I worked here for years, and nothing's happened. No promotion. Recognition. Nothin. I'm never gonna amount to anything here!

KELLY

Why don't you just complain to your dad?

NICK

I can't! Everybody will know I didn't earn it. I just keep waiting and waiting and yet nothing.

Kelly sighs, puts her hand on his shoulder.

KELLY

Look, maybe this is overstepping, but hell. If there's one thing I know, it's that "magic" doesn't just happen spontaneously in real life. You have to constantly work at it. For a long time. You can't just give up when you think you should have already won. Maybe rethink your approach.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

What are you doing to show that you can take on more responsibility?

NICK

I want to give up. I'm tired of always showing up and not getting anything out of it. Work! Clean up Barf! BLEH!

KELLY

That's not how it works Nick. You can't just sink a day, a month, a year, into something and expect it to spring to life. You just have to keep chipping away at it day by day until you can look back and see the effects. A lot of people sink ten years into overnight success. So don't quit Nick! From what I hear you're the best employee MagicLand has!

NICK

So... You think I just need to keep going soon they'll promote me to what? Assistant manager? That's nothing!

Kelly recoils.

KELLY

OH! That's awkward... It's my first day here... *as the assistant manager...*

Nick dies inside.

KELLY

... So you wanna show me around the magic shop?

NICK

No.

KELLY

How about an ice cream.

NICK

Machine is broken.

KELLY

Awwwwwwkwaaaaaard.

SMASH CUT TO:

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY**

The princesses are going for round two.

TARA

We're tied at three a piece.  
You're better at Makeup, Wine, and  
International Politics--

PRISCILLA

--Thanks high school debate  
team!--

TARA

--And I'm better at talking with  
animals, mythological lore, and...  
pastries. It looks like it's a  
tie.

Anthony and Raul are sitting and eating homemade pies.

ANTHONY

And may I say it's a delicious  
tie.

RAUL

This pie is amazing!

Priscilla fumes!

PRISCILLA

Augh! There's got to be some way  
for me to prove that I'm better  
than you... Twine followers?

ANTHONY

Not royal.

RAUL

Why do you Twine so much anyway?

PRISCILLA

Having followers is the only road  
to social success now-a-days. I  
have to keep ahead of the curve or  
else I'm sunk.

Stunning. Priscilla actually has a method to her madness.

TARA

--Then there's only one way to solve this. We must share princess duties from now on.

RAUL

That seems fair.

Tara extends a hand shake to Priscilla who BATS it away.

PRISCILLA

My tiny cute butt cheeks it's fair! I'm going to talk to Richard.

TARA

Hey! That's not fair!

Priscilla storms off, Tara not far behind.

**INT. MAGIC LAND - MENS BATHROOM**

Richard sopping wet, at the urinal, zips up and heads to the sink. As he hums and washes up, he turns to find MILES brushing his teeth and humming along. He winks at Richard. Who does a double take.

RICHARD

You! Aha! I've got you now!

Richard POUNCES on Miles and GRABS him from behind.

MILES

Hey man! This isn't cool.

Richard fumbles the walkie talkie into his hand.

RICHARD

Earl! Converge on my location right now! I've got Miles in a headlock!

MILES

Technically speaking this is more of a Full Nelson.

RICHARD

Shut up!

MILES

Look, I'm just trying to get the most out of my season pass. Don't hate on me so hard.

RICHARD  
Earl! Pickup!

Nothing but static.

MILES  
Why are you wet?

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - PATHWAY - SAME**

Kelly and Nick are walking along.

NICK  
So this is the men's room. There's  
nothing really magical in there  
unless you have to clean up poop.

From inside the bathroom Richard bellows.

RICHARD (O.S.)  
Nick! Is that you! Get in here! I  
finally got him!

Nick and Kelly hustle into the men's room.

**INT. MAGIC LAND - MENS BATHROOM - SAME**

Nick barges into the bathroom. They pause when they see the  
scene before them.

MILES  
Oh, hey Nick.

NICK  
Miles. How's it going?

Miles tries in vain to gesture while in the full nelson.

MILES  
Oh, you know me man, just hanging  
out. Didn't you quit?

NICK  
Eh, It's a long story.

Kelly walks in now too.

KELLY  
What's going on here?

MILES  
Whoa! Who's this? Hubbah hubbah!

NICK  
It's a long story Kelly. Miles is  
a special kind of guest--

MILES  
--I'm just trying to get the most  
out of my season pass.--

Kelly nods.

KELLY  
--Oh, I'm up to speed already. We  
had one of those at Ocean  
Universe. Yvonne.

MILES  
Oh Yvonne! Uh. How's she doing  
these days?

RICHARD  
Nick! you have to help me!

NICK  
Richard, I quit, remember?

RICHARD  
You were just joking though,  
right?

MILES  
Good for you man. I'm glad that  
you're standing up for what you  
think is right. Even if it's  
because you're finally becoming a  
jaded thirty something. But still.  
Good for you dude!

NICK  
Uh... Thanks Miles. I was going to  
quit at the end of the day,  
because Kelly needed help.

KELLY  
Actually I think I would have been  
fine on my own.

RICHARD  
Nick, don't quit, we need you  
around here. You've been with  
MagicLand since you were a baby.  
Since you were just a sperm in  
your fathers loinparts.

MILES  
That's gross dude.



NICK

That's exactly why I should quit.  
All that time and what do I have  
to show for it... I can't even  
make Assistant Manager and my dad  
RUNS this place. Sorry Richard,  
but I'm out!

In comes the team of Tara, Priscilla, Anthony, and Raul. All  
frothed into a big fuss, nobody even acknowledges Richard  
continuing to manhandle Miles.

PRISCILLA

Richard, I need you to tell me  
that I'm a better princess than  
Tara RIGHT NOW or I QUIT!

TARA

Don't do it! I'm the better  
princess!

RICHARD

Priscilla, please, I... I can't  
lose two good employees in one  
day. What would that make me look  
like as your manager? Right?

TARA

Oh no! I'd never threaten to quit  
Richard. MagicLand gives my life  
meaning!

RICHARD

I'm not talking about you Tara!

ANTHONY

A conundrum! Who is the other  
person who quit today?

TARA

Who wouldn't want to work at the  
most magical place in the whole  
world?

RAUL

Who could afford to quit?

PRISCILLA

Who has enough followers to quit?

Everyone looks around the room, dumbfounded.

NICK

Me.

Everyone GASPS! A terrible silence sets in as everyone stares at Nick.

Tara, fighting tears, fists clenched, walks over to Nick and SMACKS THE SNOT OUT OF HIM.

TARA

Just so you know... You're one of the best people working here and... and I can't believe you're giving up on your dreams... Magic is real at Magic Land Nick... It's REAL when we're all here together. You big jerk you...

Tara can't hold back anymore and sobs, falling into Priscilla's embrace. Priscilla shoots a piercing look at Nick.

PRISCILLA

Hashtag lame Nick. Unfriended. Blocked.

Anthony steps forward, still in the prince armor, monologging.

ANTHONY

Nick, Formerly I abused myself of the notion that you aligned with lawful good, but this choice is utter chaotic evil. You're acting against your alignment and I don't think you should be allowed by our DM to take this action... Quitting would be a critical fail for all of us, I mean... Are we a party or aren't we?

RAUL

Yea dude. Don't quit.

Everyone has said their peace, but everyone is still uncomfortably standing around. Kelly breaks the silence.

KELLY

Hey everybody. I'm the new girl.

EVERYONE

(in sullen unison)  
Welcome to Magic Land.

KELLY

So... Nick and I just met today, but I think he should quit if he wants to. Nobody wants to work somewhere they feel trapped.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

And definitely no good for someone to hate their job when they used to love it.

General nods of understanding.

MILES

I don't know guys. I think Nick should follow his gut instincts and leave this dumpster fire of a theme park.

EVERYONE

Shut up!

MILES

Whoa, that's some aggression alright.

Earl and Clarence the Cat finally saunter in, the sheriff and the deputy of the town.

EARL

What's all this? Clarence came and told me things were getting screwy here and exactly what do I find?

Clarence the Cat shrugs.

RICHARD

I got him Earl! The guy who's living inside the Castle! Here he is. Take him away!

EARL

(to Miles)

Sir, can I see your ticket please?

Miles struggles free of Richard and digs out his season pass from his wallet. He presents it.

MILES

It's a season pass! I have a season pass! Just trying to get the most out of it. Can't blame a guy for doing that. Can you?

Earl takes it and looks at it, hands it back to him.

EARL

I'm sorry you've had so much trouble from our employee today Mr. Strauss.

(MORE)

EARL (CONT'D)

Please accept these free food and  
drink tickets as our sincere  
apology and have a magical day.

Earl hands him a booklet of tickets. It's thick.

RICHARD

WHAT?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME!

Miles takes them and grins; Cackles.

EARL

And here's a guest pass for anyone  
you'd like.

MILES

Sounds fair to me. Have a great  
night everyone! See you in the  
morning! Suckers!

Miles blows a raspberry at Richard, skips out of the bathroom  
with glee. Earl follows.

NICK

Well, it's the end of my last  
shift. If anybody needs me, I'll  
be at Magic Hour.

Nick strips off his jacket and chucks it on the floor.

NICK

Sorry to be such a disappointment  
everyone.

Nick walks out of the bathroom, through the sea of friends he's  
betrayed. Nobody can believe it.

#### **INT. MAGIC HOUR BAR - NIGHT**

Nick sits at the bar again as Clarence the Cat tinkles a tune  
on the piano in the background.

Richard walks in, sits on the stool, defeated.

NICK

I didn't expect to see you here.

Richard signals for the bartender, who brings him a neat  
scotch.

RICHARD

Well, I couldn't exactly go right home after a day like today.

NICK

It was a hell of a day today. I quit... Heh... I can't believe it. What am I going to do tomorrow?

Richard takes a swig of his drink and swirls the rest of it around.

RICHARD

For what it's worth. I like you Nick. I know what it feels like to feel hopeless.

NICK

Yea?

RICHARD

Yea. More than you know... So I called my boss and demanded he give you a raise. I didn't ask for much at all--

NICK

--Geez, you shouldn't have man--

RICHARD

--And he said absolutely not.

A big pause. Nick runs a hand across his forehead and messes up his hair.

NICK

Oh.

Richard knocks back the rest of the drink and signals for another.

RICHARD

So I called your dad.

Nick looks at Richard with worry.

NICK

Are you serious?

Richard sips his drink and sits it down slowly.

RICHARD

I told him that we either give you a raise and move you to assistant manager or I quit.

Nick looks gobsmacked at him.

RICHARD

So, if you're up for the position of assistant manager, it's yours. What do you say?

NICK

Richard. I... I can't believe you'd do something like that for me.

RICHARD

It's Mr Coates please.

NICK

What about Kelly?

RICHARD

You and her would be co-assistant managers. And at the end of 90 days we'll decide who to keep.

Nick sips his beer and stares into it.

NICK

I can't imagine something else I'd rather do tomorrow. Nothing comes to mind to do except to... To come to MagicLand... and...

RICHARD

And?

NICK

And be part of the Magic.

RICHARD

It looks like you'll be needing these back then.

Richard produces Nick's name badge and puts it on the counter, along with a new radio sloppily labeled "Assistant Shift Manager".

Nick picks them up and marvels. He leans over and gives Richard an awkward hug.

NICK

Thank you.

RICHARD  
 Eh... I'll see you tomorrow...  
 Prince Nicholas.

Richard waves the barkeep over and stands up.

NICK  
 Richard.

RICHARD  
 Yea?

NICK  
 I'm sorry I didn't tell you about  
 Miles. I promise I'll be a great  
 Assistant Manager.

Nick walks out the door.

RICHARD  
 I know. Well crap. What the hell  
 am I gonna do with two assistant  
 managers?

Richard vanishes out the door.

In a corner is T-DOG, he's sitting with a party hat on and a  
 slice of cake with a lit candle in it in front of him.

T-DOG  
 Barf Day.. to me.. Happy Barf Day  
 to me.

He smiles meekly and blows out the candle.

END ACT TWO

TEASER

**EXT. MAGIC LAND PARK - PATHWAY - NIGHT**

Priscilla, Tara, and Kelly walk through the park at night,  
 cleaning trash cans and sweeping up as they go.

PRISCILLA  
 Face it, I was going to win the  
 princess contest.

TARA  
 A true princess never gloats,  
 that's something only wicked  
 witches do.

KELLY

Are you sure you two don't want to  
just call it a tie?

BOTH

No.

Something SNORES in the bushes behind the path.

KELLY

Wait, Do you hear that?

They go to look for it in the bushes.

**EXT. MAGIC LAND - OFF PATH - NIGHT**

Miles lies in a small opening behind the bushes, sleeping on his back in a clearing.

The three ladies approach.

TARA

(whispering)

Finally, we will decide who will  
be the princess once and for all.  
Who can kiss the prince awake?

PRISCILLA

(whispering)

You're on. I'm going to french  
kiss this old man straight out of  
sand land.

But before they can begin, Kelly WALLOPS Miles across the face.  
He awakes with a start.

MILES

Uh... Can I help you? I'm trying  
to sleep.

KELLY

Park is closed sir. Please move to  
the exit.

MILES

Oh Good. Good. Thanks for letting  
me know. I-- I'll see you in the  
morning for breakfast.

Miles rolls over and goes back to bed. Tara and Priscilla stare  
daggers at Kelly.

KELLY

What?



PRISCILLA  
Now we'll never find out who's the  
better princess.

TARA  
Yea!

KELLY  
Good thing for you ladies too.  
Because ITS ME!

THE END