

LIVE & LEARN

written by

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INT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - NIGHT

-- SOUND STAGE

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

JACK

Why are you always stuck in the past!?

SALLY

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

Sally looks up at something above the door. Jack doesn't notice, much to her delight.

JACK

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

SALLY

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

JACK

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

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

SALLY

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jack SMACKS Sally's head from behind. Ouch!

JACK

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

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

Beat.

Jack opens the door and...

SPLAT!! An apple pie falls onto top of Jack and splatters all over him. Sally LAUGHS, much to everyone's dismay and annoyance.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

CUT!

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

DIRECTOR

Why Sally? Why!? Everything was perfect. Why did you have to ruin it with your usual antics?

SALLY

I didn't ruin the scene, I just lightened it up for me.

JACK

Great, but what about everyone else? Do you know how much this sweater cost?

SALLY

Uh... I don't know. Isn't that money from the costume designer's budget?

The director furiously slams the table he's sitting, jolting Sally into silence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DIRECTOR

Yeah! Money they get from their director who preplans production, shooting locations, budgets, costumes, the script and casting! In order to make a film about a good-for-nothing brat who refuses to see past her shitty nature and do something with her life!

SALLY

(feigning ignorance; pointing at everyone else)
Exactly, which is why all of you ought to be more responsible!

JACK

-- He's talking about you!

Sally looks around and sees the intense glares of disdain and disgust. Unable to handle it, she puts her head down in shame.

DIRECTOR

This is life or death for the studio, Sally. People are counting us to deliver this movie before 2026. We've delayed the movie 5 times because of you and we can't afford another. Tomorrow we're getting the last scene done whether you like it or not. Got it!?

After enduring another wave of intense glares, Sally sighs and gives up.

SALLY

Yeah...

DIRECTOR

Good.
(to everyone)
That's a wrap for today! We begin tomorrow at nine!

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

BUZZ! BUZZ! BUZZ!

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KYLE.

SALLY (OVER PHONE)
Hello babe, what's up?

KYLE (V.O.)
It's almost dinner time, and Cody got
in trouble at school again!

SALLY (OVER PHONE)
Really!?

KYLE (V.O.)
Yes, really! You would've known that
if you came home more often!

SALLY (OVER PHONE)
I'm sorry, okay!? I'm on my way. I
swear I'll --

BEEP!!

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

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

DIRECTOR
Who was that?

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

SALLY
My husband.

JACK
Everything okay?

SALLY
No, my son Cody got in trouble at
school. But don't worry, I'll give him
the scolding of a lifetime.

Sally leaves the studio.

JACK
(to the director)
Please tell me tomorrow's the last
day. Otherwise I'm gonna throw up in
my mouth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DIRECTOR

Yes it is, but I'm not with Sally
Langford yet.

EXT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

-- CAR PARK

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

SALLY

Okey-dokey.

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

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

AGATHA

Shameful.

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

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

-- LOUNGE

Sally returns home and meets her husband, who folds his arms in contempt. Sally tries to brush it off the hateful gaze but Kyle isn't having it.

SALLY

Honey, I'm home!

KYLE

Yeah, I know.

SALLY

Sheesh, what's with the tough crowd
today?

KYLE

Depends which one you're referring to.

Sally raises an eyebrow, she doesn't understand what Kyle

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

meant.

SALLY

Which one? What are you --

Kyle aggressively approaches Sally like the director, Sally backs away, afraid of being hit.

KYLE

--I'm referring to the crowd who attended our son's school play and parent's evening. Not to mention the folks who called to tell me that my wife *still* hasn't paid her child support.

SALLY

Hey, I'm getting to that, okay babe? I've got it all under control.

KYLE

Oh really?

SALLY

Yeah, really.

KYLE

Alright then, if that's the case. Which it isn't. Make amends with our son, he's the one you really disappointed.

SALLY

(shrugs her shoulders)
Yeah, whatever.

-- CORRIDOR

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

Cody? Cody? Cody?

CODY (O.S.)

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

SALLY

Your dad told me you had your school play today. I'm here to talk about it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CODY (O.S.)

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

SALLY

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

CODY (O.S.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

SALLY

(clears her throat)

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

Cody opens the door despite her empty threat.

-- CODY'S ROOM

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

My threat worked? Damn.

CODY

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

SALLY

Fair enough.

(beat)

So what happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Cody sighs, turns around, and faces his mother.

CODY

My school play was today and got to do interviews with our local theatre. Except me.

SALLY

Really? Why?

CODY

Because it requires the attendance of both parents! Even though Dad showed up in the nick of time, I couldn't get my interview because you weren't there.

SALLY

Oh... That sucks.

CODY

"That sucks!?" Damn it Mom, why did I even bother?!

Cody turns away from his mother in a huff, Sally tries to console him but she can't. She knows what she's done is wrong. She bites her lip and clenches her fists. She doesn't know what to do.

Beat.

Sally calms down, sighs gently and continues talking with her son:

SALLY

Look, I'm sorry. I admit what I did was selfish. But give me another chance, and I'll try to be a better mother from now on.

CODY

More empty words.

SALLY

I mean it Cody. I'm sorry for being a bad mom. Tell you what, I'll take you and your dad to the premiere of my new movie The Next Step. What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CODY
(unconvinced)
Not interested.

SALLY
Okay, okay, okay... OH! How about this
I'll show you around the suites in New
York and you can meet my co-star: Jack
Hampton. What do you say?

Cody smiles a teensy bit, even he couldn't resist the urge to
meet Jack Hampton. He begrudgingly turns to Sally.

CODY
The premiere and afterparty. For Jack
Hampton. Not you.

Sally rolls her eyes in relief and smiles. She's won.

SALLY
Yeah, I can live with that.

Sally and Cody embrace.

-- CORRIDOR

Sally leaves with a renewed sense of confidence.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(posing like a child)
Boom! Parenthood. Ya basic!

She heads to her room continuing her flamboyant posturing.

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

AGATHA
What a waste.

SALLY
-- What?

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

INT. SEQUEL STUDIOS - DAY**-- SOUND STAGE**

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

SALLY

Are we set?

JACK

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

SALLY

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

DIRECTOR

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

SALLY

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

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

DIRECTOR

Still not buying it?

JACK

Sadly, yeah.

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

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

CODY

Dad!

KYLE

Cody! Welcome back! How was school?

CODY

Same old, same old. Passed all my
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CODY (CONT'D)
tests, dealt with a few bullies and
couldn't stop hearing about Mom?

KYLE
Since she's not here, I have something
to tell you.

CODY
What is it?

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

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

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

DEATHLY GUARDIANS
Back off! Stay back! No entries are
permitted without the Witch's
permission!

We zoom past them and enter...

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - CONTINUOUS

-- THRONE ROOM

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

She speaks to a CRYSTAL BALL.

AGATHA
Daniel Bradley: current Sage of Life,
I've found your replacement.

DANIEL (V.O.)
(through crystal ball)
Seriously!? Her!? You've gotta be
kidding.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA

I'm *not* joking. Far from it, this mission is far too important.

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

(stroking her scythe)

Wouldn't you agree?

Beat. The message has been received.

DANIEL (V.O.)

(reluctant; through crystal ball)

Yes I do.

AGATHA

Excellent.

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

TITLE: "8 MONTHS LATER"

TITLE: "NEW YORK"

EXT. FILM PREMIERE - DAY

-- RED CARPET

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

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

NEWS ANCHOR

(facing the camera)

Good morning its DFC here! We're here live at the premiere for the highly anticipated romance-drama, The Next Step. Starring the spunky Sally Langford, and the elegant and captivating Jack Hampton.

(beat)

On a budget of \$200 million, packed with all-star cast, and lead by a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
 director steadily tapping into his
 potential. This movie has the makings
 of a box office sensation.

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

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

The News Anchor approaches the fairly confident Sally and
 Jack.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
 (guiding Sally and Jack to the
 camera)
 Hello Sally and Jack! Good to see you
 again!

SALLY
 Good to see you too!

JACK
 It's good to be back!

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

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

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

SALLY
 (through the mic)
 Well, I've never been good talking to
 anyone about romance growing up. So I
 decided, it's just not my forte.
 (beat)
 But then, our wonderful director sent
 a portion of the script, and it felt
 like the therapy I needed to push
 through my insecurities.

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CONTINUED: (3)

NEWS ANCHOR

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

JACK

(through the mic)

Always remember: life is a journey, you only have one life, so make the most of it.

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

NEWS ANCHOR

(facing the camera)

What a delightful message. And with that folks, let's embrace "The Next Step" in the film industry together.

BLIP!

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

TITLE: "A YEAR LATER"

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - DAY

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

NEWS ANCHOR

(facing the camera)

Breaking News on DFC! The box office this year is taking shape so, let's it break it down. Starting from the top, "Do or Die!" comfortably sits on top raking in 4.4 billion dollars. Next is "I Couldn't Care Less", accumulating 2.2 billion, and in third we have "In Another World" taking in 1.1 billion.

(beat)

Now, let's hear from our partners, MCS, about the tragic fates of the bottom three!

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

INT. MCS STUDIOS - CONTINUOUS

-- SHOOTING ROOM

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

MCS REPRESENTATIVE

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

(beat)

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

(beat; sips his coffee)

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

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

INT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY

-- LOUNGE

Sally on the couch, stress-eating to numb the pain. She overhears the news anchor continues relaying more news about

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the movie industry, Sally heads to the kitchen for more comfort food.

-- KITCHEN

As Sally opens the pantry, WE SWITFLY REVEAL:

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

AGATHA

Useless.

SALLY

(turning around; notices Agatha)

Huh?

Sally and Agatha exchange glances.

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

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

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

Unbothered, Sally continues her routine, uninterested.

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

(beat)

Anyway, where'd I put the cookies?

The moment she finds them --

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

SALLY (CONT'D)

Now what?

-- FRONT DOOR

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

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POSTMAN
(handing her the letter)
For... Sally Langford.

SALLY
Why don't you use the slider? It saves
you the trouble of knocking.

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

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

SALLY
Whatever.

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

-- LOUNGE

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

-- LATER

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

INT. SALLY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS (MOVING)

--Panicking, Sally drives off and calls her husband Kyle. He
doesn't answer, which only heightens Sally's anxieties.

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

BLEEP! No answer.

Sally stops, quickly tries again.

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

BLEEP! No answer.

(CONTINUED)

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

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

Sally loses control of the car, it starts turning in several different directions.

SCREEECH!!

SALLY (CONT'D)
 Oh shit.

The car SPINS AROUND, heading for a tree. Sally get dizzy.

BAAAAMMM!!!!

Sally suffers a fatal collision with the tree which renders her unconscious.

Once the radio static fades, WE EVENTUALLY TRANSITION TO:

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

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

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

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

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

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

DEATHLY GUARDIAN
 Great Harvester, where are you going?

AGATHA
 To the Vita Council.

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DEATHLY GUARDIAN

I see, what about the Sage of Life?

AGATHA

I have that part under control.

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

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

EXT. YGGDRASIL - DAY

-- SHADE

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

SALLY

Hello?

(no response; keeps looking)

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

(no response; frowns)

Rude, don't you know who I am?

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

My stomach?

(frantically checks herself)

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

DANIEL (O.S.)

Yes you did!

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

SALLY

Who said that? Who are you?

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

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a wooden staff with A GREEN GLOWING ORB beneath the circular crest at the top. The Verdant Staff.

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Wait, what? How do you know my name?

DANIEL

I know *everything* about you.

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

SALLY

Sure you do.

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Really?

(smirks)

Let's do it! When was I born?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Hey, they didn't all fail!

(voice going small)

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

DANIEL

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

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SALLY

My high school teacher...

(scratching her head)

I think...

(shrugging it off)

To be honest, I never paid attention to her.

DANIEL

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

SALLY

(smiling; reminiscing)

Oh yeah, I remember our wedding day, I hired bird shooters to scare him and posted his reaction on Instagram the following day.

(giggling)

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

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

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

DANIEL

Well you should! You could've died!

SALLY

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

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DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

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

DANIEL

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

Daniel walks into the light, Sally follows.

SALLY

Running late for what? Where are we going?

DANIEL

To meet Yggdrasil and Qliphoth.

SALLY

Who?

DANIEL

The Trees of Life.

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

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

SALLY

Whoa... Where are we?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

(approaching the lake)
So cool...

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

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CONTINUED: (2)

shock and horror.

DANIEL

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

SALLY

(offended)

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

DANIEL

I don't care! Until the ceremony is
complete, don't touch the Fountain of
Youth!

SALLY

(removing her feet from the lake)

Why?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

The Witch?

RUMBLE!!!

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

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

YGGDRASIL

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

Daniel waves his hands, dissuading their fears.

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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

QLIPHOTH

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

DANIEL

No, this is Sally Langford, my successor.

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

QLIPHOTH

Daniel, a moment please?

DANIEL

Sure.

(to Sally; whispering)

Stay here.

SALLY

Okay...

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

YGGDRASIL

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

QLIPHOTH

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

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

DANIEL

The Witch.

YGGDRASIL

Excuse me?

QLIPHOTH

Are you serious?

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SALLY

Hmm... What are they talking about?

DANIEL

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

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

YGGDRASIL

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

DANIEL

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

QLIPHOTH

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

DANIEL

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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

YGGDRASIL

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

DANIEL

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

(calling out)

Sally!

SALLY

-- Yeah!

Sally joins the magical trio.

DANIEL

Put your hands out.

Sally puts here hands her hands forward.

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Ready to become the new Sage of Life?

SALLY

Wait, what?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

You know what? Sure let's do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

DANIEL

Good, now put the seed in your mouth.

SALLY

Okay.

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

DANIEL

(passing the gold cup)

Now drink this and swallow the seed.

SALLY

Like taking a pill.

DANIEL

-- Like taking a pill.

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

SALLY

Whoa... Am I Cinderella or Princess Kaguya? What's going on?

Her clothes begin changing into the same PURE WHITE ROBE that Daniel has. She also receives her own Verdant Staff manifests in her right hand. Her hair turns WHITE, and her skin looks more fresh and pure.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

DANIEL

Don't be ridiculous, you're now the Sage of Life, Sally Langford.

Sally begins posing like a rockstar.

SALLY

Hell yeah, look out new world. Here I come!

Daniel summons A CONTRACT and A GOLDEN FEATHER. Passes them to Sally.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

DANIEL

One more thing before we go, I need
you to sign this.

Beat. Sally blinks and stares at the contract and golden
feather.

SALLY

What's this?

DANIEL

The Independency Clause. It's to show
that you can take care of yourself
even in my absence. Signing this shows
Lady Duality that you understand
responsibilities and can handle them
on your own.

Without even thinking, Sally signs the Independency Clause
and slams the golden feather back into Daniel's shoulder.

SALLY

Well tell Lady Duality, that just like
Lady Liberty, ya basic!

Beat. Awkward silence. Sally looks around blissfully ignorant
of her actions.

DANIEL

Well, that was... You know what? Let
not dwell on it. Now, let's get going!

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

INT. VITA COUNCIL - NIGHT

-- COUNCILOR'S OFFICE

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

COUNCILOR

(to an attendant)

Do we have any more?

ATTENDANT

No sir.

COUNCILOR

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (O.S.)

That's my line.

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

COUNCILOR

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

AGATHA

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

(to the attendants)

You're dismissed. Begone.

ATTENDANT

Really? You-you mean it?

AGATHA

Do you know who I am?

ATTENDANT

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

AGATHA

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

ATTENDANT

Yes ma'am.

(to the others)

Let's go ladies! We're free!

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGATHA

Now, where were we?

(mock pause)

Ah, yes. Your eternal damnation. Did you know I've designed an entire mausoleum to you in the Necropolis?

(like Agatha Harkness)

That's the world of the damned.

COUNCILOR

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

AGATHA

I *have* given you another chance, and you've squandered it on your fleshy desires.

(disgust)

Like, someone I know.

(smiles wickedly)

Now, it's time for your retribution.

COUNCILOR

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

SWISH!

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

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- MAIN PLAZA

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

SALLY

(looking around)

Where are we?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Holy shit... This place is amazing!

DANIEL

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
get going.

SALLY
Where are we going?

DANIEL
You'll see.

CITIZEN (O.S.)
Help!! Please!!

The desperate pleas of a CITIZEN alarms Sally and Daniel. They see that the has a citizen has a son who's on the brink of death. Engulfed by a BLACK SHADOW that stands out amidst the bright and lively setting.

CITIZEN
Please! My son, he... He... He needs
healing magic!

Sally FREEZES. She has a brief memory of seeing Cody in a similar state as the child.

Without thinking, she rushes to the boy and GRABS him, she runs back to Daniel eagerly worried about the child's health.

SALLY
What do we do?

DANIEL
Dispel the curse.

CITIZEN
Great Sage sir, what happened?

DANIEL
He's been cursed by an Agent of Death.

SALLY
You can heal him right?

DANIEL
Of course. Watch and learn.

Like a messiah, Daniel calmly spreads a hand over the boy, emitting a FAINT GREEN GLOW and begins ABSORBING the dark Miasma from the young boy. Gradually curing him.

Sally stands in awe. Daniel continues healing the boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The eerie blackness fades and the boy is eventually nursed back to health. Much to his mother's relief.

CITIZEN
(tearing up)
Oh welcome back son!

CHILD
Mom!

The mother and son embrace, and it even moves Sally. She tries to remember a similar moment between her and Cody, but she can't, and it deeply saddens her. Daniel notices and asks her about it.

DANIEL
You okay?

SALLY
Y-yeah, I'm fine.

DANIEL
You sure?

SALLY
I said I'm fine.

Sally shrugs her sadness, Daniel lets it slide. The child approaches Daniel.

CHILD
Thank you Mr. Sage.

DANIEL
Don't thank me, thank *her*. She's the one who brought you to me.

The child approaches Sally, much to her surprise.

CHILD
Thanks for saving me. Miss Sage.

Sally rubs the mini tears in her eyes, and tries to play the moment off for laughs.

SALLY
Well, uh... You know, the thing about heroes is --

The child puts his hand in front of Sally, silencing her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHILD
Don't spoil it.

Sally freezes and admits defeat.

SALLY
Right.

The mother and son leave, leaving an underwhelming taste in everyone's mouths.

Beat.

Daniel chimes in to lighten the mood:

DANIEL
Never mind, come with me.

Sally follows Daniel out of the frame.

EXT. VITA CLIFFS - CONTINUOUS

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

DANIEL
How's this for a view?

Sally is gob smacked at Vita's natural beauty.

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

She frantically searches for it.

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

DANIEL
No you don't, now pay attention.

Daniel clears his throat.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

Really?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

DANIEL

No. She struck a deal with the Warlock. Schatten would release the souls he captured, only if he saw them learn to value their lives.

Sally frowns, she expected more.

SALLY

That's all?

Daniel smacks Sally's head, she deserved that.

SALLY (CONT'D)

OW! Jeez, what was that for?

DANIEL

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

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

SALLY

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

DANIEL

That's a morally self-righteous way of
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

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

SALLY

Okay, got it.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

What's that creepy black place?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Okay, I got it.

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

DANIEL

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

Sally's eyes beam, finally something exciting.

SALLY

Hell yeah!

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

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

DANIEL

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

(beat)

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

(beat)

Watch.

Daniel stretches his Verdant Staff and closes his eyes.

Beat.

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

SALLY

Wow.

Beat.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

Damn... Can I do that?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Nurturing a seed?

DANIEL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY
 (rolling her eyes)
 Fine, how do we get started teacher?

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

SALLY
 What? Who?

DANIEL
 (calling out)
 BETHANY!! JESSICA!!

POOMF!

An enchantress dressed in SILKY CLEAN SILVER GARMENTS (BETHANY Udon), arrives as if this was preordained. She inspects Sally closely and is unimpressed. She is accompanied by a petit girl (JESSICA Pluta) dressed like a librarian holding A GRAY BOOK tightly. She also observes Sally keenly and draws the same conclusions as Bethany.

BETHANY
 Who is this? A fangirl?

JESSICA
 Sadly not I suppose.

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

Bethany and Jessica are shocked, Sally tries to give her an imposing glare, trying to showboat. But Bethany and Jessica's piercing gazes shoot Sally's confidence down almost immediately.

BETHANY
 (to Daniel)
 So what? Are we teaching her?

DANIEL
 Only the basics in flight, spiritual, physical, Earth, healing and Yang magic.

JESSICA
 Everything?! War is upon us, how much
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
time have you wasted?

DANIEL
Not much, but this is why I hired you
guys, to help me make up lost time.

JESSICA
Only as long as it's part of our
contract.

DANIEL
It is. I checked.

Daniel passes the contract to Jessica, she takes a fervent
look and is convinced, albeit begrudgingly.

JESSICA
(rolling her eyes)
Ugh, fine.

Bethany steps forward.

BETHANY
Just the basics?

DANIEL
Yeah, just the basics.

BETHANY
Seems fair. Remember our agreement?

SALLY
-- What agreement?

DANIEL
(to Bethany; ignoring Sally)
-- Yes I do. Don't worry, I won't
force you to teach her everything.
That's *my* responsibility.

BETHANY
Good.

DANIEL
Alright, now I'm off.

BOOM!

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SALLY

No way... He can fly!?

BETHANY

Of course he can, now let's get to work.

SALLY

I really fucking hate you.

BETHANY

-- The feeling's mutual.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

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

DANIEL

Agatha, I... I know...

AGATHA

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

But for all intents and purposes, choosing Bethany was the best decision.

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

DANIEL

Thanks... But, why?

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

Sally and Bethany bickering like school kids.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Oh brother.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

What's so amusing?

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

AGATHA

A little deconstruction and reconstruction can't hurt.

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

BEGIN MONTAGE:

TITLE: "DAY 1"

TITLE: "FLIGHT TRAINING"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

Sally commences her training starting with flight practice, which isn't going well. Bethany is air bound and easily maneuvers through the air.

BETHANY

No! You're supposed to use the Mana around you to push you up and use that momentum to navigate through the air currents.

SALLY

Easy for you to say! I don't understand what you're saying half the time!

JESSICA

"Half the time" she says.

SALLY

(sharp)
-- Shut up!

TITLE: "DAY 2"

TITLE: "SPIRITUAL MAGIC"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - NIGHT

The second day of Sally's training entails her learning

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

spiritual magic, which also isn't going as planned.

JESSICA

What are you doing? You're just squirming. Hoping for something to click for you. It won't! Feel the Mana from deep within and draw it out. Don't make me repeat myself!

SALLY

Well, sorry miss librarian. But in all the movies and TV shows I watched, this is how magicians learn magic. Especially noobs.

JESSICA

(sighs)

It's bad enough I don't know what you're talking about. What I *do* know is that you're *unbearably* misguided.

SALLY

To be fair, I'm not the best with directions.

Jessica face palms HARD, and shakes her head in disappointment. Refusing to accept what she just heard.

JESSICA

Someone kill me please.

TITLE: "DAY 3"

TITLE: "PHYSICAL MAGIC"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

Day three in Sally's training involves physical magic and it goes as poorly as expected.

BETHANY

Remember, physical magic is drawing Mana from the world around you to boost your Mana capacity.

SALLY

Isn't that the opposite of what you told me yesterday?

BETHANY

Yes because in theory and practice,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BETHANY (CONT'D)
physical magic is the opposite of
spiritual magic. Seriously, do you
ever listen?

SALLY
I do... Sometimes...

Bethany sighs in disgust.

BETHANY
Damn Daniel, this is not the
mentorship I was hoping for.

TITLE: "DAY 4"

TITLE: "EARTH MAGIC"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - NIGHT

Sally makes minimal progress on her Earth magic training by a
making slightly moving a pebble from its starting position,
but it's nowhere near enough to impress her supervisors.

SALLY
You see that!? You see that!? The
pebble moved! It moved! It moved! Boom
Mother Earth! Ya basic.

Jessica looks at the pebble and is not convinced.

JESSICA
What do you mean? It's still in the
same place.

SALLY
No it's not, I moved it. I really did.

JESSICA
How far?

SALLY
An inch.

Beat. Sally quietly laughs to herself, but Jessica shakes her
head.

SALLY (CONT'D)
You know when I say that out loud, I
kind of regret saying it out loud.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JESSICA
No shit, you moron.

TITLE: "DAY 5"

TITLE: "HEALING MAGIC"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

The fifth day of Sally's training requires her to master healing magic, by healing a light graze on Bethany's foot. Sally STRAINS trying to heal it, but to no avail.

SALLY
Am I doing it?

BETHANY
No you're not.

SALLY
What do you mean? The wound's getting smaller, right?

BETHANY
It was always this small.

SALLY
Damn it, how am I failing at *this*?

BETHANY
Remember, use physical magic to draw Mana from the atmosphere and use it to heal my leg.

SALLY
Damn Daniel, if I new being a Sage was gonna be this hard, I would've reconsidered signing that contract thingy.

BETHANY
"Contract thingy?" Oh God.

TITLE: "DAY 6"

TITLE: "YANG MAGIC"

EXT. DRIED RUINS - NIGHT

The sixth and final day of Sally entails her learning the fundamentals of Yang magic. Just as expected, it's not going

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

well.

SALLY

I'm still confused, start from the top.

JESSICA

I just told you.

(sighs)

Yang magic serves as an inner boost that can help you connect to Yggdrasil and the Phoenix.

SALLY

But aren't I already connected to Yggdrasil?

JESSICA

Yes, but Yang magic forms that connection. So by controlling it, you can strengthen it so it doesn't get severed.

SALLY

Great, but what does that have to do with the Phoenix?

JESSICA

Each Sage, Witch and Warlock can summon a different animal that symbolizes their Grace or Taboo. For life, it's the Phoenix.

SALLY

Really? Cool! So how does it work again?

Jessica hands Sally a GOLDEN FEATHER.

JESSICA

Imbue this golden feather with Yang magic, and say the following words in this specific order: Life, pajaró, nativitas, rinnovamento.

Sally holds the golden feather tightly, and desperately tries to imbue it with Yang magic as she says:

SALLY

(in deep concentration)

Life, pajaró, nativitas, rinnovamento.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

END MONTAGE.

INT. VITA COUNCIL - DAY

-- COUNCILOR'S OFFICE

The following day Daniel pays the Vita council a visit, but when he arrives, the council is... EMPTY. He gasps and sees the DECAYING CORPSE of the councilor. He lightly smirks with a sense of relief and closure. Only one person could've done this.

DANIEL
(turning around)
Agatha...

Daniel decides to leave.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

A worried and confused Daniel arrives in the Nocturnal Skull addressing his concerns to a relaxed Agatha.

AGATHA
I presume you're here to discuss my...
colorful display at the Vita council.
Am I wrong?

DANIEL
Why did you it?

Agatha scoffs, repulsed by the question.

AGATHA
Learn not to ask such impertinent
questions. They're unsightly to the
ear.

Beat. Daniel takes a moment to heed Agatha's perspective.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
As long as you know my principals,
then you're concerns are redundant.

DANIEL
Not necessarily.

AGATHA
Is that so? Enlighten me then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL

Even though it was justified, the councilor you killed was the only political figure in Vita holding everything together. Did you ever think about the ethical implications his death would have on the people of Vita?

Agatha creepily smirks at Daniel, putting him on edge.

AGATHA

If you're that concerned with the councilor I killed, maybe you should've helped him value his life. Did you ever consider *that*?

Daniel pauses. He didn't consider that, and Agatha shakes her head in disappointment at Daniel's lack of preparation.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

If you have nothing else to say then leave. Before your corpse enters my gallery.

Daniel leaves, unfazed by the threat and Agatha observes Sally's lack of progress with the same sadistic smile she usually has.

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

Bethany and Jessica are that they're wits end with Sally's lack of progress.

BETHANY

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

SALLY

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

BETHANY

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

SALLY

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BETHANY

Congratulations! No wonder the Witch hates you so much!

JESSICA

I agree, you new Sages are all the same. I feel for the veterans, especially Daniel.

SALLY

Jeez! Why are two so loyal to Daniel anyway?

JESSICA

Loyal is too strong a word, contractually obliged is more accurate.

Sally raises an eyebrow.

SALLY

Huh?

JESSICA

Long story short, I'm the current Witch of Avarice, and my clan isn't the most liked in the world. Which left me homeless, so when I met Daniel, I agreed to help him if I could have a home. Hence why I signed the contract.

SALLY

If that's your reason, why'd you criticize *my* motivation? Hypocrite.

Jessica ignores Sally and the Sage confronts Bethany.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What about you?

BETHANY

My loyalty to Daniel was born from a desire to repay the Sage who saved my people after a grueling civil war. Despite 60 years of peace and stability, tensions glared and the city of Udonia became a bloodbath. Lives were lost and a civilization wasted. Only after Daniel arrived, were we able to recover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sally YAWNS in response to Bethany's heavy and tragic backstory.

SALLY

Wow, who knew Daniel had what it takes to be Prince Charming. Even though, he never seemed that handsome to me.

Bethany and Jessica prepare to leave.

BETHANY

That's it, Agatha if you wanna kill her, please do it to restore some normality to my life.

JESSICA

I agree.

Sally GASPS, remembering something.

SALLY

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

BETHANY

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

SALLY

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

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

BETHANY

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

JESSICA

Are you really gonna ask that?

SALLY

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

JESSICA

See?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CRUNCH!

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

SALLY

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

BETHANY

-- Do I need to explain!?

SIZZLE!

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

SALLY

Whoa...

BETHANY

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

SALLY

Really? Is that bad?

BETHANY

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

SALLY

What?

BETHANY

Jessica, explain please.

JESSICA

Aw great, I hate this job.

SALLY

Me too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

BETHANY

(sharp; to Sally)

Shut up!

JESSICA

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

SALLY

The afterlife?

JESSICA

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

SALLY

Really? That sucks.

JESSICA

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

SALLY

(smug; arrogant)

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

Bethany scoffs, dismissing Sally's misguided confidence.

JESSICA

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

BETHANY

You can say that again.

SALLY

What?

BETHANY

Nothing.

(beat)

Anyway, let's go over the basics one more time. Physical magic. Go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SALLY

Got it! But how does that work again?

BETHANY

That's it! I'm done! I can't do this anymore! Goodbye!

JESSICA

Me too!

POOMF! POOMF!

With two balls of smoke, Bethany and Jessica vanish from the frame in a huff. But Sally couldn't care less.

SALLY

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

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

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- TOWN SQUARE

Sally reunites with Daniel in Vita. Much to his surprise and dismay.

DANIEL

Sally? What are you doing here?

SALLY

I finished my training.

DANIEL

Really?

SALLY

Yeah.

DANIEL

-- What did you learn?

SALLY

(stammering constantly)
-- Earth magic... Yang magic...
Flight... And a bunch of other stuff.

Daniel stares at Sally disappointed and unfazed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL

You weren't paying attention were you?

SALLY

-- No I wasn't. Sorry.

DANIEL

Jeez Sally, what am I gonna do with you?

SALLY

Help me buy some fireworks?

DANIEL

(sighs)

Alright, can you do this?

Daniel summons a rock from the ground and Sally sweats, regretting her unserious attitude.

SALLY

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

DANIEL

Oh, really?

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Alright, Toph Beifong, it's your turn.

SALLY

Pfft, easy.

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

Beat. Daniel's seen enough.

DANIEL

(sighs)

Sally you've just made my job a lot harder...

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Do you remember two types of magic?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY
Spiritual and physical.... I think?

DANIEL
(shocked)
That's correct.

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

DANIEL
Really?

CITIZEN (O.S.)
Sage of Life!

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

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

CITIZEN
My wife! She's been cursed!

Daniel is now on high alert.

DANIEL
What!?! Show me!

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

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

DANIEL
Shut up, Sally! I'm trying to focus here!
(to the citizen; looking at his wife)
How bad is it?

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DANIEL

Quick question, *who* cursed her?

CITIZEN

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

DANIEL

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

CITIZEN

Great Sage, can you heal her?

DANIEL

Of course I can.

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

The husband and wife share a loving embrace.

CITIZEN

Honey!

CITIZEN'S WIFE

Darling!

They turn to thank Daniel.

CITIZEN

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

DANIEL

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

CITIZEN'S WIFE

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

DANIEL

Thank you.

Daniel leaves and Sally follows.

SALLY

(unimpressed)

You could've asked for money you know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

DANIEL

What?

SALLY

You healed that guy's wife, but didn't ask for anything in return. Why?

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

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

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Well... No, I wouldn't.

DANIEL

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Case and point. Now back to work!

EXT. DRIED RUINS - DAY

Sally returns to the dried ruins to resume her training and to her surprise, Jessica is back. She approaches her with her

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

usual nonchalance.

SALLY
Hey Jessica!

JESSICA
What do you want?

SALLY
I'm here for two favors.

JESSICA
I'm *definitely* gonna regret this.

SALLY
Remember our argument an hour ago?

JESSICA
How could I forget?

SALLY
You said there are other Sages and that we're all the same?

JESSICA
Yeah, I did. Which is putting it mildly. But still, what's your point?

SALLY
Well I wanna about them, who are they? And how are we all the same?

JESSICA
Oh great, more history lessons for an ignorant student. Lucky me.

Jessica PULLS a rock towards Sally, transforms it into a TREE STUMP and smoothens the edges. Sally admires Jessica's magical talent and takes a seat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Long story short, the day you were summoned to this world, you were appointed as the new Sage of Life.

SALLY
Yeah, duly noted. What's next?

JESSICA
Believe it or not, you weren't the *only* one from your world we summoned,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JESSICA (CONT'D)
there were others.

SALLY
Others? Who are they?

JESSICA
Gimme a second.

SALLY
(uneasy)
Okay...

Jessica gets her wand out and swirls it around rapidly, conjuring a spell.

JESSICA
Storia Scintillante!

BOOM!

After shouting the spell name, a LOUD EXPLOSION erupts and sprinkles of ORANGE MAGICAL DUST flood the frame, below Sally and Jessica.

Beat. They stare at the magical dust.

It starts taking shape much to Sally's surprise and Jessica pleasure.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Now, as I was saying, the other Sages
of Grace are...
(beat)
...Henry Spade: Sage of Order.

The magical dust takes the shape of Henry Spade.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Carla Jimenez: Sage of Introspection.

The magical dust takes the shape of Carla Jimenez.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
And finally, Leandre Espoir: Sage of
Hope.

The magical dust takes the shape of Leandre Espoir.

Beat. The magical dust simmers down and DISAPPEARS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SALLY

Damn, I thought I was the only one.

Sally releases a sigh of relief, she realizes that three others have the same burden as her, and it greatly relieves her. Much to Jessica's confusion.

SALLY (CONT'D)

So tell me, I'm the brightest bulb of the bunch compared to those losers, right?

JESSICA

Were you even listening to me!?

SALLY

I was... Kinda...

JESSICA

-- Moving on! What was the second favor?

SALLY

Oh yeah, if I wanted to see the Witch, where do I go? And how do I get there?

JESSICA

Wait a moment.

SALLY

Okay...

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

JESSICA

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

SALLY

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

JESSICA

Speak for yourself. Also...

Sally stops. Jessica creates a GREEN BREATHER and passes it to Sally.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Take this, you'll need it.

SALLY

Why?

JESSICA

You'll see when you get there.

Sally shrugs her shoulders and leaves. Excited and lively.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

Agatha gleefully observes the ignorant Sally sprinting towards the Necropolis.

AGATHA

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

She grabs the crystal ball and speaks through it.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Deathly Guardians! The new Sage of Life is on her way. Do not engage, under any circumstances. She's *mine*.

Agatha chuckles sinisterly and continues watching Sally.

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

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

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

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

EXT. NECROPOLIS OF ETERNAL SILENCE - NIGHT

Sally catches her bearings again. Her wounds begin healing a lot slower, due to a DARK SUBSTANCE that Sally shakes off in

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

fear. Also, A LUSH GREEN GLOW surrounds Sally's body.

SALLY
(frightened)
Get off me! Go away! Jeez...

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
How about that? I made it.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
So this is where the Witch of Death lives. I wonder, what's so scary about her?

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

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

SALLY
Ah great, guess who's back?

BETHANY
Hey, watch your mouth! I'm here to save your life. You have no idea, what the Witch will do if she knows you're here.

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

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

Just like Simba in "*The Lion King*", Sally walks towards a

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BLACK OMINOUS MOTORCYCLE decorated with WHITE SKULLS, full of bravado and swagger. She pompously and flamboyantly poses in front of it.

SALLY

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

(bravado & swagger)

Ha-ha-ha-ha!

Her laughter echoes throughout the Necropolis and the HOWLING of dead souls reverberate in response. Spooking them both.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What was that?

BETHANY

Dead souls.

SALLY

Makes sense...

They slowly step back towards the Nocturnal Skull. Behind them Agatha (shrouded in darkness), **stares directly at them.**

Beat.

Sally shrugs off her fear and tries to take the motorcycle, but struggles due to its weight. Much to Bethany's chagrin and distress.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Damn, this thing is heavy.

BETHANY

What are you doing?

SALLY

I'm taking this motorcycle as a souvenir.

BETHANY

Are you crazy? Get away from that thing and put your breather on so we can get out of here.

SALLY

Relax, I will. *After* I've taken the motorcycle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Sally GROANS and GRUNTS as she tries to move the motorbike. Agatha emerges from behind, holding the Obsidian Scythe, paralyzing Bethany. Sally eventually notices Bethany's fear-stricken expression and grows curious.

SALLY (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

Sally turns around and sees Agatha viciously glaring at her.

AGATHA

Boo.

Sally SCREAMS and runs behind Bethany. Like a coward. Meanwhile, Agatha slowly approaches her victims. Gently stroking the tip of the Obsidian Scythe. Her shadow looms over the fear-stricken trespassers.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Well, what do I have here?

(beat)

A Sage and a Mage? Or two trespassers?

BETHANY

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

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

AGATHA

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

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

BETHANY

(weak laughter)

Yeah, I agree.

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

AGATHA

You must be...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SALLY

Sally Langford: The Sage of Life.

Agatha begins closing the distance.

AGATHA

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

(like Agatha Harkness; in Sally's
face)

It's the world of the damned.

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

SALLY

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

AGATHA

It *is* comforting. For me.

Bethany drags Sally away from Agatha. They RUN.

BETHANY

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

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

AGATHA

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

(glaring daggers at Sally)

Isn't that why you came here?

BETHANY

(infuriated; to Sally)

WHAT!?

SALLY

No, I just wanted to check this place
out, see what's so scary about it.
That's all.

BETHANY

(gently nudging Sally away)

Well, now let's do the smart thing and
check out of here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

AGATHA

Going so soon? Aren't you forgetting something?

Agatha points to the motorcycle using her scythe. Sally's face perks up, remembering the motorcycle.

SALLY

Oh yeah, can you help me get this motorcycle started?

BETHANY

-- Sally stop!

AGATHA

(to Sally)

Sorry dear, but the Nightshade is strictly off limits.

SALLY

What? Why?!

AGATHA

(like Doc Ock)

It's *proprietary*.

SALLY

(bemused)

Really? The Nightshade? Who named it that?

AGATHA

I did.

SALLY

Yeah, not surprising. But still, a grim reaper riding a motorbike? Lady, I think you've got your grim reapers crossed.

BETHANY

(desperately tugging Sally's robe)

Sally, let's go.

Sally swats Bethany's hand off her robe and Agatha notices their breathers and SMILES. Getting an idea...

AGATHA

It seems Yggdrasil had a defection.

Agatha SWIPES their breathers and dangles them over her

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

fingers. Bethany and Sally are stunned, they didn't have time to react. Both are taken aback at Agatha's speed.

Bethany chuckles nervously trying to diffuse the tension.

BETHANY

Very funny Agatha, but if we're gonna leave this place safely... We'll... Need...

Bethany DROPS to the floor, holding her throat and gaping for air. This throws Sally off guard and she approaches Bethany.

SALLY

Bethany? What's going on? Why are you?

Sally drops to the ground. and starts coughing loudly and violently. Holding her chest and writhing in pain. Agatha watches with her usual sadistic smirk.

AGATHA

I see, my Miasma is suffocating you. After all, you two rely on Mana for your magic supply. So your suffering is understandable.

Sally and Bethany continue their struggle for Mana and air. Agatha inches closer to her victims.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

If you don't leave soon, your bodies *will* wither away and crumble to dust.

(sadistically intense)

And I will do the smart thing, and joyfully watch. After all, death *is* my specialty.

Sally and Bethany give each a look of distress and realization for a long beat and slowly and look back at Agatha.

SALLY

Out of... Curiosity... Who... Are you... Again?

AGATHA

Agatha Nocturna.

PLAYTIME'S OVER. Agatha holds the Obsidian Scythe with both hands ready to deal the finishing blow to her victims. The atmosphere becomes more intense and deadly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

SALLY

Do... People... Call you... The Grim
Reaper?...

AGATHA

Only ignorant fools call me "The Grim
Reaper".

(smiling)

Those who *know* me, call me the Witch
of Death.

Bethany quickly grabs her wand and slams the tip into the ground. Creating a mini smoke screen. She then grabs the breathers, gives one to Sally and they RUN.

BETHANY

(slightly winded)

Let's go. NOW!!

SALLY

-- Gotcha!

After putting their breathers, they both take a LONG SIGH OF RELIEF, they're bodily airways have been regulated.

With one swift swing, Agatha clears the smoke and sees her victims trying to escape. She grabs her Crystal Ball and speaks into it.

AGATHA

Calling all Deathly Guardians! Pursue
and attack the intruders with the
intent to torture!

Suddenly, the Deathly Guardians come to life and pursue the renegade Sally and Bethany.

DEATHLY GUARDIANS

Halt! By order of Agatha Nocturna!

SALLY

Who are they?

BETHANY

Deathly Guardians, loyal servants to
the Witch or Warlock Death. They help
ensure the damned remain damned.

SALLY

Oh great, lapdogs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

Bethany looks ahead and SHRIEKS.

BETHANY

Look out!

SALLY

-- What?

Sally looks ahead and sees Agatha standing ahead of them on the edge of a cliff. They try to stop but they've gained too much momentum to slow down.

Agatha does the SPLITS and trips them. Sending them tumbling down opposite sides of the cliff.

WITH BETHANY

After tumbling down the steep cliff, she GROANS LOULDY as she looks around and realizes she in a --

INT. DARK MAZE - NIGHT

--Where she suffers a few bruises to her legs but perseveres as Deathly Guardians close in.

BETHANY

Damn! Not again!

DEATHLY GUARDIANS

Halt! By order of Agatha Nocturna!

BETHANY

Shit! I don't have time for this.

Bethany narrowly dodges their attacks but a few graze her and leave a mark. Ouch!

She looks to the sky. Slowing down.

BETHANY (CONT'D)

Just great, I'm running out of steam!

Bethany trips and stumbles. Dropping her wand.

Beat. Deathly Guardians surround her.

DEATHLY GUARDIANS

It's over Bethany Udon. Give it up.

Bethany looks at A GREEN SEED next to her foot. She WINKS, getting an idea...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEATHLY GUARDIAN

What's so funny?

BETHANY

I bet you weren't expecting this!

Bethany throws the green seed into the air and it EXPLODES like a firework. The sparkles take the shape of Yggdrasil.

WITH SALLY

INT. DARK MAZE - NIGHT

She slowly gets back on her feet, but then -- STING! A bruise on her left leg appears, she holds it tightly. She tries to apply healing magic, but it's pointless. She never took her classes seriously and there's too much Miasma.

SALLY

Shit.

AGATHA (O.S.)

You got that right.

A DARK SILHOUETTE engulfs her. She turns to see Agatha behind her, inching closer like a predator stalking it's prey. Desperate and afraid, she points her Verdant Staff at Agatha. The Witch stops, bemused and unconvinced.

AGATHA

Oh, so the Sage of Life has a trick up her sleeve?

SALLY

(feigning confidence)

That's right, it shows that compared to me. Ya basic!

Sally slams the Verdant Staff into the ground HARD. But nothing happens. Agatha rolls her eyes and approaches Sally. Paranoid and anxious, Sally tries again numerous times, but to no avail.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Damn it, why isn't working?

(looks up; Agatha's in her face)

Uh-oh...

AGATHA

Having trouble dear? Let me help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SMACK!!

Agatha lands a vicious backhand with her left hand and sends Sally flying through several walls.

Sally struggles to get as the bruise on her left leg has EXPANDED MASSIVELY. In the midst of the smoke and debris, With a FIERCE RED GLOW in her eyes, Agatha slowly emerges like a demon. Sally is FROZEN. Petrified beyond belief. Agatha now looms over Sally and throws the Verdant Staff to Sally.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
 (re: Verdant Staff)
 Pick it up.
 (No response)
 Pick. It. Up.

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

A MAZE

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

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

A DEAD END (UNDERGROUND)

THUD! CRACK!

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)
 Now that's what I call a dead leg.

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

Eventually Agatha STOPS.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
 Spare me the heroic intervention. You know she's not worth the effort.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Daniel swoops into restore Sally's leg back to health accompanied by Bethany back in full health.

DANIEL

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

Agatha scoffs.

AGATHA

Precisely.

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

DANIEL

Care to explain yourself?

SALLY

Oh, I was just --

AGATHA

-- She came here out of defiant
ignorance to "teach me a lesson".
(giggling)
Seriously, does her stupidity never
cease?

DANIEL

At this point Agatha, even I can't
answer that.
(to Sally and Bethany)
Let's go home.

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

AGATHA

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

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

EXT. DRIED RUINS - NIGHT

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL

Bethany!

Bethany meekly confronts Daniel.

BETHANY

Yes sir...

DANIEL

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

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(calling)

Sally!

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Sally, do you like pissing people off?

Sally raises an eyebrow. She doesn't understand.

SALLY

What?

DANIEL

I said, do you like pissing people off?

Sally shrugs her shoulders and smirks.

SALLY

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

DANIEL

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

SALLY

I do value life, if I didn't, I'd be
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY (CONT'D)

dead right?

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

DANIEL

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

SALLY

But the Witch --

DANIEL

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

SALLY

Well I've never had anyone do that for me!

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

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

DANIEL

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

(beat)

Goodbye.

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

EXT. VITA COUNCIL - DAY**-- ENTRANCE**

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

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
 Yeesh, for a country that loves the sun, now it wants to get cloudy. Now I know how the Brits feel.

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

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

Sally raises an eyebrow in confusion.

SALLY
 What? Why? After what happened last time?

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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

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

INT. TORTURE CHAMBER - NIGHT

-- CORPSE GALLERY

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

AGATHA

Ah, yes. Here it is.

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

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

SALLY

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

Unnerved and irked, Agatha stops.

AGATHA

Excuse me?

Agatha turns and faces Sally.

SALLY

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

Agatha scoffs.

AGATHA

Are you kidding me?

SALLY

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

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

AGATHA

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

SALLY

(giving the middle finger)
-- They're not delusions, it's the truth. You can't treat me like them,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY (CONT'D)
because I'm the Sage of Life and
they're not.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
In other words Witch. Ya basic!

AGATHA
Come again...

SALLY
(nonchalant)
I said, in other words --

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

EXT. CLIFF - DAY

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

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

SALLY
Jerk.

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

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

AGATHA
That's it. Her retribution begins
tomorrow.

DANIEL
What? Tomorrow?

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

DANIEL
But this soon... Alright, give me one
last chance to talk some sense into
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

her.

AGATHA

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

DANIEL

It's like a cry on deaf ears.

AGATHA

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

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- TOWN SQUARE

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

SALLY

(singing)

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

DANIEL

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

SALLY

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

DANIEL

This world doesn't celebrate that.

SALLY

New Year's Day?

DANIEL

That was 4 months ago, and they don't
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANIEL (CONT'D)
use fireworks.

SALLY
Your birthday?

DANIEL
-- Look, just give me the fireworks.

SALLY DANIEL
You're the biggest party pooper ever! NOW!!!

Sally sighs and gives in.

SALLY
Fine.

Sally gives the remaining fireworks to Daniel.

DANIEL
Good, now I spoke to the Witch
yesterday.

Sally interrupts, disgusted and confused.

SALLY
You spoke with her!?

DANIEL
Yes, now calm down. She said she's
given you one last chance to prove
yourself.

SALLY
What do you mean "prove myself"?

DANIEL
Prove yourself worthy of your title.

SALLY
I've already proved it. I ate the seed
and drank the water.
(realizes)
Why did that sound a lot more
suggestive than I thought?

DANIEL
(grabs Sally; shakes her)
Come on Sally! This is serious!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SALLY

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

--

("sexy" voice)

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

(normal voice)

To that I say, I hope so.

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

DANIEL

Alright young lady, I've tried to be nice. But unless you want this to turn into a bloodbath on a global scale. You're gonna become *the Sage of Life*. Whether you like it or not.

SALLY

(smacking her ass)

Not unless you tell Agatha to kiss my ass!

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

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

EXT. CENTRAL TOWER - DAY

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

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

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

CITIZENS

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sally stands directly below the Central Tower. GULPS hard.

SALLY
Holy shit...

Daniel speaks authoritatively, taking charge:

DANIEL
Everyone, get to the Town Square! Now!

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

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

SALLY
Come on! I can do this!

SHOOM!

The tower continues crumbling.

Sally pushes even harder. But it makes no difference.

SALLY (CONT'D)
Come on Sally, you've gotta make this work.
(beat; less confident)
Somehow.

SHOOM! SHOOM!

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
Crap, crap, crap, crap!

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
Uh oh...

DANIEL
-- Sally! Get outta the way!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sally runs and jumps out of harms way.

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Alright. Let's do this.

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

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Earth style: Mother Earth's Blessing.

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

The citizens return. Praising Daniel and ignoring Sally.

CITIZENS

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

DANIEL

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

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

SALLY

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

DANIEL

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

(sighs)

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

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

SALLY

Oh whatever, I don't need you! Have
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SALLY (CONT'D)
 fun getting in the Witch's underwear.
 (beat)
 If she wears any.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)
 Now that I think about it, do grim
 reapers were underwear?

Agatha approaches Sally. Circles around her.

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

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

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

Sally tumbles and lands into a nearby building.

BOOM!

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

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)
 No matter, I guess I'll have to settle
 this *my* way.

CRUNCH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

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

SALLY

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

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

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

EXT. SKY - DAY

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

SALLY

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

Agatha's expressions turns to one of disgust.

AGATHA

Haven't you heard the old adage?

Sally squirms.

SALLY

What?

AGATHA

What goes up, must come back DOWN!!

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

EXT. VITA - DAY

SLAM!! CRASH!!

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

Sally emerges with a lot more bruises and cuts than before. She sees people RUNNING AWAY, confused she groggily stands up

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

and sees... CORPSES of citizens caught in the destruction. She shivers and FREEZES. She's reminded of the Corpse Gallery.

Beat.

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

SALLY

You... What are you?

Agatha shakes her head in disbelief.

AGATHA

You clearly do *not* listen.

SLAM!

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

EXT. VITALITY ZONE - DAY

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

CITIZENS

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

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

CITIZEN

What's that?

EXT. SKY - CONTINUOUS

Agatha looms over the Vitality Zone with a weighing scale.

AGATHA

(to the weighing scale)

Show the comparisons between those who value their lives against those who don't.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

lives. She smiles gleefully.

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

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

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

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

EXT. VITALITY ZONE - DAY

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

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

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

INT. ARBOL MALL - CONTINUOUS

-- MAIN CORRIDOR

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

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

Agatha performs an ELONGATED SNIFF that spooks everyone, especially.

AGATHA
Your body reeks of death. I love it!

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)
If you can kneel, you can stand. Now get up.

Sally remains frozen. Agatha tries again:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

I said, get up.

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

Agatha smiles confidently, walking in pursuit of her prey.

-- PRIVATE ROOM

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

SALLY

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Sally goes to open the door but --

WHOK!

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

-- TOY STORE

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

Get away from me! Stay back! Stay
away! Leave me alone!

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

She runs to another aisle for another exit but sees Agatha

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

standing on the other side. She freezes.

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

WHAM! SHATTER!

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

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

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

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

AGATHA
Death Grip.

SWOOO!!!

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Pathetic.

SMACK!

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

EXT. SKY - EVENING

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)
something.

Agatha whispers into Sally's ear, smiling wickedly.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
You never did.

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

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

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

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

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

YGGDRASIL
Please tell me she signed the
Independency Clause?

DANIEL
Yes she did.

QLIPHOTH
Alright, that's cool.

DANIEL
But still... Sally...

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - EVENING

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

RUMBLE!

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

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

Agatha floats and observes the destruction.

EXT. CITY - CONTINUOUS

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

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

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

AGATHA

Surrender?

SALLY

(wounded; groggy; bleeding)

Go fuck yourself --

WHOK!!

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

EXT. SKY - EVENING

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

AGATHA

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BAM!

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Futile.

WHOK! WHACK! BAM! BOOM! CRUNCH!

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

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

She comes back into focus, holding the collar of Sally's robe. Who huffs DRENCHED in blood.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

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

EXT. LARGE TREE - EVENING

Where Sally collides with a large tree, which begins to tilt towards the city. Citizens begin SCREAMING as they lose their center of gravity.

BOOM! BAM!

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

SALLY

Oh God...

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

The tree gets closer. She notices the child she saved and cries. She can't save him in this state. So, she continues running.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY (CONT'D)
Oh God, oh God, oh God!

It gets even closer and Sally jumps to evade it.

THUUUUUDDDD!!!!

The tree falls and forms A GIANT DUST CLOUD.

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

Agatha's shadow looms over her.

SALLY (CONT'D)
How could you this?

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Even though, we already know why.

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

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

AGATHA
(sharp)
-- "Sign up for this." Is that it?
(smiles; calm)
Of course it is. You really thought a worthless loser like you, should feel entitled to a nice comforting little life in compensation for disrespecting life and death? Lord, what fools these mortals be!

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Going so soon?

(grabs Sally)

Sorry, but we're not done yet.

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Perfect, just in time.

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Death Grip.

SWOOO!!!

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

This time, I'll make sure you learn.

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

Eventually...

BAM!

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

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Oh grow up, it's only Vita. You haven't participated in a Magical World War. Compared to that, *this* is
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AGATHA (CONT'D)
only an appetizer.

Sally's broken mental state hasn't changed.

AGATHA (CONT'D)
Out of it already? Oh well, I guess
it's time I end this farce.

SMACK!

Agatha spin kicks Sally into another...

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

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

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

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

EXT. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH - DAY

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

YGGDRASIL
She really did it.

DANIEL
My God...

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

YGGDRASIL

How can you be so sure?

DANIEL

-- Just watch.

EXT. ROCKY MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

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

AGATHA

Yin Magic, Qliphoth style: Curse of the Undead!

BADUMP!

With her body in a mildly tolerable condition, Sally's heartbeat restarts. The revived Sage coughs and wheezes out a large pool of blood. She can't believe she's still alive.

SALLY

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

AGATHA

You were.

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You may be too invaluable to kill, but that's solely based on your title. Not you. So don't get conceited, Sally Langford. Now listen closely, because playtime's over.

Sally twitches and gulps.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

You will wake up from your childish fantasies and become the Sage of Life. I'll make sure of it. But I have other priorities I must attend to, so my

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA (CONT'D)

Agents will handle your growth in my absence.

Sally stammers, she can't hide her confusion.

SALLY

Agents?

Agatha gently presses her foot on Sally's body

AGATHA

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

Agatha licks her lips and smiles.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

Agatha leans in close.

AGATHA (CONT'D)

In other words...
(mocking Sally)
...Ya basic!

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

INT. NOCTURNAL SKULL - NIGHT

-- THRONE ROOM

A relaxed Agatha is visited by Daniel.

AGATHA

What do you want?

DANIEL

You didn't kill her? Why?

Agatha scoffs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGATHA

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

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

AGATHA (CONT'D)

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

DANIEL

What do you want me to do?

AGATHA

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

DANIEL

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

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

AGATHA

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

Daniel desperately tries to catch his breath.

DANIEL

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

Agatha smiles lightly.

AGATHA

Good. Now get out.

Daniel runs to the door and stops by the entrance.

DANIEL

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGATHA
 (sharp; annoyed)
 -- OUT!!

Daniel leaves the frame, cowering away from the temperamental Agatha.

EXT. VITA - DAY

-- NORTHERN BORDER

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

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

Daniel enters the frame, as disappointed as ever.

DANIEL
 It's awful isn't it?

Sally doesn't respond.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 This is what happens when an
 outmatched Sage battles against an
 all-powerful Witch or Warlock.

Sally still cannot accept the state of Vita.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 Kyle, Cody, Bethany, Agatha and I have
 given you multiple warnings about the
 dangers of your personality.
 Especially when you don't take life
 seriously.

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

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

While most citizens continue with reconstruction and healing, a small minority begin THROWING THINGS at Sally. Voicing

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

their discontent and anger. Daniel observes.

CITIZENS

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

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

SALLY

Daniel I'm --

DANIEL

Just go.

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

SALLY

W-W-W-What?

DANIEL

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

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

EXT. FOREST - DAY

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

She eventually arrives at --

EXT. CENTRAL SANCTUARY - DAY

-- FRONT GARDEN

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SALLY

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

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

Beat.

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

She chuckles weakly, then looks away shamefully.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(walking out of frame)

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

Beat.

She returns to frame, giving it one last try.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Maybe a song can help?

(sings; broken)

Baby you're a firework,

(crying)

Baby let your colors burst.

Sally breaks down into tears and carves her own name onto the tombstone. Digs and vomits the seed and juice she drank to become the Sage of Life.

The juice enters the bottle and the seed is placed next to it, she then puts them in the hole and covers it. With her identity buried and abandoned, she heads to the --

-- FRONT DOOR

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

She sighs, and knocks on the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

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

TITLE: "4 YEARS AGO..."

EXT. SALLY'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

-- LOUNGE

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

KYLE

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

CODY

You know Mom, she *never* listens.

KYLE

True.

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

CODY

Why don't you get a divorce?

KYLE

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

CODY

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

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

KYLE

Fine.

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

-- SALLY'S ROOM

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

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

SALLY

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

KYLE

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

SALLY

(shrugs her shoulders)

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

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

KYLE

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

SALLY

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

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

SALLY (CONT'D)

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KYLE

Anyway, as I was saying, I've been doing most of the work around here, including actually raising Cody. We don't have enough money to buy another house right now, so can you please for once, not screw this up. For everyone's sake?

Sally pouts and eventually concedes defeat.

SALLY

Ugh... Fine.

INT. CENTRAL SANCTUARY - DAY (PRESENT)

-- KITCHEN

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

Beat.

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

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

HENRY

Who are you guys?

THE END.