

HELP ME, MR. WIZARD

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EXT. SKY ABOVE LOS ANGELES - MAGIC HOUR - AERIAL ESTABLISHING
SHOT:

We open high above the city—a dreamy aerial shot of twilight L.A., washed in amber and violet light. The hum of civilization below: traffic crawling like veins through a sleeping beast.

In the distance, a commercial jet glides across the horizon. Below it?

A high school football field. Empty. Faded. One goal post is broken.

We dive...

CAMERA DESCENDS

...slowly, deliberately... gliding past billboards, cell towers, and a dozen rooftop TikToks in progress—kids staging dances, stunts, self-made fame.

Finally, we land on:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - SUNSET

A lone teenager—JAYDEN, 17, hoodie up, backpack dragging—sits on a cracked curb.

He stares down at his phone.

The glow of the screen paints his face.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN:

A grid of other people's lives—muscles, mansions, models, motivational BS.

He scrolls. Double taps. Scrolls again.

Then... taps the screen off. Sighs.

JAYDEN (V.O.)
(dry, ironic)
When I was little, I wanted to be a
firefighter.

Then an astronaut.

Then... rich.

He looks up at the sky—somewhere between hope and hopeless.

JAYDEN (V.O.)
Now I just wanna be somebody.
Anybody.

A STRANGE WIND BLOWS

The street is still... but a breeze swirls only around Jayden, lifting a few leaves. Something is... off.

From behind, a voice:

MR. WIZARD (O.S.)
You sure about that?

Jayden turns.

No one's there.

Just a weird little flyer pinned to the lamppost behind him.

It reads:

"TIRED OF BEING NOBODY?

BECOME SOMEBODY. FIRST SESSION FREE.

Help Me, Mr. Wizard

He squints at it. His phone pings with another influencer post.

He sighs again, grabs his board, and rolls off..

But the flyer peels off the pole and flutters after him, as if carried by fate.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: HELP ME, MR. WIZARD

Cue whimsical + haunting musical sting.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden walks through the halls like a ghost. Posters scream:
"Career Week! Find Your Path!"

He dodges bullies. Teachers ignore him. Even the janitor
won't make eye contact.

Inside a classroom, kids give career presentations. Jayden's
turn is next. His backpack falls open. Papers fly—half-
finished dreams, doodles of superpowers, lists of careers
crossed out.

INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jayden stands at the front of the room. Sweating. Rambling.

JAYDEN
I want to be... a chef... or a
coder... or maybe a pilot... Or a—

Students laugh. The teacher gives him a polite clap.

Jayden sees one kid in the back watching him with mild
curiosity. That's MACRO — smart, weird, quiet. Possibly
important later.

Jayden sinks into his seat.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - SUNSET

Jayden walks home. Alone. Kicks a soda can.

He passes a strange alley he's never noticed before. There's a light at the end – flickering blue and gold.

He follows it.

MOVE TO:

INT. WIZARD'S SHOP - NIGHT

An impossibly narrow shop opens into a large magical interior. Floating books. Bottled memories.

MR. WIZARD, tall and enigmatic, stands behind a counter. He doesn't look at Jayden. He's mixing something... glowing.

MR. WIZARD
Late for your appointment.

JAYDEN
I didn't make one.

MR. WIZARD
You did. Every time you said, "I wish someone would help me."

Jayden freezes.

CUT TO:

INT. JAYDEN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

A small but lived-in apartment. Photos of better times on the walls: beach days, science fair trophies, Halloween costumes.

In the kitchen, MOM (40s) balances cooking and a work call on her headset. DAD (50s) sifts through bills. LITTLE SISTER LUCY (10) colors at the table, humming off-key.

Jayden enters quietly.

MOM
(half-listening)
Hey sweetie. You eat yet?

JAYDEN
No.

DAD
(sighing)
Your mother's making dinner. Unless
DoorDash is now a government
benefit.

MOM
(taking off headset)
Can we not do this tonight?

LUCY
I made Jayden a picture.

She holds up a crayon drawing of a stick-figure wizard.

JAYDEN
(smiling, touched)
That's me?

LUCY
No, it's Gandalf. You're this one.
(points to tiny sidekick)
Jayden laughs softly.

DAD
(sifting bills)
Jayden, any luck with that after-
school job app?

JAYDEN
Didn't get it.

DAD
What about the internship? The
coding thing?

JAYDEN
Didn't hear back.

MOM
Don't give up, honey. You're smart.
You just need to—
(phone buzzes)
Damn it. Work again.

She answers. Jayden stares at his plate. Everyone's talking,
but no one's talking to him.

JAYDEN
(quiet)
We had career day today.

No one hears him.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
I said... career day.

LUCY
Oooh! I wanna be a dolphin doctor!
Or a princess. Or BOTH!

DAD
You can't be both, sweetie.

LUCY
Yes I can. You just don't believe
in magic.

DAD
Magic doesn't pay rent.

Jayden finally slams his fork down.

JAYDEN
Forget it.

MOM
Jayden—?

He stands.

JAYDEN
You all keep telling me to figure
out my life. What if there's
nothing there to figure out?

DAD
What the hell does that mean?

JAYDEN
It means maybe I'm not supposed to
be anything. Maybe I'm just...
filler.

LUCY
What's filler?

JAYDEN
Like in cartoons. The episodes no
one remembers.

He exits to his room.

A long beat.

MOM
...He gets that from you.

DAD
He gets that from the internet.

CUT TO:

INT. JAYDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Posters of fantasy worlds. Comics. Old wizard books from his childhood—dusty, untouched.

He opens a drawer. Inside is a notebook titled: "Things I Want to Be."

He flips through it—pages full of crossed-out jobs, cartoons, lists, doodles.

The last page is blank.

He writes a single word:

"Something."

Jayden is asleep. We enter his dream:

INT. LIMINAL VOID - ENDLESS BLACK FLOOR, STARLESS SKY

Jayden floats in midair, surrounded by glowing doors — each marked with a job: "Astronaut" — "Athlete" — "Billionaire" — "Famous" — "Loved."

One door pulses red, marked: "Everything You've Ever Wanted."

Jayden approaches. The door opens on its own.

INT. THRONEROOM OF DESIRE - CONTINUOUS

Inside is a grand hall made of gold, mirrors, and smoke. At the far end sits a man in elegant black robes, with long silver hair, curled fingers tapping a wand against a glass orb of glowing souls.

LORD MALGRIN
Welcome, Seeker.

JAYDEN
Who are you?

LORD MALGRIN
Oh, just someone who answers
questions no one else dares ask.

He rises with a flourish.

LORD MALGRIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Tell me—how many times have they
told you what you can't be?

JAYDEN
Every day.

LORD MALGRIN
And how many times have you been
offered the power to be anything?

Jayden looks uneasy.

LORD MALGRIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
(pacing, gentle)
You dream small, child. Jobs.
Labels. You deserve more.

He gestures—and the mirrors shimmer. Each one shows a fantasy:

* Jayden commanding crowds as a rock star.

* Flying through space as a hero.

* Girls chasing him, people cheering, Dad clapping, Mom crying with joy.

LORD MALGRIN (CONT'D)
You deserve worship.

Jayden stares. Tempted.

JAYDEN
Who are you?

LORD MALGRIN
(smirking)
A... colleague of Mr. Wizard's. We
had a difference in... philosophy.

JAYDEN
He told me to earn it. You're just
offering it.

LORD MALGRIN
Of course. Because earning it is
for the weak.

He offers his hand.

Let me show you how power really works.

Jayden backs away.

Suddenly the mirrors shatter. The gold walls melt. A storm
swirls. Malgrin's face begins to distort-half-human, half-
something else.

LORD MALGRIN (DEMONIC ECHO) (CONT'D)
You'll come back. They always come
back.

Jayden screams—

CUT TO:

INT. JAYDEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

He jolts awake. Covered in sweat. Breathing hard.

Outside, the city buzzes with life.

INT. SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB - DAY

Jayden scrolls job listings. Every tab is some dead-end
career, and every listing requires "3-5 years experience."

MACRO sits beside him, building a robot out of paperclips.

MACRO
What do you want to be?

JAYDEN
No clue.

MACRO
I want to be the guy who invents a
smart toilet that texts you your
poop data.

Jayden cracks a small smile.

MACRO (CONT'D)
(earnest)
What if your dream job doesn't
exist yet?

JAYDEN
Then I'm screwed.

Jayden stares at a blinking cursor in a blank "Career Goals"
Google Doc.

He types: "Anything but this." Then deletes it.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY (CAREER FAIR)

Booths, flyers, endless chatter. Police. Army. Tech Bros.
Trade Schools.

Jayden walks through the maze like he's in a fog. Every adult
gives him the same condescending pitch: "We need good
workers!" "You can start at \$15/hr!"

He spots a booth labeled "Future Leaders of America" - filled
with loud, arrogant kids in suits. One of them is CHASE (17)
- perfect teeth, overconfident, the golden boy.

CHASE
You want to be a leader? Learn to
dominate, not daydream.

Jayden walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - SUNSET

Jayden climbs to the school roof with a slice of pizza. It's his quiet spot.

He looks out at the city—cold and glittering. A mix of beauty and noise.

He whispers to no one:

JAYDEN
If you're out there—anybody—please...
help me.

He closes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

He sleeps. The dream comes again. A shorter version of the Malgrin Dream we just introduced—only this time, Malgrin is more human, less demonic.

LORD MALGRIN (DREAM)
No one else is listening. But I am.

Jayden jolts awake.

His notebook is open, the word "SOMETHING" now underlined in red ink. He didn't do it.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

Jayden is exhausted, distant. The teacher assigns a final project:

"Present your Future Self."

Jayden freezes. His panic rises.

TEACHER

Be specific. What will you do? Who
will you be? What will your life
look like?

Jayden mutters:

JAYDEN

Dead from embarrassment.

Class laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. JAYDEN'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Jayden records a video diary. Trying to sort his thoughts.

JAYDEN (VLOG)

I don't want to be a doctor. Or a
lawyer. Or an influencer.

(pause)

I just want to matter. I want to
wake up and not feel like the world
already moved on without me.

(beat)

I want... I want to be the person
someone else calls when they don't
know what to do.

(laughs)

That's dumb, huh?

He deletes the video. But we saw it.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

It's the "Present Your Future Self" assembly. Students give speeches on stage under a banner that reads:

"I Am Becoming..."

Jayden sits backstage, sweaty palms clutching a crumpled notecard.

CHASE finishes his speech at the podium:

CHASE

I will attend Wharton, double major
in Finance and Political Science,
then run for city council. My
ultimate goal? President of the
United States.

Applause. Cheers. Teachers nod approvingly.

Jayden is called.

He steps onto the stage.

Lights hit his face.

Silence.

He opens his mouth. Nothing comes out.

Snickers from the crowd.

He looks down at the card. It says:

"I want to be something."

He swallows hard.

JAYDEN

I... I don't know who I'm becoming. I
don't even know who I am now. I
wake up every day and I try to fake
it. I pretend like I'm not scared.
That I'm not lost. That I'm not...
empty.

A few kids stop laughing. Now it's just quiet.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 You all talk about being doctors
 and CEOs and world leaders. But
 what if you're none of those
 things? What if the best you can do
 is survive the day?

He looks at the teachers. The crowd. His parents in the back,
 confused and stunned.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 What if the only thing I'm good at
 is disappearing?

He drops the mic. Walks off stage.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - RAIN - AFTERNOON

Jayden storms away from the school in the rain. Cars splash
 water. He doesn't care.

His hoodie soaks. His shoes squish. He wipes his face but
 he's not crying—he's done.

INT. BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

He lies on the floor. Lights off.

No music. No phone. Just... nothing.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAME ALLEY FROM EARLIER - NIGHT

Jayden wanders through the city. He ends up in that alley
 again. Same strange glow at the end.

Only now it pulses stronger. Blue... gold... red...

INT. MYSTERIOUS SHOP - NIGHT

The shop has changed. It's clearer now. More real. Like it's waiting for him.

MR. WIZARD stands behind the counter again, polishing a wand.

MR. WIZARD
Back so soon?

JAYDEN
Wasn't sure this place was real.

MR. WIZARD
It wasn't. Until you were.

Jayden doesn't understand.

JAYDEN
What is this place?

MR. WIZARD
A sanctuary for the almost-
forgotten. A mirror for the misfit.
A forge for the ones who burn with
questions no one else wants to
hear.

Jayden looks around. Bottles filled with glowing light.
Floating objects. A fireplace with no fire.

JAYDEN
You said once I could become
anything.

MR. WIZARD
I did.

JAYDEN
What's the catch?

MR. WIZARD
Truth. Consequences. Work.

JAYDEN
Sign me up.

Mr. Wizard taps a dusty tome labeled "THE INITIATE'S PATH."

MR. WIZARD
Then let's begin.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden wipes the fog from a window inside the shop. It's not just a store—it's alive. Floating candles, books whispering to themselves, and a wall of locked doors.

He turns to Mr. Wizard, who is organizing glowing orbs with silent grace.

JAYDEN
I've seen him again.

MR. WIZARD
(turning, cautious)
Seen who?

JAYDEN
In my dreams. Tall guy, silver hair, robes like shadow... He said he listens when no one else does.

MR. WIZARD
(stops, serious)
What did he offer you?

JAYDEN
Everything I ever wanted. No waiting. No struggle.

Mr. Wizard goes quiet. He sets the orb down carefully, then walks to a cabinet.

MR. WIZARD
You're dreaming of Malgrin.

Jayden blinks.

JAYDEN
So he's real?

MR. WIZARD
Once. Long ago. He was a wizard like me. We studied the same Light. But while I believed in helping others find their power, he believed in controlling it.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE: THE FALL OF MALGRIN

INT. MOUNTAIN TEMPLE - NIGHT (YEARS AGO)

A young Mr. Wizard (hair longer, robes cleaner) stands across from Malgrin, radiant in black and red.

YOUNG MR. WIZARD

We were meant to serve. Not rule.

MALGRIN

Service is slavery. Power is truth.

Malgrin hurls a bolt of red fire at a group of terrified villagers. Mr. Wizard blocks it—barely.

NARRATION (MR. WIZARD, V.O.)

He found a way to enter the minds of the desperate... appearing in their dreams... planting desires like seeds.

BACK TO PRESENT - INT. SHOP

MR. WIZARD

We cast him out. The Council bound him to the Dream Plane, where he could no longer act. Only whisper.

Jayden lowers his voice.

JAYDEN

What if I listen?

MR. WIZARD

You already have.

Jayden backs away, shaken.

JAYDEN

I didn't mean to. I just—no one listens to me.

Mr. Wizard softens.

MR. WIZARD
That's what he feeds on. The
cracks. The doubt. The hunger for
shortcuts. He is temptation dressed
as kindness.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

A wide open room inside the shop. Symbols glow on the floor.
Shelves packed with scrolls, relics, bones.

MR. WIZARD
We begin with restraint. If you
want to change the world, you must
first survive it.

Jayden stands in a circle of light.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D)
Lift the orb.

Jayden strains. Nothing. Tries again. Fails. Groans.

JAYDEN
This is stupid. Can't you just show
me the spell?

MR. WIZARD
That's Malgrin talking.

Jayden freezes.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Magic doesn't make you powerful. It
reveals what's already inside you.

Jayden glares.

JAYDEN
And what if there's nothing inside
me?

MR. WIZARD
Then you've already lost.

Jayden storms out.

INT. SHOP BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jayden lies in a small cot. Staring at the ceiling. Angry. Scared.

Malgrin's voice enters the room—soft, silken.

MALGRIN (V.O.)
You don't have to fight him. Just
walk away. Come with me, and you'll
never struggle again.

Jayden covers his ears.

INT. SHOP - NEXT MORNING

Mr. Wizard pours tea. Jayden enters, eyes puffy.

JAYDEN
Why didn't you give up on me?

Mr. Wizard slides a cup over.

MR. WIZARD
Because once, someone didn't give
up on me.

Jayden looks confused.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
The day I cast out Malgrin... he was
my friend. My brother, even.

Jayden processes that.

JAYDEN
You had to destroy someone you
loved?

MR. WIZARD
No. I had to let him destroy
himself. That's the burden of
wisdom.

A long pause.

Jayden nods.

JAYDEN
I'm ready to try again.

Mr. Wizard smiles, proud.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Jayden walks through school... different now. Still unnoticed, but he's noticing things.

He sees:

- * A girl crying in the bathroom.
- * A janitor struggling to fix a locker.
- * A student tripping and no one helping.

He pauses. Reflects. And then...

CUT TO:

INT. CAFETERIA - LUNCHTIME

Jayden carries his tray, walks past the popular tables. He sits next to MACRO, who's alone—again—playing chess against himself.

JAYDEN
Mind if I lose?

MACRO
Statistically, you will.

Jayden grins. They play.

Suddenly, across the cafeteria: a commotion. Laughter. Phone cameras. A student named RYKER (17)—a loud, brute soccer player—is shoving a kid against the wall.

The kid is Noah, quiet, awkward, in a homemade anime hoodie.

RYKER
You still wearing cartoon pajamas,
dork?

Jayden watches. He glances at Macro.

MACRO
Don't do it. It's Ryker. He eats
souls.

JAYDEN
Only if no one tells him to spit.

Jayden stands.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Jayden approaches Ryker calmly.

JAYDEN
Hey, Ryker.

RYKER
Look who grew a spine.

JAYDEN
You ever wonder why you need to
make people feel small?

Ryker blinks.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Because deep down, you know you're
barely hanging on.

The whole cafeteria goes quiet.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You pick on kids who don't fight
back. What are you gonna do now
that one will?

Jayden doesn't flinch.

A tense beat. Ryker stares... but steps back. Scoffs.

RYKER
Whatever, man.

He walks off. Kids murmur. Macro's mouth hangs open. Jayden
turns to Noah.

JAYDEN
Cool hoodie.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - LATER

Jayden sits on a bench, decompressing. LENA (16), an observant, creative girl with headphones around her neck, sits beside him.

LENA
So... you're the guy who talked
Ryker down.

Jayden shrugs.

JAYDEN
Or the guy who Ryker hasn't punched
yet.

LENA
You said something... real. People
don't do that much around here.

Jayden glances at her. She's not just pretty—she's perceptive.

JAYDEN
Real's... new to me.

LENA
Keep it up. It looks good on you.

Jayden blushes a little. Smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden returns to Mr. Wizard, energized.

JAYDEN

I stood up to a bully. Without a spell. Without even flinching.

Mr. Wizard stirs tea. Smiles knowingly.

MR. WIZARD

That's the first spell every wizard learns.

Jayden raises an eyebrow.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

To become someone others believe in... by believing in yourself first.

CUT TO:

INT. LENA'S GARAGE - EVENING

The garage is part mad science lab, part thrift-store chaos. A whiteboard's full of circuit diagrams and random post-its. On the workbench: wires, solar panels, an old drone, and a half-built weather balloon.

LENA

Don't judge. This place is my church.

JAYDEN

Then let me tithe.

He starts helping her assemble a circuit.

LENA

I'm entering this into the regional STEM fair. It's a homemade atmospheric sensor... and, hopefully, a college scholarship.

JAYDEN

This is insane.

LENA

Compliment accepted.

They share a glance—brief, charged, then broken when:

TREVOR (8) bursts in wearing a Gryffindor robe, wand in hand.

TREVOR
Expelliarmus! ...Who's this?

LENA
Trevor, this is Jayden. He's helping me with the project.

TREVOR
Are you her boyfriend?

LENA & JAYDEN
(in unison)
No!

TREVOR
(muttering)
You will be. I've seen this trope before.

Jayden laughs. As he leans over to reach a wire, his shirt lifts slightly—just enough to reveal a gold amulet on a cord.

Trevor GASPS.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
That's... That's King Solomon's seal!

Jayden quickly tucks it back in.

JAYDEN
You recognize that?

TREVOR
It's from The Lesser Key of Solomon! It's real wizard stuff! Protection against demons and—oh man oh man—where'd you get it?

LENA
Trevor. Chill. Not everyone reads your creepy books.

TREVOR
You're not creeped out? He's got actual arcane gear under his hoodie.

Jayden hesitates. Thinks.

JAYDEN
It was a gift... from someone who
helped me. Someone who believes in
me.

Trevor stares in reverent awe. Like Jayden just morphed into Gandalf.

TREVOR
Can I touch it?

Jayden pauses.

JAYDEN
Maybe later.

INT. LENA'S GARAGE - LATER

Music playing softly on an old radio. Jayden helps solder a connection.

LENA
You're... different than I
expected.

JAYDEN
Yeah. Me too.

She smiles. Not flirting—just seeing him.

LENA
You ever feel like you're just
waiting to become who you're
supposed to be?

JAYDEN
Only every second.

Beat.

LENA
You're not the guy who freaked out
at the Future Self thing.

JAYDEN
Not anymore.

She looks at him. Honest. Grounded.

LENA
Don't disappear again.

JAYDEN
I won't if you won't.

Trevor watches from the crack in the door, whispering to himself:

TREVOR
They're totally endgame.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden shows the amulet to Mr. Wizard.

JAYDEN
Why did you give me this? It
freaked out a small wizard child.

MR. WIZARD
Because it marks you. As chosen.

JAYDEN
By who?

MR. WIZARD
By the legacy of Solomon. The
original speaker of truth to power.
His wisdom was earned... and nearly
lost. You wear his seal now.

JAYDEN
What happens if I lose it?

MR. WIZARD
Then we pray you don't lose
yourself first.

CUT TO:

INT. LENA'S GARAGE - EVENING

Jayden is helping Lena sketch a launch model for her weather balloon. In the corner, Trevor and LUCY (10) (Jayden's little sister) are building a "mini wand lab" from cardboard tubes and glitter glue.

TREVOR

If I channel light energy through a used AAA battery, I could totally disrupt space-time.

LUCY

You're weird. I like you.

Jayden peeks over.

JAYDEN

Trevor, no explosions. Lucy, no glitter warfare.

They salute. Jayden smiles—he's never seen her this happy outside the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE STREET NEAR SCHOOL - NIGHT

Trevor and Lucy are walking home (Lena and Jayden think the other is walking them). They joke, laugh, toss a stick between them.

Suddenly: a faint whisper. A pulse of cold wind.

They stop.

LUCY

Did you hear that?

TREVOR

I think it said my name...

Behind them: a car idling. Headlights off. Then it drives off slowly.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - SAME TIME

Jayden is learning how to read magical energy on a scrying mirror.

MR. WIZARD
Your intuition is your first tool.
You don't cast a spell. You become
the spell.

Jayden pauses. His brow furrows.

JAYDEN
Something's wrong.

Mr. Wizard tilts his head.

MR. WIZARD
Your sister?

Jayden nods.

JAYDEN
She's in danger. I feel it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED TRAINYARD - NIGHT

Lucy and Trevor have followed the "whispering sound" through an alley into an old trainyard.

LUCY
Where are we?

TREVOR
I think this might be a portal.

Suddenly: silence. Then—a figure steps out of the shadows.

Not Malgrin—but a projection. A man in a sleek black coat with a polite smile. Eyes too still.

MALGRIN'S AVATAR
 You don't belong here. But I can
 offer you a place... where no one
 laughs at you... where everyone
 listens.

He holds out his hand. Trevor stares—drawn to him.

LUCY
 Trevor! No!

A light flares. The Solomon amulet on Lucy's necklace (Jayden gave it to her for protection) begins to glow.

The figure snarls and vanishes in black smoke.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Jayden, on foot, sprinting. He's not sure how he knows where to go, but he does.

He reaches the trainyard just as Lucy and Trevor emerge from the shadows, shaken.

JAYDEN
 Lucy!

She runs into his arms.

TREVOR
 That wasn't a man. That was
 something else.

LUCY
 He tried to offer us something. He
 said... he knew your name.

Jayden's eyes narrow.

JAYDEN
 Malgrin.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - LATER

Jayden confronts Mr. Wizard.

JAYDEN
He's not staying in dreams anymore.

Mr. Wizard looks grave.

MR. WIZARD
Then your training must accelerate.
He's testing the edges of reality.
And now he knows who matters to
you.

Jayden looks at Lucy. Then at the amulet in her hand.

JAYDEN
Then I learn faster.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden sits before Mr. Wizard, a candle burning between them.

MR. WIZARD
You've proven courage, restraint,
compassion. You've earned a taste
of the Door of Desire.

Jayden perks up.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Three identities. You may live them
each for one full day. As if they
were always yours. No memory of
your past. No pain. No questions.

JAYDEN
What's the catch?

MR. WIZARD
The catch is knowing... none of them
are you.

Jayden nods. Intrigued.

Mr. Wizard opens a shimmering book. Three pages glow.

CUT TO:

IDENTITY #1: THE POP STAR

EXT. MASSIVE ARENA - NIGHT

Strobe lights. Screaming fans. Fireworks.

Jayden stands on stage in a glittering jacket, singing into a mic with flawless vocals. His name flashes on jumbotrons:

"JAYDEN X"

MONTAGE:

- * Dancers trail him as he moonwalks across the stage.
- * Paparazzi swarm his limo.
- * He signs autographs, kisses babies, flexes for selfies.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

Jayden stares at himself in the mirror, surrounded by excess: food, trophies, unopened fan mail.

POP STAR JAYDEN

Why do I still feel... nothing?

CUT TO:

IDENTITY #2: THE TECH BILLIONAIRE

INT. GLASS OFFICE - DAY

Jayden commands a sleek boardroom full of executives.

TECH JAYDEN
We're launching global AI
integration by Q4. I want every
brain thinking five years ahead.

He taps his watch. Screens light up. He's fluent in code and
charisma.

MONTAGE:

- * Accepting awards from world leaders.
- * Buying a satellite company.
- * Speaking at Davos in a black turtleneck.

CUT TO:

INT. ULTRA-MODERN PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

He sits in a smart chair. Alone. His voice echoes:

TECH JAYDEN
Alexa... tell me why I feel so empty.

CUT TO:

IDENTITY #3: THE F1 RACING LEGEND

EXT. MONACO GRAND PRIX - DAY

Engines ROAR. Jayden tightens his gloves. His helmet reads "WIZKID."

He races at death-defying speeds. Crowd chants his name.

MONTAGE:

- * Pop champagne on the podium.
- * Party on a yacht with supermodels.
- * Stand-off with a rival who wants to destroy him.

CUT TO:

INT. RACING GARAGE - NIGHT

He stares at the car, alone. No team. No family. No cheers now.

RACE JAYDEN
How fast do I have to go to catch
who I am?

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - MORNING

Jayden wakes up gasping. Normal clothes. No fame. Just silence.

MR. WIZARD
Did you enjoy it?

JAYDEN
No. Yes. I don't know.

MR. WIZARD
You became everything... except yourself.

Jayden sits, quiet.

JAYDEN
I get it now.

MR. WIZARD
Do you?

JAYDEN
The world doesn't need me to be impressive. It needs me to be true.

Mr. Wizard smiles.

MR. WIZARD
Then perhaps... you are ready for your next challenge.

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden stares at three glowing doors.

MR. WIZARD
Choose a life. Live it. But know—each door gives you everything... except wisdom.

Jayden steps through the first.

IDENTITY #1: POP STAR

INT. SOLD-OUT ARENA - NIGHT

Jayden struts onstage. Lights. Screams. Glory. He owns the moment.

MONTAGE:

* TV interviews.

* Magazine covers.

* Gold records stacking up.

But soon—the cracks show.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO - NIGHT

Jayden screams at his manager.

JAYDEN

I'm tired. I'm empty. This isn't
music—it's branding!

MANAGER

You're the product. Smile and sell
it.

He storms off.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL - LATER

Jayden scrolls hate comments. Fans turned on him for
"changing."

Paparazzi flashbulbs explode through the windows.

He curls up in the corner.

JAYDEN

(softly)
Help me... Mr. Wizard...

WHOOSH—

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Jayden gasps. He's back.

MR. WIZARD
Still want to try again?

Jayden nods—hesitant, shaken.

CUT TO:

IDENTITY #2: TECH BILLIONAIRE

INT. TECH HQ - DAY

Jayden launches a revolutionary AI product. Cameras flash.

MONTAGE:

- * Speaking at global summits.
- * Buying a fleet of private satellites.
- * Making headlines for "saving the world."

But—

CUT TO:

INT. SERVER ROOM - NIGHT

Jayden watches security footage of his own engineers crying, overworked.

A headline flashes on screen:

"JaydenCorp AI used to spy on journalists."

He storms into PR.

JAYDEN
We're the good guys!

PR MANAGER
There are no good guys. There's
only control.

CUT TO:

INT. PENTHOUSE - LATER

Jayden opens a smart fridge that talks back in a polite
female voice.

FRIDGE
Good evening, Jayden. Would you
like empathy with your caviar?

Jayden stares. Broken.

JAYDEN
Help me, Mr. Wizard...

WHOOSH—

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - AGAIN

He lands hard this time. Winded.

Mr. Wizard just watches. No lecture. No smile.

IDENTITY #3: RACE CAR LEGEND

EXT. SPEEDWAY - DAY

Jayden races at 200 mph. Crowds roar. Trophies glint.

MONTAGE:

* Sponsors fight over him.

* Rival drivers plot sabotage.

* A girlfriend kisses him at the podium—then disappears to the next press event.

But—

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

He finds a mechanic crying. Their team cut her pay to fund Jayden's new helmet.

JAYDEN
I didn't ask for this.

MECHANIC
But you let it happen.

Later, during a race, his car fails. Brakes gone. Screaming through the turns.

He sees a wall coming fast.

JAYDEN
(screaming)

HELP ME, MR. WIZARD!

WHOOSH—

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden collapses.

JAYDEN
They all wanted something from me.
None of them loved me.

MR. WIZARD
Now you see it.

Jayden looks up, teary-eyed.

JAYDEN
I don't want to be someone else.

MR. WIZARD
Good. Now... let's find out who you
really are.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED CHURCH - NIGHT

A fire burns in a cracked stone basin. Candles flicker unnaturally.

MALGRIN appears—fully formed. Sharp suit, silver eyes, elegance like a serpent in Armani.

Before him kneels a teenage boy in a black hoodie and piercings: ASHER (17). Pale, smirking, magnetic.

MALGRIN
I made you to be more than a
trickster. Are you ready?

ASHER
Born ready, Master.

Malgrin tosses him a glowing black ring.

MALGRIN
Find the girl. Find the boy. Break
them from within.

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - SCIENCE FAIR DAY

Banners hang. Judges arrive. Lena's project gleams. Jayden helps her set up. Trevor and Lucy are nearby with lemonade and foam swords.

Then--ASHER enters.

Black denim. Smirking. Confident. His project: "Advanced Energy Manipulation through Sonic Frequencies"--total bull, but it looks cool.

He sets up next to Lena.

ASHER

Hey. I'm Asher. First year here.
Mind if I borrow your voltage tap?

Lena hesitates.

LENA

You built that?

ASHER

Yeah. And a few other things that'd
get me expelled in most countries.

Jayden watches them talk. He doesn't like this guy.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE FAIR - LATER

The judges walk through.

Asher's device "accidentally" shorts Lena's circuit. Smoke. Sparks.

JAYDEN

That was on purpose!

ASHER
Hey man, maybe she just needs
better insulation... and better
friends.

Jayden steps forward—tense. Asher's eyes flicker just
slightly red.

JAYDEN (LOW)
I know what you are.

ASHER (SMIRKS)
Do you?

Lena pulls Jayden back.

LENA
Let it go. It's just a project.

Jayden's eyes narrow. This isn't about science.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden paces. Mr. Wizard listens.

JAYDEN
He sabotaged her. And he's not just
some smug kid—he's one of his.

Mr. Wizard exhales deeply.

MR. WIZARD
Malgrin's hand reaches further than
I hoped. If he's sent Asher... then
the real war has begun.

JAYDEN
Why go through Lena?

MR. WIZARD
Because she grounds you. And if he
can corrupt your anchor... he'll tear
your soul apart without lifting a
finger.

Jayden's face hardens.

JAYDEN
Then I'll stop him.

CUT TO:

INT. LENA'S GARAGE - THAT NIGHT

Jayden visits Lena. She's quiet, hurt, embarrassed by the sabotage.

LENA
He made me feel dumb. You didn't.

Jayden puts a hand on her shoulder.

JAYDEN
You're not dumb. You're... the
smartest person I know.

She blushes. Then sighs.

LENA
What's going on, Jayden?
Something's changed. You're not
just... different. You're something
else.

Jayden pauses. Wants to tell her. But can he?

Suddenly—her computer sparks. The screen fills with symbols.
A low hum builds.

Jayden turns to see the black ring Asher left behind on the
shelf, glowing.

JAYDEN
Get back!

He grabs it—and it BURNS his hand.

VOICE (V.O., DISTORTED)
You can't save them all, Jayden...

The screen EXPLODES.

Dark magic just entered the garage.

CUT TO:

INT. JAYDEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jayden knocks softly.

His MOM answers, surprised.

MOM
Jayden?

He steps inside. He looks worn down, a little roughed up, eyes ringed from stress.

MOM (CONT'D)
You okay?

JAYDEN
I didn't know where else to go.

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Jayden sits at the table. The same one from earlier in the story—but now he's fully present.

DAD enters, arms crossed.

DAD
I thought you were off changing the world.

JAYDEN
I tried. I really did.

DAD
Didn't go so great, huh?

Jayden shakes his head.

JAYDEN
I thought being someone meant doing something big. Flashy. Loud. But... the more I tried to matter, the less I felt like me.

MOM
Jayden... you've always mattered. We just forgot to say it out loud.

Jayden's eyes sting. He nods.

JAYDEN
Even when I was lost?

MOM
Especially then.

A long pause.

INT. JAYDEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jayden sits on the edge of his old bed. Comic books still stacked. A hoodie with holes in the sleeves.

LUCY walks in with a plate of cookies.

LUCY
Mom said you needed emotional
support snacks.

Jayden smiles through the pain.

She sits next to him.

LUCY (CONT'D)
That guy Asher? He smells like evil
Axe body spray.

Jayden laughs—harder than he has in weeks.

LUCY (SERIOUS) (CONT'D)
You're the good wizard, right?

Jayden looks at her.

JAYDEN
I don't know what I am yet.

She picks up one of his old notebooks. It still says:

"Things I Want to Be"

She flips to the last page—blank.

LUCY
Then write something. I'll read it
every day. That way it's real.

Jayden finally breaks. A single tear. He hugs her tight.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The family sits on the couch. A movie plays in the background—something about underdogs saving the world.

Jayden leans his head on his mom's shoulder.

This is peace. Simple, earned, real.

EXT. APARTMENT ROOFTOP - LATER

Jayden stares out at the city.

He pulls out the burned black ring Asher left behind.

Clenches it in his fist.

JAYDEN (QUIET)
You can come at me, Malgrin.

He opens his hand—and drops the ring over the edge.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
But you'll never take them.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden returns. He's clear-eyed. Grounded.

MR. WIZARD
You've been with your family.

JAYDEN
I needed to remember why I started this.

Mr. Wizard nods. He pulls out a velvet-wrapped object.

MR. WIZARD
Then you are ready.

He unwraps it: a wand. Simple. Elegant. Made of holly and obsidian. The core pulses faintly.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
This wand will not make you strong.
But it will answer to your
strength.

Jayden takes it. It glows.

MR. WIZARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
It chose you the moment you chose
truth over illusion.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

TVs in windows glitch. Phones across the city buzz. Digital signs flicker with ominous symbols.

MALGRIN appears via every screen, cool and calm like a corrupted tech god.

MALGRIN
To the people of this city... one
among you has deceived you. A
child, given power he did not earn.
A liar. A threat. His name is—

Jayden crushes his phone.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Whispers. Phones. Eyes. Everyone's staring at Jayden.

MACRO
You went viral. But, like...
Voldemort viral.

LENA
(approaches, shaken)
Is it true? What he said?

Jayden looks at her. Honest.

JAYDEN
I don't know what he said. But
here's what's true:

He reaches into his backpack. Pulls out the amulet. Glowing.
Real.

JAYDEN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
I'm not who I was. But I'm still
me. The same guy who fixed your
circuit. The same guy who listened.

A beat.

LENA
Then let's finish what we started.

She smiles. He does too.

INT. CITY PARK - LATER THAT DAY

A crowd has gathered. The digital signs now pulse red.
Malgrin's face appears, larger than life.

MALGRIN
Jayden. Come forward. Show them who
you really are.

Jayden steps forward. His wand at his side.

MALGRIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You're nothing without my power.
Admit it.

Jayden closes his eyes.

Takes a breath.

Raises the wand.

CUT TO:

INT. DREAMPLANE - BETWEEN WORLDS

Suddenly—Jayden and Malgrin stand in a void.

MALGRIN

Still pretending? Still clinging to
their approval?

JAYDEN

I don't need their approval. I need
their safety.

He stabs the wand into the ground.

A wave of light EXPLODES from it, shattering Malgrin's
illusion.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY PARK - REALITY

The red lights flicker. Vanish.

People stare—no longer afraid.

LENA and MACRO step beside Jayden.

TREVOR (IN HIS ROBE)

Told you he was the good wizard!

The crowd LAUGHS. The tension breaks.

Jayden looks to the sky, where a faint ripple of the Wizard
Council seal appears in the clouds—watching. Approving.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - SUNSET

Mr. Wizard stands beside Jayden.

MR. WIZARD
You started by asking to be
someone. Now you are.

JAYDEN
What am I?

MR. WIZARD
A beginning.

He opens a portal to the Grand Council. The light bathes Jayden's face.

NAL PORTAL - CONTINUOUS

Jayden steps forward. The portal swirls with gold, indigo, and stardust. Mr. Wizard gently places a hand on his back.

MR. WIZARD
Whatever you find... remember who
you were before you had a wand.

JAYDEN
What if I don't come back?

MR. WIZARD
Then may the world be lucky enough
to follow you.

Jayden nods and steps through.

INT. GRAND COUNCIL ATRIUM - CONTINUOUS

Jayden emerges into a towering, cathedral-like structure suspended in the ether. Dozens of hooded COUNCIL MEMBERS made of shadow, flame, and light observe from above. He walks to the center, heart pounding.

COUNCIL (V.O.)
Jayden, Initiate. Bearer of the
Seal. Heir to the Wand of
Intention.

JAYDEN
I'm just a kid.

COUNCIL (V.O.)
So was every soul who ever altered
reality.

INT. MEMORY WELL - LATER

Jayden gazes into a glowing pool that shows fractured
versions of himself:

- * Jayden the tyrant
- * Jayden the recluse
- * Jayden the forgotten
- * Jayden the savior

He recoils.

JAYDEN
I don't want to become... that.

VOICE (O.S.)
Then learn to hold your shadow.

Jayden turns. Standing before him in full Council
robes—ASHER.

INT. GRAND COUNCIL CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

ASHER steps forward, smirking with twisted confidence.

ASHER
They welcomed me too. They love
redemption stories.

JAYDEN
You're working with Malgrin.

ASHER
I'm working with reality. Truth
isn't always kind.

(MORE)

ASHER (CONT'D)
They made Malgrin a villain... but
they fear you more.

JAYDEN
Why?

ASHER
Because you still believe people
can be saved.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNCIL ARCHIVE - NIGHT

Jayden walks with a faceless ARCHIVIST, who guides him past
statues of Solomon, Merlin, and others.

ARCHIVIST
Each chosen bearer of the wand must
survive the test of identity. Not
power... but self.

They stop before a statue that looks exactly like
Jayden—older, stronger... and corrupted.

ARCHIVIST (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
You've worn many masks. The
question is: can you live without
one?

INT. SLEEPING CHAMBER - NIGHT

Jayden sleeps in a chamber of stars. In his dream, Mr. Wizard
appears.

But the voice is off.

MALGRIN (AS WIZARD)
You're being shaped into their
tool. They'll use your story, then
shelve it like mine.

Jayden's wand glows, trembling.

JAYDEN
You're not him.

Malgrin shifts back into his true form—fire eyes and shadows.

MALGRIN
You could join me. I still see the
hunger in you.

JAYDEN
I'm hungry for truth. You feed on
fear.

Malgrin vanishes into a cloud of black smoke.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. GRAND COUNCIL - CEREMONY HALL - DAY

Jayden stands before the full Council.

COUNCIL
Do you swear to uphold the Balance?

JAYDEN
I do.

COUNCIL
Do you swear to serve not yourself,
but the Source?

JAYDEN
Yes.

They lower the Seal of Solomon onto his wand. Light carves
ancient glyphs into the wood.

COUNCIL
Then rise, Jayden the True.

A golden robe wraps around him.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - NIGHT

Jayden returns through a portal. Mr. Wizard sips tea, smiling.

MR. WIZARD
You've seen what waits on the other side.

JAYDEN
And what waits inside.

Mr. Wizard hands him a simple box.

MR. WIZARD
Now, you must become the guide.
Open it when you're ready.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY - DAY

Jayden walks past everyday people. On a park bench, a homeless man mutters about angels. In a bookstore window, a young girl reads a spellbook she thinks is fake.

Jayden watches. Sees magic everywhere—hidden in plain sight.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Jayden volunteers at a school's aftercare program.

He sits next to a shy boy drawing fireballs in the margin of his notebook.

JAYDEN
Nice art.

KID
They say I need to focus on real
stuff.

Jayden pulls out a glowing crystal marble from his coat.

JAYDEN
What if I told you... some dreams are
more real than the world?

The kid's eyes widen.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP SANCTUARY - NIGHT

Jayden stands among a small group of young trainees—Trevor,
Lucy, a few new kids.

He demonstrates focus, silence, humility. No explosions. No
showy magic. Just awareness.

In the stars above, new constellations shift—subtly forming
the Wand and Flame.

CUT TO:

INT. RUINED CATHEDRAL - UNKNOWN TIME

Somewhere dark. A torn banner of the Council lies in dust.

Malgrin sits on a stone throne, weakened but alive.

MALGRIN
They made him into a symbol.

Symbols burn brighter... before they fall.

A shadowy figure enters the chamber.

MALGRIN (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Bring me the child. The next one.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. CITY ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jayden stands in silence. The wind tugs at his robe.

INT HOME LIVING ROOM -NIGHT

Dinner time. Mom sets a pot on the table. Dad's folding napkins. Lucy arranges forks like wands.

Jayden enters—robe tucked into his hoodie, wand barely visible.

MOM
You staying for dinner, or are you
off to cast moral guidance?

JAYDEN
(straight-faced)
That depends... is there garlic
bread?

DAD
Always.

Everyone laughs. Jayden sits. A beat of peace.

LUCY
Did you save the world?

JAYDEN
No. Just... saved myself, I think.

MOM
That's the hard part.

They eat together. For once, the silence is comfortable.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Jayden and Macro lie on the roof under stars. A small telescope between them.

MACRO
So... Grand Cosmic Council, huh?
(sees Jayden's nod)
Knew it.

JAYDEN
Thanks for not freaking out.

MACRO
Dude, I always knew there was something weird about you. You talk like a monk and flinch when people lie.

A pause.

MACRO (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Just... don't forget the little people when you're Head Wizard or whatever.

JAYDEN
You kidding? You're the founder of my support group.

MACRO
I want a badge. And cake.

They fist bump.

CUT TO:

INT. LENA'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Lena tunes the weather balloon. Jayden enters quietly.

JAYDEN
Need a solder monkey?

LENA
Only if he doesn't short-circuit everything this time.

He helps her. They work in rhythm.

LENA (GENTLY) (CONT'D)
So. You disappeared into a cosmic
rave without saying goodbye.

JAYDEN
I didn't want to drag you into the
dark with me.

LENA
Too late. I followed your
breadcrumbs.

A beat. They lock eyes.

LENA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Jayden... I don't need you to be
magical. I just need you to show
up.

He nods, quiet.

JAYDEN
Then I'm here. Fully. Awkwardly.
Probably still glowing a little.

She smiles.

They kiss—gentle, sincere, earned.

INT. MYSTIC SHOP - CLOSING TIME

Mr. Wizard polishes a crystal sphere. Jayden enters, now
lighter.

JAYDEN
I'm not alone anymore.

MR. WIZARD
You never were. But now you know
it.

Jayden hands him a sketch Lucy drew of the family with capes
and wands.

MR. WIZARD (SOFTLY) (CONT'D)
The future is in good hands.

They share a quiet smile. Jayden turns to leave, then stops.

JAYDEN

Hey... you ever wish you had someone
like you?

MR. WIZARD

I did.

JAYDEN

What changed?

MR. WIZARD

I met you.

Jayden exits, wind lifting his coat as he disappears into
twilight.

The End : Part 1