THE WITCHES OF a2

(sample)

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FADE IN:

EXT. YARD SALE - BEFORE SUNRISE

An ODD WOMAN (50s) sets up a folding table in her front yard, surrounded by EMPTY CASKETS, LAMPS COVERED IN THORNS, ANCIENT BOOKS, etc. There's a massive, wooden CRATE behind her.

The Odd Woman has sun-aged skin and dyed black hair with brilliant, gray roots peeking out. Her floral tank top screams Michigan lakefront trailer.

She sits on a lawn chair and looks at the horizon, grumpily POPPING A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE.

ODD WOMAN

(to the crate)

Don't worry. I'll be sober when she gets here.

As the sun peeks out of the tree line, the Odd Woman grunts and gulps from the foaming bottle.

INT. LILY'S ROOM - SUNRISE

LILY (20) stands in front of the full-length mirror on her closet door, looking at her CHEAP WITCH COSTUME. She touches the fabric, feeling its inauthenticity.

She's the spitting image of a young Judy Garland, for that reason having to assert herself as rebellious, uncaring, the anti-Dorothy. She pulls a wisp of hanging fabric from the witch cloak, the freeing thread approaching its seam.

An 8:00AM PHONE ALARM sets off its jingle, revealing that today's OCTOBER 30TH. Lily grabs her phone and taps her screen a few times, putting the now silent phone to her ear.

She waits, closing the closet door so the mirror is gone, JAMMING THE DOOR ON HER MIDDLE FINGER.

LILY

(grabbing finger)

God fucking darn it!

Lily restrains herself from exclaiming more as a voice comes on the other end of the phone.

INT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - MORNING

Lily, still in her witch costume, sits at a Campus Police Station holding a SEALED CUP OF URINE.

OFFICER ANDREWS (40s) opens his office door holding a clipboard.

ANDREWS

Lilith?

Lily stands.

EXT. CAMPUS POLICE STATION - MORNING

Lily walks outside to the chilly Fall morning, pulling her witch hat down over her ears.

EXT. LILY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Lily walks past the yard sale, the Odd Woman now sleeping in the lawn chair.

At the next house over, MARILYN (21), MARY-LYNN (21), and BELLA (21) are on their SORORITY HOUSE porch. Bella has a WHITE dress with a SALT SHAKER cutout taped on, Marilyn with a GREEN/LIME combo, Mary-Lynn with GOLD/JOSE CUERVO.

Lily walks past them, heading to her house right next door.

The three see Lily and stare. Lily slows to a halt. The two parties look at one another, saying nothing.

BELLA

(breaking tension)

Hey, Lily!

Lily continues walking to her own porch.

LILY

Hey, Marilyn! Mary-hyphen-Lynn! Bella! How's the house doing?

BELLA

Oh, it's... good!

MARY-LYNN

Better than ever. How are the freshmen?

Lily stops walking, looking to the sorority girls.

LILY

No, I'm thinking of joining this new sorority now: S.T.D. No wait, Hyphen: you're in that, right?

MARILYN

If you wanted to stay in Epsilon --

LILY

Right! What am I supposed to do without Strawberry Lemonade Svedka? Great costumes, by the way. Love how you just taped shit and pretended that counted as creativity.

MARY-LYNN

Yeah, that girl ya stalk; is Party City supposed to get her off?

Lily GRIPS HER BRUISING FINGER IN HER FIST and takes a step towards their porch, but holds herself back. Mary-Lynn smirks and goes back inside the sorority house.

MARILYN

Epsilon has a very strict... don't get arrested policy. Which we had to make when you got arrested.

LILY

This is my give-a-shit face about fucking Epsilon's policies.

MARY-LYNN (O.S.)

(from inside their house)

You can't stay in Epsilon if you steal a cop's badge!

(sing-song)

What an easy policy, Epsilon!

LILY

He took my fake, ya dumb skank! I'm not just gonna let that -- And no one fucking asked you!

MARY-LYNN

(sticking her head through the window)

You fucked us all, asshole! We're not supposed to be throwing parties! We're like one step away from damnation. Just cause you're such a selfish goddamn bitch.

Mary-Lynn brings her head back in.

MARILYN

I just *don't* get why you had to move *right* next door.

Marilyn goes into their house. Bella looks to Lily.

BELLA

(nervous)

Hey...! Hope you're doing okay!

Lily looks to Bella, then goes in her own house.

INT. LILY'S HOUSE - LATER

Lily finishes changing out of the witch costume, throwing on a jean jacket and black skirt. She feels the witch costume again, then shoves it back into its PARTY CITY BAG.

Lily grimaces, looking to her BRUISING FINGER.

TOBY (O.S.)

Careful! Science is safety!

Lily looks out the window to see TOBY (18) under a tree and TONY (18) holding a DRONE REMOTE. Both are dressed as LUIGI from Super Mario Bros.

Lily sees a BUNNY RABBIT on the tree branch far, far above Toby as Tony's drone bumps into the branch.

LILY

Oh, no.

EXT. LILY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - MORNING

Lily runs out the backdoor and to the tree. Tony's drone bumps the branch harder, shaking it.

LILY

TOBY! Did you two put that fucking bunny in the tree?!

TONY

I'm Tony, and no -- Roger jumped off my drone!

TOBY

(squinting at sky)

*I'm* Toby!

LILY

Why was he on a drone?!

TONY

To see if cats always land on their feet! Closest thing we had was Toby's bunny!

TOBY

I can't concentrate when you're yelling and the sky is so bright!

TONY

It's fine! I'm an absolute master at claw games! This is the same!

TObY

They're where he got our mustaches!

LILY

This is the same as fucking *what* now?

Tony's drone hits the branch as Toby can't take it anymore and SHIELDS HIS EYES. A flailing bunny HITS THE GROUND.

CUT TO:

EXT. YARD SALE - SAME TIME

The Odd Woman wakes with a start.

ODD WOMAN

Wait a minute...!

The Odd Woman turns to the crate.

ODD WOMAN

Aw, junks. Did she come by yet? Did I miss it?

After no response from the crate, the Odd Woman looks down at the bottle of champagne: about half-full.

CUT TO:

INT. LILY'S HOUSE - upstairs - LATER

A printed PORTRAIT OF THE BUNNY lies on a beer pong table, YANKEE CANDLES around it. Tony plays BAGPIPE MUSIC from his phone. Toby has his hand over his heart.

Lily sits facing out on the windowsill, trying to be separated from this.

TONY

Roger was a good bunny. We only had him for these past few weeks, but Toby had him for a childhood. And I think we all learned something... At least I did.

Toby nods.

TONY

Bunnies, and therefore probably cats, don't land on their feet. This myth, brought to us by our own Toby, has been officially busted.

Toby presses a stamp on ink, then STAMPS ROGER'S PORTRAIT. Across Roger's forehead, it now says "BUSTED."

EXT. LILY'S HOUSE - BACK ROOF - SAME TIME

Lily stares into the other house behind them, where the poster child of Hot Topic, CHRISTINE (20) is on her laptop.

Lily uses her BRUISING FINGER to trace a heart on her thigh.

Lily quickly looks away before Christine notices her staring. Christine opens the window and Lily can hear NIRVANA's "ALL APOLOGIES" playing from inside Christine's room.

CHRISTINE

Hey!

LILY

(trying to be casual)

Oh! Hey, Christine...

CHRISTINE

Hey, I can't remember; you're going to your sorority party tonight... right? Or... are you coming to my Devil's Night pregame?

LILY

"Bitchcraft?" Well, I'm not... Uh, maybe! Have to get a costume, then we'll see where the wind... winds up. Do you have one?

CHRISTINE

A... costume? Uh, yeah. I'm gonna be an Eclectic Witch -- they do their magic independently from typical witch groups. Almost done with it. Then have some time for a cool day. Me and my *boyfriend* are gonna paint rainbows on a church -- but like, if every color was black. Then probably Kroger and protest in the meat section. Maybe go to Marks & Spencer -- touch everything.

LILY

Right. How's your... boyfriend?

CHRISTINE

Zeke sucks. I need to know if you're going cause I need to know if you have a fake.

LILY

Like a... false identification? Yes. Yeah! I have... two!

CHRISTINE

Great, my friend Amanda needs one for tonight. Give it to her before we go out. She's the one that looks like you. Like, a lot like you.

Christine's phone RINGS.

CHRISTINE

That's Zeke. Thanks for doing this.

Christine answers and ducks her head back inside.

CHRISTINE

(on phone; closing window)

Hey, you got different black paints, right? No, not shades...

Lily sits alone on her windowsill.

INT. LILY'S HOUSE - upstairs - MOMENTS LATER

Lily, in the house, closes the window, not noticing Tony and Toby standing behind her.

TONY

Are you angry cause you're gay?

Lily jumps.

LILY

What are you -- What the fuck are you doing?! Go back to your --

Lily looks to the vigil and sees the TABLE IS ON FIRE. She runs over, grabs an open CAN OF BEER, and EXTINGUISHES IT.

TONY

(to Toby)

You said beer was flammable!

Toby prepares his "BUSTED" stamp.

LILY

Stop... Two fakes. By tonight. Can you two do that?

TONY

Are you angry cause you're gay?

LILY

No.

TONY

Cause we read a book in high school all about that. So I can help.

LILY

I'm not!

TOBY

I read two.

TONY

Not gay or not angry?

LILY

Not -- ! Look, everyone is gay!

TONY

Christine isn't.

LILY

YES, SHE IS!

TONY

She has a boyfriend.

LILY

YOU CAN DO BOTH! EVERYONE IS GAY!

LILY

Can you make two fakes or not?!

TOBY

Isn't that from a song?

TOBY

I can *design* a fake. Is it a *Jim* song? The dead guy?

Lily exercises patience.

LILY

Not Morrison.

(to Tony)

Toby: you have a laminator?

TOBY

Jim Morrison's dead...?! What...?! Nooo! I loved the Muppet Show!

LILY

(to Toby; fuming)

You are thinking of Jim Henson, who is also dead.

(to Tony)

Toby: do you have a laminator?

TONY

He's Toby. I'm Tony.

LILY

Do you --

TONY

From when I tried to rival Yu-Gi-Oh with my trading card game. Yes.

LILY

Okay. Two fakes. By tonight.

Lily gets out her wallet, handing Toby her LICENSE.

LILY

There's your picture. "Everyone is gay"'s from All Apologies. Nirvana.

TONY

Nirvanaaaa!

TOBY

Nirvanaaaa!

TOBY

Right! Bert Cocaine! What do you want your name to be?

LILY

What? "Lily."

TOBY

(looking over license)

I'm gonna make it something different.

LILY

That's... Do "Lily." Can either of you make a witch costume?

TOBY

We thought you were gonna be Dorothy?

TONY

We were making jokes about that in private because you look like Dorothy. What was wrong with the LesbiEnchantress costume?

LILY

I don't look like Doroth- IT WAS A WITCH!

TONY

You look exactly like Dorothy and the collar was *pretty* tight.

TOBY

Oh! There's that freaky yard sale literally two houses down that's selling witch things.

TONY

Oh yeah! You could do that!

LILY

What?

CUT TO:

EXT. YARD SALE - MORNING

Lily walks up to the yard sale as the Odd Woman sleeps in the lawn chair. The champagne bottle is empty.

LILY

Hey!

The Odd Woman wakes up, grunting and looking to Lily.

ODD WOMAN

Huh... Wow. I mean, you're taller than I imagined.

LILY

Um... I need a witch costume. The more grungy and shit the better.

ODD WOMAN

You're Lilith, right?

LILY

Uh... Yeah. Lily. Do I...?

ODD WOMAN

Something on the house for you.

The Odd Woman grabs a CROWBAR off her folding table and CRACKS THE CRATE OPEN.

ODD WOMAN

Well, it was in the attic. Not really *on* the house. It's free though. In a way.

LILY

Uh...

(as the woman opens the crate)

Okay. Sorry, I'm gonna...

The Odd Woman pulls a MASSIVE PIGGY BANK out of the crate, labeled "FOR LILITH," heaving it to the folding table.

ODD WOMAN

(panting)

Would tell you more but I'm not too sure what it is, either. And you wanted a witch costume, too?

LILY

Uh...

The Odd Woman SHOVES THE PIGGY BANK off the table, SHATTERING IT on the driveway. Out of it spills only a PRESENT WRAPPED IN HARRY POTTER WRAPPING PAPER.

ODD WOMAN

Oh, hey, look at that. That's for you. What kinda witch?

Lily looks down to the present, confused.

LILY

Um... what is... what?

ODD WOMAN

Unwrap it. It's yours.

Lily pauses, then goes to pick up the present. As soon as she touches it, a voice comes out of it:

PRESENT

Don't you see?

Lily drops the present in fright, then immediately crouches to pick it up.

LILY

(to Odd Woman)

Sorry! Sorry!

ODD WOMAN

Not mine. Yours. What kinda witch?

LILY

Uh... I don't know. I'm sorry, I don't know what this is.

ODD WOMAN

You've seen wrapping paper before, haven't you? Kinda the point.

Lily inspects the present, then unwraps it:

It's a JUDY GARLAND DOLL, its box littered with HUNGARIAN TEXT. Lily looks around the box, unable to decipher any of it -- besides the audio symbols showing that the Doll talks.

Lily stares the plastic Doll in its black eyes, transfixed by them. The limbs and mouth aren't movable -- its voice comes from a speaker:

JUDY

Don't you see?

ODD WOMAN

I'm gonna go with a Nocturnal Witch; those are all the rage now.

The Odd Woman opens an EMPTY, BLACK CLOSET and walks into it, closing the door behind her.

LILY

Right.

Lily puts the Doll on the folding table and starts to walk away.

JUDY

(calling out)

Good thinking, darling! I don't know what any of them saw!

Lily stops, turning back to the Doll.

The Doll doesn't say anything. Lily peeks at the closet.

LILY

Did... Dorothy ever say that?

JUDY

*Judy*, darling. Judy. Hello from beyond.

Lily looks around, then walks back towards the Doll.

LILY

Listen, asshole...