

CATS IN THE NIGHT SKY

Written by
L.A. Deluce and Matthew Thrasher

Based on the novel by
L.A. Deluce

L.A. Deluce
lisadeluce@hotmail.com

Matthew Thrasher
matthewthrasher@hotmail.com

FADE IN

EXT. ROYAL OBSERVATORY - VAST STARRY NIGHT - 1800'S

The grand ROYAL OBSERVATORY has a huge DOME and sits on top of a TOWERING HILL.

INSIDE THE OBSERVATORY

The room is dimly lit by candles. A large FORTY FOOT TELESCOPE scans the vast night sky by a person in silhouette.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - KINGS BEDROOM CHAMBER - NIGHT

The ailing KING lays in his bed, his daughter, PRINCESS LUCIDA by his side.

KING

Lucida, soon you will be Queen of Mattimy, and possessor of my prized property, the Royal Observatory. No woman has ever stepped into its grand dome. My dear, you must always honour it! As well as Mr. Alexander's achievements.

Lucida agitated, looks away.

LUCIDA

Rest now father.

She picks up a LANTERN and walks out of the chamber.

CUT TO:

EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - STARRY NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Lucida furious and humiliated looks up at the observatory. Her hair is black as the night sky and her eyes are a piercing green full of jealousy. She stares bitterly at a blanket of stars in the night sky.

LUCIDA

With all the powers of the universe, you will surrender your love. You will humiliate me no longer.

(MORE)

LUCIDA (CONT'D)

Only obsessed with new moons and
 choosing your love of the stars,
 and planets over me.
 Once father is dead, I will have
 the key to the Royal Observatory.
 The title and appointment of Royal
 Court Astronomer will be stripped
 from you and you will be mine to
 love...

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWN OF MATTIMY - MONTAGE - DAY

Far below the observatory is the busy town of MATTIMY.

A MASSIVE RAMPART WALL ENCIRCLES THE OBSERVATORY AND MATTIMY.

NARROW COBBLESTONE STREETS AND HOUSES SIT TIGHTLY TOGETHER ON
 A STEEP SLOPE, EACH HAVE IRON DOOR-KNOCKERS IN THE SHAPE OF A
 SILVER STAR.

THE ROYAL PALACE IS PERCHED ABOVE THE TOWN WITHIN THE
 FORTIFIED WALL.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MATTIMY COLLEGIATE ACADEMY - DAY

A young lady, AUDREY climbs the steep steps. She wears a
 white wide rimmed BONNET over her AUBURN hair. The grand
 observatory looms high in the distance, Audrey, gazes up at
 it curiously, then enters the academy.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL SCHOOL ROOM - MINUTES LATER

MR. ALEXANDER a tall young man with, wavy hair, handsome
 face, walks into the room. A small group of ladies CURTSY,
 and he BOWS back to them.

MR. ALEXANDER

Good morning! My name is Mr.
 Alexander. In Prof. Pelagus'
 absence, this first lesson will be
 conducted by myself.

(MORE)

MR. ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

I am to continue with domestic science and mathematical measurements but instead, this lesson will focus on the Galaxy. Thus, home to planet earth and the birthplace of humanity.

The young ladies astonished, look around at each other.

Audrey stares eagerly at the large hanging SLATE BLACKBOARD as he chalks a diagram of the EARTH, PLANETS, STARS, and DUST. He then groups far off STARS and labels them GALAXY GHOSTS.

The girls look around at each other bewildered and baffled.

A GIRL clears her throat. Mr. Alexander turns and looks at the students.

GIRL

Sir, we only know in the skies above there to be ghosts of the dead or spirits of hell.

MR. ALEXANDER

Of course! The Clergyman's teachings. Some things are inexplicable. There is science and then there is beyond science.

The girls continue to look confused.

I cannot explain why. Any more comments?

Audrey slowly puts up a hand. Mr. Alexander looks at her and nods.

AUDREY

Why do stars twinkle when planets do not?

MR. ALEXANDER

May I ask why you ask such a question?

AUDREY

I have been studying and cataloguing the brightest stars and recording how they change in different seasons.

Mr. Alexander looks at Audrey with some interest.

A strong gust of wind swirls into the room.

A DIAMOND-SHAPED LEADED GLASS WINDOW RATTLES. NOTE PAPERS
QUILL PENS TWIRL TO THE FLOOR.

MR. ALEXANDER

We cannot discuss this now! Today's
lesson is complete. I bid you a
good day!

The ladies stand and CURTSY. Mr. Alexander grabs his TOP-HAT.
He exits.

THE WIND STOPS.

The girls look at Audrey with dismay.

GIRL 2

Foolish girl what were you thinking
asking such a question? No lady
dare discuss astronomy with the
Royal Court Astronomer!

Audrey ignores the girl, turns away and looks out the window
and watches Mr. Alexander disappear up the steep steps.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL SCHOOL ROOM - NEXT LESSON

The girls are busy at HAND SEWING and quietly chatting
amongst themselves.

PROFESSOR PELAGUS enters, and discreetly hands Audrey a
LETTER. She turns her back, opens it, and reads.

MR. ALEXANDER (V.O.)

I request your presence at the
Observatory tonight once the light
goes down. Please take care. Mr.
Alexander.

She quickly slips it into her apron pocket.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STEPS UP HILL - OUTSIDE OBSERVATORY - NIGHT

Audrey climbs the steps carefully, at the top she looks back
to make sure nobody sees her. A light glimmers faintly from
somewhere in the observatory. Audrey approaches the big open
doorway where Mr. Alexander holds a candle and a key.

INSIDE

They move slowly up the broad staircase.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL OBSERVATORY - THE DOME - LATER

The ring-shaped room is lit with LANTERNS and incredibly high. In the center of the room is a MASSIVE TELESCOPE at least forty feet long, and aimed toward the highest of the opening.

Audrey walks around the incredible invention carefully, studying it for several moments, while Mr. Alexander studies her just as intently.

AUDREY

A magnificent telescope, Mr. Alexander.

MR. ALEXANDER

Perhaps we could discuss some of the questions you have?

AUDREY

Sorry, time does not permit me staying long. I must be on my way home before my father worries.

MR. ALEXANDER

Of course. Then you must be careful not to be seen. But before you leave, I want to give you something.

Mr. Alexander opens a cabinet and takes out a SMALL TELESCOPE made of wood and brass and hands it to Audrey. She examines the beautifully crafted telescope in disbelief, he nods, she smiles, and then she slides it into her coat pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

In the middle of the night, Audrey turns her TELESCOPE to the dark sky.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE VARYING LIGHT AND MOVEMENTS OF THE STARS

Audrey records the light and star movements in a LETTER, seals it, and addresses it to MR. ALEXANDER.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL OBSERVATORY - THE DOME - NEXT EVENING

Mr. Alexander picks up Miss Audrey's LETTER from his desk.

MR. ALEXANDER

Miss Audrey, I am really astonished. Your careful identification of stars whose light fluctuates and your amazing work on how long each star remains at its brightest means, with further study we can actually discover not only how large each star is, but how far it is from the Earth! That is remarkable!

MISS AUDREY

Then may I hope you find my work of some use?

MR. ALEXANDER

Some use?

He jumps up and crosses to the TELESCOPE, with one eye on her STAR CHART, moves the big lens of the TELESCOPE in a SOUTHERLY direction and holds out his hand for her to join him.

MR. ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

You must look, Miss Audrey. Forget the rules for a moment. Please. Look.

Audrey crosses to the impressive TELESCOPE, and as she peers through it, she carefully focuses it.

TELESCOPIC VIEW ON THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION THE HUNTER

She stands back from the TELESCOPE.

MISS AUDREY

I have been wondering if the regular dimming of some stars might mean they have planets going around them, just like we go around our own star.

He nods, trying to hide his excitement. He turns quickly and readjusts the TELESCOPE according to her STAR CHART. He motions for her to look.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF A DISTANT GROUP OF STARS NEAR THE CONSTELLATION OF LEO.

MISS AUDREY (CONT'D)

I can see a small faint cluster which looks very much like a cat. We could call Leo, and the Lynx, and this little one, together - "the cats in the night sky!"

He nods.

MR. ALEXANDER

Until recently it was recognized as just that - a cat. But now scientists have decided against calling it anything at all.

A DISTANT RUMBLE OF THUNDER, and they both look up, surprised.

MISS AUDREY

Thunder from a clear sky? There must be a storm on the way.

MR. ALEXANDER

Then you must get back. I do wish we could work together, but the law will not permit it.

MISS AUDREY

But if I can help in some more secret manner I would be honored to do so.

(a beat)

Mr. Alexander, the King will soon be dead, and then I fear there will be great cause to worry.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF MATTIMY - EARLY MORNING

KNIGHTS ride through the streets.

KNIGHTS

The King is dead! We have a new Queen, Queen Lucida of Mattimy.

The GIANT BELL in the CLOCK TOWER clangs out, as the QUEEN'S coronation begins as her ROYAL GOLDEN CARRIAGE is pulled by six elegant horses.

The people of Mattimy watch as she PARADES through the town.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL PALACE - THE GREAT HALL - NIGHT

A lavish ceremony with vast tables of food.

Mr. Alexander and Professor Pelagus approach the throne where Her Majesty sits with dozens of GEMS glittering on her CROWN and ROBES.

With one hand she grips a long SCEPTRE topped with diamonds and a star. With the other hand, she pets the beloved BLACK CAT that sits beside her.

MR. Alexander and Professor BOW. Queen Lucida offers her hand to kiss her RING.

QUEEN LUCIDA

I do hope you have enjoyed the coronation. Now the King is dead, and I am the sole ruler of Mattimy, I hold the key to the observatory. Have you any comment, Mr. Alexander?

Mr. Alexander bows.

MR. ALEXANDER

Good evening, Your Majesty!

He leaves the GREAT HALL, she glares after him.

QUEEN LUCIDA

(to cat)

When I pay a visit to his precious observatory, he will learn what real power means.

The cat opens its marble eyes and looks around the room.

CUT TO:

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE: ALL FORMS OF ASTRONOMICAL AND SCIENTIFIC TEACHINGS AND RESEARCH NOW BANNED.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ROYAL OBSERVATORY - THE DOME - NIGHT

Audrey, under cloak and hood disguise crosses through the OBSERVATORY and on Mr. Alexander's desk reads a NOTE.

"MISS AUDREY, PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. IT IS NOT SAFE"

A DARK SHADOW falls over the entrance of the doorway.

MISS AUDREY
Mr. Alexander?

THE QUEEN stands full of regal pride and power, looking straight at Audrey; her eerie green eyes and dark hair flash mysteriously.

QUEEN LUCIDA
Who are you? I demand that you
remove your hood.

Audrey removes her hood. The Queen narrows her green eyes.

QUEEN LUCIDA (CONT'D)
No woman is allowed in Her
Majesty's Royal Observatory. What
are you doing here?

Mr. Alexander steps into the room.

MR. ALEXANDER
Leave the lady alone, it is me that
you want.

The Queen spins around, glares at Mr. Alexander.

QUEEN LUCIDA
Mr. Alexander, I'm glad you're
here. Now I can enjoy locking you
both up. In separate cells of
course.

The Queen walks around the room observing the large telescope and star charts and snarls.

QUEEN LUCIDA (CONT'D)
What a shame that all of your
research will be lost forever. But
before I destroy your life's work,
your dreams and your precious
observatory, I want to know her
name and why she is here!

Mr. Alexander smiles warmly at Audrey.

MR. ALEXANDER
Her name is Audrey, and she is the
FIRST LADY OF ASTRONOMY.

She raises her SCEPTER and violently thrashes it against the floor which cracks and splinters. As a dark violent wind enters the observatory, Mr. Alexander and Audrey hang onto each other and watch. With a SCREAM, the Queen vanishes.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - SOLARIUM - CURRENT TIME - SUNSET

A TELESCOPIC VIEW OF A TOWERING HILL ON A CLEAR SKY.

LIV, sits eagerly in her denim dungarees on her STOOL and strains her eyes to see more clearly into her powerful CELESTRON TELESCOPE.

The solarium's many panes of glass overlook the FORBIDDEN FOREST, and the unusual TOWERING HILL.

A TELESCOPIC VIEW OF A CHARCOAL SWIRL, A STRANGE DARK MIST HOVERS OVER THE MOUNTAINOUS HILL, SPREADING UNTIL THE ENTIRE PEAK VANISHES IN A POOL OF INKY BLACK.

LIV
What is that?

LIV adjusts the long lens again.

TELESCOPIC SCAN OF THE CLOUD NOW GONE AND THE CLEAR SKY AS LIV CONTINUES TO SCAN THE DARK FOREST, BEYOND THE HILLTOP AND THE OLD FORTIFIED RAMPARTS AND ANCIENT RUINS OF THE TOWN OF MATTIMY.

TELESCOPIC FOCUS FOLLOWS THE LINE OF THE ANCIENT RUINED WALLS.

LIV (CONT'D)
That's weird.

Liv turns and looks out at the GARDEN, and the EVERGREENS, MAPLES, and BIRCH trees that back onto the denser FOREST.

Liv stares, lost in thought. A BLACK CAT appears at the edge of the woods, but Liv does not see it. Nobody does.

A beat.

Liv's GRANDDAD enters the solarium, a gracious and wise older man with shoulder length locks of grey hair.

GRANDDAD

That is quite a sunset. It should be a clear sky tonight. What do you think, my stargazer?

LIV

Granddad, I was hoping you could tell me the legend of Mattimy, I mean, you know, the full story?

GRANDDAD

You know never to go up that hill!

LIV

Yes, of course, everybody in the village knows that.

GRANDDAD

Any reason why you're asking now?

He pushes his silver mane from his eyes.

LIV

I think I'm old enough, I know something happened up there but no one wants to talk about it.

He motions for Liv to join him and settles into his worn and well-loved armchair. Liv moves her stool away from the telescope to sit next to him.

GRANDDAD

They say that a long time ago, high on top of this very hill there was a very impressive circular observatory. It had a huge dome and at the very top was a metal rod with a silver star.

LIV

That's cool

GRANDDAD

Yes, cool! The star was the symbol for navigating the Kings ships. This King of Mattimy was also known as the King of the stars.

(MORE)

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

He appointed a scientist called Mr. Alexander as a Royal Astronomer and they were the only two that held the key to the iron door of the observatory.

LIV

Why?

GRANDDAD

Other than noblemen and scientists' entrance was forbidden to all, including women.

LIV

Why?

GRANDDAD

This was some three hundred years ago, and they were different times.

LIV

That's crazy, I'm glad I live in these times.

GRANDDAD

When the King died his daughter Lucida became Queen which was terrible for the Kingdom of Mattimy. She was angry and bitter towards Mr. Alexander because of his obsession of the universe and admiration and love for Miss Audrey.

LIV

Who's Miss Audrey?

GRANDDAD

Audrey was the first woman of astronomy!

LIV

How come I've never heard of her?

GRANDDAD

The legend says, Queen Lucida saw Mr. Alexander and Audrey together in the royal dome, she thrashed her royal scepter so hard that it splintered and cracked the floor and a dark violent wind swooped into the dome opening and hurled her into the night sky.

LIV

What happened to Mr. Alexander and Miss Audrey?

GRANDDAD

Although some believe the storm went on to destroy most of the Kingdom and that Mr. Alexander became the leader of what was left of Mattimy; but nobody knows for sure. It may be that artifacts of great value are still up there, at the top of the hill, where no one dares go now.

LIV

Why not?

GRANDDAD

Many years ago, a few poor souls did try but, it's believed they were struck down by black magic. In any event, whatever happened, they never returned home.

A beat, as Liv considers the story.

LIV

Well, the Queen was mean-spirited for no good reason. She deserved to disappear. Anyway, nobody believes in black magic these days. What people should fear are the coyotes lurking in the forest, I wish I had magic to make them disappear.

Granddad laughs a familiar laugh that echoes throughout the cottage.

GRANDDAD

You have your mothers curious mind, and your dad's love for science.

LIV

What happened to them?

Granddad looks sadly away, shakes his head.

GRANDDAD

An accident. There was nothing anyone could do.

Granddad stands to leave.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)
Promise me, Liv, promise me you
will never go up that hill.

LIV
I promise.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE COTTAGE SOLARIUM - NIGHT

A motionless BLACK CAT watches from the edge of the FOREST.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

MONSIEUR LAMOUCHE, the teacher, sits at his desk deeply
immersed in studying a PAPER on his desk.

THREE GIRLS, huddled in the back corner, flip through FASHION
MAGAZINES, and snicker at Liv.

GIRL 1
(to the girls)
Look at those boots, is she milking
cows for the Fair this fall.

More they snicker.

GIRL 2
She's not winning any fashion
categories, that's for sure!

They snicker, oh how they snicker.

Liv, dresses in her low-cut leather boots and denim overalls,
her auburn hair is pulled loosely back in a ponytail.

She works on her SOLAR SYSTEM MOBILE, and ignores them.

LAMOUCHE
Are these girls bothering you?

LIV
No, I'm too busy working on my
solar system to be bothered by
them.

And JACY, of Indigenous ancestry with warm, dark eyes and a strong but kind face framed by straight black hair that falls below his shoulders. He works on his DRAGONFLY EXHIBIT.

JACY

Are you going to enter something in the Fall Fair this year?

LIV

No, I've got this!

She points to her almost finished Solar System mobile.

LIV (CONT'D)

I'm hoping to win the upcoming Annual Science Expo with this mobile right here! Look at all you can learn from it - see - my notes -

She hands Jacy some CUE CARDS. He is impressed.

JACY

(smiling)

You can learn a lot from fishing.

LIV

I know.

JACY

Hey, come fishing with me this weekend?

LIV

Yes! I have something to tell you!

LAMOUCHE (O.S.)

You sure you won't be busy this weekend working on your project?

Jacy leans toward Liv.

JACY

(whispers)

He's always right there!

LAMOUCHE

(suddenly beside Jacy)

What was that, Jacy?

JACY

Oh, nothing, Sir.

LaMouche stares down his long, straight nose.

LIV

We're working on our science exhibits this weekend, Monsieur LaMouche. I'm bringing mine home, too.

LAMOUCHE

(returning to his seat)
Good!

The three girls snicker at this.

GIRL 3

Teacher's Pet - Meh - I'll help the dumb kid. Teacher's Pet.

Liv turns to them.

LIV

His ancestral knowledge of fishing goes back a thousand years, which is practical, and a life survival skill. What do you all know about? Celebrity gossip?

LAMOUCHE

(deep voice)
Alright, that's enough!

Monsieur LaMouche makes his way to the front of the classroom, and writes on the CHALKBOARD: CONSTELLATIONS OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY.

LAMOUCHE (CONT'D)

Which one of you can give me a description of the constellation of Sagittarius?

Liv sticks up her hand. The girls snicker.

LIV

It represents the Archer. The stars are in the shape of a centaur archer: half-man, half-horse. It has many bright stars, and is very visible to the bare eye.

LaMouche looks at her and nods, turns around to the girls and stares down his long nose at them, as they sink into their seats.

Jacy and Liv grin at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - LATER

The period change signals by the BELL, and the doors to the science classroom open with rushing students.

Liv walks down the hallway, Jacy jumps up beside her, and they continue to walk together.

JACY

Did you see LaMouche studying that paper?

LIV

I was busy working on my mobile.

JACY

He's up to something. Hunting down some more artifacts maybe.

A beat.

LIV

Oh. Oh yeah. Maybe.

Jacy looks at her, aware she's not listening. They continue to walk, in silence.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUSHES - DAY

Liv rakes the LEAVES, startled by a movement in the shrubs, she stops raking. A quick movement catches her attention. From the undergrowth, the sparkling green eyes of the black cat watch Liv.

LIV

Where did you come from?

Liv puts out her hand, it jerks back behind the bushes. Liv crawls through the bushes, catches a few prickles, and then the black cat hops out of the bushes and into the woods. Liv thinks.

CUT TO:

INT. GARDEN SHED - DAY

Liv pulls a long and tall TRAP with a metal door off a shelf and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Liv puts CARROTS inside the TRAP and sets it on the front porch window.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liv lays in bed, eyes wide open, and stares at her planet mobile. She peeks through her bedroom window at the stars.

She gets out of bed and grabs her FLASHLIGHT, and clicks it on.

CUT TO:

INT. THE STAIRCASE - LATER CONTINUOUS

Liv tippy toes down the stairs towards the front porch door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Liv checks the trap, she sees the fat bandit-face of a RACCOON staring back at her.

LIV

Bad raccoon. I'll get Granddad to
drive you out of the village
tomorrow.

The masked face looks up at her, and closes its eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN SHED - MORNING

Liv carries the trap to the shed. A few paces away, the black cat hops slowly into the bushes.

Liv drops the trap and rushes after it, but the cat disappears deeper into the woods.

LIV

Oh no, come back!

A CRACKING SOUND.

Liv spins around and sees a deer that watches her. The deer jumps away flashing its white tail.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Liv follows a twisting trail, that begins to climb upwards.

Liv picks her way over fallen BRANCHES, PINECONES, and TREE ROOTS. All around her lay fallen, HOLLOWED-OUT TREE TRUNKS. The sky is hidden by the trees swaying in the wind.

Liv pauses at a narrow creek. She begins to scramble from stone to stone, but just as she reaches the far side, she loses her footing and crashes to the muddy ground.

She struggles to get up, and sees the black cat above her sitting on top of a rock.

LIV

I suppose you're expecting me to
keep following you.

The cat turns and continues up the towering hill, Liv hurries after it.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FURTHER UP THE HILL - LATER

Liv continues to walk up the gigantic hill.

She looks ahead, but she does not see the cat so she picks up her speed.

She glances around as the sound of a rapid succession of light footsteps comes closer. And closer.

Liv stops as COYOTES close around her in a tight circle. She turns to run, but it's too late. She is surrounded. Their yellow eyes glare at her. They start yipping and howling.

LIV

Let me go!

The circle tightens around her. Snarling and panting eagerly, their leader grins, exposes bloodstained teeth.

A small black figure shoots out of the darkness of the trees with startling power and speed.

The black cat pounces into the center of the swirling pack, Liv is knocked off her feet. The coyotes freeze, yelp, and disappear.

The cat's intense green eyes stare back at Liv on the ground, terrified.

The cat continues up the hill. Liv gets up and brushes off the dirt, she hesitates a moment.

GRANDDAD (V.O.)
The hill is too dangerous! Promise
me you'll never go up it.

Liv shakes her head and keeps moving upward.

CUT TO:

EXT. A CLEARING - LATER

Liv steps out of the trees and stops. She sees the crumbled fortified wall and treads carefully through the undergrowth until she reaches the ruins of a stone archway.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIRT PATH - OUTSIDE RUIN OBSERVATORY - LATER

Liv climbs the rough dirt pathway, and spots the black cat again. The cat digs in a hole at the furthest edge of the tumbled walls. Liv walks toward it, but the cat has disappeared again.

Liv steps into the innermost circle of stones and scans over the rows of tightly-packed stones and sees that one is missing.

Liv kneels down, looks into the hole, and digs a little with her hands.

Something catches her eye.

She digs deeper, and now pulls out a plain old BROWN LEATHER POUCH.

LIV
What is this?

She gently pulls the strings to open it and takes out a very old and barely readable piece of PAPER. It resembles a STAR AND PLANET CHART.

Liv looks around her, and carefully puts the map back in its pouch, and slips the pouch into her pocket.

Liv begins to hurry back toward the crumbling archway.

She races down the steep slope through the dense forest trees but she loses her footing, trips, and falls hard to the ground.

Darkness.

CUT TO BLACK
SKY:

EXT. LIV'S FLIGHT - THE NIGHT SKY - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

A man with a BLACK TOP HAT, dark wavy hair, reaches out and takes Liv by the hand.

Then they are whizzing upwards towards the starry heavens. He has a TELESCOPE in his hand, he reaches into the pocket of his long coat and pulls out a tightly rolled PIECE OF PAPER.

Liv sees that it's some kind of STAR CHART with symbols and Roman numerals. She takes a closer look and sees it is an ancient map of the nearest galaxies.

Liv watches the well-dressed man as they seem to travel faster now. The man points to the words "*Via Lactea*" on the chart.

Liv sees the faint white band of tiny million points of lights that reach across the heavens.

LIV
The Milky Way!

He gives her a reassuring look and lengthens the primitive wooden telescope, and points it towards the stars.

Up, up, up they go!

Navigating through the MILKY WAY, through the familiar stars of the NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

Up - higher and higher!

In the blink of an eye, they are lost in the arcs and streaming bands of bright green and pink that cover the night sky.

LIV (CONT'D)
Aurora Borealis, the Northern
Lights!

So captivated, Liv isn't expecting what comes next.

LIV (CONT'D)
Ursa Major. The Big Dipper!

They are so close to the bright stars, Liv reaches out to touch them. She points to the two stars at the BIG DIPPER'S outer edge and follows the line with her finger until she spots it.

LIV (CONT'D)
The North Star!

They change directions - and now head past PEGASUS.

Next, they pass GEMINI THE TWINS, Liv smiles - points to the star shapes of the twins, then back to herself, indicating Gemini is her birth sign.

They pass SAGITTARIUS THE ARCHER, the brightest constellation.

Liv puts her hand over her eyes as they pass through a massive cluster of lights, heading toward the SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

They fly by AQUILA, the eagle, and PISCES, symbol of the fish, and TAURUS the Bull. Brilliant, crystal clear cascades of stars tumble past them on every side.

The man points to a Roman numeral five, a V on the map.

LIV (CONT'D)
Jupiter?

They pass beyond CANCER the Crab to the west, and VIRGO the Maiden to the east, into LEO the Lion, which dominates the southern sky.

The man looks through his telescope, searches for something. He pulls out a WATCH by the chain from his pocket and looks at the time. Liv can't see what it says.

Now, he tugs her hand and points to a star formation that resembles A CAT. Liv smiles.

LIV (CONT'D)

The Cats in the Night Sky - they always remind me of the old Irish folk legend that holds that a witch could turn herself into a cat by thumping her broom on a stone floor eight times but if she did it once more, she could not turn back.

The man, quite without warning - lets go of her hand.

MAN

(whispers)

Take care, take care.

Liv slips away into the blackness of night as we

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN

EXT. THE WOODS - HOLLOW TREE TRUNK - LATER

Liv lies in a HOLLOW TREE TRUNK. She opens her eyes, and tenderly feels a bump on her head. On her knees, she crawls carefully forward. She stops. In front of her, sits the black cat. It turns and hops away.

Liv stands up unsteadily, the rain is easing, only the leaves are dripping. She puts her hand in her pocket and feels the leather pouch.

Liv hurries down the hill toward the path.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - LATER

Liv runs through the birch trees, stops for breath. As she continues toward home, she is unaware of JACY, who sits by the riverbank, fishing. Jacy watches Liv dash from the forest.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - LATER

Liv slips the pouch into her cupboard, and slams the door shut. She looks down at the floor beside her and sees the animal trap, ready to go, stares at it.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liv sits in her bed and opens the brown leather pouch, pulls out the ancient paper, and begins to study it.

She traces her fingers over the grids, and lines and along the Roman numbers and letters.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Liv tosses and turns as if gripped by a nightmare. She wakes with a startle.

A loud clap!

Liv gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Liv peeks her head from around the HALLWAY corner and shines a FLASHLIGHT down the hall. She creeps down the hallway, and steps extra carefully as she passes Granddad's door.

She slowly winds down the STEPS, as her flashlight bounces off a PICTURE of her SMILING PARENTS.

A step creaks, and she anxiously lifts her foot up, and quickly looks back up the stairs. Liv carefully skips that step, and continues down toward the living room and front door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Liv checks the trap, it is empty.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - LATER

Liv slides onto her stool, and turns to her telescope.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE BLACKNESS OF THE GIGANTIC HILL AND
GRADUALLY MOVE TO FOCUS ON THE SOUTHERN SKY

Liv adjusts the high-powered lens

TELESCOPIC VIEW SEARCHING FOR LEO THE LION AND THE OTHER CATS
IN THE NIGHT SKY

Liv continues to stare into the telescope.

In the shadows of the garden, lurks the green-eyed cat, and
watches Liv.

A *rip!* (PRE-LAP)

CUT TO:

EXT. LIV'S FRONT LAWN - DAY

Liv rips open a LARGE SACK OF BIRDFEED. Jacy comes walking up
the path.

JACY
Need any help?

LIV
Oh, hi! Sure. Thanks.

Jacy lifts up the sack for Liv, and then she SCOOPS a cup of
sunflower seeds and pours it carefully into a feeding tray.

JACY
The cardinals and blue jays love
these. We see a lot of them by the
river too, though sometimes I think
we end up feeding more raccoons
than birds.

LIV
Aren't they great? They can shimmy
up the pole, pick up the entire
tray with one hand and empty the
whole thing into their greedy
little mouths.

They laugh, and Liv fills another container.

A striking red CARDINAL swiftly swoops down and lands on the furthest stand and starts to sing.

Jacy watches it.

JACY

Do you know the legend of the watchful cardinal? They say if you come across a redbird you're guaranteed to have good luck within twelve hours, usually at noon or midnight!

Liv's gaze drifts past the redbird toward the forest. Jacy sees that she isn't really listening.

JACY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

For a split second, Liv ponders telling him.

A slam of the cage door!

Liv looks at Jacy, and runs toward the porch. Jacy's right behind her. They stumble to a halt.

The familiar cat stares back at them.

Liv slowly picks up the trap.

LIV

Gotcha. Now, what am I going to do with you?

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Liv and Jacy carry the trap into the solarium and place it on the floor.

JACY

Why did you want to trap a cat?

Liv keeps her eyes on the cat.

LIV

I was afraid the coyotes would get it. You know, I thought it was a rabbit at first. The weird thing is, it hops.

Jacy peers more closely at the cage.

JACY
And it doesn't have a tail.

GRANDDAD (O.S.)
Well, well.

Granddad enters the room.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)
What do we have here?

LIV
A mysterious black cat -

She pauses, looks first at Granddad, then at Jacy. Granddad raises an eyebrow at how tired she looks.

GRANDDAD
Let's open the trap door and wait until it comes out. We can take care of it until we find out whose it is, and I'll go into the village and ask if anyone has lost a cat.

Granddad smiles, kisses Liv on the forehead as his silver mane falls across his eyes, he swipes it away.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)
Why don't I take Jacy home? You look tired, get some rest, my Stargazer.

Jacy looks at Liv like he knows she has a secret.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - LATER

Liv sits in the comfortable chair and watches the black cat. The cat sits patiently in the cage looking back at Liv, an intense gaze in its green eyes. Liv's eyes start to close slowly as if lulled by the cat to do so.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - LATER

GRANDDAD
Liv, wake up.

Granddad gently taps her. Liv wakes up.

Both of them stare at the empty trap.

LIV
Where did it go?

GRANDDAD
Not to worry, it can't get out.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A crack of heavy thunder!

A flash of lightning!

Liv darts awake in her bed.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - MINUTES LATER

The rain pounds on the glass.

Liv creeps on the stone cold floor. She wraps her arms around her shoulders and shivers.

A bright flash of lightning!

The black cat sits on the stool next to her telescope, and watches her.

A violent rumble of thunder!

Liv jumps and runs out of the solarium.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Liv jumps into her bed, and pulls the blankets over her head, and covers her ears.

The bedroom window flies open.

She pulls down the blanket and looks up at the ceiling. Her solar system mobile slowly turns clockwise.

The cat sits at the end of the bed, and watches Liv.

The mobile spins, and Liv tucks away under the covers.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MORNING

The sun rises on a new morning, and the solar system mobile is as still as the black cat is.

The cat watches Liv intently. Liv turns to the cat slowly and reaches out her hand.

LIV

It's okay.

The cat easily lets Liv pick it up, and Liv examines its hind legs that are much longer than the front ones.

LIV (CONT'D)

No tail, and a crooked back? You are a different cat! Where do you come from, Mars? And how have you survived in the forest?

Liv puts the cat down at the end of her bed then crosses to her cupboard. She pulls out the old STAR CHART and sits back on her bed, begins to study it again.

Liv looks at Leo the Lion constellation. She glances over at the cat, and strangely.

LIV (CONT'D)

"Cats in the Night Sky"

The cat sits up suddenly - very straight, very regal - it's green eyes begin to grow brighter and their black vertical pupils slowly narrow then open wide.

For an instant, Liv clearly glimpses the image of a ROYAL CROWN. The cat blinks again, and the crown is gone.

Liv gasps.

LIV (CONT'D)

You are the Queen!

She leaps to her feet.

LIV (CONT'D)

Of course! Granddad said you thumped your royal scepter on the stone floor in a terrible rage.

(MORE)

LIV (CONT'D)

And if you did it nine times by mistake, like in the old Irish legend, that would mean you turned into a black cat and couldn't turn back! And if you've been alive since then, you must be immortal, and that means you'll live as a black cat forever.

Liv sits on her bed and gazes at the cat, dumbfounded. The green eyes look back at her.

LIV (CONT'D)

You must have been able to survive in the forest because you still have some magical powers. That would explain the fear in the coyotes' eyes when you faced them down.

(sternly)

But you've had your punishment, there's nothing I can do for you.

Liv begins to cross to the door.

LIV (CONT'D)

I'll go and get the cage and return you to the forest.

Liv locks the door behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

Liv unlocks the door, and enters her room, trap in hand, but sees -

The window open, and the Queen gone.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SOLARIUM - AFTERNOON

A heavy rain pounds on the window panes of the solarium.

Liv stares at the old star and planet chart in front of her, thoughtfully.

LIV (V.O.)

This must be Audrey's work. The jealous Queen of Mattimy might be doomed to spend eternity as a black cat, but she did save me from the coyotes, and lead me to where the chart was buried -

GRANDDAD (V.O.)

Liv, look! -

Granddad points quickly -

GRANDDAD

What's that sitting outside the glass door in the pouring rain?

Liv gets off her stool and looks down at the black cat, that's soaking wet and looking back at Liv.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to let it in?

Hesitantly, Liv opens the glass door, and the cat hops in.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

Oh, my. It hops, and has no tail, how odd.

Liv grabs a BLANKET from the chair and lays it in front of the door. The cat immediately hops onto the blanket and lays down purring.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

She seems nice and friendly.

Liv looks into the cat's eyes.

LIV

She is now!

CUT TO:

BEGIN MONTAGE

EXT. THE STREAM - DAY

Granddad walks over the bridge that leads into town. He has PICTURES of the black cat and a STAPLE GUN in his hands.

EXT. STREETS OF TOWN - DAY

A long row of telephone wires goes out of focus, as Granddad at the front of the row, staples another picture of the black cat to another telephone pole.

A large BANNER sign for the Fall Fair hangs across the middle of the road, as passerby's cross under it and say hello to Granddad, cheerfully.

He finishes and heads for the next one.

INT. A SHOP - DAY

Granddad holds out the picture to a shop owner and looks pleadingly for assistance. The shop owner shakes their head, no.

Granddad holds up the poster and points to the wall. Owner shakes his head no, sternly.

OWNER

We've already given our poster
space to the Fall Fair.

Granddad exits past a POSTER for the Fall Fair on the window of the shop. He smiles, when he turns back, before he exits.

THROUGH THE WINDOW SHOT OF GRANDDAD WALKING AWAY TOWARD THE LIBRARY

INT. LIBRARY - LATER

MRS. GRIMSBY looks at Granddad curiously as he approaches the front desk, he sweeps his hair out of his eyes.

MRS. GRIMSBY

What brings you here today? It's
not your volunteer service day, is
it?

GRANDDAD

No but I'm excited for that. My
granddaughter, Liv has found a
strange cat, and I wonder if you've
heard of a missing cat?

MRS. GRIMSBY

No but I'll keep my eyes and ears
open.

GRANDDAD

And it would be greatly if I could
put a poster up in the library?

MRS. GRIMSBY

Good heavens, let me have a look at
that poster. Who made it? Did Liv
help you? I haven't seen her in a
while. What's she been doing? Tell
her to come visit.

Granddad motions to a spot on the VILLAGE INFORMATION BOARD
and amusingly looks back at Mrs. Grimsby.

END MONTAGE

INT. SOLARIUM - NIGHT

Liv sits in the chair with the cat at her side studying the
ancient star map.

LIV

Maybe you can help me understand
this star chart.

The cat looks up, purrs loudly as Liv pets her.

LIV (CONT'D)

I think you've been punished
enough. You can stay with me as
long as you are good.

Liv stares at the map, she's confused.

LIV (CONT'D)

These grid lines match up.

She looks to the cat, who also looks at the chart.

LIV (CONT'D)

And, I've never seen this star
before anywhere!

She peers through the telescope.

LIV (CONT'D)

Like it doesn't exist.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE LYNX STAR PATTERN.

LIV (CONT'D)

I recognize the constellation of Leo, I see the star patterns. But I don't see this star here.

She looks to the star chart, and sees a star, poorly labelled. Liv shakes her head.

LIV (CONT'D)

But here it is, on this old star chart.

The Queen blinks her eyes at Liv.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Liv helps Monsieur LaMouche, set up for the Science Expo.

LAMOUCHE

Thanks for helping me set up. Everybody is busy with the Fall Fair, except you.

Liv places her Solar System mobile on the table.

LIV

I'm happy to help.

Jacy enters, he walks over toward Liv and gestures to the Solar System mobile.

JACY

Wow, pretty impressive.

LIV

Thanks! How's your dragonfly exhibit coming along?

LAMOUCHE

Hello, Jacy.

LaMouche looks down at Jacy.

LAMOUCHE (CONT'D)

If you're running out of time, perhaps Liv could help you with your species charts. Unless of course, this odd new pet of hers is taking up all of her attention?

(MORE)

LAMOUCHE (CONT'D)

I believe it's the talk of the village.

Liv looks like a spark goes off, but hides it.

LaMouche's smile disappears and he begins to study them both. He slowly turns away from them, and creeps out of the room.

JACY

He always makes me feel like I'm a mouse in one of his mazes.

LIV

I know he's a bit odd, but I like his classes. He's really smart. Granddad says he graduated from Beaver Trail College with a Masters in Astrophysics.

JACY

If he's so smart, why is he teaching General Science at a middle school in a small town?

Liv sits silently and thinks.

LIV

Granddad said once something about a scientific expedition to the top of the hill many years ago. Only things went terribly wrong. Several people died. I think he said that LaMouche was part of that team.

JACY

So what happened up there? Whose fault was it?

LIV

I don't know. No one knows. No one was charged with anything. The whole thing was hushed up. And everyone who came back tried to keep a low profile after that. I think that's the only reason he's here.

JACY

No, it isn't. Look at those photos.

Jacy points to a BULLETIN BOARD full of NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS of a slightly younger LaMouche smiling for the cameras.

JACY (CONT'D)

He's been out everywhere around here, digging up arrowheads, pots, tools, even musket balls ...

LIV

Which he donated to a museum, see? He's found some very valuable things. He's a local hero.

JACY

Sure he is. Listen, you've got me distracted. Are we going fishing this weekend?

Liv considers this.

LIV

I can't this weekend, I'm doing something for the Fall Fair, it just came to me. But next Saturday, for sure! Definitely!

JACY

Ok, great!

Jacy looks her over, then stares at one of the LaMouche pictures.

JACY (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

I still think his smile looks fake.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The cat sits on the edge of Liv's bed, her bright green eyes follow Liv across the room.

Liv pulls a BLACK GOWN out of the closet, and holds it across herself in front of the mirror.

She goes back to the closet and pulls out a BLACK HAT, and looks at the matching pair in the mirror. She looks around the room.

LIV

Now, what about you, little Queenie?

Liv, sits at her desk, and cuts a narrow strip of BLACK FABRIC.

She takes the miniature ORANGE PYLON cone and wraps the fabric piece around it, and then glues the seams together.

She takes the rest of the fabric and holds it over the Queen, and measures and marks where her legs and feet are. She then cuts the 4 small to medium sized holes in the cloth.

Liv and the Queen - proud in their new costumes - stand in front of the mirror.

Liv places the costumes into a SMALL BAG on her desk, and clicks the light off.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FALL FAIR - DAY

A large grandstand. People watch horse and livestock shows. A huge tent with pet categories.

Liv approaches the front gates, holds the Queen, and the small bag with their costumes. She walks into the fair.

Horses pull wagons full of cheering children in their Halloween costumes.

Rows and Rows of orange pumpkins behind a sign: pumpkin-carving contest.

Local chefs cook with the freshest fall fruits and vegetables.

Liv holds the Queen tightly as they walk through the FOODSTANDS.

A rack of apple pies! Jacy jumps out at her!

JACY

Boo!

Jacy lifts the visor from his KNIGHT COSTUME and points a sword at them. The Queen hisses.

JACY (CONT'D)

It's about time you came. Let's go have some fun!

LIV

We'd better hurry up and grab some pie before it's all gone!

CUT TO:

EXT. FALL FAIR - SAME AREA - LATER

The group of girls from Liv's school are exchanging loud and phony compliments on each other's costumes and make-up.

Liv and Jacy eat their homemade apple pie. Liv breaks off a sliver and the Queen nibbles on it.

Jacy watches the cat carefully.

JACY

Why isn't it scared with all these people around? Why isn't it trying to jump out of your arms and run away?

The Queen shoots a patronizing grin at Jacy, and Liv almost chokes on a mouthful of pie.

JACY (CONT'D)

And where does it really come from?

LIV

I'm not sure, but she's mine now.

Jacy stares at Liv, suspiciously.

GIRLS (O.S.)

Liv!

The group of girls hurry over toward Liv and her new pet.

GIRL 1

Where did you find such an adorable

-

GIRL 2

But frankly weird animal?

LIV

Outer space.

GIRL 2

(giggling)

And where's your costume?

GIRL 3

Or are you just coming as a Teacher's Pet - with a pet!

The girls giggle. The Queen looks at them with contempt, but Liv has somewhere to be.

LIV
I gotta go.

Liv turns and hurries away.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE HORSE ARENA - MOMENTS LATER

Liv continues to run past the horse and pony exhibitions, the Queen securely in her arms.

They turn the corner, Liv's face shows shock, and the Queen, startled, looks up.

They both stare into the eyeholes of a tall, living SKELETON.

Liv clutches the Queen who starts to growl. The terrifying vision leans forward, peers at both of them, its breath rasps through the cloth.

LIV
Excuse me!

Liv speeds off! The skeleton watches them run towards the barn.

Liv, continues to run.

She stops close to a TENT and looks back. The skeleton is gone. She takes a deep breath and looks at the sign outside the tent: SMALL ANIMAL COMPETITION.

CUT TO:

INT. SAC TENT - LATER

Liv and the Queen line up with the other contestants.

An elderly fairy princess, who wears a puffy pink floor-length dress and holds a silver wand covered in glitter, flashes an alarming smile as she hands them a card with number 7. The Queen shudders.

They move behind the curtain amidst a sea of squawks, howls, hisses and chirps of the other contestants.

Liv stands anxiously between an enormous Malamute - wearing a red cape and a screeching Cockatoo with a black patch over its left eye.

The Queen narrows her unblinking gaze on the Malamute, then turns and glares straight at the Cockatoo - both animals suddenly freeze in silence.

Liv maneuver's past a pair of playful chinchillas, a striped and spotted white and grey cat, several loud and expressive parrots and a black bear cub - all of them sport colorful, extreme and gruesome Halloween costumes.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to
the Small Animal Competition.

The CURTAIN slowly begins to open, ooo's and aaa's resound.

They look at the circle at the front of the stage.

The contestants begin to walk their costumed pets toward the circle. Liv panics, *the costumes!*

Liv quickly pulls the black gown out of her bag, and slips it over her head. She then takes the other fabric cloak and clumsily puts it on the Queen, while she squirms.

Liv places the mini-pylon black hat on the Queen's head, pets her reassuringly.

LIV

It's, okay, Queenie. Here we go, we
got this!

She takes her witches hat and readjusts it onto her head.

And they walk out into the circle, the Queen hops out in front of her.

The audience grows quiet. Liv walks proudly behind the Queen.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (V.O.)

Extraordinary. Is it a cat?

Jacy, in his knight costume stands up in the crowd and starts to applaud, Granddad rises after him and claps along with Jacy.

GRANDDAD

Atta girl, Stargazer!

The whole tent cheers louder now as the Queen hops into the spotlight and takes a bow, and blinks her green eyes at the other contestants.

The three girls sit behind Jacy and Granddad, and make mocking facial gestures.

GIRL 1

Oh My God, she's even ugly as a witch!

GIRL 2

AND ... she's got an actual black cat!

In the back of the audience, the figure in a SKELETON COSTUME, stands alone and watches them.

Liv and the Queen walk back to join the other contestants, and as they cross the playful chinchilla's walking out, the dogs yip and growl at the Queen.

The judge's review their score-cards. The contestants stand in quiet nervous anxiety, and wait. And wait.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

... and the winner ... of *Most Unusual* category is ... Number 7!

Liv's face lights up! The crowd loves it! Jacy the Knight jumps up and cheers.

The girl's turn up their faces, and scrunch up their noses in jealousy.

THE ANNOUNCER, a tall man with dark wavy hair, turns to them with a big smile. He hands Liv a TROPHY with a big silver star on top of it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - NIGHT

Liv sits on the stool by her telescope, she studies the old star and planet chart in front of her.

LIV

(to the Queen)

This precious and irreplaceable piece of work from the first lady of astronomy is now in my possession. If only I knew what any of it means?

She looks to the Queen. The Queen appears to sleep happily with the star trophy next to her on the blanket, but one eye is open, firmly fixed on Liv.

LIV (CONT'D)

I wonder ... if there might be more
astronomical wonders buried beneath
the ground.

As Liv contemplates, the Queen blinks her approval. Liv goes
to her telescope.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE CONSTELLATION OF LEO.

Liv returns from her telescope and shines her flashlight onto
the ancient star and planet map. She carefully studies the
star patterns:

In the constellation of Leo, Audrey has written the symbols
for Venus and Jupiter and also the Roman numerals CC, VII,
XII.

Even stranger to Liv is a mysterious bright star nearby
labelled in a tiny script that Liv can't read. The star is
placed as though it is the very eye of the Lynx.

Liv returns to her telescope.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE LENS READJUSTING TO SHARPER FOCUS ON
THE SPECTACULAR ARCH OF THE SHIMMERING WHITE LIGHTS OF THE
MILKY WAY.

Liv turns suddenly from the telescope.

LIV (CONT'D)

(startled)

Did I just have deja vu? I think I
saw the Milky Way in a dream
recently.

Liv tilts the telescope slowly back down.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - SOLARIUM - NEXT MORNING

Liv is curled up on the comfy chair, with messy bedhead hair
and a set of tired looking eyes.

Granddad enters, he wears his coat, and he looks her over.

GRANDDAD

Good morning, stargazer.

Liv opens her eyes, smiles at him.

LIV

Morning, Granddad. Where are you off to?

GRANDDAD

I'm off to my volunteer service at the library.

He thinks a moment.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

How about joining me at the library today? Good old Mrs. Grimsby would love your help, plus to hear all the latest school gossip.

Liv considers this for a moment.

LIV

No, thanks, not today I have too much homework to do, Monsieur LaMouche never gives us a break.

GRANDDAD

Oh, well, yes, stay in his good books, alright.

He gives her a kiss on the forehead.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

I'll be back in time for dinner.

He exits.

Liv walks to the window, watches her granddad get in his car. She takes a step back from the window, rubs her tired eyes as she watches the car drive away.

She fills a CANTEEN with water and quickly exits.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The door swings open. Liv rushes in and collects her SMALL TELESCOPE, PENCIL and NOTEPAD, and gathers them into her BACKPACK with the canteen of water.

She exits. The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN SHED - MOMENTS LATER

The door swings open. Liv bolts into the shed.

She grabs a GARDEN FORK, a set of small TROWELS, and a COIL OF ROPE.

She exits. The door bounces a few times and swings open.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Liv stands, ready to go and looks for the Queen, and sees her sitting regally at the edge of the stone pathway, ready to go.

Liv checks her wristwatch: 9:00am.

LIV
I'm ready for you to lead me back
up to the ruins.

Liv rushes towards her.

LIV (CONT'D)
And we mustn't waste any time!

The Queen looks up at her as she approaches, squints and narrows her eyes as they become dark and mysterious.

They head out along the stone pathway towards the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIV'S COTTAGE - MINUTES LATER

Jacy hurries to Liv's cottage. He runs up the steps and knocks hard on the wooden cottage door, there is no answer. He frowns.

He turns to walk to the side of the house.

JACY
Liv?

He walks around the BIRD-FEEDERS, and chases away a pair of annoying raccoons who are eating the birdseed.

He walks to the back yard, and follows the stone steps to the GARDEN SHED. The door is slightly open, and Jacy sees TOOLS are out on the ground, and Liv's garden BOOTS - but no Liv!

JACY (CONT'D)
I guess you went ahead.

Jacy places his SCHOOL BAG in the shed, picks up his FISHING ROD and TACKLE BOX and heads for the white birch trees.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - CONTINUOUS

Jacy strolls to their favorite fishing spot - but there is no sign of Liv.

He stares into the woods, and suddenly looks instinctively nervous.

He takes a small fishing KNIFE from the tackle box and puts it in his pocket.

He picks up his FISHING ROD, and heads into the dark forest after Liv.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE WOODS - LATER

The cool, damp, musty woods' trees are skirted with gold, red and rust-colored leaves.

Liv walks along a dirt path, following the Queen, who hops ahead of her.

Liv picks up the pace, the Queen getting further away.

The Queen hops nimbly from rock to rock, as Liv carefully clambers over each one.

They pass a few skeletal trees, and Liv nearly trips over a large, HOLLOW TREE TRUNK. She stops and stares down at it. The Queen halts, and sits high on a rock, and watches Liv cautiously peer inside the tree trunk.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDGE OF FOREST - MEANWHILE

Jacy stands in front of the tightly knit trees, stares into the darkness of them.

He enters going straight for the hill, and makes his way through the dark browns and golds of the forest.

He pushes past branches that hang almost to the ground.

And he steps over a rotting log.

JACY

Liv, how do I know this strange
secret of yours somehow involves
the tailless black cat?

He nearly stumbles over a STUMP, and into some dead leaves.

JACY (CONT'D)

But maybe you're lost. Maybe you're
in danger.

Jacy forces himself up and continues to walk.

He approaches a ridge sloping upwards, and walks up the start
of the hill. Behind Jacy, is a pair NARROW YELLOW EYES that
watch him, and whose swift legs are matching every step.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLOW TREE TRUNK - MEANWHILE

Liv places her backpack on the ground, and crawls into the
fallen tree trunk. She rubs her head.

LIV

What happened that day when I fell
and hit my head?

She positions herself awkwardly, in the same way she had lain
before and looks out.

The Queen, blinks her marble-green eyes back at Liv.

LIV (CONT'D)

Oh, it's no use, I can't remember,
but I think you have something to
do with this!

She crawls back out.

LIV (CONT'D)

Let's keep going now. We must be
almost at the top.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STONE ARCHWAY - LATER

The Queen eagerly hops through the passage beneath the stone archway. Liv quickens her pace to keep up.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUINS OF OBSERVATORY SITE - LATER

Liv and the Queen move toward the spot of the observatory.

LIV

I wonder what you looked like in your royal clothes and crown? This was your home centuries ago. You've now lived longer than anyone I can possibly imagine, and in the form of a cat!

Liv pulls out her canteen of water and pours a little bit at a time into the cat's mouth. The Queen gratefully catches and lap's up the water with her tongue.

Liv pulls out one of the trowels, and her pencil and notepad, and starts to draw the site, she marks where she first found the star and planet chart.

The Queen hops toward the entrance of the long-vanished observatory, stops and starts to dig.

Liv seizes her trowel, and hurries over to join the Queen, and starts to help her with the trowel.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROCKY RIDGE - MEANWHILE

Jacy climbs the rocky ridge.

A rustling sound behind him.

Something dark flaps across his path. He dodges behind a sugar maple and looks up, and sees a HORNED OWL - which lets out a deep muffled hoot.

Jacy looks around for safety, he is very still.

Jacy releases the hook from his flexible rod at the end of the line. He shifts his weight onto his right foot, flips the rod and casts the hook straight at the red-fanged blur that rushes at him.

The COYOTE stops dead in its tracks, in great distress, it yelps out painfully, and collapses on the ground.

Jacy pulls out his fishing KNIFE, and walks slowly to the fallen animal.

JACY

Well, I see you got it square in the nose! You're lucky I crushed the barbs on the hook. Taking it out will be much easier now.

The coyote looks up at Jacy in fear.

JACY (CONT'D)

I'll take it out but you better not cross my path again.

He carefully removes the hook from the animal's bleeding nose - who now dashes away.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER RUINS - LATER

Jacy looks back at the hill he has just climbed, he can barely see a distant glimpse of the village.

He cautiously follows the old wall as it arcs around to the stone gateway.

He pauses in wonder at the ancient ruins. He looks around and hears ...

The sound of digging.

In the distance, he spots Liv and the tailless black cat. He crouches down near an old stone, and waits and watches them.

Suddenly Liv stops digging. The Queen looks uneasy, as she hops up onto a stone and sits, and looks down toward the old entrance gate.

LIV

What's wrong? Is something there?

A FLOCK OF GEESE swoop into sight in a tight V formation and without warning drop sharply overhead and with a terrifying WHOOSH the formation turns, dives, and flies like arrows directly at the archway.

LIV (CONT'D)
 (shrieking)
 What's happening?

Jacy springs out from behind the stone, and whips his fishing rod frantically at the geese.

LIV (CONT'D)
 Jacy!
 (to the Queen)
 Please stop them!!

The Queen's green eyes turn skyward and blink twice. The flock of geese then return calmly to their V-formation and fly away.

Liv runs to Jacy.

LIV (CONT'D)
 Are you alright?

He shakes.

JACY
 Why were those geese attacking me?

LIV
 What are you doing here? And why are you carrying your fishing rod?

JACY
 We were supposed to go fishing, remember?

He looks nervously around.

LIV
 Did anyone see you enter the forest?

JACY
 I don't think so.

Liv begins to lead him up to the stones of the observatory, but Jacy stops her.

JACY (CONT'D)
 No, wait. You have to tell me why you are here!

The sound of a shower of rocks clattering down the hillside, followed by a low moan which echoes briefly beneath the ruins.

A beat. Stillness again.

JACY (CONT'D)
What was that? Did you hear that?

Liv looks desperately for the Queen but doesn't see her anywhere.

They listen hard. Jacy moves towards her.

JACY (CONT'D)
Liv, please tell me what's going on.

Liv takes a deep breath.

LIV
Well, it started when I followed this cat into the forest, up to here, and found a star and planet chart that I've been hiding and studying in secret for its mysteries that I still have no explanation for, least of all is a strange dream of a man in a top hat that flew me around the night sky!

A pause.

JACY
What about the cat?

LIV
You know the legend of Mattimy?

Jacy nods.

LIV (CONT'D)
Then you know that when the jealous Queen thumped her royal wand on the stone floor she disappeared out of the observatory window in a dark and thunderous wind, and that was the end of her ...

She breathes, looks nervously at Jacy and points her finger to the Queen, who sits above them on a high stone.

LIV (CONT'D)
Only it wasn't. Because that is the Queen!

Jacy turns around and stares at the cat, speechless.

LIV (CONT'D)

She's back. She saved me from the coyotes, I swear it's true. She is the Queen. She was punished, but now she is trying to make up for all the harm she did by helping me find some of the astronomical things that belonged to Mr. Alexander and Miss Audrey. If you put your fishing rod down I'll show you where I dug up the star and planet map.

Jacy stares at Liv in disbelief. She leads him by the elbow around the stones.

LIV (CONT'D)

This is where the Queen's father, the King of Mattimy built the grand observatory, home to the largest telescope of its time.

Liv takes him over to the Queen.

LIV (CONT'D)

This is my friend. We can trust him to keep our secret.

The Queen eyes Jacy suspiciously, but then gives an affirmative nod.

JACY

(whispers)

Is she a witch?

LIV

I don't know. She does have some magical powers.

Liv looks uncertain.

JACY

Like making the geese fly like arrows at me?

LIV

Yes, but her magic has kept her safe. And me, too.

JACY

(whispers)

Why does she have a crooked back, and why does she hop?

LIV

Maybe she was injured when she was whirled out of the observatory.

JACY

And how old is she?

LIV

Hundreds of years. She must be.

He scratches his head, ponders it all over, and finally nods.

JACY

All right. I'll help you. And I promise not to tell anyone about any of this.

CUT TO:

EXT. OBSERVATORY RUINS - LATER

Liv and Jacy dig together in silence, as the Queen watches them closely.

Jacy glimpses something gleaming in the dirt. It's shiny, thin, and round.

JACY

Look! What's this?

Jacy gently frees A GOLD POCKET WATCH from the ground and hands it to Liv.

LIV

It's a gold pocket watch. It must have been Mr. Alexander's.

She looks at the Queen.

JACY

How do you know that?

LIV

Mr. Alexander was the only man allowed in the observatory except the King, and a King would not wear a pocket watch.

A strange look comes across Liv's face.

JACY

What's wrong?

LIV

The man wearing the top hat, the one who took me into the night sky, had a gold pocket watch. I remember him checking the time. I couldn't see what it was.

She tries to wind it gently, and lifts it to her ear.

LIV (CONT'D)

Anyway, it's not working now.

JACY

You said that was all a dream!

LIV

Yes, of course, it was a dream.

She puts the pocket watch into her backpack and records this second discovery.

LIV (CONT'D)

Come on, let's keep looking. We only have a few hours left before we have to head home.

She looks toward the far-distant clouds and sees a darkness rumbling through them, darker clouds plume beyond them in the distant sky.

LIV (CONT'D)

We should really leave right now.

JACY

Get out while we still can.

But the Queen hops to the opposite side of the stones. Jacy gathers up the backpack and rod and follows her to the other side of the hill. The Queen reaches out decisively and scoops at the dirt with her paw.

Jacy drops the gear, and picks up his trowel and starts to dig. Liv looks worried, looks to the distant darkening clouds and back to the Queen.

LIV

Maybe we have found all that was left in the ground.

The Queen shakes her head firmly, and in a few seconds Jacy sits back on his heels, and holds up a dirty but jewel-studded CROWN. He begins to wipe it carefully with his shirt.

LIV (CONT'D)
I don't believe it. It's beautiful!

The Queen's eyes twinkle. Jacy lifts off up of his feet almost to dancing.

JACY
She really is a Queen!

They brush away soil that clings to the crown. The royal GEMS glisten of dazzling red, blue, and amber colors.

JACY (CONT'D)
Wow, I bet this is worth a fortune.

Liv looks at the Queen in awe.

LIV
May I?

The Queen blinks her eyes, that give regal consent. Liv lifts the crown onto her own head.

LIV (CONT'D)
I am Queen Liv, and you may now bow to me, Lord Jacy.

JACY
Your Majesty is truly a bold and wise ruler, and I am at your service.

Jacy offers a deep bow. But the Queen hops back into the hole and begins to dig more vigorously. Jacy and Liv watch her closely.

JACY (CONT'D)
Liv,

LIV
Yes, Lord Jacy, I am listening.

JACY
I think I know why the Queen led you here.

Liv looks at him curiously.

JACY (CONT'D)
She wants the royal wand.

Liv freezes, her eyes wide in astonishment.

LIV

You mean the one that turned her
into a cat?

JACY

Yes, and the same one that could
turn her back into a real Queen
again. Well, a person. She wouldn't
be a queen now.

LIV

Stop! Wait!

Liv marches over to where the Queen still digs. She takes the crown off her head, and looks deeper into the hole, and sure enough, she sees the tip of a SMALLER GOLD CROWN poking up through the soil.

LIV (CONT'D)

You were plotting this all along,
weren't you?

The Queen meets her eyes and blinks slowly, and seems to hang her head unclearly.

JACY

I think we should help her, Liv.
Maybe that will end all the strange
things that have been happening
here. Maybe it will put everything
right.

Liv thinks it over as she looks into the clear deep blue -
grey sky.

LIV

Yes. Alright. Let's help her!

They crouch over the hole and are just able to wrap their fingers around the stem of the SCEPTER below the small crown.

JACY

One, two, three, pull!

They haul with all their might and finally it slides free from the earth. The three of them gaze down at the diamond-capped royal scepter in amazement.

And then, an angry black band of clouds begins to roll in across the sky, they block the sun.

A sudden flash of LIGHTNING strikes the ground beside them.

LIV

It's the dark magic. It's still here. And it doesn't want things to be put right!

She stuffs the crown into the backpack. Jacy grabs the scepter and his fishing rod.

LIV (CONT'D)

It is time to get out of here!

They follow the Queen who shoots off toward the trees on the opposite side of the hill.

JACY

Where are we going?

LIV

Follow the Queen!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE LEDGE - LATER

They keep running. The black clouds roll closer, pursuing them as they run until they are right overhead. The hill becomes steep and tree covered.

Liv and Jacy stop and watch helplessly as the Queen darts forward.

Liv looks down the cliff, she fumbles to get her backpack open, but she pulls out the rope and ties it around a tree trunk.

They begin to scale down the cliff, and then swing wildly through the trees. An AVALANCHE of dirt and rock plunges them until they tumble out on a rocky ledge.

The clouds crowd above them threateningly, with intensifying fury. They scramble up, and run along the ledge.

They dodge through lightning bolts that explode and scatter tree branches on either side.

They clamber up the narrowing ridge and onto a stony pathway.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTER WOODS - LATER

The Queen leads Liv and Jacy through a thicket of weirdly arched moss-covered trees. Liv and Jacy pick their way between them until they see in the distance a partially collapsed, IVY-COVERED TOWER leaning steeply to one side.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Liv and Jacy walk cautiously through the crumbled doorway. Jacy looks around.

JACY

Where are we?

LIV

Maybe this was part of her castle.

The stone floor is littered with twigs and leaves, the roof above them is home to hundreds of spiders and their webs. They hurry towards a dark corner, the storm rages outside.

Thunder on one side of the tower. Lightning on the other!

Liv turns to the Queen.

LIV (CONT'D)

The magic of this hill has woken up again because of you.

The Queen hops to a stone set into the floor near the corner of the tower, and places a paw firmly on it. Jacy bends down, struggles to get a grip on the heavy stone, but then manages to heave it to one side.

In the hole is a long WOODEN BOX covered in a thick layer of dust, and in the rusted lock there is a KEY.

LIV (CONT'D)

Quickly, open it!

Jacy twists the old key until the lock finally gives way with a *click*.

He flings back the lid to reveal a heavy cylinder. He lifts it out.

JACY

It's got gold rings or something around it.

LIV
No, they're brass. It's a
telescope!

She holds it up.

LIV (CONT'D)
Wood and brass, see? And it
collapses, like a spyglass.

JACY
Like pirates used?

LIV
Only this one wasn't owned by a
pirate; it was owned by ...

Liv tries to make out a small, engraved plate.

LIV (CONT'D)
... Audrey Alexander. It was
Audrey's.

Liv turns to the Queen and sees compassion in her eyes. The Queen blinks her consent and Liv slips the telescope into her backpack.

A huge lightning bolt strikes the roof of the tower.

They huddle close together and turn to the Queen, who inclines her head and blinks again.

LIV (CONT'D)
Hurry, Jacy, we need to give her
the royal scepter! We have to do it
now!

Jacy swiftly places the SCEPTER on the stone nearest the Queen. They watch in bewilderment, as it begins to FLOAT up and hover as the Queen watches it with a commanding gaze.

The Queen tilts her head, the wand tips swiftly in response and comes to a heavy thump against the stone floor. Twice now! Three times it crashes down.

The thumps resound through the caste walls. The Queen is calm, turns to them with warmth and gratitude in her green eyes.

The ninth and final thump she turns and winks at Liv.

A swirl of dark, thunderous wind enters the tower window, and with an ear-splitting YOWL, the Queen is gone.

Jacy and Liv hold onto each other as the violent wind swirls around them.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - FISHING HOLE - MID AFTERNOON

Liv and Jacy tumble onto the riverbank near the fishing hole.

LIV
Are you okay?

He staggers up, sees where they are.

JACY
I am now.

LIV
How did we get here?

JACY
I don't know. But I'm sure it has something to do with the Queen.

He smiles, rubs his shoulder. Liv quickly checks her BACKPACK, and sees the beautiful ROYAL CROWN, POCKET WATCH, and the small wooden and brass TELESCOPE.

CUT TO:

EXT - GARDEN SHED - MID AFTERNOON

Jacy kneels down and moves a few floorboards aside, and slips the found objects underneath the floor.

He replaces the boards, and looks back up at Liv, reassuringly.

LIV
Yeah, that's good. Nobody will find it.

They high five each other, and close the shed.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - KITCHEN - DAY

Liv sits at the table, eating breakfast.

Granddad enters, curiously.

GRANDDAD
Where did that cat of yours go?

LIV
She just disappeared.

A knock at the door. It's Jacy. He enters.

GRANDDAD
Oh. Hello, Jacy. What are you two up to?

LIV
Going' fishing.

GRANDDAD
Good luck!

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - FISHING HOLE - LATER

They both dangle their FISHING RODS in the hole.

LIV
Okay, I know one day I will have to show the priceless royal crown and gold pocket watch to a museum; but do you think in the meantime I should tell Monsieur LaMouche about our secret. He'd be interested.

Jacy shakes his head firmly.

JACY
It's safest not to trust anyone. Let's keep that hiding spot between us. Monsieur LaMouche will ask too many questions.

LIV
Yeah, you're right. I've got some new books on astronomy and the history of stargazing. Are you interested to look at them with me?

JACY
I sure would. Did you know my ancestors told stories of the stars?

Liv smiles and nods.

JACY (CONT'D)

They look to the stars as a map and are the homes of ancestors, animals, plants, and spirits. I've definitely developed a new found interest in the night sky.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - NIGHT

Liv and Jacy have been studying the star chart for a while, they are huddled over it, Liv points at something on it.

LIV

Do you see this? There's a star here that I've never seen before. I keep looking at it. It's right where the eye of the Lynx would be. If it had one. See, she has it labeled and it begins with an L.

Jacy grabs the MAGNIFYING GLASS and looks.

JACY

I think it's L...u...c... I can't make out the rest.

Liv takes the lens from him and squints hard.

LIV

Oh, Jacy, you're right! I think it says ... *Lucida*.

JACY

It's a name for a star, maybe.

LIV

But it's not the name of a star. Granddad said *Lucida* was the name of the Queen. The Queen of Mattimy!

They stare at each other.

JACY

But how is that possible? What does it mean?

LIV

It means that we may finally have our first real clue.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - MORNING

The ANNUAL SCIENCE EXPO banner hangs across the wall.

Toy cars rolling and winding through a homemade roller coaster loop.

The loud clicking back and forth of swaying marbles in a Newton's cradle.

Liquids turning into gases and exploding into clouds of steam!

A student with wild hair and a lab overcoat waves their hands over the table and then puts a GLASS in the centre - then a TIN TRAY, an upright empty TOILET PAPER ROLL - and waves their arm over the whole display again.

An EGG is placed carefully at the top of the structure.

The student takes a beat to let the excitement build. Then they swipe the tin tray out of the way, and the eggs drops securely into the cup. The student takes a bow.

An applause!

A bright eyed student with safety-glasses and an eager smile stands in front of their VOLCANO MODEL and presses a button on the remote.

POOF!

Red tomato sauce blows out of the top and splatters everywhere.

A round of applause!

Monsieur LaMouche looks at the mess and stares down his long nose at the student and continues on. He stops behind Jacy's dragonfly exhibit: an AQUARIUM of colorful DRAGONFLIES that hover over a display of a small pond and eco-system.

LaMouche signals for Jacy to begin his presentation. Jacy lifts the lid, the dragonflies begin to zoom upwards. A round of Oooooo's and aaaaa's - the students jump back as red, green, blue and silver dragonflies dart up and down.

JACY

Dragonflies can fly straight up and down like a helicopter. Do you know dragonflies bring good luck?

STUDENT

How do you know that?

JACY

Plenty of dragonflies means there are plenty of fish around. If a dragonfly hovers near a fisherman, he takes it as good luck.

Liv applauds *loudly*.

LaMouche nods, he turns to Liv's next. Liv stands beside her SOLAR SYSTEM MOBILE, and turns the switch on.

The planets begin to move around the sun at different speeds. Liv presses another button to show an array of bright colors that light up the solar system mobile.

LIV

Because each planet has its own speed of travel around the sun, a star. I calculated the different speeds -

LAMOUCHE

What about our galaxy? Are you going to give us some of your findings?

LIV

Oh, those details are on my information cards.

She hands the cards to him.

LIV (CONT'D)

See!

LAMOUCHE

Good job.

Another round of applause.

LaMouche stares directly at the CARDS and then gives a second look to the MOBILE.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Liv pushes the door open and walks through the tables of the study area, and heads towards the rows of old books. Mrs. Grimsby is sitting at the desk, checking in books. Liv tries to make her way past her.

MRS. GRIMSBY
Liv, what brings you here today?

LIV
Star research, Mrs. Grimsby.

MRS. GRIMSBY
Are you looking for a particular
book?

Mrs. Grimsby gets up, curious.

LIV
No, no, thank you.

MRS. GRIMSBY
Are you sure, dear? I'd love to
help you out and hear all about
your little project. Hey, how's that
strange cat, your granddad was
talking about? Did you really take
it down to the fair?

LIV
No, thank you, no. What? I know the
section I need. Thank you, Mrs.
Grimsby, I don't need any help, I'm
fine on my own, thanks. I just have
a minute.

Liv hurries into the rows of books.

She traces her finger along the spines of the books. A
slender blue volume catches her eye. She pulls it out gently,
it's old and badly worn at the corners.

It has no library reference number on its binding. In tiny
gold letters, the title: LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY.

She looks over her shoulder and discreetly slips the book
into her backpack.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATH - NEAR BRIDGE - LATER

Liv hurries, on her way home.

The three girls approach from the other side of the bridge.

GIRL 1

Well, would you look who it is?
Little Miss Scientist - or should I
say Big Witch? Can you be a witch
and a scientist?

GIRL 2

Maybe the tailless little witch
does her homework for her.

They all laugh. Liv just shakes her head, and tries to walk around them - but girl 3 sticks out her foot and Liv trips to the ground.

GIRL 3

Oops, sorry. But oh, that's all
right - you have nine lives.

Liv plays it cool, but the three girls make a circle around her, like the coyotes.

GIRL 1

Too bad Jacy is not here to defend
you.

GIRL 2

I dunno know why Jacy would be
interested in a science geek
anyway.

Girl 3 begins kicking dirt at Liv.

GIRL 3

Because nerds and loners just love
each other.

Liv gets up to her knees, she's ready to leap up and charge.

A gust of wind comes up, that spins leaves and sticks in its path and sends the birch trees to sway and bend from side to side.

The TREES arch and swoop down and begin to WHIP their leafless BRANCHES like angry hands at the four girls.

The girls scream as the BRANCHES attack them.

The girls struggle free, and run away, screaming and crying. Liv stays put on the ground, watches wide-eyed at the rows of the white birch trees still thrashing back and forth.

But now, to her amazement, she watches as the whole grove of slender white trees straighten and stand motionless once again.

Liv swallows, and gazes beyond the crowded birch trees into the forbidden forest, and slowly stands up, her eye on the trees. She starts to run, her eyes still on the trees.

FROM BEHIND THE BRIDGE

A figure watches Liv run down the path.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - LATER

Liv reads LEGENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY.

Liv sits lost in thought on her stool. Her Granddad enters, and she jumps.

GRANDDAD

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to startle you.

LIV

Granddad, remember when you told me the legend of the Kingdom of Mattimy?

GRANDDAD

Yes, of course.

LIV

Do you know if there have been any reports of strange things happening around here in recent times? Maybe even ... black magic?

GRANDDAD

(raises his eyebrow)
Not that I'm aware of. Why do you ask?

LIV

I just wondered if it might ever ... start up again

She avoids his concerned stare.

LIV (CONT'D)

And what would happen if it did?

GRANDDAD

(sternly)

It's best you keep your curiosity towards the night sky and all the stars you have yet to discover.

(a beat)

That's far more exciting than any silly old legend.

LIV

But Granddad ...

GRANDDAD

Now listen, I have been meaning to tell you something important. The graduates of Beaver Trail College are having a reunion. All my old friends will have the chance to meet up again.

LIV

That's exciting, will you go?

GRANDDAD

I'd like to, but I may be very late getting home.

LIV

Granddad, I think I am old enough now to be alone. You should go and not worry about me! And besides, you always talk of those days and your happy memories.

GRANDDAD

Well, I guess one late night will be all right. I know I can trust you.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL - HALLWAY - MORNING

Jacy comes walking down the hallway, he sees the three girls standing outside the classroom.

JACY

Hi.

They stare at him blankly.

GIRL 1
Your girlfriend doesn't need a
costume because she is a real
witch, isn't she?

Jacy stares back speechless.

GIRL 2
She used some kind of black magic
to scare us.

JACY
(calmly)
Really? Four toughies like you,
scared? I'd love to see that. And
I'd be careful if I were you,
spreading stories that will only
get you laughed at.

GIRL 1
Just tell her to leave us alone!

They turn, and stomp off abruptly.

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A CHESS COMPETITION, and Liv is one of the final contestants.
She glances up as Jacy approaches and makes a 'Shhh' motion.

Monsieur LaMouche is in deep concentration.

LIV
Check.

She moves her QUEEN forward. LaMouche contemplates his next
move. His ROOK cornered by Liv's QUEEN and BISHOP, he moves
his KING one square BACKWARD.

LIV (CONT'D)
Checkmate.

LaMouche stares at her QUEEN on the CHESSBOARD, and reaches
out his hand to shake hers.

LAMOUCHE
And where did you learn to play
chess?

LIV
My grandfather taught me.

She winks at Jacy.

LIV (CONT'D)

I like the queen best, since she's the most powerful figure. And of course, she's the only piece that can move in any direction.

LAMOUCHE

Yes, the queen is very powerful ...
(to Jacy)
And what can I do for you?

Jacy glances at Liv to avoid LaMouche's steely look.

JACY

Can I put the game away?

Monsieur LaMouche leaves his chair and LIMPS to the door.

LAMOUCHE

That won't be necessary, thank you.

He holds the door open as Liv and Jacy leave the classroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - LATER

Jacy and Liv walk home, Jacy picks up his pace, looks carefully around side to side.

LIV

What's the matter? Slow down a bit!

JACY

That science teacher gives me the creeps; he's always staring at us!

LIV

You're imagining it. Though he does seem to be in a strange mood lately. Maybe because he's hurt his leg somehow.

JACY

Well, I'm not imagining that those girls from school think you are a witch!

LIV

I don't care what those ridiculous girls think ... but ... well ...

She gazes up into the white birch trees, keeps a close eye on them as they continue up the path.

LIV (CONT'D)

The girls confronted me on the path, I was just about to knock one of them down, when the birch trees started swaying, and then they were swatting their branches at the girls. It was terrifying!

JACY

That's totally normal behavior for a bunch of white birch trees.

LIV

In some strange way, it was like I was being protected.

Jacy looks over at the birch trees.

JACY

Maybe you were.

They look at each other.

BOTH

The Queen!

JACY

But why would she still be around?

They continue to walk along the riverbank, in silence.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIV'S COTTAGE - FRONT PORCH - AFTERNOON

They arrive back at the cottage. Liv tugs on Jacy's arm, and looks up toward the hill.

LIV

Because there is still black magic on that hill, that's why. And the Queen wants to defeat it. And I think I've found out where it comes from.

JACY

Really?

LIV

Have you ever heard of the Curse of Felis the Cat?

JACY

No, never.

LIV

Well, yesterday when I was in the library I found a book full of legends about the constellations. And there was one really amazing story.

JACY

Tell me!

LIV

In ancient times there was a pattern of stars in the night sky which everyone agreed looked like a domestic cat. The early star atlases showed it as a constellation. And a French astronomer named it Felis. Then many years later, scientists decided that Felis the Cat wasn't important and removed it from the final list of the constellations. And no one drew it on charts anymore. And that's when the curse started.

JACY

A curse?

LIV

Observatories and monasteries all over the world reported that terrible things started happening right after the constellation was struck off the charts.

JACY

What sorts of things?

LIV

Storms, waves the size of mountains, meteors, rains of stones out of a clear sky. All at about the same time that the observatory and the town of Mattimy were destroyed.

JACY

That sounds crazy.

LIV

Audrey's star chart doesn't show any formation like a domestic cat. In fact none of the stars in that part of the sky are connected into any pattern at all.

JACY

So that means Mr. Alexander and Miss Audrey lived at a time right after the constellation was rejected?

Liv nods.

LIV

I'm sure of it.

JACY

So the town of Mattimy met its fate because of a curse. But stars can't be angry. Stars can't decide they want to be seen as a certain shape -

-

LIV

But it's not just any shape. It's the shape of a cat. And people who practice black magic ...

JACY

Like witches.

LIV

They treasure cats. And they were furious with the ones who removed it. So the curse fell on all the scientists, astronomers and scholars.

JACY

But you study astronomy, too! And the Queen is a witch!

LIV

Well, maybe she was, but she's a white witch now. She's protecting us, remember.

Liv pauses, as though she's putting it together just now.

LIV (CONT'D)

I remember the man in the top hat who flew me into the night sky was searching for something, and that he checked the time on his pocket watch. Let's go in; I want to look at the star chart again.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Liv carefully unrolls the STAR MAP and spreads it across the table. She points to Audrey's written symbols and letters from earlier.

LIV

This is the biggest puzzle of all, Audrey's extra bright star. It doesn't exist anymore.

JACY

The one she called *Lucida*?

LIV

Right. So what if it only appeared when the Queen was whirled up out of the observatory? And vanished when a strange black cat appeared back here on earth?

JACY

But where is she? Where is the Queen now?

LIV

What about these symbols for Venus and Jupiter Audrey has drawn in? They're together in Leo. That doesn't happen often. I have a table for the movements of the planets somewhere here.

Jacy paces, and Liv opens an ASTRONOMY BOOK, flips through the pages.

LIV (CONT'D)

Here! It says that the last time that Venus and Jupiter came together in the constellation of Leo was ... two hundred years ago.

She slams the book shut and points to the chart.

LIV (CONT'D)

That's it! Audrey has written here
CC. That's two hundred in Roman
numerals. One C for each century.
Two hundred years from her time...
until now. But until what exactly?

Jacy shakes his head.

JACY

And what about all those other
Roman numbers?

He points to a barely readable XI, VII, and XII.

LIV

Eleven, seven, twelve. I don't
know.

JACY

It's November now, right? That's
the eleventh month. The next number
is seven. Today's the sixth of
November - so what if it's
something about tomorrow, November
the seventh!

Jacy is wide-eyed. Liv jumps up!

LIV

Perhaps the planets will converge
tomorrow night in one of the Cats
in the Night Sky, two hundred years
after Audrey drew the chart!

JACY

Then what about the last number?
Twelve.

LIV

Midnight?

JACY

(quickly to his feet)
The watch! We have to see the
watch!

They sprint out of the solarium.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN SHED - MOMENTS LATER

They walk up to the garden shed, as they arrive, they stop dead in their tracks. They see in the earth, near the door, a clear FOOTPRINT, made by a mans shoe.

JACY
Someones been here.

LIV
Maybe it was just Granddad.

They look carefully around, everything else looks undisturbed.

They hurry in.

IN THE SHED

Liv and Jacy pry up the floorboards to reveal the hiding spot. Jacy lifts out the small chest and places it beside him, and carefully undoes the latch.

The Queen's crown sparkles beside the pocket watch, as they both catch the light.

Jacy opens the watch and shows it to Liv, She looks at the hands pointing straight up at XII.

LIV (CONT'D)
Twelve o'clock. The time matches what Miss Audrey wrote on her star chart.

A beat.

JACY
But what does it all mean?

Jacy flips the watch over and runs his finger over a carved inscription of a crown, he begins to twist the silver knob at the top.

LIV
What if the man in the top hat deliberately took me into the night sky? To warn me. Maybe something terrible is going to happen tomorrow night at twelve o'clock, and we can stop it.

JACY
Like what?

He twists the knob in the other direction. The latch snaps open to reveal a hidden panel in the back of the watch. They watch a slip of PAPER flutter to the ground.

They stare at each other, Liv picks it up.

LIV
(reading)
"You must find the star Lucida. You are our only hope."

LIV (CONT'D)
Jacy, we have to go back.

JACY
Back?

LIV
We have to return to Mattimy.

JACY
It will be dark; it will be dangerous. Last time we were up there, a storm tried to kill us.

They look at each other, completely silent.

LIV
The star has been missing for centuries. And now the Queen is missing too, and we don't know where she's gone. So maybe, just maybe ... that means her star is back?

Jacy leaps up!

JACY
Then it's time to start packing. We have a star to find!

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Liv clears the plates from the table quickly. Granddad enters the room dressed in a dark suit, a Beaver Trail tie, and his grey hair neatly combed at the front to one side.

LIV
Granddad, you look nice! You'll have fun seeing the old classmates.

GRANDDAD
(chuckling)
If I can recognize them.

He clips a NAME-TAG on to his suit jacket.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)
Nevertheless it will be amusing
reminiscing about old times.

LIV
I would hate a class reunion,
seeing those "mean girls" again.

GRANDDAD
Liv, that's many years from now,
don't worry yourself about them.

LIV
Yes, I know, anyway when I become
an Astrophysicist Professor or
maybe an Astronaut, I doubt they
will be in my graduating class.

GRANDDAD
That's a girl, you reach for the
stars!

She nods at her Granddad and looks out the window. A TAXICAB
drives up the driveway.

LIV
The taxi is here.

GRANDDAD
Oh yes, I must be off. Enjoy your
night studying the night sky. I'll
peek in on you once I'm home.

He kisses Liv on the forehead and he exits the house.

Liv walks around the kitchen and stops at the door, watches
Granddad enter into the taxicab. He blows her a kiss from the
backseat as the taxicab pulls away.

DISSOLVE TO:

The clear and dark moonless night over the Solarium

INT. SOLARIUM - NIGHT

LIV

I hope the Lynx will be bright enough to see from the ruins of the observatory, especially as it has to compete with the combined lights of Venus and Jupiter. Which we'll see rising over the rooftops later. Anyways, we have Audrey's star chart for the correct latitude, and my telescope to help guide us to the very eye of the constellation!

Liv packs Audrey's STAR CHART, in with the powerful CELESTRON TELESCOPE, and zips up the telescope in its CARRY-CASE.

Jacy puts his arm through the carry strap of the case, and lifts it onto his shoulder.

Liv grabs her GLOVES, HAT, and COAT.

JACY

Ready?

LIV

Not quite.

She exits.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Liv rushes into her room. She opens her closet and takes a few extra PILLOWS out. She arranges them in the shape of a body on her bed and carefully pulls the blanket over top of them. She tucks the pillows in and adjusts them perfectly. She stands back a second and looks it over, satisfied.

CUT TO:

INT. SOLARIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Liv re-enters the Solarium.

JACY

Are you ready now?

LIV

Ready as I'll ever be.

They exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

Jacy leads the way along the riverbank. Liv follows, eagerly.

They walk towards the forest, and the lights from the village slowly disappear.

They approach the dark edge of the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

Jacy pauses mid walk and reaches into his coat pocket, and pulls out two slender GLOW-STICKS.

JACY

I almost forgot these guys.

LIV

What are those?

JACY

Fluorescent sticks. I use them when I fish at night.

He clips the sticks onto their backpacks.

JACY (CONT'D)

So we don't lose each other.

He pulls out his fishing knife and cuts pieces of REFLECTIVE TAPE. Liv watches,

JACY (CONT'D)

I cover the tips of my fishing rod with these. These pieces will go on the trees to mark our trail.

He puts one of the reflective pieces on a tree right near the edge of the forest.

Liv smiles with admiration back at Jacy.

LIV

Do you remember the day we first met? Sitting beside each other, painting boats and stars.

(MORE)

LIV (CONT'D)

Who would guess, all these years later we would be such good friends. You know more about life skills that could never be taught in textbooks.

Jacy smiles back warmly at Liv, and hands her a FLASHLIGHT.

JACY

Come on, let's go.

He shines his light into her face.

LIV

Okay.

Jacy and Liv walk out of view as they disappear into the woods.

A few creaking soft steps - as the dark figure glides swiftly over to where they just were. The figure glances around and then touches their hand to the first reflective marker, and snaps it off.

The figure enters the woods.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Liv follows close behind Jacy, they both follow cones of light from their flashlights, as they move past some rocks and trees.

LIV

Trying not to think about the consequences if Granddad knew what I was doing. He definitely trusts me. But I have no choice. Maybe I should have asked Monsieur LaMouche to help.

JACY

There's no time for that now.

Jacy stops and checks his compass.

JACY (CONT'D)

We're climbing steadily in a northwesterly direction, and that should mean we'll soon reach the top of the hill.

Something swift and black comes whirling down, and narrowly misses their heads, then swoops back above them. Liv jumps, and lets out a small scream.

Jacy points his flashlight above them. Swarms of BATS are darting through the branches.

JACY (CONT'D)
Quick! Get down, and shine your
light at them.

Liv covers her head and face with one arm and aims her flashlight directly at them.

The screeching grows louder!

Jacy reaches out and grabs Liv's hand, about to take cover.

Then, a gust of icy wind whips around the entire battalion of bats and scoops them up and carries them away.

Liv trembles with fear.

LIV
I don't understand. Bats don't
attack people.

JACY
Something doesn't want us here. And
it's getting stronger.

Jacy takes Liv by the hand, and they continue to walk up the dark terrain, and eventually over the narrow ridge.

Many pairs of YELLOW EYES follow them.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RUINS - LATER

Liv and Jacy walk through the ruins of Mattimy. Liv barely recognizes it.

But she looks up to a brilliant starry night: thousands and thousands of bright stars, red, and blue, and big and small, they twinkle above them.

JACY
Wow.

Liv points at the dazzling light that now rises above the horizon with its double halo.

LIV
Do you see?

ABOVE THE HORIZON

The planets Venus and Jupiter so close together they look like one giant star!

LIV (CONT'D)
Jacy, the telescope, hurry, we need to set it up.

JACY
I'm on it.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUINS - MINUTES LATER

The telescope is mounted, and Jacy removes the lens cap.

Liv looks at the star chart, under Jacy's flashlight beam.

LIV
Okay we know we're at latitude 47 north and 70 west and Audrey's chart shows the Lynx rising between at 58 and 60 degrees north.

She points the telescope in the direction of the constellation Leo the Lion, and adjusts the knob to pull focus.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF LEO THE LION IN SHARP FOCUS

JACY
What can you see?

LIV
Leo. My favorite. And it does look a bit like The Sphinx. Here ...

Jacy puts his eye to the lens.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF LEO THE LION IN SHARP FOCUS

JACY
They shine so bright, like diamonds in the sky.

Liv takes control of telescope again.

LIV

Now we have to follow a line north from Leo to look for the Lynx. But remember what the ancient astronomers said? It's so faint we need eyes like a Lynx to find it.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE LINE GOING NORTH FROM LEO

JACY

Couldn't the bright star have disappeared naturally? Stars do disappear sometimes, don't they?

LIV

Most stars are so far away it takes millions of years for their light to reach the earth. So if you don't see its light, it means it's been missing for a very long time. But old stars explode first, as supernovas, and you would definitely see that. Wait! I think I have it.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE LYNX

LIV (CONT'D)

There it is, the Lynx!

She stops the telescope and keeps it steady.

JACY

The eye of the Lynx should be at an angle of forty degrees from the brightest star in the formation: *Alpha Lyncis*.

LIV

No. I can't see anything.

Jacy glances up. A small moving light on the other side of the hill catches his eye.

JACY

Did you see that?

LIV

What?

Liv looks to where Jacy points, but the light has gone out. She shivers, and looks back into her telescope. Jacy watches the trees, his small pocketknife in his hand.

LIV (CONT'D)

There it is. I found it! But it's very, very faint - nothing like the way it looks on Audrey's chart. Come and see!

Jacy looks through the telescope.

TELESCOPIC VIEW OF THE FAINT LYNX

JACY

Do you suppose that's because the Queen is caught somehow between worlds? That she's stuck up there and can't get back?

A rumble beneath their feet.

A low groaning deep within the rocks!

LIV

What time is it?

JACY

About ten minutes after 11.

LIV

Wherever she is, we need to know what to do!

JACY

There it is again!

They both look at the strange wavering light that blinks in the woods at the edge of the ruins.

JACY (CONT'D)

Liv, what if that's her? What if that's a signal for us? Come on!

They turn on their flashlights and head towards the other side of the hill.

CUT TO:

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF HILL - LATER

Jacy ties the ROPE to the trunk of a tree, and they begin to scale down the hill.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RIDGE - MOMENTS LATER

They tread carefully along the steep path of the ridge, their flashlights pointing down at their feet. Above them, the dazzling conjunction of Venus and Jupiter grows brighter.

CUT TO:

EXT. TOWER - LATER

Liv and Jacy pick their way through rocks at the crumbling doorway to the tower.

CUT TO:

INT. TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Liv and Jacy shine their lights around the room.

JACY

Look, here's the empty telescope box.

Liv catches sight of a flickering light above a half-fallen stone wall. *She hears a sharp, scraping sound dragged along the ground.*

LIV

(whispers)

Did you hear that?

JACY

It might be her. Who's there?

LIV

Queen Lucida?

She steps into the doorway and looks behind the tower. She stares directly at a glowing figure that emerges from the shadows. It's headed straight for her! Jacy shines his flashlight at the SKELETON.

JACY

Run!

They bolt!

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RIDGE - MINUTES LATER

Liv stumbles down the path below the ridge while the skeleton chases her. Frantically, she scrambles to get back up the steep hill. She loses her footing, slips, and tumbles further down the steep ridge, she loses her flashlight.

She comes to a tumbling stop, she looks up and sees the skeleton glaring down at her.

She's trapped.

SKELETON

Where are the treasures of Mattimy?
Where are they hidden? Tell me, and
you will not get hurt.

The skeleton starts to LIMP down the steep hill toward Liv. Liv looks closer and sees it's actually a SKELETON COSTUME coming after her. She's seen it before.

A loud and eerie growl!

Liv and the skeleton both look up, horrified as they see a pair of pointed ears, a scruffy white chest and long muscular legs with large padded paws, pacing nimbly towards them, it's coat seemingly catches fire in the light of the stars.

SKELETON (CONT'D)

No, No!

The skeleton shrieks, runs, and then stumbles down the hill. Liv watches the LYNX bound relentlessly after the skeleton. The skeleton disappears down the dark, steep hill with the lynx in hot pursuit.

JACY

Liv! Liv! Where are you?

Jacy shines the flashlight up and down the ridge.

LIV

Down here!

He shines the flashlight onto her, and tosses her down the rope.

Jacy pulls hard on the rope, and finally reaches out and grabs hold of her arms and yanks her up beside him.

JACY

Are you hurt? Are you alright?

LIV

Yes, I'm okay.

JACY

I lost you when we started running, and while I was looking for you a strong gust of wind suddenly came out of nowhere and knocked me off my feet, then I heard a scream.

LIV

The skeleton is gone. A big cat chased him away.

JACY

What sort of big cat?

LIV

I'm sure it was a lynx! I saw it clearly because of the brightness of the stars. And that man, dressed as a skeleton, I saw him before, at the Fall Fair. He said he wanted the treasures. And I almost thought I recognized his voice.

She shakes her head and whispers

LIV (CONT'D)

He just sounded so familiar.

JACY

Let's get back to the telescope. Because I do have one piece of good news - I found the royal wand.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S COTTAGE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

THROUGH THE DOOR WINDOW A TAXI-CAB'S HEADLIGHTS BACK OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY.

Granddad enters the dark kitchen. He places his KEYS on the hook on the wall and quickly looks around. He looks out at the empty solarium and is surprised to not see Liv.

He turns around, and heads toward the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. LIV'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

The door opens a crack, Granddad puts his head in the doorway and looks at the bed and pillow mound underneath the blankets. Granddad smiles.

GRANDDAD
(whispers)
Sweet dreams, stargazer!

He closes the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUINS - LATER

Liv leans into the telescope.

LIV
Oh no. I've lost it now. That happens when the telescope isn't on the perfectly level ground, because the earth is spinning and ...

Her eyes grow large, as Jacy holds the royal SCEPTER up, it catches the light from the double planets of Venus and Jupiter.

LIV (CONT'D)
Jacy, look at the scepter!

They stare at the wand in his hand. The diamonds inside the crown at the top of the wand shine brighter as a deep golden glow now radiates from it, it lights up their faces.

Jacy raises the scepter higher, catching more of the light from the planets. The telescope begins to move, slowly it inches up and settles at a new angle. Liv then peers into it.

LIV (CONT'D)
There it is. It's back on the missing star!

Jacy raises, then lowers, and raises, and then lowers the scepter. The scepter moves in front of the lens, and begins to glow even brighter.

LIV (CONT'D)

There! Hold it in front. Right in front.

Jacy holds the diamond directly in front of the lens, it begins to pulse with a bright light, they squeeze their eyes shut and turn their heads away.

The earth begins to shake.

LIV (CONT'D)

Hold on!

Liv grabs the telescope, safely.

JACY

It's one minute to midnight!

Jacy struggles to keep the scepter aimed at the stars, as his arms tremble.

The faint eye of the Lynx bursts into life, as it shoots out rays of sparks like a distant firework. THE SUPERNOVA grows rapidly, becomes larger, and pulses in time with the diamond on the scepter.

The eye of the Lynx outshines the conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, and then it explodes, and lights up the entire hilltop.

The scepter tumbles from Jacy's hand and they both fall to the ground, covering their eyes.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE RUINS - LATER

The light gradually fades. Everything is very quiet and feels peaceful.

On the far horizon is the first thin line of dawn.

LIV

Whatever was evil here, is gone. Completely. She's done it. Can you feel it?

JACY

Yes. And let me guess ... that was a supernova.

Jacy gazes up at the stars in awe.

LIV
Yes, that was.

JACY
But does that mean the star has
gone forever?

LIV
Yes. And so has the Queen.

JACY
But wherever she is now, at least
she's free.

LIV
I can't wait to hear what Monsieur
LaMouche says. Everyone will be
talking about this. I'm sure you
could see it all over. An amazing
event like this will be in all the
papers.

Liv starts to pack up the telescope. The morning sun lights
the area as they begin down the hill.

CUT TO:

EXT. BIRCH TREES - SUNRISE

Jacy and Liv move hastily through the trees as the rose-pink
sun rises. They stop at the riverbank, out of breath. Liv
looks up to toward the gigantic hill.

LIV
We did it!

JACY
Wow, we did! And you know, if it
weren't for us ...

LIV
Well, since we're such a good team
...
(a beat)
Quick, go home and grab your
schoolbag and come and have maple
pancakes before school starts.

JACY
I'm starving, I'll need all the
energy I can get before LaMouche's
class.

Jacy and Liv run off in their separate directions home.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIV'S COTTAGE - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

The morning NEWSPAPER lays on the top step. Liv picks up the paper and quietly opens the door and sneaks into the cottage.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The breakfast table is set for three, a stack of pancakes and maple syrup on the table.

Liv carefully pours some more batter onto the grill and looks at the morning paper. The reunion is on the front cover. Liv smiles when she sees her Granddad's picture.

Liv's eyes scan for mention of the supernova, but curiously, they don't see it. Her Granddad enters, cheerfully.

GRANDDAD

Good morning! Look at this! You are up early, my stargazer. What a nice surprise this is.

He kisses Liv on the forehead.

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

You managed just fine without me here. Oh, and I see you've picked up this morning's paper. Anything interesting?

LIV

Your reunion is the highlight, nothing else is interesting.
(turning pages of paper)
Did you have a nice time?

GRANDDAD

I certainly did. I hardly recognized the old faces from the past and sadly there were a few missing from that graduating year! The Stone Age to you!
(he chuckles)
(MORE)

GRANDDAD (CONT'D)

You have set the table for three,
I'm guessing Jacy will be joining
us for your yummy pancakes, before
you head to school -

LIV

Granddad, did you see anything
unusual last night in the sky?

GRANDDAD

No, nothing stood out on the ride
home. Why, did you discover
anything new and exciting while on
that telescope of yours?

LIV

(sighs)

No, just a beautiful display of the
Northern Lights.

GRANDDAD

Well, that's a sight to see on a
clear night! Were they like
swirling rivers of green and blue?

LIV

Yes, Granddad they were.

She looks at her Granddad, troubled.

GRANDDAD

Is there anything on your mind?

LIV

Well, I was wondering if you could
tell me the full story of how my
parents died?

He stares at her in shock.

LIV (CONT'D)

I know something happened to them!
You've said it was an accident.

Granddad looks back and stares out of the Solarium, a
troubled look on his face.

IN THE BACKYARD

A tall figure stands hidden in the shadows of the shed
looking into the solarium.

The figure takes a few steps back and disappears.

A knock at the door!

LIV
That must be Jacy.

GRANDDAD
Good! I finally get to taste your
scrumptious pancakes!
(a beat)
We'll continue this conversation
later.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATH - MORNING

Jacy and Liv walk down the path.

LIV
We can't have been the only ones to
have seen it.

JACY
You would think it would be all
over the newspaper! My parents and
your grandfather didn't say a word
about the exploding star that lit
up the town! It's really strange.

LIV
I wonder what happened to the
Queen?

They begin to pass through the birch trees, they see the
three girls staring at them as they approach.

JACY
Here we go! Just ignore them Liv.

LIV
Who cares about them! We've got
more important things to talk
about.

The girls abruptly turn and run towards the school.

Jacy and Liv giggle.

JACY
They're not so tough after all!

CUT TO:

INT. SCIENCE CLASSROOM - DAY

Liv sits at her desk, and eagerly watches the door. Jacy is beside her, and yawns as he looks at Liv's STAR BOOK.

The three girls enter and walk uneasy around Liv and take their seats.

LIV

Where's Monsieur LaMouche? If anyone would have been watching the sky, it would have been him.

Jacy yawns again, and puts down the book, closes his eyes. Liv looks up as more students trickle in the doorway.

The loudspeaker crackles!

P.A. (V.O.)

This is your morning announcement: Monsieur LaMouche is currently unavailable and will be replaced by a substitute teacher.

Liv and Jacy glance at each other, surprised, as a YOUNG WOMAN with long dark hair and sparkling green eyes walks into the classroom.

The woman turns and faces the students, and stares directly at Liv and Jacy, who gaze in wonder back at the woman, who smiles at them, and then to all the students, smiling.

YOUNG WOMAN

Hello, my name is Lucida. I am your new science teacher, and our first and very important lesson will be: The Restoration of the Constellation of Felis - the missing Cat in the Night Sky.

Jacy and Liv bolt upright and look at each other in shock!

... TO BE CONTINUED

CUT TO BLACK