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Judged by the Cover

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Judged by the Cover

Jay Froio

Submitted in Partial Completion of the
Requirements for Departmental Honors in Theatre

Bridgewater State University

May 1, 2022

Prof. Miranda Giurleo, Thesis Advisor  Date: 5/2/22

Prof. Sarah Bedard, Committee Member  Date: 5/4/22

Prof. Emmett Buhmann, Committee Member  Date: 5/8/22
CHARACTERS

KIT: non-binary; really nerdy; best friend of Maggie; really likes her, but too shy to say so.

MAGGIE: also really nerdy; best friend of Kit; really likes Kit but thinks they can do better.

MS. DARNET: the librarian

COBALT: fantasy; a baby dragon

ETHAN: horror; ghost of a serial killer victim

SALLY NIGHT: mystery; noir detective

TRENT STORMBOLD: adventure; Indiana Jones type

CAPTAIN HARGINE: a pirate captain; trying to escape the book

KLOVE: the Captain’s right-hand man

VOICE OF WEALTH-OF-STEALTH

SETTING

Here, now.
NOTES

Kit must be played by a non-binary/trans actor.

Kilmshelm, pronounced kilmz-helm.

Hargine, pronounced har-jeen.

Darnet, pronounced dar-net, not darn-it.

Sally and Ms. Darnet are played by the same actor.

Klove and Voice of WoS are played by the same actor.
Scene 1

Lights up. We find ourselves in a library. MAGGIE and KIT are roaming through the aisles, looking at the various books on the shelves, searching for a book they haven’t read yet.

MAGGIE: Come on, K, I’m sure there’s something in here we haven’t read.

KIT: Sure, as if we haven’t been coming here every week for the past six years. I really doubt we’re gonna find something new suddenly.

MAGGIE: Ugh, you’re such a Dick Van Downer sometimes.

KIT: I know, I’m the absolute worst.

The two continue searching the shelves until they bump into MS. DARNET at the end of the row.

MS. DARNET: Kit, Margaret, I hope you two aren’t causing any trouble.

MAGGIE: No, Miss Darnet, just looking for a new book to read!

MS. DARNET: Well, why don’t you go check in the back? I just got some new works in from the old Kilmshelm estate.

KIT: Really? Thank you Ms. Darnet!

The two walk to a door marked “Employees Only”. They look at one another excitedly, then open the door. Inside there are even more long rows of books, lining all the way back to two desks. The two young adults begin to run through the rows, scanning for peculiar titles, grabbing books along the way. They meet in the center aisle, arms full of new reading material. They take their haul to the desks in the back.

The shelves are rolled offstage as the platform the two desks sit on is rolled forward.

KIT: Alright Mags, what’d you find?
MAGGIE: Well I found some of Edgar Allen Poe’s uncompleted works! Look at them! I’m pretty sure they’re the near original copies!

KIT: Yeah right, lemme see those... Oh wow, you weren’t kidding, these look really old. Well I got some Dickens with his signature in them!

MAGGIE: I think Poe trumps Dickens in this moment my dude. (she notices a book towards the bottom of Kit’s pile) Hey, what’s this? (she pulls it out, knocking the other books over).

KIT: Maggie! We would’ve gotten to that one eventually! (scrambling to pick up the books) Miss Darnet won’t ever let us back in here if we damage this stuff!

MAGGIE: I’m sorry, I guess I just got super excited. Here, let me help you. (She gets down to their level to help them pick up books. They then reach for the same book, hands brushing. KIT looks at MAGGIE, she looks at their hands. She quickly breaks the moment, reaching for a different book.) So, you wanna check out this book I grabbed or what?

KIT: (still trying to grasp what just happened) Yeah, sure, let’s see what it is.

MAGGIE opens the book and suddenly the room starts spinning. She drops the book on the floor where it lay open. The two of them grasp at each other as the set is changed via rotating platforms and crew members spinning on as they place things down. Suddenly- a blackout.

Scene 2

Lights slowly come up on a frazzled MAGGIE and KIT sprawled on the ground. They slowly get up, assessing their situation.

KIT: Wh-what just happened? Where are w-we?

MAGGIE: I have no idea, did we hit our heads?

COBALT: WOW! That was wild! You fell from the sky but you’re totally okay! Not even a scratch!

KIT: Maggie. Please tell me you see the small dragon in front of us.
MAGGIE: I was just about to ask you the same thing.

COBALT: Hiya, I’m Cobalt!

MAGGIE: Hi...Cobalt.... I’m Maggie, this is Kit.

KIT: Hi there, do you happen to know where we are?


MAGGIE: You know Old Man Kilmshelm? And wait a second, you know you’re in a book?

COBALT: Well the Kilmshelm I knew wasn’t very old. And of course! Mister Kilmshelm wrote us to know that we’re part of a book! He wanted to ensure that if anyone accidentally came in here, like you two, we’d know how to get them out! Are you guys friends of Mister Kilmshelm?

KIT: We don’t know him very well, just the stories that have been told to us by classmates.

COBALT: He does seem to be quite the mysterious man, doesn’t he? Any news on him? It’s been quite some time since he came to visit.

MAGGIE: Well that’s probably because he’s-

KIT: Maggie! Would you just excuse us for a moment? *(pulls Maggie aside)* We can’t tell him that Kilmshelm’s assumed dead. He’ll be devastated.

MAGGIE: What? He deserves to know that his friend is gone! I’d want to know if you were dead!

KIT: I appreciate the sentiment but think of how old he was when he went missing! His family has been waiting 30 years for a body to turn up! Cobalt just said that he wasn’t very old the last time he came around. What if from then to today is 50 years or something?! That’ll be a big adjustment for our little buddy to make don’t you think?

MAGGIE: Fine. We don’t tell him now, but before we go home we have to. Okay?

KIT: Okay.

*They rejoin Cobalt, who is now attempting to intimidate a frog.*
MAGGIE: I have so many questions. Kilmshelm created you? And who is us? You said us and we, as in like, multiple people.

COBALT: Well yes! We’ll need some help from my friends to get you two home safe. Aaaaand we’llalsoneedtoavoidthepirateswhoaretryingtoescapethebook.


COBALT: It’s fine, that’s what me and the other Genre Guardians are here for. We make sure that no one leaves who’s not supposed to, like the pirates. With you two newcomers, however, that might be a little tougher than usual.

KIT: What’s a Genre Guardian?

COBALT: Well, they’re like me! We each guard a genre found within the book to maintain order and peace. Let’s see... there’s me- The Fantasy Guardian, Ethan- The Horror Guardian, Sally- The Mystery Guardian, and Trent- The Adventure Guardian. There were more of us here at one point, until Mister Kilmhelm tore the book in two.

MAGGIE: What if we went and searched for the second half of the book once we get back home? It’s probably with the other books in the library! We’d just need to figure out how to bind the book without accidentally getting sucked back in.

COBALT: Oh, only people who have the truest love of books can enter here. So your local book binder should be fine. That’s where he took us. Enough exposition though! Let’s grab some supplies and begin the journey! Off to the next Genre Guardian’s neck of the woods! Horror!

(fade out lights for set change)

Scene 3

*Lights up on a graveyard. Headstones line the stage. The lights are dim. Fog rolls across the stage as KIT, COBALT, and MAGGIE enter.*

KIT: I don’t like the looks of this...

MAGGIE: Why is it so c-cold?
COBALT: Well, here we are, now if I could just find Eth-

ETHAN: (popping out from behind a tombstone) BOO!

COBALT, MAGGIE, and KIT all exclaim variations of “Woah! Oh my god! Ahh!”

ETHAN: Ha! I got you guys good!

COBALT: ETHAN! You can’t keep doing that every time I come to visit!

ETHAN: But you always get so spooked, I can’t help it! (noticing Maggie and Kit) I haven’t seen you two around before, you guys just get written in?

MAGGIE: No, uh, we’re-

COBALT: They’re from the outside. We’ve gotta help them get home.

ETHAN: Ah, I see... Well, lemme just let my killer know I’m going on an adventure.

KIT: Killer?

ETHAN: Yeah, I’m a ghost, dude. Got killed by The Masked Man of Minneapolis. Now I haunt this section of the book, I’ve gotta let him know I’m heading out... He gets lonely.

MAGGIE: So you’re friends with your killer?

ETHAN: I mean, yeah... We’ve been here for so long, we finally put aside our differences and became friends. Plus, he helped me score a girlfriend.

COBALT: Are you talking about Hannah?

ETHAN: Yeah... Wish I could see her again soon, but she’s in the other half of the book...

MAGGIE: Then you will! Kit and I are gonna search for the other half of the book once we get back home!

ETHAN: Really?! I would give anything to see her again. I’ll never forgive Kilmshelm for taking her away from me.

COBALT: Now Ethan, Mister Kilmshelm didn’t mean anything by it when he split you up, he was just trying to protect all of us.
ETHAN: One more chapter, he just needed to spilt us one chapter later and she’d still be here...

KIT: We’ll get her back to you, Ethan. I promise.

ETHAN: You better... Otherwise there’s gonna be consequences... I’m just joking I wouldn’t actually hurt anyone, I just really really miss Hannah.

MAGGIE: Is she a Guardian too?

ETHAN: Yeah, actually, she is. She’s the Romance Guardian.

KIT: Ooh la la, someone’s a real Romeo, huh?

ETHAN: What? You saying that because I’m dead?

KIT: Wha-no-I-uh-

ETHAN: I’m kidding, I’m kidding...

KIT: Oh, right.

COBALT: Alright you two, stop bickering now, we’re almost there.

MAGGIE: Where exactly is there?

ETHAN: Sally’s Office. Gotta get through the gates of the graveyard then we’ll be set to make it there.

MAGGIE: So then what are we waiting for?

*The gang sprints off stage.*

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*Scene 4*

*Enter Sally Night, noir detective. The entire stage as well as her costuming is based in black and white monochrome.*

SALLY: September 18th, a day seemingly like any other. A crisp chill hangs in the air, as autumn begins to set in. I sit in my office, sipping on a cup of Irish coffee that lost its warmth long ago.
A knock errupts from my office door, making me jump out of my skin. I walk towards it, the rush of a new case beginning to swell within me. Turning the knob slowly, I pull open the door.

COBALT: Sally, you know we can hear everything you’re saying right?

SALLY: Uh, yeah... I totally knew that. *(she clearly did not know that)* What can I do for ya, little buddy?

COBALT: We’ve gotta help these two get back home.

SALLY: Well that’s easy enough, just gotta get Trent and open the portal.

COBALT: You’d think it’d be easy... But Hargine and his crew know they’re here..

SALLY: How?!

COBALT: They didn’t have the most graceful entrance, they’re no Kilmshelm.

KIT: It’s not our fault we got sucked into a book! We’re pretty new to this whole thing.

SALLY: Ah, yes... Hello you two, I’m Sally Night, ace detective. It’s not every day we get new visitors, so this is quite the treat. Would you care for a cup of coffee? Whiskey? Perhaps a cigarette?

MAGGIE: I’d love a cup of coffee.

SALLY: Coming right up, anything for you four eyes?

KIT: I’m all set, thank you.

*SALLY walks over to the coffee pot, pouring a near overflowing cup of the deep brown liquid. She hands the mug to MAGGIE, who sits in the chair placed across from the desk.*

ETHAN: Sally, have you learned anything new since we last spoke?

SALLY: I have, actually. I’ve been scouring every possible nook and cranny to find some answers as to why we exist. I think I finally figured it out! Kilmshelm created the book to-

MAGGIE: OW! *(she yells, after spilling coffee in her lap)*

KIT: Maggie are you okay?!
SALLY: Let me grab a towel to clean that up! I’m so sorry I should’ve warned you it was hot.

MAGGIE: Hot? It’s scalding! How long has it been sitting on that burner?!

SALLY: Good question... It’s been there for a while..

COBALT: Maggie, let’s get you cleaned up, then we really should get going. You’ve been here for almost a full day in book-time, so we should get this show on the road.

KIT: How long is that in real world time?

ETHAN: A couple hours. Not too long.

KIT: Good thing we usually stay at the library until close then.

SALLY: Let’s get going then, we’ve got limited time left.

MAGGIE: *(still wiping herself off)* What do you mean limited time?

SALLY: These two didn’t tell you? If you’re here past sundown, you’re stuck here until someone comes in to get you out.

KIT and MAGGIE: WHAT?!

KIT: Cobalt! Ethan! Why didn’t you say anything?!

COBALT: I’m sorry, I didn’t think this would take as long as it has!

MAGGIE: You could’ve at least mentioned that we’d get stuck here!

KIT: I have an exam tomorrow, I can’t get stuck here!

MAGGIE: Kit, shush. Our PARENTS will be really worried if don’t come home!

SALLY: Well let’s not sit here bickering, let’s get a move on! I’m sure Trent is expecting us at this point.

ETHAN: Let’s go.

*All exit.*
Scene 5

*Lights up on Trent dueling with the pirates. He loads a cannon and fires it off stage R, towards the pirates’ ships.*

TRENT: Take that, you Blackbeard-ed bozos. And that!

CAPTAIN HARGINE: You’ll never take me alive, Trent Stormbold!

TRENT: Good thing I don’t have to, Hargine!

*He loads his pistol and prepares to overtake the captain’s ship when the others run on.*

SALLY: Need some help old pal?

TRENT: I was wondering when you’d stop by again my friend. *(he smiles at her broadly)* Who are these two newcomers?

SALLY: Kit, Maggie- meet Trent Stormbold, adventurer extraordinaire.

KIT: Hello Mr. Stormbold.

TRENT: Please, call me Trent. Mr. Stormbold was my father.

MAGGIE: Well then, hi Trent! Pleasure to meet you.

TRENT: Same to you, kiddo.

*Suddenly, an explosion erupts from the pirate ship.*

TRENT: Duck and cover!

*Everyone dives in different directions, splitting up the group. HARGINE sneaks up with KLOVE, grabbing MAGGIE and stuffing a sock in her mouth. Her muffled screams can’t be heard over the aftershock of the blast.*

TRENT: Is everyone alright? Sound off!

COBALT: Cobalt! Status: A-Okay!

SALLY: Sally! Both shaken and stirred.

ETHAN: Ethan! Still in two pieces!
KIT: Kit and Maggie! .... Maggie? Where’s Maggie?!!?

TRENT: Hargine must’ve used the explosion as a distraction so he could kidnap Maggie!

KIT: Shit... Shit! We have to get Maggie back! We’re gonna get stuck here and my mom is gonna totally freak out and so are her parents and then we’re gonna miss classes and flunk out of college without even being there and missing persons reports are gonna be filed but we’re never gonna be found and everything’s gone wrong and-and-and-

SALLY: Pull yourself together Kit! You’re not helping Maggie by losing your head!

KIT: You’re right... you’re right... Where did he take her?

TRENT: Back to the ship, I would assume. They aren’t particularly overflowing with options for hiding places.

KIT: Right, right.

KIT begins to pace back and forth, muttering to themself.

ETHAN: You okay?

KIT: Of course I’m not okay! My best friend was just kidnapped!

ETHAN: I mean, technically she was adult-napped but tomato/tomahto.

SALLY: Ethan, (she smacks him) now is not the time.

ETHAN: Ow! I’m sorry Kit. I’ll take this more seriously.

KIT: Thank you. We need to come up with a plan to get Maggie back. I need someplace quiet where I can think, I’m getting overstimulated and can’t process clearly right now.

TRENT: Let’s head to my hideout, we can figure out our next move there.

COBALT: Yeah, Kit, take some time to clear your head and get your ears to stop ringing.

SALLY pats KIT on the back as the gang walks offstage.

Scene 5.5
We enter a cave of sorts, like an abandoned mine shaft. It has touches of being homey, feeling warm and inviting—armchairs, a desk, a kitchen table and mismatched chairs surrounding it. TRENT sits in one of the armchairs, smoking a cigar. SALLY brews a pot of coffee and COBALT and ETHAN play paper football at the kitchen table. KIT sits on the floor, aggressively scribbling on a pad of paper, tearing pieces off and crumpling them up.

KIT: No, no, no. It can’t be that easy to just jump right aboard and take him by surprise. There’s no way... The rest of the crew would easily overtake us and Hargine would just escape with Maggie... Unless we find a way to get the rest of the crew away from the ship... Hmmm....

ETHAN: Kid’s been mumbling to themself for quite some time now...

COBALT: They’re concerned about their friend, probably searching for some way to get her back, which will most likely be a challenge as they don’t know much about their surroundings.

SALLY: Hey kid, need some help plotting? Here (hands KIT a cup of coffee)

KIT: Thanks Sally. I just can’t seem to figure out what to do about the crew. Taking on just Hargine and Klove is one thing, but I don’t think the five of us can handle a twenty-plus man crew.

TRENT: Hey, speak for yourself!

SALLY: Trent, you haven’t taken on all of them at the same time in close combat, you’ve just been firing a cannon at them.

TRENT: Well, I’ve done more than that! I’ve got someone on the inside!

KIT: Really? Do you think they could help us?

TRENT: Not sure. It’ll be tricky to have them do a lot of sabotage without getting caught, but I’ll see what I can do.

KIT: See if they can come up with a way to get the crew either trapped below deck or off the ship completely, then we can handle Hargine and Klove.

TRENT: Give me one second. (pulls out a large walkie-talkie) Wealth-of-Stealth come in, Wealth-of-Stealth, do you copy?
VOICE OF WoS: I copy, Hurricane. What can I do for ya?

TRENT: I need you to get your crew off the ship for a bit, other than Klove and the captain, think you can find any way to make that happen?

VOICE OF WoS: You’re in luck my friend, the captain wants us off the ship too, something about this girl he brought aboard is throwing things off around here. Take it she’s one of yours?

TRENT: You’d be right in that regard. When will the ship be mostly abandoned?

VOICE OF WoS: Give it about thirty minutes, get yourselves together, and come kick some ass. I have to let you know though- (static) Hargine- (static) escape- (static)


VOICE OF WoS: Hargine- (static) plan might work- (static) going to- (static)

_A high-pitched ringing erupts from the walkie. Everyone covers their ears. Trent shuts off the device._

TRENT: Dammit.

SALLY: What was that about? A plan to escape? How’s that even possible without us opening the portal?

TRENT: (_looking concerned_) I have no idea...

KIT: Well, there’s no way the plan will actually work, right? You guys are the only ones who can open the portal.

COBALT: I don’t think we have anything to worry about, Kit. They've tried and failed before, every time they make a plan, it becomes more and more ridiculous.

ETHAN: They tried a ritual last time that Hargine heard about at the market. Didn’t go well, singed off the captain’s eyebrows- just finished growing back before you got here.

SALLY: Look at the time! We’ve gotta get you out of here!

KIT: Clearly, we need to get Maggie back first.

SALLY: Well, what’s your plan? We have maybe an hour before nightfall.
KIT: We wait until the crew exits the ship. Taking on Hargine and Klove will be easy if we work together and take them by surprise. (KIT starts drawing on the pad of paper) So, Trent, if you go here, Sally sets up here, Cobalt, you sneak around here, and Ethan stands here, we have all our bases covered! I’ll be here so I can scoop Maggie out of there while the rest of you secure Klove and the captain.

TRENT: I couldn’t have planned it better myself, kid.

KIT: Thanks. We better get a move on, sundown is coming quickly. (blackout)

INTERMISSION

Scene 6

HARGINE: Move forward with the plan mateys! I want to escape these dreaded pages by sundown!

MAGGIE: You’ll never get away with this, you swashbuckling simpleton!

HARGINE: Oh, my dear, don’t you see? I already have! Your little friends will never be able to rescue you from here, meaning you and your little partner in crime will be stuck here... Forever. Of course, once you’re trapped here, we won’t have to worry about any disruptions anymore. We’ve plotted the perfect course to get out of here without using the Genre Guardians’ magic. It’s simple really... We journey to the end of the book with a mast that goes farther than the eye can see. Raising this mast, we open the book, creating our escape path and allowing us to enter your world, the real world.

MAGGIE: That’ll never work, Hargine.

HARGINE: How would you know? You’ve barely even scraped the surface of all the wonders and secrets held in this universe that moron created.

MAGGIE: Kilmshelm was a smarter man than you’ll ever be!

HARGINE: Was? Was? Has that silly old crackpot finally kicked the bucket?
MAGGIE: *(getting nervous)* Of course not, he’s still alive and well! Besides, he’s not that old!

HARGINE: Don’t patronize me, girl! Your little friends may be unaware of how much real time has passed, but I’m not that stupid! It’s been over 30 years since he’s last been around here, making him at least 74, and I can hardly say he was looking well during his last visit.

The man was coughing up blood into a handkerchief, trying to ensure no one saw- but I did, I caught him in the act through my scope. Heard him hacking up a lung, I did.

You may believe he’s fine and dandy, but I know he’s not. What, is he in the infirmary? On his deathbed?


HARGINE: You’re just scared to admit that the only one who can keep you safe in your world is gone or nearly there.

MAGGIE: *(spits at him)* I’m not scared of anything.

KIT: And you’ll never need to be Mags!

MAGGIE: Kit!

KIT and crew storm the ship. TRENT appears from behind the pole MAGGIE is tied to, releasing her from the ropes. SALLY, weapon drawn, locks on her target of HARGINE. COBALT sneaks behind HARGINE.

SALLY: Keep your hands where I can see ‘em, Hargine!

HARGINE: *(raising arms)* Alright, alright. You’ve got me. *(Slowly backs away and turns to run)*

SALLY: Cobalt, now!

COBALT: I got him! *(HARGINE trips over COBALT)*

SALLY cuffs Hargine around the mast of the ship. ETHAN uncovers KLOVE hiding/stuck in a barrel. KLOVE is pulled out of the barrel and tied to a mast opposite the captain.

ETHAN: Well now that we’ve tied up our loose ends, I think it’s time to get you two home.
MAGGIE: Kit, I can’t believe you did this. Braving your way against pirates, saving me... I really owe you.

KIT: I’m just glad you’re safe Maggie... I don’t know what I would’ve done if I had lost you...
You mean- you mean everything to me.

*MAGGIE pulls KIT in for a hug, Separating slightly but still in each other’s arms:*

MAGGIE: I need to warn the guardians, the pirates are plotting a plan to escape using-

KIT: Mags, they’ve been plotting their escape forever, it’s never going to work.

I need to tell you something... Something I may never have the bravery to tell you again.

MAGGIE: What is it? You can tell me anything, always.

KIT: Maggie- I love you. I know we’re best friends and I really don’t want to ruin that, but I need you to know that I think about you night and day. You matter more than anything to me and I know you probably don’t feel the same but I- *(MAGGIE cuts KIT off with a kiss.)*

MAGGIE: I’ve felt the same way for years... I can’t believe it took you so long dingus!

KIT: I- I...

SALLY: Hate to interrupt you two, but it’s time for us to get you guys out of here, it’s nearly sundown.

MAGGIE: *(separating from KIT)* Oh... Right. *(snapping back to reality)* Let’s go home.
*(Blackout)*

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Scene 7

*Lights up in a flower-filled field.*

KIT: I can’t believe we really did it. We travelled through a book and battled pirates, how can I resist telling that story?

ETHAN: You can totally tell the story, I just doubt anyone’s gonna believe you.

MAGGIE: Maybe you could write about it! Turn it into a play or something!
KIT: Y’know what, I might just do that!

EVERYONE looks out and stares at the audience.

TRENT: You kids better get going, it’s almost sundown.

KIT: What do we have to do to get back home?

COBALT: That’s why we’re all here. You two ought to start saying your goodbyes.

MAGGIE: Oh, uhm. Goodbye Trent, thank you for saving me from pirates!

KIT: I saved y- (MAGGIE elbows them in the gut)

TRENT: It’s no problem milady. (He tips his hat)

KIT: Sally, you really are the best detective I’ve ever seen. Thank you for helping us.

SALLY: Any time kid, anytime.

MAGGIE: I promise you, we’ll get you back together with Hannah, Ethan.

ETHAN: Awe, thanks hun, but that can be on the back burner for right now. I’ll stick with being happy you’re safe.

KIT: Cobalt, you little rascal. Thank you for helping us. This has been the adventure of a lifetime thanks to you.

COBALT: Well don’t forget to come visit me! (sniffles) I’m gonna- (sniffles) I’m gonna miss you guys. (bursts into tears)

MAGGIE: It’s okay little guy! We’ll be back soon to see you!

SALLY: Cobalt we’ve gotta get these guys on their way home.

COBALT: (wiping away tears) I know, I know. Is everyone ready?

TRENT: I am.

ETHAN: I’m good to go.

SALLY: All set here.
COBALT: You know what we’ve gotta do.

*The four guardians all do ritualistic movements in sequence. A “portal” begins to open.*

SALLY: Ready?

ETHAN: Set.

COBALT: GO!!

*MAGGIE and KIT grab each other's hand and jump into the portal. The set begins to spin and change as the lights fade out.*

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**Scene 7.5**

*Lights up in the library.*

KIT: It worked, we’re home!

MAGGIE: That certainly took long enough... What a crazy day...

KIT: Absolutely wild... No one will ever believe this happened.

MAGGIE: Why don’t we just keep this our little secret? Can’t have other people trying to steal the book to go on adventures.

KIT: You’re right, you’re right. Guess I’ll just stick to writing about it in my journal.

MAGGIE: Maybe you can publish your journal at some point as a work of fiction?

KIT: Who knows, this story may just have to stay one of those untold-until-I-die sort of things.

MAGGIE: Honestly, that might be best.

*MS. DARNET shuffles along behind the two of them, sharing a moment of acknowledgement with each of them.*

KIT: We should get going, my mum’s gonna be going crazy wondering where I am.

MAGGIE: You’re right it’s getting late. *(she slips the book into her bag)*
KIT: Better keep that safe, can’t have it getting into the wrong hands.

MAGGIE: I will, I will. Come on.

*They exit.*

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**Scene 8**

KIT: Welp, here we are.

MAGGIE: Yeah... *(she stares at the ground)*

*KIT leans in and kisses her again. They step back and the two of them lock eyes.*

MAGGIE: Let’s save this conversation for tomorrow, okay?

KIT: Sounds like a plan, Mags, sounds like a plan.

She walks up the stairs to her house and opens the door, looking at them again. She waves and closes the door.

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**Scene 9**

Maggie enters her bedroom and places the book on her desk. She exits into her closet to get changed for bed. The book pops open, and smoke begins to pour out of its pages. Maggie runs back into the room and slams the book shut, setting several large books on top of it. She climbs into bed and shuts out her light. Blackout.

END.