

Northern Abyss

Dea Divi

WGAw

Email:
magicbloomcosmicchild@gmail.com
Tel: 818-796-3776

FADE IN:

1 INT. MANSON - AFTERNOON

A Caucasian and Greek man sits in his chair reading the wall street journal, BILL FINNEGAN (45). He picks up his pipe and smokes. Bill looks over to the kitchen to see PAULINE FINNEGAN (42), his wife, Caucasian and Asian.

Pauline moves the rolling pin over the dough she is cooking. Pauline looked up to her husband.

PAULINE
Have you told the kids yet?

She hits the dough harder.

BILL
I'll tell them when they get home.

Pauline rolls the dough together over the metal pan.

PAULINE
You know they won't like it, right?

She dices some apples and puts them into the pan, applying the finishing touches to the pie's crease.

BILL
Pauline, they will love it regardless.

Pauline wipes her hands on her apron and puts the finished pie into the oven turning the nod to 360. Pauline turned and went upstairs. She goes to the liquor cabinet and pours herself a glass of wine, looking out to a landscape view.

Pauline drinks it and sighs.

Bill gets up and sees his servants move about cleaning up. He touches his tablet for the stocks. He smiles and goes into the kitchen, pulling out the pie.

His children, ELISE FINNEGAN (17), with a yellow collar, BRENT FINNEGAN(15), with a Frodo pen around his neck, Hispanic girl, MEGAN FINNEGAN (13), with a tarot symbol on her backpack, walk-in.

Bill looks up as the kids come in.

ELISE
Dad, why are you home earlier? You're

never home early. Are you sick?

BRENT

Dad, what's going? Did the stocks
crash again and your home to escape
the media?

MEGAN

Are you home because you want to tell
us something important?

Bill looks strangely at his children and shakes his head.

BILL

I wanted to that- Bill is cut off by

Pauline coming down the stairs with a drink in her hand.

PAULINE

We're moving to the big city.

The kids turn to their mother.

ELISE

What do you mean we're moving? How
could you do this to us, Bill!

Bill rushes over to Elise.

BILL

I'm still the provider, and I can make
the decisions.

ELISE

You're making us move after we lived
here all our lives!

Bill and Elise glare at one another.

BRENT

Did someone say the big city?

Brent smiles, and Megan holds his hand.

MEGAN

I think that would be excellent.

BRENT

All the Broadway, a young man could
want.

Elise and Bill turn them.

ELISE
You're traitors.

Elise took her bags and ran upstairs.

Brent and Megan go straight to the computers on the counters.

Pauline stops on the last step and smiles at Bill drunkenly.

PAULINE
It was going to come out one way or
another.

BILL
I would've handled that, dear.

Pauline takes a sip of her drink.

PAULINE
Oh! Come on, Bill, you rarely tell
them anything. I usually do it.

Pauline looks to the far left seeing the garden.

BILL
I sometimes do. We leave today.

Pauline chokes on her drink as he goes upstairs.

PAULINE
What!? We don't have that time to
move? (stares around, pointing to the
rooms) I have to pack up everything.
Where are we going to live!

Bill continues to go upstairs.

BILL
I got it covered, dear. Just pack the
necessities.

Pauline stares after him.

2 INT. ELISE'S ROOM

Elise punches her bag. She hears a knock on the door. Elise stops. Pauline enters. She comes to sit on her daughter's bed.

PAULINE

Your father wants to move us all to the big apple because he sold off his stocks and everything for a better life for us. I mentioned to him a while ago that he's missing out on your lives.

Elise walks to the bed.

ELISE

Mom, I know you want dad to be around mostly, but face it, he's hardly here. I never was here when I was growing up, but you're still with him after twenty years.

PAULINE

Yes, and your father is the provider. We are very wealthy, and we will get that life with the family being closer. He wants just to have a chance to make it right. Can you blame him for that?

ELISE

I guess you're right.

Elise sits on the bed and hugs her mother.

3 EXT. MANSION - SEVERAL HOURS LATER

The family looks back at their home.

Pauline and Megan hug one another. Brent snaps pictures with his phone, and Elise video diaries herself in front of the house.

The limo pulls up with their luggage in hand, leaving.

4 INT. LOFT - MORNING

Bill and his family stand outside of the door. He pulls out a key card to get into the loft apartment. He tries a few more times.

PAULINE

Darling, is it not working?

BILL

I think so... It might be a dud.

Megan, Elise, and Brent stand against the wall, waiting.

BILL (CONT'D)

We need to go downstairs to fix this.

Elise sighs.

PAULINE

I'm sure it's a mix-up.

5 INT. HELP DESK - MINUTES LATER

The Finnegan family taps the bell, and a MEMBER of the loft building comes up to the desk.

MEMBER

How can I help you?

BILL

Hello, my good man, our card isn't working. I was given this a week ago, and it's not working. I would like to get into my loft and get some sleep. We traveled far.

The member types on the computer Bill's information.

The computer beeps negative.

He turns to Bill.

A belly boy ANDRES comes to the member.

MEMBER

Sir, your account was closed a few days ago due to insufficient funds. We would be happy to escort you to a less refined facility. There is a telephone booth for ten blocks. (snaps his finger for the bell boy to the bell boy)

(beat)

Andres, please give these unfortunate people a roll of quarters for the phone.

The bellboy hands Elise a roll of quarters.

Bill's face turns red.

ANDRES
For your family.

BILL
Are you saying we're poor?

MEMBER
I didn't say it, sir, but if it's a budgetary issue, the phone booth down the corner will suffice.

BILL
We will stay here! I paid my money to stay.

Pauline tries to calm Bill down, and the kids get dirty looks from the neighboring guests.

MEMBER
Sir, I'm gonna call security.

PAULINE
Bill, let's just go.

MEMBER
Security.

Security comes, and the family picks up their stuff to leave.

6 EXT. STREET - TWO HOURS LATER

They stand on the corner, trying to get reception for their phones. Elise, Brent, and Megan talk on their phones.

Pauline text messages to people.

Bill sits on a cart, looking defeated. His phone rings, and he picks up the phone to hear a WOMAN'S VOICE.

BILL
Hello.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)
Hello, is this Bill Finnegan?

BILL
Yes, it is. His family turns toward him, curious, and stops what they are doing.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)

Mr. Finnegan, the bank has closed your accounts.

BILL

What do you mean closed out?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)

Your partner Mr. Jessco, the controller of your accounts, flushed out all the accounts. With the decline of unpaid items purchased from your family and company expenses. We have repossessed all your material items and your home. All of your accounts are closed and frozen to pay for all your remaining assets.

Bill chokes and drops the phone.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)

Hello, Mr. Finnegan?

Pauline picks up the phone.

PAULINE

Hello?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S)

Ah, hello Mrs. Finnegan.

PAULINE

Rochelle May? Ah, hello, I know you are our personal banker.

ROCHELLE (O.S.)

Nice to hear from you, but I have bad news to tell you that your family and lifestyles have changed to a less glamorous life.

Elise, Brent, and Megan try to get their father to breathe. Pauline pales.

PAULINE

You... you mean to... tell us we have nothing?

ROCHELLE (O.S.)

That's correct. Now, since I am no longer your personal banker. Please

have a happy week. The phone clicks,
and Bill hyperventilates.

PAULINE

How did this happen?

BILL

There was a new account Jessco created
that made us millions of dollars. It
was our biggest account. I saw it as a
way out to leave control of the
company to Jessco. I trusted him and
overturned the business to him, so we
could all be here. I... he had
authorization to my accounts, but I
was so rushed that day leaving that I
signed off everything without
realizing it. I'm sorry.

PAULINE

What are we going to do, Bill! We are
homeless! We have nothing but the
luggage we have. We can't go back
home.

Elise, Megan, and Brent glared at their father.

ELISE

You brought us here to starve. Very
original. Maybe we should create signs
now so that we can eat.

Megan and Brent start searching for cardboard box pieces.

Elise takes out some markers from her bag to write.

ELISE

To a father who drafted us to death.

Bill yells, and Pauline hits his shoulder crying.

BILL

I'll find a way, and we aren't in an
abyss yet.

They all stare at him.

He pulls out his phone to start dialing numbers.

Pauline does the same.

7 INT. LOFT - SAME TIME

The Repo people come in and take away their belongings inside the loft.

8 INT. BANK - MORNING

Bill straightens his tie and walks over to the banker.

The BANKER looks up to see him.

BANKER

Mr. Finnegan, what a pleasure to see you, and I see-(looks overseeing the rest of the family) you brought the family too. What can I do for you?

BILL

I need to see the accounts.

BANKER

Mr. Finnegan, I can't do that because it's confidential, and you are no longer a member of this bank.

BILL

I've been coming to this bank for fifteen years. Why is it so different now?

BANKER

You have to be a member. We can only serve members of the bank. You don't qualify, so please have a good day.

Bill moves forward.

BILL

I need some kind of money! Unfreeze my accounts. (moves forward and grips the banker's collar) I called all my friends and everyone I know who could take us in, and no one is doing it because we had multi-millions of dollars to the little money in our pockets! I need some money! Now!

The banker tries to breathe and holds onto his collar.

BANKER

Help!

Security comes to Bill and gets him away from the banker. Bill tries to reach for the banker.

BILL
I need some money!

Pauline sighs and covers her face from her husband's outburst.

Elise takes pictures as Brent drinks some coffee, and Megan stares at the other people watching them.

9 EXT. BANK - MORNING

Bill gets to throw out of the bank. He lands in the gutter. Bill lays there on the ground with his cell phone dialing a number.

BILL
There has to be a way out of this.

Pauline taps her foot against the pavement.

PAULINE
No one will take us in, Bill. I called all mine, and the effect of our wealth is no longer an influence. They only liked us because we had the money.

BILL
All I've known is money. That's all I know, Paula.

Bill gets up from the gutter and brushes his clothes off. He looks around to see raggedy hobos lurking.

PAULINE
And, you married me not from your world.

His face softens, and he touches her hand.

BILL
I know, and you kept me steady all these years.

PAULINE
We can't live on the streets. Why don't we make this work by borrowing money?

Bill hears his phone ring and sees it's his attorney, MATHIS (50's).

MATHIS (O.S.)

Bill, what's up? I'm in the middle of something.

BILL

Hey, I found out from the bank that Jessco owns everything.

MATHIS (O.S.)

Yeah, he sent the documents over to me to file them.

BILL

He what?

MATHIS (O.S.)

Both of you were my clients. Bill, I can't give any more free legal advice. It's all legal now, and he has everything. The thing is, you can fight it, but you have nothing right now to get on your feet. You got nothing.

BILL

What can I do, Mathis? You're my only friend left.

MATHIS (O.S.)

When you get situated, I will try to help you with an I.O.U. But right now, I gotta go.

BILL

Thanks.

He hangs up the phone and staggers to the wall behind him.

BILL (CONT'D)

We are in an abyss.

PAULINE

Like, I said we're going to borrow money.

He nods, still in shock.

Pauline, Elise, Brent, and Megan pick up their things,

walking away from him.

10 EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - AFTERNOON

They stand outside a rustic caddy shack building. They look up at the broken windows and laundry hanging out some windows. The family then moves to get their things as some homeless people move down the street.

Bill turns around and sees a crack man lying on the ground.

Elise, Brent, and Megan cover their noses to the smells.

BRENT

Mom, what is this place?

PAULINE

Home. They stare at her.

BILL

We're not living here.

PAULINE

We have no choice.

Elise picks up her bag and walks past her dad.

ELISE

You got us into this mess.

Pauline and the kids enter in as Bill picks up his things entering in.

11 INT. 5TH FLOOR APARTMENT 5C - MINUTES LATER

Pauline opens the door and enters to see a make shaft bed and small furniture in the corners.

The pipes leak with tape around them, and trash sits in the corner.

Pauline puts her stuff down in the smaller bedroom.

Elise and Megan go to a one-bedroom, and Brent looks out the window of the room.

Brent turns back to his father.

BRENT

Dad, what are we going to do?

Bill smiles seriously.

BILL

We can hop a train somewhere or
somehow?

Brent sits on a barrel.

Megan and Elise come out of the bedroom and peek out the door
to the hallway.

Pauline walks over to Bill.

PAULINE

We got here because I borrowed money
from my family. I did this for us. My
parents loaned us money to live here,
and one of my family members owns this
building.

BILL

Do they own this building? What are
these *children under the stairs*?

PAULINE

Don't be a wisecrack, Bill. We need to
stay off the streets. Can you give
this a chance so that we can find a
way out of this?

BILL

How did your dad take it when his son-
in-law lost all of his money?

PAULINE

You know daddy, and he is just
himself.

BILL

In other words, he was happy.

Pauline hugs him.

PAULINE

Can you please try to get through this
with the family, Bill? We need you to
do this. We are a family, after all.

BILL

Yes.

Bill walks to the table and sees classifieds. He begins to go through them.

Pauline unpacks her bag.

A large clash falls out of her bag, and she sees her license.

Pauline looks up at her husband, flipping through the classifieds. She holds up her license.

CLOSE UP:

Pauline Trainer Certified Psychologist. Earned Degree at University of New York, Buffalo.

She holds it close and walks over to her husband.

PAULINE

Bill, you remember this, right?

Pauline hands it to him.

Bill takes it and glances over it before giving it back to her.

BILL

Yeah.

PAULINE

Bill, maybe I can go back into practice to earn some money for the family.

BILL

You do what you like, honey.

She hugs him and goes back to unpacking.

12 INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Elise and Megan walk down the hallway and see the doors creep open and close.

Some neighbors open their doors, and others close them on clockwork.

One lady pokes her head out and then closes it.

Elise and Megan look at one another, confused.

13 INT. APARTMENT 5C - MINUTES LATER

Brent pulls out one of his action figures and starts to play with it.

Bill sits down with his son and pulls out another like it.

BILL

Brent, I know you are adjusting to this, but we will get through this.

BRENT

You don't need to use reverse psychology on me. Dad, I totally get it. Mom saved us, and you're the deadbeat who lost all our money. She is the one going to provide for us.

Bill's mouth agape.

Brent gets up and walks into his room with his action figures.

14 INT. 5C APARTMENT - MORNING

Elise, Brent, and Megan sit on the couch, watching their father drool.

Pauline walks into the living room.

PAULINE

I enrolled you all in school.

They stare up at her.

MEGAN

Mom, so soon?

ELISE

Aren't we getting over a crisis?

BRENT

Don't you see how funny dad is right now? He's a zombie.

Pauline's eyebrow twitches, and she goes to the closet to pull out three backpacks.

PAULINE

I thought you might say that, so you start today.

ELISE
What kind of school are we going to,
mom?

PAULINE
A public school.

MEGAN
We've always gone to charter or
private schools. Why now?

PAULINE
Don't argue with me.

BRENT
I think it's important that we keep
staying active.

Bill continues to drool and blinks his eyes.

ELISE
If we start a new school mom, how are
we going to fit in?

PAULINE
Just be yourself.

BRENT
Rich?

PAULINE
You can do better.

All three at her with "crazy looks."

PAULINE (CONT'D)
I got a job too.

FLASHBACK - YESTERDAY:

15 INT. CLINIC - AFTERNOON

Pauline walks into the office. She talks to a man in a yellow
shirt. She nods and shakes his head.

PAULINE (V.O.)
I did it!

She hugs her employer and pulls away. He stares at her with
concern.

Pauline shies away and puts a paper in her pocket.

END OF FLASHBACK - BACK TO PRESENT:

BACK TO SCENE:

PAULINE (CONT'D)

I have work to do.

Pauline smiles at them and walks away.

ELISE

Well, isn't that a bust?

BRENT

You mean going to a school with no high level of technology we used to have.

ELISE

Just going to this weird school.

MEGAN

Mom didn't tell us what?

ELISE

Exactly, she didn't.

BRENT

I hope we go to a charter school.

ELISE

(stutters)

Mom wasn't kidding were... going... t-o... a pub...lic school.

MEGAN

It shouldn't be too hard, right?

BRENT

Nope, and mom said, be ourselves.

Elise rolls her eyes, and Megan nods her head to him.

Each one of them goes to grab their backpacks and walks out the front door.

16 EXT. ALLEYWAY - AFTERNOON

Bill sits on the side of the corner. He puts out a can to get money. Bill sees people walk past him giving him money.

A couple throws some coins in, and Bill thanks her.

He pulls out a piece of cardboard: "Need money to get back to the countryside."

FADE OUT.