TEASER

INT. JAKE’S SCHOOL  - CAFETERIA - DAY

PAN DOWN from a banner that reads “HOMECOMING” to find TRIXIE and SPUD making their way past rows of tables labeled “DANCE COMMITTEE,” “FLOAT COMMITTEE,” etc. toward JAKE.

1     SPUD     1
I’m telling you, Trix. It’s foolproof!

2     JAKE     2
Hey, guys. What’s foolproof?

Trixie turns to Jake, gesturing first to Spud, then to a STACEY who stands near the “FLOAT COMMITTEE” table.

3     TRIXIE     3
Lovermouth here just signed himself up for the Homecoming Float Committee so he can plant a big smoochacho on Stacey.

Spud nods excitedly.

4     SPUD     4
It’s all planned out. Observe.

Spud pulls out a LARGE FLIP PAD filled with a SERIES OF COMICALLY CRUDE DRAWINGS to illustrate his plan. 1.) Spud and Stacey stick-figures stand at the sign-up booth. 2.) Spud and Stacey stick-figures walk into a door marked “Kissy-Kissy Closet”. 3.) Spud and Stacy stick-figures kiss with hearts exploding around them.

5     SPUD (CONT'D)     5
Step One: Stacey and I sign up for Float Committee.
(flips page)
Step Two: Float Committee has access to the prop storage locker -- or as it’s known around school -- “the Kissy-Kissy Closet.”
(flips page)
Step Three: Stacey and I end up alone in said closet, and proceed with said kissy-kissies.
Now it’s Jake’s turn to look skeptical.

6 JAKE
Uh, question: Why would Stacey “kissy-kissy” you if she hates you?

Spud shrugs it off.

7 SPUD
Stacey won’t know it’s me on account of...
(deep voice/bad accent)
...it’ll be dark and I’ll be talking like this.

8 TRIXIE
Like my great aunt LaToya?

Spud flips to a CRUDE DRAWING OF A HANDSOME SARAPE-CLAD ARGENTINIAN BOY ON A LLAMA.

9 SPUD
(deep voice/bad accent)
Like Reynaldo, the strapping Argentinian exchange student.

Trixie rolls her eyes.

10 TRIXIE
I’m just saying, you’d never catch me jumping through hoops just to get up in some guy’s--

Trixie pauses, spotting KYLE WILKINS signing up for “Float Committee.” Trixie barrels past Spud towards Kyle.

11 TRIXIE (CONT’D)
One side, Spudinski. Trixie’s mandar has locked on!

ON KYLE - Trixie coyly sidles up beside him, taking the SIGN-UP CLIPBOARD from him.

12 TRIXIE (CONT’D)
Hey there, Kyle! You’re signing up for the float committee, too? What a coinky-dinkie, dontcha thinkie? <girly giggle>
BACK ON JAKE – as he turns around and SMACKS into ROSE, causing her to drop some SCHOOLBOOKS.

13 JAKE
Sorry, I-- Oh. Hey, Rose.

They both bend down to gather the books.

14 ROSE
Hey, yourself. Happy Homecoming.

15 JAKE
You too. So, how’s it going? I haven’t seen you in awhile.

16 ROSE
We saw each other last week when we stopped the Huntsman from--

Jake locks eyes with her.

17 JAKE
That was Huntsgirl. I haven’t seen you.

Rose collects her books and stands. This isn’t easy for her.

18 ROSE
Jake, we agreed to keep things strictly professional between us, remember?

19 JAKE
I don’t remember being part of that agreement.

20 ROSE
I’m sorry. Really. But this is the way it has to be. I’ll, uh, see you around, okay?

21 SUN (O.S.)
You bet your auras you will!

REVEAL – SUN standing beside them.

22 SUN (CONT’D)
The ballots have been tallied and you two have been nominated for homecoming king and queen!

23 ROSE/JAKE
Excuse me?!/Say what now?
The winner will be announced at the homecoming ball on Friday. Isn’t that groovy?

Sun exits, leaving a stunned Jake and Rose in her wake. Jake likes this development; Rose isn’t so sure.

Homecoming ball?

King and queen?

Groovy.

Off of his excited and her uncertain looks, we--

SMASH TO:

OPENING TITLES
ACT ONE

INT. JAKE’S SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

RE-ESTABLISH - Jake and Rose reeling from Sun’s news. She’s uncertain; he’s excited.

28 ROSE
Wow. You and me. Up for king and queen. That’s... unexpected, huh?

29 JAKE
Royally. But the people have spoken and who are we to argue with the people? Am I right?

Just then, a CHIME rings from Rose’s Huntsclan communication device. She reads the screen, her face filling with urgency.

30 ROSE
It’s gonna have to wait.
(re: device)
It’s the Huntsclan. They’ve found the last missing Aztec skull.

Off of Jake’s reaction, we--

SUBWAY MAP TRANSITION TO:

INT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - NIGHT

ANGLE ON A LARGE STONE AZTEC STATUE - built into the wall of a building featuring South American animals. The Huntsman flips onto the figure’s head. With one swipe of his staff, he slices open the statue’s stone head. A CRYSTAL AZTEC SKULL falls out and drops into the hands of--

THE HUNTSGIRL - who catches it.

31 HUNTSGIRL
Got it, Master.

32 HUNTSMAN
Excellent. Once all thirteen skulls are united, I’ll finally have the power to wipe magical creatures from the face of the earth.

AT A MONKEY CAGE - #89 peels a banana, dropping the peel and holding the fruit up to the bars for a CHATTERING monkey.
Oh, whatsa matta monkey man? You want some banana-wana? Psyche!

He tosses it to #88, who catches it, laughing.

That’s bananas! Get it, bananas?!

They high five while the monkeys CHATTER in anger. The Huntsman leaps down, snatching the skull.

Silence! Keep your mouths shut and your eyes open. Lately, it seems the American Dragon has known our every move.

Huntsgirl darts her eyes guiltily as--

#88 and #89 strike comical kung-fu poses.

I bet he doesn’t know this move! <exaggerated kung fu sound>

Or this one. <kung fu noise>

Hi-yaaaaa!

Dragon Jake WHOOSHES in, using his tail to sweep the Huntsman’s legs out from under him. The skull goes skidding across the floor.

Argghh!

#88 and #89 are paralyzed with fear.

Dra--dra-dra---

DRAGON! Whoaahhhhhhhh! Oof!/<impact>

#88 slips on the banana peel. He wipes out, taking #89 down with him. #89 rolls his eyes, picking up the peel.
Okay, please tell me you did not just slip on a banana peel.

#88 scratches his head, curiously.

Huh. I thought that only happened in cartoons.

THE HUNTSMAN - recovers. He BLASTS his staff at--

JAKE - who is knocked out of the way by DRAGON GRANDPA, who swoops onto the scene.

THE ENERGY BEAM SIZZLES through--

THE LOCK ON THE MONKEY CAGE DOOR - The door swings open and the monkeys pour out, CHATTERING.

THE SKULL - rolls to a stop next to #88 and #89. #88 is reaching for it when a monkey grabs it. The monkey holds it out, offering it to them, then at the last second, tosses it over their heads to another monkey. They CHATTTER with glee.

Wait! Give it!/Hey! Come back with that!

The monkeys toss the skull back and forth, playing keep away, as #88 and #89 chase them down the hall.

Get that skull! I will deal with the dragon!

The Huntsman is leveling his staff at Jake when Huntsgirl flips in front of him, blocking his shot.

This one is mine, Master! Hi-ya!

Huntsgirl fly kicks into Jake.

She and Jake crash through a wooden door and into--
A CONTROL ROOM

--video surveillance monitors show scenes from around the zoo. Huntsgirl leaps up, making sure that the coast is clear. She peels off her mask, pointing to--

A MONITOR - that shows #88 and #89. #89 trips, accidentally firing his staff as he falls. A monkey dodges the blast, tossing the skull into the air and into the arms of #88. The duo scrambles around a corner.

49 ROSE
Jake, 88 and 89 are getting away with the skull.

Jake joins her at the monitor.

50 JAKE
They won’t get far. Fu Dog’s guarding the rear exit.
(scours the monitors) Did you see which room they went into?

INT. DARK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

#88 and #89 feel their way through the nearly pitch black room.

51 #89
Hey, did you notice how those monkeys took off as soon as we walked in here?

52 #88
<scoff> They probably knew I was about to open a can of Huntssmack all over their sorry--

WIDE ON THE ROOM - as #89 FLICKS on the lights to reveal they’re standing on the backs of a row of GIANT SNARLING CROCODILES in a water tank. The Crocs spring on them, jaws SNAPING. They juggle the skull back and forth.

53 #88/#89
<girllie scream>!/Get ‘em off! Get ‘em off!
INT. MAIN EXHIBIT - CONTINUOUS

THE HUNTSMAN — blasts at DRAGON GRANDPA with his staff. Grandpa gets behind him. The Huntsman reaches back and flips Grandpa over his head, SLAMMING into the bars of a cage.

54 HUNTSMAN
You’re growing slower, old dragon.

55 GRANDPA
And wiser...

Grandpa’s tail flicks open the door of the cage and a BLACK JAGUAR comes ROARING out, leaping onto the Huntsman.

56 HUNTSMAN
Argghhhhh!

INT. CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ON A MONITOR — where the Huntsman struggles with the jaguar. Rose turns to Jake.

57 HUNTSGIRL
I’d better get out there. The Huntsman’s been getting suspicious.

Before she goes, Jake places a dragon hand on her shoulder.

58 JAKE
Rose? Just think about homecoming. The two of us as king and queen— It wouldn’t be so bad.

She considers this.

59 HUNTSGIRL
We’ll talk tomorrow, ok?

With a sympathetic look, Rose pulls down her mask and flips away.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - NIGHT

AN EMERGENCY EXIT DOOR — #88 and #89 come falling out of the door, beaten and bruised. Their underwear is visible through their completely shredded clothes. #88 holds up the skull.
Check it, 89! We got the skull!

#88 and #89 launch into a highly choreographed man-cheer.

We’re so cool and superfly!

Dragons got no alibi!

They ugly! That’s right! They U-G-L-Y, ug--AAAAAAAH!

WIDEN – as #88 & #89 turn to come face to face with Dragon Grandpa and Dragon Jake (who holds FU DOG). Frightened, the skull pops out of their hands, landing right in the arms of Fu Dog.

Uh, speaking of ugly, you might wanna take a look behind you.

#88 and #89 – turn back around as a crocodile reaches through the door, SNAPPPING on the seat of their uniforms and yanking them back in the door. We hear more SNAPPPING and THRASHING.

No! Leggo! Leggo!/ Ow! Aw man, that was my favorite underwear!

As Jake, Grandpa, and Fu sail into the sky with the skull, we-

SUBWAY MAP TRANSITION TO:

INT. GRANDPA’S SHOP – NIGHT

Jake examines the newly acquired skull while removing the other two from the shop safe. Grandpa and Fu are nearby.

So how exactly do these skull thingies work again?

Whoever possesses all thirteen is granted one irreversible wish.
And if the Huntsman gets his mitts on ‘em, ten bucks says he ain’t wishin’ for a collection of 70s soft-rock hits.

Jake stares down at the three skulls, confused.

So why don’t we just destroy the three we have and be done with it?

The skulls only work when all thirteen are together, and they can only be destroyed when all thirteen are together.

When it is safe, Rose will snatch the Huntsman’s skulls and bring them to us.

Then we’ll destroy ‘em, and bingo, bango, bazingo, Huntsy’s master plan is flushed down the master can.

Jake chimes in, liking where this is going.

And I’ll have time to pursue other things... (to himself) like Rose.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

VARIOUS STUDENTS (Trixie included) work on B.G. FLOATS WITH SPARTAN WARRIOR THEMES. Spud sits nearby, scribbling a note.

(to himself, as he writes)

Hey, you. Meet me in the kissy-kissy closet in five minutes for some kissy-kissies? Signed, you-know-who.

Spud folds the note into a little square. As Stacey walks past, he deftly slips it into a notebook she’s carrying.
Man, am I a sly dog or what?

Spud walks O.S.

ON TRIXIE - who’s fashioning a SPARTAN SHIELD FLOAT DECORATION out of pipe cleaners. As Stacey walks past her, Spud’s note falls out of her notebook, landing on--

--the table where Trixie is working. Not seeing where it came from, Trixie picks up the note, and reads it with growing excitement.

TRIXIE
(reading)
Hey, you. Meet me in the kissy-kissy closet in five minutes for some kissy-kissies? Signed, you-know-who?!

She looks up to see--

Kyle Wilkins working on the float a few feet away. Their eyes meet. He smiles and gives her a little wave.

TRIXIE (CONT’D)
(to herself)
Kyle Wilkins, you sly dog!

EXT. SCHOOL PROP LOCKER AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Trixie walks up to the door marked “PROP LOCKER,” opens the door, and walks in.

INT. “KISSY-KISSY” CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

Complete darkness.

SPUD/TRIXIE (O.S.)<kissing noises>

A brief moment of silence.

TRIXIE (O.S.)
Uh... K-kyle??

SPUD (O.S.)
(deep voice/cheesy accent)
S-tacey?
(oh please, God)
Reynaldo, the Argentinian exchange student?

(deep voice/cheesy accent)
Stacey??

*DELETED*

Spud flicks the overhead light on, revealing Spud and Trixie face-to-face. Horror fills both of their faces.

Spud!  
Trixie!  
<scream!>  
<scream!>

A beat as they stare at each other, taking this in. Then--

EXT. KISSY-KISSY CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

The door bursts open and Trixie and Spud run off in different directions, screaming.

<long continuous scream!>

CUT TO:

EXT. SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - BLEACHERS - SAME TIME

Jake catches up to Rose, who makes her way down the bleachers.

Rose, hey. Have you had a chance to give Homecoming some thought? 'Cause I--
Just then, BRIGITTE CARLISLE, a gossipy student reporter, runs up with her STUDENT CAMERAMAN. She speaks rapid-fire to camera, talking into a HAND-HELD MICROPHONE.

90 BRIGITTE CARLISLE
Brigitte Carlisle here with “Brigey’s Bits”—the serious scoop *
’n scuttlebutt on Fillmore’s most *
fab.

She turns to them.

91 BRIGITTE CARLISLE (CONT’D)
So how does it feel to be nominated for King and Queen?

Jake and Rose share an awkward look.

92 ROSE
Well, Jake and I aren’t technically a couple.

93 JAKE
--of crazy kids. We’re responsible young adults who are confident we can make this thing work.

Brigitte is overwhelmed with emotion.

94 BRIGITTE CARLISLE
Touching. Inspirational. Wonderful. (then) The homecoming ball’s being held on the rooftop of the Pantheon Building -- the best view in the city. Who are you wearing?

Rose shoots a sorrowful glance at Jake.

95 ROSE
Well I was thinking it probably wouldn’t be a good idea for us to go--

96 JAKE
--Go crazy with the details! You’ll just have to wait and be surprised like everybody else.

Brigitte turns back to CAMERA.
You heard it here first! Brigitte Carlisle for "Brigey’s Bits" signing off.
As the camera turns off, Rose turns to Jake.

98    ROSE
I’m sorry, Jake but I--

99    BRIGITTE CARLISLE
Yeah, dish later. We need all
Homecoming princesses on the field
for glamour shots, choppity-chop!

Brigitte grabs Rose and escorts her away.

100   JAKE
Aw, man.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR – NIGHT

#88 AND #89 – have a series of slides that show pie charts,
graphs, etc. projected on a wall. #88 uses a pointer to
point to a screen showing video footage of them getting
thrashed by the crocodiles. The Huntsman watches.

101   #89
Now, this footage clearly shows us
fighting a whole herd of crocodiles
with our bare hands...

102   #88
Actually, it’s pack. Pack of
crocodiles. Not herd. We fought a
pack of crocodiles with our bare
hands.

103   #89
Maybe it’s flock?

104   #88
Say what?

105   #89
Flock of crocodiles? School of
crocodiles? Gaggle of croco--

106   #88
Look, point is -- we did everything
in our power to recover that skull.
It isn’t our fault!

THE HUNTSMAN – SLAMS his fist down on the control panel. He
motions over to the rack holding the other ten Aztec Skulls.
These ten skulls are useless to me without the other three! I want results, not excuses!

#88 and #89 kneel before him.

No worries, Big Man. We won’t rest ’til we get those skulls.

Right. Except we might grab a quick cat nap before we head out.

As #88 continues, something on the video monitor catches the Huntsman’s eye.

Just forty winks, you know, or maybe just twenty...

Silence! Activate the audio on the control room footage.

A MONITOR - shows footage of Dragon Jake talking with Rose.

Just think about homecoming. The two of us as king and queen-- It wouldn’t be so bad.

We’ll talk tomorrow, ok?

In a moment of rage, the Huntsman slams his fist down on the control panel.

After a moment, he turns to #88 and #89, suppressing his rage.

88, 89, I have an assignment for you. It appears we have a traitor in our midst.

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

EXT. SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - NEXT DAY

PAN ACROSS - the field, now filled with various food booths and rides and a banner reading “HAPPY HOMECOMING!” (Re-use school carnival layout from 201?)

CLOSER ON FOOD BOOTH - as Trixie and Spud round opposite corners and bump into each other.

They recover, not sure how to act.

115 SPUD
Oh, uh... hey there, friend Trixie!
I was just thinking, “Where’s my friend Trixie been keeping her friend self all day?!”

116 TRIXIE
Oh, you know. Been busy as a bee. Bzzz, bzzz, bzzz! Heh.

A painfully awkward beat. Spud scratches his beanie.

117 TRIXIE (CONT’D)
Okay, this is bananas. It was just one freaky accidental kiss.

Spud nods, over-enthusiastically.

118 SPUD
Yeah, you’re totally right!
There’s no reason we can’t just move on and put the whole “kiss” thing out of our minds.

Just then, Jake walks up to them.

119 JAKE
Hey, guys. How’d you make out?

Trixie and Spud freak out.

120 TRIXIE
Make out?! Who’s making out?! We didn’t make out!!

Jake shoots them an odd look.

121 JAKE
Uh... with the whole Float Committee thing?
TRIXIE
Oh. N-nothing happened!

SPUD
Nope, not a thing!

Jake shrugs, cluelessly.

JAKE
Okay, fine. I get it. Your lips are sealed.

WIDEN - as a Male Student seems to talk to Trixie and Spud.

MALE STUDENT
So what’s the story? Did you get to first base or what?

Trixie and Spud exchange a horrified look... then bolt in different directions, screaming.

SPUD/TRIXIE
<long continuous scream!>

They run off, revealing a KID IN BASEBALL UNIFORM standing just behind them. He slumps, shaking his head.

BASEBALL KID
Dude, I totally struck out.

He then turns to Jake, gesturing to the direction Trixie and Spud just fled.

BASEBALL KID (CONT’D)
What’s up with them?

DELETED

Jake shrugs, confused.

NEW ANGLE - Jake spots a miserable Rose with some other HOMECOMING PRINCESSES WEARING SASHES posing for pictures. He walks up to the STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHER.
Uh, sorry to interrupt, but Principal Rotwood would like to see Rose in the cafeteria immediately?

Off of Rose’s thankful expression, we--

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

THE CAF DOORS open to reveal Rose enter followed by Jake.

Thanks for rescuing me. After two days of photo shoots, I’ve been dying for a little peace and--

She stops in her tracks, stunned to see--

ROSE’S POV - Pan across the darkened cafeteria. The tables have been cleared away, the windows blacked out, the disco ball lit. SLOW DANCE MUSIC plays.

Jake, what is this?

BACK ON JAKE & ROSE - as Jake turns to her.

Since Homecoming doesn’t seem to be in the cards for us, I thought we’d have a ball of our own. Care to dance?

Jake takes her hand and leads her to the dance floor. They begin to slow-dance in the middle of the caf.

Jake, it’s not that I don’t want to go with you, it’s just--

Too dangerous. I know.

It’s more than that. I just... I want a normal life. A life where I don’t have to worry about giant snakes or magical beetles, or--
Rose, listen. After this skull business is over, I think it’s time for you to leave the Huntsclan. For good.

But how? I mean, where would I go? Last time I checked, the online directories weren’t exactly filled with listings for “Homes for Wayward Dragon Slayers.”

Remember your dream? The Huntsclan stole you from your parents when you were a baby. I want to help you find your real family.

Rose is beyond touched.

Jake, thank you. I don’t know how I’d ever-- (a beat, then) Let’s go to the homecoming ball tonight.

Wha--? Are you sure? ‘Cause I don’t wanna--

Yeah. I’m sure.

Jake is beside himself.

Awesome. Tonight’s gonna be perfect, Rose. I can feel it.

As they continue to dance, we pan up to the skylight, where #88 and #89 stare down at them.

EXT. SCHOOL ROOFTOP - DAY - CONTINUOUS

#88 and #89 look up from the skylight and share an evil look.

That’s what he thinks! Mua-ha-ha-ha-ha-<choking/coughing> Dang!

(MORE)
I choked on my own spit. I hate it when that happens.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Trixie is at her locker. She shuts it and accidentally walks right into Spud who is at his locker next to her.

145  TRIXIE
<startled scream!>

146  SPUD
<startled scream!>

Trixie composes herself, but looks perplexed.

147  TRIXIE
<sigh> Okay, if we both know the kiss didn’t mean anything, why can’t we get past it?

Spud shrugs, then pauses, struck with an odd thought.

148  SPUD
Hmm. You don’t suppose that maybe, possibility, it mighta kinda sorta maybe did mean something, do you?

A beat then--

149  TRIXIE
<bursts out laughing> (then) Oh, you’re serious. Spudinski, there is no way... I mean, I seriously doubt... I mean... you think?

Spud shrugs.

150  SPUD
I dunno. But I’ve been told that once you’ve tried Gourmet Spud, everything else tastes like dog food wrapped in a T.P. tortilla.

151  TRIXIE
Well, there is one way we could find out...

She points to a “HOMECOMING BALL -- TONIGHT!” banner hanging over their heads.
As Spud considers this, we--

CUT TO:

INT. HUNTSCLAN LAIR - AFTERNOON

THE HUNTSMAN - FLICKS off the computer on his control panel as Huntsgirl (sans mask) enters the room. #88 and #89 stand nearby.

152 HUNTSMAN
Huntsgirl. How nice of you take time out of your busy social life to see me.

153 HUNTSGIRL
What?

He hits a button on the control panel.

WIDE ON THE CONTROL ROOM - as all of the monitors switch to the footage of Huntsgirl talking to dragon Jake.

154 JAKE (REPRINT)
Just think about homecoming. The two of us king and queen-- It wouldn’t be so bad.

155 HUNTSGIRL (REPRINT)
We’ll talk tomorrow, ok?

ON HUNTSGIRL - her eyes widen in panic. #89 leans in.

156 #89
(a la Tootie)
Oooh, there’s gonna be trooouuble!

FOUR HUNTSCLAN GUARDS - converge on--

HUNTSGIRL - who leaps forward, kicking Huntsman’s staff out of his hands.

157 HUNTSGIRL
Hi-ya!

She catches it, spins around, and dispenses all four guards in a quick series of swipes and kicks. (#88 and #89, meanwhile, curl into the fetal position on the floor.)

158 HUNTSGIRL
<various efforts and kicks>
She turns the staff on the Huntsman.

159  HUNTSGIRL
Perhaps you trained me too well.

The Huntsman is unfazed. #88 and #89 get back on their feet.

160  HUNTSMAN
On the contrary. You shall use your training to betray your precious dragon and bring me the remaining three skulls in his possession.

161  HUNTSGIRL
I’d never betray him.

162  HUNTSMAN
Oh, but you will. You see, I know the exact location of your parents.

163  #88
With a live video feed to prove it.

#88 presses a button on the console, bringing up a snippet from the “POOKA-POOKA SHOW” (See “Haley Gone Wild”)

164  #88
Oopsie. Wrong button.

#88 presses another button, bringing up a CANDID SECURITY SURVEILLANCE OF ROSE’S REAL PARENTS EATING DINNER.

Huntsgirl studies the footage and lowers her staff, stunned.

165  HUNTSGIRL
It’s—it’s them. I recognize them from my dream.

166  HUNTSMAN
I assure you, they’re quite safe. And they’ll remain that way... as long as you do exactly as I say and bring me those skulls. Tonight.

Off of Huntsgirl’s look of utter helplessness, we--

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. PANTHEON SKYSCRAPER - GOTHIC ROOFTOP - NIGHT

ESTABLISHING - The Homecoming Ball is in full swing: KIDS IN FORMAL WEAR dancing, a stage with a DEEJAY BOOTH, lots of streamers and decorations. Twelve Gargoyle statues line the building’s perimeter. Beyond the building is the NYC skyline in all its glory. MID-TEMPO MUSIC plays.

CLOSER - as Trixie and Spud (she’s dressed to the nines; he’s in a powder blue tux) slow-dance, looking incredibly awkward and uneasy.

167  TRIXXIE
So here we are. At Homecoming.
You feeling any sparks yet?

168  SPUD
Know what? I think I am. (then)
Or it could be the cocktail wienies repeating on me.

Trixie shoots him a look.

169  SPUD
Hey, I know. Maybe I should spin
you like couples do in the movies!

170  TRIXXIE
Uh, ok. That’d be romantic, I guess.

Spud spins Trixie like a top. She careens out of control, and O.S. We hear a loud CRASH.

171  TRIXXIE
WhohahahahahahaahaaHHHHH!

172  SPUD
Uh...Whoops.

Just then, A TUXEDO-CLAD JAKE walks up to Spud, worried.

173  JAKE
Hey, Spud. Have you seen Rose?
Sun’s about to announce the king and queen.

Spud shrugs and shakes his head.
SPUD

Sorry, dude. If you’ll excuse me, I should probably go help Trixie get her tuchus out of the punch bowl.

As Spud exits, Jake slumps, anxiously checking his watch.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHINATOWN - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Fu Dog rounds the corner with a couple of females dogs, the CHOW CHOW TWINS.

FU DOG

Good news, ladies. The old man’s out with his mah jongg buddies, which means we got the shop all to our--

He stops in his tracks, his face filling with concern.

REVEAL - Grandpa’s shop right in front of them, the door off its hinges. Windows smashed. The place is ransacked.

FU DOG

Yuh-oh.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABOVE NYC - NIGHT

A HUNTSCLAN HOVER-CRAFT zips above the city.

INT. HUNTCLAN COVERCRAFT COCKPIT - SAME TIME

#88 and #89 steer the ship. In adjacent seats, the Huntsman examines the TWO SKULLS as Huntsgirl (sans mask) confronts him.

HUNTSGIRL

I gave you your skulls, now tell me where my parents are.

HUNTSMAN

Not until my plan is complete.

HUNTSGIRL

What? But you promised!
Huntsman
And you promised your allegiance.

#88
The Pantheon Building’s in sight, Master.

Huntsgirl reacts, confused.

The Pantheon Building? But that’s where— I mean, what’s so special about the Pantheon Building?

CUT TO:

EXT. PANTHEON SKYSCRAPER - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Pan from a gargoyle statue to Sun standing on-stage. Mic in one hand, envelope in the other, she addresses the students through the PA system.

And now the moment you’ve all been waiting for: The crowning of your Homecoming King and Queen!

Jake - looks around anxiously for Rose as his cell phone starts RINGING. He pulls it out, glances down at the caller I.D., and flips it open. (No telephone # display, please).

Yo, Fu. Not a good time.

Intercut w/ Fu in Grandpa’s Shop

The place is ransacked. Fu cradles the receiver, perched next to the shop’s safe, which is busted open and empty.

You’re tellin’ me. The Huntsman busted into the shop and took the skulls!

Say what? Fu, he’s got the power to annihilate us! All of us!

Fu dog consults a computer as he cradles the phone.
Well, not exactly. According to my research, the skulls only work if they’re inserted into something called the “Gargoyles of Pantheon.”

Jake glances over to a nearby gargoyle statue. Then to the eleven others surrounding it.

Uh, by “Gargoyles of Pantheon,” do you mean one of these?

Jake aims the phone at the gargoyle, clicks a picture, and hits the send button.

Back in the shop, the photo pops up on Fu’s computer screen.

Yeah, that’s-- Hey, how did you--?

Fu, you and Gramps need to get to the Pantheon Building. Now.

...The new King and Queen of Fillmore Middle School are...

INT. GRANDPA’S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

WIDEN TO INCLUDE - a SECURITY MONITOR beside Fu, which clearly depicts HUNTSGIRL slicing into the safe with her staff and handing the skulls to the huntsman.

Uh, kid? There’s something else.

EXT. PANTHEON SKYSCRAPER - GOTHIC ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Rose led the Huntsman to the shop. She gave him those skulls.

ON SUN - who reads from the envelope on stage.
194  SUN
(into mic)
...Jake and Rose!

Applause, MUSIC, and confetti as--

Jake holds the phone, stunned. A glaring spotlight finds him with a <CA-CHUNK!> An ashen Jake looks around, shell-shocked. Everyone’s looking at him, smiling, and clapping.

195  FU DOG (FILTERED, O.S.)
I’m sorry, kid.

196  JAKE
(dazed, into phone)
I... I have to go.

He absently hangs up the phone, his face completely glazed over. Everything around Jake turns BLURRY. The MUSIC and CROWD MURMURS turn echoey and distant.

197  TRIXIE (ECHOEY)
Jakey, you okay?

198  SPUD (ECHOEY)
Bro, did you find Rose?

Just then--

UPSHOT on the skyline as the Huntsclan hovercraft descends from the sky.

TWELVE IDENTICAL HUNTSCLAN SENTRIES repel down ropes, each holding a skull.

Exhaust from the engines fills the area with smoke, obscuring visibility.

199  STUDENTS
<frightened, confused walla>

SUN - gestures toward the exit.

200  SUN
Everyone! Get inside!

As kids file inside--

The ship blasts off into the night.
WIDE ON ROOFTOP - The smoke clears, revealing Jake, (flanked by Trixie and Spud) in the center of the dance floor, face-to-face with the Huntsman (flanked by Huntsgirl, #88, and #89 and 12 Huntsclan sentries, each holding a skull.) The Huntsman holds the 13th skull.

Jake locks eyes with Huntsgirl.

201  JAKE
So it’s true.

Huntsgirl takes off her mask, her face filled with anguish.

202  HUNTSGIRL
Jake. I’m sorry.

The Huntsman steps forward, studying Jake.

203  HUNTSMAN
So this is the American Dragon’s true human form. Before I wish for the annihilation of you and your kind, any last words?

Jake grits his teeth.

204  JAKE
Well, considering the occasion, I have just two:

Jake DRAGONS UP. Over the rooftop behind him, DRAGON GRANDPA, DRAGON SUN, DRAGON HALEY (with Fu Dog) swoop up into view. All ready for battle.

205  JAKE (CONT’D)
Let’s dance.

WIDE ON ROOFTOP - as Dragons, Trixie, Spud, and Fu square off against the Huntsclan in a spectacular battle royale.

JAKE - dodges blasts from the Huntsman’s staff before finally grabbing hold of it himself.

Jake and the Huntsman wrestle for the staff.

206  JAKE/HUNTSMAN
<struggling efforts>

Jake manages to swing the staff over his shoulder, sending the Huntsman (and the skull) flying.

207  HUNTSMAN
<whoaaa--oof>
The Huntsman lands on his back, hard, the force of the fall cracking his helmet down the middle.

In a deft move, the Huntsman springs to his feet, angrily rips off his damaged helmet, and yells to his sentries.

208 HUNTSMAN
Sentries! Fan out!

As the sentries flip towards the Gargoyles with their skulls--

Trixie jumps on #89’s back and pulls his mask over his eyes.

209 #88
Ahhhh! Help! I can’t see through my eyeholes! Mommmmyyyyy!

Spud, meanwhile, tackles #89. They roll on the rooftop, coming to a stop with Spud on top of him. Spud grabs a plateful of Hors Dourves from the nearby refreshment table and shoves it in #89’s face.

210 SPUD
Taste fondue, Huntsfreak!!

211 #89
<girllie scream>!

JAKE - scrambles towards the Huntsman’s rolling crystal skull, which comes to a stop at--

Huntsgirl’s feet. She picks it up.

JAKE & HUNTSGIRL - lock eyes. Meanwhile--

QUICK CUTS - as most of the sentries insert the skulls into the mouths of the gargoyles along the perimeter of the rooftop. Each one lights up with an eerie glow. However--

The final two sentries are confronted by 1.) Haley and Sun, and 2.) Grandpa and Fu Dog.

212 SUN
Haley, all your training has come down to this. Let’s get ‘em!
?action noise!>

213 GRANDPA
<kung fu action noise>

As the four of them take on the sentries--

JAKE & ROSE circle each other in a face-off.
INCLUDE THE HUNTSMAN - looking on.

214  HUNTSMAN
Huntsgirl. Hand me the skull and finish him.

Huntsgirl hesitates.

215  HUNTSMAN
If you ever want to see your parents, you’ll do as I say.

After a conflicted beat, Huntsgirl tosses the Huntsman the skull. She lunges at Jake and begins to spar with him.

216  HUNTSGIRL
<lunging> <kung fu efforts>

The Huntsman smiles, pleased, as--

As Jake tries his best to dodge and fight Huntsgirl off.

217  JAKE
Your parents. That’s how he’s making you do this.

218  HUNTSGIRL
All I wanted was a normal life. But the Huntsclan took that away from me. And now, there’s only one way this can end, Jake. I’m sorry.

Huntsgirl slings a MANRIKI CHAIN at him. It wraps itself around him, sending Jake crashing to the ground.

219  JAKE
<oof!>

BACK ON GRANDPA, SUN, HALEY, AND FU - as the twelve Huntsclan sentries surround and seize them.

220  GRANDPA/SUN/FU DOG
<struggling efforts>

Meanwhile-

#88 & #89 tangle Trixie and Spud up in a homecoming banner, their faces close.

221  #89
Ha! Who’s eating fondue now? Huh, funny boy?
Trixie turns to Spud.

222  SPUD
Trix, in case we don’t make it through this, there’s something you should know. About us.

Trixie and Spud stare meaningfully into each other’s eyes for a long beat, then--

223  TRIXIE
Friends and nothing more, right?

224  SPUD
Amen to that, sister.

A tied-up Jake looks on helplessly as--

--two sentries insert the skulls into the last two gargoyles, which begin glowing eerily, like the others.

WIDE ON ROOFTOP - The battle over, a magical band now shoots out of the gargoyles, creating a glowing perimeter around the building.

Jake, tied, quietly pleads to Huntsgirl.

225  JAKE
Please, Rose. Don’t do this.

Huntsgirl coldly turns away from him and walks with the Huntsman to the center of the rooftop.

226  HUNTSMAN
Well done, Huntsgirl.

The Huntsman holds his skull in the air. It glows, and a mystical band of energy connects it to the others.

227  HUNTSMAN
(then, to the heavens)
By the Pantheon of Aztec skulls, I hereby wish for the destruction of all--

A LASER BLAST takes the Huntsman out. As he collapses, we reveal HUNTSGIRL behind him, holding a smoking staff, pointed to where the Huntsman had been standing seconds before. She catches the skull and raises it to the heavens.

228  HUNTSGIRL
--the destruction of all Huntsclan!
Everyone reacts in shock as--

A GIANT SWIRLING VORTEX opens up in the sky above them.

THE NYC SKYLINE - the vortex swirls, as wide as the city.

ON HUNTSCLAN SENTRIES - One by one, they’re sucked into up into the sky towards the vortex.

#88 & #89 - exchange a panicked look, then whip out a SMALL POCKETBOOK with the Huntsclan logo on it.

229  #88
Uh, fyi, according to the Huntsclan bylaws, first year novices are allowed to resign.

230  #89
Not that this hasn’t been a rewarding job experience, but effective immediately--

231  #88/#89
--We quit!

They rip off their uniforms (their boxers and masks stay on.)

232  #89
See, Huntsclan-sucking vortex? No more Huntsclan for us! Nosiree!

They trip over each other and disappear inside rooftop exit. Meanwhile--

Huntsgirl cuts a stunned Jake free. (Huntsclan sentries all around them are sucked up into the sky and into the vortex). Jake turns human.

233  JAKE
Rose, why did you--?

234  ROSE
I said there was only one way this could end, and this is it. With the destruction of the Huntsclan.

235  JAKE
But you’re one of them. That means--

236  ROSE
I know what that means. But even if we destroy the skulls, they know your human identity, Jake.

(MORE)
ROSE (cont'd)
They’d find your family like they did mine. This way they’ll be safe. They’ll all be safe.

They watch as the unconscious Huntsman rises off the rooftop and is swallowed into the vortex.

237 JAKE
But--

Rose begins to levitate into the air.

238 ROSE
Thank you, Jake. For everything.
I’ll never forget you.

239 JAKE
Rose, no!

Jake grabs her hand. Rose calmly smiles, saying reassuringly:

240 ROSE
Jake, let go. I’ll be okay. I promise. I’ll be okay.

ON THEIR HANDS - as Jake finally lets go.
ROSE - rises into the air towards the vortex.

JAKE - picks up the skull as Trixie, Spud, Fu, Haley, Sun, and Grandpa gather around.

241 JAKE
We have to do something. We have to use the skulls to save her!

Grandpa puts a sympathetic arm on him.

242 FU DOG
Sorry, kid. But the skulls need to be destroyed. Their powers are just too dangerous.

243 GRANDPA
To use them for your own personal gain would--

244 JAKE
It won’t be for my personal gain, it’ll be for hers. She deserves a normal life. With a family who cares about her.

Jake holds up the skull.
(to the heavens)
I wish Rose was never taken from
her parents!

WIDE AERIAL SHOT - of rooftop as a huge magical ripple
extends out from the perimeter skulls and into the city. (The
rooftop and everyone on it remains untouched by the ripple.)

ON VORTEX - Just as Rose is about to enter it, the ripple
wipes the night sky clear. Rose, and the vortex, are gone.

CLOSER ON JAKE - who throws the crystal skull to the ground,
SHATTERING it into a million pieces.

WIDER - the magical beam is broken; the other skulls explode.
JAKE - walks off, gritting his teeth.

Consider them destroyed.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAKE’S SCHOOL - MONDAY AFTERNOON

Jake joins Trixie and Spud as they walk down the steps.

Hey, Bro. How ya holding up?

We missed you during free period.

I spent it patrolling the city. As
a far as I can tell, Rose’s wish
came true. No Huntsclan anywhere.

But what about your wish? I mean,
if the Rose that exists today was
never taken by the Huntsclan, that
means all the stuff between you and
her never happened. She’s lived a
whole other life.

Jake shrugs.

As long as she’s happy.
Jake drops his skateboard and straps on his helmet.

252  JAKE (CONT’D)  
Well, later guys. I’m off to  
Gramps’ shop for some drag—<oof!>

Jake kicks off, skating backwards, and SMACKS right into  
Rose, who drops her books.

253  JAKE  
Sorry, I--

Jake instinctively bends down to help her with her books,  
then pauses, stunned to see who it is.

254  JAKE  
Oh. Hey... there.

Rose smiles as she gathers her books.

255  ROSE  
Hey, yourself.

They exchange a smile. There’s chemistry.

256  ROSE  
You look really familiar. Do I  
know you from somewhere?

A beat, then--

257  JAKE  
No. Sorry.

Rose looks past Jake.

258  ROSE  
I better get going. My parents are  
here.

Jake turns to see--

ROSE’S PARENTS - waving, standing beside a car.

Rose turns back to Jake.

258A  JAKE  
So I’ll see you around?

259  ROSE  
Actually, my dad got a job  
overseas. We’re leaving for Paris  
first thing tomorrow.  
(MORE)
ROSE (cont'd)
(then, as she leaves)  But it was *
nice meeting you.

Jake smiles bittersweetly as he watches Rose hug her parents.
260  JAKE
You too, Rose. Happy Homecoming.

As they climb into the car and drive off--

Trixie and Spud meet up with Jake, feeling him out.

261  SPUD
Bro, you okay?

A beat, then Jake turns to them.

262  JAKE
Actually, I am.

They make their way down the street.

263  TRIXIE
Good to hear. But there’s one thing we still don’t get. Why’d you have to destroy the skulls before we could make our wishes?

264  SPUD
Yeah, I could’ve been a merman!

265  TRIXIE
And I could’ve been Trixie Wilkins! Trixie ‘fine-like-lemon-lime-in-the-summertime’ Wilkins!

Jake puts his arms around them.

266  JAKE
Know what, guys? It’s nice to know some things never change.

As the three friends shrink into the horizon, we-

FADE OUT.

END SHOW