

**EXT. JANUS FALLS - THE STICKS - DAY**

A LEGO HOUSE sits in the middle of a lush GARDEN that splits into FOUR MUSHROOM-DOTTED TRAILS heading in all four directions. The only natural life for miles amid dead earth.

OLLIE (18), in civil servant threads that hang a little too loose, stands behind OXEN, her robotic Dobermann. She takes in the house, walks to the door, KNOCKS, and comes back. Oxen's VISOR displays 8-BIT versions of them inside a heart.

She looks around, clocks a MOUNTED cowboy not far off: SAUL REDPATH (50s, bearded), near a rusty SQUARE-WHEELED CAR. His steely gaze is trained on her.

OXEN (O.S.)

(tinny)

Ignore him. Run the play again.

Ollie rolls her eyes. She glares at Oxen.

OLLIE

Lie, distract *Granny* of all people, steal *unstable* wormhole mushrooms, and rescue you from *Storyside* of all places before she finds out and ships me off like those kids.

OXEN

She wouldn't do that to *kids*.

OLLIE

Right, and Saul wouldn't be *mad* if you let the dwarves come up for air. They wouldn't unionize, you wouldn't bolt to another dimension like a coward, and I wouldn't have to risk my ass again to save yours.

OXEN

That's not what I meant.

(off Ollie)

You know as well as I do that a witch never wastes a good meal.

The DOOR FLIES OPEN -- they flinch. It's GRANNY GRIZ (60s), a pale and heavysset goth survivalist with seaweed hair. Before Ollie can speak, Granny's attention drifts to Saul.

OLLIE

M-miss Griselda? I'm an auditor for the Department of Environmental Harmony-

GRANNY GRIZ

-how about I "harmonize" that posture with a piece of rope if you don't skip the song and dance and tell me whose voice you hear that wants out?

Ollie straightens her back. She's confused.

OLLIE

Um. M-my brother. Finn.  
(sheepish)

I hear him through my dog.

On Oxen. He BARKS once happily.

### **BASEMENT - LATER**

Oxen leads a hesitant Ollie down a narrow flight of stairs. At the bottom, Granny waits, her attention fixed on a source of beige light deep inside. When Ollie reaches the bottom and sees what Granny is watching, her jaw drops:

A LUMINOUS HOLOGRAM streams from the wall - two female figures shape-shift between HUNTRESS, HEALER, QUEEN and MAID. ALICE (20s), disturbingly childlike in her onesie, watches and giggles from bed, spooning ice cream while light plays across her face.

Ollie TOUCHES the WALL and closes her eyes. Her finger traces the GLOWING FILAMENTS threading through the inner wall with perfect accuracy.

OLLIE

(quiet)

Finn?

(louder)

Finn, can you hear me?

(shouting)

Finn. Talk to me, dammit.

Ollie slumps back and stews while watching a queen tear through a dragon.

GRANNY GRIZ (PRE-LAP)

Mirrorcaps. They reveal your fears and desires from Storyside.

### **KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER**

Ollie paces, as Granny rolls cookie dough into balls and places them on a baking sheet. Oxen, sad, watches them.

OLLIE  
I didn't see him.

GRANNY GRIZ  
He was never there, child. You want to save him, so long as there's a shortcut. You don't want the truth.

OLLIE  
(defensive)  
I don't want my brother to die!

GRANNY GRIZ  
...or die looking for your brother.

Ollie averts her gaze. Granny sighs, takes a seat at the KITCHEN TABLE. Ollie looks at her, angry.

OLLIE  
Even if mirrorcaps help us find the kids, it's a drug. An escape.

GRANNY GRIZ  
Sure is...if you see the world through your thoughts. Like a child. That's why they draw square wheels.  
(beat)  
Can't outrun Saul with those.

Beat. Ollie finally takes a seat. Granny smiles warmly.

GRANNY GRIZ (CONT'D)  
My advice? Ollie won't get it done.  
(off Ollie)  
The one who knocked today? Hell, the world already knows she's saved Hansel before.

Granny winks, "zips her lips" at Ollie. She smiles.

...then gets an idea. Ollie calls Oxen over and traces the back of his head. X-RAY VIEW: there are groove marks. Letters. They form the words: *Gretel, you owe me one*. Beat.

OLLIE  
"Ollie Ollie Oxenfree"?

A RED 8-BIT BOY blinks on Oxen's visor between them. His jaw SNAPS OPEN like a loaded hinge, revealing TITANIUM CUSPIDS. As Ollie puts two and two together, she flashes a mischievous grin. *Good boy*.