

Axton

Revision 1

By

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BLACK SCREEN - TEXT

By the decree of King Christoph Lennox IV, wizardry shall be \*  
outlawed in the kingdom. Magic is the root of all evil and \*  
those who exercise magic shall be executed immediately to \*  
guarantee the safety of the people and the kingdom.

INT. WATER LILY INN - NIGHT

The pub is empty. Candle light illuminates the worn-in  
wooden tables and chairs. It smells like stale ale, sweat,  
smoke, and day old bread.

A 17 year old girl wipes down the last table. Brown ringlet \*  
curls flow around her shoulders and down her back. She is \*  
dressed simply in a light purple, long sleeved dress.

This is ABIGAIL AXTON, and this is where her story begins.

MR. HENRY (O.S.)  
You have the last of the tables,  
Abigail?

ABIGAIL  
Yes, Mr. Henry! I'll lock up too.  
I'll see you tomorrow!

MR. HENRY (O.S.)  
Goodnight, dear.

Abigail accidentally knocks an empty glass off the table. \*  
Instantly, she extends her hand out to catch it but instead- \*

*The glass is suspended in thin air, like magic.* \*

The glass zips into her hand, safe and unscratched. \*

Abigail's eyes bulge. She looks around the pub frantically \*  
to make sure that Mr. Henry didn't see what just happened, \*  
and puts the glass back on the table.

Abigail takes a deep breath while putting the rag away and \*  
takes her coat from the rack. \*

She bundles up and opens the door.

EXT. WATER LILY INN - NIGHT

On the other side of the door, five KNIGHTS are waiting for her. A horse and buggy carriage is parked behind them.

Abigail is stunned. \*

SIR PHILIP  
TAKE HER!

Two knights seize Abigail, one on each arm.

ABIGAIL  
Ow! EXCUSE ME, SIR!

SIR PHILIP  
Make sure she doesn't run.

The knights carry her towards the back of the horse and buggy. Abigail kicks and tries to break free. Why are these knights taking her?

The back doors of the buggy fly open and the knights push Abigail into the car.

SIR PHILIP slides himself opposite her. He sits stiff and straight.

Sir Philip, 45, is a man that is aging finely. Blond hair and blue eyed, he has experienced the victories of war and is still living in the peak of his career. \*

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Horse hooves against cobble stones echo throughout the empty town. The wind whistles, branches rustle, there is not a soul in sight. \*

The horse and buggy travels down the main street.

INT. BUGGY - NIGHT

Abigail and Philip sit opposite each other in the car. A knight sits on each side of both of them.

SIR PHILIP  
Ms. Axton, I'm sure you are very unsettled at the moment, but I assure you that all will be well once you've provided assistance.

(CONTINUED)

ABIGAIL

Sir Philip? The King's Commanding Knight? What do you want from me?

SIR PHILIP

King Christoph Lennox IV requires information.

ABIGAIL

I work at the Water Lily Inn, sir. I wait on tables and clean up after. What information could I possibly know?

SIR PHILIP

We require the whereabouts of your father.

ABIGAIL

I've never met my father. He past away when I was young.

\*  
\*

SIR PHILIP

Right.

Sir Philip sits back in his seat. His jaw clenches.

SIR PHILIP

Do you know who your father is, dear?

ABIGAIL

My grandmother told me he was a blacksmith. He provided weaponry for the kingdom.

\*

SIR PHILIP

Oh, he provided weaponry alright.

ABIGAIL

Sir, I do not appreciate being held against my will and being taunted at. I would like an explanation for this. I want to be taken home.

SIR PHILIP

I'm afraid that won't be the case, dear. Not until your father is found.

ABIGAIL

My father is dead!

A flash of gold lights up her eyes.

\*

(CONTINUED)

The buggy starts to shake.

It stops.

SIR PHILIP

Swords.

The knights follow suit and lift their swords.

The buggy shakes again.

The knights look around, alert. It is eerily too quiet.

Suddenly... A loud jolt!

The doors fly open!

Moonlight reveals a silhouette of a man. He is unarmed. This is SAUL NEWELLE, 49, notorious wizard.

SAUL

Hello, Sir Philip. Nice to see you again!

SIR PHILIP

ATTACK!

The knights run out of the buggy. \*

Outside the buggy we see a young man, ARTHUR NEWELLE, 18, standing on top of the buggy with a sword in his hand. He jumps off.

ARTHUR

Great party we have here!

The knights strike at Arthur from all directions. But he is swift. He blocks left and strikes right.

Interesting odds, 5 knights to 1 boy. But that 1 boy keeps up. \*

INT. BUGGY - NIGHT

POP! \*

Saul appears out of thin air next to Abigail. She screams. \*  
Saul puts a finger to his lips indicating to be quiet. \*

SAUL

Come with me.

He extends his hand to her. She is hesitant.

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

I thought this might happen.

He grabs her hand, disregarding her cry, and they disappear.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Arthur fights off the knights, barely breaking a sweat. They circle around him, but he is too quick. He blocks their charges so swiftly and aggressively that they have to take a step back. \*

*POP!*

On the side of the buggy, Saul and Abigail appear out of thin air. Abigail tries to break free but Saul has a tight grip on her. \*

Saul reaches out a hand and hovers it in front of the buggy. It starts to catch fire.

He points to the ropes attaching the buggy to the horses and the horses break loose.

SAUL

Arthur! Let's go!

*POP!* They disappear into thin air. \*

Arthur snaps his fingers. The knights drop their weapons and their arms drop to their sides, straight. Their legs straighten too, stiff.

They drop, bodies petrified, as if it were heavy lead.

Arthur runs off the road and into the woods.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Abigail and Saul appear out of thin air again.

They stand in a small campground of sorts. Leaves cover up a small clearing where blankets would be put down to sleep on. A small fire pit is left unburned, ashes swept around, under a pile of leaves. \*

ABIGAIL

UNHAND ME!

Fear is evident in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

Don't fear, Abigail. My name is Saul Newelle. My son and I are here to help. \*

ABIGAIL

How do you know my name?

SAUL

We've met before. When you were just a baby.

ABIGAIL

What do you mean?

SAUL

Your birth was the happiest I've seen your father.

She stares at Saul quizzically. He knows he's got her attention.

ABIGAIL

How do you know my father?

SAUL

Ben Axton is my best friend. \*

*POP!*

Arthur appears out of thin air next to Saul. He stumbles backward, panting.

SAUL

Easy, son.

ARTHUR

I need to work on my landing... I ran eastward and left a trail. Hopefully Philip and his men will follow it. It will ward them off for a day the longest.

He looks up at Abigail.

ARTHUR

Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't introduce myself. I'm Arthur.

Arthur extends his hand forward. Abigail just stares at it. \*

Arthur retreats back.

(CONTINUED)

ARTHUR

She doesn't know, doesn't she?

ABIGAIL

Know what? What am I supposed to know?

SAUL

Have you ever made things happen without meaning to? Like moving things without touching them, or making things change with just a thought?

ABIGAIL

No... What do you mean? I don't make those kinds of things happen. \*

SAUL \*

Have things ever happened around you with no logical explanation? \*

ABIGAIL \*

No... What are you trying to say? \*

SAUL \*

You are a wizard. \*

ABIGAIL \*

I'm not a wizard! \*

SAUL

You don't need to be scared, Abigail.

ABIGAIL

How do you know me? Take me home! \*

SAUL

Your father is a wizard. A talented wizard, and the best man I know.

ABIGAIL

What are you talking about? My father passed away when I was young. There's no possible way he could have been a wizard. The wizards have been outlawed for years!

SAUL

Ah. Outlawed, but not gone.

(CONTINUED)



The three stand in silence for a moment. Saul and Arthur wait for her to respond.

Abigail calms for a moment, letting the information sink in.

SAUL

15 years ago, King Lennox's first born son was diagnosed with a fatal disease. The king was distraught. However, a wizard in his court offered assistance. So the king extended his trust to this wizard and prayed for the health of his heir. What was supposed to be a simple spell turned into a storm of unfortunate side effects and maloccurences. The young prince's disease was too strong. It was too late to cure, even for magic. The young prince passed away after a couple of days and the king was heartbroken. He blamed magic for the death of his heir. He ordered the death of the wizard in his court... ordered to have him killed on the spot. King Lennox was so heartbroken that he was convinced, and still is, that no good can come from magic. And thus, he ordered the death of all wizards or persons practicing magic.

ABIGAIL

What does this have to do with my father?

SAUL

That wizard that tried to help King Lennox but failed, was your grandfather. And your father, instead of growing bitter and taking vengeance on the King, united as many wizards as he could and led us all safely into exile.

ABIGAIL

Impossible.

SAUL

Your father is still alive. We left our camp to find him. And we may need your help.

(CONTINUED)

Abigail is flustered as she tries to comprehend the information. Her grandfather, the start of the wizard death sentence? Her father, the savior of wizards?

ABIGAIL

How do I know you're telling the truth? Why would I trust wizards?

Saul opens his mouth to speak before -

ARTHUR

Can I have your hand?

Arthur extends his right hand and again, Abigail hesitates.

ARTHUR

I won't hurt you. I just want to show you something.

Abigail slowly puts her hand into his. As they hold the grip, *gold sparks* start to wrap around their hands and wrists. The sensation is warm at the palms and tingly at the finger tips.

Abigail's eyes bulge. She feels the electricity, the magic, activate under her skin. After a few more moments, they let go and the sparks fade away.

ARTHUR

That wasn't just me. That's a wizard's handshake. The magic in our blood charges the other and creates the sparks. It's pretty cool.

Abigail stares at her hand, in awe. Did she just do that?

SAUL

Magic isn't wicked, Abigail, like you were grown up to think. It's just something you are born with.

FADE OUT. \*

EXT. WOODS, CAMP - NIGHT

Camp is set up where Abigail, Arthur, and Saul were standing before. A small fire crackles and burns. Orange shadows dance on Abigail's face as she sits and stares into the fire. A blanket is wrapped around her shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

Saul sits on the other side of the fire, a book in one hand and a map in the other. He studies both, burying his face from book to map, book to map.

Arthur sets up a makeshift bed next to the fire. He spreads a blanket over a clear spot on the ground and positions a bag at the head before sitting down. He and Abigail sit next to one another.

ARTHUR

Are you hungry?

Arthur takes out a loaf of bread from the bag.

ABIGAIL

No thank you.

ARTHUR

More for me then.

He breaks off a piece, bites off a chunk, and stares blankly into the fire. They sit in silence like this: Abigail staring into the fire and Arthur munching contentedly before-

\*

ABIGAIL

So you know my father too?

Arthur swallows the bread too quickly that he coughs.

ARTHUR

Y-Yeah. Wow, sorry. But yeah. Ben Axton is like an uncle to me.

Abigail nods.

ABIGAIL

So you grew up with him?

ARTHUR

Yes. He actually taught me how to fight with a sword. My father is more of a book person. Father can memorize ancient spells and can tell you anything you want about history and literature. But Ben, he taught me how to fight.

\*

\*

ABIGAIL

But can't you just use your magic?

(CONTINUED)

ARTHUR

I could... but that wouldn't be fair to the non-magic folk, wouldn't it?

\*

He smirks.

ARTHUR

Sword fighting is fun. And anyway, it shows the knights that I am their equal, in a way. That's what Ben wanted. We are no better than the non-magic people just because we have magic. It's a gift. But it should be used for the right things.

ABIGAIL

So my father... what else did he do?

ARTHUR

Ben's a great man. He led us all into safety during the executions. I was too young to really remember it, but without him, who knows where we would be? Probably dead.

ABIGAIL

Where did you guys go?

Arthur smiles.

ARTHUR

I currently reside in House-at-the-side-of-the-river next to Old Man Laurence.

Abigail hides a small smile.

ARTHUR

Ben took us to right outside the kingdom. West, by the Soteri River. We created a small little village for ourselves. We used to always have to watch out for any of Lennox's men. But they haven't gone out that far west in years. We're safe there.

ABIGAIL

So why did my father leave? Where did he go?

(CONTINUED)

ARTHUR

We don't know. He said that he had to travel south for a couple days. But a week went by and he didn't return. There has to be a reason, though. Ben's not a reckless man.

\*

ABIGAIL

Why did you and Saul come and get me instead of him? How did you even know it was me?

\*

ARTHUR

We thought that he might have gone to see you. And it wasn't too hard. You were where he left you.

Silence falls again. The fire crackles and the wind shakes tree branches.

Saul has fallen asleep, head hanging, with the book and the map still in his hands.

Abigail takes a deep breath.

ABIGAIL

Why did he leave me? In the kingdom. Why didn't he take me to the Soteri too?

ARTHUR

We don't know. But you've been safe all these years. You're still alive. He must have known that.

They look at each other for a second before looking back at the fire. It's grown smaller.

ARTHUR

We should probably get some sleep. We have to wake up early in the morning.

ABIGAIL

Where are you and Saul going tomorrow?

\*

\*

ARTHUR

We're going south. And you're coming with us! We can't just leave you here now. I hope you don't mind some hiking. I'm still learning how to travel through magic, so I'm not

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



EXT. WOODS, CAMP - NIGHT

The fire has died. Saul and Arthur are asleep on the ground, but Abigail lays awake. She lays face up, staring straight into the sky.

A contemplative expression is etched on her face.

She looks around.

The moonlight is the only source of light in the otherwise dark clearing. Arthur and Saul sleep peacefully, the moonlight highlighting their faces.

Abigail sits up and looks out into the woods. They are surrounded by nothing but trees. \*

Abigail looks up at the sky and finds the North star. She looks into the woods at that direction.

ABIGAIL  
(whispers)Home. \*

She takes one last look at Arthur and Saul to make sure that they are fast asleep before standing up quietly.

She carefully walks into the woods, making sure not to make a sound.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Abigail walks alone in the woods. She occasionally looks up at the sky to make sure that the North star is ahead of her.

The wind blows, causing the leaves to rustle. Abigail picks up her pace.

The forest is completely dark except for the moonlight that pours into the cracks between the leaves.

*Crunch.*

Abigail whips her head back to look at the source. Where was that sound from? She sees nothing but darkness and trees.

She continues to walk, picking up her pace.

The North star is still above her as she hastily walks, trying not to breathe too heavy.

She feels someone following her.

Abigail looks back, but there's nobody there.

(CONTINUED)

She walks, faster now.

The forest is thick with trees, but she knows she's going the right way.

*Horse hooves.*

Abigail whips around and there are several knights on horses coming her way!

Before she can run away, a knight on a horse, the first one in line, grabs her by the waist and pulls her up.

SIR PHILIP

Hello again, dear.

ABIGAIL

LET ME GO!

Abigail struggles to break from his grip, but it is difficult when the horse is still running. She is surrounded by knights. The sound of horse hooves are loud in her ears. Philip's grip is tight on her waist.

Sir Philip finally starts to slow to a trot in an open clearing. The other knights follow suit and circle around them.

EXT. WOODS, CLEARING - NIGHT

We close in on one knight. He carries himself higher and has intricate detailing done on his armor. The knight takes off his helmet.

It is KING LENNOX.

KING LENNOX

Ms. Axton. It's a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance.

What is *the King* doing at a chase this late at night?

King Lennox, 60, has graying brown hair and a graying beard. His eyes are dark and his expression is straight and steady, like he is staring right into your soul.

He walks his horse right beside Abigail and Sir Philip. \*

KING LENNOX

Nice work, Sir Philip.

(CONTINUED)





ABIGAIL

What do you want from my father?

KING LENNOX

I want him dead.

The expression on Abigail's face changes. She's angry.

ABIGAIL

And what do you want from me?

KING LENNOX

Now that, Ms. Axton. Is the tricky question.

ABIGAIL

Let me go!

\*

KING LENNOX

Does it look like I will?

Sir Philip's grip tightens even more. Abigail tries to push back but realizes it's no use. A flash of gold lights her eyes.

\*

\*

ABIGAIL

You're wrong about magic, your majesty. I am sorry about your son. I also have experienced the losses that the consequences of magic has done. But magic is... it's not evil.

\*

\*

A horse nays.

KING LENNOX

You are young and naive, girl.

Abigail has an angry look in her eyes. There's a slight flicker to it. A gold spark.

\*

ABIGAIL

I have much to learn.

*A flash of light!*

\*

Abigail's skin starts to glow gold. It is scalding hot!

Sir Philip lets go of Abigail, her skin burns the palms of his hands. The horse jumps back, dropping Abigail. She lands on her feet.

\*

Abigail is glowing like the sun. She is bright, golden, and ethereal.

(CONTINUED)

King Lennox and the knights move back, protecting themselves from the heat from her body. They cover their eyes; she is glowing too bright to handle.

The knights struggle to stay on the horses as the horses cause a commotion, jumping back and forth.

Abigail burns bright. It looks like she's almost floating.

Finally, Abigail's glow starts to die. It retracts back into her core.

Abigail is panting. She looks down at her body, not quite believing what she just did. She's never experienced anything like that before. \*

But the glow did its trick. The knights are so far back that there is a large space between her and the knights.

KING LENNOX

GET HER!

The knights start to charge, swords pointed out! \*

*POP!*

Arthur appears out of thin air. He stumbles back, not sticking the landing. A sword is in his hand.

ARTHUR

Sleepwalking, Abigail?

ABIGAIL

Not quite. \*

Arthur pushes his hand out to a halt. The horses halt suddenly. The knights are thrown off by the momentum. \*

ARTHUR

Take my hand!

Abigail looks at his hand, and takes it without hesitation. \*

*POP!* They disappear. \*

EXT. WOODS, CAMP - DUSK

Saul sits by the dead fire. A blanket is draped over his shoulders. A packed bag sits at his feet. He is waiting. \*

Arthur and Abigail appear out of thin air. Arthur stumbles backward.

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

You don't have to travel so fast,  
son.

ARTHUR

I'm still working on it.

Arthur walks over to all the belongings and starts packing.

Saul stands up.

SAUL

You're going to have to decide,  
Abigail. You can't keep running  
away.

ABIGAIL

Lennox wants to find my father and  
kill him.

SAUL

So we must find him first.

ABIGAIL

Where do you think he is?

SAUL

Before he left, Ben mentioned  
something about The South Sea. I  
believe he might have gone to visit  
a certain witch. A magi... If she's  
still there.

\*

ARTHUR

Why? What does he need from her?

SAUL

It is said that years ago, a magi  
professed a prophecy. The prophecy  
involved magic and nonmagic living  
harmoniously on the Earth.

\*

\*

ARTHUR

And you think Ben went to go hear  
it?

SAUL

Ben brought us safely to exile but  
that's not what he wanted. He  
wanted justice.

Saul is looking directly into Abigail's eyes.

(CONTINUED)

SAUL

Your father left you behind because he made a bargain with Lennox. Your father agreed to stay out of the kingdom in return for your safety and life. Now that he's back...

ABIGAIL

Lennox has sanctioned a hunt for me.

SAUL

Yes.

ARTHUR

The wild goose chase begins! Can you run fast, Abigail?

SAUL

You have to trust us, Abigail. We can help you control and use your magic and we can find Ben Axton. But you must trust us.

\*

Abigail looks from Arthur to Saul. Saul, wizened but strong. Arthur, the younger echo of his father. These men have magic running through their veins. And there is no denying that she is no different from them.

\*

ABIGAIL

I am a wizard. We have the same magic running in our blood. I am with you.

\*

The three share a smile.

Arthur extends his hand. Abigail and Saul take it.

Gold sparks start to wrap around their hands, glowing. The warmth starts in the palm and ripples out into the fingertips, tingling. It glows.

*POP!*

They disappear.