

ROSENWOOD

Written by

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Hospital machines BEEP.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KATHY REYES (late 30's) lays in the bed. Nothing seems wrong. She's just... asleep. But the BEEP of the HEART MONITOR speeds up as IMAGES FLASH across the screen and she twitches in her sleep.

-An alien pink landscape. A land called ROSENWOOD.
-YOUNG KATHY (11) convulsing with Electroconvulsive Therapy.
-SQUONK, a dog/bear/gorilla beast, staring at camera.
-YOUNG KATHY and YOUNG JOE (11) playing in the woods.
-And a RUBY shooting laser-like energy into the sky.

GASP. Kathy sits up, eyes wild. She scrambles from the bed, tangled in cords and her IV.

KATHY
No... He can't.
(yell; echoing)
Joe!

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE: ROSENWOOD

Over BLACK - DING DONG.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: 2 DAYS EARLIER

The door opens on Kathy holding up a plastic container of SOUP. All Southern charm, big smiles, and as sweet as she can be. But something about it all feels... fake.

KATHY
Hey friend! Soup's on! I heard the
flu knocked y'all out. How're you
feeling?

The NEIGHBOR snuffles and pulls her robe tighter, self-conscious. Anyone would feel like a slob next to Kathy and her perfectly messy bun and stylish, fitted cardigan.

NEIGHBOR
(mumbling)
Fine...

KATHY

Well, I hope y'all get to feeling better. And don't worry about the container. You just get it back to me in a couple of days.

EXT. CHERRYVILLE, TOWN SQUARE - MOMENTS LATER

The town square is a picturesque, small town Southern main street. All bustle and charm.

Kathy strides through, a smile and wave ready for every NEIGHBOR.

KATHY

That delivery set for 6 o'clock, Bud?

BUD

Martha's been arranging flowers all day.

KATHY

Thank ya, sir! Knew I could count on y'all!

(beat)

Hey Jill, how's your mom?

JILL

Good, Kathy! Same ol', same ol'.

TINA

That tutor you recommended has been working wonders!

KATHY

Well good to hear!

But it's not all smiles. Some faces sour as Kathy passes. A CLUSTER OF WOMEN are whispering. Sensing it, Kathy turns. Pointedly. LAURA BETH (30's), an equally put together community mom, suddenly smiles.

LAURA BETH

We'll see you tonight, Kathy!

KATHY

So glad you'll be able to make it this time, Laura Beth! You found a new babysitter after Adam had that... incident with the last one?

Laura Beth's smile freezes. The women around her WHISPER.

KATHY (CONT'D)
 (saccharine)
 Can't wait to see you there!

EXT. KATHY'S NEIGHBORHOOD - MOMENTS LATER

Kathy keeps waving and smiling. The neighborhood is just an extension of the perfectly manicured, middle class, small town charm that is Cherryville.

INT. KATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A switch flips as soon as Kathy storms through the door. She's hurried. Stressed. Frustrated.

KATHY
 Guys? Are you ready? I asked y'all to be ready when I got back! Where is everybody??

KATHY AND JOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JOE REYES (late 30's) sits on the edge of the bed. Slumped, tie loosened. Scrolling on his phone.

KATHY (O.S.)
 Why isn't anyone ready?? We need to be there early! I told you guys.

The SCREEN is full of an emailed QUESTIONNAIRE regarding assets and children. Signed by RANDY LUFKINS, DIVORCE LAWYER.

With a sigh, Joe scratches at a SCAR running through his eyebrow. He picks up an ENVELOPE sitting next to him. It says "WALTON HIGH SCHOOL REUNION!"

JUDE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kathy pushes open the door, irritated. JUDE (9) hunches over his desk, scribbling some picture.

KATHY
 Jude, c'mon-

JUDE
 I'm ready. I was just finishing my drawing.

KATHY
 Where's Mason?

JUDE
I don't know. The backyard?

KATHY
Put on a nicer shirt. And get
moving!

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kathy stalks through, throwing open the back door.

KATHY
(out the door)
Mason!! Time to come in! You're
getting your pants dirty!
(a beat; turning)
Joe!!

Joe walks in.

JOE
I'm right here.

<p>KATHY What is happening? It's a big night for me! We can't be late!</p>	<p>JOE (CONT'D) What? We're ready. We're fine.</p>
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<p>KATHY (CONT'D) Nobody's ready. Looks at this mess. I don't have time for this.</p>	<p>JOE (CONT'D) A few minutes and we can be walking out the door.</p>
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JOE (CONT'D)
(a beat)
Look what we got.

Joe hands her the reunion invitation. She glances at it and
tosses it in the trash.

KATHY
Are you kidding?

JOE
No. I thought maybe...

He plucks it from the trash.

KATHY
(under her breath)
C'mon we need to go.
(yelling)
Boys??

JOE
 We could go back and make a whole
 weekend of it...

Kathy keeps picking up around the living room, a permanent
 scowl on her face.

KATHY
 I just saw Laura Beth. She's going
 tonight.

JOE
 Don't you want to go back and brag
 about everything?

He gestures to their "Wall of Achievement", a gallery wall of
 AWARDS and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS in their living room.

KATHY
 (loudly to anyone that'll
 listen)
 Walking out the door! In the van!
 Let's go!

Joe sidles up behind her and tries to put his arms around
 her. She's obviously uncomfortable.

JOE
 I kinda want to show you off. We
 could make out in that side hall by
 the band room.

The boys trot through, shooting each other "ew" looks. MASON
 (6) is about to say something, but Jude pushes him out the
 door. Kathy squirms free.

JOE (CONT'D)
 (sighing)
 You need to go back, Kath. Meet it
 all head-on.

She plucks up her purse and starts rifling through it.

KATHY
 I have. Really.

Joe shakes a PILL BOTTLE at her. CLOSE ON the label.
 "ABILIFY", "ANTIPSYCHOTIC."

JOE
 That why you're not taking your
 pills?

Kathy snatches them and tosses them in her purse.

KATHY

Yes. I don't really need them
anymore. Thank you for noticing.
(mumbling)
Meant to throw them away.

JOE

Vámanos. We'll be late.

INT. CHERRYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL, GYM/AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The Reyes family stands in the middle of a crowded
gym/auditorium with smiles plastered on their faces.

A SIGN hangs over a stage: CHERRYVILLE CHANGE MAKERS
COMMUNITY TRUST WELCOMES YOU. SNIPPETS OF CONVERSATION mostly
center on Kathy's work on a CARNIVAL.

Laura Beth waves from across the auditorium, smiling ear to
ear, and heads their way.

KATHY

(to Joe through a fake
smile)
She's happy about something.

JOE

(to Kathy; not so quiet)
Maybe the new babysitter was for
her.

LAURA BETH

Hey! I just wanted to come over
before things kick off and say, so
sorry about that promotion, Joe.

A little muscle in Kathy's neck jumps as her smile hardens.

JOE

Thanks, Laura Beth.

KATHY

He's got his eye on something else
in another department. So, not
getting it was almost... expected.

Laura Beth nods, not convinced.

LAURA BETH

I didn't realize there were "other
departments" for electrical
engineers. Good luck tonight,
Kathy.

Everyone smiles politely as Laura Beth walks away.

KATHY
 (quietly through a smile)
 There was a promotion and you
 didn't get it?

JOE
 Like you said, there's something in
 "another department", right?

He frowns at her. There's a SHRIEK from the microphone. Board
 Chair ALLISON KNOB stands up front, glass of wine in hand.

ALLISON
 Welcome! Welcome ladies and
 gentlemen. Please take your seats,
 so we can discuss the Fall Festival
 Charity Carnival!

A round of APPLAUSE as people start moving toward the mass of
 folding chairs near the stage.

Joe aims the boys at some seats without a word to Kathy.

KATHY
 (deep breath; determined)
 You can do this.

BACKSTAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Kathy mouths her speech and checks notes on a TABLET, until--

Another loud SHRIEK leaves her ears ringing. She glances out
 at the podium but Allison is still talking, MUFFLED now. The
 SHRIEK gets louder and she doubles over.

SQUONK (O.S.)
 Kathy...

Something like RED GOO and SPARKS flicker on screen. Kathy
 straightens up, alarmed. A GROWLY VOICE echoes--

SQUONK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Kathy?

She rifles through her purse, cringing in pain. INSIDE,
 there's her PRESCRIPTION PILL BOTTLE. And a BOTTLE OF
 TYLENOL.

She visibly shakes off the weirdness and pops the Tylenol. No
 longer muffled...

ALLISON (O.S.)

And we'll be announcing her as our newest board member at the firework finale! I guess we should just get this party started, huh? Come on out, Kathy!

Kathy strides into the light amidst APPLAUSE, stands at the podium, and opens her mouth to speak--

CUT TO

SCHOOL BATHROOM - LATER

Kathy stares at herself in the mirror, splashes water on her face and rubs her temples. Then grabs her purse.

SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Kathy walks out of the BATHROOM and bumps into somebody, dropping her purse. Everything gets dumped. TISSUE, a couple of EPI-PENS, and the PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE.

MRS. LARSON

Mrs. Reyes! I was hoping to bump into you but not like this. Ha.

She kneels to help Kathy gather her stuff. Kathy scrambles to pick up the bottle before it can be spotted.

KATHY

(nervously)

Oh no no. I've got it. Thank you.

Both women stand.

KATHY (CONT'D)

And please, call me Kathy.

MRS. LARSON

Kathy. Right. Well, it's just... Jude bit someone today.

KATHY

What?!

MRS. LARSON

When another student asked to use his pencil, he spoke in some weird voice in like, the third person? He called himself "Gollum" and bit the other kid.

That muscle in Kathy's neck jumps again. Her hand tightens around the prescription bottle.

KATHY

I am so sorry. I will definitely talk to him about that.

Kathy stuffs the bottle back in her purse.

GYM/AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Jude is in the corner, scribbling in his SKETCH BOOK. A copy of The Hobbit sits next to him. Kathy watches him. BIG SIGH. She spots Mason at the snack table.

KATHY

Mason! Not that one. It has peanuts!

ALLISON (O.S.)

Great job tonight, Kathy!

In between sips of wine, Allison hands her a PACKET OF PAPERS.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

You're on the fast track, girl. We should go ahead and get things moving.

KATHY

Okay then! What's this?

ALLISON

All the paperwork you'll be signing when you take your seat on the board. Might as well do it now. By the way, will there be clowns at this thing? Is it that kind of thing? I have a thing about clowns.

Kathy's smile genuinely widens until she starts thumbing through the papers. One says "Certificate of Mental Fitness." Her eyes wander the text "Known Medical/Mental Condition."

KATHY

(dazed)
Most people do.

ALLISON

They're so hot... can't keep my hands off 'em...

KATHY (PRE-LAP)
 (on phone)
 It's just customary. A signature to
 say I can handle the work I've
 basically already been doing.

INT. KATHY'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - LATER

There's lots of NOISE from Joe and the boys, giggling and
 wrestling.

KATHY
 (on phone, louder)
 Please give me a call back as soon
 as you can.

Kathy turns around and frowns. Watching her family, something
 in her eyes softens for just a beat before the frown returns.

KATHY (CONT'D)
 C'mon! Bedtime!

Mason starts COUGHING and Jude grabs a TISSUE to blow his
 nose.

KATHY (CONT'D)
 Joe, they're probably getting this
 flu that's going around. They
 shouldn't be playing like this.
 Can't you see? They should be in
 bed.

JOE
 Okay, alright. Get to bed, mijos.
 Love you guys.

JUDE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Jude climbs into bed.

JUDE
 Mom, I hurt.

KATHY
 Like all over?

JUDE
 Yes, ma'am.

KATHY
 Yep, sounds like the flu. Get some
 really good sleep, baby.

JUDE

Did you... did you see Mrs. Larson
tonight?

Kathy pretends not to hear him.

KATHY

You know... I was gonna give you
this later, but maybe it'll help
you feel better.

She leaves the room and comes back with a BAG. Jude pulls out some new ART SUPPLIES (colored pencils, special protractors/rulers, and a sketch pad) and lights up. And something else. A BOOK on architectural drawing. THE STORY OF BUILDINGS.

Jude checks it out, enthusiasm waning. Kathy's phone BUZZES.

CLOSE ON PATIENT PORTAL ALERT: MESSAGE FROM DR. ANDERSON - Can't sign off. Need more discussion. Squeezed you in for an appt. tomorrow.

Kathy sighs and starts to straighten Jude's DESK. She takes his DRAWINGS, all of them full of dragons and strange fantasy creatures, and shoves them in a drawer. The copy of The Hobbit CLUNKS into the trash.

KATHY (CONT'D)

Let's put that away for now and get
to sleep.

KATHY'S BEDROOM - LATER

Joe is nodding off in bed, scrolling through his phone. Kathy sits on a bench at the end of the bed. The packet of papers lies next to her, CERTIFICATE OF MENTAL FITNESS right on top.

She stares again at "Known Medical/Mental Condition" and the "YES" and "NO" boxes. Next to "YES", there's "(please explain)."

She digs the prescription pills out of her purse and tosses them in her bedside TRASH CAN.

Then with a nervous jerk, she picks up a PEN, slashes through the "NO" box on the papers and puts it down again. She lets out a breath she's been holding all night and nods to herself with a little pleased smile.

Joe SNORES.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. KATHY'S HOUSE, KATHY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Light streams into the room. Kathy stretches lazily.

MOMENTS LATER. She's mostly dressed and heading out the door.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A little smile plays on her lips as she pads down the hall.

But slowly, the hallway darkens with... LEAVES? Kathy slows. FOLIAGE creeps up the walls and bioluminescent FLOWERS open as she inches past.

KATHY

No...

She turns to go back. But there's no where to go. Foliage consumes the hallway. With a deep breath, she continues.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The hallway opens into an ALIEN JUNGLE like the opening scene. She spots remnants of her living room-- the furniture, the pictures and awards on the wall. But the rest is foliage and color.

She slowly reaches out to touch a giant ELEPHANT EAR LEAF and... it reaches back! The vines around her creep and crawl. The whole room feels alive.

KATHY

(to herself)

Wake up... wake up, wake up...

The foliage RUSTLES and Joe emerges.

KATHY (CONT'D)

(confused)

Joe?

JOE

Kathy! Have you seen this?

He points to a plant that moves to rub his hand like a cat would.

KATHY

(hesitant)

...Yes. This... this is Rosenwood.

She looks at the awards on the wall and the couch sitting in the leaves.

KATHY (CONT'D)

I think.

(a beat)

We need to go. We shouldn't be here. They'll find out.

JOE

But it's incredible, mi amor!

KATHY

(a beat; quiet)

You haven't called me that in years.

JOE

Let's stay! Just for a little while.

The foliage RUSTLES again. Joe doesn't seem to notice. Kathy reaches for his hand but he wanders away, still playing with the live plants.

The FRONT DOOR opens. LOTHAR, a four foot tall owl-like creature, and Jude stride through and sit on the couch. They're absorbed in a discussion over a massive BOOK.

Mason runs through the room, GIGGLING. A pika-squirrel, ITHL, bounds after him, playing tag.

Kathy takes in the scene, awestruck.

KATHY

This... is a dream... it must be a dream.

But she spots the front picture window among the foliage and rushes over to close the blinds. Then peeks back out to see if anyone's watching.

LOTHAR

Kathy Reyes, bondswoman of Rosenwood, I am Lothar of the Scootoo. We've come to implore you for aid.

KATHY

What, huh?

LOTHAR

An evil wizard threatens Rosenwood with complete destruction.

KATHY

An evil wizard? That's a little cliché. What's this wizard doing?

LOTHAR

He has in his possession a Ruby that magnifies his power. It can only be possessed by your kind, those bonded to Rosenwood. Every time one of us touches it--

KATHY

--you die?

LOTHAR

Just so. It's a matter of great urgency. We tried to make contact earlier, but you seemed wholly resistant. We wondered if we'd be able to--

KATHY

Make contact? Earlier?

Kathy's gaze wanders as she recalls.

SQUONK (V.O.)

(growl)

Kathy...

The room starts to darken. Lothar glances around, bewildered.

LOTHAR

Kathy?

KATHY

This isn't a dream, is it. You're here. I'm here. Wait... where is here?

RED LIGHT from the window now bathes the room. Lightning and thunder RUMBLE outside.

LOTHAR

A place in between. When we had trouble reaching you--

KATHY

This isn't happening. Wake up. Wake up...

LOTHAR
Kathy, I assure you...

Kathy turns to Joe.

KATHY
This is your fault! You just had to
bring up the reunion! You think...

She trails off as a rumbling GROWL gets louder. Joe blinks at her, confused, when RED EYES appear in the bush behind him. In a blink and a SCREAM, beast hands grab Joe and snatch him into the foliage.

Kathy SCREAMS. Lothar jumps up, alarmed.

LOTHAR
It worsens! Rosenwood has only days
left. Please! We need your help!

KATHY
No! We need to leave.

Mason has already wondered off. She goes to Jude and grabs his hand.

KATHY (CONT'D)
Jude, come on.

LOTHAR
(to Jude)
Perhaps you could help us?

Kathy's eyes widen.

KATHY
No, he can't help. You stay away
from us.

Kathy tries pulling at Jude, but he's fascinated by Lothar's book.

LOTHAR
There is another way. Find the
wizard in your world. Wake him.

KATHY
Jude, come on!

Jude won't budge.

JUDE
This is so cool... have you seen
this?