

Magic Land

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. MAGIC HOUR DINER

Just off property from world famous "MagicLand" theme park is a tiki dive bar where tired park workers take solace.

Sitting vacantly at the bar is NICK, thirties, a sweet but cynical spindle of a man, and CLARENCE THE MAGIC CAT, (A cat styled theme park mascot), at the bar.

NICK

--and the kids leave vomit all over the front row, and me, hungover as hell... I just left it there! There was a time when I would have happily wiped it off and smiled but not anymore!

Clarence nods and 'sips' his drink.

A grimy DAVE THE COOK saddles up and slaps a plate of eggs and bacon in front of Nick, pours Clarence another beer.

DAVE THE COOK

Mornin' boys. Another round for Clarence the Cat, and for you, I present the magical SPECIAL! Abra Cadabra!

Dave does a flourish with his towel.

NICK

Thanks Dave.

DAVE THE COOK

It's all part of the magic of the diner Nick. You're welcome.

Dave waddles off.

Clarence takes both 'paws' onto his beer, puts his hands over his 'face' and leans into the bar. Nick sluggishly starts into his breakfast.

NICK

I remember how excited I was the first day in the New Adults Program. You know, the slave labor thing they sucker college kids into? I was going to rise through the ranks and run the whole park one day. You hear me? The whole park!

Nick picks up a piece of bacon and inspects it closely.

NICK

I was gonna eat the whole world
and I never even got a *nibble*.

Nick bites off the end of his bacon and throws it back on his plate in disgust. Clarence puts a paw on Nick's shoulder.

NICK

Thanks, I'll be okay man. Hell,
I'm so frustrated with the place
but I don't know who I'd be
without MagicLand. It's
practically been my identity for
the past decade and where's it
gotten me? Cleaning up puke.

Clarence abruptly puts his drink down and points to a clock on the wall, panicked.

NICK

What? What is it?

Clarence points more assertively. Nick Looks.

NICK

Time?

Clarence holds up a four fingered hand.

NICK

For?

Clarence mimes a magical flourish.

NICK

Magic?... Time for Magic? Crap!
I'm late for work!

Nick rushes out. Dave the cook walks over to their spot.

DAVE THE COOK

You didn't even touch your
breakfast!

He inspects the plate. Takes the toast off and bites into it.

DAVE THE COOK

Savages.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. MAGIC LAND - EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM

A bland beige breakroom holds half asleep employees.

RICHARD, a dashing old fox in glasses, walks around the room and hands out paper assignments with the flair of a showman.

RICHARD

First contestant: Tara

TARA, early twenties, a chubby Marilyn Monroe, raises her perfectly manicured hand over her vampire romance novel.

RICHARD

You're on Princess duty today.

TARA

Yuss!

She fist pumps and her glasses almost fly off her face.

Across the room PRISCILLA, a stunning and vain twenty-something social media queen, gasps and snaps up from her pink phone.

PRISCILLA

Richard, I told all my Twine followers to come see me because I was going to be the princess today!

RICHARD

For the Zillionth time Priscilla, call me Mr. Coates please. I'm your shift manager, remember?

Richard taps on his name badge. Priscilla bats her eyes at Tara.

PRISCILLA

Why don't you switch with me Tara? I'll give you a shoutout on Twine if you do? You always get to be princess!

TARA

I've been preparing to be the princess my whole life Priscilla. Not a chance in H-E-Double-Hockey-Sticks. I'll never give you princess duty as long as I'm breathing.

Priscilla exhales a storm of venom and promptly gets back to tapping furiously on her phone.

PRISCILLA

(under breath)

This isn't over yet by a long shot. I'm going to be princess today even if it kills you.

RICHARD

Raul, you've got balloon duty with Priscilla.

Sitting patiently behind the sea of chairs is RAUL, Early 20's, well pressed, hispanic, he rolls his eyes and crosses his arms.

RAUL

(sarcastic)

I'll try and keep her away from her "adoring fans."

RICHARD

Anthony.

In a corner, ANTHONY, another twenty-something cut from the mold of an imposing black man, looks up from his blipping Pikachu Nintendo DS.

ANTHONY

What's good?

RICHARD

I'm gonna need you to play the prince today.

ANTHONY

(affecting)

It would be my honor sire, to play the role affix'd to me.

RICHARD

Right. Now has anybody here seen--

Nick bursts through the door and skids into the middle of the conference room

RICHARD

--Nick.

NICK

Ta-Da!

RICHARD

It's Magic Room duty for you today.

NICK

Wonderful. I'll be pulling scarves out of my butt all day.

RICHARD

Come on, Nick, no attitude today. You're really good at the Magic Room.

NICK

The Magic Room is super-ultra-basic Richard. Give me a challenge for once.

RICHARD

Okay, If you'd rather have vomit duty with T-DOG that could be arranged.

A LARGE, MOUTH BREATHING PIMPLE FACTORY suddenly floats from the dark recesses of the break room. T-DOG, as the urban legends go, once made a coach burst into flame by either breathing at it or sitting on it. Nobody knows which.

NICK

(hastily)

Heh, looks like Magic Room it is.

T-DOG shrinks back into the corner, hurt. Richard flips through his papers.

RICHARD

Great!, Also we're getting a new employee today. So everybody be on best behavior.

NICK

Another "New Adult"? They're always so chipper.

TARA

I LOVE the New Adult Program.

NICK

See?

RICHARD

--Oh...And if anyone; ANYONE sees Miles in the park they are to report to me immediately.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)
I'll not have him lounging around
here anymore.

Richard balls up his announcement sheet and chucks it at the waste bin. It nails a picture of a greying 50 something's face (Miles) hung up there.

NICK
Richard, you do remember that
Miles is a paying customer. Right?

Richard turns on him like a rabid dog.

RICHARD
So just because he has a season
pass that gives him the right to
bilk us out of all the food,
drink, and whatever else he wants?
Not to mention *HE CAN'T LIVE
INSIDE THE PARK!!!*

Everyone stares back at Richard blankly. They've seen this fury before.

NICK
Richard, he's not living here.

RICHARD
Oh yes he is! I just *know* it!

Crickets in the room.

RICHARD
Fine, then I'll have to prove it
to you... Now, everyone, let's
make some Magic today people!

Richard claps his hands together and everyone drags themselves out of their seats.

INT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC ROOM - DAY

The victorian guts of the main street Magic Room.

Nick stands behind the mahogany counter in a suave velvet purple smoking jacket. A crowd of MagicLand guests have gathered around him.

NICK
(dry)
Now looks up my other sleeve. Do
you see anything?

DUMB KID
There's Nuthin!

NICK
Now think very very hard. Think about something that you can latch on to. Like the moment you lost hope of doing anything meaningful with your life and realized you were a failure.

DUMB KID
Huh?

Nick pulls a card out of the kid's shirt pocket.

NICK
Is this your card?

DUMB KID
Wowie! That's it!

The dumb kid snatches the card from Nick and stares hard at it, utterly bewildered.

DUMB KID
How'd ya do that mister?

NICK
I've concentrated the mental anguish of knowing I'll never amount to anything into telepathic powers.

DUMB KID
What...

NICK
Sorry, I meant to say "Magic". It was **MAGIC**.

Nick sarcastically waves his fingers around. The kid leaves, clutching the card.

MILES, the same wild haired fifty something that Richard thinks is living in the park, whips around from browsing the store.

MILES
Nah man, you're not finished yet. You gotta do a trick for **me**.

NICK
Fine Miles, but no hassle today, okay?

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

Richard is on the hunt for you.

MILES

That's nonsense! I paid good money for my season pass and I'll be damned if I don't get my worth out of it.

NICK

Fine. Fine. Pick a card.

Miles picks a card, eyes Nick suspiciously, then abruptly RIPS it up and EATS it.

MILES

I've got you by the balls now Magic Man.

Miles chuckles at his own cleverness.

NICK

I was going to ask you to put it back on the deck, but never mind.

Nick puts the deck back behind the counter and straightens out his jacket.

MILES

Look kid, you've worked here for a while and always struck me as bright. So what the hell are you still doing around this place?

NICK

Well, When I started, I wanted to run the park one day, but I just don't see now how that's possible anymore. I had big dreams you know, but in all this time I haven't even moved up to assistant manager.

MILES

Hmm. You know, maybe one day you **could** run the park, but not with this attitude you have now. You know?... Now pull a quarter out of my ear.

Nick lazily leans over the counter and pulls a quarter out of his ear, hands it to him.

NICK

Go on.

MILES

Well, You feel hopeless because nobody's giving you a chance. Right? To them you're just the guy who's washed up and keeps phoning it in. A glutton for pain and a lifer in the big house known as MagicLand. Right?

NICK

Right...

MILES

So you need to change the way people think of you. Maybe even change the way you think of you. You gotta really shake things up.

NICK

But how?

MILES

You should quit!

NICK

Quit!?

MILES

Yep. You should quit right now.

NICK

I never thought about quitting.

MILES

Why not? If I hadn't quit my software company I never would have moved here. You know?

Miles points at his ear and Nick pulls another quarter out of it.

NICK

Well, Maybe I should think about it.

MILES

What's to think about? Now what's my card?

NICK
Ace of Spades.

PTHEW! Miles spits out a piece of card and it is indeed the ace of spades!

MILES
Good one kid. Now do that quarter trick again so I can buy a soda.

EXT. MAGIC LAND - PATHWAY - DAY

Priscilla and Raul cheerlessly dawdle along the paved pathway, handing out balloons to park visitors as they go.

Priscilla talks into her phone, unconcerned with her handful of balloons that are whacking Raul in the face.

PHONE POV:

PRISCILLA
Hello fellow Twiners out there.
Priscilla Princess update. I've been bounced from being princess in favor of Tara. Hashtag awful! Twine me back for support and updates. Bye!

Priscilla puts her phone in her special phone purse.

RAUL
Priscilla, could you please be a little more concerned with helping me? You've been whacking me in the face with your balloons.

Priscilla turns to Raul, the sad look of the victim on her face.

PRISCILLA
Raul, I basically signed up myself to be a slave to the MagicLand New Adult Program in the sole hope that I would be the princess. This isn't fair, and this isn't right. I'm the worthiest! I'm more of a princess than Tara ever was!

RAUL
I'm also part of the New Adult Program, remember? My family lives in Mexico and I really need this job because they're depending on me. Okay Priscilla?
(MORE)

RAUL (CONT'D)

So maybe be a little nicer please?

The weight of this completely misses Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

I'm not rich enough to marry a real prince and I don't speak Danish and so this was basically my only hope Raul. What's my life turning into! A tragedy!?

RAUL

Hey! Earth to Priscilla. You have it easy only being worried of being popular or pretty. If you grew up how I grew up then maybe you would have a different perspective on what the word "tragedy" means. Okay?

PRISCILLA

Hold that thought. There's a kid coming.

A wide-eyed EAGER DAD and his HAPPY BOY walks down the path toward them.

EAGER DAD

Hola guys! A wonderful day at Magic Land! Isn't it!

Raul hands the dad a balloon.

RAUL

Have a magical day!

The dad address his child.

EAGER DAD

You know sport, one day when you grow up, you might be a Magical Engineer and make one of the rides they have here at Magic Land!

HAPPY BOY

Wow, that sounds great!

PRISCILLA

Don't hold your breath kid, trust me. I came here to be the princess and I'm handing out balloons to ding-dong ping-pongs like you. Think about *that* when you try to sleep at night.

Priscilla whips out her phone to "Twine" herself and the child, who begins to cry.

PHONE POV:

PRISCILLA

Special update. Kids here are crying because I can't be princess today like they'd hoped for. See you later Twiners! Like and subscribe for more updates!

The child runs off in a tizzy.

EAGER DAD

Great work lady. Now my wife's gonna get full custody.

RAUL

That was so horrible of you! You just made that boy cry.

PRISCILLA

Damn right I did. I'm gonna be princess today if I have to make every kid in this stupid park cry.

Priscilla grabs one of Raul's balloons and digs her nails into it, POP!

RAUL

You've gone loca!

PRISCILLA

I have yet to begin to be "Loca" Raul!

Priscilla brandishes her Nails and snarls.

PRISCILLA

TAR-AH! Your crown will be mine!

Priscilla's howl sounds across the park all the way to:

EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - DAY

Richard roots around the base of a life sized replica medieval castle. He finds a loose panel and pulls it aside to reveal a small encampment inside the hollow interior of the castle.

RICHARD

I knew it! Son of a...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE GUTS

Richard snoops around, picking things up and marveling at them. There's a rudimentary cot, gas stove, bottled water, rations, a ton of souvenirs, etc.

RICHARD

Oh ho ho, I've got you now Miles.
I'm on to you. You are the hunted.
I am the hunter. You are the
fugitive. I am the law.

Richard pulls out the walkie talkie from his belt.

RICHARD

(into radio)

Security. This is FIREBIRD. I
think I've found LITTLE SQUIRREL.

Over the radio comes the voice of EARL, a laid back 'too cool for school' type guy.

EARL

Earl here. What's up?

RICHARD

Dang it Earl! I told you to use
our code names!

EARL

Alright, What's your 6?

RICHARD

I'm in the Whimsical Castle. Miles
has a bed in here.

EARL

That's impossible. Nobody lives in
the castle. Over.

Richard fumes and kicks the cot, hurting his foot. Recomposes himself.

RICHARD

I'm right here in his dang living
room! He must have found a loose
panel and set up camp here.

EARL

Richie. I already told you that's
not possible, so I don't know what
to tell you.

Richard grips the radio so hard his knuckles go white.

RICHARD

I am *telling* you that he's found a way to live inside the castle. I'm standing in his living room *right now*.

EARL

And I'm telling you that's impossible Richard. Nobody lives in the castle. I'm going on break. Over.

Richard grips his radio tightly and does his best to slam it back onto his belt. He ends up fumbling the thing onto the floor under the cot.

RICHARD

AUGH!!! DARN NAB IT.

He gets on his knees and searches for it under the cot, spotting a chewed up piece of playing card.

RICHARD

(to self)

What in the world?

EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY

We're on a pathway that runs straight through the center of the whimsical castle and into the deeper recesses of the park.

Tara and Anthony are dressed in Prince and Princess garb, standing right where the path cuts through the middle of the castle.

TARA

Wishes really do come true! I've always known that I'd be the princess of whimsical castle! Even when I was a little girl I knew!

ANTHONY

This armor is completely unrealistic and would do nothing to stop a broadsword at all. Look at these joints. What am I supposed to do? *Dance* bad guys to death?

TARA

A wish is a dream that comes true and wishes are true at MagicLand!
(MORE)

TARA (CONT'D)

Hooray!

ANTHONY

Get a ranged unit in here and
they'd crit on me all day long.
I'd be cooked.

An innocent LITTLE GIRL comes up to Tara and Anthony.

LITTLE GIRL

Take my picture please!

They pose together with her and all smile! CLICK! The little girl turns to marvel the princess.

LITTLE GIRL

When I grow up I wanna be just
like you princess!

TARA

Then read your books, drink your
milk, and talk to animals, you can
be a princess too!

Tara gingerly places a toy tiara on the little girl with a wink. Anthony bends down to talk to the little girl.

ANTHONY

Excuse me young lady, but do you
think this armor could resist a
mounted unit or a low level mage?

The little girl is confused, but charmed enough to leave with a delighted smile.

TARA

I love this job! I get to be a
princess and a role model to
little girls! Maybe one day I
could even lead the whimsical
night parade!

ANTHONY

I'm sure I'd get a boost to
agility and speed. Maybe that's
the tradeoff here. Lighter armor
classing for speed. That's it!
I've been thinking about this all
wrong. This is ranger armor! Not
paladin armor! Aha!

Priscilla stomps up to them with Raul in tow.

RAUL

She's lost it guys. Watch out!

TARA

A princess is worried only about her prince... and women's rights!

PRISCILLA

I deserve to be the princess!

Priscilla brandishes her fingernails with a snarl. Anthony steps in front of Tara and holds his large arm out in front of himself.

ANTHONY

Stop! Violence is never the answer Priscilla!

Raul tries to hold Priscilla back as she claws up the 'armor' on Anthony's arm.

ANTHONY

Ha! Attack successfully defended!

Raul pries Priscilla off.

RAUL

Stop this! We're all going to get kicked out of the New Adults Program!

PRISCILLA

Fine then Raul. I have an idea! Twine me!

She throws her phone to Raul. Who fumbles with it.

PRISCILLA (CONT.)

Tara Frankman. I call upon my magical right to demand-- A Princess-off!!!

Everyone Gasps! Tara steps forward.

TARA

How dare you challenge me! You know that I am the ultimate princess!

PRISCILLA

Yea, You might know the nonsense stories they tell you here, but I know about poise, style, and royalty!

(MORE)

PRISCILLA (CONT'D)

I am a REAL princess and you're--
you're just a storybook copy of
the real deal!

TARA

Then I accept your challenge
you... you... rude jerk!

Tara takes off her long white glove and slaps Priscilla.

PRISCILLA

(to phone)

You heard it here first Twiners.
More updates soon as I thrash this
fake princess.

Priscilla grabs the phone back from Raul and cradles it.

TARA

Anthony, you know a ton about
being a real prince and medieval
stuff and Raul... Raul, I think
you have a heart of gold. You
should be the judges.

ANTHONY

M'Lady.

Raul is struck by this compliment he puts his hand over his
heart.

RAUL

Thank...Thank you so much.

PRISCILLA

DON'T MESS THIS UP FOR ME RAUL!

Raul cowers.

INT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC ROOM - DAY

Nick takes a stack of quarters out of the drawer and puts them
in his suit jacket. In staggers Richard, crazed and
disheveled.

RICHARD

I finally have proof that Miles is
living in the castle! Quickly! You
have to come with me and see this.

NICK

You're crazy Richard. Nobody lives
in the castle.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

We've been telling you that.

Richard wipes the sweat off his forehead and composes himself.

RICHARD

Why won't anyone believe me?!
Fine! You either come find Miles
with me or-- or it's back to vomit
duty with T-Dog!

T-Dog appears from nowhere again, creeping like an ugly fog toward Nick.

NICK

Richard, You don't have to be so
harsh with me man.

RICHARD

It's Mr. Coates Nick. And if I say
Miles is living in this park then
that's the TRUTH!. YOU of all
people should believe me because
you've been here the longest.
You-- You say you want to run the
park one day but you can't even--

Richard notices a small piece of chewed up playing card, picks it up.

RICHARD

--He.. He was here?! And you
Didn't say anything to me?! That's
it. Vomit duty for a month for
you!

NICK

Oh come on.

RICHARD

Three Months! You and T-Dog are
gonna be best friends.

NICK

Actually, I quit!

T-Dog frowns, deeply injured that Nick would quit, abates back into the shadows. Richard is gobsmacked.

RICHARD

What?! You can't quit! I need you.
The new hire is gonna be here any
second! She's from Ocean Universe!
You know, our biggest competitor!

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

And nobody besides you is even near qualified to show her the ropes.

Nick somberly packs his things up and takes his name tag off his velvet jacket.

NICK

I don't care if the new hire is Scarlett Johansson. I'm outta here. I wish I'd never stepped foot in this stupid park. Stupid. STUPID! STUPID!!!

Nick chucks his name tag on the ground and whips around to leave, walking straight into KELLY, poised, 30's. Knocking her paperwork out of her hands.

KELLY

Oh! Sorry! First day luck.

She's on the floor picking up her papers. Nick frozen, wide eyed. Smitten. She gathers them all and stands to shake Nick's hand.

KELLY

Ah, you must be Nick, right?

Nick does a 180 right back to Richard.

NICK

(instant regret)

You know Richard, I guess it couldn't hurt to finish out the day.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. MAGIC LAND - SECURITY CAVE

A whirring and buzzing security lab with cavernous rooms to spare.

Around a card table various security guards play poker with EARL (the creepy voice on the radio, even weirder now in person). Richard rushes in and they slam their poker hands down with a sigh. Everyone except Earl, that is.

EARL

Looks like I have to fold this hand Gents.

Richard leans over Earl and whispers loudly into his ear.

RICHARD

He's here Earl. I swear to God he's living right above us. Right now! You gotta believe me.

EARL

Sure sure sure. I believe you.

RICHARD

So what's the issue?!

Earl hauls himself up and leads Richard by the shoulder through beeping and whirring machines that keep MagicLand secure and monitored.

EARL

Listen Richie, I like you, but it's not as simple as you think it is.

RICHARD

What?! Just go find him and catch him! You're the security chief, right? As the cast manager on duty I'm asking you to get this guy!

EARL

Let me explain something Richie. I can't just go and catch this imaginary "Miles" as you call him because it would mean that I've fundamentally failed as a security chief. Wouldn't it? Because someone is able to "live" in MagicLand, inside my park, for so long undetected.

RICHARD

Well.. Umm..

EARL

That might mean I should be...
replaced... because I've failed as
security chief.

RICHARD

Well I... I wouldn't want...

Earl pats him on the back with false comfort.

EARL

Oh, I know that you wouldn't
Richie, but the fact is this place
isn't run by you. You're just a
middle manager for someone higher
up the totem pole who's smoking
cigars and drinking brandy in some
boardroom somewhere, throwing
darts at a picture of your stupid
little chubby face.

RICHARD

Wait a second! Excuse me?!

Earl has led Richard to a corner of the cavern that doesn't
seem to have anything in it.

EARL

Richie, I like you. I really do.
But I have a card game to get back
to... And you've got to go dry
off.

RICHARD

Excuse me?

Earl throws aside a heavy curtain and **SHOVES** Richard down a
WATER SLIDE!

EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - DAY

Richard is flung from the side of the magic castle via water
flume into the moat, landing with an enormous **SPLOOSH!**

EXT. MAGIC LAND - WHIMSICAL CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY

Tara and Priscilla are both in princess outfits, empty bottles
of wine, heels, makeup lay around, used.

PRISCILLA

Three to zero loser. Ready to give up?

TARA

So what? So you know about fancy bumble-bee-hockey like makeup and wine. But are you a *real princess*?

PRISCILLA

Of course I am.

TARA

Can you do *this*?

Tara starts to sing an aria. Priscilla rolls her eyes and starts Twining on her phone.

PRISCILLA

Update. Cow sings the song of her people. ReTwine me for likes.

Pricilla puts her phone away.

ANTHONY

Actually, I believe she is channeling the ability of the Bard to summon our courage. It's lovely

RAUL

Wha...What are all these squirrels doing here?

All the park's squirrels swarm around Tara and chitter in time with her singing.

ANTHONY

By the gods, she's a masterful bard and one with nature. Summoning animals is at least a level 10 feat.

PRISCILLA

Whoa.

RAUL

...Why aren't you twining *this*!?

EXT. MAGIC LAND - WALKWAYS - DAY

Nick shows Kelly around the park.

NICK

-- and over to the right is Merlin:The Ride, it normally malfunctions around three or four times a week whenever some kid tries to get off the ride and meet the wizard. Normally doesn't go so well when they find out he's a robot.

KELLY

Mhmm. Sounds like you didn't impart to the ride attendants their important place in a guest's magical day.

NICK

...I guess.

They walk on.

NICK

Over here is the ice cream stand, the refrigeration unit goes in and out so some days it's open and some days it's not.

KELLY

That doesn't sound very magical.

NICK

Well things here aren't really as magical they seem.

KELLY

You sound just like some of my old coworkers back at Ocean Universe.

NICK

What's that supposed to mean?

They walk up on a pirate style ride.

KELLY

Here. I'll do your bit for you.
(affecting Nick's speech)
Clarence's pirate ship doesn't work most days because we didn't ask the mechanics to fix the--

Kelly looks over at Nick for a fill-in-the-blank.

NICK

--breaks--

KELLY

--breaks. Instead, every time it breaks down we choose cast ourselves as the victim in our own lives instead of working hard for what we believe in.

A pause, Kelly smirks at Nick with an "Am I right?".

NICK

Actually Clarence's pirate ship is opening later this month.

KELLY

But close, right?

NICK

Ouch.

KELLY

Sorry, It's my first day. Let me off the hook, will ya?

NICK

Well today's my last. I'm outta here.

KELLY

Better job?

NICK

Nothing lined up, but anything's got to be better than this.

KELLY

Sorry to hear that. What's made MagicLand such a drag?

NICK

Well, I worked here for years, busting my ass to move up in the world and nothing's happened.

KELLY

Why not?

NICK

No idea! I worked hard, always showed up, did my best. You know, the stuff you're supposed to do. And yet nothing...

Kelly sighs.

KELLY

Look, maybe I'm not the best person to hear this from, but "magic" doesn't just spontaneously happen in life. You have to constantly work at it. You can't just give up when you think you should have won already.

NICK

...But what if you want to give up? Because you've given up on believing in "magic"?

KELLY

That's not how it works. You can't just sink a day, a month, a year, into something and expect it to spring to life. "Magic" is a way of life. You just have to keep chipping away at it day by day until you can look back and see the effects. A lot of people sink ten years into overnight success. So don't quit!

NICK

So... You think I just need to keep going soon they'll promote me to assistant manager?

KELLY

OH! That's awkward... It's my first day here... as the *assistant manager*...

Nick dies inside.

KELLY

Wanna show me around the magic shop?

EXT. MAGIC LAND - MAGIC CASTLE - ARCHWAY - DAY

The princesses are going for round two.

TARA

We're tied at three a piece. You're better at Makeup, Wine, and International Politics--

PRISCILLA

--Thanks high school debate team!--

TARA

--And I'm better at talking with animals, mythological lore, and... pastries. It looks like it's a tie.

Anthony and Raul are sitting and eating a homemade pie.

ANTHONY

And may I say it's a delicious tie.

RAUL

This pie is amazing!

Priscilla fumes!

PRISCILLA

Augh! There's got to be some way for me to prove that I'm better than you... Twine followers?

ANTHONY

Not royal.

RAUL

Why do you Twine so much anyway?

PRISCILLA

Having followers is the only road to social success now-a-days. I have to keep ahead of the curve or else I'm sunk.

Stunning. Priscilla actually has a method to her madness.

TARA

--Then there's only one way to solve this. We must *share* princess duties from now on.

RAUL

That seems fair.

Tara extends a hand shake to Priscilla who BATS it away.

PRISCILLA

My tiny cute butt cheeks it's fair! I'm going to talk to Richard.

Priscilla storms off, Tara not far behind.

INT. MAGIC LAND - MENS BATHROOM

Richard, at the urinal, zips up and heads to the sink. As he hums and washes up, he turns to find MILES brushing his teeth and humming along. He winks at Richard. Who does a double take.

RICHARD

You! Aha! I've got you now!

Richard POUNCES on Miles and GRABS him from behind.

MILES

Hey man! This isn't cool.

Richard fumbles the walkie talkie into his hand.

RICHARD

Earl! Converge on my location right now! I've got Miles in a headlock!

MILES

Technically speaking this is more of a Full Nelson.

RICHARD

Shut up!

MILES

Look, I'm just trying to get the most out of my season pass. Don't hate on me so hard.

RICHARD

Earl! Pickup!

Nothing but static.

EXT. MAGIC LAND - PATHWAY - SAME

Kelly and Nick are walking along.

NICK

So this is the men's room. There's nothing really magical in there unless you have to clean up poop.

From inside the bathroom Richard bellows.

RICHARD (O.S.)
Nick! Is that you! Get in here
man! I finally got him!

Nick and Kelly hustle into the men's room.

INT. MAGIC LAND - MENS BATHROOM - SAME

Nick and Kelly barge into the bathroom. They pause when they see the scene before them.

MILES
Oh, hey Nick.

NICK
Miles. How's it going?

Miles tries in vain to gesture while in the full nelson.

MILES
Oh, you know me man, just hanging
out.

KELLY
Wait, What's going on here?

NICK
It's a long story Kelly. Miles is
a special kind of guest--

MILES
--Hey, I'm just trying to get the
most out of my season pass.--

Kelly nods.

KELLY
--Oh, I'm up to speed already. We
had one of these guys at Ocean
Universe.

RICHARD
Nick, you have to help me!

NICK
Richard, I quit, remember?

RICHARD
You were just joking though,
right?

NICK
No man, I wasn't joking.

MILES

Good for you man. I'm glad that you're standing up for what you think is right. Even if it's because you're finally becoming a jaded thirty something. But still. Good for you dude!

NICK

Uh... Thanks Miles.

RICHARD

Nick, don't quit, we need you around here. You've been with MagicLand since you were in the New Adult Program!

NICK

Maybe that's exactly why I *should* quit. All that time and what do I have to show for it... Sorry Richard, I know this isn't the best situation for you, but I'm out.

In comes the team of Tara, Priscilla, Anthony, and Raul. All frothed into a big fuss, nobody even acknowledges Richard's predicament.

PRISCILLA

Richard, I need you to tell me that I'm a better princess than Tara RIGHT NOW or I QUIT!

RICHARD

Priscilla, please, I... I can't lose two good employees in one day. What would that make me look like as your manager? Right?

ANTHONY

Wait... Who quit today?

TARA

Who wouldn't want to work at the most magical place in the whole world?

RAUL

Who could afford to quit?

PRISCILLA

Who would have enough followers to quit?

Everyone looks around the room, dumbfounded.

NICK

Actually... It was me. I quit today.

Everyone GASPS! A terrible silence sets in as everyone stares at Nick.

Tara, fighting tears, fists clenched, walks over to Nick and SMACKS THE SNOT OUT OF HIM.

TARA

Just so you know... You're one of the best people working here and... and I can't believe you're giving up on your dreams... Magic is real at MagicLand Nick... It's REAL when we're all here together. You big jerk you...

Tara can't hold back anymore and sobs, falling into Priscilla's embrace. Priscilla shoots a piercing look at Nick.

PRISCILLA

Hashtag lame Nick. Unfriended.

Anthony steps forward, still in the prince armor, monologging.

ANTHONY

Nick, I used to think you were lawful good, but this choice is chaotic evil. You're acting against your alignment and I don't think you should be allowed by our DM to take this action... Quitting would be a critical fail for all of us, I mean... Are we a party or aren't we?

Everyone has said their peace, but everyone is still uncomfortably standing around. Kelly breaks the silence.

KELLY

Hey everyone. I'm the new girl.

EVERYONE

(sullenly)

Hi.

KELLY

So... I just met Nick today, but I think he should quit if he wants to. Nobody wants to work somewhere they feel trapped or undervalued.

(MORE)

KELLY (CONT'D)

And definitely no good for someone to hate their job when they used to love it.

General nods of understanding.

MILES

I don't know guys. I think Nick should follow his gut instincts and leave this dumpster fire of a theme park.

EVERYONE

Shut up!

MILES

Whoa, that's aggressive.

Earl and Clarence the Cat finally saunter in, the sheriff and the deputy of the town.

EARL

What's all this? Clarence came and told me things were getting screwy here and *exactly what do I find?*

Clarence the Cat shrugs.

RICHARD

I got him Earl. The guy who's living inside the Castle! Here he is.

EARL

(to Miles)

Sir, can I see your ticket please?

Miles struggles free of Richard and holds up his season pass.

MILES

Hah! It's a season pass! *I have a season pass!* Just trying to get the most out of it. Can't blame a guy for doing that. Can you?

Earl takes it and looks at it, hands it back to him.

EARL

I'm sorry you've had so much trouble from our employee today Mr. Strauss. Please accept these free food and drink tickets as our sincere apology.

RICHARD

WHAT?!

Miles takes them and grins; Cackles.

EARL

And here's a guest pass for anyone
you'd like.

MILES

Sounds fair to me. Have a great
night everyone! See you in the
morning! Suckers!

Miles blows a raspberry at Richard, skips out of the bathroom
with glee. Earl follows.

NICK

Well, it's the end of my last
shift. If anybody needs me, I'll
be at the bar.

Nick strips off his jacket and chucks it on the floor.

NICK

Sorry to be such a disappointment
everyone.

Nick walks out of the bathroom, through the sea of friends
he's betrayed. Nobody can believe it.

INT. MAGIC HOUR BAR - NIGHT

Nick sits at the bar again as Clarence the Cat tinkles on the
piano in the background.

Richard walks in, sits on the stool, defeated.

NICK

I didn't expect to see you here.

Richard signals for the bartender, who brings him a neat
scotch.

RICHARD

Well, I couldn't exactly go right
home after a day like today.

NICK

It was a hell of a day today. I
quit... Heh... I can't believe it.

Richard takes a swig of his drink and swirls the rest of it
around.

RICHARD

For what it's worth. I like you Nick. I know what it feels like to feel hopeless.

NICK

Yea?

RICHARD

Yea. More than you know... So I called my boss and demanded he give you a raise. I didn't ask for much at all--

NICK

--Geez, you shouldn't have man--

RICHARD

--And he said no.

A big pause. Nick runs a hand across his forehead and messes up his hair.

NICK

Oh.

Richard knocks back the rest of the drink and signals for another.

RICHARD

So I told him that they either give you a raise and move you to assistant manager or *I quit*.

Nick looks at Richard with worry.

NICK

Oh no dude, don't tell me--

Richard sips his drink and sits it down slowly.

RICHARD

So, if you're up for the position of assistant manager, it's yours. What do you say?

NICK

They said yes!? I... I can't believe you'd do something like that for me.

RICHARD

Why?

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

I know I'm not the most affectionate guy around, but I know a good apple when it falls off the tree and onto my head.

Nick sips his beer and stares into it.

NICK

I can't imagine something else I'd rather do tomorrow. Nothing comes to mind to do except to... To come to MagicLand... and...

RICHARD

And?

NICK

And remember what it was like to be a kid again.

RICHARD

It looks like you'll be needing these back then.

Richard produces Nick's name badge and puts it on the counter, along with a new radio sloppily labeled "Assistant Shift Manager".

Nick picks them up and marvels. He leans over and gives Richard an awkward hug.

NICK

Thank you Richard.

RICHARD

Eh... I'll see you tomorrow Nick.

Richard waves to the barkeep and stands up.

NICK

Richard.

RICHARD

Yea?

NICK

I'm sorry I didn't tell you about Miles. I promise I'll be a great Assistant Manager.

Nick walks out the door.

RICHARD
I know. Well crap. What am I
supposed to do with two assistant
managers?

Richard vanishes out the door.

END ACT TWO

TEASER

EXT. MAGIC LAND PARK - PATHWAY - NIGHT

Priscilla, Tara, and Kelly walk through the park at night, cleaning trash cans and sweeping up as they go.

PRISCILLA

Face it, I was going to win the princess contest.

TARA

A true princess never gloats, that's something only wicked witches do.

KELLY

Are you sure you two don't want to just call it a tie?

BOTH

No.

Something SNORES in the bushes behind the path.

KELLY

Wait, Do you hear that?

They go to look for it in the bushes.

EXT. MAGIC LAND - OFF PATH - NIGHT

Miles lies in a small opening behind the bushes, sleeping on his back in a clearing.

The three ladies approach.

TARA

(whispering)

Finally, we will decide who will be the princess once and for all. Who can kiss the prince awake?

PRISCILLA

(whispering)

You're on. I'm going to french kiss this old man straight out of sand land.

But before they can begin, Kelly WALLOPS Miles across the face. He awakes with a start.

MILES

Uh... Can I help you? I'm trying to sleep.

KELLY

Park is closed sir. Please move to the exit.

MILES

Oh Good. Good. Thanks for letting me know. I-- I'll see you in the morning for breakfast.

Miles rolls over and goes back to bed. Tara and Priscilla stare daggers at Kelly.

KELLY

What?

PRISCILLA

Now we'll never find out who's the better princess.

TARA

Yea!

KELLY

Good thing for you ladies too. Because *ITS ME!*

THE END