

HALFWAY HOUSE

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - DAY

A POLICE CAR drives down the road and pulls into the driveway.

Wooden sign: PASTERNAK SOCIETY REFORM CENTER

A MALE POLICE OFFICER, 40s, escorts MOXIE BAXTER, 23, in HANDCUFFS up to the front door and rings the doorbell.

Moxie has SHOULDER LENGTH JET BLACK HAIR and is dressed head to foot in complete GOTHIC/EMO GARB.

She notices someone looking at her from the upstairs window only briefly until the person withdraws and closes the curtains.

A very conservatively dressed House Mother, TERESA THORNDYKE, 40s, answers the door.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Well, well, well, the world famous Moxie Baxter! We have heard all about your daring law-defying exploits in New York City--

Teresa points to some CHICKENS in the yard.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

But I think you will find things very different here in rural-suburbia.

(to the officer)

You may take the cuffs off of her, she is in our custody now.

Police officer removes the handcuffs.

POLICE OFFICER

Will there be anything else?

TERESA THORNDYKE

No, we will take it from here. Thank you.

POLICE OFFICER

Good luck.

(to himself)

You're going to need it!

Teresa ushers Moxie inside.

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Moxie enters and breathes in deep.

MOXIE

It smells like chemicals and wild berries.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Have a seat on the couch and I will explain the rules.

Moxie PLOPS DOWN DEFIANTLY and throws her leg over the arm of the COUCH.

Teresa Thorndyke sits in a fine wooden chair PRIM AND PROPER.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Welcome, Moxie, my name is Teresa Thorndyke.

GIGGLES erupt from the entry way in which the two just entered.

Moxie turns to see FOUR GIRLS her own age peeking around the corner.

All girls wear UNIFORMS which consist of BLACK SHIRTS WITH WHITE LOGO and LIGHT BROWN KHAKI PANTS. They wear various colored SLIPPERS.

Teresa stands and chases them away.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Go on! Go back to your chores! Move it! I will be in to inspect them momentarily.

The girls flee. Teresa returns, taking her seat.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Good, now where was I? My name is Teresa Thorndyke. I am the House Mother here at Pasternak Society Reform Center.

(looking at a clipboard)

According to your case file you have been released from Federal Prison and sentenced up to twelve months at this Halfway House. The goal is to segue your behavior so that you once again become a functioning member of society.

MOXIE
 (sarcastically)
 Yeah, that's what I was told.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Under Eighteen U.S.C. Section
 Thirty-six Twenty-one Sub-section
 B, the law states that you have
 been placed here, at our facility,
 because you have met the minimum
 standards of health and
 habitability. But there are further
 requirements before your release.

Moxie rolls her eyes.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
 You will be expected to do chores,
 participate in therapy groups, as
 well as complete individual therapy
 assignments. You cannot leave the
 property until you have attained
 ninety percent, if not all, of
 these recommendations.

(solemnly)
 We are guided by federal and state
 regulations, but I am the alpha and
 omega. I, alone, decide when you
 graduate the program. Is that
 understood?

MOXIE
 (sarcastically)
 Yep.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 (sternly)
 You will show all others respect,
 beginning with me!

MOXIE
 Yes, Ma'am.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Sit up straight!

Moxie reluctantly obeys.

The four girls have returned to the entryway and laugh
 harder.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
 Girls! What did I just tell you?

The girls enter and sit around Moxie.

The leader of the group, WILLA, 25, speaks up.

WILLA

We want to meet the legendary Moxie Baxter.

PENNY, 24, agrees.

PENNY

Yeah! Did you really do all the things they said you did?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Girls, if you are going to be in here, then you need to introduce yourselves.

WILLA

My name is Willa. I am twenty-five years old. I grew up in Las Angeles. I am here for drug abuse.

PENNY

I am Penny. I am twenty-four. I'm here for petty theft.

TAWNY, 22, and DOT, 21, take their turn.

TAWNY

Name's Tawny. Twenty-two. I grew up in south North Dakota. I'm here for arson.

DOT

My name's Dot. I just turned twenty-one. I grew up in north South Dakota. In here for petty theft *AND* arson.

MOXIE

Willa? Penny? Tawny? And Dot? What kind of names are those? Did I just walk into a cartoon?

WILLA

(angrily)

You better watch it! I abuse more than drugs!

Penny hits her fist into her hand.

PENNY
She'll abuse your face!

Moxie stands.

MOXIE
(defiantly)
I'm sure we'll see about that!

TERESA THORNDYKE
Girls! Sit down!

TAWNY
Willa, if the rumors about Moxie
are true, we shouldn't press our
luck.

MOXIE
That's right!

TERESA THORNDYKE
Girls! Five-step breathe! Five-step
breathe!

All the girls step back and take FIVE DEEP BREATHS.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
Good. Good. Now that everyone is
calm, Tawny and Dot, why don't you
show Moxie around. Willa, Penny,
back to your chores.

WILLA
(sarcastically)
Yes, Ma'am.

Tawny, Dot and Moxie exit.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

DOT
You are legendary around here, you
know?

MOXIE
I gathered that.

DOT

We followed your story on the news.
You're our hero!

MOXIE

Great.

TAWNY

Well, this is our kitchen. We eat
breakfast at Eight A.M., lunch at
Twelve-Thirty and dinner at Six.

DOT

Our cook, Maureen, is actually
pretty good, considering. She makes
a superb enchilada pie!

TAWNY

Do you like Mexican food?

MOXIE

Yes, but I prefer Italian.

DOT

So do I.

MOXIE

Kiss up.

WIPE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

TAWNY

This will be your bedroom. The rule
is lights out at Nine-Thirty, and
always make your bed.

MOXIE

Nine-Thirty? Really?

TAWNY

We are not allowed to have cell
phones. There is only one landline
phone for emergencies.

DOT

You must always keep your room clean or points will be deducted. Loose more than one-hundred points in six months and you're sent back to prison.

TAWNY

The windows are permanently sealed shut and the doors are locked most of the day, except for outdoor exercise and recreation.

DOT

Are you wearing an ankle monitor?

Moxie lifts her pant leg to reveal a BLACK ANKLE MONITOR.

MOXIE

Yes, all part of the deal. It's supposed to stay on for six months or so.

DOT

With that device you are allowed into the front yard and back yard only with twined-down permission and supervision. After your six months are up, you are expected to go out and find a job.

TAWNY

You are twenty-three so Willa will be your Group Leader.

MOXIE

How did you know my age?

DOT

We know everything about you. You are twenty-three; you were born and raised in New York City; your favorite colors are black and silver; your last name is Baxter; you have a younger sister named Alison, and just after your legendary escapades, you broke up with your long time boyfriend, Garrett.

MOXIE

Okay, that is just creepy.

TAWNY

I know, that's what makes it so cool!

MOXIE

No, I'll show you what's cool!

Moxie abruptly grabs a WOODEN CHAIR and throws it against the WINDOW. The chair SPLINTERS-- the glass does not break.

ALARMS sound. STROBE LIGHTS flash.

Moxie inspects the window for cracks. There are none.

MOXIE (CONT'D)

Solid.

TAWNY

(to Dot)

I guess what they said about her really is true!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The five girls sit together on a LARGE SOFA.

Teresa paces the floor between TWO SECURITY GUARDS, 40s.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Well, apparently we didn't go very long without wreaking more havoc.

TAWNY

It wasn't us--

TERESA THORNDYKE

(interrupting)

Silence! You ladies know how to behave.

TAWNY

We didn't do it.

TERESA THORNDYKE

You didn't stop her, either. All right, no points will be deducted this time.

MOXIE

Thank you.

TERESA THORNDYKE

I'm not talking about you. You automatically lose ten. If you lose ninety more in the next six months, we will have no choice but to send you back to the Federal Detention Center. It will be up to the Judge to determine if you start your sentence all over again. Until that time, you must do extra chores to pay for the chair you broke. You can begin by sweeping and mopping the kitchen.

LOGIN, 23, comes in to view, followed by AARON, 22, and KYLE, 21.

Boys wear UNIFORMS which consist of NAVY BLUE SHIRT WITH WHITE LOGO and LIGHT BROWN KHAKI PANTS.

LOGIN

Welcome, Moxie.

MOXIE

(to Dot)

Who are they?

DOT

That is Login, he is the Group Leader for the Pendleton House.

MOXIE

Pendleton House?

DOT

Yeah, the house next door.

TAWNY

The other two boys are Kyle and Aaron. Kyle's nickname is Creep so all the girls call him by the correct name, and Aaron just finished a twelve step program so he might be leaving soon.

TERESA THORNDYKE

All the boys are leaving right now.
(to the boys)
Get out!

KYLE

Login just wanted to see the world
famous Moxie Baxter.

AARON

He wants her autograph.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Let Moxie alone.
(to Moxie)
You are, under absolutely no
circumstances, allowed to cross to
the boys' house! The penalty for
leaving *this* house is most severe!

TAWNY

Amen (beat) Ain't that the truth.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Good (beat) I believe we have
reached an understanding. This
meeting is adjourned. Dismissed!

ALL GIRLS IN UNISON

Thank you, Ms. Thorndyke!

TERESA THORNDYKE

Now, go help Moxie clean the
kitchen. Move it!

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The girls busy themselves with kitchen chores, wiping down
counter tops, etc.

Moxie enters rolling a YELLOW MOP BUCKET.

WILLA

Moxie, before you begin mopping,
come over here, we have a surprise
for you.

MOXIE

What?

Willa takes a LARGE MIXING BOWL out of the cabinet.

WILLA

Penny grew up in Louisiana and learned how to bake a special french treat.

PENNY

That's right!

MOXIE

What kind of french treat?

The four girls each break TWO EGGS into the bowl.

WILLA

We will show you.

Willa dumps half a bag of FLOUR into the bowl.

PENNY

It is a recipe that my mom taught me.

Tawny adds a jar of PICKLE JUICE.

Moxie looks on in disgust.

Willa begins to stir by hand.

WILLA

(to Moxie)

If you will just set the stove to Four hundred and Fifty degrees.

As Moxie bends over to turn the dial, Willa dumps the concoction over Moxie's head.

WILLA (CONT'D)

It is called Hazing soufflé!

Moxie DRAMATICALLY starts to FUME, ANGRILY.

Leaving the bowl on her head, Moxie DRAMATICALLY begins to SMILE, with a SLIGHT SINISTER LAUGH.

Moxie DRAMATICALLY begins to SMIRK VENGEFULLY, revenge surging through her brain.

MOXIE

Um (beat) I think it needs more
flour!

Moxie dumps the rest of the flour over Willa's head.

Willa screams.

Dot throws two eggs at Moxie.

Moxie lowers the mixing bowl like a WAR HELMET over her face
and BLOCKS the slimy impact.

A full on FOOD FIGHT breaks out.

WIPE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The four girls slump to the floor against the cabinets,
laughing together, hysterically.

WILLA

Oh, man what a mess!

TAWNY

Yeah, we better get to cleaning up.

Moxie takes the VEGETABLE SPRAYER and hoses down Willa. She
then places a RUBBER BAND around the nozzle, leaving it to
spray water across the kitchen.

Moxie kicks over the mop bucket, causing it to FLOOD THE
FLOOR.

The girls fasten LARGE SPONGES to their backsides and take
turns PUSHING AND PULLING each other across the wet tiles.

Teresa enters.

TERESA THORNDYKE

(angrily)

What in the good name of Pasternak
are you doing?!

The girls FREEZE.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

(loudly)

I told you to clean the kitchen!
Not make a bigger mess! That is a
loss of ten points-- for each of
you!

The girls look at each other in SILENCE, not knowing what to say.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Moxie, that is a loss of twenty
points in just one day.

Moxie tips her BOWL HAT back to look at Teresa innocently with puppy dog eyes.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Would somebody care to explain? No?
Then go to your rooms and clean
yourselves up. Moxie, you stay here
and finish your chore.

The four girls run out of the kitchen laughing.

Teresa follows.

Moxie takes a seat in the nearest chair. She tilts her bowl hat down over her face, as the VEGETABLE SPRAYER continues to RAIN DOWN over her.

MOXIE

(frustrated)

Aw, Pasternak!

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

Moxie enters her room from the bathroom, fresh out of the shower. She is wrapped in a WHITE TOWEL and is drying her hair.

Tawny enters with a knock, carrying a UNIFORM and PINK BUNNY SLIPPERS.

TAWNY

Hello? Hey, Moxie. I brought you your uniform. It's still a bit damp, our dryer isn't working.

Moxie takes the uniform. She looks suspiciously at the slippers.

MOXIE

What?

TAWNY

We are not allowed to wear shoes in the house. They will be locked up in the storage room.

MOXIE

Oh, hells to the no! I am not wearing bunny slippers. Especially pink!

TAWNY

Sorry. We've got no choice.

Moxie unfolds the uniform. She shakes it out in an attempt to dry it.

MOXIE

Drab.

TAWNY

Better than prison clothes.

MOXIE

Not by much. Were you in prison?

TAWNY

Yes. Almost three years. I was sentenced for arson. I burned down my father's garage (beat) He was never there for me, and when he was, he was abusive. That stunt got his attention! I was hoping the whole house would go up in flame, but I only managed to damage his prized tools.

MOXIE

Wow. You look like such an innocent little girl. Doesn't Tawny stand for 'baby owl' or something like that?

TAWNY

There is a Tawny Owl, yes, but I was named after my mom's best friend.

MOXIE

Cool.

TAWNY

What was your prison term like?

MOXIE

Dreadful. I wasn't Moxie, I was a number. I was four-three-eight-seven.

TAWNY

(awkwardly)

Same here. Only, of course, a different number. Five-two-eight-one.

MOXIE

As you know, I was sentenced to ten years but luckily only served five. In that time I only made one honest escape attempt.

TAWNY

Really? I would have guessed that you would've tried every weekend. How did it go down?

MOXIE

In metal shop I gathered a small vent and some thin sheet metal. I made a costume that resembled all of the air ducts that ran throughout the prison. I could open and close the vent to keep a lookout.

TAWNY

Stop.

MOXIE

Over time I had to memorize the security camera blind spots and saved parts of my meals that wouldn't go bad very fast. At about three years into my sentence, I went for it.

TAWNY

That's impossible.

MOXIE

When the prison guards realized I wasn't in my cell, all heck broke loose. They were running back and forth right past me because they didn't think to look for a ventilation shaft.

TAWNY

No, way.

MOXIE

I just laid low for twenty-four hours, eating beef jerky and peeing in an empty margarine tub, until the heat was off and things calmed down. Slowly, over time and with extreme patience, I made my way, step by step, through the prison.

TAWNY

How did you get through the locked doors?

MOXIE

At the first set of doors my cell mate created a distraction and staged a fight. At the second door I had to rely on prison guard laziness. The fifth guard to come through left it propped open because he was going right back out. I had to move fast.

TAWNY

How far did you get?

MOXIE

I made it all the way to the last door. I only had the prison yard and main gate left to go.

TAWNY

How were you going to get past the fence?

MOXIE

There was a sturdy low-grade-galvanized-steel drain pipe in the yard that was coming loose.

(MORE)

MOXIE (CONT'D)

It was long enough, and just barely flexible enough, that I could have used it as a pole vault to jump the wall and razor wire.

TAWNY

No, way.

MOXIE

Oh, yes.

TAWNY

How did they finally find you?

MOXIE

The guards sweep the prison every six months with a K-9 unit. The dog spotted me in an instant.

TAWNY

Now I have heard everything! Only you would try something like that.

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR interrupts them.

Security Guard #1 enters carrying a SMALL STEP LADDER and a LIGHT BULB. He blushes at seeing Moxie wrapped in a towel.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(embarrassed)

I'm just here to change a light bulb (beat) Oh, my (beat) well, yeah (beat) Need to fix the light.

Moxie STRUTS HER STUFF.

MOXIE

(sarcastically)

Never seen a woman before?

SECURITY GUARD #1

(bashfully)

Oh, my.

The guard sets the ladder BETWEEN THEM, and climbs, getting in their way. Once on top he can only be seen from THE WAIST DOWN.

TAWNY

Anyway, I think you will like it better here at Pasternak than in Prison. Especially since you are a celebrity.

MOXIE

That doesn't matter, I still feel stuck.

The guard hands Moxie the GLASS LIGHT COVER.

Moxie blows on it and dust flies everywhere. She coughs.

Tawny laughs.

The guard begins to BANG on something LOUDLY.

MOXIE (CONT'D)

(coughing)

Did you ever try escaping?

TAWNY

(raising her voice)

I tried to once. Only made it across the yard. I lost thirty points.

The guard bangs LOUDER.

MOXIE

(to guard)

That's a lot of noise for changing a light bulb.

The guard ignores her and bangs LOUDER and SLOWER.

TAWNY

Dinner will be served in thirty minutes. I will talk to you more then.

MOXIE

Sounds good.

Tawny exits.

Moxie lets the towel FALL and puts on her UNIFORM TOP.

The guard HAMMERS RAPIDLY until the CEILING BURSTS and SHEET ROCK DUST SHOWERS DOWN.

Moxie smiles and returns to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY - LATER

Moxie is dressed in her uniform. She examines herself in a FULL BODY MIRROR.

Willa enters carrying a BAG OF MAIL. She dumps it out onto the bed.

WILLA

Mail call!

MOXIE

What's all this?

WILLA

Your fan mail. Normally the guards would search through it, but you have so much that they just ran it through the metal detectors.

MOXIE

Wow.

WILLA

You want me to help you read it?

MOXIE

If you want to.

Willa picks one up, opens it, and reads.

WILLA

"Dear Moxie; you are my hero. I want to be just like you when I grow up. Sincerely Ashley Decker, Nashville, Tennessee, age nine."

MOXIE

That's depressing.

WILLA

No kidding. I'll bet she will be checking in to this place within the next ten years. Oh well, I guess that's job security for Teresa.

MOXIE

Yeah.

Moxie's eyes are drawn to a SOLID BLACK ENVELOPE. She opens it and HORROR SETS IN as she reads.

WILLA
Is something wrong?

MOXIE
(nervously)
Um (beat) No. You'd better go.

WILLA
Why?

MOXIE
I will finish reading these later.
Go ahead and go to dinner, I will
be there shortly.

WILLA
Okay. But try to dress up a bit,
you'll feel better.

MOXIE
(nervously)
Yeah (beat) I will. Thanks.

WILLA
No problem.

Willa exits.

Moxie collapses to a chair and reads out loud.

MOXIE
"Moxie Baxter; I have been watching
you. You were released from prison
too early. You should pay dearly
for what you did. If the courts
won't take care of you then I will.
You are a dead woman. Signed
Vigilante."

Dot is listening at the door. She ducks away.

Moxie looks around to make sure nobody heard her. She rushes
to close the door and slumps to the floor, TEARS in her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

The entire group is sitting around a table that appears to be set as wonderful as THANKSGIVING.

Moxie enters. She has her HAIR SPIKED, BLACK LIPSTICK, and her BLACK UNIFORM is rolled up to show BARE ARMS and BARE MIDRIF. She wears the PINK BUNNY SLIPPERS.

Teresa is in shock.

TERESA THORNDYKE

No, no, no, you can not dress like that in this house.

MOXIE

What's wrong with it? I was told to dress up for dinner.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Yes, dress classy, not trashy.

Teresa approaches and smooths down Moxie's hair with her hand. She LICKS HER FINGERS and tries to remove Moxie's lipstick like a mother would when cleaning the dirty face of a young child.

Moxie pulls away.

MOXIE

All right, already.

Teresa UNROLLS the uniform down on the ARMS and MIDRIF, then returns to her seat.

Moxie ROLLS HER SLEEVES BACK UP, and sits down. She looks over the table at all of the food.

MOXIE (CONT'D)

What is this? Is it Thanksgiving already?

DOT

No, of course not. This is how we usually eat every day.

MOXIE

Well, no wonder you're all so fat.

Dot frowns.

DOT

No, it's these uniforms, they make our butts look all flagilty.

MOXIE

(ignoring)

You should see Christmas in New York. That is the all time best place to celebrate.

Moxie begins to dish up her plate.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Not so fast, Moxie. All this talk of Thanksgiving reminds us to say Grace. If you're not religious then at least have a moment of silence.

All bow their heads in reverence.

Within seconds, Teresa interrupts the silence.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Speaking of Thanksgiving, did you know that we eat turkeys because they are birds that are large enough to feed a table full of hungry family members, and unlike chickens or cows, don't serve much utilitarian purpose like laying eggs or making milk?

MOXIE

(sarcastically)

You know, in many cultures that might be considered interesting.

Teresa taps her WINE GLASS with a SPOON.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Attention everyone!

MOXIE

You already have our attention.

TERESA THORNDYKE

I would like to make a toast.

Teresa stands and holds up her wine glass.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Today, Willa was allowed to leave for the first time in seven months to pick up job applications. We wish her the very best in her search for a job.

Everyone applauds.

EVERYONE

Good job!

TERESA THORNDYKE

To Willa!

EVERYONE

Cheers!

Everyone clinks their glasses together.

PENNY

Let's eat!

As everyone begins to feast.

MAUREEN, 50s, THE COOK, enters.

EVERYONE

(excited)

Maureen!

TERESA THORNDYKE

Maureen, I would like to introduce you to Moxie, our newest household member. Moxie, this is our cook, or should I say chef, Maureen Schneider.

Moxie rests her chin on her hands.

MOXIE

(somber)

Hi.

MAUREEN

It is very nice to finally meet you. I have heard a lot about you.

MOXIE

Thanks, I guess.

MAUREEN

Did I say something wrong?

TERESA THORNDYKE

No. Moxie is having a little trouble with her fame. It is getting to her, a bit.

MAUREEN

Well, I know just the thing to cheer to cheer you up.

Maureen disappears into the KITCHEN, and returns shortly with a LARGE WHITE CAKE. The words 'WELCOME Moxie' are spelled out in PINK FROSTING.

MAUREEN (CONT'D)

This treat has nothing to do with your celebrity. I made it for you on behalf of the other girls because we think you are great.

MOXIE

Thank you very much. But do you mind if I am excused. I'm not very hungry right now.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Certainly, sweetheart. We will keep your dinner warm.

Moxie exits.

DOT

May I be excused as well?

TERESA THORNDYKE

You haven't finished.

DOT

I want to check on Moxie.

TERESA THORNDYKE

All right. We will keep your dinner warm as well.

DOT

Thank you.

Dot runs out.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - EVENING

Dot walks past the doorway then backtracks when she sees Moxie on the couch. She enters.

DOT

You all right?

MOXIE

Oh, hey Dot. Yeah, I'm fine.

DOT

You're worried aren't you.

MOXIE

Me? No. Why?

DOT

I heard you read the letter from the black envelope.

Moxie sits up.

MOXIE

You shouldn't be eavesdropping you little sneak!

DOT

Sorry. I couldn't help it. But don't worry, you will be safe here. It's hard to get out of here, so it's probably harder for bad guys to get in.

MOXIE

That's pretty naive.

DOT

It is not.

MOXIE

You're in here for stealing. You probably know better than anyone how to get away with nonsense. You think hard core criminals would let a couple of flimsy walls get in their way if they wanted to kill me?

DOT

Safer in here than out on the streets.

Moxie laughs.

MOXIE

You are funny.

DOT

I don't steal any more and I'm off drugs, so my mind is clear. I am not naive.

MOXIE
You are probably right. I
apologize.

DOT
Apology accepted.

MOXIE
I was just...

DOT
(interrupting)
Wait! Wait!

Dot gets up and runs around the room gathering a CLIPBOARD, a PEN and puts on a PAIR OF GLASSES. She puts her hair up in a bun and sits back down pretending to be a therapist.

DOT (CONT'D)
(fake Sigmund Freud
accent)
Now, now, lie down ünt tell me your
problims, my dear.

Moxie smiles and lies down on the couch.

MOXIE
Yes, Doctor. It all began when I
met Garrett. It was not love at
first sight, but he eventually won
me over. In time, I realized he was
not who I thought he was, but I
blindly followed. He wanted to make
money the easy way, which turned
out not to be so easy. At first he
broke into ATMs, then he talked me
into robbing Convenience Stores
with him. Before I knew it we were
soon robbing banks. The first time
was so nerve-wracking!

Dot places the pen her mouth.

DOT
I see, I see.

MOXIE
Garrett was too presumptuous. He
didn't think things through. He
always jumped the gun by running
into the banks unprepared and
making all kinds of unwarranted
demands. I, on the other hand, had
a head on my shoulders.

(MORE)

MOXIE (CONT'D)

If we were going to do something--
anything-- we needed to do it
right.

DOT

I agree.

MOXIE

As long as nobody followed us, and
we got out of the area before the
Copper Choppers arrived, we did all
right.

DOT

Copper Choppers?

MOXIE

You know, the Police helicopters?
If they had showed up and spotted
us, we would have been doomed.

DOT

And did they see you?

MOXIE

Eventually. They tried to spot us
from the air, but by that time we
were well on our way.

DOT

Wow.

MOXIE

I also made sure that we were well
stocked and had all the supplies
that we needed, from police radio
scanners to food storage, tools,
medical supplies. You name it.

DOT

How much money did you make?

MOXIE

We didn't make any money. We stole
over two million dollars overall.

Dot drops the pen.

DOT

(amazed)

Over (beat) Two (beat) Million
(beat) Dollars?!

MOXIE

Cash.

DOT

May I get a loan?

MOXIE

It wasn't our money (beat) that was the problem.

DOT

So, what did you do when the police caught up to you?

LEAVES AND TWIGS SNAP outside the window.

The mood grows COLD.

DOT (CONT'D)

Did you hear that?

MOXIE

I did. Something is wrong.

Moxie closes the curtains. She steps to the side of the window and peeks out.

DOT

(worried)

What is it? Do you see anyone?

MOXIE

Shut up and get down?

Dot ducks behind the couch.

DOT

What's out there? Do you see anything?

MOXIE

No (beat) But I can feel something.

DOT

Me, too. Women's intuition is telling me it is something bad. Something Horrible.

MOXIE

(agreeing)

Yeah.

DOT

We had better get out of here.
We'll let the guards know.

MOXIE

You're right. Let's get upstairs
for a better vantage point.

Both exit, turning off the light.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - EVENING

Moxie is alone. She steps to her window and cautiously peers out. There is no sign of movement. She watches a BEAUTIFUL ORANGE SUN SET.

WIPE TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Moxie is lost in thought, staring at a GLORIOUS FULL MOON.
She closes the curtain. The room goes DARK.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE GYM - MORNING

Moxie is on an EXERCISE BIKE.
Tawny enters.

TAWNY

Wow, you're up early.

MOXIE
I couldn't sleep.

TAWNY
Dot told me about the death threat.
I wouldn't be able to sleep either.
Do you mind if I work out with you?

Moxie gets off the bike.

MOXIE
I'm done.

TAWNY
What are you talking about? We're
just getting started.

Tawny turns on some MUSIC. She begins aerobics.

Moxie slowly and reluctantly begins to follow Tawny's lead.

Dot enters and joins in.

Willa enters and joins in.

Soon all are in unison.

Teresa appears and stands in the doorway. She is dressed in her ROBE, CURLERS and holding a CUP OF COFFEE.

TERESA THORNDYKE
What is going on? It is too early.

The girls dance over and try to get Teresa to join in. She refuses.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
How do you girls have the energy
for this? I can't do a thing
without my coffee. Do you ladies
want some?

DOT
No, thank you. Coffee is not our
cup of tea.

A MALE VOICE SCREAMS IN AGONY.

The music grinds to a halt. The girls stop dancing.

PENNY
What was that?

WILLA
It sounds like someone is hurt.

MOXIE
Outside. Quick!

Teresa drops her coffee mug.

All rush toward the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - MORNING

All run out into the DIM EARLY MORNING LIGHT.

They find Security Guard #1 hanging upside down from a tree over a SMALL ROW OF HEDGES that divides the State line.

HUNDREDS of RED THREE BY FIVE INDEX CARDS are raining down.

Willa grabs one in mid air and struggles to read it in the dim light.

WILLA
"If Moxie Baxter is not returned to prison within one week, you will all die!"

Penny picks up a second card.

PENNY
This one says the same thing.

Tawny picks up a third card.

TAWNY
So does this one.

Login, Aaron and Kyle come running up.

LOGIN
What happened? Is everyone all right?

SECURITY GUARD #1
Not everyone.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(to Login)
Stay on that side of the hedges!

LOGIN
Yes, we know the rules.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(to the guard)
What happened?

SECURITY GUARD #1
I was doing my early morning rounds
and (beat) well (beat) I got myself
caught.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Where is your pocket knife? We will
cut you down.

SECURITY GUARD #1
It fell out of my pocket. It's in
the hedges somewhere.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Everybody look for it.

Aaron finds the POCKET KNIFE.

AARON
Here it is.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Good. Now cut him down. Be careful.

The boys lower the guard safely to the ground.

The guard stands and dusts himself off.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
Okay, return the knife, you aren't
even allowed to have scissors.

LOGIN
Yes, we know the rules.

Login returns the knife.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(to the guard)
Did you see who did this?

SECURITY GUARD #1

No. I left my night vision in my truck. I did hear somebody last night, though.

DOT

So did we. Moxie tried to find out who it was but she couldn't make anybody out. It gave us a very bad feeling.

TAWNY

Creepy.

The girls begin to HYPERVENTILATE.

PENNY

We're all going to die?

TAWNY

What are we going to do?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Girls. Five-step breathe! Five-step breathe!

The girls take FIVE DEEP BREATHS. Moxie joins in on the last two.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Good. Good.

DOT

(worried)

Maybe it was Garrett that did this?

(to Moxie)

Is your boyfriend Garrett still in prison?

MOXIE

As far as I know, yes. The reason I was released so soon was because of the plea deal that I signed, stating that Garrett was the main culprit.

WILLA

Well (beat) we have one week to find out.

DOT

(horrified)

One week.

CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS BEDROOM - DAY

Moxie is making her bed. She glances out the window and notices a CLOAKED FIGURE in a BLACK HOODIE walk from the sidewalk and stand steadfast on the lawn.

Security Guard #2 rapidly approaches the figure.

In one swift movement the figure extends a METAL BATON and swings across the guard's face.

Security Guard #2 is hit. He falls and rolls.

Moxie loses her temper.

MOXIE
(angrily)
No!

She throws a LAMP against the wall, smashing it.

When she looks out the window a second time the figure is gone.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Moxie enters. She finds everyone tending to Security Guard #2's injuries. He is holding a RAW STEAK over his eye.

MOXIE
(angrily)
That's it! We are not going to sit here and do nothing for a week. We are going to prepare for the worst!

TERESA THORNDYKE
But Moxie, be reasonable.

MOXIE

I am not going back to prison. Not when I'm trying to get my life back in order. We are going to lock this bad mother down like a fort! This is war!

EVERYONE

(cheering)

Hooray!

MONTAGE WITH MUSIC:

-All five girls are in the gym doing push-ups and sit-ups.

-Willa returns home through the front door and pulls FOUR SLINGSHOTS out of her shirt. She hands them to Penny -- both smile broadly. When shown to Moxie, she shakes her head in dismay.

-Moxie stations each girl by a different windows and motions them to keep watch.

-In the kitchen, Moxie is cooking a concoction and adds a mysterious ingredient. Penny is slicing HOT PEPPERS and adds them to the POT. Moxie stirs, then pours the mixture into a PERFUME BOTTLE. She motions for Penny to spray her in the face. Penny follows the instructions. Moxie screams in pain, smiles and gives a thumbs up.

-Girls target practice with the slingshots. Teresa walks around the corner and gets hit in the head. She hits the deck. The girls run over to apologize.

-Girls braid ROLLS OF TOILET PAPER into rope. Moxie tests it, it is strong.

-Girls chip away at LARGE BRANCHES with sharpened ROCKS. Willa shows she has carved a BASEBALL BAT. Moxie shows she has carved NUNCHUCKS.

-Girls practice with their new weapons.

The girls high five each other.

END MONTAGE

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Moxie enters. Penny follows shortly. Both find Security Guard #1 working under the sink.

PENNY
(American accent)
He is doing a contraband search.

The guard emerges with his FLASHLIGHT.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Well (beat) Sort of. I always keep
my eyes open, but this time Willa
reported black mold.

MOXIE
Is there any?

SECURITY GUARD #1
Yes. Quite a bit. We will probably
have to replace this sink and see
how far into the wall it goes.

The guard exits.

PENNY
(American accent)
That's gross.

MOXIE
I've seen worse.

Penny takes down the SHOWER CURTAIN ROD and begins to swing it around.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
Penny? What are you doing?

PENNY
I'm getting ready in case something
heavy goes down with Vigilante.

Moxie removes a PAPER CUP from the DISPENSER on the wall. She goes to pour herself a drink from the faucet.

Penny knocks it from her hand. Cup and water go flying.

Moxie and Penny stare at each in a LONG COMEDIC PAUSE.

MOXIE
(finally)
What the hell?

PENNY

That water comes from pipes outside the house. You don't know if Vigilante has tapped into it and poisoned it.

MOXIE

Poisoned? You're as paranoid as Willa and her Black Mold.

PENNY

Scoff if you will, Moxie, but I probably just saved your life.

MOXIE

No, you just risked your own.

PENNY

Now I have to pee.

MOXIE

I bet you do.

Moxie exits, closing the door behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Just as Moxie reaches the bottom of the stairs Willa screams a BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM.

Moxie runs.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT DOOR ENTRYWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Moxie, Security Guard #1, Teresa, Tawny and DOT come running.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Willa, what happened? What's going
 on?

Willa is holding a LARGE BROWN PAPER BAG.

WILLA
 (sickly)
 I found this (beat) this on the
 front porch.

Dot looks inside.

DOT
 (disgusted)
 Oh, my gosh!

TAWNY
 What is it?

Tawny looks inside.

TAWNY (CONT'D)
 (disgusted)
 Oh (beat) How can anybody do that
 to an animal?

TERESA THORNDYKE
 What kind of animal?

WILLA
 I can't tell any more.

DOT
 I have to throw up.

Dot runs away.

WILLA
 It was set on the porch by
 Vigilante.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 How do you know?

Willa slowly turns the bag around. Large bold black letters
 spell out: "YOU ARE NEXT."

Teresa takes the bag and hands it to the guard.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
 Take this out to the dumpster.

The PHONE RINGS.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
I will get that. You girls stay
inside, and stay away from the
doors and windows.

WILLA
Yes, Ma'am.

Security Guard #1 exits.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Moxie and Tawny enter.

Penny and Dot enter from the other direction.

The boys watch everything.

MOXIE
(to Dot)
Feeling better?

DOT
No.

A LOUD EXPLOSION echoes from somewhere inside the house.

DOT (CONT'D)
(in a panic)
They're inside!

All four girls jump behind the SOFA and slowly peek back
over.

Security Guard #2 runs in. He has a BLACK EYE.

SECURITY GUARD #2
Everybody get down! I will
investigate what that noise was.

The guard enters the FURNACE ROOM, then returns shortly.

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)
False alarm. It's nothing to worry
about.

(MORE)

SECURITY GUARD #2 (CONT'D)

It was just the furnace (beat) The igniter flame was just set too high.

The guard re-enters the side room with the FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

PENNY

(in a panic)

He's lying to us! The house is on fire! The house is on fire!

MOXIE

Calm down, Penny.

Suddenly the POWER GOES OUT.

PENNY

(in a panic)

How can I calm down? Vigilante is going to kill us!

DOT

Vigilante is watching us right now!

Teresa enters, raising her voice.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Every body sit down! Right now!

The girls look at each other in worry, and reluctantly sit on the sofa.

Teresa lowers her voice but remains standing.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

Five-step breathe.

WILLA

It's not going to work this time.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Fine.

MOXIE

(to Teresa)

You look worried. What's wrong? Give it to us straight.

TERESA THORNDYKE

I have some bad news.

WILLA

More bad news?

TERESA THORNDYKE

I just received a call from the State. The Pasternak bank account has been hacked and our entire budget is now gone.

PENNY

Great. Now Vigilante has money. That's all we need!

TAWNY

Think of all the weapons they can buy.

DOT

Grenade launchers!

WILLA

Pasternak didn't have that much money. They barely had enough to buy new basketballs last month.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Relax. The account is insured, so we will be fine. However (beat) I reported our situation with the black mold, power outage, faulty fire alarm, last week's gas line leak, and other household problems to the State.

Security Guard #2 enters.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Our furnace is now also out of commission. The flame burned everything beyond repair. We have no air conditioning or heat this winter unless we can get it fixed soon.

TERESA THORNDYKE

The insurance can not reimburse us for the furnace, or anything else, until a complete investigation can take place. That might take a month or two.

PENNY

What does that mean?

TERESA THORNDYKE

The State recommends that we move out of the house.

PENNY

What are you saying?

TERESA THORNDYKE

We have no choice but to camp out
in the back yard.

DESTINY

Oh, no! Absolutely not! I am not
going out there-- or out anywhere--
as long as Vigilante is on the
loose!

LOGIN

Sucks to be you.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The boys and girls are separated by a LOW HEDGE OF BUSHES.
They are setting up two different CAMPSITES.

A POWER CABLE is flailing around, sending SPARKS everywhere.

LOGIN

I am going back inside.

MOXIE

No way. You stay out here and help
pitch a tent!

LOGIN

I am not staying out here with the
stench of death. It wrecks of
sadness.

KYLE

I agree. First the house falls
apart around us, now we're out here
where someone is trying to kill us.

An ELECTRICIAN, 40s, enters the yard.

ELECTRICIAN

You called about a cut power line?

All motion to the flailing cable.

The electrician adjusts his TOOL BELT.

ELECTRICIAN (CONT'D)
Yep, that's clearly sabotage.

ELECTRICIAN (CONT'D)
I'll shut the power off, but it
will take several hours to run a
new line and get her hooked back up
and runnin' again.

MOXIE
Do what you have to.

Tawny approaches.

TAWNY
About time we get that line fixed.

KYLE
Hey, Tizzy!

TAWNY
I told you to stop calling me that.
May I remind you that my name is
Tawny.

MOXIE
Tizzy? How cute, a pet name.

TAWNY
Creep has a short memory, and after
I smack him, it's going to be even
shorter.

MOXIE
I like the name Tizzy. It fits.

TAWNY
Shut up.

Moxie laughs.

TAWNY (CONT'D)
Login has a nickname that he can't
stand.

MOXIE
Really.

LOGIN
No.

TAWNY

Everyone calls him Log In. Because he is a computer hack. That's why he was sentenced here.

MOXIE

Interesting.

LOGIN

Not really, no.
(to Tawny)
Why did you tell her that?

TAWNY

If I have to be embarrassed, we all have to be embarrassed.

Maureen, the cook, rings a DINNER BELL and calls everyone to the CAMPFIRE because dinner is ready.

MAUREEN

(shouting)
Come and get it!

All the girls gather around the camp fire.

MOXIE

What's for dinner?

MAUREEN

Hot dogs.

MOXIE

I hate hot dogs.

MAUREEN

You're from New York City. How can you hate hot dogs?

MOXIE

New York makes a mean dog, but out west, they be limp.

MAUREEN

You haven't tried them over on open camp fire. Here, try one.

Moxie takes a bite.

MOXIE

Not bad. Not bad at all.

MAUREEN

See, I told you. I also brought
s'mores for later to cheer
everybody up. All right, who's
next?

MOXIE

Tizzy goes next.

TAWNY

Shut up.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - EVENING

Security Guard #1 douses the campfire.

TERESA THORNDYKE

All right, ladies! Time to turn in!

Moxie walks to her tent.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - EVENING

Moxie slides into her SLEEPING BAG and settles in.

Abruptly, Dot and Tawny enter with their own rolled up
sleeping bags.

MOXIE

Dot? Tizzy? What do you think you
are doing?

DOT

We are not sleeping alone.

TAWNY

We stay together. At least for
tonight.

MOXIE
 (reluctantly)
 Alright. But just for tonight.

Penny and Willa enter with their own sleeping bags.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
 Oh, come on! You're kidding me.

PENNY
 We're just here to check on you.

MOXIE
 Fine. Come on in scaredy cats.

WILLA
 We're not scared. We are here to
 protect you.

MOXIE
 Sure. Now, be quiet. I'm going to
 sleep.

The MOON RISES. DARKNESS GROWS.

All five girls lie down in a row.

DOT
 There is something wrong out there,
 like we're being watched. I can
 feel it.

TAWNY
 I feel it, too.

DOT
 It's like a cold chill running down
 my spine. Something is out there.

PENNY
 Yeah. I can smell it in the air
 (beat) almost taste it.

The SNAPPING OF TWIGS rustles outside the tent as someone
 approaches.

DOT
 (in a whisper)
 What was that? Did you hear that?

PENNY
 Somebody is coming.

MOXIE
That is just the guard making his
rounds.

TAWNY
I doubt that.

MOXIE
(yelling)
Good night, whoever is out there!

No answer.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The SHADOWY FIGURE in a DARK HOODIE walks past the tent and
stands in the corner of the yard.

WIPE TO:

INT. TENT - NIGHT - LATER

The girls are asleep. They awaken to the sound of a MAN
YELLING.

Out of instinct Penny SCREAMS.

Moxie awakens and darts from the tent.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Moxie runs around the corner of the house. The other girls are close behind. They stop short.

In the yard is a LARGE BURNING SKULL.

SECURITY GUARD #1
Girls! Stay back!

DOT
Chupa!

TAWNY
I knew something bad was going to happen.

DOT
And the worst is yet to come.

WILLA
Five-Step Breathe!

The girls take five deep breaths.

PENNY
That didn't help much, especially knowing your days are numbered.

Security Guard #2 runs up with a FIRE EXTINGUISHER and sprays skull until the flames are out.

SECURITY GUARD #1
It's okay, girls. It was only a poorly executed message of hate. Everybody go back to your tents.

MOXIE
Are you kidding me?

SECURITY GUARD #1
Come on, back to your tents.

Both guards escort the girls back around the corner of the house.

Moxie stays. She approaches the SKULL and runs her finger along it's FOREHEAD.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT

Moxie sits with her arms wrapped around her knees, deep in thought.

Login climbs a LADDER.

Moxie knows who it is without looking.

MOXIE
Hello, Log In. What are doing here?

LOGIN
I was worried about you.

MOXIE
Oh my hell, please.

Login pulls out some DUCT TAPE and unrolls a long piece with a LOUD RIPPING SOUND.

Moxie looks at him suspiciously.

Login sticks it to an EXHAUST PIPE and creates a dividing line between them.

LOGIN
Must follow the rules. Cannot cross.

MOXIE
(sarcastically)
Right.

Login sits down next to Moxie on the other side of the line.

LOGIN
Can't sleep?

MOXIE
Apparently not.

LOGIN
Bad dreams?

MOXIE
Apparently so.

LOGIN
Want to talk about it?

MOXIE

(sadly)

I don't know.

LOGIN

Don't worry about Vigilante. I got your back.

MOXIE

Do you?

LOGIN

It ain't nothing. Besides I'm sure you met worse people in prison.

MOXIE

Perhaps.

LOGIN

You never told me how you ended up here.

MOXIE

I struck a plea deal. I would serve a shorter sentence if I agreed to leave New York and complete therapy and training at a half-way house. The powers-that-be chose this place for me.

LOGIN

Excellent choice. Well, I for one am glad that you are here. What kind of plea deal did you agree to?

MOXIE

I agreed to testify against Garrett, stating that the bank robberies were his idea.

LOGIN

I thought you were the ring leader? The mastermind?

MOXIE

It was his idea originally. I just took it to a whole new level. I kept it going far longer than I should have. I was the brains, he was the brawn.

LOGIN

Primarily, he was the goon with the guns.

MOXIE
(heavy sigh)
I was wrong for having him take the rap. I feel bad.

LOGIN
Well (beat) You served your time.
There's no place to go now but up.

MOXIE
I'm not sure that I can do that.

LOGIN
Why not? You were the one that turned yourself in. You are the one that brought the robberies and theft to an end.

MOXIE
True.

LOGIN
So that should count for something.

MOXIE
I only turned myself in because of my mother.

LOGIN
What happened?

MOXIE
She was killed.

LOGIN
I'm so sorry.

MOXIE
She didn't die right away.

Moxie tears up.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
She was texting and driving. She was texting me of all people-- I'm the one that distracted her. She wasn't watching the road and had a head-on collision with an S.U.V.

LOGIN
Oh, no.

MOXIE

At the hospital they found out that she had a severe spinal injury. She was paralyzed from the neck down.

(crying)

I watched her suffer. She couldn't do anything on her own. Myself, and the nurses, had to do everything for her. She couldn't even speak. I knew then and there that all of the money and riches in the world couldn't fix the damage that had been done. I realized, at that very moment, what kind of pain and suffering I had put others through. To me, robbing banks and out running the police had just been fun and games. A huge joke! But real people had been really hurt. I could see that through my mother's eyes.

Login pats Moxie on the back.

LOGIN

There, there. You're okay now. You're okay.

MOXIE

That's just it. I am not okay.

Login takes off his SHIRT and hands it to Moxie.

LOGIN

Here, dry your eyes.

Moxie takes the shirt and uses it to blow her nose. She hands it back to him.

LOGIN (CONT'D)

That's all right, you keep it.

MOXIE

My mother slipped into a coma and passed away two days later. I turned myself in the very next day. And now, here I sit, just a couple of days away from my own death at the hands of Vigilante, and knowing my mother's last memories of me were of my stupid stunts.

LOGIN

Yeah. You had some interesting stunts.

MOXIE

(laughing)

Can you believe they offered me an animated cartoon series?

LOGIN

Really?

MOXIE

No joke. I almost thought about doing it. I would have done the voice acting. It would have been a legitimate job-- real honest to goodness work.

LOGIN

You should have done it.

MOXIE

No. After ruining the lives of those innocent bank tellers, I didn't want to promote violence anymore.

LOGIN

That's noble. That is what makes you a hero in our books.

MOXIE

I'd like to think of myself as a hero, but I'm trapped here, confined, stuck, held against my will. Even if it's only in my own mind.

LOGIN

Maybe. But, come on, you've had some great life lessons.

MOXIE

(laughing)

Yeah, like how you can remove a metal tire car boot by gently prying it off with a tire jack.

Moxie sits dangerously close to Login. They both stop talking and look deep into each others eyes.

Moxie backs off immediately.

LOGIN
(mesmerized)
Wow.

Moxie changes the subject.

MOXIE
Of course, the whole ordeal gave me
terrible Dark Dozer Dreams.

LOGIN
Dark Dozer Dreams? What is that?

MOXIE
When you go to bed at night, just
before you fall asleep, your body
jerks just as you are dozing off.
Sometimes you feel as if you are
falling. But for me, it felt more
like chest pains. Like I was having
a heart attack.

LOGIN
I know exactly what you mean.
However, in my Dozer Dreams, I am
in the arms of the beautiful Moxie
Tchaikovsky Baxter!

Moxie punches Login on the arm.

MOXIE
My middle name is not Tchaikovsky.

LOGIN
Well, my first name isn't Log In.

MOXIE
(laughing)
You never told me why you were
sentenced to the Pendleton House,
you bad boy. Computer hacking?

LOGIN
I hacked into several insurance
company financial accounts. At
first it was just simple stuff,
like adding on a few dollars to
claims that my friends had filed.
Then I got stupid and greedy and
just stole thousands of dollars
outright. The detectives traced
everything directly to my banking
account. I didn't cover my tracks
very well.

MOXIE

You sound like Garrett. He was stupid and greedy, but most males of the human species are.

LOGIN

Thank you.

MOXIE

Where did you learn so much about computers? Most guys think microchips are the crumbs in the bottom of a potato chips bag. But you (beat) You don't look like a geek.

LOGIN

I believe the term that you are looking for is 'expert'.

Login pulls a PAIR OF GLASSES out of his pants pocket and puts them on.

LOGIN (CONT'D)

There. How's that? Now am I geeky enough for you?

MOXIE

Too, geeky.

LOGIN

I'll take it.

Login moves in slowly for a KISS.

Moxie slaps him. She stands and throws his shirt back to him.

MOXIE

I don't think so!

LOGIN

But--

Moxie walks to the ladder. She looks down to the street to see VIGILANTE STANDING UNDER THE STREET LIGHT.

MOXIE

(in a panic)
Log In!

LOGIN

What? Are you all right?

Moxie looks down to the street again. Vigilante is gone.

MOXIE

Yeah (beat) It was nothing. I'm fine.

Moxie climbs down the ladder.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - MORNING

Moxie wakes. She can hear the other girls talking outside her tent. She sits up.

TAWNY

Willa, stop complaining. Moxie has every right to stay here.

WILLA

Not if our lives are in jeopardy. Vigilante has given us two more days to send Moxie back to prison or he is going to kill us all!

DOT

We will be fine. We can defend ourselves.

WILLA

I, for one, am not taking any chances. I say we send her back to prison now-- before it's too late!

Moxie brushes her hair and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Moxie staggers out of her tent half asleep.

The girls are washing clothes in a LARGE TUB using WASHBOARDS.

Willa storms away.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Good morning.

MOXIE
Good morning. What are you doing?

PENNY
Our washing machine broke, so we
have to wash our clothes by hand.

MOXIE
(sarcastically)
Joy.

Teresa is hanging WHITE SHEETS to dry on a CLOTHESLINE. There
is a GENTLE BREEZE.

TERESA THORNDYKE
You can help me hang clothes.

Moxie reluctantly approaches and hangs a sheet.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
Did you sleep well?

MOXIE
No.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Nightmares?

MOXIE
Yes.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Care to discuss it?

MOXIE
I'm just bummed.

TERESA THORNDYKE
How so?

MOXIE
Just life in general. Do you think
there is a God?

TERESA THORNDYKE
I do. Yes.

MOXIE

Then why does He let bad people get away with so much? Why does He let them become leaders? Why does He allow them to be in charge?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Are you talking about corrupt politicians or Vigilante? Or, are you questioning your own celebrity?

MOXIE

All of the above.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Well (beat) I don't believe God dictates that way. Take this clothesline for instance, you have already hung several sheets out to dry. Did you deliberately pick and choose which sheets to hang, or where to place them?

MOXIE

No. I just picked up the one on top and hung it in the first available spot.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Right. It was completely random. But I can assure you, that if these sheets were alive, and if they were human, they would declare the ones on the end to be the chosen ones, though you didn't intentionally mean for it to be that way. And, of course, the others would complain to you about showing favoritism. If you were to move the sheets around, they would then declare the sheets in the middle to now be the chosen ones.

MOXIE

So (beat) God is not at fault, He just takes the blame?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Most of the time, yes.

The neighbor, MR. BABCOCK, 40s, interrupts their conversation. He is on a STEP LADDER on the other side of the FENCE.

MR. BABCOCK
 Ahoy! Doing laundry the natural
 way, I see.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Yes. Our washer and dryer are not
 working.

MR. BABCOCK
 I will have to come over and take a
 look at them.

Teresa and Moxie approach the fence.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 They probably need to be completely
 replaced. But while you are here
 Mr. Babcock, I would like to
 introduce you to Moxie Baxter.
 (to Moxie)
 Moxie, this is our fine neighbor
 Mr. Babcock.

MR. BABCOCK
 (excited)
 Yes. I heard that the legendary
 Moxie Baxter was in the area. How
 do you do? It's very nice to meet
 you! Like everyone else, I have
 heard a lot about you.

Mr. Babcock and Moxie shake hands.

MOXIE
 Thank you.

MR. BABCOCK
 Say (beat) Would you mind if I got
 your autograph?

Mr. Babcock reaches into his pocket and pulls out a FOLDED
 PIECE OF PAPER and a PEN.

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)
 Sorry, I don't have an eight by ten
 glossy picture of you to sign, but
 I do have this scrap paper. Here's
 a pen.

MOXIE
 Well (beat) I don't know.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Of course you know. Sign it.

Moxie signs it and hands it back.

MR. BABCOCK
Thank you so much.

MOXIE
You're welcome.

MR. BABCOCK
I will go put this in a safe place
and let you get back to your
chores.

Mr. Babcock jumps down off of the ladder and disappears
behind the fence.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(shouting)
Goodbye, Mr. Babcock!
(to Moxie)
What a nice man.

MOXIE
He seems very nice.

Moxie suddenly sees Vigilante standing at the side of the
house. She chases after.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
Not this time, buster!

TERESA THORNDYKE
Where are you going?

MOXIE
To prove Willa wrong!

Vigilante takes off.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Vigilante runs across the front yard.

With a LOUD ROAR Moxie tackles him, knocking him to the
ground. She rips the hood off of him and doubles up her fist
to punch. She stops COLD.

The figure wearing the dark hoodie is a YOUNG GIRL, 12.

Moxie is startled by the sound of THREE OTHER TEENAGERS cheering from the sidewalk.

One teen is holding a sign that reads: "Moxie ROCKS!"

TEENAGERS

Cool! Awesome! Do that again!

Moxie helps the young girl up and dusts her off.

MOXIE

What are you doing here?

TEEN GIRL

My friends dared me to come find you.

MOXIE

Why?

TEEN GIRL

We have been camped out here all morning. We wanted to see you.

Moxie walks the girl back to her friends.

MOXIE

You guys need to leave. It's not very safe here right now.

TEENAGERS

Cool!

TEENAGER #1

(excited)

Finally! We are going to see Moxie in action!

MOXIE

No. You will not see Moxie in action. You will go home.

TEENAGER #2

May we have your autograph?

MOXIE

No more autographs. I am not a celebrity. I am not a hero. Robbing people is not heroic.

TEENAGER #1

Please. Just one autograph.

Teenager #1 holds out a MOXIE COMIC BOOK.

MOXIE

Where did you get that?

TEENAGER #2

We ordered it from the Moxie Baxter
Fan Club Website.

MOXIE

You're kidding.

TEENAGER #3

We each have one. Will you sign
them?

MOXIE

I don't believe it.

TEEN GIRL

(begging)

One autograph! Please!

MOXIE

If I sign them, will you go home?

TEEN GIRL

Maybe.

MOXIE

Look (beat) Only celebrities sign
autographs. I am not a celebrity
(beat) I am a criminal. If you want
proof that you met me, I will give
you my fingerprint. That's what
criminals are good for.

TEEN GIRL

Okay.

MOXIE

Do you have a marker?

The teen girl hands Moxie a BLACK MARKER.

TEEN GIRL

Here you go.

Moxie paints her left thumb and stamps her fingerprint on
page one of every comic book.

MOXIE

There. Done. Now go home.

TEENAGERS

Thank you!

The teenagers walk away.

Moxie turns to see Willa, Penny, Tawny and Dot watching from the front porch. Willa is separated from the rest.

Moxie approaches and sits between Tawny and Dot.

TAWNY

That was noble.

DOT

Yeah, that was a nice thing to do. It reaffirms my faith in humanity. At least you're not pouting like Willa.

WILLA

I'm not pouting. I'm just the only one here with any common sense.

MOXIE

No, it was not a nice thing to do (beat) That was setting a bad example is what that was. Now they think crime pays.

PENNY

Doesn't it?

MOXIE

Not until we stop Vigilante.

PENNY

And how are you going to do that?

MOXIE

Tizzy--

TAWNY

(interrupting)
Tawny!

MOXIE

Teresa is going out tonight, correct?

TAWNY

Yeah, she has a date.

DOT

Really? Teresa has a date? Wow.
Then we need to hire him to fight
Vigilante. If he can stand Teresa
he must have a spleen of pure
brass.

MOXIE

(to Tawny)

Do you think that you can get
access to the landline phone?

TAWNY

Probably. Why?

MOXIE

Call everyone you know.

DOT

That is a questionable question.
What do you have in mind?

MOXIE

There is more than one way to
fight!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING

Guests arrive for a party wearing their SUNDAY BEST.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The five girls are dressed up.

The three boys watch the proceedings with amusement.

PENNY

(to Moxie)

Throw a party? Are you serious? We are going to get into so much trouble.

TAWNY

How is this a way to fight Vigilante?

MOXIE

Pure psychology. This party will be a dominance move. It shows that we are unfazed by threats and will not back down.

DOT

I hope you're right.

Guests RING THE DOORBELL.

SECURITY GUARD #2

(to Security Guard #1)

What do you want me to do? We have nothing to serve them. Maureen told me that mice and cockroaches have destroyed everything in the pantry.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Not much we can do. With Teresa out for the evening we are a tad outnumbered. Let them in, but confiscate all contraband.

The security guards use METAL DETECTOR WANDS as the guests file in through the front door. They confiscate a FUNNY LOOKING DOLL and a PADDLE BALL.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A STRING QUARTET play in the corner. Another musician with an ACCORDION adds flair.

The four girls, and all of the other guests, sit around completely bored. Moxie is the only one dancing and rocking out.

MOXIE
Come on, crew. On your feet!

Dot and Tawny reluctantly stand.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
Do the Twist!

DOT
I can't dance to this music.

Tawny does an awkward dance, trying to do the Twist.

MOXIE
No, no. That's not how you Twist.
You put your right foot out, then
move your hips and arms like you're
putting out a cigarette.

Dot and Tawny improve their dancing.

Penny begins to snap her fingers in time with the music.

Willa punches Penny in the arm to snap her out of it.

WIPE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The guests file out the front door.

MOXIE
Thank you for coming.

Moxie closes the door behind them.

MOXIE (CONT'D)
(defeated but cheerful)
Woo! Yeah.

Login laughs.

LOGIN
That's not how you throw a party.
I'll show you how to party!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM PARTY/CONCERT - NIGHT

New guests arrive dressed GANGSTER STYLE.

The security guards again use metal detector wands. They confiscate a BONG and several SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

LOGIN

Now this is a party!

MOXIE

My party was not that bad.

WILLA

Moxie, the worst thing your guests tried to smuggle in was a Mountain Dew.

Login, Aaron, Kyle and two other boys take up ROCK BAND INSTRUMENTS and rock out hard.

COLORED LIGHTS fill the room.

The guests stay on the other side of the line. They dance, frolic, and conduct themselves with all manner of frivolity.

DOT

Rock on!

Willa walks up the line with Penny while watching the dancers.

WILLA

This is the stupidest strategy ever. Any one of these guests could be Vigilante. Keep your eyes open.

PENNY

For sure.

Party/Concert ends with a LOUD CRASH OF MUSIC.

Crowd cheers.

The three boys approach the five girls at the line.

LOGIN

Well? Is Pendleton style too much
to bear?

MOXIE

Not at all. Pasternak can party
just as hard!

LOGIN

(laughing)

You're on. Let's see some style.

The five girls don POTATO SACKS and race down the line.

ALL GIRLS IN UNISON

Potato sack race!

The boys and dancers respond with a SALSA DANCE.

ALL GIRLS IN UNISON (CONT'D)

Wheelbarrow race!

The girls WHEEL-BARROW RACE down the line.

The boys and dancers respond with a HIP HOP DANCE.

ALL GIRLS IN UNISON (CONT'D)

Egg race!

The girls race carrying RAW EGGS in a SPOON. Penny drops and
breaks her egg.

KYLE

(holding his nose)

Oh, man! That egg is rotten! I
guess your refrigerator is broken
just like everything else around
here.

The boys and dancers respond to race by TWERKING.

The girls are speechless.

The boys again approach the line.

LOGIN

Well? Again I ask-- is Pendleton
style too much to bear?

WILLA

It's a tie.

MOXIE
Both are the same in different
ways.

LOGIN
Oh, really?

The three boys take hold of three female dancers.

The five girls respond in shock to that which is not shown.
Willa covers her eyes and turns away. Penny gasps.

TAWNY
(in shock)
Oh my gosh! How is that physically
possible?

Dot passes out.

MOXIE
(broad smirk)
I guess the tie is broken.

HEADLIGHTS from a car suddenly flash through the window.

PENNY
Teresa is home!

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

Teresa enters the backyard, placing her car keys into her
purse. She approaches the tents to check on the girls.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Teresa enters and pats one sleeping bag as if tucking it in.
As she turns to exit a PAPER-MACHE head rolls out unnoticed.

Teresa exits.

EXT. BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Teresa walks to the house.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Teresa enters. Only the two security guards are sitting in the room.

Security Guard #1 is reading a NEWSPAPER. Security Guard #2 is playing with the confiscated paddle ball.

SECURITY GUARD #1
(acting surprised)
Oh, hello. You're home early. How was your date?

TERESA THORNDYKE
I cut things short. I don't cuddle.

Security Guard #2 laughs awkwardly.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
How did things go here?

SECURITY GUARD #1
Quiet as a ghost.

TERESA THORNDYKE
Really?

Teresa picks up a pair of BRIGHT RED HIGH HEELED STILETTOS.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
Shoes are considered contraband.

Security Guard #2 gulps loudly.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

The girls have set up a TABLE over the hedge dividing line at the edge of the property.

PENNY
(to Dot)
Light the candles, Junior Arson.

Dot lights several ROMANTIC CANDLES on the table.

MOXIE
What's this?

TAWNY
Login told us that you feel
trapped, which of course you are.
But since you can't leave, we can
at least help you roleplay a fancy
night out.

MOXIE
Are you kidding me?

TAWNY
Absolutely not.

PENNY
Take a seat.

Moxie reluctantly sits.

TAWNY
Login, you sit on the other side.

Login skips over excitedly.

LOGIN
Absolutely! You bet!

PENNY
Willa, a little soft music while
they eat.

Willa plays CHOPIN'S FUNERAL MARCH on VIOLIN.

Dot rolls her eyes.

Tawny places a SILVER DOME SERVING DISH on the table.

TAWNY
Dinner is served.

Tawny lifts the lid to reveal a WRAPPED CHOCOLATE BAR.

MOXIE
A chocolate bar?

TAWNY
Yeah, sorry. All the food in our
pantry is no longer edible.

PENNY
And our fridge no longer works.

DOT

This is all we have left.

Penny places the candy on Moxie's PLATE.

Moxie cuts it with a KNIFE AND FORK, and begins to eat.

MOXIE

Thank you very much.

LOGIN

Where's mine?

TAWNY

You're going to have to share.

The girls, including Moxie, laugh and disappear into their tents, leaving Login all alone.

Login sits in dismay. He finally blows out the candles just as Teresa walks out the back door and enters her own tent.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - THE NEXT DAY

The girls are busy doing chores.

Teresa approaches, visibly upset.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Girls! Gather around!

The girls walk over.

Moxie passes Vigilante partially concealed in the bushes with face obscured. Vigilante is both unnoticed by Moxie and the viewers alike (this goes to subconscious horror).

The girls prepare to sit down.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

(angrily)

Do not sit. This will only take a second.

PENNY

What's wrong?

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Would somebody care to explain
 exactly what happened last night?

TAWNY
 How did you find out?

TERESA THORNDYKE
 I'm not exactly dealing with the
 innocent here. At Pasternak you are
 guilty until proven innocent, so if
 one little rule is broken, it
 hardly goes unnoticed.

WILLA
 We only have one day left, so we
 figured a little friendly
 competition with the Pendleton
 House wouldn't hurt anything.

DOT
 (worried)
 One day left.

TAWNY
 Are the boys in trouble, too? They
 probably got off scot free.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 No, they are in trouble.

DOT
 We had to do it, it boosted our
 spirits.

TERESA THORNDYKE
 Well, I'm about to de-boost. Since
 it has been verified that you were
 each at fault, you lose fifty
 points apiece.

Girls are outraged.

WILLA
 What? No!

PENNY
 You can't do this!

MOXIE
 No!

Vigilante walks past in the background, unnoticed by the
 girls and viewers alike.

TAWNY
You can't! No!

DOT
No! No!

TERESA THORNDYKE
(shouting)
Silence!

The girls are instantly quiet.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)
Now (beat) Moxie, this effects you
the most. This drops you to thirty
points. You had better watch it!

MOXIE
But, Ms. Thorndyke--

TERESA THORNDYKE
(interrupting)
No, buts. My say is final. Willa,
you and Moxie go inside and clean
up any mess, then bring the rest of
your stuff out here and put it away
into your tents. The rest of you
get back to your chores. Dismissed!

Moxie walks toward the house, but turns to see Willa
disappear into her tent. Moxie continues inside.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Moxie enters and walks to the living room. She passes
Vigilante, with face obscured, standing by a distant corner
unnoticed by Moxie and the viewers alike.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Moxie enters. She approaches the sofa and begins to pick up
CLOTHES that had been left there.

Vigilante, face obscured, suddenly attacks from behind and
puts a KNIFE to her throat.

Moxie drops the clothes.

Vigilante drags her into the furnace room.

INT. FURNACE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Vigilante drags Moxie in and closes the door. With knife still to her throat, he listens for a moment to see if anyone heard or followed.

Silence.

He throws Moxie to the ground and pulls back his hoodie.

MOXIE

Mr. Babcock? What are you doing?

MR. BABCOCK

Don't say my name! You know exactly what I am doing. Your time is up.

MOXIE

How could you be Vigilante? I don't even know you.

MR. BABCOCK

(angrily)

You know my brother, Officer Babcock. You shot him. You killed him.

MOXIE

I shot no one. Garrett shot the cops.

MR. BABCOCK

(angrily)

His name was William. Say his name-- he was a real person, not part of your game. Say his name!

MOXIE

(nervously)

Will (beat) William.

MR. BABCOCK

(angrily)

William Babcock. Officer William Babcock. Make him a real person in your mind. Say his name!

MOXIE
(nervously)
Officer William Babcock.

MR. BABCOCK
You shot my brother. He dies and
you get a book and movie deal.

MOXIE
Garrett fired the shot. I heard
that an officer had been hit, but I
was told he was only in a coma.

MR. BABCOCK
He died, just like your mother.

MOXIE
I am so sorry--

MR. BABCOCK
(interrupting)
You are not sorry. To you it was
funny.

MOXIE
I shot at no one--

MR. BABCOCK
(angrily)
Liar! It was you that planned
everything! It was premeditated!
You should have been sent to prison
for life!

MOXIE
I was greedy, yes. I wanted
adventure, yes. But Garrett shot
your brother. He is the one in
prison for life. I turned myself
in. I did my time. I paid the
price. It was a judge, in a court
of law, that saw fit for me to live
in society again, if I finished
therapy here at Pasternak.

Mr. Babcock laughs.

MR. BABCOCK
Meanwhile, my brothers is still
dead and I have to suffer the loss.

MOXIE
I am sorry. I am so sorry.

MR. BABCOCK
That's right. You will be sorry,
Missy.

MOXIE
Then why did you have me sign an
autograph?

Mr. Babcock laughs harder. He pulls the signed piece of paper
from his pocket.

MR. BABCOCK
This? This is no autograph. I had
you sign your own execution
warrant.

MOXIE
Execution warrant?

MR. BABCOCK
Yes, your death warrant. Unlike
you, I follow the law. Now stand
up!

Moxie reluctantly stands.

MOXIE
(worried)
I'm (beat) I'm sure we can talk
this out.

MR. BABCOCK
Now I will make you remember my
brother and I. I will make you
remember the name Vigilante!

With the knife, Mr. Babcock CARVES the letter "V" into
Moxie's RIGHT CHEEK.

Moxie SCREAMS. BLOOD drips.

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)
The letter "V"! Now you will never
forget!

Moxie drops to her knees.

Mr. Babcock pulls out a pair of HANDCUFFS.

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)
These were my brother's handcuffs.
I believe it is only fitting that
you wear them.

MOXIE
No, wait! My wrists!

MR. BABCOCK
What about your wrists?

MOXIE
Your brother broke my wrists before
Garrett shot him. I need to bandage
them before you put the cuffs on.

MR. BABCOCK
Absolutely not.

MOXIE
There is a First Aid Kit on the
shelf over there. I just need to
wrap my wrists first.

MR. BABCOCK
(feigning sadness)
Oh, does widdle Missy need a Band
Aid?

Moxie walks to the FIRST AID KIT. Mr. Babcock intercepts her
and gets to the kit first. He takes out the BANDAGE and wraps
her wrists. He then puts the cuffs unwittingly on over the
bandages.

Willa's voice ECHOES from outside the door.

WILLA (O.S.)
Moxie! You in there?

Willa enters.

Mr. Babcock grabs Willa and puts the knife to her throat.

MR. BABCOCK
(to Willa)
Empty your pockets.

WILLA
I have no weapons. I have nothing.

Mr. Babcock searches Willa and Moxie's pockets and finds
nothing.

MR. BABCOCK
Where is a rope?

MOXIE

Rope is considered contraband, but
we have a rope hidden behind the
shelf.

Mr. Babcock looks Moxie over suspiciously. He cautiously
checks behind the SHELF and pulls out the TOILET PAPER ROPE.

MR. BABCOCK

This rope feels different.

MOXIE

It's all we have, sorry.

Mr. Babcock ties Willa's hands behind her back.

MOXIE (CONT'D)

(to Willa)

Thanks for rescuing me.

WILLA

(sarcastically)

I told you, what good would I be as
Group Leader if I were not
diligent?

MR. BABCOCK

Stop talking-- both of you!

From outside the door in the living room the other three
girls make noise as they enter to clean.

Mr. Babcock once again puts the knife to Moxie's throat,
pulls his hood down to cover his face, and walks through the
door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Babcock and Moxie appear.

The girls make a lot of noise while straightening up.

Dot notices Moxie and SCREAMS.

The other girls fall silent.

TAWNY

Moxie!

MR. BABCOCK

Well, well, well. It looks as if I
have collected the complete set.

(MORE)

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)
You three, into the furnace room,
now!

The girls march into the furnace room.

INT. FURNACE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The girls enter.

PENNY
Moxie? Are you all right?

MR. BABCOCK
Shut up. All of you, sit down.

All five girls sit.

Mr. Babcock ties their hands behind their backs.

TAWNY
Mr. Babcock? I can't believe it is
you that would do this.

MR. BABCOCK
I said, be quiet.

WILLA
Were you the one that cut the
power?

MR. BABCOCK
Yes. I am the one that cut the
electricity, the cable, the gas,
the water, and this morning I just
cut off the main phone line.

The bandages on Moxie's wrist are wider than her hands. The
handcuffs easily slip off.

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)
I was watching you almost around
the clock. Cutting off your
lifelines, and forcing you to camp
out in the backyard, only made it
easier for me.

Moxie notices an OVERHEAD PIPE LEAKING into a BUCKET. She
slowly slides it over and DIPS Willa's hands in. The toilet
paper rope disintegrates in the LIQUID.

Mr. Babcock peaks out the door and checks for anyone
approaching.

The other girls notice and follow suit. They keep Mr. Babcock talking as a distraction.

TAWNY

You can't kill Moxie. She has helped us a lot.

MR. BABCOCK

I don't believe that.

TAWNY

She has taught me to care for other people. To put other's needs first, before mine.

MR. BABCOCK

She has done nothing but slander the good name of Babcock.

Moxie rolls her eyes.

All girls keep their hands behind their backs as if the ropes are still on.

WILLA

(kissing up)

I'm sure Babcock is a fine name.

MR. BABCOCK

Thank you.

(laughing)

Do you know what kind of a liar Moxie really is? She told all of us that she turned herself in. Not true. The real story is that she rigged the headlights on her van to work independently of each other and got pulled over on the highway.

(laughing harder)

She had lights going every which direction. Up, down, left, right, diagonal, crisscross!

MOXIE

I did not. That was a stupid rumor on the internet. I turned myself in, just like I told you.

MR. BABCOCK

Oh, well (beat) It doesn't matter now anyway.

(very serious)

(MORE)

MR. BABCOCK (CONT'D)

I have cut you off from the outside world, so now, I will cut you off from your inside world.

Mr. Babcock readies his knife.

Tawny and Dot look at each other as if sharing information through thought.

DOT

Um (beat) Mr. Babcock? If you are the one that cut off all our resources? We generally have no qualms, but are you the one that damaged our furnace?

Mr. Babcock and the other girls notice SCORCH MARKS on the furnace for the first time.

MR. BABCOCK

No. But I'll take credit for it.

TAWNY

(to Dot)

Go, Junior Arson!

Before Mr. Babcock can react, Dot jumps and kicks the PANEL DOOR off the furnace. Tawny reaches in, grabs a BLACK HOSE, and FIRES A THICK FLAME toward him.

Mr. Babcock covers his face for protection and turns into the wall, knocking himself down.

Moxie handcuffs him.

WILLA

Way to go, Moxie!

Moxie rips the death warrant in half.

MOXIE

Nothing to it. When life gives you salmon, make salmonella.

The girls exit the furnace room.

WILLA

How did you girls rig that up?

PENNY

(whispering)

It's a mystery-secret.

WILLA

But the flames? How?

DOT

Tawny and I were sentenced here for arson, so we like to be around flame. Besides the stove and water heater, this is the only other place around here to find it without getting caught. So, we had a little fun making a homemade flamethrower.

WILLA

Until it backfired the other day and almost burned the house down.

TAWNY

(embarrassed)

Well (beat) Yes (beat) There was that.

INT. FURNACE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Babcock pulls the HANDCUFF KEY from his pocket and unlocks the handcuffs.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TAWNY

With everything else in the house falling apart, we didn't think anyone would notice the scorch marks.

MOXIE

No, it was the raging flames that gave it away.

Moxie takes the bandages off her wrists.

WILLA

What happened?

MOXIE

I told Mr. Babcock that his brother broke my arms.

WILLA

Did he?

MOXIE

No, I lied. I never met the man.

Mr. Babcock throws the door open in a RAGE and CHARGES at them with knife held high.

Tawny SCREAMS.

The girls run.

INT. THERAPY OFFICE - DAY - SIMULTANOUSLY

Teresa hands the two security guards PAPERWORK.

Security Guard #1 hears Tawny's scream.

SECURITY GUARD #1

What was that?

TERESA THORNDYKE

That was just the girls goofing off.

SECURITY GUARD #2

Should we go check?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Not until you fill out the Incident Reports for the debacle the other night. The government needs its paperwork.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The girls BURST through the back door with Mr. Babcock right on their tails.

Penny climbs a tree. Out on the limb she blows a RAM BATTLE HORN.

The girls turn and attack in hand to hand combat, using WOODEN KON LONG STAFFS and WOODEN NUNCHUKS that they made themselves.

Mr. Babcock quickly overpowers Dot and steals her weapon. He fights back ferociously.

DOT
(angrily)
Son of a--

MOXIE
(interrupting)
Watch it, Dot! There is nothing
adult about adult language.

Tawny jumps down from above and lands on Mr. Babcock's shoulders. He spins and she is thrown into the hedge.

The girls are pushed back to the campfire. They take up GLOVES and SLINGSHOTS.

The girls place HOT COALS into the slingshots. They take up a Revolutionary War stance: Tawny and Dot kneeling on the front row. Willa and Penny standing on the back row.

WILLA
Fire!

Tawny and Dot fire.

WILLA (CONT'D)
Fire!

Willa and Penny fire while Tawny and Dot reload.

WILLA (CONT'D)
Fire!

Tawny and Dot fire while Willa and Penny reload.

Mr. Babcock is temperately held at bay as the coals SCORCH his hoodie.

Moxie looks over the slingshot in her hand.

MOXIE
I know that slingshots are the only
weapon allowed, but this is
ridiculous.

Moxie puts on her gloves, picks up coals, and fires at random.

Mr. Babcock charges through the onslaught.

WILLA
Retreat!

The girls run and dive into a FAKE TENT.

Mr. Babcock jumps in after.

A brief TUSSELE ensues.

The girls climb out the other end of the tent.

Moxie cuts a rope with a hatchet and Mr. Babcock is WHISKED UPWARD by his feet wrapped head to toe in NYLON CANVAS.

MR. BABCOCK

Let me down!

PENNY

Caught like a rat in his own trap.

WILLA

Thank you Mr. Babcock for the snare
you left in our front yard. We
couldn't have done it without you!

The boys approach the hedge and cheer.

TAWNY

Here's to Moxie!

Both girls and boys pick Moxie up, lift her above their heads, and carry her along the hedge triumphantly.

Dot trips. The group drops Moxie on the boys' side of the hedge.

Teresa's angry voice seems to ECHO from all around.

TERESA THORNDYKE (O.S.)

MMMAAARRRGGGOOOTT!!

The girls FREEZE. They part slowly and dramatically into two lines. Dot and Penny on the left, Willa and Tawny on the right.

Moxie cautiously rises innocently from the wrong side of the hedge.

The boys run like cowards.

TERESA THORNDYKE (CONT'D)

(angrily)

Moxie! Get over here now!

Moxie approaches Teresa.

The other girls also make themselves scarce.

MOXIE
Yes, Ma'am?

TERESA THORNDYKE
(sternly)
How dare you leave this property!

MOXIE
But, Ma'am--

TERESA THORNDYKE
(interrupting)
You lose thirty points!

MOXIE
(scared)
No. That puts me at zero.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(trying to calm herself)
Yes. Yes, it does.

MOXIE
That means I have to go back to
prison.

TERESA THORNDYKE
You knew the rules when you signed
on.

MOXIE
(begging)
But, Ma'am, I can explain!

TERESA THORNDYKE
There is no explanation for
breaking the rules.

MOXIE
(pleading)
But, Ma'am. There has been a
terrible mistake!

Teresa notices Mr. Babcock struggling above the ground in the
snare for the first time.

TERESA THORNDYKE
(shocked)
Is there something you want to tell
me?

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

The male Police Officer places Mr. Babcock into the backseat of his PATROL UNIT.

Teresa talks to the officer for a moment, while Moxie waits patiently. The officer hands Teresa a WHITE ENVELOPE.

Teresa approaches Moxie and looks over her CLIPBOARD.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Moxie. Good job. Mr. Babcock is being charged on several counts of burglary, abuse, breaking and entering, destruction of public and private property, the list goes on.

MOXIE

Mr. Babcock was right, you know.

TERESA THORNDYKE

About what?

MOXIE

I did everything he accused me of. Except, I was not the one that pulled the trigger.

TERESA THORNDYKE

I know, Moxie. But he lied about that as well.

MOXIE

What do you mean?

TERESA THORNDYKE

His brother was not killed. He awoke from a coma a day and a half ago. He is currently in stable condition.

MOXIE

You mean, I'm not responsible?

TERESA THORNDYKE

Not this time. But let that be a lesson that your actions can lead to disaster.

MOXIE

Lesson learned!

TERESA THORNDYKE

The line between right and wrong,
good and evil is really not
blurred. You just have to ask
yourself, do my actions harm other
people, yes or no? Very simple.

MOXIE

You are right.

TERESA THORNDYKE

But it is not all mediocre news. As
it turns out, Mr. Babcock was
wanted in three other States on
similar charges. There was a fifty-
thousand dollar reward for his
capture.

MOXIE

(ecstatic)

Are you serious?

Teresa hands Moxie the white envelope.

TERESA THORNDYKE

You know me by now. I do not joke.

Moxie takes the envelope, but hands it back.

MOXIE

No. I do not deserve this. I want
you to have it. You can use it to
renovate Pasternak and fix
everything that is broken.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Thank you, Moxie. You are a fine
young lady.

MOXIE

So I earn some points back? I'm not
going back to the penitentiary?

TERESA THORNDYKE

I never undo rules!

MOXIE

(sadly)

Oh.

Teresa bends down and removes Moxie's ankle bracelet.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Whether you leave or not is now up to you. You have fulfilled your obligation-- not in the way that I would have preferred, not exactly the way that the State, courts or other federal agencies would have liked, but you have proven to all of us that you can put others needs before your own. Your goal has been accomplished none the less.

MOXIE

Thank you.

Teresa gently rubs Moxie's V-shaped scar.

TERESA THORNDYKE

And, sadly, you will always have a remembrance of that vow.

MOXIE

Yes. I promise to always look out for those less fortunate.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Proving yourself was really what it was all about. And, since Pasternak is a half-way house, I suppose that it wouldn't hurt if I met you half way.

MOXIE

(excited)

Thank you, Miss Thorndyke! Oh, thank you so very much!

Moxie hugs Teresa and kisses her directly on the lips.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Wow.

Moxie runs toward the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACKYARD GRADUATION - DAY

A makeshift STAGE has been built.

Teresa and Willa face the small crowd.

TERESA THORNDYKE

Today we honor our daughter and friend, Willa, for completing the program at Pasternak. She has gone through many trials in her life, and today she has prevailed. We love you and we will miss you.

Teresa hands Willa a CERTIFICATE. They hug.

The audience applauds.

WILLA

Thank you. Thank you Miss Thorndyke for being there for me through the difficult times and helping me cope. Tawny, Penny and Dot, you are my best friends. I love you and always have.

(serious)

Moxie, I hate you. Your very existence has always repulsed me. Now is the time to say it.

The crowd turns to Moxie.

ALL GIRLS IN UNISON

(ecstatically)

Moxie!

Willa shakes her head NO.

WILLA

No, I speak the truth. Thank you to everyone else, though.

Crowd applauds.

Security Guard #2 takes a GROUP PHOTO of everybody.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Moxie enters and begins to empty her closet, throwing her clothes on the bed. She finds a BLACK CAPE WITH HOOD and puts it on around her shoulders.

Willa, Penny, Tawny and Dot enter.

Moxie takes off her pink slippers and puts on her shoes.

TAWNY

You're leaving aren't you?

MOXIE

Yes, Tawny.

TAWNY

Tizzy.

MOXIE

I'm now on a mission. I'm the new vigilante! I know how the criminal mind works, so from now on I will stop crime.

Penny looks closer at Moxie's scar.

PENNY

I knew this V scar would stand for something.

Moxie places her arm around Penny's neck.

MOXIE

Penny, always be yourself. We love Penny for being Penny.

PENNY

Yes, you are right. I will be me-- no more pretending.

MOXIE

Good.

Penny and Moxie hug.

PENNY

I will miss you.

Moxie puts her arm around Willa.

MOXIE

Willa, the great leader! No more drug abuse.

(MORE)

MOXIE (CONT'D)

Remember, if you prepare for battle
you must be in your right mind.

WILLA

True. And even though I thought you
were crazy, I wasn't lying about my
thoughts toward you.

Willa and Moxie hug.

Moxie puts her arm around Tawny.

MOXIE

Tawny, you will have many ideas pop
into your head, that doesn't mean
that you have to go along with the
very first one.

TAWNY

Thanks, Moxie. You will be a good
example out in the world-- I just
know it.

Tawny and Moxie hug.

Moxie puts her arm around Dot.

MOXIE

Dottie, my girl. You got mad
skills. Always use your talents for
nobility and honor.

DOT

I will. We see the error of our
ways.

Dot and Moxie hug.

Moxie walks to the door. She picks up her wooden kon long
staff and turns back.

MOXIE

Goodbye for now. I love you all!

Moxie exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Moxie burst through the front door and walks down the sidewalk toward the street.

Behind Moxie all the others gather on the front porch and wave.

The boys cross the hedge and stand with the rest.

Moxie does not look back. She pulls her hood up and over her head. At the end of the sidewalk she LOOKS DIRECTLY INTO CAMERA.

MOXIE

Watch out criminals. I'm coming for
you!

Moxie waves her cape over camera.

CUT TO BLACK