

Witch of the Forest

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I declare that this thesis is a presentation of original work and I am the sole author. This work has not been previously submitted for an award at this, or any other, University. All sources are acknowledged as References.

MAGGIE (V.O.)
We called it the Exodus.

FLASHBACK TO

EXT. OLD VILLAGE SQUARE - EVENING

The images are muted and smoky.

The villagers are gathered. Everyone is nervous, aside for young man AARON (20) orating to the group from a raised stage.

On one side are a group of 20 to 30 Witches, who watch him speak. They are visibly different to the humans in clothing material and style, and range in age from 30 to 90.

The youngest adult, Maggie's mother, OLIVIA (30), is holding the only Witch baby, BABY MAGGIE (6months), close to her.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Witches and humans lived in harmony
until the plague.

Olivia looks at Maggie's sister, PHOEBE (8), who is the only child in the Witch group. She looks pale and ill as she coughs. Olivia puts her arm around her.

Olivia glances around the crowd. Many other people are coughing, swaying, and looking unwell. She looks behind her, at the hasty graves on the edge of the village.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It took young and old, Witch and
human alike.

Aaron begins to shout, gesticulating aggressively.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And everyone was looking for what
to blame.

He points at the group of Witches. They recoil as the crowd turns to stare at them.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Or who.

The Witches begin to file away from the crowd, but, as they go, the crowd begins to take action.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Witches are a peaceful people. And these Witches had no reason to want to harm their own village.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Olivia rushes her children back to their home and packs a few essentials.

There is commotion outside as the humans begin to damage the Witches' property.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But the humans were so desperate to save themselves that they didn't care.

EXT. OLD VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Olivia, Phoebe and Baby Maggie hurry outside and join the rest of the fleeing Witches as they are chased by the humans.

Some humans carry weapons; some carry torches; some bring ropes.

The Witches run towards the forest.

EXT. OLD FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So they chased the Witches into the forest.

It is chaos once they are in amongst the trees. The Witches rush through the dark, followed by the humans.

Phoebe lets go of Olivia's hand and trips on a root, falling to her knees.

Olivia turns to see Phoebe coughing uncontrollably. She hurries back and tries to help her daughter stand, but, with Phoebe so weak and Baby Maggie in her arms, she fails.

(CONTINUED)

She looks up as she hears the humans approach.

AMELIA

Olivia!

Another Witch, AMELIA (40) rushes over to them.

Olivia bundles up Baby Maggie and gives her to Amelia.

OLIVIA

Take her! Go!

She pushes Amelia away with Baby Maggie. Amelia turns and flees.

Olivia pulls Phoebe to her feet and drags her along, but the humans soon catch up to them.

Olivia holds Phoebe tight and the crowd envelops them.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

Many of the Witches died that night.

EXT. OLD FOREST - INTERIOR - LATER

Amelia, with Baby Maggie, and the surviving Witches continue to hurry through the trees.

They pause, look around and listen.

The forest is silent.

They look between each other, and steadily continue their journey.

EXT. OLD FOREST - CLEARING - EARLY MORNING

The Witches find a small clearing in the forest.

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Because forests are areas of nature, it is possible for a Witch to connect with them. To communicate with them.

They look around the area, and, one by one, sit down on the ground, exhausted.

Amelia rests against a tall tree, cradling Baby Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And the forest can feel the Witch's
plight and protect her.

EXT. OLD FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - LATER

A small group of humans, led by Aaron, wander amongst the trees, passing through the same area time and again.

Aaron sets off once more, followed by his group.

EXT. OLD VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

The humans emerge back where they started.

Aaron turns around to return back into the forest, but the trees have multiplied tenfold, completely restricting the entrance.

The group looks around for any way through, but many of them are worn out and Aaron finally gives up, angrily storming back towards the village with his torch.

BACK TO

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - DAY

Naive Witch MAGGIE (14), short and brunette, sits in front of her potion on the fire. The flames lick the cauldron, which is sputtering smoke and glitter.

MAGGIE
And that's why I'm in your forest
now. Because you all protected me
when I was a baby.

Maggie looks around at all the trees at the edge of the clearing and smiles.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
So thanks, I guess.

DARWIN, a large crow, lands on the ground before her.

DARWIN
They know how you got here, you
know.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

But there are new trees again today! I don't want them to feel left out. They should know their history.

Maggie sits forward on her knees, looking into the potion.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Plus, it was a great way to practise my new potion.

Darwin cocks his head and jumps closer. Maggie waves a hand over the potion, and sparkling smoke bursts out and disperses in the air above her head.

DARWIN

Ah, of course. Remind me, what is the point of a concoction that allows you to show other people your memories when trees cannot see?

Maggie shifts so she is facing away from Darwin, hurt.

MAGGIE

It's for when I know people.

Darwin flies over to her side and rests his head on her thigh.

DARWIN

Maggie...

She doesn't look at him.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

You know that there aren't...

MAGGIE

I don't. There could be more Witches somewhere. I just have to find them.

DARWIN

They looked, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Maybe just not hard enough.

Maggie stands up, abandoning her potion, and walks towards her cottage - a hodge-podge mismatch of forest resources piled into a modest house.

Darwin sighs, and follows.

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

The stairway is blocked off, putting Maggie's kitchen area, sitting area and bedroom all in one cosy space. It is a large room but feels smaller as it is filled with possessions, some which look older than Maggie.

Maggie enters and collects up a few belongings, packing a small bag with potions and food.

DARWIN

Not again.

MAGGIE

Come with me or don't. I don't mind.

She continues to pack up while Darwin argues.

DARWIN

Come on, let's just talk this through again. You're not going to take three steps out of the house and find a whole new clan.

MAGGIE

Doesn't hurt to try.

DARWIN

It seems like this is doing more harm than good, honey. Every time you try this, you come back unhappier than you were when you left.

MAGGIE

There's nothing you can say that's going to stop me, Darwin.

Maggie finishes packing and heads out of the house, followed by a spluttering Darwin.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Maggie pauses in the middle of the clearing, picking a direction through the trees.

(CONTINUED)

DARWIN

That'll take you too near the
village.

Maggie rolls her eyes.

MAGGIE

Come on. I'll never get to the
village from here.

Darwin looks at her, and she sighs.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Fine.

She adjusts her direction before she sets off.

Darwin watches her go and sighs again. He flies up above the
trees and follows her.

EXT. FOREST - INTERIOR - DAY

Maggie treks through the forest, pushing past the branches
and leaves in her way.

She gasps, and looks at her hand. A small cut on her finger
oozes blood. She pops her finger in her mouth and uses her
other hand to pull a small ointment bottle out of her bag.

She pulls the cork out of the bottle and pours the contents
of the bottle over her finger. She winces in pain as she
dabs it in.

When she looks at her finger again, the cut has healed, only
leaving a tiny scar.

EXT. FOREST - RIVER - LATER

She stops by the water and refills her canteen. She paddles
in the water.

Darwin sits on a nearby branch. Maggie smiles at him.

EXT. FOREST - HILL - LATER STILL

She snacks while she walks, Darwin following from above the
treeline once again.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

I've got a good feeling about this!
I think we're going to find
something!

Darwin shakes his head, but says nothing.

EXT. FOREST - INTERIOR - EVENING

Maggie is walking with purpose, focused.

Darwin flaps his wings and groans, still following her.

DARWIN

Maggie?

She doesn't respond.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Maggie emerges back in the clearing. She spins around,
looking back at her route.

Darwin lands on a rock and watches her.

Maggie spins around again, stunned.

MAGGIE

(quietly)

I was so sure this time.

DARWIN

They're trees, hon. They're not
stupid.

Maggie's voice breaks as she speaks.

MAGGIE

I really thought I was onto
something.

DARWIN

They weren't going to let you spend
the night out there. Look at you.
You barely packed enough food for
the day.

Maggie looks into her empty bag, then back at the trees. She
sighs.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Well, I'll just pack more tomorrow.

DARWIN

Not tomorrow as well.

She heads into the cottage.

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Maggie puts her hands over a small candle and focuses hard. When she moves her hands away, the candle is lit. She lights a few more candles.

She notices a few more cuts on her hands and arms, and dabs on some ointment.

Darwin perches on the windowsill.

DARWIN

You know, by the time she was your age, your mother could create huge bonfires.

MAGGIE

I'm not my mother.

DARWIN

I'm just saying it could be worth trying out some more difficult spells, rather than spending your days wandering the forest. You've got so much potential, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Well, maybe if I had anyone to *teach* me any of these spells, it would be a lot easier.

DARWIN

But just look at all those books!

MAGGIE

I'm very happy with my potions, thank you.

DARWIN

You can teach yourself.

MAGGIE

(quietly)

I can't.

(CONTINUED)

DARWIN
Course you can!

MAGGIE
I can't! Darwin.

DARWIN
You can! They would want you to
learn this.

MAGGIE
If they wanted it badly enough,
they wouldn't have gone and died.

A tense silence falls.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I need someone here to teach me it.
I need a clan, or my mother, or...
any Witch. Anyone. I can't... I
can't do it by myself.

Maggie stares at one of the candles as Darwin watches her.

She sniffs.

Finally, she pulls a blanket up over her head and huffs,
plonking herself down on the bed next to the window.

Darwin softens.

DARWIN
Get some sleep, eh? I'll see you in
the morning.

Maggie's speech is muffled by the blanket.

MAGGIE
Goodnight, Darwin.

DARWIN
Night, honey.

Darwin flies over to the candles and flaps them out with his
wing.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Once the cottage is dark, he flies back outside and perches
himself on a high branch in view of the window, before
nodding off to sleep.

The forest is quiet.

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

The moonlight falls across Maggie's face as she dozes.

A twig snaps outside.

There is a footstep.

Maggie stirs, frowning in her sleep.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Darwin snores quietly as a figure emerges from the trees.

A pine cone crunches underfoot.

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Maggie's eyes snap open and she looks around, lying still.

The sounds of the stranger approaching become louder.

Maggie rolls away from the window and stands against the wall, breathing heavily.

MAGGIE
(whispering)
Okay. Okay.

She glances around in panic.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Darwin, where are you?

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Darwin is still fast asleep, whistling on his outward breaths.

INT./EXT MAGGIE'S COTTAGE/CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Maggie takes a deep breath and snatches up a few potions from a table.

She takes a moment to compose herself, and then twists and launches one out the window.

The glass smashes and Maggie watches as a small plume of glittering smoke clouds around the stranger, who begins to cough.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
(shouting)
Who are you?

The stranger splutters and waves at the smoke, which is beginning to dissipate.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
What do you want?

GISELLE
I'm here for you.

MAGGIE
What for?

Maggie swallows, afraid.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Are you here to kill me?

GISELLE
No!

The smoke clears and tall, ginger-haired GISELLE (17) emerges into the moonlight.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
I'm here to help you.

Maggie stares, still clutching her other potion tightly.

MAGGIE
Are you human?

Giselle laughs.

GISELLE
(sarcastically)
Please.

Giselle spreads her hands and releases a fireball, that soars up into the sky, narrowly missing a disgruntled Darwin.

Maggie gawks.

MAGGIE
You're a Witch?

GISELLE
Of course. That's how I knew to find you here.

(CONTINUED)

Giselle looks around.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
The rest of your clan...?

MAGGIE
They died.

GISELLE
I'm sorry.

MAGGIE
Do you have...?

Giselle shakes her head.

GISELLE
It's been just me for a month now.
It's been getting lonely.

Maggie smiles weakly.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Are you alright?

MAGGIE
Yes.

Maggie disappears back into the cottage, and Darwin flies in through the window after her.

Giselle shuffles on her feet.

The cottage door opens and Maggie emerges, Darwin perched on her shoulder.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
I'm Maggie.

GISELLE
Giselle.

MAGGIE
This is Darwin.

Darwin cocks his head and peers at Maggie, but says nothing.

GISELLE
He's cute.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

You just don't know him yet.

Maggie walks over to Giselle, and they stand across from each other.

Giselle takes a step towards Maggie and hugs her. Darwin jumps up into the air out of the way.

Maggie stands completely still, eyes wide, accepting the hug. After a few moments, she raises her arms and hugs Giselle back, closing her eyes and sighing.

It is a long hug.

EXT. FOREST - INTERIOR - MORNING

Giselle holds a small fireball in one hand, using the other to steady herself against tree trunks or to grab onto Maggie's hand.

They are travelling through the forest together, Darwin hopping and flapping along behind them.

Maggie is watching Giselle walk in wonder.

GISELLE

So, there were fourteen Witches in our clan on the mountain when we heard about the Exodus.

MAGGIE

Didn't you think to come and find us? You could have helped.

GISELLE

Of course we did. A few times. But then... the mountain began to die.

MAGGIE

What do you mean, the mountain began to die?

GISELLE

It's complicated.

Maggie frowns, thinking.

As she walks, she trips on a tree root and falls over, surprising Giselle and Darwin.

She sits up and looks at the ground where she tripped. There is no tree root there.

(CONTINUED)

Giselle helps her up as she stares.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Woah, are you alright?

Giselle dusts Maggie down.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
As someone who's lived in this forest their whole life, I would've thought you knew how to avoid falling.

Giselle laughs. Maggie smiles, turning to face her.

MAGGIE
Guess I'm just distracted.

The girls turn and continue their walk. Darwin hops past the tree and frowns at it.

DARWIN
(quietly)
Maggie.

As Maggie continues walking, she brushes tree branches out of her face and hair.

MAGGIE
So how come you came looking for me now?

Giselle falters for a moment.

GISELLE
Like I said... I was getting lonely. I'd heard about your clan heading into the forest and I figured if I walked for long enough and listened to my heart... I'd find you.

Maggie smiles.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Oh.

The two of them have arrived at a dense line of trees. There is no clear pathway through.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
That's weird.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

That's just what the trees do. They probably don't want us heading this way. We should find a different route.

GISELLE

No, we... it has to be this way. We have to get through.

MAGGIE

Giselle...

GISELLE

Stand back.

Giselle unclips a small hunting knife from her leg and begins to snap off some twigs and smaller branches, making a pathway through the trees.

She reaches back and pulls Maggie through, and they emerge on the other side of the dense treeline.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Maggie gasps in pain.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Did you hurt yourself?

Maggie looks at her leg, which is sporting a long, thin cut.

MAGGIE

It's fine. I have ointment for it.

Maggie reaches into her bag and dabs some ointment onto her cut, inhaling through her teeth.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

See? All better.

GISELLE

Sure?

MAGGIE

Yes. Let's carry on.

They set off again.

Darwin flies slowly through the trees, catching up with Maggie and hovering behind her as she walks.

(CONTINUED)

DARWIN
(quietly)
Maggie.

MAGGIE
(whispering)
Yes?

DARWIN
I don't like this. You've never
been this way before.

MAGGIE
Darwin. Giselle's just come this
way. I'm sure it's fine.

DARWIN
I don't know about that.

MAGGIE
Could you just drop it, please?

DARWIN
But -

MAGGIE
Shh!

Maggie speeds up a little, catching up to Giselle and
leaving Darwin behind. He rolls his eyes.

The trees begin to thin out.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - SOON AFTER

The path is modern, clearly upgraded several times since the
Exodus.

Maggie stares at it in shock.

MAGGIE
Where are we?

GISELLE
Not far now. Come on.

Giselle offers Maggie her hand, leading her down the path.

Darwin emerges onto the path and flies up high, following at
a distance.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - SOON AFTER

The village is bustling, and Maggie takes in all the sights in wonder.

Like the path, everything has changed significantly since the Exodus.

MAGGIE

I didn't think... it's been a long time, hasn't it?

GISELLE

Time is funny in the forest.

Maggie steps out of the way of a woman's path and smiles at her, before running to catch up to Giselle.

MAGGIE

Are we safe?

Giselle looks at her.

GISELLE

No one alive in this village today would know a Witch if we were standing in their village square. Just don't say anything to anyone and you'll be fine.

Maggie chuckles nervously.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Come on. I want to show you something.

Giselle pulls on Maggie's arm again, leading her on.

EXT. VILLAGE WOOD STORE - SOON AFTER

Giselle and Maggie creep cautiously around the wall of the wood store until they are in front of it. Maggie takes in all of the felled trees, wrapped up in bundles and stacked.

MAGGIE

What is this?

GISELLE

I thought you'd want to know. These used to be standing in your forest. Now look at them.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
What happened?

GISELLE
Come here.

Giselle leads Maggie on once again.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - SOON AFTER

Giselle and Maggie crouch behind a house and watch the workmen as they cut down trees.

Maggie gasps when she sees the first axe swing, and covers her mouth with her hand. They watch in silence as the tree falls.

Maggie winces, and, glancing down at her hand, sees a tiny cut. She frowns.

Giselle watches her notice the cut, and nods.

GISELLE
When they hurt the forest, they
hurt you, too.

Maggie swallows.

MAGGIE
They don't know that.

GISELLE
Would they care?

They watch the workmen continue for a few minutes.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
This is what they did to our
mountain. The damage killed
everyone but me.

Maggie turns away and leaves.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Maggie!

Giselle follows.

EXT. VILLAGE WOOD STORE - SOON AFTER

Maggie continues to storm away, Giselle chasing after her.

GISELLE
Maggie! Stop!

Maggie spins around, tears in her eyes.

MAGGIE
Why would they do that? They're
hurting the trees. They hurt your
mountain.

GISELLE
I know. I thought you would want to
know, too.

Maggie stands quietly, holding herself. She wipes her eyes
with the back of her hand.

Giselle crosses to her, and puts her arm around her.

Maggie pushes her off and takes a few steps away.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

MAGGIE
I just... need some time right now.

Maggie wanders away, stumbling a little. Giselle watches her
go.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - SOON AFTER

Maggie walks back the way that she and Giselle came, but is
barely looking where she is going and is causing various
villagers to have to avoid her.

The village is busier than it was, with bunting and
decorations being strung up all over. There is an air of
excitement from the villagers.

Maggie bumps straight into stocky blonde ERIN (15), who
drops what she's holding and falls backwards into lanky
dark-haired BELLAMY (16).

ERIN
Oh my gosh, sorry!

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
(stuttering)
Sorry.

ERIN
Absolute klutz, not looking where
I'm going.

BELLAMY
(to Erin)
You okay?

ERIN
Yeah, yeah.
(to Maggie)
Are you okay?

Maggie makes eye contact with Erin and nods, keeping her mouth firmly closed.

ERIN (CONT'D)
It's Erin.

Erin points to herself and smiles.

MAGGIE
(whispering)
Maggie.

ERIN
Sorry?

MAGGIE
(louder)
Maggie.

ERIN
Maggie. Do you know Bellamy?

Maggie looks up at Bellamy, who is squinting at her.

BELLAMY
Maggie... I think I've seen you
around.

Maggie nods and smiles.

ERIN
Are you doing anything right now,
Maggie?

Maggie pauses, and shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN (CONT'D)

Great. You can help us with this.

Erin lifts up what she dropped - a large, embroidered, fabric sheet - and waves for Maggie to follow. As they set off, Maggie notices Bellamy is holding a tool set.

Maggie looks around as they walk, scanning the crowd, concerned, but she carries on following Erin and Bellamy.

They arrive at the raised stage at one end of the square. There is a large wooden frame at the back of the stage, and Erin lays out her material in a long sausage the length of the frame.

ERIN (CONT'D)

It's the decoration for tonight.

Maggie nods, feigning understanding.

Bellamy drops his tools down as Erin fetches a ladder. Maggie drops her bag behind the stage, kicking it under the wooden beams to hide it.

As she walks back over, Erin hands her an edge of fabric, a hammer and a nail.

ERIN (CONT'D)

You're okay going up the ladder, right?

BELLAMY

We'll hold it. You won't fall.

Maggie looks between them and forces a smile.

She takes the tools from Erin and begins to climb up.

Erin smiles at Bellamy as they hold the ladder together.

Maggie places the fabric on the beam carefully, gingerly tapping the nail in with the hammer. She looks down at Erin, who gives her a grin and a thumbs-up. Maggie descends.

As she arrives back on the ground, the burly and stoic village mayor RODERICK (40) approaches.

RODERICK

Set-up going well, I see?

Bellamy and Erin smile and wave a hello.

(CONTINUED)

BELLAMY

Much easier with three.

Roderick looks Maggie up and down, and gives her a small smile.

Maggie smiles politely, dropping her gaze.

Roderick nods at the group, and moves along.

Erin and Bellamy move the ladder to the other side of the stage. Maggie follows with the hammer and another nail.

ERIN

So, I've got two different outfits lined up for tonight and I can't decide which to go for.

BELLAMY

You always do this. Just wear one today and the other on your birthday or something.

Erin rolls her eyes.

ERIN

But which one today and which one on my birthday?

BELLAMY

Erin...

ERIN

Please, just come round once we finish this and help me choose.

BELLAMY

You know I can't. I'm helping Mum with the food.

ERIN

Please?

BELLAMY

No!

Erin sighs, and then looks at Maggie.

ERIN

Do you have any plans before tonight, Maggie?

Maggie shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

No.

Erin nods, and looks around, thinking.

ERIN

Would you like to come round to mine? You'll get the amazing opportunity to help me choose which outfit to wear! It would be really helpful. Please?

Maggie looks at her, swallowing nervously. She smiles and shrugs.

MAGGIE

Yes, that would be nice.

Erin claps delightedly.

ERIN

Oh, yay! Thank you.

She grabs the ladder again and motions for Maggie to climb up.

EXT. VILLAGE - OUTSIDE ERIN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Erin leads Maggie down a stone path, chatting the whole time.

Maggie looks around, taking in the houses, and checking the road behind her.

ERIN

Thank you so much for offering to come over. It's really so kind of you.

MAGGIE

That's okay. I don't mind.

ERIN

No, really. I mean, I love Bellamy, but he's awful at that sort of stuff. Even when he does agree to come, I kind of always regret asking him. You know how boys are.

Maggie nods.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN (CONT'D)
Anyway, this is it.

Without pausing, Erin turns and walks the short length of path to her front door and lets herself in.

INT. ERIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The living room is modest but comfortable, with plenty of places to sit. The staircase is right in front of the door.

ERIN (CONT'D)
My room is upstairs.

Maggie barely gets to glance around before following Erin up.

INT. ERIN'S HOUSE - ERIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Erin's bedroom is almost the same size as the living room, but feels more open, with a walk-in wardrobe, large desk, and a single bed against the wall. The walls are covered in drawings and notes, with one long mirror next to the bed.

Erin motions for Maggie to take the desk chair, which she does.

Erin half-opens the wardrobe door.

ERIN (CONT'D)
So, I'm trying to decide between
these two dresses.

She reaches in and pulls both dresses out of the wardrobe - one is a short, bright dress, the other darker and longer. Both are very pretty.

Maggie marvels at them.

ERIN (CONT'D)
This one -

She waves the darker dress.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Is pretty fancy, but this one -

The brighter dress.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN (CONT'D)
Just feels a bit more me, you know?

Maggie nods, taking in both dresses.

Erin looks at her expectantly.

ERIN (CONT'D)
What do you think?

Maggie pauses, looking between the dresses and Erin.

MAGGIE
They're both lovely.

She takes a few more moments to decide. Erin holds each dress against her in turn.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
That one.

She points at the brighter one.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
If it's more you, you should show
it off.

Erin beams, hanging the darker dress on the wardrobe handle and admiring the brighter dress.

ERIN
Thank you.

Erin looks at Maggie and what she's wearing.

ERIN (CONT'D)
What are you wearing tonight?

Maggie stammers, and gestures weakly at her outfit.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Oh, okay. Because, you know, if you
wanted to borrow something like
this...

She points at the darker dress.

ERIN (CONT'D)
As a thank you, you'd be welcome
to.

Maggie's eyes widen and she looks at the dress.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
Really?

ERIN
Sure.

Maggie stands up and approaches the dress, feeling the material.

MAGGIE
Thank you.

ERIN
Of course.

Erin hangs her dress on the wardrobe and motions to touch Maggie's hair. Maggie nods, and Erin combs through it with her hands, pulling it back into a rough updo.

ERIN (CONT'D)
And we could do something like this, if you wanted.

She beams at Maggie.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Anyways, try it on and see what you think. I'll be right back.

Erin grabs her dress and disappears into the hallway.

Maggie holds up the darker dress, admiring it. There is green within it and it sparkles in the light.

She smiles, and changes into it.

Once it is on, she touches her hair, and moves to look at herself in the mirror.

She stares at her reflection, astounded.

She touches various parts of the dress, her hair and her face, and grins.

There is a knock on the door.

ERIN (O.S.)
Are you ready?

Maggie takes a moment to respond.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Mm-hmm.

Erin pops her head round the door. She has changed into her dress and looks very cute. She squeals with excitement upon seeing Maggie.

ERIN

You look amazing!

Maggie grins.

MAGGIE

So do you.

Erin grabs Maggie's hands and beams, then gasps.

ERIN

Come on, we'd better get going!

Maggie allows Erin to pull her out of the room.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

The square is lit up brightly with torches and is bustling with excited people. A band prepares to play on one side of the raised stage. The fabric that Maggie helped to hang is a delicate embroidered design that has the number "75" clear and central.

In the middle of the square is a large bonfire, which various villagers are crowding around.

Erin and Maggie wander hand-in-hand through the crowd. While still nervous, Maggie holds herself more confidently and manages to match Erin's stride.

Bellamy appears and laughs at them. He has changed too, into a dark shirt and pale trousers.

BELLAMY

So, this was your outfit solution?
Just get someone else to wear the
other one?

ERIN

(laughing)
Shut up.

Bellamy smiles at Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

BELLAMY
You look lovely.

Maggie grins.

MAGGIE
Thank you.

Erin pushes Bellamy playfully.

ERIN
And you scrub up alright too, I
suppose.

The band begin to play, and Erin gasps.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Quick! We'll miss the dancing!

She grabs Maggie and Bellamy by the hands and pulls them closer to the stage, where the crowd is parting to create a dancefloor.

As the band plays and sings, the three of them dance together and with other villagers. Maggie manages to pick up a few moves, and claps and spins a lot.

At one point, Maggie is near the corner of the stage, and spots Giselle motioning at her from behind the band. She gasps, and hurries over.

Giselle grabs her by the arms, marching her behind the stage.

GISELLE
What are you doing? What are you
wearing?

MAGGIE
Giselle, where have you been?

GISELLE
Are you insane?

MAGGIE
I just got caught up in it. I
didn't mean to -

GISELLE
Looked like you were having a lot
of fun for someone "caught up in
it".

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Well, yes, but -

GISELLE

These people killed yours. Do you remember that?

MAGGIE

It wasn't these people. It's been years since the Exodus. Erin and Bellamy -

GISELLE

Who?!

MAGGIE

We haven't even spoken about it. They don't care -

GISELLE

You're making friends now, are you? What about me? What about our clan?

MAGGIE

Our clan?

GISELLE

You're walking into your own slaughter, and you're taking me down with you.

MAGGIE

I don't think -

GISELLE

Do you even know what this big party is for? The party you've had so much fun dancing at with your new best friends Erin and Bellamy?

Maggie pauses.

MAGGIE

No.

GISELLE

(sarcastically)

You didn't ask?

MAGGIE

I couldn't. It would have given me away.

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE

Just listen to the words, Maggie.
Listen.

Maggie frowns, and pays attention to the song lyrics for the first time.

BAND

(singing)

We sent them where they belong,
Back to the hell where they came
from,
We celebrate our freedom,
From the evil of the Witch.

Maggie freezes.

GISELLE

It's the Exodus.

MAGGIE

But it was so long ago...

GISELLE

Seventy-five years ago. Exactly.

Maggie looks around in the darkness.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

It's the anniversary.

Maggie covers her mouth with her hands.

MAGGIE

(quietly)

They're not bad people.

GISELLE

Are you sure?

Maggie exhales slowly.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Maggie. Listen to me. We are all we
have now. Our clan. Us.

Maggie nods.

On the stage, the band finishes their song and stops playing. The crowd cheer.

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Come on. I'm taking you home.

Giselle pulls Maggie out from behind the stage and starts to lead her through the crowd, heading directly for the path back to the forest.

Roderick is up on the stage, giving a speech. Maggie turns and listens to a bit of it.

RODERICK

...I want to take this time to raise a toast to those that came before us, for chasing out those evil, spiteful Witches, and restoring peace and health to our village once more!

The crowd whoops and cheers.

Maggie's eyes scan the villagers, and land on Erin and Bellamy. They are both clapping, but Erin is looking around, not focused on the speech.

They make eye contact, and Erin smiles and waves.

ERIN

(lost in the cheering)
Maggie!

Giselle pulls Maggie away and they hurry onwards.

Erin watches them go with a frown.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - SOON AFTER

As soon as they are hidden among the trees, Maggie sniffles, a tear falling.

Darwin flaps down from the treeline and lands on her shoulder.

DARWIN

I've got you, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Where have you been?

DARWIN

Not drawing too much attention to myself in a village full of humans.

Maggie looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

DARWIN (CONT'D)
What? That's what I've been doing.

Maggie sighs, and trudges after Giselle.

DREAM SEQUENCE OF

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - NIGHT

The images are smoky again, but darker.

Maggie stands in the middle of a huge crowd, bigger than was at the dance.

The world is warped, everything looking bigger and darker than normal.

Erin and Bellamy are either side of her, and Roderick is on the stage.

As she looks around, she realises that everyone is staring at her.

RODERICK
There is a Witch in our midst!

The crowd jeers and boos. Erin and Bellamy join in, shouting, but they are suddenly very far away and Maggie stands alone.

MAGGIE
No. No, I'm not a Witch.

RODERICK
Then how do you explain *this*?

He pulls out Maggie's bag from behind him and the crowd yell even louder.

Roderick throws Maggie her bag, and she catches it.

Maggie looks around, and sees everyone in the crowd wielding lit torches and approaching her. Erin and Bellamy lead the group, faces pulled back in sneers.

CROWD
(chanting)
Witch! Witch! Witch!

The crowd continue chanting as they envelop Maggie. She screams.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - DAY

Maggie wakes, covered in sweat.

As she focuses, she hears a myriad of loud bangs and clangs, and she sits up to see Giselle rummaging through her potions resources.

Darwin is perched on the windowsill, watching.

Maggie rubs her eyes and frowns.

MAGGIE

What are you doing?

Giselle faces her and shrugs, as if it's obvious.

GISELLE

I'm seeing what we're working with.

MAGGIE

Okay, but...

Maggie swallows, and leans forward on the bed, still shaken.

Giselle looks at her.

GISELLE

What's wrong?

MAGGIE

I just... I left my bag there yesterday.

GISELLE

Your potions bag?

Maggie nods, and Giselle exhales loudly.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Of course you did.

MAGGIE

Do you think they've found it?

GISELLE

We've got to think so. Ignorance won't keep us safe.

MAGGIE

Maybe they won't know what it is. Or they won't look inside. Or they won't mind.

(CONTINUED)

Giselle languishes at her and sits on the side of the bed next to her.

GISELLE
Do you really think that?

Maggie slowly meets her gaze.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
(singing)
We sent them where they belong,
Back to the hell where they came
from,
We celebrate our freedom,
From the evil of the Witch.

Maggie puts her head in her hands. Darwin hops closer, but stays on the windowsill.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
They want us dead, Maggie. They
think we are dead, and they're
singing songs about it.

MAGGIE
But... Erin and Bellamy...

GISELLE
Wouldn't hesitate for a second if
they found out what you are.

Maggie sighs and hides her face.

Giselle puts her arm around Maggie and pulls her close.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
If our clan is going to survive, we
have to do something, before they
kill the forest too.

Maggie nods slowly.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
I think it's time for a new kind of
potion.

Giselle looks at Maggie's potions.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - DAY

Giselle and Maggie are leaning over the cauldron, which is propped over a small fire. Darwin is perched high up in a tree.

Maggie's eyes are wide, watching the potion simmer and shimmer.

MAGGIE

What now?

GISELLE

Now... lean back.

Maggie does, and Giselle crumbles in a few herbs. The potion coughs out some black smoke, which floats up to Darwin and makes him splutter.

MAGGIE

We're going to smoke them out?

GISELLE

Sort of.

Giselle holds a small flower between her hands, and stares at it intently. Her eyes flash, and the flower withers, blackens, and then ignites.

Once it is aflame, she drops it in the potion, and blue flames leap out the cauldron for a few moments.

MAGGIE

Woah. What does that do?

GISELLE

What does it look like?

Maggie looks back at the potion and bites her lip. The flames die down.

Giselle stands and nips inside.

GISELLE (O.S.)

Could you give it a stir, please?

Maggie kneels up and stirs, grunting as she moves the stick through the thick mixture.

Giselle emerges from the cottage and stands behind Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE (CONT'D)
(disparaging)
Who taught you how to stir?

She sits next to Maggie, who stops stirring.

MAGGIE
No one. Everyone died before I was
old enough to start learning
potion-making.

Giselle purses her lips awkwardly. She looks down at the
mixture, taking the stick from Maggie and stirring herself.

GISELLE
This is looking really good.

MAGGIE
It is?

GISELLE
It is. I think it's ready to bottle
up.

She darts back inside.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - LATER

The two of them sit, carefully spooning their potion into
glass bottle and corking the tops.

GISELLE
Be careful with these. Once they've
cooled down, they react with the
air very fast, so don't take the
cork off unless... you know, just
don't take the cork off.

Maggie looks at Giselle, but continues to spoon potion into
the bottle.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - NIGHT

Giselle and Maggie pack two bags with potion bottles, and
begin their journey to the village.

EXT. FOREST - INTERIOR - CONTINUOUS

Darwin flaps down and perches on Maggie's shoulder.

MAGGIE

I thought you were worried about
being inconspicuous.

DARWIN

I don't know about this, hon. I'm
sticking with you.

Giselle, armed once again with her hunting knife, swipes at any branches in her path. She chops through a thick one, which drops to the ground as Maggie gasps.

Maggie looks at her arm and sees a long, thin cut by her elbow. She steps over the branch and carries on following Giselle.

She looks around at the trees.

MAGGIE

(whispering)

Please don't try to stop us.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - LATER

Giselle pauses and reaches out a hand for Maggie, who takes it.

GISELLE

I'm so glad I found you. How
amazing is it that, after all this
time alone, we've got each other
now?

MAGGIE

Yes, amazing. It's everything I
ever wanted.

Giselle smiles.

GISELLE

Let's go, then.

They continue on.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - SOON AFTER

As they walk, Maggie gasps.

MAGGIE

Can we fetch my bag first? It's got
my healing potions in.

GISELLE

Of course. As long as we're quiet.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - SOON AFTER

Giselle waits as Maggie, with Darwin still perched on her
shoulder, hurries over to the stage.

Everything is very dark, illuminated only by the moonlight.

There is a distant sound of something falling over, and
Maggie freezes, looking around.

She slowly continues towards the stage, glancing from side
to side warily.

DARWIN

(sarcastically)

Don't be too fast. You don't want
to scare your bag.

MAGGIE

Hush!

She speeds up a little.

As she approaches the stage, there is the sound of more
movement, closer. Maggie pauses again, looking around. She
crouches, making herself as small as she can.

From under the stage comes a rustling sound. Maggie narrows
her eyes, staring into the darkness.

It's a cat, and it launches itself at Darwin, meowing.

Darwin yelps, and flies upwards.

The cat pounces into Maggie, knocking her backwards.

She jumps back up, pulling on the cat, but it clings onto
her.

Maggie cries out as it scratches her.

(CONTINUED)

Darwin flies back down and tries to attack the cat by pecking and clawing, but also flaps his wings in Maggie's face.

DARWIN
Get out of here!

MAGGIE
Stop it!

Giselle watches the chaos in horror, and pales as a few windows in surrounding houses brighten.

Maggie finally pulls the cat off her, and bats it off a few times as it tries to jump back up onto her. Darwin hovers nearby.

The cat jumps at Maggie's bag. Maggie grabs onto it and stops it from fall, but in the commotion one potion bottle is knocked out and batted away by the cat.

GISELLE
(shouting)
Get back!

Maggie stumbles backwards and watches the bottle fall through the air, smashing on the ground.

A huge pillar of flame bursts up from the ground, whooshing up into the sky. It creates a large fire which continues burning, the flames turning purple and blue higher up.

Maggie screams and trips over, clutching her bag to protect it, but pulls herself up and runs back to Giselle.

The fire steadily spreads across the ground, eating up sticks, leaves and anything else.

Villagers are opening their curtains and beginning to leave their houses, shouting for help with the fire.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
We have to go!

Giselle grabs Maggie by the shoulders and pushes her back towards the forest.

The two of them sprint away with Darwin speeding ahead, moments before the villagers leave their houses with buckets of water for the fire.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

They continue running full pelt.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

They only slow down once they are well-hidden by the trees.

Maggie stops and leans against a tree, gasping for air.
Darwin perches on a branch.

Giselle clutches her sides, panting.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
What - on Earth - were you
thinking?

Maggie is breathing too hard to speak, and just shakes her head.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
Are you - insane? Are you trying -
to get us - killed?

Both of their breathing is steadily slowing, and Maggie wipes her face with her hands.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
(to Darwin)
You are not invited next time.

Darwin fluffs his feathers and glares at her, but says nothing.

Maggie looks at Giselle.

MAGGIE
I'm sorry. I messed it up.

Giselle softens, and smiles at Maggie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
It made a pretty big fire, huh?

Giselle grins.

GISELLE
Just imagine the damage it'll do to
the village with those in the right
places.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Yeah.

Maggie looks at the floor, concerned.

Giselle sighs, and puts her arm round Maggie.

GISELLE

Come on. Home and to bed. We'll go
back tomorrow night.

Maggie nods, and allows Giselle to lead her away. She glances back at Darwin, who jumps off the tree branch and follows them.

INT. MAGGIE'S COTTAGE - DAY

Maggie awakes to the sunlight on her face.

Giselle is asleep next to her, under a different blanket.

Maggie watches her sleep for a moment, before carefully clambering out of bed past her and heading outside.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

Darwin is snoozing as Maggie passes below him.

She disappears into the trees.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

The square is busy, but not bustling. Maggie walks through the people, on a direct path to the stage.

There is an improvised fence around where the fire was. It is a much larger area than Maggie saw burning last night, and she looks at it and gasps.

As she is standing still, Erin appears from within the crowd.

ERIN

Maggie! There you are.

Maggie jumps and looks up, smiling when she sees Erin beaming.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Hi.

ERIN

We missed you at the end of the festival. Did your... sister... need you home?

Maggie opens her mouth and hesitates.

MAGGIE

Yes. It was urgent.

ERIN

Ah.

Erin glances at the burned ground.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Kind of crazy, last night, huh?

MAGGIE

Yes. Crazy.

ERIN

Do you know if they've found out who it was yet?

Maggie shakes her head.

MAGGIE

No.

ERIN

No, me neither. I hope they catch them.

MAGGIE

Hopefully.

They fall into silence for a moment.

ERIN

Hey, do you like flowers?

Maggie looks at her in surprise.

MAGGIE

Yes. I love flowers.

Erin beams.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN

Come with me.

Erin links her arm into Maggie's and pulls her away.

Maggie looks back at the stage, but sighs and allows herself to be led.

EXT. VILLAGE - OUTSIDE ERIN'S HOUSE - DAY

Erin unlinks her arm with Maggie's and hops round the side of the house, opening a small gate.

ERIN

Come on. It's this way.

Maggie smiles, and follows Erin through.

EXT. VILLAGE - ERIN'S GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Maggie gasps when she sees the garden.

There is greenery everywhere, even up the side fences. Raised plant beds hold all manner of vegetable and herb, and earth around the sides and punctuated around the grass of the garden is home to brightly coloured flowers of all types. Bees and butterflies are in abundance. A few benches are dotted around.

It is a large garden, but it is cosy and warm.

MAGGIE

This is amazing.

Erin smiles shyly, and takes a few steps into the garden.

Maggie wanders around, taking it all in with wide eyes.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Erin, this is incredible.

Erin shrugs.

ERIN

It's just my little hobby.
Bellamy's the only other person who really knows about it. It's not a big deal, or...

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

But of course it is.

She bends down to look closer at a veg bed.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

The amount of time you must have spent on all these plants... These carrots are unbelievable! They're even better than mine!

ERIN

You grow carrots too?

Maggie freezes, her eyes looking around wildly.

MAGGIE

Yes. I... My family do. Did. Not really. Just a turn of phrase, really.

Erin frowns, but says nothing.

Maggie continues to look around.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Gorgeous primrose. Oh, and crocuses are my favourite.

ERIN

They are? I didn't know you knew so much about plants.

Maggie looks at Erin hesitates.

MAGGIE

Just a little hobby.

Maggie smiles. Erin laughs.

ERIN

I love the snowdrops that come up near the forest, but they've all gone now. Too late in the year.

MAGGIE

I love them too.

ERIN

You've been down to near the forest?

Maggie swallows.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

A little bit. It's nice to be near
the trees.

Erin nods.

ERIN

Have you ever... been in it?

Maggie's eyes widen. She shakes her head.

MAGGIE

No. Never.

Erin sighs.

ERIN

It's wonderful. It's so quiet, and
peaceful. It's like getting a
little hug from nature. Sometimes I
just go sit among the trees and
think.

MAGGIE

You go in? How often?

ERIN

Once or twice a week. I don't go
very far. But there's a river
that's really nice to sit by.

Maggie stares at Erin, shocked.

FLASHBACK TO

EXT. FOREST - RIVER - DAY

The images are pale, like a memory.

Maggie sits by the river, dangling her feet in the water.

Beyond a thick group of trees, Erin paddles in the river.

Both girls are unaware of the other.

BACK TO

EXT. VILLAGE - ERIN'S GARDEN - CONTINUOUS

Maggie blinks in surprise.

ERIN (CONT'D)

It's totally safe! The trees get too dense to go very far, anyway.

MAGGIE

Are you not worried about the...

ERIN

(quietly)

Witches?

Maggie nods.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Honestly? Not really. I've never seen any signs of anyone being in the forest. I imagine they haven't lasted.

Maggie clenches her jaw.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Plus, if they have, they're not bothering anyone. If they're as powerful as people say, they could destroy our village at any moment. But they haven't. So maybe they aren't, or they don't want to. Either way, I've got no quarrel with them.

Erin shrugs and smiles. Maggie forces a smile.

MAGGIE

Have you ever spent the night in the forest?

ERIN

What?

MAGGIE

Like, been there after dark.

ERIN

No.

MAGGIE

Maybe you should try it. Tonight.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN
(laughing)
What?

MAGGIE
It could be fun. You... and Bellamy
could just... spend the night in
the forest.

ERIN
Maggie, is something wrong?

Maggie shakes her head, but stares straight at Erin as she does.

MAGGIE
No. I'm fine.
(speaking slowly and
pointedly)
I just think it might be fun to
spend the night in the forest.

Erin looks at her closely.

ERIN
What's going on?

Maggie bites her lip and looks at the ground.

They both jump as Bellamy crashes through the gate.

BELLAMY
(shouting)
Erin, are you - ?!

He stops when he notices them.

BELLAMY (CONT'D)
Erin. Maggie. Hi. You need to come
quick. We've just found the
weirdest thing.

Erin and Maggie look at each other in confusion, but follow Bellamy out of the garden.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - DAY

When they arrive back, a small crowd has formed behind the stage. Bellamy leads them over, and Maggie exhales, worried.

The crowd are chattering amongst themselves, standing around one BOY (15) curiously.

(CONTINUED)

BELLAMY

Look.

He motions to the crowd to let Maggie and Erin through, and Maggie's face drops as she sees the Boy holding her potions bag.

ERIN

What is it?

BELLAMY

Not sure.

BOY

But look inside.

He opens up the bag, and Erin peers inside. Maggie glances in, and sees her bottles of potions. One has cracked and is leaking.

ERIN

Is it, like, medicine?

BOY

I don't know.

ERIN

Can I have a look?

BOY

Sure.

He passes the bag to Erin, who reaches in and pulls out the cracked bottle. She taps her fingers into some of the potion dripping out. The onlooking crowd gasp.

ERIN

It tingles.

The group chatter interestedly.

ERIN (CONT'D)

I wonder what it's for.

Erin turns to Maggie.

ERIN (CONT'D)

What do you think?

Maggie is white as a sheet when Erin looks at her. She forces a smile and feigns nonchalance.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

No idea.

Erin frowns at her, but looks back at the bottle. She sniffs her fingers.

ERIN

There's lavender in this. And chamomile.

Maggie watches her, eyes wide and worried.

Erin looks up at the group and shrugs.

ERIN (CONT'D)

I think it's someone's sleeping medicine.

Maggie breathes a sigh of relief through her nose, closing her eyes.

Erin passes the bag back to the Boy, who looks a lot less enthusiastic about holding it now. The whole crowd tut and sigh in disappointment.

The group disperses, but the Boy leaves while holding Maggie's bag. She watches him go nervously.

Erin looks at her carefully.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Maggie forces a smile.

MAGGIE

Yes. Fine.

ERIN

(quietly)

You hadn't seen that bag before, had you?

Maggie shakes her head.

MAGGIE

No. Never.

ERIN

Okay.

(brightly)

Did you want to head back to the garden?

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
I think I actually... have to go.

ERIN
Oh, okay. See you later?

MAGGIE
Yes. See you later.

Maggie begins to hurry away, before turning back.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Think about what I said, though.
About spending the night in the
forest?

Erin frowns, but nods.

ERIN
Okay.

Maggie nods.

MAGGIE
Okay.

She hesitates for a moment, before turning and rushing back to the forest.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Maggie disappears into the trees.

Erin ducks out from behind a house in the distance, watching her in bewilderment. But, she turns and walks back to the village.

EXT. FOREST - INTERIOR - DAY

Maggie hurries through the trees, panting. She pushes past branches in her way.

She bumps into Giselle, coming the other way.

GISELLE
Where have you been?

MAGGIE
Something has happened -

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE
I was looking for you -

MAGGIE
I didn't mean to -

GISELLE
I was worried about you -

MAGGIE
But I didn't get there in time -

GISELLE
I didn't know where you were -

MAGGIE
They found my bag.

Giselle falls silent, looking at Maggie in horror.

GISELLE
What?

MAGGIE
The one I forgot in the village.

GISELLE
What did they do?

MAGGIE
They didn't know what it was.

Maggie shrugs and fakes a smile.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(lying)
I think it's okay.

Giselle raises her eyebrows in disbelief.

She pauses, thinking.

GISELLE
We have to plant the potions.

MAGGIE
What?

GISELLE
Now. Before they realise what's in
your bag.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Giselle...

GISELLE

Is this a joke to you? It's because of them your clan is dead. It's because of them, you have no one. They haven't changed. They never do. No matter what it looks like. They will always take everything from us. We have to act now, and fast, or we're dead.

Maggie swallows.

MAGGIE

But, there are good people in that village - Erin is -

GISELLE

Erin is collateral damage.

Maggie gawks.

MAGGIE

We don't want to hurt them, though.

GISELLE

Says who?

Giselle looks Maggie in the eye, but she avoids her gaze. Giselle softens, and pats Maggie on the shoulder.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Maggie. Listen to me.

Maggie slowly looks at Giselle.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

If they found your potion bag, it's them or us.

Maggie gives a tiny nod.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

We have to go, now.

Giselle offers Maggie her hand, and Maggie takes it. They hurry into the forest.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - EVENING

Maggie and Giselle hurry down the path, laden with their explosive potions.

DARWIN

Hang on!

Darwin catches them up from the treeline.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

This is dangerous stuff, Maggie. Serious stuff. Don't do it if you're not sure about it.

MAGGIE

I told you, it's them or us.

DARWIN

There's no reason that you can't go home, shut the door, and carry on with your life.

MAGGIE

This is my life, Darwin. I can't just shut my door and wait for it to be over.

Darwin sighs and falls behind, letting the wind carry him higher.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - SOON AFTER

Maggie and Giselle approach the village square carefully, but pause when they see a huge crowd formed, and Roderick on the stage.

A few villagers carry lit torches.

Roderick holds Maggie's potion bag aloft.

RODERICK

Today, our village's children found this, hidden underneath this very stage.

He opens the bag and displays it to the crowd.

RODERICK (CONT'D)

And what is inside? Magic potions.

The onlookers gasp and jeer.

(CONTINUED)

Darwin slowly approaches Maggie from behind.

DARWIN

Maggie. Get out of here, now.

She doesn't react, watching in horror.

RODERICK

It is the day that we have feared
for many years, my friends. The
Witches have returned.

The crowd shouts and boos. A few people cry out in horror.

RODERICK (CONT'D)

We must act, and we must act fast.
If the Witches have infiltrated our
village, then no one is safe. Our
only hope is to burn that forest to
the ground and eradicate every last
one of them!

A few people start to clap, and more people join in and cheer.

Maggie collapses, but Giselle catches her and pulls her back onto her feet. She pulls Maggie away and behind a house, holding her by the shoulders. Darwin perches on the roof above them.

They press themselves into a wall as a group of people pass by, torches lit, heading towards the forest.

GISELLE

We have to get out of here.

MAGGIE

There isn't anywhere to go.

GISELLE

Yes, there is.

Giselle pulls Maggie back into the square and they hurry through the dispersing crowd.

Erin, who is standing in the middle of the square, spots them.

ERIN

(calling)

Maggie!

Giselle speeds up. Maggie looks around for Erin, but doesn't see her, speeding up to match Giselle's pace.

(CONTINUED)

They pass a MAN (40) who frowns at them as they pass.

MAN

Hey!

Neither of them react, and they carry on.

Darwin darts down from the sky, scratching at his face. The Man yells and beats Darwin away, hitting him hard on the head.

MAGGIE

(whispering)

Darwin!

GISELLE

(whispering)

He'll be alright.

Darwin flies limply over the heads of a few people, before catching himself and making a wonky line for a nearby roof.

The Man looks around, spotting Giselle and Maggie once more.

MAN

Hey! You two! Stop!

Giselle and Maggie break out into a sprint, pushing past people to get out of the square.

A few people shout at them, but the Man begins to give chase.

MAN (CONT'D)

Get back here!

He motions to the people around him.

MAN (CONT'D)

It's the Witches!

Everyone dissolves into uproar, many more people now joining the chase. Maggie and Giselle pass a few people who reach out to grab them, and they duck and dodge as they run.

Giselle closes her eyes and focuses. Maggie glances at her.

GISELLE

(whispering)

Help us, please.

Giselle clenches her fists and raises her arms as the wind whips up around them. It pulls on Maggie's hair to cover her face, and she fumbles with to get it out of her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

Behind them, those giving chase are caught up into a small tornado, many raised off the ground and all at least slowed down by the strength of the gale against them.

Maggie glances back and marvels at it, but drops a potion from her bag in the chaos. It lands on an empty stretch of ground, and flames leap up to the sky. The villagers yell and turn to flee and Maggie screams in shock.

Giselle grabs her hand and they dart into the shadows behind the houses, leaving the fire to burn.

EXT. VILLAGE WOOD STORE - SOON AFTER

They sprint past the wood store. They don't even glance at it.

EXT. FOREST EDGE - CONTINUOUS

Giselle heads straight for the trees.

MAGGIE

What are you doing? They're going to burn the forest down.

GISELLE

Trust me. I know where I'm going.

Maggie takes a deep breath, and follows Giselle past the stumps of the felled trees, into a new area of the forest.

EXT. FOREST - NEW AREA - NIGHT

The trees are different in this area of the forest, and more sparse. The moonlight illuminates a rough path through the trees that Giselle leads Maggie through.

Maggie gasps in pain as a burn appears on her arm. She cradles it and sobs, looking back at the trees behind her, but there is no evidence that they are being followed.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - BASE - NIGHT

As the trees thin out, Giselle and Maggie find themselves at the base of a mountain.

There are sheer drops and there seems to be large chunks of rock from the mountain missing, with the interior sediments exposed. Large piles of rocks scatter the ground as far as Maggie can see.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE
Your mountain?

GISELLE
Yeah.

Giselle picks her way over the debris and motions for Maggie to follow, which she does.

They begin to scale the mountain.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - HALFWAY UP - NIGHT

Maggie struggles to balance, gripping tightly onto rocky edges for support. Giselle, on the other hand, hops up the mountain with ease, pausing to wait for Maggie to catch up.

Some rocks slip out from under Maggie's feet and she stumbles, but catches herself and hurries up towards Giselle.

Giselle puts out her hands, pointing her palms at the surface of the mountain. She closes her eyes and breathes deeply, and the rock begins to move, creating a door that slides open with a crunch.

Maggie stares in wonder as Giselle enters the inside of the mountain, before quickly following.

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

The cave is one large room, furnished very similarly to Maggie's cottage. A few makeshift beds sit amongst all sorts of collected items, but there is a large space in the centre of the room with a clear space for a cauldron and fire.

Giselle rests her bag down beside the door and kneels by the firepit, resting her hands on the coals until they spark and light.

Maggie places her bag next to Giselle's, slowly sitting beside her by the fire.

The door remains open, moonlight streaming in and lighting the room.

MAGGIE
So, we're done for.

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE

No. There's always something that we can do.

MAGGIE

What? What can we do?

She looks at the fire miserably.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

They're going to destroy my home.

GISELLE

When they tried to kill our mountain, we thought there was nothing we could do. Until we created the rockslide.

Maggie looks at Giselle in surprise.

FLASHBACK TO

EXT. MOUNTAIN - BASE - DAY

A group of villagers use pickaxes to gouge rock from the mountain. More villagers carry it away in wheelbarrows.

INT./EXT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Giselle and her clan gather, watching the humans mine.

One of the Witches clutches their side, and blood is on their clothing when they pull away.

The clan look amongst each other and join hands.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - BASE - CONTINUOUS

A rumbling stops the miners, and they look up the mountain to see a huge avalanche of rock. Massive chunks of the mountain break away and crash down towards them.

They sprint down the mountain, trying to jump out of the path of the rockslide.

BACK TO

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Giselle laughs dryly.

GISELLE (CONT'D)
They stopped mining pretty fast
after that.

There is a silence as Maggie looks into the fire.

MAGGIE
Was anyone hurt? In the rockslide?

Giselle frowns.

FLASHBACK TO

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Giselle turns as another Witch collapses.

Someone holds their head. Someone stumbles and falls.
Someone bundles up their skirt to staunch the bleeding of a
sudden large cut.

Giselle looks across her clan and cries out.

BACK TO

INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

GISELLE
Yes.

Maggie lowers her gaze.

MAGGIE
That's awful.

Giselle stares at the flames.

GISELLE
What the humans did to us is awful.
And so are they.

Maggie purses her lips.

Giselle sits still.

Maggie glances around the cave, before looking back at
Giselle.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

(quietly)

I don't think they mean it.

Giselle looks at Maggie, furious.

GISELLE

What?

Maggie shuffles away from Giselle, stammering.

MAGGIE

It's just that - you know, they do a lot of good - a lot of them are good - they don't want to destroy the - it's -

She flaps her hands desperately.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's not their fault they're scared.

Giselle sits up on her knees.

GISELLE

You are joking.

MAGGIE

Giselle, I think that we can help them. I think we can all work together, and -

Giselle stands, and Maggie stumbles to her feet, backing out the door, away from Giselle, as Giselle storms towards her.

GISELLE

Work together? To what? Kill the last two Witches left alive?

MAGGIE

But I just -

GISELLE

They are burning down your home as we speak. They have no qualms about hurting me, or you, or anything or anyone you care about.

MAGGIE

That's not -

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE

And you want to try to make friends? Are you insane?

MAGGIE

Giselle -!

GISELLE

I don't want to hear it. I thought we were a clan. A family. You were my only hope. And it's gone.

MAGGIE

Please, don't do this. We've still got each other!

GISELLE

I won't rest until that village and every last human in it is dust. If you aren't going to help me, then get out.

MAGGIE

Giselle -

GISELLE

Get out!

Giselle reaches her arms out behind her, before pushing forward.

A huge gust of wind forces Maggie backwards.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - HALFWAY UP - CONTINUOUS

Maggie slips and loses her footing, sliding down the mountainside. She desperately grabs at the rocks around her, but either loses her grip or pulls them down with her.

Giselle waves her hand again, and the cave door crashes shut.

Maggie cries out and tumbles downwards.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - BASE - CONTINUOUS

Maggie comes to rest and lies still for a moment.

She coughs and sighs, sitting up and rubbing her head and arms. She is covered in small cuts, bruises and injuries, and winces as she touches them.

(CONTINUED)

She glances back up the mountain, but it is obscured in the darkness.

Standing up, she dusts herself down, before stumbling back into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - NEW AREA - NIGHT

Maggie pauses, holding onto a tree, as she catches her breath.

Thunder echoes and the first raindrops fall through the trees.

She sits down, leaning against the tree trunk, and closes her eyes.

The rain pours.

EXT. FOREST - NEW AREA - DAY

The rain has stopped.

Darwin flits through the trees, eyes scanning the ground.

He spots Maggie, who is still damp and asleep against the tree trunk.

DARWIN
Maggie! Oh, Maggie!

He darts down and lands on her lap, bouncing up and down and gently poking at her arm with his beak.

Maggie stirs, and frowns.

MAGGIE
Darwin?

She blinks and looks at him.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Darwin!

She hugs him tightly.

DARWIN
(strained)
Too tight. Too tight.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Oh.

She loosens the hug, but doesn't let go for another moment.

When she does, she looks at him in wonder.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I didn't know if I'd ever see you
again.

DARWIN

Hey, I'm fine. Don't you worry
about me.

He fluffs his wings.

There is a quiet, distant rumbling that neither of them
notice.

MAGGIE

The village... they were burning
down the forest...

Darwin sighs and looks down.

DARWIN

I'm sorry.

Maggie frowns.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

They found the house.

Maggie gasps.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

It... They destroyed it.

A tear rolls down Maggie's cheek.

MAGGIE

(whispering)

And the trees?

DARWIN

The rain put out the fire before it
spread too far, but...

Darwin shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

DARWIN (CONT'D)
It's all gone, Maggie.

Maggie sighs.

She and Darwin sit in silence. Rain drips from the leaves onto the forest floor.

Darwin glances around.

DARWIN (CONT'D)
What happened to Giselle?

Maggie shakes her head and stands up, starting to walk. Darwin hops after her.

MAGGIE
You were right. She was bad news.

He flies up to perch on her shoulder.

She stops walking.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
What are we going to do?

They stand in the quiet forest. There is another rumble, louder this time, but they still don't notice it.

Darwin nuzzles his face into Maggie's hair.

DARWIN
I don't know, hon.

Maggie sighs again.

Another rumble, much louder. The ground shakes.

MAGGIE
Woah.

They look around.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
What was that?

Maggie hops up and scales a nearby tree, her head popping up above the treeline.

She turns towards the mountain as she hears a mighty cracking sound.

EXT. MOUNTAIN - VIEW FROM DISTANCE - CONTINUOUS

The rock on the top of the mountain splits, a few large boulders tumbling down the mountain.

It splits further down, a huge crack forming as another deafening crack echoes across the treetops.

Water bursts out from the crack, soaking the nearby rocks and trees.

EXT. FOREST - NEW AREA - CONTINUOUS

Maggie gasps.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's Giselle.

DARWIN

What?

MAGGIE

It's her last stand. Her last chance to destroy the village.

DARWIN

What is she doing?

MAGGIE

She's going to flood them. And take the mountain down with her.

Maggie drops back down onto the forest floor, landing softly and immediately sprinting away.

Darwin chases after her.

DARWIN

Where are you going?

MAGGIE

I've got to warn them!

DARWIN

You're not going to make it! We have to get out of the way!

Darwin tries to tug at Maggie with his claws, but she refuses to divert her path.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

No! I have to help them!

There is another crack from the mountain, and Maggie hears another stream of water bursting out.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Come on!

She races through the trees, but is soon gasping.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Help me!

As she runs, the wind whips up around her.

Still running, she is lifted off the ground by the air.

EXT. ABOVE THE FOREST - CONTINUOUS

She flies up above the trees, zooming towards the village.

Darwin is struggling to keep up with her.

The mountain continues to rumble.

DARWIN

Maggie!

Maggie looks around her and laughs incredulously.

MAGGIE

Darwin! Look!

She is still running through the air as she approaches the village.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

The villagers in the square see Maggie flying above them and call the other villagers out of their houses.

Soon the whole village is gathered, Roderick at the front of the crowd.

Maggie lands neatly on the stage, panting.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Listen to me! There's a -

(CONTINUED)

RODERICK

Witch!

The crowd yell and jeer as Roderick and three other men restrain Maggie.

Darwin catches up in time to peck at their hands and faces, but one of the men grabs him, pinning his wings to his sides.

MAGGIE

Please! Your village is in danger!

Other people in the crowd pass the men ropes and strips of fabric, which they use to tie Maggie to the wooden framing of the stage.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You have to listen to me!

RODERICK

Silence, Witch! While we figure out what to do with you.

Roderick turns to the crowd.

RODERICK (CONT'D)

Well?

The crowd scream and shout, only a few voices audible amongst the chaos.

CROWD

Kill her! Lock her up!

Maggie tries to scream over the noise, but her voice is lost.

MAGGIE

(barely audible)

The mountain is going to break! A flood is coming! Your village is going to be wiped out!

Maggie looks out over the crowd in desperation.

She sees Erin, waving her arms at the back of the crowd.

ERIN

Maggie!

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

Erin!

Bellamy appears next to Erin, and the two of them try to push their way through the crowd, but it is too dense.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Bellamy! You need to get everyone out!

They don't hear Maggie.

Darwin is squawking and wriggling, but to no avail.

Maggie pulls on her bindings.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Please!

The crowd dies down as Roderick turns back to Maggie.

RODERICK

Well, Witch... It seems that your time terrorising this village is at its end.

MAGGIE

Stop this, please. Listen to me. That mountain is going to -

The ground shakes and a few people in the crowd fall over, many stumbling to catch themselves from falling. Maggie is flung forward, caught by her bindings, as Roderick staggers.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE / MOUNTAIN - VIEW FROM DISTANCE - CONTINUOUS

The mountain gives an almighty crunch, and splits in two.

The villagers and Maggie stare at it in horror as huge waves of water explode out from it, flattening the nearby trees and heading straight for the village.

EXT. VILLAGE SQUARE - CONTINUOUS

A few people scream, and the crowd immediately drop everything and sprint in the direction of the hill in the forest.

Roderick shouts over the noise, but joins them as they flee.

(CONTINUED)

RODERICK

Everyone, stay calm! Move as fast
as you can!

The three men around Maggie abandon her, disappearing into the group. The one holding Darwin drops him on the ground.

Darwin flies over to Maggie and grabs hold of her bindings, trying to pry them apart with his claws and beak as Maggie struggles.

DARWIN

I've got you, Maggie.

MAGGIE

It's too tight. Just go.

ERIN

Maggie!

Maggie and Darwin look up to see Erin forcing her way through the crowd going the other way. She finally breaks free of the people and sprints over to Maggie, straining to undo her bindings.

MAGGIE

Erin. Just go. Please.

ERIN

I've nearly got it.

With a gasp, Erin pulls on the knot and undoes it, dropping the rope to the floor.

She snatches Maggie's hand and drags her away. The two of them race to catch up to the village, Darwin soaring above them.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Maggie glances behind them and sees the incoming wave.

MAGGIE

We're not going to make it.

ERIN

Yes, we are!

Bellamy emerges from the forest treeline. Some of the trees are black and burnt.

(CONTINUED)

BELLAMY
Erin! Maggie!

He races back towards them.

Maggie pushes Erin forward towards him.

MAGGIE
Go!

Maggie motions to Darwin to keep flying, and he does, but glances down at her worriedly.

ERIN
Maggie -

MAGGIE
Go! Quickly! Go!

Erin sprints to Bellamy, and they disappear back into the trees.

Maggie turns to face the wave, which is taller than a few houses on top of each other and storming towards her.

She takes a breath.

The wave casts a shadow over her as it approaches.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Erin, Bellamy and Darwin hurry through the trees wordlessly.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH - CONTINUOUS

Maggie closes her eyes.

The sounds around her dim.

MAGGIE
(whispering)
Help me.

She opens her eyes.

The wave looms over her.

She drops to her knees, punching her hands down into the ground.

In an instant, the ground she is standing on soars into the sky, creating a cliff at the edge of the forest.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Erin, Bellamy, and the villagers around them stumble and fall as the ground moves underneath them.

Erin closes her eyes and braces herself.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

The wave smashes into the new cliff with a loud bang, and a tower of water rises over Maggie and the forest behind her.

It crashes down, soaking everything.

Maggie is forced to her knees by the weight of the water.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSKIRTS - CONTINUOUS

Erin, Bellamy, Darwin and the villagers are soaked as the water crashes through the trees.

They look at one another and slowly stand.

They laugh and clap, celebrating.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Dripping wet, Maggie gasps for air.

She recovers, and then looks out at the lake of water where the village once was.

She looks behind her at the trees, and sees them still standing.

She grins, and breathes deeply.

MAGGIE

Oh!

She clutches her hands to her chest, still breathing heavily.

Erin emerges from the treeline. Darwin hops after her, shaking the water off his wings. Bellamy follows him.

Erin runs to Maggie and throws her arms around her.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN

You did it!

Maggie nods and laughs.

Bellamy hugs them both.

Darwin hops up onto Maggie's shoulder.

The villagers emerge from the forest and warily approach.

Erin steps in front of Maggie defensively.

A few people begin to clap, and it evolves into the whole crowd applauding and cheering, a few voices audible above the noise.

CROWD

Thank you! Thank you for saving us!

Maggie titters in disbelief, smiling at the crowd.

The Boy steps forward, regarding Maggie.

BOY

You're a Witch?

MAGGIE

Yes.

The Man joins him.

MAN

But you saved us.

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE

Yes.

MAN

Why?

MAGGIE

Because...

Maggie looks around, lost for words.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Because... you're worth saving.

The crowd murmur. Some watch Maggie warily, but most beam at her.

(CONTINUED)

RODERICK (O.S.)

No!

Roderick pushes to the front of the crowd and storms over to Maggie. He addresses the crowd.

RODERICK (CONT'D)

The Witches are evil! They will stop at nothing until we are all dead! This is a trick! A lie! She will not rest until we are all six feet under the ground!

Erin steps forward to confront him.

ERIN

Give it a rest! Maggie is good, and kind, and risked her life to warn us that we were in danger. And risked it again to save us all from drowning!

Erin steps forward as she speaks, forcing Roderick to step back. Without either of them noticing, they are on the edge of the cliff.

ERIN (CONT'D)

She has done our village a lot more good than you have and this is how you repay her? Get over yourself!

Roderick takes another step back and wobbles.

MAGGIE

Watch out!

He tumbles backwards, splashing into the water behind him.

The crowd gasps.

Roderick's head breaks through the surface of the water, and he splutters, treading water.

A few people begin to chuckle, and soon the crowd is laughing.

Maggie giggles.

Roderick pulls himself out of the water and walks shamefully to the back of the crowd without glancing at Maggie or Erin.

Erin turns to Maggie.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN

Thank you.

Maggie grins. Erin beams.

They hug again.

Bellamy looks around at the villagers and sighs.

BELLAMY

We're going to have to figure out
somewhere to stay for the night.
And maybe the night after that.

Maggie crosses to the treeline, running her hands along the
burnt branches.

She sighs, and steps into the forest.

The villagers watch her go.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - DAY

Maggie gasps as she steps into the clearing.

Her cottage is completely destroyed, the building burned and
her belongings broken.

Darwin perches on a high branch and lets her look alone.

She picks through a few bits, but gives up after not too
long.

She sits down and sighs, looking over everything.

ERIN

I'm sorry.

Erin sits down beside her, watching her.

ERIN (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry.

Maggie nods, a tear rolling down her cheek.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Can you just magic it all back?

Maggie laughs quietly.

(CONTINUED)

MAGGIE

I don't think it works like that.

They sit in silence, surveying the damage.

Erin turns around, and frowns.

ERIN

Were those trees always like that?

Maggie looks over.

A new group of trees have appeared. They are bent over, creating a large den. Branches and leaves are shed across the floor.

Darwin flies inside and settles down on the floor.

Maggie smiles, and looks around at the trees with tear-filled eyes.

MAGGIE

They've always got my back.

EXT. VILLAGE PATH CLIFF - EVENING

Bellamy and the villagers have gathered around a fire. Roderick is sitting near the back, his jacket wrapped tightly around his body.

They all fall silent as Maggie and Erin emerge from the trees.

Bellamy stands.

BELLAMY

Maggie...

MAGGIE

There's a clearing in the forest.
Enough space for a few people to
sleep. If you're happy to take it
in turns, and you respect the
trees, you're welcome to stay.

The villagers stare at her in amazement, and Maggie motions at them to go.

They jump up and hurry into the trees, Erin leading the way.

(CONTINUED)

ERIN

It's through here - be careful...

Maggie watches them go, and turns back to the lake.

The water is still and quiet.

She sits by the water's edge and looks across to the mountain, which now looks rather more like two mountains with the huge crack down the middle.

GISELLE

Why?

Maggie jumps, and turns to see Giselle sat next to her, legs dangling in the water.

Giselle looks at her curiously.

GISELLE (CONT'D)

Why them and not me?

Maggie sighs.

MAGGIE

You made me choose. I didn't want to.

GISELLE

But why them?

MAGGIE

They can change.

She thinks.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Anyone can change.

Giselle nods, and looks out over the water.

GISELLE

I hope you're not lonely.

Maggie studies Giselle's face.

MAGGIE

I hope you're not lonely.

Giselle smiles.

(CONTINUED)

GISELLE

Good luck.

MAGGIE

You too.

GISELLE

Thank you.

Giselle pushes herself forward and submerges herself in the water.

When Maggie looks, she has disappeared.

Maggie sits still, and looks out across the surface of the water.

EXT. NEW VILLAGE PATH CLIFF - DAY

While it is the same area, it looks completely different.

Many of the trees are gone to make room for some modest buildings that back directly onto the dense forest.

A small village square is the central hub of stalls and socialising.

The water is clear and the mountain still in two.

A dark-haired young boy OZZIE (7), the spitting image of Bellamy, bounces out a front door. He runs into the square to his friends.

He is followed by the now grey OLD ERIN (70), who shuts the door behind her.

OLD ERIN

Be careful, Ozzie! What would your
mum say if I brought you back to
her with sticks in your hair again?

Ozzie barely glances back at her, too busy hurrying away with his friends.

OZZIE

I will!

Old Erin watches him go and smiles, before wandering into the forest.

EXT. NEW FOREST - INTERIOR PATH - DAY

There is a clearly marked path through the forest, and it is well-treaded. Old Erin passes a few people and smiles her hellos.

EXT. NEW FOREST - CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

She reaches the clearing and beams.

Maggie's cottage is rebuilt where the den grew, and is much cosier, brighter, and warmer. The building itself is neater, showing clear signs of workmanship.

The cottage is surrounded by colourful flowers and deep green herbs. Smoke puffs out the chimney, while a cauldron simmers gently over the outdoor fire.

A silvery grey OLD DARWIN perches on one of the windowsills.

OLD MAGGIE (50) is stood in her doorway, handing a bottle of potion to a woman who passes Old Erin as she leaves.

Old Maggie spots Old Erin and grins.

OLD ERIN

How do you continue to age so much more gracefully than me?

OLD MAGGIE

Time is funny in the forest.

They walk to meet each other and embrace.

OLD MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Are you picking anything up?

OLD ERIN

Nope, just saying hello.

OLD MAGGIE

Walk with me, then. I was going to go visit the lake.

They set off, Old Darwin soaring after them.

EXT. LAKE EDGE - SUNSET

Old Maggie, Old Erin and Old Darwin sit on a fallen tree, looking out over the water. They can see the village in the distance.

OLD ERIN

Do you ever regret it? Choosing us
over her?

OLD MAGGIE

I didn't choose you. You chose me.

Old Maggie smiles.

OLD MAGGIE (CONT'D)

And I'm glad you did.

They both smile at each other, and watch the sun set between the two mountains.