

STARLIGHTS

Written by:

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TEASER**EXT. CITY STREETS - MAGIC CITY - EARLY MORNING**

The dawn is just starting to...well, *dawn*, as CARO (20s, pink hair) whips her hair through MAGIC CITY on a bike.

It's similar to New York City, but overgrown with ivy, and infested with pixies instead of pigeons.

Magical creatures, witches and warlocks of all stripes go about their business, leaping out of the way of Caro until she COLLIDES with a market worker, who had been hauling boxes full of newt's eyes. All motion pauses as the eyes go everywhere.

CARO (V.O.)
As far back as I can remember, I
always wanted to be unique.

Motion resumes.

Caro speeds on, shouting over her shoulder.

CARO
Sorry! I'm already late! But I'm
really sorry!

She's so busy apologizing she almost runs into someone else.

CARO (CONT'D)
Sorry! I was apologizing to the
other lady, and I-

It happens a third time.

CARO (CONT'D)
Ack! SORRY!

She pulls over to the side of the road in defeat, a trail of chaos behind her.

CARO (CONT'D)
But over the years I've learned...
I'm just not.

She pulls on on a pointy black witch's hat and fastens the chin strap underneath. A belated safety measure.

CARO (V.O.)
I mean, sure, I'm a witch who can
do all kinds of crazy magic, blah
blah blah, but so is everybody
right? I want to be *special*.

Caro folds up her bike and tucks it into her purse (it's magic, don't worry).

She walks toward **STARLIGHTS**, an ALCHEMY SHOP.

CARO
But I can't be. Not while I work
here.

A quick, bouncy tour around the neighborhood shows that the STARLIGHTS where Caro works, is one of FIVE in its immediate vicinity. It's a ubiquitous CHAIN STORE.

CARO (V.O.)
There's a Starlights on every
corner.

She sighs and pushes open the door.

CARO (V.O.)
Each one with a nobody like me to
run it.

INT. STARLIGHTS - FRONT ROOM

With a wave of her hand, Caro miserably sends flames dancing into lamps and candles throughout the store, revealing rows and rows of neatly arranged, colorful, bubbling, boiling, popping potions.

She conjures cleaning supplies that set to work scrubbing down shiny apparatuses & instruments that are built for brewing potions, and snaps to sort ingredients that jump together in their like: crystals, bones, string, slime and eyes.

A cat meow and jumps out of her way as Caro plops down on the floor, exhausted from half a minute's labor, and surveys her work.

CARO (V.O.)
It's all just so *ordinary*.

The cat yawns, revealing HUGE MOUNTAIN LION teeth inside its mouth, before closing it again and licking its lips. Caro doesn't react.

CARO (V.O.)
I've got to get out. And I've got a
plan.

END TEASER AND
SMASH CUT TO:

INT. STARLIGHTS - BACK ROOM

In a dusty storage room (a sharp contrast to the impressive showroom up front) Caro stands in front of her co-workers ZUMA (20s, gothish), BRAEDEN (20s, jockish), and DIZZY (20s, nervous-ish).

CARO
CARPETS!

She shows her bored-looking co-workers a pile of dusty carpets. Braeden immediately matches her energy.

BRAEDEN
(Aussie accent)
Roight-oh! So stoked for ya, mate!
(beat)
Why, though?

CARO
They're MAGIC carpets!
They can fly. I enchanted them
myself.

ZUMA
And?

CARO
I'm gonna sell them on the side and
use the money to finally get out of
here! Anyone wanna try?

ZUMA
Eh.. we're indoors.

CARO
(a little crushed)
We could go outdoors.

Zuma, Dizzy and Braeden look at each other.

ZUMA, DIZZY, BRADEN
Eh....

They're interrupted by a RINGTONE of ominous, deathly music coming from Zuma's pocket.

Zuma pulls out a palm-sized MAGIC ORB, the cell phones of this world. It's glowing red.

ZUMA
Sorry. It's just this guy calling
to collect on my debt.

She goes to put it away.

DIZZY
Shouldn't you- uh- shouldn't you
you answer it?

Zuma looks at it, considering. It rings again and Dizzy FLINCHES.

ZUMA
Meh.

She tosses it dismissively over her shoulder.

CARO
So then we can go outdoors?

ZUMA, DIZZY, BRADEN
Eh....

DING. A bell chimes up front as a customer enters the shop.

EARLY BIRD (O.S.)
Hello? Anyone here?

Caro SIGHS.

CARO
Nevermind. First customer's here.

A beat. They all stare at each other.

CARO (CONT'D)
Well is anyone gonna go help them!?

BRADEN	ZUMA
Weren't we going outdoors?	You know I'm really feeling outdoors.

DIZZY
Hate doors.

Caro rage-sighs, and stomps out of the room.

INT. STARLIGHTS - FRONT ROOM

Caro enters the front room, where EARLY BIRD (A giant bird, of course) is waiting for service.

CARO
Good morning, Early Bird.

EARLY BIRD
Hopefully I don't *catch* a worm from
one of your potions.

He throws his head back and CACKLES like a crow.

Caro fake laughs awkwardly.

CARO
That joke is funny every time you
make it.

EARLY BIRD
I know, that's why I keep doing it!

BACK TO:

INT. BACK ROOM

Zuma taps on her orb as Braeden and Dizzy talk lazily, tossing a fuzzy ball with eyes back and forth.

Zuma's orb glows red again and starts playing the same menacing ringtone as before.

BRAEDEN
Is that the same bloke again?

ZUMA
Yeah, yeah-
(puts on a deep voice)
"Your time is up, the debt must be
paid, if not in gold than it will
be paid in blood"
(normal voice)
- same old, same old.

DIZZY
What was that part about - about
the blood?

ZUMA

I should've listened to my mom, she told me to major in something more useful than science. I hear you can make bank in astrology.

BACK TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM

Caro is still talking to Early Bird.

CARO

I know you like routines, like coming here every day, and always exactly three minutes before we officially open.

Early Bird pecks at the lip of his freshly brewed potion, trying to open the flap.

EARLY BIRD

Mm-hmm.

CARO

But, why not try something different every once in a while?
(sales voice)
I have a product in the back that could totally change your life--

EARLY BIRD

Skip the spiel, I need to be early to work after this. What is it this week?

CARO

Flying- wait for it- carpets!

A beat.

Then Early Bird pointedly lifts up his wings.

EARLY BIRD

Caro, I'm a bird. I can fly.

Caro's shoulders fall.

CARO

Oh yeah.

EARLY BIRD

But I'll be back tomorrow, and you
can tell me your next idea.

Early Bird spreads his wing, knocking over some potions in
the process, and flies out of the store.

He calls back over his shoulder.

EARLY BIRD (O.S.) (CONT'D)

One of 'em's gonna be a winner, I
can feel it!

Caro slumps over the counter, resting her head on her arms.

CARO

I can't.

Zuma enters from the back room, tapping on her orb, which is
flashing a CORPORATE BLUE color.

ZUMA

Corporate says we have to go on a
quest.

Caro leaps up in anger.

CARO

A quest!? Today!? Ugh I don't have
TIME for a quest!

Zuma looks around.

ZUMA

Why, what are you doing?

Caro slumps again.

CARO

Moping.

Braeden comes out of the back room, pushing Dizzy.

BRAEDEN

Guys, I just found out, Dizzy here
has never had a love potion.

ZUMA

No way, never!?

DIZZY

Aren't they, like, dangerous?

ZUMA
They only last an hour.

CARO
It's fake love.

BRAEDEN
Yeah, real love takes work.

Braeden hands him a pepto pink bottle.

BRAEDEN (CONT'D)
Cheers!

DIZZY
Who- who would I fall in love
with??

BRAEDEN
Whoever drinks the other half. You
can even give it to the cat if
you'd like.

The cat bears it's giant monster teeth.

DIZZY
I would not like.

Caro grabs the bottle out of his hand and puts it back on the
shelf.

CARO
Not today, fellas. Zuma and I have
to go on this annoying quest from
corporate, no falling in love while
we're gone.

Zuma and Caro exit.

DIZZY
So, if you fall in love with
whoever drinks the other half, if I
drink the whole bottle will I love
myself?

BRAEDEN
(heartbroken for him)
Oh, mate.

EXT. MAGIC CITY - STREETS

Caro and Zuma fly on one of Caro's magic carpets. Zuma is
clinging on for dear life.

REVEAL: They're only 18 inches off the ground.

CARO
Zuma, if you're afraid of heights,
why did you even agree to take the
magic carpet?

ZUMA
You just seemed so proud of it!

CARO
Nevermind.

She hops off the magic carpet, helps Zuma (still clinging to her) off it, and rolls it up.

CARO (CONT'D)
I guess we'll just walk to the
fires of doom at the edge of the
known world.

They start to walk.

ZUMA
These aren't the fires of doom that
are atop the tallest mountain are
they? Cuz if so I won't be much
help.

CARO
UGH.

INT. STARLIGHTS - FRONT ROOM

Braeden mans the counter as a customer (an older WIZARD in star-striped robes) tries to decide what to order, weighing a green bottle and a slightly lighter green bottle in his hands.

He shoves the bottles toward Braeden.

WIZARD
Which do you prefer?

Braeden looks at them. One label advertises itself as "TURN INTO A FROG!", the other as "TURN INTO A *TREE* FROG!"

BRAEDEN
Can't say I've ever tried either.

WIZARD
Really? You've gotta! Oh, it makes
for a fabulous Saturday night.

(MORE)

WIZARD (CONT'D)
Or Tuesday morning. Really any
time. It's better to be a frog.

A SERIES OF CRASHING SOUNDS come from the back room.

BRAEDEN
Uh - I'll be right back.

WIZARD
No problem.

He weighs up the potions.

WIZARD (CONT'D)
This decision can't be rushed.

INT. BACK ROOM

Dizzy is stumbling around the room, crashing into the walls,
dancing with a full-length mirror.

DIZZY
I LOVE MYSELF!

Braeden face-palms.

BRAEDEN
You drank the whole potion, didn't
you?

DIZZY
If I did, it was an *amazing*
decision! Because I'm a wonderful
person who makes excellent choices!

Braeden grabs the mirror away from him and forcibly sits him
down on the couch.

He grabs a potion labelled "LOVE POTION ANTIDOTE", screws on
a spray-bottle top and then SPRITZES it in Dizzy's face, as
if he's a misbehaving cat.

Dizzy pauses, shakes his head, and comes back to himself.

DIZZY (CONT'D)
Aw, man.

He puts his head in his hands.

DIZZY (CONT'D)
I'm such an IDIOT.

BRAEDEN

Don't be too hard on yourself,
everyone's gone overboard with a
love potion at least once.

DIZZY

I was just hoping to get my
confidence up before tonight.

BRAEDEN

Are you meeting someone special?

DIZZY

No, I'll be completely alone and
chained to a wall.

Pause.

DIZZY (CONT'D)

I'm a *werewolf*. It's the full moon
tonight.

A flash of light emanates from the door to the front room,
accompanied by a *RIBBIT*.

BRAEDEN

Ah!

(re:werewolf business)

We'll circle back on this!

Braeden runs out.

INT. FRONT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

There's a frog on the counter and no wizard in sight.

Braeden yells at the frog.

BRAEDEN

Hey, you gotta pay for that, mate!

RIBBIT. The unbothered frog hops off.

EXT. TOP OF THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN

As they crest the top of the tallest mountain, Caro is
carrying Zuma on her back, and Zuma has her hands covering
her eyes.

Caro unceremoniously dumps her on the ground.

CARO
(shortly)
We're here.

She looks around.

WHISPERING WINDS twist through the stony, jagged mountaintop
carrying wisps of snow.

It's absolutely empty, nothing to be seen.

Caro and Zuma shiver, teeth chattering.

ZUMA
Are you sure this is the right
mountain?

CARO
Don't even joke about that.

ZUMA
I wasn't joking, maybe you took a
wrong turn.

CARO
Says the girl who had her eyes
closed!

The winds stop whispering, and begin to swirl all together
until they form into the shape of: DOOM, a woman in a suit
with well-coiffed hair.

DOOM
(cheerily)
Hello!

ZUMA
Who are you and why did you just
solidify from nothingness?

DOOM
I'm Doom, I'm a corporate lawyer.

CARO
You're Doom? So we are at the right
place...
(Looks around)
Why is it called The Fires?

DOOM
Oh, cuz you're all fired.

CARO
WHAT!?

Doom flourishes a wrist, conjures a bunch of PINK SLIPS and starts handing them out.

DOOM

This is your notice, please give
one out to each of your little
friends too. Your Starlights
location is closing and you're all
being let go. I hope you have a
great day! Toodle-oo!

With that, Doom twists up into the air and vanishes in a puff of smoke.

In the silence, Zuma's orb RINGS again ominously.

INT. STARLIGHTS - FRONT ROOM

Braeden mans the counter.

Dizzy sits beside him, staring into his orb.

A figure in Dizzy's orb is leading him through some calming breathing exercises.

DIZZY'S ORB

Breathe, and be at peace.

He tries, but his breath is shaky.

There's a distance shattering sound coming from the shelves of potions, and customer BEETLE WINGS (a guy with beetle wings) runs up to the counter.

BEETLE WINGS

Hey, could I have some paper
towels? My grandma just spilled
some acid and it's eating through
to the earth's core.

Braeden hands him some and Beetle Wings leaves.

DIZZY

How are paper towels gonna help?

Braeden look at him strangely.

BRAEDEN

They're magic paper towels. Like
all paper towels in Magic City.

DIZZY

Oh, right. Sorry, my head's not in the game today.

BRAEDEN

Haven't you done this transforming thing hundreds of times by now?

Dizzy laughs.

DIZZY

I might be a werewolf, but I'm new.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. NON-MAGIC CITY - CITY PARK

An average city.

DIZZY (V.O.)

I was just a regular human a few months ago.

Dizzy is walking, minding his own business, tossing a baseball around.

DIZZY (V.O.)

But then I got bit by this random wolf-

A FERAL, RED-EYED WOLF LEAPS out of the bushes, SNARLS at Dizzy - and then nips him lightly on the big toe.

DIZZY (V.O.)

And all of a sudden this secret city popped up out of nowhere--

MAGIC CITY grows up all around him, REVEALED now that he is a magical creature.

DIZZY (V.O.)

And everyone says I belong here, but I don't feel like I belong here!

Dizzy runs all around the city, freaking out and screaming at each new discovery: ogres, centaurs, flying broomsticks and more.

They're all nothing but nice to him, smiling and waving and even reaching out for hugs. But he dodges it all.

DIZZY (V.O.)
I don't feel like I belong
anywhere.

BACK TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM

Braeden's not having it.

BRAEDEN
You belong here, mate! Of course
you do. And everything's gonna be
fine.

EXT. MUSHROOM FOREST

Zuma and Caro walk through a beautiful, charming mushroom
forest. Well, Zuma walks. Caro STOMPS.

CARO
Everything's ruined forever!

ZUMA
I thought you didn't want to work
at Starlights?

CARO
I don't! But I can't stop yet, I
haven't sold a single magic carpet.

ZUMA
Yeah and you probably never will
either. People just don't like 'em
that much.

CARO
Thanks Zuma!

ZUMA
You can't be angry in the mushroom
forest though, Caro, look how
beautiful it is.

It is indeed beautiful.

CARO
I'll be angry anywhere I want.

ZUMA
No, I mean-

Zuma grabs her arm and looks at her seriously.

ZUMA (CONT'D)
You *can't* be angry in the mushroom
forest. Or else you'll
attract...attention.

CARO
From who? AH!

She gets her answer when she nearly TRIPS over an army of
gnomes that have assembled before her.

ZUMA
Uh-oh.

The gnomes are red-faced and steaming mad, some with actual
steam coming out of their ears.

ZUMA (CONT'D)
They've already taken on your
energy.

A lead gnome yells out.

LEAD GNOME
Who deserves our wrath!?

The rest start leaping and cheering, and a chorus of voices
join in.

GNOME 1	GNOME 2
We'll have vengeance!	Overthrow oppressors!

GNOME 3
Gnome revolution!

CARO
I don't see how this is so bad.
Hey, do any of you know where
Starlights corporate headquarters
is?

ZUMA
Uh, behind a bunch of giant
enchanted gates you'll never get
past.

CARO
Maybe not without my gnome army.

ZUMA
Gnome armies are useless. They're
just-

One flying gnomes hits her in the face.

ZUMA (CONT'D)
Ugh, annoying.

LEAD GNOME
We will carry you to the
headquarters!

The gnomes forcibly pick up Zuma and Caro in a rolling wave of gnomes.

LEAD GNOME (CONT'D)
And from there, revolution!

The gnomes CHEER.

INT. STARLIGHTS

Dizzy is scrolling through info on werewolves on his orb. It's all very unflattering.

Braeden looks over his shoulder.

BRAEDEN
Still dwelling?

DIZZY
What do you know, Braeden? You've never not belonged. I can't even do magic! My only "power" is sometimes I turn into a wolf, and it's *scary*! People don't think it's scary when you are the wolf, but I am still scared of wolves! I saw my reflection in a puddle and I FLIPPED OUT.

Braeden claps a hand on his shoulder and looks at him seriously.

BRAEDEN
You *belong* everywhere, Dizzy. Everyone does. You can choose where you wanna be, but don't let anyone else choose for you.

Dizzy sniffles.

DIZZY
What do you know?

The atmosphere around Braeden turns ominous.

BRAEDEN

My mom was a powerful warlord, the head of an evil magical regime that almost brought darkness to cover the earth.

His sunny disposition is back.

BRAEDEN (CONT'D)

But I choose not to be like that.

Then it darkens again.

BRAEDEN (CONT'D)

But our bloodlines eternal curse remains.

Brightens again.

BRAEDEN (CONT'D)

I'm not complaining though.

Dizzy looks wary, but Beetle Wings interrupts by coming back to the counter.

BEETLE WINGS

Just letting you know I got most of it. But just a heads up, there's still an 18,000 foot hole near the bathroom.

The sound of tripping and falling comes from off-screen, then a screammmmmmm...

BEETLE WINGS (CONT'D)

Oh no, Grandma!

He leaps into the air, flying to her rescue.

BEETLE WINGS (CONT'D)

I'll save youuuuuuu...

DIZZY

Should we help them?

Braeden shrugs.

BRAEDEN

We've got our own problems, Dizzy.

EXT. ENCHANTED GATES

The gnomes have carried Zuma and Caro to the enchanted gates, which are pearly pink and as high as the sky.

The gnomes are launching themselves at the gates to no avail. It's like throwing cheese puffs at a brick wall.

ZUMA

I'm telling you, they won't let us in.

CARO

They have to.

The sky darkens around Zuma, a storm cloud forms just for her. A menacing voice emanates from it. Zuma covers her ears as it booms out.

MENACING VOICE

Zuma, due to your repeated ignoring of my calls, your debt has been sent to collections. That means I'll be collecting it. Soon. Expect me!

The storm cloud withdraws.

ZUMA

Caro, come on, let's just go. It's hopeless, and I've gotta get another job. I heard it pays good to be dragon bait.

Caro lifts her hand, and the gnomes stop all at once.

She addresses them.

CARO

Please go home, sweet gnomes.

She starts to hand out magic carpets for them to ride.

CARO (CONT'D)

This isn't over, but your part in it is done. It's time for me to go home too.

ZUMA

Giving up?

CARO

No. I'm going to do the one thing
that's left to do. The one thing I
hoped I'd never have to do.

Her eyes narrow.

CARO (CONT'D)

I'm going to call the customer
support line.

INT. STARLIGHTS

Caro throws open the door to Starlights like it's a saloon.

She marches over to a corner and pulls a velvet shawl off of
a GLOWING ORB - this one the regular size of a fortune
teller's orb, resting on a table. A landline.

DIZZY

What's she doing?

ZUMA

She's calling corporate.

BRAEDEN

Why would you ever?

Zuma hands him & Dizzy the pink slips.

ZUMA

Cuz they fired us all and are
disappearing the building at 6pm.

CARO

And I'd like to lodge a **complaint.**

Caro taps on the orb, it rings once and a robotic, corporate
voice answers.

CORPORATE VOICE

Thank you for calling Starlights
customer support. Your call is
important to us. You are number-
(different voice)

-one billion-

(regular voice)

-in line.

Tinny, grainy magical organ music starts to play from the
orb.

BRAEDEN
Bloody hell, it's excruciating!

DIZZY
My ears! I have super hearing!

CARO
(grimly)
Stay strong, guys. It's doing what
it's supposed to do.

ZUMA
(to Dizzy)
Why do you have super hearing? Are
you some kind of bat hybrid?

DIZZY
Close, I'm actually a werewolf.

ZUMA
That's not close.

DIZZY
Just because I'm a werewolf doesn't
mean I'm not polite.

CARO
It's a full moon tonight, Dizzy!
Where are you staying?

DIZZY
Was hoping to stay here, since we
have a full set of chains in the
back room.

CARO
We do?

BRAEDEN
Best not to worry about why.

DIZZY
But if we're getting shut down, I
need to find somewhere else,
quickly. But where??

The whole atmosphere changes and becomes darker as a VAMPIRE
LORD swings into the shop.

His voice reveals him to be the same person that's been
calling Zuma.

VAMPIRE LORD
(stereotypical accent)
I've come to suck your blood--
(accents stops)
God, what's that terrible noise?

In the background, Caro dives toward the back room and drags Zuma with her.

Braeden and Dizzy run interference.

BRAEDEN
We're on hold with corporate.

DIZZY
It's worse for me.

VAMPIRE LORD
No, it's worse for me. I'm a bat hybrid.

He transforms into a bat. The bat SQUEALS in pain, falls to the ground, then transforms back.

The vampire lord rubs his ears to try to help the pain.

VAMPIRE LORD (CONT'D)
Ah, I shouldn't have transformed into a bat just to prove a point!

He stands.

VAMPIRE LORD (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'm here to collect on a blood debt. Where's Zuma?

INT. BACK ROOM

Caro and Zuma are hiding in the back room.

They're whisper-fighting, as Caro gathers garlic, stakes, anything she can think of that might stop a vampire.

ZUMA
He's here for me, I should just go talk to the dude.

CARO
He's not a *dude*, he's a vampire lord!

ZUMA

Well I'm not gonna call him a lord,
I don't believe in hereditary
titles.

CARO

It's not hereditary, it's based on
his level of power! Which is HIGH.
Why would you borrow money from
him??

ZUMA

For my science degree!

Caro sighs.

CARO

Your mom was right, that was
stupid.

ZUMA

What's he gonna do? Drain all the
blood from my body?

CARO

Probably! Yeah!

ZUMA

Then bring it on.

Zuma pulls a WAND down out of her sleeve.

ZUMA (CONT'D)

You know, there's another reason me
majoring in science was stupid--

She draws the wand across her face like a blade.

ZUMA (CONT'D)

--it's because I'm already an
incredible witch.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT ROOM

The entire front room starts over-blooming with GARLIC -
bulbs grow and burst over everything.

Stacked eyes as Zuma and Caro peer out from the back room
into the front room, to see if it's working.

VAMPIRE LORD
It's not working.

He locks eyes with them.

VAMPIRE LORD (CONT'D)
That rumors got started because
Dracula was allergic. The rest of
us are fine.

Zuma LEAPS OUT of the backroom, brandishing her wand.

ZUMA
Hyyy-yaaaah!

She sends a lightning bolt at him, but he transforms into
bat to dodge.

It shatters a shelf of potions instead.

The bat drops to the ground again, twitching, and transforms
back into the Vampire Lord.

VAMPIRE LORD
Can you turn off the stupid hold
music!?

He makes a move toward the orb but Caro dives in his path to
block him.

CARO
Never! We'll never get our place in
line back.

The vampire lord lunges at her, but Zuma yanks him back with
a magical lasso she's conjured.

He turns to attack her, but Caro casts a protective shield
over her.

Braeden cheers from the sideline.

BRAEDEN
Go ladies! I'd help out, but not
allowed to use magic as a condition
of my mum's parole!

DIZZY
Uh, Braeden--

Dizzy lifts a hand that is rapidly becoming a paw.

DIZZY (CONT'D)
I think the full moon is rising.

Zuma and Caro fight the Vampire Lord, casting and dodging spells that explode all over, decimating the shops very breakable potions.

Caro narrowly avoids falling into the hole in aisle three, as Zuma narrowly avoids getting her neck chomped into by the Vampire Lord.

Caro casts some wind that knocks him backward, right at the feet - well, paws - of a now fully transformed WOLF DIZZY.

Braeden is hugging him uselessly around the middle, his feet dangling off the floor, as Wolf Dizzy snarls and growls.

BRAEDEN

Dizzy, no, we're your friends!
Except for the vampire, actually,
if you wanna get him.

Dizzy lunges out at everyone, indiscriminately attacking the crowd.

VAMPIRE LORD

A WEREWOLF!? DISGUSTING! Those
hideous claws aren't getting
anywhere near me!

The vampire lord flies from the shop, turning into a bat on his way out.

EXT. MAGIC CITY - CITY STREETS

The bat turns and looks back.

BAT

(squeaking noises)

Subtitles reveal he's saying:

"I'll be back. I always collect my debts."

Then he turns and flies directly into a stop sign, falling to the ground.

BACK TO:

INT. STARLIGHTS

Wolf-Dizzy has backed his three best friends into a corner inside the destroyed shop.

All of a sudden, on the other end of the store, the orb is taken off hold.

HUMAN VOICE

Hello?

The three of them freeze. They have to get to that phone. They BREAK in three directions, and Caro reaches the phone.

She screams into the orb as Zuma and Braeden behind her use magical ropes to take down their good friend.

CARO

This is Caro from Location 261126Z-B, and YOU CAN'T FIRE US! C'mon, please! Dizzy needs a safe place to transform, Braeden needs friends to keep him on the straight and narrow, Zuma owes so much money to a freakin' vampire and I-

She takes a deep breath.

CARO (CONT'D)

I just bought SO. MANY. CARPETS!
Please!

For a moment there's no response.

CARO (CONT'D)

Hello?

CORPORATE VOICE

This is the Starlights customer support line.

CARO

NO!

But then it continues.

CORPORATE VOICE

To prevent the closure of this location, you must meet the sales minimum. To do so, you must sell
(deep voice)

-one-

(regular voice)

-additional item before the close of the business day at 6pm.

The orb projects a red-colored clock, counting down to 6pm.

CARO

Thank you! Thank you, thank you, th-
- OOF!

Caro is shoved from behind as one of Wolf Dizzy's giant paws collide with her.

Zuma and Braeden haven't managed to tame him. Caro cowers before him, he lifts a clawed hand and --

The CAT leaps in front of Caro and BEARS ITS MONSTROUS TEETH.

CAT

MEOW.

Wolf Dizzy cowers immediately, whimpering like a dog with its tail between its legs.

Zuma and Braeden seize the opportunity to tie him to a chair.

As soon as they manage to do so, the front door bell chimes DING, and a customer walks in.

Not just any customer: Early Bird.

And his right wing is a SLING. He surveys the damage

EARLY BIRD

Are you open?

Caro checks the clock.

CARO

We close in three minutes.

EARLY BIRD

Plenty of time, then.

He addresses Caro.

EARLY BIRD (CONT'D)

Caro, after I mocked your business idea earlier it seems I was hit by a case of the "instant-karmas", by which I mean, hit by a bus, and broke my wing.

He lifts his sling for emphasis.

EARLY BIRD (CONT'D)

So if they're still available - which let's be honest, they will be - I'd love to purchase a magic carpet.

CARO

Oh great!
(realizing)
(MORE)

CARO (CONT'D)
But that wouldn't be a Starlights
purchase.

EARLY BIRD
No, it would be from your new
business. I thought you wanted to
get out of here?

Then she spies a potion on a shelf, one of the few
miraculously intact.

CARO
What about this?

She hands him the potion.

CARO (CONT'D)
"Wing re-growth". It'll bring your
wings back in no time.

EARLY BIRD
You don't want to sell me a carpet?

Caro thinks for a moment, looking around at all her friends.
She needs them and they need her.

CARO
I think this is more what you need.

EARLY BIRD
Well thank you.

He takes the potion.

EARLY BIRD (CONT'D)
You know you're good at this job.
You're a real special person.

Caro's eyes brim with tears.

CARO
Thank you.

He flips her a coin. The clock that the orb was projecting
turns GREEN and turns off.

Early Bird glugs the potion, fixes his wing, and flies off.

BRAEDEN
Caro, that was unbelievable!

ZUMA
You saved us!

Wolf Dizzy growls harshly and lunges at her, but is held back by the chains.

BRAEDEN
He doesn't mean that.

CARO
Thanks, guys.

She looks around at the destroyed store.

CARO (CONT'D)
Can anyone stay late to help clean up?

Zuma, Braeden and even somehow Wolf Dizzy seem to speak in unison:

ZUMA, DIZZY, BRAEDEN
Eh...

OUT.

TAG:

INT. STARLIGHTS

Caro is cleaning up alone when Beetle Wings and his grandma emerge from the hole in aisle three, both slightly singed with lava

BEETLE WINGS
Don't worry about us, we're just fine.

CARO
OMG!

BEETLE WINGS
Oh, I realize that sounded sarcastic, but I meant it, we're fine.

They leave and he calls over his shoulder.

BEETLE WINGS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
See ya tomorrow, Caro!

She sighs and gets back to scrubbing.