

ACT TWOINT. LIVINGROOM

The scene that greets Rayella stops her in her tracks.

In front of the door, her mom stands with Elayna making small-talk. Bernyce looks up as Rayella enters the room.

BERNYCE

Your friend from school is here to
pick something up.

Elayna cracks an unnervingly wide smile. She waggles her fingers in Rayella's direction.

ELAYNA

Hi, Rayella! I'm here to pick up my
little fiends, I mean friends.

Rayella lunges at Elayna before she could get another word out, her fear of being touched gone.

Elayna's mouth drops open in surprise before Rayella collides with her. They scrabble together, but Rayella has the upper hand, landing in a few good blows before her mother pulls her off.

BERNYCE

WHAT THE HELL HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU!?

She pins Rayella's arms to her side and stares at her. Angry tears course down Rayella's face, but her glare remains the same.

RAYELLA

She's the wi--witch, she's the one
that made Mrs.-- Mrs. Nigels sick!

BERNYCE

You need to stop it with this witch
stuff!

RAYELLA

But!

ELAYNA

I can't *believe* you would attack
me!

EDGAR

It's aggressive, don't come near!
Get Rayella away!

RAYELLA

MRS. NIGELS IS BLEEDING!

Mrs. Nigels lays crumpled in the bed, blood coming from the corner of her mouth. Her breath rattles in her throat.

RAYELLA (CONT'D)

MRS. NIGELS! Don't die please!

She runs over to the bedside. Edgar takes a couple of steps in her direction, arm outstretched.

The creature ignores Rayella. The moment Edgar moves it lunges at him, fangs bared.

BERNYCE

ED-!

The small monster sinks its teeth and claws into Edgar's arm. Blood spills from the cuts as it crawls up his arm. He uses his other hand to ward it away from his face.

ELAYNA

It's so big already! It's very strong, my familiar!

Elayna cheers from the doorway, her smile splitting her face open. She gives a high pitched laugh.

ELAYNA (CONT'D)

It needs to eat now and your dad's on the menu!

Among the chaos, Bernyce runs out of the room, roughly shoving Elayna aside. Elayna emits a hiss, but doesn't follow.

EXT. BACKYARD

Bernyce tears out the backdoor and searches the yard. She heads toward the bleached yard shed and yanks on the door. A silver lock glints on the handle.

She fumbles with the lock trying to remember the right combination.

BERNYCE

Of all the times to panic-- YES!

The lock clicks and falls to the ground. The inside of the shed is dusty and covered in cobwebs. Garden tools are strewn about.

Bernyce reaches for a rusty shovel, knocking down other tools in the process. She grips the shovel firmly and heads back into the house.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM

Edgar throws the rodent creature to the opposite side of the room right as Bernyce enters with the shovel pointed to the floor.

The monster lands in the corner next to where Rayella stands next to Mrs. Nigels. It hisses and readies its body to lunge.

BERNYCE
RAYELLA, DOWN!

Rayella hits the floor immediately, hands over her ears. Bernyce swings the shovel back and slices it through the air.

The blade catches the creature directly through the chest and head, it explodes in a small splatter of blood.

ELAYNA
NO! My baby!

She runs over to the body and picks it up. Blood drips on her bright yellow jumper.

ELAYNA (CONT'D)
Ah, my poor baby!
(to Rayella)
This is all your fault!

Elayna raises a hand to Rayella and freezes at the metallic sound of the shovel tapping the ground.

BERNYCE
Hands above your head. Turn around
slowly.

Elayna obeys.

ELAYNA
You can't do anything to me, you
know. I'm the only one who knows
how to get the familiar out.

She motions her head towards Rayella. Rayella opens her mouth to speak, but hiccups in response.