**WORKED TO DEATH**

FADE IN

**INT. ST. MINERVA’S MAGICAL ACADEMY, CLASSROOM-- DAY**

Rows of teenage students sitting at desks fill the **MAGICAL RUNES** classroom.

They are all wearing the same uniform.

The teacher walks down the rows of seats, passing back papers.

He gives **ODESSA** a stern look when he gets to her desk.

He lays a paper on her desk with a **RED F** on the top, her name scrawled on the top corner of the assignment.

Odessa scans the paper. Her shoulders droop.

She angrily shoves the paper in her bag.

CUT TO:

**INT. ACADEMY LIBRARY, ODESSA’S SPOT -- NIGHT**

Odessa sits in a cushy armchair with stacks of books and papers piled in front of her on a table.

The seat is next to a window that overlooks the lake and the forest that surrounds the school. The forest is green and lush.

The moon is high and Odessa looks tired; it’s been a long night. Her failed assignment is uncrumpled and lays among her study materials.

She is totally alone in the library.

CUT TO:

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- EVENING**

Odessa closes her book, still sitting in the same spot from before.

The leaves of the forest have changed to bright reds, oranges, and yellows among the green.

Odessa stands and walks away, leaving her stuff cluttering the table.

She passes through the different sections of the library. **POTIONS, DIVINATION, HEXOLOGY, ASTRONOMICS**, until she finally stops at the **ANCIENT RUNES** section.

She scans the shelves, finger trailing over the old and ornate spines of the books.

She stops and pulls out a book but hesitates, looking into the gap in the books.

A smaller book is crammed behind the one she just pulled out.

She reaches into the shelf and pulls out the dusty and slightly crumpled book.

Odessa dusts the cover off. It’s blank.

She opens the cover. **ADVANCED RUNES AND THEIR ORIGINS** is printed on the **TITLE PAGE**.

On the inside of the cover **PROPERTY OF LYZA ARCANICA** is written in dainty handwriting.

She tucks the book under her arm along with the other book and leaves the Ancient Runes section.

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- LATER THAT NIGHT**

Odessa flips through the first book she grabbed from the shelf earlier.

She taps her pen, which has a **CARTOON WEASEL** winding up the side, against her cheek and looks over to the Advanced Runes book that sits on the desk off to the side. She closes her book and grabs the Runes book.

She flips through the pages and a **STREAK OF GREY** shoots out of the book, terrifying Odessa. She throws the book and jumps out of her seat, clutching over her heart in fear.

Above the table floats a **GHOST**.

The ghost looks like a female student, wearing a uniform similar to Odessa’s. Instead of legs, her ghostly form ends in a wispy tail.

A beat. The two girls just stare at each other.

Suddenly the ghost hunches her shoulders, scared. She zips off and disappears amongst the shelves of the library.

Odessa doesn’t move for a second, still shocked. She shakes her head and sits back down and closes the Advanced Runes book with a **THUD**.

CUT TO:

**A SERIES OF SHOTS ALL AT ODESSA’S SPOT**

Odessa studying at night. Trees outside the window are losing leaves. The ghost hovers on the edge of the shot, observing Odessa.

All leaves have fallen. Odessa is frustrated. The ghost watches.

It’s snowing. Odessa shuffles through papers that have bad grades at the top. The ghost watches, a little closer now.

Snow piles up outside. Odessa sits with her head in her arms and the ghost drifts even closer.

CUT TO:

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- NIGHT**

Odessa sets down her bag at her table, a **HAND STITCHED WEASEL** adorning the strap of the bag.

She puts down a **CHRISTMAS FEAST** flier with the **SCHOOL CREST** at the top.

She is surprised to see there are already three books stacked on the table. She looks around curiously.

The ghost floats down into view and gives Odessa a shy smile. She motions to the books on the table and looks at her expectantly.

Odessa narrows her eyes and picks up one the of the books. A **BEGINNERS GUIDE TO RUNES AND RUNE IDENTIFICATIONS**. Odessa looks offended.

She shoves the three books out of the way and sits, pulling out her own books instead.

She ignores Ghost as she pushes the discarded books closer to Odessa.

Eventually, Ghost gives up and sadly floats away, leaving the three books.

CUT TO:

**INT. GREAT HALL -- DAY**

Odessa sits at a long table with lunch foods piled high on it.

She has dark bags under her eyes.

Her head rests in her hands as she pokes at the meal before her with a fork. Chatter from the other students fill the air but she doesn’t engage with them.

She starts to nod off, her head drooping and her eyes fluttering shut.

A **SHRILL RING** jerks her back awake and she glares up at the **FLOATING BELL** that’s signaling lunch is over.

She sighs and slings her bag over her shoulder.

She trudges out of the Great Hall with the rest of the students.

CUT TO:

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- LATE NIGHT**

Odessa slams her bag on the table, she slaps a paper with another F at the top along with a “SEE ME AFTER CLASS” note written on the top onto the table next to her bag.

Her eyes water with tears which she angrily rubs away.

The ghost slowly floats up behind Odessa, holding a book in her hands.

She gently nudges Odessa with the book, then jumps back as Odessa sharply turns, looking angry.

The ghost offers the book out and the cover reads **WEASELS FOR ALL OCCASIONS** with a goofy looking weasel in a pumpkin for the cover art.

Odessa sniffles and takes the book, a smile growing on her face. The ghost smiles, her head tilted to the side, watching.

Odessa sits in her chair and skims through the book, turning it to show the ghost some of the pictures inside.

She sets the book down and sighs, her anger from before gone.

She pulls out her textbooks from her bag and the Advanced Runes book falls onto the floor.

Ghost zips down and picks it up as Odessa is reaching for it.

She opens the book and points to the name written in the corner then she points at herself.

Odessa looks between the book and LYZA then holds her hand out for a handshake.

Lyza shakes her head and swipes her hand through Odessa’s, the ghostly hand easily passing through the flesh.

Odessa stares at her hand for a moment before dropping it and picking up her weasel pen and notebook, ready to work.

CUT TO:

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- NIGHT**

The snow is melting outside.

Odessa brings back a paper with a D on top and Lyza silently claps.

Odessa rubs the back of her neck, embarrassed.

She sits down and gets back to work.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY -- NIGHT**

Odessa walks along the empty rows of the library while Lyza floats next to her.

Odessa is carrying a steaming mug of hot chocolate and Lyza reaches out and corrals the steam towards her own face and manipulates it until she has a FUNNY MUSTACHE.

The two crack up laughing.

CUT TO:

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- NIGHT**

Odessa proudly shows Lyza a paper with a C as the grade.

Lyza does a little victory shimmy and Odessa laughs.

Outside all of the snow is gone and the trees are starting to bloom again.

Odessa sits and pulls out a calendar from her bag.

She points to that day’s date, then flips the page up for the next month where she has **FINALS WEEK** blocked off.

She is really worried.

Lyza smiles and holds her hand up for a high five but when Odessa goes to high five her, her hand passes through Lyza.

They both looked surprised for a moment before busting up laughing.

CUT TO:

**INT. CHARMS CLASSROOM -- DAY**

Odessa stands at the end of a line of five students at the front of the classroom.

Her hands shake, the tip of her wand trembling.

One by one the students perform the same charm flawlessly.

Odessa steps forward when it’s her turn and stares out at the class.

She pales.

She brings her hand up to start the charm too fast and her wand flies from her hand and clatters on the front row of desks.

She flushes and her eyes start to water as the class erupts in laughter. Even the teacher is trying to stifle a laugh.

She snatches her wand from the desk and runs from the room.

**INT. ODESSA’S SPOT -- LATE NIGHT**

Lyza floats back to the table while thumbing through a book and finds **PAPERS AND BOOKS SCATTERED EVERYWHERE** as if Odessa has swept them all from the table.

Odessa is weeping, her legs pulled up against her chest and her face hidden in her arms.

Lyza sets the book down on the table and floats down to be at eye level with Odessa.

Lyza reaches a hand out to comfort Odessa but it passes right through her shoulder.

Lyza’s shoulders sag and she sadly stares at her hands for a moment.

Lyza perks up with an idea and floats away.

Odessa looks up as a **WOOL BLANKET** is draped over her shoulders.

Odessa looks **EXHAUSTED**.

Odessa pulls the blanket tighter around her.

The two girls sit like that for a while, surrounded by the mess of study material.

CUT TO:

**INT. LIBRARY -- DAY**

The trees outside are lush and deep green, the sun high in the sky.

Odessa runs into the library, joy clear on her face.

She runs through the library quickly to the **ANCIENT RUNES** section. At the back end of the section is a dark corner with an empty table.

Odessa walks to the table and squats down.

Lyza is asleep under the table in a little nest of blankets. Odessa knocks on the top of the table and Lyza starts awake, looking around in surprise.

Odessa proudly holds out a thick packet of papers for Lyza to see.

On the top, a **BRIGHT RED B-** stands out against the pale paper.

Lyza jumps up and floats right through the table in her excitement.

She claps and tries to give Odessa a hug but just ends up flying right through her.

The two laugh and Odessa digs around in her bag. She pulls out a **WHITE, ALMOST TRANSLUCENT, GLOVE**.

Lyza watches, curious.

She pulls it on then steps forward and takes Lyza’s hand, lacing their fingers together.

Lyza is shocked and looks back and forth from their hands to Odessa’s face.

Odessa reaches back into her bag with her free hand and pulls out the Advanced Runes book.

She turns their entwined hands to show off an **INTRICATE RUNE PATTERNING** on the back of the glove.

Lyza examines the runes in wonder then surges forward and wraps her arms around Odessa in a hug, which Odessa returns happily.