

# ***UNCANNY COUNTY***

"Homecoming Queen of the Damned"

Episode 2-E

By: Todd Faulkner

# SCENE One:

SOUND: Door - with new-agey CHIME

KIMBER: This is the best one in the state?

TOPHER: That's what I'm told.

KIMBER: Thanks again for coming with me.

TOPHER: What's three and a half hours among friends? (beat)  
You're sure you want to do this?

KIMBER: It's imperative, Topher. The play was my last chance.

TOPHER: Kimber, you're gonna get Juliet!

KIMBER: The new girl doesn't get the lead. God, it smells like old ladies gardening.

TOPHER: That's patchouli. (beat) Hello. Anyone back there?

SOUND: Footsteps

GOTH CLERK: Salutations and welcome to Totally Witchin'. How may I serve you?

KIMBER: I want to be popular.

GOTH CLERK: (after a beat) Oh, is that all?

KIMBER: So you'll help me?

GOTH CLERK: No. (sizing her up) Out of your price range.

KIMBER: You don't understand. I was just getting somewhere in my old town, but we had to move –

GOTH CLERK: My heart bleeds.

KIMBER: I'm out of time - it's my senior year! This is supposed to be the best time of my life and if it is then my life really sucks.

TOPHER: So, whaddaya got? Some kind of spell - magic oils a naked ritual in the woods kind of -

KIMBER: We're not taking our clothes off.

TOPHER: I'm kidding! You're my friend-girl, not my girl friend. There's boundaries. I get that. (beat) But if it would help, then for your sake I would totally -

GOTH CLERK: No spells. Not for the likes of you. But maybe -

SOUND: Opens jewelry case, pulls out necklace

KIMBER: Whoa - It's beautiful. What kind of crystal is that?

GOTH CLERK: Trade secret. But the chain is 100% silver. Plated. Hold it.

KIMBER: Whoa.(beat) What does it do?

GOTH CLERK: Let's just say it will bring out the best "you" - and everyone will notice.

KIMBER: What's the catch?

GOTH CLERK: No catch, just a cost. A very. High. Cost.

TOPHER: Oooh. Tragically ironic misunderstandings? Be careful what you wish for - Too much of a good thing!!!

GOTH CLERK: Maybe. I don't know, They just came in. I just meant – you know – the cost.

KIMBER: Five hundred dollars? For a crystal charm?

GOTH CLERK: You're not paying for the charm. You're paying for the magic they put in it. I knew it wasn't for you.

KIMBER: I'll work in the store. Pay it off?

GOTH CLERK: No credit. No layaways.

KIMBER: There's no way I can possibly -

GOTH CLERK: Then you don't really want it. If you did, you'd find a way. Now give it here.

SOUND: She hands it back, he closes the cabinet

KIMBER: So if I was rich I could have it? That's so unfair! Rich kids get everything.

SOUND: Kids laughing

GOTH CLERK: (mock serious) Life's unfair? Aw...Did they teach you that in – (shouts, scrambles across the store) Ma'am - your kids can't play with - an athamé is not a toy!

KIMBER: Great. Come on, let's go.

SOUND: Slow footsteps out of the store. Door opens with chime.

KIMBER: Topher, are you coming?!?

TOPHER: (off mic) Yep. On my way! (closer) Thank you sir, you have a lovely establishment!

SOUND: Door closes. Street sounds.

TOPHER: Here. Take it.

KIMBER: What - How did you?

TOPHER: He didn't lock the case.

KIMBER: Topher!

TOPHER: He'll never notice. There's like twenty of them in there.

KIMBER: It's magic - we can't steal magic!

TOPHER: We can if we get out of here. Do you want it or not?

KIMBER: Yeah... (beat) Let's go - go!

MUSIC: 80s pop music - something Dark & Adam Ant-y

NARRATOR: 1985, Kimber Spaulding - the new girl at Heller High School - is convinced that if she just knew the right people and said the right things, her life would be a teenage dream. But if this magic charm does help her find her way to the "in-crowd," Kimber would do well to remember that not all dreams are happy ones - especially in Uncanny County...

## SCENE Two:

SOUND: Class BELL RINGS

SOUND: Teenagers released from class - Footsteps rushing into a hall

FRAN: Come on, Kimber - she said she'd post it before first period! Hey Toph.

TOPHER: Ladies. Mayhap thy should accustom thyselfes to calling me Romeo.

FRAN: Have you seen it?

TOPHER: I'm choosing to think positive. (to Kimber, sotto voce) How about you? Feeling any different today?

KIMBER: Invisible as always. Told you it wouldn't work.

TOPHER: We'll see. But you'll still get the part.

KIMBER: It's not my turn.

FRAN: It's not fair. You were the best.

TOPHER: Ms. Davenport's new, and she's for real – she was an actress in New York. Now that she's the drama teacher, the old rules don't apply.

FRAN: Tell that to Stacey Standish.

KIMBER: Maybe Rosalind? Or (dread) Lady Capulet?

FRAN: Oh god, here she comes ...

KIMBER: I can't look.

SOUND: Footsteps, heels on tile

MS. DAVENPORT: Before I post this, I just want you all to know that I had to make some very hard decisions. You all impressed me, some surprised me - and I think some of you are going to be surprised. Here we go...

SOUND: More HUBBUB. Some kids excited, some disappointed

FRAN: Nurse! Yes!

TOPHER: Paris? Who the hell's Paris?

KIMBER: I can't. I can't look. Just tell me. (beat) What? (beat)  
WHAT?

MS. DAVENPORT: Oh for Pete's sake - allow me...  
"For never was there a tale of such woe,  
Than that of KIMBER SPAULDING AND HER  
ROMEO!!!"

SOUND: A cheer from the kids, hubbub continues Kimber Spaulding is amazing!  
Did you see her at the callback? She's so cool!

KIMBER: Oh my god!

TOPHER: Is Paris a good part? Wait - Mitch Ryan is Romeo?

KIMBER: I got the part...

FRAN: This is bad.

TOPHER: You're gonna kiss Mitch Ryan?

KIMBER: (in shock) I actually got the part!

FRAN: It's not your turn...

KIMBER: Fran, you said I deserved it.

FRAN: But it's not your turn! There are implications.

KIMBER: It's just a play.

FRAN: Not to Stacey Standish! She's been in every play.  
She's a senior. It's. Her. Turn. And Mitch playing  
Romeo makes it ten times worse.

KIMBER: She likes Mitch?

FRAN: Yes, shockingly, the most popular girl in school likes  
the best looking guy in school. Where've you been?

KIMBER: Oh God, I am doomed.

FRAN: We're your friends, by association - we're all doomed.

TOPHER: Well, we're about to find out...Stacey Standish at  
2:00..

KIMBER: Oh god.

FRAN: I don't even have time to hurl.

SOUND: Footsteps as crowd settles. No hubbub. Silence.

STACEY: KIMBER SPAULDING?!?! (Beat) WHO THE HELL IS  
KIMBER SPAULDING?!?!

KIMBER: Hi... I'm Kimber.

SOUND: Magic twinkle effect

STACEY: Oh. (a change) Oh. (sincere)Hi. I – I – feel like I  
should hate you right now, but I don't. Somehow.  
(surprised, but accepting). You were the best one at  
the callback. And I don't know why I'm saying that out  
loud, it must just be that you're amazing, and I think  
you're awesome!

KIMBER: Thank you?

STACEY: You. Are. Welcome. And I'm – who's Lady Capulet?

FRAN: Her mom. You're – (meekly) her mom.

STACEY: AWESOME! I get to play your mom!!! (playfully) You  
better do your homework, young lady!

KIMBER: (weakly, a little afraid) Ok...

SOUND: They hug

STACEY: Let's do this! See you at rehearsal!

KIMBER: Yeah, bye!

SOUND: Some kids leave, but everyone's a little in shock

KIMBER: That was -

FRAN: Unprecedented.

KIMBER: Big time.

TOPHER: Pretty spiffy.

FRAN: Spiffy? No one, in the history of theatre, has ever  
been that happy to play Lady Capulet! No, she's –

plotting your doom – she must be! This isn't how it work- Stacey Standish -

TOPHER: – Is your biggest fan. You've arrived.

KIMBER: She seemed (disbelieving) sincere.

FRAN: If Heller High is Hell, then Stacey is the devil – remember Ellen Fleming?

TOPHER: They never proved that was Stacey.

FRAN: Tell that to Ellen's eyebrows. If they ever grow back. (dread) Oh god, it's gonna be Thunderdome in miniskirts.

TOPHER: Or – it's going to be fine. You know, like – magic.

KIMBER: Topher, you don't just magically – (realizing) Oh my god -

FRAN; Oh my what?

KIMBER: Nothing. (to Topher) You think?

TOPHER: Let's find out...

MUSIC: 80s pop music– reminiscent of "Venus" by Bananarama



## SCENE Three: MONTAGE

### SCHOOL HALLWAY

MUSIC: continues underneath

SOUND: Locker opens, high school hallway

KIMBER: I have an idea.

SOUND: Brushes hair, puts up pony tail

KIMBER: (meekly) How do I look?

TOPHER: Utterly ridiculous. But kinda hot.

KIMBER: I look like the dork to end all dorks.

TOPHER: It's cool! Well – it will be.

KIMBER: I have a ponytail on the side of my head. (beat) This was a bad idea.

SOUND: Girls laugh as they pass

KIMBER: See – SEE? I need to take this down now -

TOPHER: Wait –

KIMBER: Oh my god – they're – they're putting their hair in ponytails.

KIMBER/TOPHER: ON THE SIDE OF THEIR HEADS!

TOPHER: I Told you!

SOUND: CLASSROOM BELL

MUSIC: MUSIC SWELLS

### GYM SHOWER

COACH: I want your heads in the game this weekend – especially you, Mitch – can't have Romeo off mooning over his Juliet – got me?

MITCH: Got you, coach.

BRYCE: Seriously dude, you're like the luckiest dude in the whole school. Kimber Spaulding is so hot.

MITCH: She's more than that, Bryce. There's something about her...

BRYCE: And you get to kiss her in front of the whole school. Stacey's going to be so jealous.

MITCH: Who?

MUSIC: MUSIC SWELLS

### CAFETERIA

SOUND: Kids eating, laughing

FRAN: Kimber? You're sitting with Stacey Standish?

STACEY: As if. Kimber let me sit with her.

KIMBER: Join us, Fran!

STACEY: I love your hair like that!

FRAN: Thanks. Not sure why I – changed it... I feel kind of off-balance but (a discovery) in a good way.

SOUND: Intercom turns on

MR. MEL: (on intercom) Attention, attention everyone. We've added up your votes and your Heller High School Class President is – KIMBER SPAULDING!!!

SOUND: Cheers erupt from the table

KIMBER: Oh my god.

FRAN: You weren't even running –

KIMBER: I know!

SOUND: THEY ALL LAUGH AS CLASSROOM BELL RINGS

MUSIC: MUSIC SWELLS

### STUDY HALL

MYRA QUILL: (on tv) We're coming at you with all videos, all day, all night, this is Myra Quill on VTV. Coming up – well we've got a few surprises for you, including the first word about our big Homecoming surprise – do you have what it takes? Fall is in the air, and we're bringing the big bash to you. Find out more after this new hit from (static), coming in this week at number thirteen.

After “do you have what it takes?” the following overlaps

STACEY: Kimber's even cooler than Myra Quill!

TOPHER: Nobody's cooler than Myra Quill.

KIMBER: Quiet, I want to hear this one!

MR. MEL: (sharply) Hey! The only reason we're listening to VTV in study hall is because Kimber wants to – so why don't you all zip it, and let the girl listen!

KIMBER: Thanks, Mr. Mel!

SOUND: MUSIC SWELLS

## SCENE Four:

### MUSIC CONTINUES

SOUND: HALLWAY, Kids milling about

MR MEL: (on intercom) and don't forget about Homecoming next weekend, when our Heller High Hyenas will devour the Mud Creek Mole Rats!

FRAN: I'll bet you get homecoming queen.

KIMBER: No way.

STACEY: She'd be the ultimate homecoming queen.

KIMBER: Look, there's rules. You have to be in color guard, a cheerleader or in Pom Pom.

STACEY: (sarcastic) I think this is color guard's year.

FRAN: As if! Kimber was on Pom Squad at her old school.

STACEY: Oh god, I WISH you were on Pom Squad. It would be so much cooler.

FRAN: Her mom has her on videotape. She's amazing.

KIMBER: I'm all right. But tryouts were last year. C'est la vie.

FRAN: Tragic.

STACEY: So not fair. (beat) Wait! I've got it!

SOUND: SHE RUNS DOWN THE HALL, PUSHING PEOPLE OUT OF THE WAY

STACEY: Coming through, coming through!

KIMBER: Stacey – where are you - ?

FRAN: What are you - ?

KIMBER: OH MY GOD!

SOUND: STACEY SCREAMS AND THROWS HERSELF DOWN THE STAIRS

KIMBER: (after a beat) Stacey...?

## SCENE Five:

SOUND: hospital ambience

SOUND: MTV like jingle

MYRA QUILL: (on tv) Can you feel it? Fall's flying in, and that means one thing - Homecoming! And this year, VTV is bringing the party to you!

KIMBER: Hey Stacey.

STACEY: (slurred) Hey Kimber...

MYRA QUILL: (on tv) Think you're cool enough for a VTV Homecoming Bash?

SOUND: TV turns off

KIMBER: I just wanted to check on you. Make sure you're ok.

STACEY: (slurred, in pain) I'm fiiiiiiine. Ow.

KIMBER: I mean I – no. I came to find out why.

STACEY: (slurred) What do you mean...?

KIMBER: You threw yourself down the stairs. Why?

STACEY: (slurred) So you could be in pom pom. Duh. (beat) It worked, right?

KIMBER: Yeah, they – they put me in as an emergency replacement..

STACEY: Ta da... ahh (slurred, in pain) Totally worth it.

KIMBER: That's crazy. Don't you see that's crazy?

STACEY: (slurred) No you're crazy. You are. (falls asleep, SNORES)

KIMBER: Stacey – (to herself) I guess you could use the sleep.

SOUND: Knocking

TOPHER: Wow. That's a lot of plaster.

KIMBER: All thanks to me.

TOPHER: What? Whoa-whoa-whoa-whoa. This wasn't your fault.

KIMBER: Of course it was. I've got to stop this.

TOPHER: No, no – Stacey's always been –a little – unstable...

KIMBER: Unstable? She threw herself down two flights of stairs so I could be a pom pom girl!

TOPHER: Didn't you want to be on Pom Squad?

KIMBER: Not like that -

TOPHER: Look, Stacey's evil. She's always been evil, but she looks out for the people she cares about!

KIMBER: She doesn't know me. You know as well as I do, it's this charm! It's not right, we've got to do something, and we've got to do it now!

SOUND: Knocking

MITCH: Do what?

KIMBER: Mitch. Hi. I mean um... Hi.

MITCH: Hi.

TOPHER: (after a beat) Hi. Topher.

MITCH: Oh.

TOPHER: Funny story, we've never spok even though we've always been in the same class except for fifth gra-

MITCH: (to Kimber) So uh...

KIMBER: She's ok. Groggy, but ok.

MITCH: Who is?

KIMBER: Stacey. Stacey Standish? She fell down two flights of stairs.

MITCH: Oh yeah. Good. (beat) I mean – I came to see you.

KIMBER: Oh.

TOPHER: Really.

MITCH: (nervous) You need a ride to rehearsal?

KIMBER: My car's here.

MITCH: Oh. Yeah uh, that makes sense. (nervous, not stupid)  
Hey. Um. I know you're – you're really good at acting,  
and, and maybe you could uh help me with saying my  
lines. And – you know – how to say. Lines.

TOPHER: Or maybe basic English?

SOUND: Kimber thumps him with her elbow

TOPHER: Ow.

KIMBER: Happy to. When?

MITCH: I don't know. Uh, now?

KIMBER: OK.

MUSIC: Transitional music

## SCENE Six:

MUSIC      UNDERSCORE

SOUND:      Crickets, outdoor ambience

KIMBER (polished): *I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware,  
My true love's passion: therefore pardon me,  
And not impute this yielding to light love,  
Which the dark night hath so discovered.*

MITCH (stilted): *Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear  
That tips with silver all these – fruity loops?  
(beat) They had Fruit Loops back then?.*

KIMBER: It's "fruit-tree tops."

MITCH: Right. (beat) It's really dark in here. I gotta fix that dome light.

KIMBER: Cool car, though.

MITCH: And I'm totally not an actor. (to himself)  
I never should have done this.

KIMBER: You'll be fine. The curtain will go up and you will just –

MITCH: Not the play, I'm nervous – never mind. You sure do know a lot about this play. Have you done it before?

KIMBER: No – uh god no. I've seen it. A lot. It's my favorite. But I don't know why people think it's so romantic. Two kids who ought to be together getting ripped apart by society. It's sad. Tragic. (beat, covering) I hear it's sad. What do I know?

MITCH: You don't have to do that.

KIMBER: What?

MITCH: Act like you don't know stuff. I like that you're smart.

KIMBER: (embarrassed) Thanks.

MITCH: You're different. In a good way.



KIMBER: You're not quite how I imagined either. (beat) Also in a good way.

MITCH: This is nice.

KIMBER: Yeah.

MITCH: You know I just auditioned because you – did...

KIMBER: Oh.

MITCH: (surprised at his candor) Wow. I don't know why I said that. Maybe we should take a break.

KIMBER: No, it's nice. It's nice to hear, (beat) And we are almost to the part where they – you know – kiss, and we should probably –

MITCH: Save it for rehearsal, right.

KIMBER: Probably, but – no, no, we should wait...Right?

MITCH: Your call –

KIMBER: Well, if it's up to me... (leaning in)

SOUND: Rapping on the top of the car

KIMBER: Topher.

TOPHER: (coldly) Hey. Rehearsal's about to start, and they need the leads, apparently.

MS. DAVENPORT: (from a distance) Save something for the stage my little lovebirds.

MITCH: Right. Um. Let's go.

SOUND: Car doors open, they get out. Car doors close.

KIMBER: Mitch, you go ahead. I'll be right there.

SOUND: Footsteps on gravel.

TOPHER: Don't.

KIMBER: Topher –

TOPHER: Just go!

KIMBER: Look, you knew I liked him.

TOPHER: And you always get what you want. You're not in such a hurry to get rid of your magic spell now that it's landed you Mitch Ryan!

KIMBER: Maybe - I don't know. People just follow me. They do what I want - I don't understand it. It obviously doesn't work on you.

TOPHER: I know your secret. (beat) Why? What do you want from me?

KIMBER: Your friendship.

TOPHER: (scoffs) I know. Just friends.

KIMBER: Not just friends. Friends. Real friends.

TOPHER: You know how I feel about you. You HAVE to know!

KIMBER: (she does) I can't help that. I'm sorry.

TOPHER: Now you're sorry for me?

KIMBER: No. That's not what I – Topher you're my friend!

TOPHER: Am I?

SOUND: Footsteps storming away

KIMBER: Topher!

SOUND: Footsteps walking up

FRAN: Kimber? You ok?

KIMBER: I'm fine, Fran. It's Topher, it's just – it's hard to explain.

FRAN: 'Cause I will murder his scrawny ass.

KIMBER: (laughs) It's fine. But thank you for the laugh. I really needed -

FRAN: I'm dead serious. I will straight up kill that little prick and you can bathe in his blood. Say the word.

SOUND: Footsteps walking away

KIMBER: (to herself) Oh my god...Fran?

## SCENE Seven:

SOUND: Door - with new-agey CHIME

GOTH CLERK: Well, well. Salutations. What would you like to steal from me today?

KIMBER: I'm sorry. And I didn't steal it, I just kept it when –

GOTH CLERK: Semantics. I take it it's working?

SOUND: She slaps the charm on the counter

KIMBER: Can you stop it?

GOTH CLERK: Sure. (beat) Do you have a receipt?

KIMBER: I'm sorry, I made a mistake.

GOTH CLERK: I can't help you. It's yours now.

KIMBER: I can't do this. People are following me like I'm a god or something – they'd do anything for me.

GOTH CLERK: Tell *them* to fix this for you.

KIMBER: Why won't you help me? (focusing) I want you to help me.

GOTH CLERK: (zombified) Oh. Your wish is my command... (Breaks up) Seriously? Are you as dumb as you look with that ponytail on the side of your head? I know about the charm. It won't work on me.

KIMBER: Someone's going to get hurt!

GOTH CLERK: Someone always does. Are we done here? Because it's Myra Quill's block on VTV.

SOUND: Analog TV turns on

MYRA QUILL: (on tv) It's almost time – are you excited? I am. Our scouts have been watching, we've been watching the tapes you guys sent in –

GOTH CLERK: Huh. When did she start wearing her hair like that?

KIMBER: Like what?

GOTH CLERK: The ponytail on the side. Like you.

KIMBER: Oh my god.

MYRA QUILL: (on TV) Here we go – are you ready?

SOUND: (On TV – Drumroll/CYMBAL crash)

MYRA QUILL: (on TV) The first annual VTV Homecoming Bash will take place at Heller High School, in Heller (static).

MYRA QUILL: (on TV) Heller High takes the honors because it is the home of the coolest of the cool, – KIMBER SPAULDING (now really losing it) OH MY GOD! KIMBER, WE LOVE YOU!!!

KIMBER: Whoa.

MUSIC: Transitional music.

## SCENE Eight:

SOUND: Football crowd, Cheer finishing up. (GO HYENAS!!!)

KIMBER: Topher! Thank god.

TOPHER: I see you weren't in school today. Not that I noticed.

KIMBER: Yeah.

TOPHER: Why are you wearing sunglasses? And a scarf? It's not that cold – Oh, you don't want to be seen with me.

KIMBER: No, I don't want to be seen. At all. It's hard to explain. (beat) I'm glad you're here.

TOPHER: (not buying it) Uh huh. We're getting slaughtered. It's kind of awesome. (beat) Why aren't you down there with the Squad?

KIMBER: I quit. I'm quitting.

TOPHER: (ruefully) After all Stacey gave up for you. Too busy sucking face with Romeo?

KIMBER: I quit the play too.

TOPHER: Seriously? (laughs) Mitch quit the team to focus on the play. That's why we're getting slaughtered. Well done, genius. Gift of the Magic.

KIMBER: Magi. I just – I want to be invisible again. I'm throwing this damn charm into the lake.

TOPHER: You think that'll work?

KIMBER: I don't know. I don't know what will happen. I just wanted to warn you. Just in case.

TOPHER: Warn me? I'm not the one throwing a plus-infinity charm of popularity into Lake Lackadasia.

KIMBER: Not that. I was – I was mad at you,

TOPHER: You were mad at me. That's rich.

KIMBER: I was afraid someone might try to hurt you. For me.

TOPHER: (like he thinks she's nuts) OK.

SOUND: Voices – There she is! Kimber! We love you!

KIMBER: I've got to go – be careful!

TOPHER: That's sweet. Now you're "acting" like you care.

KIMBER: Don't be like that. Watch your back. Please?

SOUND: She scrambles off and up the stadium stairs

TOPHER: (to himself, coldly) Gotcha

MUSIC: Transitional music

## SCENE Nine:

SOUND: CAR stops. Car door opens, closes. Footsteps on wooden dock.

KIMBER: (to herself) All right then.

SOUND: She strains and throws the charm in the lake. A small splash.

KIMBER: I guess that's that.

FRAN: Kimber...

KIMBER: Fran! You scared me –

FRAN: Why did you do that?

KIMBER: Don't worry about it – everything should be fine now - I'm so glad to see you –

SOUND: More footsteps, a small crowd

KIMBER: Why are all those people here?

FRAN: We followed you. Mr. Mel drove us over in the bus.

MR. MEL: *(from a distance)* Hey Kimber.

FRAN: We're worried about you. We've missed you.

KIMBER: I saw you last night at rehearsal.

FRAN: And you weren't in school today and we heard you quit the play and we've missed you. (beat)  
SWIM TEAM!

SOUND: Footsteps on sand, running up.

FRAN: Kimber lost her necklace in the lake. Find it.

SWIMMER: No problem – guys! Go!

SOUND: They run and jump in the water

KIMBER: No. I'm good, really – why won't you listen to me?



FRAN: It's for your own good.

KIMBER: This is insane.

FRAN: It's for. Your own. Good. Now let's go. (with an evil smile) Topher's waiting.

KIMBER: Fran...

FRAN: Everyone's there. Everyone's gonna see.

KIMBER: No –

FRAN: It's what you wanted! You want this. And we're making it happen. All of it. (beat) You're already late. You don't want to miss the big moment...

SOUND: People scramble, Kimber yelps in surprise as they grab her

## SCENE Ten:

MUSIC: 80s pop music -

SOUND: DOORS BURST OPEN

VOICE: They're back from the lake!

FRAN: Get in there. You can't hide from your destiny!

KIMBER: But –

FRAN: It's time – this is happening!

KIMBER: No, no!

MUSIC: 80s pop music

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) Is she here? Let's go then, we're behind –

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) Myra Quill back on the air with VTV's First Annual Homecoming Bash! We're LIVE at Heller High School and she's here – (losing it a little) she is finally here!

SOUND: Kids start to chant Kimber, Kimber...

KIMBER: Oh god, what's wrong with everyone - Mitch, MITCH - what's happening????

MITCH: Everything. It's so beautiful. It's perfect. Go. Get on stage!

FRAN: (muffled) Where is he? Is he ready?

SOUND: A few voices - you are. You! "WE LOVE YOU!!!"

MYRA QUILL: Heller High School – I present to your your 1985 Homecoming Queen – the one and only KIMBER SPAULDING!

KIMBER: Mitch - this isn't right – Everyone – NO! I don't want this – not like this!

MITCH: Your life is gonna change forever...

FRAN: (from a distance) YOU KNOW YOU WANT  
THIS – NOW GET UP THERE AND TAKE IT!!!

SOUND: more voices, angrier - “WE LOVE YOU!!!” YOU DESERVE THIS!!!

MYRA QUILL: And your Homecoming King –

KIMBER: (a shred of hope) Mitch... Mitch, we’ve got to  
stop them -

SOUND: Drumroll...

MYRA QUILL: TOPHER JAMESON!!!

SOUND: SILENCE. Then footsteps up stairs and across the stage...

TOPHER: Ta da.

SOUND: The crowd erupts in a SCREAM!!!

MITCH: WE LOVE YOU TOPHER!!!

KIMBER: What?!?! I thought they would -

TOPHER: What? Murder the most popular guy in school?  
Smile! Party Pics!

KIMBER: How are you doing this...?

TOPHER: How do you think?!?! I got my own charm.

KIMBER: What?

TOPHER: Isn’t that what you wanted? You can rule this  
school! With the kind of guy who really  
deserves you.

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) And now, their first dance as  
your Homecoming King and Queen.

MUSIC: 1980s love ballad (like “With or Without You” by U2)

KIMBER: Deserves me?

TOPHER: It’s like that stupid play – except look at  
everyone out there - they know we belong  
together...

KIMBER: What have you done?

TOPHER: Oh, and here's your charm. You'd better put it back on.

KIMBER: No.

TOPHER: Two of the guys on the swim team drowned looking for it. I don't know their names but it's very sad. Put it on. (beat) It's us, don't you see? It's our destiny.

KIMBER: Destiny? What is your malfunction?

TOPHER: Don't embarrass me. Put it on!

SOUND: Crowd chants "put it on".

KIMBER: Fine.

SOUND: He hands it over. She yanks it out of his hand and runs away.

TOPHER: Hey wait – where are you going -?

SOUND: RECORD SCRATCH

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) Oh! Hi! Kimber! (beat) I'm a big fan.

KIMBER: Thanks, um, this is live, right?

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) Across the country. Everyone is watching.

KIMBER: Great. Can I have the microphone?

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone, flattered and nervous) Oh my god, yes. It's an honor.

TOPHER: Wait – WAIT. If she gets to make a speech, I do – I'm more popular that she is!

SOUND: Rowdy crowd "that's true", etc.

KIMBER: (on microphone) You're next, you're next! Save the best for last, right? I'm just warming them up for you...

SOUND: Applause from the crowd.

KIMBER: (on microphone) Hey everyone, I'm Kimber...

SOUND: CHEER.

KIMBER: (on microphone) I guess you all know that. I'm popular. You all love me – but it's all a lie.

SOUND: A couple boos. "No" "We love you".

KIMBER: (on microphone) You don't. You love this.  
(beat) This crappy necklace. This crystal. It's – well, it's magic.

SOUND: A little laughter (Oh god, she's so funny).

TOPHER: That's enough.

KIMBER: (on microphone) Wait. Your. Turn. This is all for you. (faux sultry) I promise it will be worth it.

SOUND: Hoots and hollers from the crowd.

KIMBER: (on microphone) But it's true. It's magic. Magic. That's the only reason you like me. And Topher's got one just like it. I guess they're linked. (beat) Think about it – Look at your homecoming king! Do you remember anything about him before yesterday?!? It's these god damned charms.

SOUND: The crowd is silent.

KIMBER: I know it sounds ridiculous. But I'm going to prove it. See – we're linked. We're tied up in this together. And I have a theory that you'll go back to seeing us as we really are – if I just destroy this crystal.

TOPHER: No!

SOUND: Kimber throws down the charm. Stamps her foot once, twice, then

SOUND: CRACK - MAGICAL PULSE

SOUND: Crowd murmur (what's going on? Why are they up there?)

TOPHER: You bitch.

KIMBER: It's over.

TOPHER: I made you FAMOUS!

SOUND: Crowd murmur (Look, he's crying! Crybaby!)

TOPHER: I gave you everything you wanted. You owe me.

KIMBER: No. Not like that.

TOPHER: This – this wasn't supposed to happen. You said this would work.

KIMBER: Topher -

TOPHER: YOU SAID THIS WOULD WORK!

KIMBER: What are you even - ?

TOPHER: I'm not talking to you!

MS. DAVENPORT (off mic) Just coming through (on mic) Oh. Um. Hi. He's talking to me.

KIMBER: Ms. Davenport?

MS. DAVENPORT Yeah. Mea culpa.

KIMBER: I don't understand.

MS. DAVENPORT: Remember when you stole the charm??

SOUND: Magical whoosh

GOTH CLERK: That was also me.

SOUND: Magical whoosh

SOUND: Small group of kids clapping

KIMBER: Damn. You are a good actress.

MS. DAVENPORT: (sweetly) Thank you.

KIMBER: You - helped him with this? Why?

MS. DAVENPORT Let's just say if you ever sell your soul for an acting career, be sure and read the fine print. Seriously – you would not believe the gigs I've had to take...

KIMBER: You cast me as Juliet to make me popular?

MS. DAVENPORT: No, I cast you as Juliet because you were the best. (beat) I may be an evil minion of the dark lord, but I have respect for the William Shakespeare...

KIMBER: Really?

MS. DAVENPORT: And you were already popular. People like you. You just couldn't see it. He's the one that needed help.

TOPHER: Screw you.

MS. DAVENPORT: You wish. Now. About your tab...

TOPHER: The deal's off. I wanted her. I deserve her.

KIMBER: Excuse me?

MS. DAVENPORT: The deal was to make her popular. Then, the addendum to make you popular. That's it. Read your contract.

TOPHER: Then fix my charm – make me popular!

MS DAVENPORT: Willful destruction of magical property is not covered by out standard warranty.

TOPHER: I didn't destroy mine!

MS. DAVENPORT: They're linked. Maybe you should have filled her in. Now. Time to pay up.

KIMBER: Pay up?

MS DAVENPORT: He owes my boss a virgin. (beat) I don't know. Apparently they taste better.

TOPHER: Fine. She's all yours.

KIMBER: Fuck you.

MS. DAVENPORT: Again – I direct you to your contract. The party of the first part – that's you – is wholly responsible for any and all debts incurred. Particularly as it pertains to sacrificial virgins.

TOPHER: What makes you think I'm a –

MS. DAVENPORT: Oh please.

TOPHER: (desperate) Wait. Wait. Define "virgin."

SOUND: KRACKLE - PORTAL OPENS

TOPHER: (SCREAMS as he's sucked into the void)

SOUND: SUCKING SOUND AS PORTAL CLOSES

SOUND: Crowd murmur – what's happening? Etc.

MS. DAVENPORT OK then. Kimber – just so you know, VTV lost their live feed when you broke the spell. Everyone here will forget most of this – you won't.

KIMBER: Not sure I could. (beat) Thank you?

MS. DAVENPORT Eh. It's a living.

SOUND: KRACKLE - PORTAL OPENS

KIMBER: Bye.

MS. DAVENPORT Enjoy your senior year!

SOUND: KRACKLE - PORTAL CLOSES

MYRA QUILL: (on microphone) Are we on? So, hey everyone – we're back. Uh - technical difficulties. But here we are. At Heller High, apparently. (beat) We'll have more of our VTV Homecoming Bash right after this word from New Coke! (beat) Heller High? Why aren't we at Shermer High School? That's where all the cool kids are... (as she's leaving) I mean, have you seen John Bender? (fading out) That dude is radical!

KIMBER: Fran – you ok?

FRAN: Yeah. What the – It's Homecoming already? Wait – you're the Queen? How, exactly?

KIMBER: Who knows? Popularity's weird. Mitch –



MITCH: Congratulations, milady. Who – who’s the king again?

FRAN: No clue.

MITCH: Guess we’ll have to live in a Mariachi.

KIMBER: Matriarchy? (chuckles)

MUSIC: Something like “True” by Spandau Ballet

MITCH: Yeah. That’s what I meant – sorry. Nervous. And a little fuzzy. But I’m good with a matriarchy. I also like Mariachi.

KIMBER: Me too. (beat) What do you remember?

MITCH: I remember how good you were at the auditions for the play. (winces) And that I said you were the only reason I auditioned.

KIMBER: Wait. (to herself, a realization) That was before I got the charm...

MITCH: What charm?

KIMBER: Nothing. (beat) So, Mitch Ryan. (beat) Do you want to dance or what?

MUSIC: Continues

NARRATOR: High school can be hell – but if you’re lucky you just might occasionally stumble across a moment of pure magic. Not the kind that costs you your eternal soul, but the kind that only exists under blinking lights and tissue paper flowers. The kind of magic that lives in your memory and can sometimes carry you through your darkest nights... in Uncanny County.