

GHOULFRIEND

Animated Series
Pilot

Episode 001: "Out of the Blue"

written by

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COLD OPEN:

EXT. SPIRIT REALM PATHWAY - DAY

ROSIE, a ghost with a short flowing bob dressed in worn clothing, is fleeing through a series of DARK PATHWAYS. She has a look of steely determination on her face, looking back every so often as she stealthily speeds through the alleyway.

She turns the corner, hiding behind a wall to catch her breath. A loud booming voice <ECHOES> through the alley:

SPIRIT GOON #1
Where did she go? Find her and
bring her to me.

Rosie's head perks up at the sound of the voice. She peeks around the corner of the wall to get a better look.

Three DARK SHADOWS creep around the corner, spotting Rosie.

SPIRIT GOON #2
There she is! After her!

Rosie hides behind the wall before continuing to flee, floating past graffiti-lined brick walls, dumpsters and trash bins. She finds herself at a DEAD END.

She tries to phase through the BRICK WALL but is immediately deflected, as if something was blocking her. The same voice <ECHOES> behind her:

SPIRIT GOON #1
So, we meet again. How long did you
think you could keep this up?

Rosie turns around, facing three DARK SPIRIT GOONS with GLOWING YELLOW EYES. She backs into the wall, trapped.

ROSIE
Really? A spirit barrier? Is that
the best you guys can do?

SPIRIT GOON #1
Our little game of cat and mouse
ends here.

The three spirit goons creep closer. Rosie's brows furrows.

ROSIE
I don't think so.

Rosie closes her eyes and sends out a BLAST of energy that sends the goons recoiling backward. <VOOSH!> A bright blue swirling PORTAL appears within the BRICK WALL, illuminating the dark pathway.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

As much as I love our little chats,
I gotta go. Was great catching up
though.

Rosie escapes, sealing the portal behind her before the goons can follow. The goons are left alone in the alleyway.

SPIRIT GOON #3

How did she-

SPIRIT GOON #1

Search the mortal realm. We have a
job to do and I intend to see it
through.

Spirit Goon #1's face is stern, their yellow eyes piercing the darkness of the alleyway.

[TITLE SCREEN]

EXT. MYSTIC CITY - AFTERNOON

Establishing shot of the city.

EXT. MYSTIC CITY - SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

VAL (20, Caribbean Afro-Latina with big curly hair) and LIO (20, an androgynous Caribbean-Hispanic) are walking down the street together. Val is rambling about an article she read while Lio is following a pinged map location on their phone.

VAL

I heard there's a place around here
with some pretty wild paranormal
reports. Something about an old
hotel that's haunted by-

Lio, disinterested, is actively trying to tune her out.

VAL (CONT'D)

You know, for for someone that
works in a library, you don't seem
to be that interested in the things
that I read. Like *actually* read. In
the 21st century.

Lio looks back at her with an unamused expression.

LIO
 (sarcastically)
 You know, for someone that's
 looking for a coffee shop you don't
 seem to be that interested in
 finding it.

Val <HUFFS>. Lio <SMIRKS>.

VAL
 That's what I've got you for.
 Besides, getting lost isn't the
 worst thing that could happen to
 us. We could probably find some
 cool new places to hang out or eat
 or even...

Val wiggles her eyebrows much to Lio's foreboding guess.

VAL (CONT'D)
 ...some spooky places, AS I WAS
 SAYING-

Lio makes a disgusted face and shakes their hands.

LIO
 ;YA! Stop bringing that up you're
 gonna give us bad juju. We're
 supposed to be meeting up with our
 new roommates anyway, we can't just
 ditch.

Val <CLICKS> her tongue and looks at Lio.

VAL
 Don't be such a scaredy cat, Lio.
 One of these days you'll agree to
 go ghost hunting with me and you'll
 see there's nothing to be scared
 of.

Lio <CHUCKLES>.

LIO
 I seriously doubt that.

EXT. "ALMA'S CAFÉ" COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

They stop walking and look up at a sign above the door,
 practically hidden by foliage.

It reads: "Alma's Café"

LIO (CONT'D)
I think this is it.

VAL
Wait, isn't your boring library job like two minutes away? How come you've never told me about this place?

LIO
I never saw it before!

VAL
Well, it is cute though! And that cafecito smell... mmmm!

Val takes a deep <WHIFF> and <SIGHS> dreamily. She looks over at Lio who seems anxious, offering them a reassuring squeeze.

VAL (CONT'D)
Hey, we've got this...and no matter what, we have each other, right?

Lio smiles, the two take a deep breath and stand in front of the door together.

INT. "ALMA'S CAFÉ" COFFEE SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

KIARA (21, Caribbean-Latina) a barista wearing a stained APRON, is behind the COUNTER, cleaning plates and wiping down the the tabletop. She's so distracted that she doesn't hear the bell <JINGLE> as Val and Lio enter the FRONT DOOR.

LIO
- and I don't work at a library, *Back Alley Books* is way cooler than some stuffy library.

VAL
I bet I could ask anyone in here and they'd agree with me.

Val's eyes dart around the room. She spots MIKAYLA (21, Caribbean Afro-Latina with box braids) who is casually sitting on a lounge chair, solving and resolving a RUBIK'S CUBE. Val wiggles her eyebrows at Lio.

VAL (CONT'D)
Look, I'll show you.

Val walks over to Mikayla. <AHEM>. Mikayla looks up and stops her cube solving.

VAL (CONT'D)

Hi, so sorry to interrupt but I'm trying to prove that my friend works at the most un-cool place ever. Ever heard of *Back Alley Books*?

Mikayla blinks and raises her eyebrow.

MIKAYLA

Yeah... *Back Alley Books* is sick. I used to go there a lot back when I needed to do some research papers.

Lio looks over at Val with a smug expression.

LIO

HA, I told you it was cool.

Val <HUFFS>. Mikayla <CHUCKLES>.

MIKAYLA

Though I will say, part of the reason I like it is because I'm a huge nerd.

VAL

HA HA! I love being right.

Mikayla <LAUGHS>. Lio <SCOFFS>.

LIO

Look who's talking, *oh please!*
Ignore her.

Val and Lio stop bickering and Mikayla continues cubing.

VAL

Woah, you're really good!

Mikayla shrugs and smiles to herself. She looks up at them while solving the cube, only impressing them more. She introduces herself with an air of cool confidence:

MIKAYLA

Resident cube master, nerd defender
and tech aficionado- I'm Mikayla.

Val and Lio's eyes sparkle in amazement for a few seconds until a thought snaps Val out of her trance.

VAL
 Wait- Mikayla? Are you moving into
 the building nearby? Room 201?

Mikayla stops cubing.

MIKAYLA
 Yeah...are you guys-

LIO
 -HEY WE'RE ROOMIES!

Lio hugs Mikayla tightly, taking her by surprise. Lio <CLEARS
 THEIR THROAT> and takes a seat, resting their elbow on their
 knee, casually trying to regain their composure.

LIO (CONT'D)
 The name's Lio, my pronouns are
 they/them... That sourpuss over
 there is my best friend, Val. We've
 known each other forever.

VAL
 HEY!

Lio leans back into the CHAIR, closing their eyes with a
 smirk. Val shoves them off of the chair.

LIO
 HEY-!

VAL
 (nonchalantly)
 Yup, we go way back... Lio is kinda
 like a sibling to me.

Val mutters under her breath:

VAL (CONT'D)
 And just as annoying.

Lio rises up from the ground, shoving Val back.

LIO
 I heard that!

Val shoves Lio away again.

VAL
 (nonchalantly)
 Anyway, I think it'll be really fun
 to move in together!

Val smiles at Mikayla as she wards off Lio who is trying to get her off of the chair. The two shove each other jokingly.

MIKAYLA
(chuckling)
I think so too.

Val rolls her eyes and scoots over, patting a space on the chair with her hand. Lio squeezes in next to her and smiles.

LIO
Guess we're only missing one other person now.

INT. "ALMA'S CAFÉ" COFFEE SHOP - COUNTER - MOMENTS LATER

Kiara checks her watch frantically before peeking her head out from the BACK DOOR of the café.

KIARA
I'm off the clock, Margarita, so don't fire me!

Kiara whips off the apron and prepares a TRAY of CAFECITOS and snacks. She peeks out again, her eyes scanning the dining room in an attempt to find the group.

Their voices catch her attention. She spots three figures <LAUGHING> together in the distance.

Kiara pulls her PHONE out of her pocket, a TEXT notification appears on her lock screen. The message reads:

"Hey, we made it to Alma's! Can't wait to meet you :)"

Kiara closes her phone and <SIGHS>. She attempts to regain her composure, gripping the tray in her hands as she steps out from behind the counter and toward the group.

INT. "ALMA'S CAFÉ" COFFEE SHOP - DINING AREA - SAME

Kiara walks into the dining area, fiercely focused on the tray. Her thought process gets interrupted.

VAL
Mmmmmm, those cafecitos smell delicious.

The unfamiliar voice catches Kiara's attention. She looks up from her tray and meets Val's eyes. Kiara BLUSHES.

VAL
Ignore them. Yes! We're moving into
201!

Kiara and Val make EYE CONTACT again.

VAL (CONT'D)
Kiara? That's a pretty name.

Kiara's face FLUSHES again. Val extends her hand out to Kiara and smiles.

VAL (CONT'D)
I'm Valeria, but everybody calls me
Val!

Kiara shakes her hand. Kiara looks over at Lio and Mikayla who are already digging into the MUFFINS.

KIARA
You must be Mikayla and Lio.

Mikayla and Lio nod. Mikayla swallows a bite of the muffin.

MIKAYLA
Yeah! Thanks for the food by the
way.

She gives Kiara a fist bump. Lio furiously nods with their mouth stuffed. They finish up the last bite of their muffin.

LIO
It's so cool to finally meet you
all!

Val raises her cafecito glass.

VAL
Okay everyone, ¡Salud!

They all <CLINK> their glasses together in celebration.

MARGARITA (a middle-aged Hispanic woman) peeks out of the
BACK DOOR.

MARGARITA
Dale mí niña, I can pick up around
here tonight. Con cuidado, que no
quiero que anden afuera solos por
la noche.

Kiara looks back at the woman.

VAL
Does something feel off to you
guys?

Mikayla, Kiara, and Lio look at her confused.

MIKAYLA
It's a little...humid? Maybe cause
the A/C hasn't been turned on in a
while.

VAL
No, like a...weird...un-settling
feeling...

Val has her hand on her chin, squinting in thought.

VAL (CONT'D)
I can't place my finger on it.

Lio pats her shoulder in a sarcastic comforting way.

LIO
That unsettling feeling is the rent
we're paying for this old place.
Very sad, very unsettling, we know.

Mikayla and Kiara <GIGGLE> as they enter the apartment first.
Val gives Lio a serious pointed look.

VAL
I'm being serious! I've got a
really bad feeling!

LIO
You're so *dramatic* and for what?
Just come on in already.

VAL
(grumbling)
Mira quien habla.

LIO
Sorry, can't hear you over all this
"weird" ambience.

Val looks annoyed. She and Lio walk in behind them and shut
the DOOR. The hallway light FLICKERS.

INT. APARTMENT 201 - LIVING ROOM - DUSK

The last bit of sunlight fills the room. Personal items are
scattered around and Val is visibly distressed.

VAL

I'm sorry, but I can't seem to shake this. It's almost like we're being watched? Is *NO ONE* else feeling like that?!

Lio rolls their eyes and looks over at Mikayla and Kiara.

LIO

Val always has the wildest conspiracies. She thinks everything is haunted or supernatural, but *I think* she's just paranoid.

Kiara raises her eyebrow.

KIARA

Wait wait... do you mean like actual ghosts and stuff?

MIKAYLA

(sarcastically)

If this place is haunted, I expect the spirits to pay rent just like the rest of us.

Kiara and Lio <LAUGH> with her. Val seems upset. Kiara notices this and stops mid-laugh, giving her an apologetic look.

The LIGHTS inside the apartment begin to FLICKER. Kiara and Mikayla both look at Val with concerned expressions.

LIO

(chuckling)

I see what's going on here. Very funny, Val.

Val looks at Lio confused. Lio <CLAPS> sarcastically.

VAL

What?! I'm not doing this!

LIO

Riiight, whats next? You gonna put a sheet over your head and try to scare me?

VAL

I'm serious I'm not doing anything. When would I have even had time to plan this?

Some of the SILVERWARE begins to rattle before rising off of the table. Kiara, Mikayla, and Val are visibly frightened.

KIARA

Uh guys, what is going on?!

Lio inspects the floating utensils.

LIO

I have to say, this is impressive. Floating silverware? I'll give you props for that one.

Val grabs Lio's shoulders and shakes them frantically.

VAL

(panicked)

Lio, snap out of it! This isn't a prank!

LIO

Nice try, but I guess this just proves that I'm not a scaredy cat after all.

Lio puffs their chest triumphantly and smirks.

A bright BLUE LIGHT appears behind Lio. Val, Mikayla, and Kiara step back. The blue glow reflects on their faces.

LIO (CONT'D)

Uh, guys?

Lio turns around slowly. The light begins to swirl and expand into what looks like a PORTAL.

MIKAYLA

What is that?

Val watches wide-eyed.

VAL

I don't know but uh maybe we shouldn't be standing so close to the blue-

<VOOSH!>. A FLASH of light comes out of the portal. Rosie tumbles through it, directly through Lio. Lio turns around.

VAL (CONT'D)

-THING!

Rosie regains her balance and catches her breath. She <SIGHS> and looks up, meeting their horrified expressions.

Lio is frozen with fear. Their eye TWITCHES and they let out a HORRIFIED <SCREAM>.

LIO
G-G-GHOST!

Rosie recoils back.

ROSIE
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

THE GANG
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

A BEAT...Val dramatically points her finger at Lio, Mikayla and Kiara.

VAL
AH-HA! I TOLD YOU SO!

Mikayla and Kiara stare at Val in shock, unable to say anything. Lio has remained frozen in place since the portal opened staring directly at Rosie with wide eyes.

Rosie notices and looks back at Lio.

ROSIE
It's rude to stare, you know.

Lio <GULPS>. Val, Mikayla and Kiara turn to look at Rosie now. Rosie squints her eyes at them.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Who in the world are *you all*?

VAL
Who are *we*? WHO ARE YOU?!

Rosie and Val glare at each other.

VAL (CONT'D)
No offense, but you *did* just crash into our apartment.

ROSIE
Full offense, this was my place first.

Val opens her mouth to respond but stops herself. Rosie crosses her arms and raises her eyebrows triumphantly. She looks back at Lio.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
So, is this scaredy cat gonna move?

LIO
(shakily)
... you're... an actual... ghost?

Rosie flirtatiously WINKS at them.

ROSIE
I'm Rosie, the coolest ghoul you'll ever meet. Don't you fools forget it!

LIO
(shakily)
S-so you're n-not here to torment us for all eternity?

ROSIE
Bold of you to assume I'd want to spend an eternity with you.

Val <laughs> out loud. The gang's tension begins to subside.

MIKAYLA
Where...did you even come from?
What was that thing?

ROSIE
(nonchalantly)
Oh, that was just a portal from the spirit realm.

Mikayla's and Val's eyes widen and glisten. Fascinated in two completely different ways, they bombard Rosie with questions.

VAL
(excited)
Wait so there are spirit portals?
Does that mean there are other spirits?!

MIKAYLA
(excited)
Are you able to manipulate electromagnetic energy? How is the creation of portals metaphysically possible?

VAL
(excited)
Why did you come here? Can you float through walls and-

Rosie interrupts their rant.

ROSIE
(chuckling)
Woah okay, I did not know I'd have
a fanbase when I came back here.

Rosie smirks.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
I could get used to this though.

She floats over to Val and Mikayla, posing glamorously.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
I've always wanted to be on a
magazine cover. Make sure you get
my good angles.

Mikayla, Lio and Val <CHUCKLE>. Kiara is not amused. She has her arms crossed and has not smiled once. She takes a LIGHTER out of her pocket and starts lighting some CANDLES.

VAL
Wait wait, as much I'd love to
interview a ghost -we can schedule
that for later- I'll narrow it
down. How did you *become* a ghost?

Rosie pauses for a second.

ROSIE
Well, I actually don't remember
how... but I mean, its really not
so bad.

Rosie shrugs coolly. She floats around the apartment with her hands behind her neck as if she's floating down a lazy river. She counts off on her fingers:

ROSIE (CONT'D)
(demonstrating)
I can float, walk through walls
levitate objects! All without
having to deal with any of that
boring *life stuff*.

Rosie disappears into thin air and reappears beside Lio.

ROSIE (CONT'D)
Boo!

Lio jumps and Rosie <GIGGLES>.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

And *that* never gets old.

Mikayla circles Rosie, inspecting her from all angles.

MIKAYLA

I've theorized about the possibility of electromagnetic phenomena before, but I've never seen anything like this!

VAL

This might be the single greatest day of my *entire* life!

Rosie smirks enjoying all the attention. She gestures over to Kiara who is digging through the storage closet.

ROSIE

What's her deal?

Kiara places FLASHLIGHTS on the counter beside the candles.

KIARA

Did you expect us to stay in the dark all night? Suns almost completely set.

Rosie rolls her eyes. Val's excitement is halted.

VAL

Something still isn't right. I don't think Rosie was what I sensed before.

The group looks at her confused. The door BLASTS open and a COLD WIND blows through the apartment, BLOWING the flames out of the candles. They all turn their attention to the door.

Kiara instinctively reaches for the CUBAN MOP, gripping it tightly and holding it in a fighting stance. Lio notices this and does the same, grabbing an empty COOKIE TIN but failing to look as cool.

The three spirit goons appear in the doorway. Their glowing eyes illuminating the darkened apartment.

VAL (CONT'D)

(frightened)

Yep, that'll do it.

MIKAYLA

This is just a gut feeling, but I don't think those guys are as chill.

One of the spirit goons speaks in a loud booming voice:

SPIRIT GOON #1

Your time is up, Rosie.

The four of them all look at Rosie simultaneously. Rosie's nervousness shifts to anger and her brow furrows.

VAL

You know those guys?!

Before Rosie has the chance to answer, more objects begin to float and are now being hurled toward them.

LIO

(sarcastically)

Is this what you meant by "nothing to be scared of", Val?!

VAL

To be fair, this is not what I had in mind before!

KIARA

You guys can argue all you want later, but I think we've got a bigger problem right now.

The gang quickly dodges a floating plate and some cutlery, taking cover behind the COUCH.

LIO

(whispering frantically)

GUYS, WHAT DO WE DO?!

Objects continue to fly around them wildly as Rosie struggles to fend off the three goons, dodging their attacks.

MIKAYLA

(sarcastically)

I don't know, Lio, I've never been under attack by *EVIL SPIRITS BEFORE*.

Lio peeks around the couch and sees Rosie struggling.

LIO

We can't just leave her-

Lio <SIGHS>.

LIO (CONT'D)
-she'll never be able to hold them
off on her own.

Lio, Mikayla, and Kiara look at Val simultaneously.

VAL
What?! You think I would know about
this kinda thing?!

They look at her wide-eyed and nod.

VAL (CONT'D)
Fine. FINE, ¡YA! Let me see what I-

Val closes her eyes tightly trying to think of any weaknesses
she could have potentially read about.

VAL (CONT'D)
GAH, I don't know...

Val looks back at the others with an excited expression.

VAL (CONT'D)
but I mean, it is *pretty cool* that
there's like *ACTUAL* SPIRITS in our
apartment!

LIO
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY MY DEFINITION OF
COOL, VAL.

Val peeks out from behind the couch to get a better look.

VAL
People spend their whole lives
trying to capture this stuff on
film and here it is! IN OUR LIVING
ROOM.

She whips her PHONE out for a quick picture, tapping the
screen to focus the camera.

VAL (CONT'D)
If I could *juuuuuust*-

LIO
(whispering frantically)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

The FLASH goes off and the spirit goons wince in pain. Kiara
<FACEPALMS>.

MIKAYLA

I know this girl did not just snap
a *flash* picture right now.

Val's eyes widen as the spirit goons stop fighting and focus their attention directly at her. Val <CHUCKLES> nervously and ducks behind the COUCH with the others.

VAL

Uhh guys, we gotta go. FAST.

The angry spirit goons LEVITATE the couch revealing the four of them crouched on the ground with terrified expressions.

KIARA

RUN!

The four of them split up in search of cover. Kiara and Lio in one direction and Mikayla and Val in another. Val yells:

VAL

THE SHADOW THINGS-

She ducks quickly, dodging a floating GLASS that <SMASHES> into the cabinet behind where she was standing.

VAL (CONT'D)

-ARE WEAK AGAINST LIGHT!

Lio is unable to hear her through all of the commotion.

LIO

WHAT?! I CANT HEAR YOU.

Kiara jumps in in front of Lio wielding the cuban mop, <SMASHING> two VASES being hurled directly at them.

KIARA

LIGHT, that's their weakness.

Kiara quickly grabs two flashlights and some duck tape. She rips the duck tape and crudely straps the flashlights onto the ends of the cuban mop, handing it to Lio.

LIO

What am I supposed to do with
this?!

KIARA

Figure it out!

Kiara grabs her phone out of her pocket and shines the FLASH at one of the goons. The goon winces in pain, growing smaller in the light. Lio sees this and looks back at the mop.

MEANWHILE--

Val and Mikayla are hidden behind the KITCHEN COUNTER.
Mikayla is tinkering with a SCREW DRIVER and a FLASHLIGHT.

MIKAYLA
(under her breath)
Almost got it...

VAL
What are you-

MIKAYLA
GOTCHA!

Mikayla presses the switch and the flashlight SHOOTs out a powerful <PULSE> of light.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)
That oughta do the trick.

VAL
Whoah...

Val admires in awe. One of the spirit goons' SHADOW rises over the counter above them.

MIKAYLA
WATCH OUT!

Val shines the flashlight right as the goon SWOOPS in, landing a blow on him. Val looks at Mikayla with surprise.

MIKAYLA (CONT'D)
I can't believe that worked!

VAL
(loudly)
I KNOW, RIGHT?

Her voice alerts the other goons where they're at. Mikayla looks at Val frantically.

VAL (CONT'D)
Don't worry- with this, we're
unstoppable!

The light on the flashlight FLICKERS before DYING completely.

VAL (CONT'D)
okay... we're a little stoppable
now.

Val and Mikayla hug each other and <YELL>. They hear a battle cry in the distance:

LIO
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

Lio is running with their eyes closed clutching the cuban mop and swinging it sporadically. They are accompanied by Kiara who is wielding her phone flash.

LIO (CONT'D)
GET OUT OF OUR HOME!

Lio spins the mop around, flashing beams of light throughout the apartment, sending two of the goons recoiling backward. Kiara takes on Spirit Goon #1 with her phone flash.

Rosie joins them at their side. She DODGES their attacks, taunting and distracting Spirit Goons #2 and #3.

ROSIE
Come and get me!

Mikayla and Val hop up from behind the counter. Val turns on her phone flash while Mikayla reaches for another working flashlight. They look at each other and nod, pointing their lights directly at the two distracted goons.

VAL
GET A LOAD OF THIS!

The flash weakens the goons. Lio jumps in and finishes them off by twirling the mop and flashing multiple beams of light. Goons #2 and #3 flee the apartment, <SCREECHING> in pain.

BACK TO KIARA--

Kiara is facing off with Spirit Goon #1, landing hits on it with her flash while dodging its attacks. Spirit Goon #1 knocks her phone out of her hand and CORNERS HER.

KIARA
(grunting)
What are you?

She backs into the wall, as Spirit Goon #1 creeps closer. Val catches a glimpse of them from the corner of her eye.

VAL
KIARA!

Rosie shifts her attention toward Spirit Goon #1, then over at an OUTLET on the wall. She closes her eyes tightly.

Spirit Goon #1 creeps closer to Kiara.

SPIRIT GOON #1
This will teach you pesky humans
not to interfere.

Then, a current of electricity <ZAPS> out of the outlet and into the air. Rosie opens her eyes and directs the current toward Spirit Goon #1.

ROSIE
Did ya miss me?

The current wraps around the goon, delivering the FINAL BLOW. Weakened, it <SCREECHES> in pain. Kiara catches her breath.

Spirit Goon #1 slinks toward door. Rosie appears over it triumphantly.

SPIRIT GOON #1
(weakened)
Your time is up and you know it.
We'll be back.

Rosie furrows her brow and violently <SLAMS> the door.

ROSIE
LEAVE ME ALONE!

The lights FLICKER back on and the POWER IS RESTORED. Rosie turns to look at the gang. They all <CHEER>.

LIO
WE LOOKED SO COOL!

VAL
MIKAYLA, YOUR BRAIN IS SO BIG!

MIKAYLA
AND LIO WHEN YOU CAME RUNNING FOR
US THAT WAS EPIC!

Lio and Mikayla continue cheering. Val notices Kiara who is quietly keeping her distance from the others, still shaken and out of breath. She turns back to Mikayla and Lio.

VAL
OKAY, BUT DID YOU GUYS SEE KIARA
TAKE ON THAT SPIRIT ALL BY HERSELF?

LIO
YEAH, she totally saved me back
there!

The three of them approach Kiara and continue to <CHEER>, putting their arms around her and including her. She BLUSHES and smiles shyly.

MIKAYLA

You've got to show me how to use the mop like that sometime!

Lio looks at Rosie.

LIO

You were awesome too, Rosie!

Rosie BLUSHES.

ROSIE

Pfft, it was nothing.

Kiara's expression hardens again. She looks directly at her and holds her stare.

KIARA

Rosie, what did they mean by "Your time is up?"

Kiara raises her eyebrow.

KIARA (CONT'D)

Val asked a question earlier that I'd still like to know the answer to; What are you doing here?

The mood shifts and the question hangs in the air. Rosie's demeanor changes, her face becoming more serious.

ROSIE

Those weren't just any spirits, they're dark spirits that want to take me and turn me into one of them. As long as I'm still hanging around, they're going to keep coming after me.

Rosie pauses and looks around.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

This place is where I used to hide from them but... now they've found it.

MIKAYLA

(curiously)
Why are you still hanging around?

ROSIE

All spirits are bound to the mortal realm for different reasons. Solve your problem, you pass on. That's kind of how it works.

VAL

But you... never resolved your grudge, did you?

Rosie's expression changes, seeming more somber.

ROSIE

I guess... I don't really have anywhere else to go. I'm really sorry about all of this.

The gang stares at Rosie, sympathetically. Val looks at the group, then back to Rosie.

VAL

That's not true. You have us now.

The gang looks at Val confused. Rosie's seems surprised.

VAL (CONT'D)

Look, I know it sounds crazy, but I think Rosie needs us right now. She saved us back there...she didn't have to do that.

Val gestures towards the front door.

VAL (CONT'D)

You heard those guys, they're going to keep coming after Rosie until they get what they want. She can't do this alone. What better are we than those dark spirits if we just let them take her? We gotta help her resolve her grudge. It's the only way.

Mikayla and Lio nod in agreement. Val looks over at Kiara.

VAL (CONT'D)

What do you say, Kiara?

Kiara stares at Rosie sharply, then meets Val's eyes and softens. She looks at the ground and <SIGHS>.

KIARA

Just...don't make me regret it.

Val smiles at her and the gang <CHEERS>. Rosie smiles to herself, touched by their warm gesture.

ROSIE

I- I don't know what to say. Thank you guys.

Lio gestures toward the mess inside the apartment.

LIO

Okay, but first roomie operation besides 'Help Rosie' is cleaning up this mess.

The gang stares at the huge mess and nod. Lio looks at Rosie.

LIO (CONT'D)

That means you too, new roomie.

Mikayla hands her the CUBAN MOP with a rag on it.

MIKAYLA

You're gonna need this.

EXT. SPIRIT REALM - LATER

The three goons report back to the spirit realm, beaten up from the fight. They KNEEL and bow their heads.

SPIRIT GOON #1

Reporting back from the mission, Empress. She fled to the mortal realm and has humans protecting her now.

Sitting in the throne is another figure who is shrouded in the shadows. A raspy and sultry voice breaks the silence.

SPIRIT REALM OVERLORD

Do not stop until she is brought back to me.

THE END.