

SLEEP TIGHT

Two sisters take matters into their own hands after watching their mother's constant humiliation at the hands of her boss.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Two little girls, MADELINE (7) and MARIA (6), kneel on either side of their mother, SELENA REID (32). Their hands clasp in prayer, heads bowed.

MADELINE/MARIA

Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray
the Lord my soul to keep. If I
should die before I wake, I pray
the Lord my soul to take.

SELENA

Okay, girls. Get into bed.

Madeline and Maria snuggle into their beds, Selena kissing them each on the forehead.

SELENA (CONT'D)

Sleep tight. I love you.

MADELINE

We love you too, Mommy.

She almost closes the door, turns back.

SELENA

And no stories. You almost woke
Miss Bronwyn last night. Remember
she is doing us a favor until we
find a new place, so I really need
this to work out right now, okay?

MARIA

She scares us.

MADELINE

And she smells funny.

SELENA

Honey, Miss Bronwyn can be moody
sometimes but she's not going to
hurt you.

MADELINE

But she yells at us and it's really
scary. And she's not nice to you.

MARIA

Is she mean like this at your
office?

SELENA

She can be difficult with all of her employees, but she doesn't mean it. She just gets cranky after her surgeries. It hurts so she lashes out.

MARIA

What is she doing to her face all the time anyway?

SELENA

Never you mind. Just stay out of her way. She's my boss and she pays me to take care of her and her business affairs. Understand?

MADELINE/MARIA

Yes Ma'am.

SELENA

Good night.

She leaves. Madeline and Maria wait a few moments, staring after her. Finally, Maria scrambles into Madeline's bed and they huddle under the covers together.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

A soft KNOCK. Selena peeks her head in.

SELENA

Miss Bronwyn?

Selena steps in, noticing the empty bed.

SELENA (CONT'D)

Miss Bronwyn, is everything alright?

She heads toward the bathroom. A toilet FLUSHES. BRONWYN JACOBS (47) ambles out. White gauze envelopes her face, leaving only her eyes visible.

BRONWYN

I'm fine. Can't I use the freaking bathroom in peace? If I need you, I'll call for you.

Selena attempts to help her to the bed, but Bronwyn shoves her away.

MISS BRONWYN
Did I call for you?

Selena backs off, watching her crawl into bed.

MISS BRONWYN (CONT'D)
I need my medicine.

Selena rushes to the bedside table, opening several prescription bottles. She hands Bronwyn the pills and a glass of water.

Bronwyn gulps them down carefully. She holds the glass out for Selena.

BRONWYN
Those brats in bed yet?

SELENA
My daughters are in bed, yes.
They're not brats, with all due respect.

BRONWYN
Respect? If they had any sort of manners they'd learn to keep their mouths shut, especially when the very woman who puts food into those greedy little mouths is trying to sleep!

SELENA
Yes, Miss Bronwyn, of course. I just wanted to say again how appreciative I am for your kindness in this situation and I --

BRONWYN
When you get to the office in the morning, make sure to call all of my appointments to remind them that our meetings will be via conference call. I'm not up for physical meetings just yet.

SELENA
Yes, Miss Bronwyn.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

A CLICK as Madeline turns on a flashlight, illuminating their faces under the sheet.

MARIA
 (whispering)
 You go first.

MADELINE
 (whispering)
 I went first last night.

MARIA
 (whispering)
 Fine.

Maria scrunches up her face, thinking hard. She snatches the flashlight from Madeline.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Okay, I got it. Once upon a time,
 there was a lonely old witch and --

MADELINE
 Oh, that's original.

DREAM - INT. CASTLE - DEN - NIGHT

A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, resembling Bronwyn, paces in front of a massive fireplace. Next to her, a YOUNG BEAUTY, resembling Selena, writes feverishly in a notebook.

MARIA (V.O.)
 Shhh! Once upon a time there was a
 lonely old witch and her beautiful
 assistant, um, Sally. Sally had to
 do everything for the witch, like
 write in her calendar, take care of
 her money and handle all of her
 grown-up business stuff. And the
 witch was evil and very, very mean
 to Sally.

MADELINE (V.O.)
 What's the witch's name?

MARIA (V.O.)
 Witch.

MADELINE (V.O.)
 What kind of name is that?

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maria tosses down the flashlight, upset.

MARIA

Are you going to let me tell the story or not?

MADELINE

I will if it's a good one.

MARIA

Well, if you're so great, you do it.

MADELINE

Fine.

Madeline picks up the flashlight.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Once upon a time there was a witch named Esmerelda who was so mean to her assistant, Sally, that one day Sally killed her.

Maria GASPS, eyes wide.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Selena leans against Bronwyn's bedroom door, taking long deep breaths.

BRONWYN (O.S.)

Selena!

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Selena rushes to Bronwyn's bedside.

SELENA

What do you need? Are you alright?

Bronwyn grabs Selena's wrist, moaning in pain.

BRONWYN

I need more pills. My face is killing me.

Bronwyn opens her eyes. They're intensely red and bloodshot.

SELENA

I don't think that's a good idea, Miss Bronwyn. You don't look so good.

BRONWYN
I know that, damn you! I'm in
pain.

SELENA
But I just gave you your dosage. I
don't think I should give you more
than that.

Bronwyn attempts to sit up.

BRONWYN
Then what the hell do I pay you
for?

SELENA
Let me just call the doctor.

BRONWYN
No. You do as I say do when I say
do it. Do you understand?

SELENA
Yes, Miss Bronwyn.

BRONWYN
Good. Now get me some more of my
pills. After that, I want you to
cancel my morning. I don't think
I'll feel up to it.

SELENA
Yes, Miss Bronwyn.

DREAM - INT. CASTLE - DEN - NIGHT

SALLY stands over ESMERELDA's dead body, holding a silver
candelabra.

MADLINE/SALLY (V.O.)
Take that, evil witch.

Sally slams the candelabra on the floor. For good measure,
Sally kicks Esmerelda in her stomach.

MADLINE/SALLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And that!

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Bronwyn winces, grabbing her stomach.

BRONWYN

Ow!

SELENA

Oh my goodness, what's wrong?

BRONWYN

I still need my pills, that's what's wrong. Now my stomach is acting up. Goodness woman, why are you so slow?

Selena struggles with the childproof prescription bottle.

SELENA

Just a minute. I'll be right there.

BRONWYN

My goodness, it's so hot in here. Did you turn up the heat?

Bronwyn fans herself, breathing heavily.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

Oh for heaven's sake, it's a bottle. What are you, retarded?

Selena finally opens the cap, pouring several pills into her hand. Turning around, she shrieks at the sight of Bronwyn, the pills falling to the floor.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

What in the world is your problem, you klutz?

Bronwyn's face bleeds through the bandages.

SELENA

Your face.

Bronwyn touches her bandages, seeing the blood on her fingers.

BRONWYN

Call my doctor.

DREAM - INT. CASTLE - DEN - NIGHT

Sally struggles to drag Esmerelda's body closer to the fireplace. The phone RINGS. Sally runs to answer it.

MADLINE/SALLY (V.O.)
 Hello, Dr. Esmerelda Davis' office.
 No, she's unavailable right now.
 Yes, I'll be sure to tell her you
 called.

Sally hangs up. She turns, finding herself face to face with Esmerelda. Her skin sags, melting from the proximity to the fire.

MARIA/SALLY (V.O.)
 Aaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhh!

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Maria jumps out of bed, screaming. She runs out of the room.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

She flies down the hall toward Bronwyn's suite.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Maria rushes through the door straight toward Selena.

MARIA
 Mommy! Mommy!

SELENA
 Maria, why are you out of bed?

MARIA
 Maddie told me about a witch who
 was mean to her assistant and then
 she got killed and was dead but
 then she wasn't dead and her face
 melted off --!

BRONWYN (O.C.)
 (mumbling)
 What is she doing in here?

Maria looks up at Bronwyn, bandages off. Her saggy face is bloody and fiercely red. She's unrecognizable.

MARIA
 Aaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Maria runs from the room.

BRONWYN
 (mumbling)
 Get that brat under control or else
 I'll --

SELENA
 Or else what? You'll fire me?
 Then who'll take care of you and
 your face?

Selena storms out after Maria.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Maria, crying, runs past Madeline, standing outside of their bedroom. Selena chases her, turning back briefly.

SELENA
 Go back to bed, Maddie. You've
 done enough for tonight.

Madeline watches her run after Maria. She turns toward loud moans coming from Bronwyn's suite.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Madeline slowly walks in, her eyes widening at the sight of Bronwyn's face.

BRONWYN
 (mumbling)
 Hey, you there. Make yourself
 useful and get me my pills.

Madeline stares, motionless.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)
 Are you brain dead, child? Move.
 Over there, on the dresser.

Madeline walks to the dresser. She selects a bottle and opens it with no problem. She opens another. And another.

She walks back to the bed. Bronwyn snatches all of the pills from her hand and gulps them down. Madeline grimaces, watching her mangled face swallow the pills and water.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)
 What are you looking at?

Madeline stares, speechless.

BRONWYN (CONT'D)

In a few weeks, I'll look brand new. Better than you, even.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Selena consoles Maria, crying in the corner.

SELENA

Calm down, honey. Everything's okay.

MARIA

It was so real.

SELENA

I know. Maddie's stories are a bit too intense for you right now. You just have to remember that they're just that, stories.

MARIA

But Miss Bronwyn.

SELENA

Miss Bronwyn is fine. She's just not feeling well after her plastic surgery.

MARIA

Plastic? Is that why her face is melting?

Selena chuckles.

SELENA

Okay, let's get you and your sister back into bed.

INT. POSH MANHATTAN APARTMENT - MASTER SUITE - NIGHT

Madeline sits in bed, watching over Bronwyn. Bronwyn is motionless, her eyes closed. Her arm dangles over the side of the bed.

MADELINE

And Sally lived happily ever after.

Selena and Maria enter.

SELENA

Maddie, what are you doing? It's
time for bed. Come on, let Miss
Bronwyn rest.

Selena lifts Bronwyn's arm, noticing it's very limp.

SELENA (CONT'D)

Miss Bronwyn?

Madeline gets out of the bed and stands next to Maria.

Selena checks Bronwyn's pulse.

SELENA (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

Selena picks up the phone and dials 9-1-1.

SELENA (CONT'D)

Yes, I need an ambulance right
away.

Madeline and Maria watch Selena from the door. CLICK.
Madeline turns on her flashlight, illuminating her face.

MADELINE

(whisper)

The end.