

FADE IN:

INT. MASTERSON HOUSE (BEDROOM) - DAWN

A room divided in half.

In the middle, placed between two beds stands a dresser drawer. The right half littered with ribbons, trophies and awards. The left half celebrates a thick layer of dust.

On the bed to the left, a teenaged boy garbed in Western wear puts on a pair of cowboy boots. This is ERIC.

At the first sign of light he walks to the other bed. He shakes the lump buried beneath a blanket.

ERIC

Hey.

(another shake)

It's time to wake up.

Eric pulls the covers, revealing a teenaged boy in Long Johns. This is ETHAN, Eric's fraternal twin.

ETHAN

It's time for more sleep.

ERIC

What about practice?

ETHAN

I'll go later.

Ethan grabs back the blanket, pulls it close to his chest.

ERIC

Okay.

Eric pulls open a window and steps out.

EXT. MASTERSON HOUSE - DAWN

Ethan cocoons himself within the blanket while Eric places a hand atop the window frame, waiting.

ETHAN

Shut the window Eric. It's cold.

In unison, Eric silently mimics his brother's words before pushing the window closed.

Eric walks to the side of the house and grabs a broom, placing it between his legs. Suddenly the broom springs to life, lifting Ethan off the ground.

ERIC

Heyah.

Atop the broom, Eric flies away.

EXT. POND - MORNING

The broom lays lifeless on the ground. Thirty yards away stands a tree too stubborn to fall. Its bark, splintered, scorched and dotted with holes.

BANG!

A muzzle blast connects with the tree, adding another scar to its collection.

Eric walks over and sticks his finger into the hole, examining the results.

ERIC

(disappointed)

Shit.

He travels back thirty yards, back to his practice spot. In his left hand, a single segment of solid oak. Its back gently curves down with finger grips whittled into place. The shaft is smooth and shaved straight. Smoke spills out from the tip. This is a WAND, the customary tool for a MAGICIAN.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(softly to self)

Again.

Eric raises his left arm toward the tree and closes his right eye. A deep breath is taken. Another attempt is ready.

A whistled tune echoes through, catching Eric's attention. He shakes his head, refocusing on the tree.

ERIC (CONT'D)

(to self)

Pay them no mind.

Another whistle. He glares up at the trees filled with MOCKINGBIRDS, they sing another tune. Eric's eye begins to twitch, a vein starts to bulge.

EXT. POND (CLIFF) - MORNING

Atop a cliff hanging over the pond, a teenage boy spies on Eric, careful not to be seen. This is TODD.

He falls back behind a large pile of rocks where another teenage boy waits. This is JEFF.

JEFF
He down there?

TODD
Yeah.
(pause)
All by himself.

Jeff stands and reaches under his coat. He pulls out a long shaft, sinewy in texture with a thick base that spirals up to a sharp pointed tip. This is a UNICORN HORN.

TODD (CONT'D)
Go on. Go ahead.

JEFF
Not yet.

Jeff grins as he watches Eric struggle to maintain composure.

JEFF (CONT'D)
He's about ready to pop.

BANG!

A Blast whizzes by Jeff and detonates into a tree.

KABOOM!

Birds scatter.

TODD
He shootin' at us?!

JEFF
Nah. He's shootin' at the birds
like a damn idiot.

BANG! BANG!

TODD
Ha! What a wretch.

JEFF

Yeah.

(pause)

Let's show him some real magic.

He aims the Unicorn Horn at Eric.

The base glows. Bright light spirals through the sinewy veins wrapping the outer husk and a concentrated beam of magic erupts from the tip.

BOOM!

JEFF (CONT'D)

Woah!--

The force knocks Jeff into Todd.

EXT. POND - MORNING

The Horn blast explodes at Eric's feet, singeing the ground.

ERIC

Shit.

BOOM!

Another blast barrels toward Eric. For protection, he creates a BARRIER SPELL. The Barrier buckles on impact.

EXT. POND (CLIFF) - MORNING

Jeff continues to fire.

BOOM! BOOM!

JEFF

This thing's even better than them
kids stories say, huh?

Utilized as a human brace, Todd pushes against Jeff's back to battle against the Horn's recoil.

TODD

(straining)

Yeah.

(pause)

When's my turn?

JEFF

Get your own.

BOOM!

EXT. POND (PATH) - MORNING

Explosions echo past Ethan.

ETHAN

Eric!

(pause)

You better not be shootin' at them
birds again!

EXT. POND - MORNING

Each successive blast creates a spider web of cracks on
Eric's Barrier.

ETHAN (O.S.)

They ain't hurtin' nobody.

Ethan arrives...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You hear me?

...And witnesses his twin under attack.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Oh shit!

He rushes to his Eric's aid.

Using his RIGHT hand, Ethan pulls his wand by its IVORY
handle with custom molded grips. The REDWOOD shaft is shaved
smooth and topped with a SILVER sight that shimmers in the
sunlight.

Ethan creates a Barrier to protect his brother just as Eric's
Barrier shatters to pieces.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You alright?

ERIC

(nods)

Yeah.

(scared)

Look out!

Another Blast is unleashed, Eric covers up, while Ethan
stands confidently, his eyes scan for the attackers position.

KABOOM!

Ethan's Barrier withstands the massive Blast without suffering a single blemish.

ETHAN

They're coming from the cliff.
When I take the Barrier down, you
get on under that tree.

(pause)

Are you ready?

Eric nods.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Go.

Ethan lowers the Barrier and fires a Blast slightly wide of the attacks. It connects in an explosive fashion.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Whoever's up there better stop!

He conjures a much bigger Blast. The throbbing magic sits on the wand tip, waiting for release.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(holds up wand)

Or the next one won't miss.

A single pair of hands pop up.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Anybody else?

A second pair of hands slowly raise.

JEFF (O.S.)

You win! Don't hurt us champ!

The familiar voice elicits a smile.

ETHAN

(laughing)

Dragon shit.

Ethan snuffs out his Blast Spell as Jeff and Todd make their way down the cliff.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(to Eric)

It's just Jeff and Todd.

Eric begins crawling out from under an overturned tree.

ERIC
(to self)
Fuckers.

Todd and Jeff walk up. Jeff proudly displays the Unicorn Horn, both brothers are displeased by the sight.

JEFF
Hey, Ethan.

ERIC
You shouldn't be having that.

JEFF
(mockingly)
Who said that?

Jeff searches at eye level, knowing full well of Eric's whereabouts.

JEFF (CONT'D)
(looks down)
Well, hey there, Eric. Hope I didn't scare you with that powerful display of magic.

Eric struggles to free his left leg.

JEFF (CONT'D)
But what can you expect from such a powerful Magician as myself.

Jeff holds out a hypocritical helping hand. Eric aggressively smacks it away.

ERIC
You ain't no Magician.

At last, the leg is free.

ERIC (CONT'D)
You don't deserve to call yourself that!

He punches Jeff in the face, splitting his lip. A second punch is thwarted when Jeff aims the Horn at Eric's head.

JEFF
Scared?

Not backing down, Eric presses his forehead against the sharp tip of the Horn, drawing blood.

ETHAN
 (sternly)
 That's enough.

Ethan steps in, pushing his brother away from the Horn.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 You proved your point.

JEFF
 Take it easy on him, Ethan.
 (spinning Horn on finger)
 He's just jealous I now got more
 magic than he ever will.

Eric shoves Ethan away and lunges at Jeff.

ERIC
 You fuck--

But is snared by Ethan's GOLDEN BIND SPELL.

ERIC (CONT'D)
 Let me go, Ethan!

ETHAN
 Not until you calm down.

Eric attempts to reverse the spell to no avail.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 Come on now. You know you can't
 break it.

ERIC
 (continues to struggle)
 You're taking his side?

ETHAN
 I ain't taking a side. I just want
 you to calm down.

Eric takes deep breaths.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 (to Jeff)
 And you.
 (points at Horn)
 I don't wanna see that crime
 against magic again.

JEFF
 You ain't gonna squeal, are ya?

ETHAN
You know I won't.

JEFF
I was talking to him.

Jeff motions at Eric with the Horn.

ETHAN
He wont either.
(to Eric)
Right?

ERIC
(calmly)
I won't

The Golden Bind dissolves.

Tension and silence fills the air.

TODD
Hey. Uh.
(pause)
How bout we go do some fishing?

JEFF
That's a good idea.

Jeff stops aiming at Eric and holsters the Horn.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Lets go.

ETHAN
(to Eric)
You wanna join in?

ERIC
(to Ethan)
Na, I'm gonna stay and practice for
the Duel.
(pause)
You should too.

ETHAN
Come on. There ain't a Magician
good enough to beat me.

Ethan playfully nudges Eric with his elbow.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I'll see you later then.

JEFF
(mocking)
Yeah. See you later.

He pats the Horn under his coat.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Have fun with your little stick.

Ethan. Jeff and Todd start walking away.

ERIC
It's not a stick. It's a wand!

Out of anger, Eric fires down at a patch of flowers. The magic fired is a darker hue than the usual blue.

Eric walks away.

ERIC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(to self)
It's a wand.

The flowers rot black.