

NORTHANGER AVENUE

Pilot

"THE HAIRY SITUATION"

written by

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TEASER

INT. BALLROOM, REGENCY ENGLAND - NIGHT

11-year old CATHERINE MORLAND wanders through the thick crowd, dodging the formally dressed DANCING COUPLES as well as she can. She wears a gown in the style of 1800s England.

She HUMS to herself cheerfully and skirts around a group of ONLOOKERS. Suddenly, Catherine SMACKS into HENRY TILNEY and falls to the floor.

SFX: A page RIPS from a book.

EXT. MORLAND FRONT YARD - DAY

Embarrassed, Catherine slowly looks up at her 13-year-old neighbor. Henry wears shorts and a t-shirt. Catherine, too, wears casual, modern clothing.

Beside Catherine is a book she dropped, open to a page that now has a tear near the spine.

REVEAL Catherine's daydream is over. The two are in front of Catherine's old-fashioned mansion of a house. The yard has been trampled by Catherine pretending to be at a ball.

Henry offers Catherine a hand up.

HENRY

Are you OK?

Catherine makes an unintelligible SQUEAK, but she accepts his help.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I live next door...

Henry points behind him. Catherine's eyes follow his hand to where a two-story brick wall blocks the neighboring Tilney house and yard from view.

Henry LAUGHS uncomfortably but tries again at conversation.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I guess you guys moved in this week?

Catherine's eyes snap back to Henry. She attempts a smile but only manages a pained look. She turns around and wordlessly runs back to her house.

Catherine retraces the path of her previous destruction rather than making a beeline for the door. Henry watches in stunned amusement as Catherine SLAMS the door behind her.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. MORLAND ENTRYWAY - DAY

Boxes cover most of the room's floor space. Catherine's mother, MRS. SALLY MORLAND, sets down a box she was carrying as she takes in Catherine's appearance.

MRS. MORLAND

Catherine, watch your feet! They're more mud than shoe.

Catherine looks at her feet as if seeing them for the first time. Her shoes are coated in dirt.

CATHERINE

Whoops. Sorry, mom.

Catherine bends to remove the filthy footwear. Mrs. Morland smiles.

MRS. MORLAND

Were you enjoying our new yard?

SARAH (O.C.)

She was spying on our neighbor boy!

Catherine's nine-year-old sister SARAH jumps from behind their mom to tease her. Catherine glares.

CATHERINE

I was reading!

Older brother JAKE (14, lanky) enters the room, carrying a box.

JAKE

(laughing)

Only you could get that muddy *reading*.

SARAH

If you were reading, where's your book?

Catherine's eyes grow wide. Where *is* her book?

EXT. MORLAND FRONT YARD - DAY - FLASHBACK

Catherine reads a novel. REVEAL she dances and spins around in the yard while reading.

SMACK. Catherine collides with Henry. She falls to the ground. The book lies forgotten nearby.

RETURN TO:

INT. MORLAND ENTRYWAY - DAY

Catherine's brow furrows. Jake and Sarah continue to joke. Mrs. Morland searches for something in an open box.

JAKE

Shut up, Sarah. Can't you see it right here?

Jake pretends to hold up an invisible book.

JAKE (CONT'D)

(mocking)

I'm Catherine and I want to be my own book heroine, so I play pretend all the time. Do you want to read my invisible book?

Sarah and Jake LAUGH, but they are cut short by a look from Mrs. Morland.

MRS. MORLAND

Enough.

Mrs. Morland picks up her box from earlier and sets it on top of Jake's.

MRS. MORLAND (CONT'D)

Carry this upstairs, will you, Jake?

Jake GRUNTS and nods. He exits up the stairs.

MRS. MORLAND (CONT'D)

And these are for you, girls...

Mrs. Morland turns around to see the front door close. Catherine and Sarah are gone.

EXT. MORLAND FRONT PORCH - DAY

Catherine's missing novel sits on the steps of the front porch. Catherine spies it and grabs the book excitedly. Sarah walks behind, arms crossed.

CATHERINE

See? My book! -- But how did it get here?

Sarah grins.

SARAH

The neighbor boy.

CATHERINE

No! Maybe... Do you think?

SARAH

It has to be. I saw you hit on him.

Catherine scowls.

CATHERINE

Hit him...

SARAH

So let's go thank him properly!

Sarah sprints away. Catherine reluctantly follows.

CATHERINE

Sarah, wait!

INT. MORLAND HOUSE SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Jake, with two boxes, reaches the top of the stairs and turns right into his own room.

INT. JAKE'S ROOM - DAY

Jake leans against the wall to flip the light switch with his shoulder. The lights come on. Jake jumps, barely managing to hold onto both boxes.

On his bed sits PHILLIP, his six-year-old brother, looking guilty.

JAKE

Phillip! What are you doing in my room?

Jake sets down the boxes.

PHILLIP

Hiding from mom.

(beat)

I'm so tired of moving things. My arms are turning into noodles.

Jake quickly shuts the door.

JAKE

Honestly, me too. This week's been exhausting.

Jake sits down beside Phillip.

PHILLIP

It's not fair. The girls get to play outside, and we're still carrying stuff everywhere.

JAKE

You wanna know where I go to hide from Mom and Dad?

EXT. MORLAND TREEHOUSE - DAY

Jake and Phillip stand at the foot of the tree, looking up to a small treehouse accessible by a wooden ladder.

PHILLIP

Dibs.

EXT. TILNEY GATE - DAY

Sarah is already kneeling at the edge of the gate when Catherine joins her. They kneel by a brick wall much lower than the brick between the Morlands' and Tilneys' houses.

CATHERINE

What're you--

SARAH

SHHH.

Sarah points across the fence. Catherine turns her head. Henry stands nearby, looking the opposite direction.

EXT. TILNEY FRONT YARD - DAY

Henry talks to someone out of sight.

HENRY

I looked everywhere. There's no sign of the dog. Really.

His 12-year-old sister ELINOR, unseen, speaks tearfully.

ELINOR

Maybe he's hiding.

HENRY

A giant, hairy, black dog is hiding. Elinor, be serious.

Elinor SNIFFLES.

ELINOR
You're no help, Henry.

SFX: FOOTSTEPS. Elinor walks towards the house.

HENRY
Ah, I'm sorry. Wait.

Henry hurries after his sister.

EXT. TILNEY GATE - DAY

On the other side of the fence, Catherine stands up and watches Henry retreat. She smiles to herself.

CATHERINE
His name is Henry.

SARAH
Yeah, great, Henry. But you totally missed your chance to thank him.

Catherine grabs her sister by the shoulders.

CATHERINE
We've gotta find their missing dog!

SARAH
What?

Catherine shakes Sarah's shoulders.

CATHERINE
His dog -- he said he couldn't find it. So we find the dog; we thank him; we become his best friend.

Sarah rolls her eyes affectionately.

SARAH
Fine. But can't we have Henry look with us?

Catherine continues to shake Sarah.

CATHERINE
There's no time!

Catherine drops her hands and reaches into her pockets. She pulls out binoculars and a small fishing net. Sarah stares.

SARAH
Why'd you have those in your pockets?

Catherine shrugs. She runs down the sidewalk away from their house, pulling Sarah along with her.

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE - DAY

Catherine and Sarah pass large houses as they explore the neighborhood. The girls locate several different pets, but none fit Henry's description:

- Catherine pulls a TERRIER out from a bush. She releases it.
- Sarah laughs about a cute GOLDEN RETRIEVER wagging its tail on a driveway. Catherine pulls Sarah away.
- Catherine looks through the binoculars. She sees a lot of black fluffy hair near a house across the street. She puts down the binoculars. A fluffy BLACK CAT jumps at her face.

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE, DISTANT YARD - DAY

Catherine pulls on a long yard-tie leash in front of an unknown house. Sarah joins in. After much effort, a PUG grumpily slides into view.

Catherine and Sarah release the leash and leave. The pug runs away, followed by the leash, followed -- unseen by the girls -- by the stake that had been holding the leash.

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE, FURTHER - DAY

Catherine and Sarah sink down onto the curb, defeated. The net falls abandoned behind them.

CATHERINE

We just need a new plan!

SARAH

No, Catherine. We've been out here for half an hour and haven't found even one clue, hint, or sign.

Sarah points at the light post next to them. REVEAL dozens of "Lost Pet" signs stapled to the post, very clearly not from the Tilneys. Catherine sighs.

CATHERINE

We can't give up. Then Henry will always think of me as a weirdo instead of his best friend slash heroine.

Sarah nods, understanding. She puts a hand on Catherine's shoulder.

SARAH

In that case, this is something you must do alone. It's too boring.

Catherine rolls her eyes. The girls stand.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Come home after you check the park?

CATHERINE

Fine.

Sarah leaves, taking the binoculars with her. Catherine, net in hand, looks both ways and crosses the street.

INT. MORLAND TREEHOUSE - DAY

The room is minimally decorated: table, chairs, storage chest. Jake leans casually against the wall. Phillip runs excitedly around, looking out windows and into shelves.

JAKE

Pretty nice, right? Dad showed it to me the first day we came.

Phillip stays at the window.

PHILLIP

It's perfect.

JAKE

Yeah. I can't wait to bring friends up here after school or whatever.

Phillip turns around.

PHILLIP

No, you can't!

JAKE

What?

PHILLIP

This is special. Just for me and you!

Jake shakes his head and laughs.

JAKE

Uh, sorry, Phil. We have to share it.

PHILLIP

No!

Phillip kicks at the ladder.

JAKE

Phillip, stop.

PHILLIP

You stop.

Phillip kicks the ladder again. It falls over with a THUD. Jake runs over to the door and looks down. The ladder is unreachable. The brothers exchange a look; they're trapped.

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE PARK - DAY

Catherine enters to a pleasant-looking park. She passes a cheery playground and a nice, grassy area, following a paved walking path in the shade of tall trees.

The path goes between two rows of houses. As Catherine walks, she looks around, keeping an eye out for the dog. She passes behind a very broad tree -- and into fantasy.

EXT. FOREST (FANTASY) - DAY

Catherine imagines herself in the plainer dress and cloak of a Regency traveler.

Around her, the park becomes darker, with denser, shorter trees and a narrower path. Bushes crop up on either side of her. She holds her net more tightly.

CATHERINE

I can do this. It's just like chapter three.

Catherine approaches a bend in the path.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Except it's not summer.

SFX: Twigs SNAPPING.

Catherine stops and holds up her net. She tiptoes closer to the bend.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

And I'm alone.

She pauses, then takes one more step.

SFX: Another twig SNAPS.

Catherine gets scared.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

And there shouldn't be weird noises
until chapter five!

She runs full speed with a BATTLE CRY, swinging her net over her head like a lasso. She throws the far end of the net. The net catches, pulling Catherine forward.

BACK TO REALITY:

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE PARK - DAY

The net is stuck on an overhead tree branch. Catherine, again in her modern clothes, swings involuntarily forward on the net and then falls backwards to the twig-covered ground.

CATHERINE

Ouch.

Catherine hurries to her feet and looks around. The more friendly park bears no sign of a dog.

Catherine looks back at her path and realizes: she broke the twigs (one is currently beneath her foot).

She turns her attention to the net, still swinging from the tree branch above. Catherine tugs and tugs, but the net won't budge. She continues to pull.

Another twig SNAPS, off screen.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. NORTHANGER AVENUE PARK - DAY

Catherine pulls on her fishing net, still stuck on a branch. Behind her, a twig SNAPS.

She spins around. A giant BLACK DOG stands on the broken twig. Catherine's eyes grow wide.

CATHERINE

You!

The dog runs towards some hedges on the side of the path. Catherine tries to bring the net with her, but it is still stuck.

She looks at the net, looks at the dog now retreating through the hedges, and abandons the net for the chase.

EXT. MORLAND BACK YARD - DAY

The dog leads Catherine through the hedges and into her own back yard. The chase continues under the treehouse. In the treehouse, Phillip and Jake wave and yell to Catherine.

PHILLIP

Help!

JAKE

Catherine! Over here!

Catherine does not hear. The boys watch Catherine chase the dog into the corner of the yard. The dog is trapped!

Suddenly, the dog fakes a turn and gets around Catherine. Catherine pivots to chase the dog, but instead she makes contact with her mother's stone bird bath.

The bird bath falls with a CRASH. Stunned, Catherine still pursues. Jake and Phillip GROAN and sit back down.

EXT. MORLAND FRONT YARD - DAY

Dog POV -- Catherine chases the dog through the side yard. The dog turns towards the Tilneys' house. Catherine follows.

EXT. TILNEY GATE - DAY

The dog reaches the well-manicured front of the Tilney property. Trees hide the Tilney house from site.

Catherine blocks the dog's escape: trapped again.

CATHERINE

Home at last, doggy.

The dog tries to fake out Catherine, but Catherine is ready. She lunges at the dog. Her arms wrap around the dog momentarily.

The dog lunges forward in turn, bounding with a great leap out of Catherine's grasp and into the Tilney yard. Catherine CRASHES onto the ground hard.

Catherine cannot get over the fence, so she turns to the gate. She sees a video calling system and smashes the button repeatedly. Nothing happens.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Henry!

In desperation, Catherine turns to the gate and pulls. It does not open.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

El-um, Ellison! Uh, Elizabeth.
Eleazer?

FOOTSTEPS announce the arrival of NANNY HUGHES, 40, motherly.

NANNY

We don't want any.

Catherine blinks.

CATHERINE

Are you Henry's mother?

NANNY

I'm their nanny. But we don't entertain solicitors.

CATHERINE

No, no, I need to speak with Henry.

Nanny continues unabated.

NANNY

What're you selling, hun? Gift wrap?
Candles?

(squints)

You don't look like a Girl Scout.

CATHERINE

It's about a dog! Please let me in.

NANNY

Dogs? No. General Tilney hasn't allowed pets in here since 2010.

Catherine pauses.

CATHERINE

Henry doesn't have a dog?

NANNY

Not since poor Belvedere.

Catherine looks pale.

CATHERINE

That's terrible.

NANNY

It really is. Children need pets, I say -- Wait, I see your tricks. Sympathy won't get you sales here.

CATHERINE

No, please. It's very important. The dog--

NANNY

There are no dogs. Now shoo, before I call security.

Nanny raises a phone. Catherine scrams.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Jake sits in silence in one part of the treehouse, staring out the window at the Tilneys' brick wall fence. Phillip sits facing the perpendicular wall of the treehouse.

PHILLIP

Wanna switch walls?

Jake doesn't look at his brother.

JAKE

OK.

Phillip and Jake rotate 90 degrees. Phillip now stares out the window at brick as Jake stares at the wooden wall.

PHILLIP

I'm sorry, Jake.

Jake SIGHS and turns to Phillip.

JAKE

I'm sure we can't be stuck here more than another... ten hours?

Phillip looks dejected. Silence returns.

SARAH (O.C.)

Hey!

Jake and Phillip leap up and rush to the door to look out.

EXT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Sarah waves at her brothers. She holds the ladder with her other hand.

SARAH

When were you guys gonna tell me we have a treehouse?

JAKE

Sarah, thank God!

PHILLIP

Help us get down!

INT. MORLAND ENTRYWAY - DAY

Catherine trudges into her house, hanging her head in defeat. She looks up; Mrs. Morland waits with her arms crossed, frowning.

MRS. MORLAND

Is there something you need to tell me?

CATHERINE

(Almost in tears)
Henry doesn't have a dog!

Mrs. Morland's frown softens.

MRS. MORLAND

Sweetheart, lots of people don't have dogs. You don't have a dog.

Catherine cries harder.

CATHERINE

That's worse!

Her mother wraps an arm around Catherine, who tries very hard to stop crying. Catherine takes a deep breath.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I have to go back--

Mrs. Morland stops her sympathy; she holds Catherine by the shoulder.

MRS. MORLAND

You're not going anywhere until you explain why you destroyed our bird bath.

CATHERINE

I didn't mean to--

MRS. MORLAND

And what happened to your father's fishing net--

CATHERINE

Mom!

MRS. MORLAND

And why you spent the last ten minutes trampling our front flower beds.

Catherine looks guilty.

CATHERINE

Um, yes. I am very sorry to have done that *just now*.

Mrs. Morland sighs.

MRS. MORLAND

Go sit in the kitchen until I get in there. I need to go find your brothers.

CATHERINE

But it's important!

MRS. MORLAND

So was my birdbath!

Outside the nearest window, a bird glares at Catherine. Catherine looks uncomfortable. She hurries away from the bird's window and out of the room.

EXT./INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Jake kneels by the top of the ladder in the treehouse. Sarah has climbed to the third rung of the ladder. An argument continues.

SARAH
What's the big deal, Jake? I just
wanna see!

Sarah climbs another rung. Jake is incredulous.

JAKE
Phillip and I *really* want to come down
now.

Phillip looks out from the window.

PHILLIP
Please, Sarah!

Sarah frowns.

SARAH
You guys have been up there all day!

JAKE
Yes. That's the problem.

SARAH
I want a turn. You're so unfair!

Sarah makes a run up the rest of the ladder. She reaches the top and launches herself into the treehouse -- knocking the ladder in the process.

Jake EXCLAIMS and stops the ladder just in time to keep it from falling. He turns back to Sarah.

JAKE
You almost got us all stuck up here.

Sarah crosses her arms.

SARAH
I want to see our treehouse.

Phillip, still by the window, tries to get Jake's attention.

PHILLIP
Um, Jake.

Jake EXHALES sharply and walks over to Sarah.

JAKE
Fine.

Jake gestures vaguely at the treehouse.

JAKE (CONT'D)
Here it is. Let's go.

SARAH
Fine. Babies first!

Sarah motions for Jake to lead.

PHILLIP
Jake!

SARAH
What?

JAKE
What?

Jake and Sarah look at Phillip, exasperated. Phillip points out the treehouse door.

PHILLIP
I dropped it again.

Jake and Sarah run over and look down: the ladder is back on the ground.

INT. MORLAND KITCHEN - DAY

A few moving boxes sit on the countertops, but this room feels more lived in than most. Catherine enters the room and looks over her shoulder. Her mom is nowhere in sight.

Catherine walks up to the kitchen island and looks at the barstool where she's supposed to wait punishment. She bites her lip. Does she risk making an escape?

CATHERINE
Hey, mom?

Her mom calls from out of the room.

MRS. MORLAND (O.S.)
If you're talking to me, I can't hear you.

CATHERINE
Never mind!
(to herself)
I've got a dog to catch.

With a final look at the door, Catherine runs out the other side of the room and into

INT. MORLAND UTILITY ROOM - DAY

This room holds mostly laundry and storage. Catherine grabs another fishing net from a hook nearby on her way out the back door.

EXT. MORLAND BACK YARD - DAY

Catherine steps out of the back door. She scans the yard from right to left: driveway, grass, siblings yelling from a treehouse, hedges, two-story brick wall.

Catherine's eyes snap back to the treehouse.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Jake, Sarah and Phillip wave excitedly to the approaching Catherine.

SARAH

We're saved!

JAKE

Over here!

Catherine maintains a steady walk towards them. She's almost there. She reaches the ladder and picks it up.

PHILLIP

Catherine! Catherine!

EXT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

CATHERINE

Yes, a ladder to get over their fence!

Catherine swings the ladder onto her shoulder and runs off, never noticing her SCREAMING brothers and sister.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Phillip and Jake are shocked, but Sarah is furious.

SARAH

She's dead to me!

EXT. TILNEY GATE - DAY

Catherine, still carrying both net and ladder, makes her way to the neighbors' front gate. She sets up the ladder against the fence and climbs.

Catherine is a rung away from the top of the wall when suddenly, the gate beside her swings open. Elinor sprints through the gate, chased by the huge dog.

Catherine turns her head to watch Elinor and the dog disappear around the corner, then slides down the ladder and pursues.

CATHERINE

Elsie, wait!

EXT. MORLAND BACK YARD - DAY

Catherine chases after Elinor, who is running wildly through the Morlands' yard, trying to get away from the dog.

CATHERINE

This way!

Catherine points to the back door. Elinor changes course toward the house. The dog and Catherine follow suit.

Catherine reaches the house first and pulls open the back door just in time to shove Elinor inside to safety. Now it's just Catherine and the dog.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

You're not getting away this time.

The dog turns to face Catherine. She and the dog stare at each other intensely. Her grip tightens around the net.

The dog takes off to Catherine's left, but Catherine is ready. She spins and lassos the dog with her net. The net slips around the dog's chest like a harness.

INT./EXT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Phillip, Jake and Sarah watch their sister from a window. Catherine now holds the net with both hands, but the dog does not stop. She YELLS as the dog pulls her along behind.

EXT. MORLAND BACK YARD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Catherine can't keep up. Her grip weakens. As a last effort, she looks around. She spots the broken birdbath.

Catherine leans to the side, trying to pull the dog closer to the basin. She leans further. The dog turns. Catherine's feet reach the broken basin: now, a makeshift dog sled.

Catherine tighten her grip as the dog pulls her and the basin along. The basin drags the ground, splattering mud. Catherine pushes her feet onto the basin more, sending mud everywhere.

EXT. MORLAND FRONT YARD - DAY

The dog slows at the effort to drag Catherine and her "sled." More mud flies everywhere. They both become quite dirty.

Finally, a bit of mud lands on the dog's face, pushing its hair into its eyes. The dog can't see. It spirals out of control and collapses into the wall of the porch.

Catherine lands on top of the dog, immobilizing it.

Mrs. Morland and Elinor rush out from the porch as Henry runs from the neighboring side.

MRS. MORLAND
Catherine! Are you OK?

HENRY
Elinor! What happened?

Mrs. Morland bends down to help Catherine, who looks up at Henry.

CATHERINE
(out of breath)
I found the dog.

HENRY
I see that.

Mrs. Morland helps secure the dog, twisting the fishing net into a sort of leash. Catherine sits up. She is caked with mud.

MRS. MORLAND
Whose dog?

Catherine and Henry shrug.

HENRY
I've never seen her.

ELINOR
You mean it isn't a... grim? An omen
of death?

Henry smirks at his sister. The dog licks Catherine's hand.

MRS. MORLAND
I think she's a Newfoundland.

ELINOR
Oh.

CATHERINE

No wonder you were so scared! But
don't worry. Grims are much bigger
than Gertie.

Catherine taps the Newfoundland -- now Gertie -- on its head.
Elinor's smile falters as she receives Catherine's strange
comfort.

ELINOR

Thank you...
(beat)
Henry?

HENRY

Oh, right, we should be getting back.

Elinor nods a goodbye and turns to leave. Henry also motions
goodbye and follows his sister a couple of steps.

Catherine looks to Mrs. Morland, who raises her eyebrow with
a sly smile. Catherine smiles and runs after her neighbors.

CATHERINE

Wait! I'll walk you home.

Mrs. Morland and Gertie watch as Catherine catches up with
Henry and Elinor before they reach the brick wall.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I'm Catherine!

The three walk around the corner together.

INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY

Phillip sits in the floor, Sarah is lying down and Jake
stands by a window, leaning head on arm. Jake stands up and
slams his fist on the windowsill.

JAKE

Enough! We've gotta get out of here.

Phillip turns and Sarah leans up from the floor.

SARAH

How? Did you suddenly learn to fly?
Get bit by a super spider?

JAKE

I-I have a plan.

EXT/INT. TREEHOUSE - DAY - SOON AFTER

Jake, Sarah and Phillip toss anything not nailed down out of the treehouse: two chairs and then the table.

PHILLIP

It's loud! But not working...

JAKE

Maybe it's not getting mom's attention, but--

Jake takes Sarah's binoculars from around her neck and throws them down, too.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I feel better.

SARAH

Hey!

JAKE

Just the chest is left. Lift on three?
One...

Jake, Phillip and Sarah surround the chest.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Two...

They grab the sides.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Three!

Sarah, Phillip and Jake pull with all their might, but instead of lifting the chest, the lid pops off. Inside is a rope ladder. The siblings stare, then exchange looks.

SARAH

You were here all day and didn't look inside?!

Jake smiles sheepishly.

EXT. TILNEY FRONT YARD - DAY

Catherine, Henry and Elinor cross through the Tilney gate and into the yard. Even from inside the yard, huge trees provide shade and cover the house from being fully seen.

The kids walk through the grass.

CATHERINE

But I thought you and Elinor had lost a dog. What were you talking about?

ELINOR

Henry was trying to prove there was no scary dog. But I was right! As usual.

HENRY

Hardly.

(beat)

But wait, you spent the whole day looking for a dog for us?

CATHERINE

Yeah, I guess.

ELINOR

You could have just talked to us.

Catherine's mouth falls open a little. She hadn't considered that.

HENRY

Still, it was pretty awesome how you chased down the dog. You have a promising future as a dog catcher.

Catherine, Henry and Elinor LAUGH.

CATHERINE

But I'm not going to be a dog catcher.

HENRY

Please tell me you aren't going into landscaping.

Catherine shakes her head. She speaks softly.

CATHERINE

I'm going to be a heroine.

Elinor and Henry wait for her to explain.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I'm going to be fearless, and curious, and really well-read. I want to have adventures like characters in books!

The neighbors smile.

ELINOR

Please don't write down my part from today's story. Running away from a lost puppy was not my best moment.

Henry LAUGHS.

HENRY

You can redeem yourself on our next adventure. Run from a bunny or something.

Catherine tries not to laugh as Elinor gently shoves her brother. They arrive at the front door and Elinor hurries inside. Henry waits on the steps with Catherine.

EXT. TILNEY FRONT DOOR (FANTASY) - DAY

At the front door, Henry and Catherine suddenly wear Regency formalwear again. Henry turns to address Catherine in an English accent.

HENRY

I hope we will have more adventures.

Catherine looks around to avoid eye contact.

CATHERINE

Oh, I think we will.

HENRY

Well, now we will soon be friends, since I can tease you about this whenever we meet, and nothing in the world encourages friendship so much.

Catherine looks stunned. Is she dreaming? Yes. She shakes her head to clear it.

BACK TO REALITY:

EXT. TILNEY BACK YARD - DAY

Henry and Catherine return to modern clothes.

CATHERINE

Wait, what?

Henry laughs.

HENRY

I said it's nice to have new friends.

Catherine returns Henry's smile. He opens the door to his house, inviting her inside.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You want to come in? Nanny'll fix us a snack.

Catherine's eyes grow wide, and she makes another unintelligible SQUEAK. She runs off, leaving behind the bewildered Henry yet again.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

EXT. TILNEY GATE - DAY

Catherine's ladder remains propped against the Tilneys' wall. Suddenly, the gate opens and Nanny Hughes drives her car through. FUNNY MUSIC plays out her open window.

Nanny turns onto the road and drives past the ladder and out of frame. Her car breaks SCREECH and Nanny's car backs up into frame and parks.

Nanny jumps out of the car and SLAMS the door. She runs to the wall and puts a hand on the ladder.

NANNY

Sweet buttered popcorn, the sales kids
are back!

Nanny looks around but sees no one. She shoves the ladder over the wall into the Tilneys' yard before running back to her car. She puts the car in gear and PEELS OUT.

END OF EPISODE