

MAGNA THE MAGNIFICENT

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - NIGHT

1

It's prom night. The school hallway is dimly lit, but flashes of blue and purple light from the auditorium dance illuminate the walls. Base-heavy music pumps in the background.

MAGNA (18), dressed in a flowing pink prom dress, steps into frame. She looks around her, clearly searching for something.

She walks down the hallway to see her friend BETH (18), dressed in a simple prom dress, standing next to the women's restroom.

MAGNA

Hey. Uh. Have you seen Todd anywhere?

BETH

What? Oh. No, I don't think so.

MAGNA

Ok. I thought maybe he went to the bathroom.

BETH

No. I mean I didn't see him go in there.

MAGNA

Okay, thanks.

Magna tries to enter the bathroom but Beth stands awkwardly in her way.

MAGNA (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

BETH

What?

MAGNA

I need to use the bathroom.

BETH

Oh. Right. Sorry.

Magna pushes past her and enters the restroom.

2 INT. SCHOOL BATHROOM-NIGHT

2

Magna tries to open a stall but it is locked. As she presses the door, there is a strange sound from within. She looks down to see one pair of men's red velvet shoes and a girl in a prom dress on her knees facing the man's shoes.

Her eyes grow wide in utter horror. She rushes out of the restroom.

3 INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

3

Magna, visibly upset, quickly walks down the hallway and bumps into KATIE (18), dressed in a sparkly prom dress. She tries to get away, but Katie stops her.

KATIE

Woah! Hold up! You okay?

MAGNA

Yeah. I-I'm fine.

KATIE

You sure?

MAGNA

Really. I'm good.

KATIE

(skeptical)

Ok. Cuz honestly that music in there is *ass*. Like - I *swear* - every year it gets worse. Me and a few friends are probably gonna bail. Go get pancakes or something. I don't know. You can come if you want.

Magna hesitates.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I mean no pressure or anything.

MAGNA

No. I'll come.

KATIE

(thrilled)

Okay! Awesome! We'll probably leave in like five to ten minutes. Meet out at the back.

4

EXT. THE SCHOOL STEPS - NIGHT

4

Magna sits on the steps at the back of the school waiting for Katie and her friends.

The door behind her opens and someone approaches. A pair of red velvet shoes stop on the step beside her.

Magna turns around to see her boyfriend TODD, a large baby-faced guy wearing a white button-up with black slacks. She immediately faces back to looking out over the school parking lot.

TODD

What are you doing out here? Let's go back inside.

Magna sits for a moment ignoring his question. Todd edges down the first step. Magna gets up and starts to walk on the side of the building.

TODD (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

She keeps walking. Todd grabs her by the arm.

TODD (CONT'D)

Magna! What the hell?

MAGNA

(shoving him)

Get off me.

Todd tightens his grip and pulls her towards him. They struggle and Magna shoves him harder.

MAGNA (CONT'D)

Get *off* me, Todd!

Todd slams her into the wall of the building. He holds her captive by her shoulders.

TODD

Hey! Don't *ever* walk away from me when I'm trying to talk to you. You got that?

Magna doesn't respond.

TODD (CONT'D)

You got that?

Magna still doesn't respond. Her eyes are locked on his shoes.

TODD (CONT'D)
 What are you looking at? Stop
 looking at me like that!

MAGNA
 (quietly)
 I'm leaving, Todd.

Shocked, Todd unconsciously lets go of her.

TODD
 What the hell are you talking
 about? We literally just - ok, you
 know what - FINE. Let's go. This
 dance *sucks* anyway.

MAGNA
 (under her breath)
 You would know.

TODD
 What did you say?

MAGNA
 Nothing.

TODD
 No. What *the fuck* did you just say,
 Magna?

Magna hesitates. She's afraid to reply, but the anger inside
 her wins out.

MAGNA
 I said I guess you would know . . .
 about what sucks.

Furious, Todd seizes Magna by the throat. He pins her to the
 wall.

TODD
 WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

Magna cannot reply, due to the tightness of his grip. Her
 face contorts and her eyes fill with tears. She is trying to
 push him off.

TODD (CONT'D)
 HUH? YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY OR
 SOMETHING?

She tries to shake her head.

TODD (CONT'D)
 YOU THINK YOU'RE FUNNY,
 MAGNA?

MAGNA
 (barely able to speak)
 Stop . . . Todd . . . I can't
 breathe.

Todd lets go and Magna falls to the ground coughing. He stands there, watching her.

TODD (CONT'D)
 Damn it! Look what you made me do!
 You think I like to do this?

Magna doesn't even hear him.

TODD (CONT'D)
 Whatever. Screw you. I'm done with
 this shit.

Todd turns back towards the stairs of the school, leaving Magna to catch her breath outside on the ground. She struggles to her feet and leans against the wall, panting. Tears stream down her face. She rips off her corsage and stomps it into the earth. Then, in a fit of rage, she punches the wall behind her.

CUT TO:

5 INT. MAGNA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

5

Magna walks into the house with her bruised knuckles and shoes in hand.

She starts to make her way to the bathroom when she hears her MOTHER.

MOTHER (O.S.)
 Hey! How'd it go?

MAGNA
 Fine.

MOTHER (O.S.)
 Great! Hey I've also got a hot
 date tonight and I'm running late.
 Don't wait up for me.

We hear her mother's keys jingle and the back door shuts.

MAGNA (MUMBLES)
 Of course.

Magna continues to make her way down the hallway toward her bedroom.

6 INT. MAGNA'S BATHROOM - DAY (MONDAY MORNING)

6

Magna stands looking at herself in the mirror. She looks closer at the newly formed bruises on her neck and arm. She turns her back to reveal three more bruises in different stages of healing on her lower back.

She stares at herself in the mirror contemplating what happened at Prom.

She puts on her clothes for the day, making sure that they cover the bruises.

First, she takes a green-colored concealer and covers the bruise on her neck. Next, she takes a skin-colored powder and covers the now-green splotch. Lastly, she looks down at her knuckles and performs the same procedure.

7 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

7

Magna sees Beth waiting outside of their classroom and walks up to her.

BETH

Heeey!

Beth points to the covered bruise on Magna's neck and gives her a sly smile.

BETH (CONT'D)

Looks like someone had fun last night!

Magna grabs the collar of her jacket and tries to cover it up.

MAGNA

It's not...

BETH

Relax.

(to the side)

We all get a little kinky sometimes . . .

Beth's words begin to fade out as Magna starts to feel her frustration build.

BETH (CONT'D)

(sighing)

Seriously though. Everybody's so jealous. You've got Todd wrapped around your finger, you kno---

MAGNA
(cutting her off)
Beth!

Beth stops for a moment.

MAGNA (CONT'D)
I need to talk to you about
something.

BETH
(a bit concerned)
What is it?

Magna looks around.

MAGNA (QUIETLY SPEAKS)
You promise not to tell anyone?

Magna begins to tell Beth about the incidents with Todd. We can see her pointing at her neck and back, but cannot hear the conversation.

MAGNA (CONT'D)
I just can't do it anymore...

Before Magna can get any more words out, Katie approaches the two of them.

KATIE
Magna! Hey! I was looking for you!

Magna looks at her, a bit confused.

KATIE (CONT'D)
You're not mad are you?

MAGNA
About what?

KATIE
Last night - at the dance, I mean.
I thought you were coming with us,
but then we couldn't find you, so
we just took off. I'm so sorry! We
literally looked everywhere!

MAGNA
Oh. Yeah. That's my fault. Sorry. I
was going to come, but then uh - my
mom called me. She uh - she got in
a car accident.

KATIE

What!? Oh my gosh! Is she alright!?

MAGNA

Yeah. No. She's fine.

KATIE

Well, thank God. I mean . . . If there's anything I can do, just let me ---

BETH (FAKE NICE)

Katie. She said she's fine.

KATIE

Oh. Okay. Well. I-I guess I'll see you around.

BETH

(fake smiling)

See you, honey.

Katie walks down the hall. Beth turns back to Manga. She rolls her eyes and makes a gagging motion. Magna ignores Beth's remarks.

BETH (CONT'D)

Anyway. Like I was saying: Are you sure he wasn't just messing around? You know how some guys get sometimes.

MAGNA

Yeah, but---

BETH

Magna. I've known Todd since like 3rd grade. He's a *good guy*. I mean maybe he just had a few too many dr-
--

MAGNA

He wasn't drinking.

Beth looks at her seriously for a second. In this moment, she loses all of Magna's remaining trust.

MAGNA (ANGRILY) (CONT'D)

Never mind. You're right. I'm just being stupid. Forget about it.

Magna walks away. Beth tries to call out to her but Magna just ignores her.

8 EXT. SCHOOL STEPS - DAY 8

Magna sits on the stairs of the school eating her lunch alone.

Flash back to when she used to eat lunch with Todd and Beth and their other friends.

She looks down at the ground.

9 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 9

Magna goes into class and sits down. She looks over to see Beth sitting next to Todd. They are talking together quietly and occasionally look over at Magna.

Magna gets a sinking feeling and curls herself into her chair. Her face shifts from concerned to annoyed.

The class begins to start and we can hear the TEACHER performing the lesson. Magna stares intensely at the front of the room. The sounds of her teacher starts to fade as the whispers of Todd and Beth start to grow louder and louder.

We see flashes of red overlap onto the screen. Magna is starting to hold more anger in her face. Finally, she stands up and yells.

MAGNA

Shut up!

A hush falls over the classroom as the teacher stands stunned. Magna, embarrassed, grabs her things and rushes out the door. Todd smirks and shakes his head.

10 EXT. OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL - DAY 10

Magna rushes out the front of the school building and throws her backpack and books at a tree. Once they fall, Magna starts to punch the tree with her fists.

An OLDER WOMAN approaches. She looks a bit rugged with a simple T-shirt and pants. She places blue flyers onto one of the telephone poles by the school. She looks over to see Magna.

OLDER WOMAN

What that tree do to you?

Magna stops what she is doing and starts to pick up her stuff as she wipes away tears.

She briefly acknowledges the Older Woman. She starts to walk the other way. The woman starts to follow her.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Hey! Chill out. I'm just messing around.

The woman hands Magna one of her blue flyers. Magna looks at it for a second and places it into her backpack. She turns around and continues to walk home.

The Older Woman, with a concerned look on her face, watches Magna walk away.

11 INT. KITCHEN- DAY 11

Magna walks into the kitchen looking around to find her mom.

MAGNA
Mom?

She walks to the fridge and sees a note left from her Mother.

"Left with Greg for Hilton Head this weekend, be back on Monday! XOXO"-Mom

Magna takes the note and rips it into a million pieces and aggressively throws them into the trash.

12 INT. BEDROOM-DAY 12

Magna swings open her door and looks around her room. We see photos of her and Todd, her and Beth, and other memorabilia like flowers and stuffed animals. She drops her bag to the floor and rushes to the pictures of her and Beth on the wall.

She rips them off the wall and tears them in half. She moves to the flowers on her nightstand. She slams the vase on the ground and shreds the flowers. She looks over to the teddy bear and rips the head off of the body. She throws one part across the room and the other to the opposite side of the room.

Finally, she goes to a picture frame of her and Todd. She takes a moment and looks at how naïve she was when they first started dating. She takes the picture frame and throws it across the room.

She slides down on the wall until she is on the floor. Tired she rests her head onto her wall and shuts her eyes for a brief moment.

She opens her eyes to see the mess she has made of her room. She takes a deep sigh.

She looks down at her back pack and sees the blue flyer poking out. She grabs the flyer and looks down at it.

MATCH CUT TO:

13

EXT. BOXING GYM - DAY

13

Magna stands outside of the gym, wearing workout clothes and a jacket. She looks down at the flyer before opening the door and stepping into the gym.

She walks in feeling a bit out of her element and looks around at all of the different equipment and people practicing.

OLDER WOMAN

Hey! Look what the cat dragged in.

Magna walks towards the Older Woman. She motions for Magna to put her stuff against the wall and grab some gloves. Magna complies and walks over to the wall with a few gloves hanging onto a hook. She grabs a pair of red gloves and slowly places them onto her hands unsure of herself.

Once they are strapped on, she looks over to the Older Woman. The Older Woman has her gloves on and stands facing a large punching bag that is taped up with duct tape. She motions for Magna to come over.

She slowly shows Magna the technique of punching the bag. Then, has Magna imitate her movements. She takes a step back and watches as Magna starts to get the hang of it.

Magna, getting more comfortable continues to pick up the pace of her punches until her jacket falls from her shoulder to reveal some of the bruises on her back.

The Older Woman catches a glimpse of them and nods to herself.

Magna quickly pulls the jacket up hoping that no one saw. And continues to punch the bag.

The Older Woman grabs some punching mitts and calls Magna over.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

Let's try some basic techniques. I don't want you to hit these as hard as you can.

(MORE)

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Form is what's important. This is
 something called a "one-two punch."

The Older Woman motions for Magna to hit her left mitt.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 One!

She motions for her to punch the right mitt.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Two! Again.

Magna repeats the same motion again.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Again.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Again.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Again.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 Again.

MAGNA
 (losing control)
 UGH! THIS IS STUPID!

She rips off the gloves and throws them on the ground.

OLDER WOMAN
 I thought you'd have more fight in
 you.

MAGNA
 Ha. You don't know the first thing
 about me.

OLDER WOMAN
 You're right. I don't.

The woman grabs Magna's hand and holds it up so the abrasions
 on her knuckles are clear to see.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
 But I *do* know about *this*.

Magna sees that the woman's own hands are covered in scars.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
So you can either find some way to
channel it . . .

She releases Magna's hand.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Or you can go back to punching
trees.

Magna considers those words. Gradually coming to a decision,
she retrieves her gloves.

OLDER WOMAN (CONT'D)
Good. Now, let's get to work.

They resume the training exercise and the camera pulls
further and further out.

14 EXT. BOXING RING- DAY

14

Magna is dressed in a sports bra and silky boxer trucks that has her name on it, with her hair in braids. Her face is shiny with Vaseline.

She is staring directly into the camera.

We hear Todd's voice in the background.

TODD
Look what you made me do...You
think I like to hurt you?

She picks up her hands and **two boxing gloves** come into frame. She looks up and **hits the gloves together. She stands up to reveal the name Magna the Magnificent on the front of her trucks.**

Ding! Ding!

CUT TO BLACK.