

***Moving On with the Wicked Stepmother***

*Cast of Characters (in order of appearance)*

<b>Rihanna</b>	A 10-year-old girl who loves Cinderella, and whose mother died a few years ago
<b>Dad/Nick</b>	Rihanna's 40-year-old dad and a cardiologist trying to move on
<b>Nightmare Step mother</b>	The false perception of Rihanna's future stepmother that appears in a nightmare
<b>Adele</b>	Nick's current girlfriend, 35 years old, and Rihanna's future stepmother; a clumsy woman with heart issues.
<b>Mom's Spirit</b>	The ghost of Rihanna's dead mother, who died years prior, and helps Rihanna see the light and move on
<b>Heinz</b>	Adele's naive little nephew that provides a character reference for his aunt
<b>Carla</b>	Adele's "exotic" friend that provides a character reference

**Settings:** Present Day, Nick and Rihanna's home - living room, Rihanna's bedroom, Disneyland

***Scene 1: The Serious Talk***

*Opening music*

**Rihanna:** (*reading*) And the stepmother went to the ball, leaving Cinderella to do all the chores. Poor Cinderella! (*SFX: closing book*)

**Dad:** (*distantly*) Rihanna, could you come down to the living room?

**Rihanna:** Okay, Dad! (*SFX: Footsteps on stairs*)

**Dad:** (*seriously*) Rihanna, we need to talk.

**Rihanna:** (*jokingly*) We are talking.

**Dad:** (*unamused*) Yes, we are. It's been two years since your mother's passing. I've already moved on. Have you?

**Rihanna:** (*incredulously*) Move? You're still living in the same house!

**Dad:** No, not "physically" moved on, just...you know ... moved on, to the next chapter.

**Rihanna:** (*confused*) But I've read all the chapters of *Cinderella*.

**Dad:** (*irritated*) Quit clowning around. Listen, I've met someone. Her name's Adele.

**Rihanna:** (*curiously*) Really? Like the singer? Where did you meet her?

**Dad:** I met her during a heart transplant operation, and I fell in love with her.

**Rihanna:** (*upset*) But you said that you would love Mom forever!

**Dad:** (*reassuringly*) Yes, I did, but she's no longer with us. I know you loved her very much, but it's time you moved on.

**Rihanna:** (*indignantly*) No, I don't want to! I miss her.

**Dad:** Listen, your future mother-uh...stepmother is kind. I'll bet you'll love her when she comes over tomorrow.

**Rihanna:** (*scared realization*) Tomorrow? Cinderella's evil stepmother?! She'll force me to do all the housework with no play time. She'll treat me like Cinderella! Nooo!  
(*SFX: Stomping up stairs*)

**Dad:** (*calling after her*) Wait, Rihanna, don't lock yourself in your room! (*SFX: door slamming*)

### **Scene 2: The Job Ad**

*Rihanna is sitting on her bed trying to figure out what to do.*

**Rihanna:** (*panicked voice*) What should I do?! I know! I'll post an ad on Instagram for a new mom! Then, if she doesn't fit the requirements, Dad can kick her to the curb! Okay. What do I want in a new mum? (*SFX: typing sounds*) She needs to be nice, healthy, funny, smart, love fairy tales and have long hair - OK that's optional. No chores, and no vegetables! Two character references. They should call this number...and post!

**Dad:** (*SFX: Knocking on the door; miffed*) Rihanna, you know I can read your posts, right? (*sighs*) I know we have conflicting opinions about Adele, but you have to move on. Maybe you'll have a change of heart when you meet her tomorrow.

**Rihanna:** (*begrudgingly*) Fine, but I'm not ready for this, Dad. Good night.

**Dad:** Good night, Rihanna.

### **Scene 3: The Encounter**

**Rihanna:** (*reading*) And so, Cinderella, forced to wipe every corner of the mansion, couldn't go to the ball. (*yawn*) I'm so sleepy. (*falls asleep*) (*Nightmare music*) Ah! Who's there?!

**Nightmare Stepmother:** (*screeching*) Wake up, Rihanna! Do the dishes! Do the laundry! Clean the curtains! Clean the chimney! Scrub the toilet! Scrub the roof!

**Rihanna:** (*unintimidated*) Leave me alone, you wicked stepmother! (*awakens*) Oh God, it was just a bad dream. Is it morning already?

**Dad:** (*knocking on door sound*) Come down Rihanna. Adele will be here soon.

**Rihanna:** Okay, Dad. (*to herself*) Oh no! The dreaded day has come!

*(SFX: Doorbell rings)*

**Dad:** Oh, she's here. I'll hide in my study. There's fresh lemonade on the table.

**Adele:** *(SFX: Rihanna opens the door)* (*excitedly*) Rihanna! I'm Adele, your future stepmom. (*silly laughter*) *(SFX: dramatic)* (*SFX: phone dropping*) Oops, I dropped my phone. How clumsy of me.

**Rihanna:** (*spitefully*) So, what makes you think you're stepmother material?

**Adele:** (*enthusiastically guessing*) I can cook delicious healthy food for you?

**Rihanna:** (*disgusted*) You mean vegetables? Ew!

**Adele:** Oh, uh (*embarrassed laugh*) ... I can drive you to school!

**Rihanna:** Really? You have a car license?

**Adele:** No...but I have a bicycle license! *(SFX: drink spilling)* Whoops, I spilled my lemonade.

**Rihanna:** You expect me to clean that up? Hmph. Next question. (*suspiciously*) Are you marrying my father for his money? (*mutters to self*) You gold-digger.

**Adele:** (*aghast*) No! When honey-boo saved me from heart failure, he stole my heart, in more ways than one. Then I promised that I would give him lots of love, even more than his last wife did! (*giggles*)

**Rihanna:** (*fiercely*) How dare you insult my mom?! I will never accept you as my mother! *(SFX: runs up the stairs to her room)*

**Adele:** Wait! I'm sorry! Did I say something wrong? *(SFX: door slams)*

**Dad:** (*hearing the quarrel and entering*) I'm sorry, Adele. She's still adjusting.

**Adele:** Not a good first impression, right?

**Dad:** Wait! I remember Rihanna posted a job ad on instagram. Try applying for it! You might change her mind!

#### **Scene 4: The Reference Calls**

*Setting: Rihanna's room*

**Rihanna:** *(SFX: phone rings)* Hello?

**Heinz:** Hello, I am Heinz, my Aunty Adele is applying for the role of your mom.

**Rihanna:** Oh, right, the job ad. I can't believe she actually applied for it.

**Heinz:** She says that she needs my help for a refer...dance?

**Rihanna:** (*chuckles*) You mean reference. Can I ask you how you feel about her?

**Heinz:** Um...she always drops things, but she is kind and help ... helpful! I like her. I think you are lucky cuz she wants to be your...what's a stepmommy?

**Rihanna:** Uh, ask your mom. I'll consider your info. Bye.

**Heinz:** Bye!

**Rihanna:** Hmph. Lame. (*SFX: phone rings*) Hello?

**Carla:** Hi, I'm Carla, a friend of Adele. I heard she's applying for the role of your mom. How can I help?

**Rihanna:** Tell me what she's like.

**Carla:** Well, even if she's a klutz, she's as sweet as sugar and cares about you and your daddy very much. Try giving her a chance.

**Rihanna:** Ok, thanks for your call. Bye!

**Carla:** Bye!

**Rihanna:** Give her a chance? Pfft. (*yawns*) It's been a long day. I think I'll read *Cinderella* before going to bed.

### **Scene 5: The Dream**

**Rihanna:** (*reading*) And the Fairy Godmother waved her wand and Cinderella was now wearing a beautiful blue evening gown...(yawns) (*falls asleep*) (*Dream Music*) (*apprehensive*) Huh? Fairy Godmother? Is that you?

**Mom's Spirit:** No, Rihanna, it's your mom.

**Rihanna:** (*delighted*) Mom! I miss you so much!

**Mom's Spirit:** I miss you too, Rihanna.

**Rihanna:** (*quickly*) Dad found another woman, and he wants to marry her!

**Mom's Spirit:** (*approvingly*) I know.

**Rihanna:** (*stunned*) Wait, you're okay with this?

**Mom's Spirit:** Sweetie, you and your dad must move on. Nick needs a companion and you need a mom. Please, give her a chance.

**Rihanna:** (*sighs*) Alright. I'll do it for you.

**Mom's Spirit:** (*correcting her*) Do it for yourself, dear. (*Dream music*)

**Rihanna:** It's morning now. That dream felt so real!

**Dad:** (*SFX: Door opens*) Are you feeling better now, Rihanna?

**Rihanna:** Dad, can I see Adele again? I want to give her a second chance.

**Dad:** (*pleasantly surprised*) Oh, really? Alright, I'll call Adele and see what she thinks. Since we're on the same page, how about a trip to Disneyland with her?

**Rihanna:** (*thrilled*) Yeah!

### **Scene 6: Disneyland With Future Stepmom**

*Setting: Disneyland (Disneyland music)*

**Rihanna:** (*ecstatic*) Wow! I'm having so much fun!

**Adele:** (*agreeing*) I know, right! Me too!

**Dad:** Alrighty, I'm going to get some grub. Meet me in front of Cinderella's Castle in 5 minutes.

**Adele:** Okay! (*walking away with Rihanna*) Rihanna, what's your favourite Disney princess?

**Rihanna:** Cinderella! I've read it a hundred times!

**Adele:** Cinderella? Me too! I've watched the movie twenty times!

**Rihanna:** (*excitedly*) Wicked! You're cooler than I thought!

**Adele:** Oh no, I forgot to close the lid on my water bottle and now my purse is completely drenched!

**Rihanna:** (*friendly*) Let me help. You know, I thought you were evil at first, but it turns out you're just a little clumsy!

**Dad:** Guess who's back with hot dogs!

**Rihanna:** (*eagerly*) Oh! Gimme that!

**Dad:** (*trying to stop her*) Wait, Rihanna, that one's not for you -

**Rihanna:** Don't mind if I do! (*SFX: cracking sound*) Ow! (*lisps*) There's something hard in the bun! I chipped my tooth! There's a ring in the bun!

**Dad:** That hot dog was meant for Adele!

**Rihanna:** (*lisps*) Why would you—ohhhhhhh!

**Adele:** (*gushing*) O.M.G. Is this really happening? You're gonna make my heart burst, again!

**Dad:** (*urgently*) Rihanna, give me the ring. (*SFX: heart beating sound*) Adele, every time I see you, my heart skips several beats. Will you be the cure to my arrhythmia?

**Adele:** (*naively*) I don't know what that means, but yes! Ahhhhh! (*SFX: collapses to the ground*) *Ground collision sound*

**Rihanna:** Oops, she fainted.

*(Ending music)*

**The End**

**Notes:**

Most of our SFX & music were found on YouTube, royalty free; the ones without the blue notes were produced by our student actors