

Ally McBeal

"Happy Little Bluebird"

Written By:

John T. Rae

Ally McBeal

"Happy Little Bluebird"

ACT I

1 INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

1

Ally's dreaming:

LING

Your testimony, then, is that the
victim was standing on the road,
minding her own business when-

WITNESS

(a midget)

My testimony was that the witch
deserved to die.

LING

Where was she standing when she died?

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

On the Yellow Brick Road.

LING

(Now a witch)

And what was she doing?

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

Terrorizing the citizens of
Munchkinland.

LING

So, then, your testimony is that-

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

The witch deserved to die.

LING

(growls)

How did she die?

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

A house fell on her.

(CONTINUED)

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1 CONTINUED:

1

LING

How convenient. Who's house?

MAYOR OF MUNCHKINLAND

(pointing)

Hers.

REVEAL ALLY is the defendant, dressed as Dorothy Gale in prison fatigues.

OREN KOOLIE (O.S.)

Objection!

JUDGE (O.S.)

Overruled.

ALLY looks down to see her lawyer, the child prodigy OREN KOOLIE, now truly a "Doogie Munchkin", climb on top of the table.

OREN KOOLIE

That's not fair!

CUT TO:

2 INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

2

ALLY springs up in bed and looks about. From Ally's POV, REVEAL everything is in black and white. Ally screams. RENEE, on her way out to work, enters.

RENEE

Ally?

As she continues to scream, color returns to her world. Ally groans and rolls over, hiding her head under her pillow.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

3 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

3

FISH, CAGE, GEORGIA, NELLE, BILLY, and Ling. Under the table, Billy is trying Fish's knee-pit trick with Georgia. It only seems to irritate her. She smacks his hand away.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

FISH

How are you doing with the old bat?
(beat, then)
John?

CAGE

What? Oh, I didn't realize the old
bat you were referring to was my
client.

Billy tries again. Georgia grabs his finger and bends it
back. He lets out a yelp.

FISH

You seem distracted. You need help
with this one?

Cage is offended enough by the suggestion he can't respond.

FISH (CONT'D)

You need a woman.

NELLE

Excuse me?

FISH

Co-counsel. This case needs a woman's
touch.

CAGE

Butta-butta.

NELLE

I can do it.

FISH

No. Georgia should do it. This
needs someone soft.

NELLE/LING/GEORGIA

What's that supposed to mean?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

FISH

This sweet old lady has been accused
of abusing one of her students. The
case needs a good lawyer, John; and
it needs a distraction, a woman; a
woman who is strong, yet soft, doesn't
immediately appear cold, but
(with too much feeling)
gentle, seductive, sexy, cozy...

BILLY

(as Ling growls)
Richard.

FISH

Did I say that out loud? Bygones.

CAGE

Butta-butta...

Ally enters.

ALLY

Sorry I'm late.

CAGE

(pointing)
Butta-poop.

ALLY

What?

Ally looks down to see that she has forgotten to put a skirt
on over her slip.

4 FANTASY

4

Ally's head sprouts wings, flies off her shoulders and out
the window.

5 REALITY

5

ALLY

I don't know where my head is anymore.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

ALLY exits. ELAINE enters.

ELAINE

The old bat, I mean Ms. Horveth is here to see you, John.

CAGE

Butta-but I don't need any help.

FISH

Sure you do. It's settled then.

6 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

6

ALLY pulls one of her miniskirts from dry-cleaning that hangs in her closet. NELLE enters, pauses, and then decides between staying or leaving. Finally:

NELLE

Are you all right?

ALLY is startled. She falls into her closet, and then WHOOSH, she is back up. She doesn't turn around as she puts the skirt on over her slip.

ALLY

Yes, Nelle. I'm fine. I meant to come to work wearing only a slip.

Again, Nelle decides to leave or stay. Finally:

NELLE

You seem flustered today. More so than usual.

ALLY pulls her slip out from underneath, revealing stockings which don't quite make it up to the hem of her miniskirt.

ALLY

I had this dream last night, and then when I woke up everything was...

She finally turns around, and begins to remove her stockings.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I...didn't know...you cared.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

NELLE

I care about John. John cares about you. I'd like to understand.

ALLY

I see...

(looking down to her
unmatched outfit)

So much for dressing up today.

Nelle goes to leave, but then turns back.

NELLE

Ally, in our meeting just now, Richard made a comment that suggested I come across as a cold bitch.

ALLY

(let's out a giggle)

Oh, I'm sorry. I wouldn't put much stock in Richard's comments.

NELLE

But you agree with him?

ALLY

Nelle, you are smart, beautiful, successful and strong. What's worse is that you are so self-confident that you have no patience for anyone who is not as well put together as you...and you show an absolute intolerance for stupidity.

NELLE

I suppose that's...fair.

ALLY

Well, Nelle...sometimes really smart people do really stupid things.

(distracted at seeing MS.

HORVETH with Cage)

Some of us more than others. Excuse me.

(CONTINUED)

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6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

Ally leaves.

NELLE

Well...that went...well.

7 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

7

Billy at his desk. Georgia enters.

GEORGIA

What's gotten into you?

BILLY

(embarrassed)

Oh...Richard showed me his knee trick.

GEORGIA

(shutting the door)

Maybe tricks don't work on me.

BILLY

Why don't you come over here and
tell me about it?

8 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE CAGE'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

8

Ally has her ear pressed to the door. She is startled by
Elaine.

ELAINE

There are better ways to find out
what goes on behind closed doors.

They walk down the hall towards Elaine's desk.

ALLY

Who is she? She looks so familiar.

ELAINE

Ms. Horveth. A teacher fired for
beating one of her students. She's
suing to get her job back.

9 INT. ELAINE'S DESK -- CONTINUOUS

9

ELAINE

Here we go.

Elaine pulls out a small dish listening device. She puts in an earpiece and gives one to Ally. As she pans the room, she stops at Billy's office when she hears MOANS.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Ooh...

ALLY

Elaine!

Ally grabs Elaine's arm and swings the dish towards Cage's office. There is a SQUEAL and the women wince.

ELAINE

Gently! It's sensitive.

CAGE (O.S.)

But you did hit the boy?

10 INT. CAGE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

10

MS. HORVETH

Yes...several times and I don't apologize for it. How many times do we need to discuss this? That child needs discipline.

CAGE

His mother said he couldn't sit for two days. What did you hit him with a sledgehammer?

11 INT. ELAINE'S DESK -- CONTINUOUS

11

ALLY

I wish I got a better look at her.

After a beat:

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

ELAINE

I wouldn't normally show you this,
but if you promise not to tell
anyone...

ALLY

What?

Elaine turns to her computer and opens a web browser. Moments later, on the monitor there is an animated image of Elaine, dancing across the screen and singing a song to welcome visitors. Elaine bounces along, mouthing the words and smiling with glee.

ELAINE - COMPUTER

...It's great and it's cheap/and
it's all about me/welcome to my web-
site!

ALLY

(impressed, but hardly
surprised)
Your own web site?

ELAINE

You'd be surprised at the number of
subscribers I have.

A few clicks of the mouse and there is an overhead shot of Ally and Elaine.

12 FANTASY

12

Ally's head spins around, and then she looks up.

13 REALITY

13

ALLY

You have webcams here?

ELAINE

Shh... Of course. I owe it to my
customers to give them 24-hour access
to me.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

ALLY

In the unisex?

ELAINE

Uh-huh.

ALLY

(sotto)

And my office?

ELAINE

Don't worry.

(lifting her collar
to reveal a pin)

Transmitter. The cameras turn on only when I'm in the room; although I can override it in dire circumstances such as this. It's too bad I'm so ethical; I would make a fortune if I showed everything that goes on in this place.

ALLY

Too bad.

After a few mouse clicks, the display changes to REVEAL Billy and Georgia making out. Ally watches for a moment and then:

ALLY (CONT'D)

Elaine.

Another click and there is an overhead shot of Cage and Ms. Horveth.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Can you zoom in?

The shot zooms in, but there are not enough facial details.

ELAINE

Let's try a different angle.

The camera changes and ANGLES UP, extremely close on Ms. Horveth's face.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

ELAINE (CONT'D)
Oops...Close enough?

ALLY
(realizing)
Too close. Billy!

14 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

14

Ally charges in. Billy stands up, dropping Georgia from his lap and onto the floor.

GEORGIA
Knocking. Give it a try.

She reaches up for Billy's help, but Billy doesn't pay attention to her as Ally speaks.

ALLY
It's her.

BILLY
Who?

ALLY
Ms. Horveth. It's Mrs. Dragonheart.

BILLY
Dragonheart?

ALLY
Dagenlark.

GEORGIA
Don't mind me. I'm just your wife.

BILLY
Our third grade teacher?

ALLY
She must have killed her husband, or maybe he got smart and left her.

BILLY
That isn't very nice.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

ALLY

Oh, that's right. I forgot. You were the teacher's pet. I wasn't so lucky, and I've got a few things I've been meaning to say to that witch for twenty years now.

Billy calls out for her as she exits. He, Georgia and Elaine follow Ally to Cage's office.

15 INT. CAGE'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

15

Cage paces the floor near the door. Ally storms in; knocking him to the floor. The others stand in the doorway.

ALLY

Dragonheart!

16 FANTASY

16

POOF! Ally morphs into her third-grade self. From her POV, we see Ms. Horveth from the same shot as we saw her from in Elaine's monitor.

17 REALITY

17

ALLY

(meek, fire is gone)
Excuse me. I thought I had something to say.

She turns to leave.

CAGE

(rising)
My colleague, Ally McBeal.

MS. HORVETH

Ally McBeal? I remember the name, but I don't remember you. Were you a student of mine?

Ally turns. There are tears in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

MS. HORVETH (CONT'D)

Ah, yes. Now I remember that face.

ALLY

Weren't you ever young? You were
ancient twenty years ago.

MS. HORVETH

(unfazed)

And the mouth.

BILLY

Ally!

MS. HORVETH

Billy? Billy Thomas?

(Giving him a hug)

You were always my favorite.

ALLY

No one could ever top Billy.

Ally exits.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT I

ACT II

18 INT. CAGE'S OFFICE -- LATER

18

Georgia sits, watching Cage stare at his desk. There is silence as the camera switches back and forth, until...

GEORGIA

John!

CAGE

(startled)

What?

GEORGIA

I asked you a question.

CAGE

I'm sorry. This woman troubles me.

GEORGIA

You don't like her?

CAGE

It's not a question of like or dislike. She troubles me. Can you take Ally to lunch? Find out what you can?

GEORGIA

Why not just talk to Billy?

CAGE

I've a feeling I'll get a more accurate picture from Ally.

GEORGIA

Care to join us?

CAGE

No...I'm just going to sit and think some more.

19 INT. HALLWAY -- LATER

19

Ally and Georgia are headed towards the elevator. As if from nowhere, Ling appears and cuts them off in their tracks.

LING

Taking Ally to lunch?

GEORGIA

Yes...

LING

How come you never invite me to lunch?
Do you ever think that maybe I might
enjoy your company? Or, do you ever
think that maybe you would enjoy my
company if you'd just give me a chance?

GEORGIA

Ling...would you care to join us?

LING

Thank you, but no. I already have
a lunch date with Nelle.
(overly cheerful)
Maybe next time?

Ling practically skips away toward Nelle's office.

GEORGIA

I hate that woman.

ALLY

Hate is a strong word.

GEORGIA

Yep.

20 INT. RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

20

Ling and Nelle sit at a table.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

LING

I don't know why you let it bother you so much. He didn't say you were a cold bitch; he only implied it. And it's not like he didn't imply the same about me.

NELLE

But with you it makes sense.

LING

Was that supposed to be hurtful? At least Richard meant it as a compliment.

NELLE

A compliment?

LING

He's dating me. He must see the merit in my not being weak.

NELLE

Georgia is vulnerable; that doesn't make her weak. Ally's right. She says I'm impatient and intolerant.

LING

And that means what to you?

NELLE

Ling, I hate people for no other reason than the fact that they might be stupid. What does that say about me as a person?

LING

It says you have a very smart friend.

21 INT. COURTROOM -- AFTERNOON

21

Ms. Horveth is on the stand. MR. CAMROON, a member of the Board of Education, is represented by TUCKER. Cage continues to appear distracted, uninspired.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

CAGE

Ms. Horveth, you have been a teacher now for over forty years.

MS. HORVETH

That is correct.

CAGE

And over the years, you have earned yourself quite a reputation for being strict. Any idea as to why?

MS. HORVETH

Because I am strict. Mr. Cage, I am a bit old fashioned. I believe that children not only need discipline, they want discipline. Young teachers fresh out of college are all being taught otherwise--that children need us to be their friends, to embrace the problem children and try to make their little worlds right. I'm sorry if this sounds cold, but, that is the parents' job not mine. When you begin coddling one or two children, all of the other students begin competing for your attention. At the end of the day, you wonder if you are a teacher or a baby-sitter. I am a teacher.

CAGE

This approach has worked well for you?

MS. HORVETH

My year-end assessment tests have consistently been off the charts in the district, and well above the national average.

CAGE

How do you maintain discipline in your classroom?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

MS. HORVETH

Mostly, I use verbal threats of using a paddle if they get out of line.

CAGE

Have you ever used it?

MS. HORVETH

Yes, but, only in rare instances and it is really only for show. A tongue lashing hurts more than a tap from my paddle.

CAGE

Even so, you were fired for using the paddle.

MS. HORVETH

That is what I was told.

CAGE

The child said you hit him so hard he couldn't sit for two days.

MS. HORVETH

That's partly true, but it wasn't because I hit him that he couldn't sit for two days. He kept leaning back in his chair, intentionally falling back to get attention. I warned him twice and on the third time, I tapped him on the bottom and took away his chair for two days.

CAGE

Thank you.

TUCKER

Ms. Horveth, are you aware that it is illegal in the state of Massachusetts to use corporal punishment as--

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

CAGE

Objection. The disciplinary methods used by my client can hardly be considered corporal punishment.

TUCKER

Your Honor, her actions fit the definition of inflicting pain in order to discipline regardless of the degree of pain inflicted or the method used to inflict it.

JUDGE

Overruled.

TUCKER

Ms. Horveth, are you aware that corporal punishment is illegal?

MS. HORVETH

Yes I am.

TUCKER

You should consider yourself lucky then that you lost only your job.

CAGE

Objection.

TUCKER

Withdrawn.

22 INT. RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

22

Georgia and Ally at the table.

ALLY

Did I ever tell you I was president of the third grade class?

GEORGIA

I might have heard about it somewhere.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

ALLY

When I told Dragonheart that I wanted to run for president, she laughed and said who'd be dumb enough to vote for you? And then she nominated Billy.

GEORGIA

And you won.

ALLY

Don't act so surprised. Billy got only one vote, and that was from me. He wasn't all that popular in the third grade.

GEORGIA

Because he was the teacher's pet?

ALLY

Uh-huh. I remember at Christmas, we all gave her presents, and she opened all of them and said thank you. And then she got to Billy's gift and started to cry.

(a little orgasmic)

Oh, Billy...this is...so beautiful
...oh, Billy...you're so...precious
...Billy...

She shakes off a disgusting feeling.

GEORGIA

What did he give her?

ALLY

A paperweight from Yellowstone.

GEORGIA

(a beat)

Did she ever hit you?

Ally thinks, doesn't respond.

23 INT. COURTROOM -- LATER

23

Mr. Camroon on stand.

CAGE

My client taught in your school district for most of her career.

CAMROON

Correct.

CAGE

And yet, you fired her with only a year left to retirement. Too old to start over. Lost her pension. Seems hardly a fair reward for the years of loyalty.

CAMROON

Mr. Cage, we can't have teachers beating their students.

CAGE

Was this the first incident that she disciplined her students in a manner that didn't meet your approval?

CAMROON

No. Her personnel records indicate that she has been reprimanded for this as far back as ten years, but it's been a known issue for much longer than that.

CAGE

Ten years seems an awful long time to tolerate this behavior you find so appalling.

CAMROON

It's difficult to terminate someone with tenure. Especially someone with a track record such as hers. As she stated, her year-end assessment tests are consistently off the charts.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CAGE

Why terminate someone with that kind of track record? Why not just quietly put this issue away; put her into early retirement?

CAMROON

It hardly seemed appropriate to punish her with a reward. It finally took a new board to take a stronger stance against her continual use of corporal punishment.

Frustrated, Cage turns back toward Ms. Horveth and takes a moment. Suddenly, he hears the BELLS. His eyes remain fixed on his client. Everyone looks to one another in confusion.

JUDGE

Mr. Cage?

More BELLS.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Mr. Cage?

CAGE

Excuse me? Oh, I apologize, I have no further questions for Mr. Camroon.

24 INT. UNISEX -- EVENING

24

Cage stands behind Ally, who washes her face in the sink. She straightens up, furious.

ALLY

Testify? On her behalf? Are you insane?

CAGE

A-

ALLY

I'm not doing that woman any favors.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CAGE

(gently)

Would you rather I subpoena you so it isn't like you're doing her a favor?

ALLY

I would rather you have Billy do it.

CAGE

I can't have him do it. Conflict of interest.

ALLY

Why is it a conflict of interest if he testifies?

CAGE

I can't sell him as a hostile witness.

ALLY

Oh, gee, maybe I should be just a little less hostile.

GEORGIA

(emerging from a stall)

Ally, whatever she did to you happened twenty years ago. Don't you think maybe it's time to...I don't know...let go?

ALLY

That's just it. I haven't held onto this all these years. It has held onto me. When she started coming around I began dreaming about "The Wizard of Oz".

GEORGIA

"Wizard of Oz"?

ALLY

Yes, and I haven't dreamt about that movie since the third grade.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

ALLY (CONT'D)

When I made that connection, and got a real good look at her and realized who she was, it was like I was looking at the person who made me what I am.

CAGE

A lawyer?

ALLY

A bluebird.

GEORGIA/CAGE

A what?

ALLY

A bluebird. Look, I know it sounds crazy but I was eight years old when I made this up. Dorothy wanted to be like a bluebird--to fly over the rainbow to escape her problems. And she did that by creating a fantasy so incredible she couldn't distinguish fantasy from reality. I began doing that to get away from Dragonheart.

FISH (O.S.)

(laughing)

A bluebird! Ouch...oh! Not a good time to be laughing. Ooh...

It looks as though Ally might conjure up a fantasy, but there is none. She's hurt, and she leaves.

25 INT. GEORGIA'S OFFICE -- LATER

25

Georgia sits at her desk, doing paperwork and eating a bowl of Ranier cherries. Fish enters.

FISH

Georgia, problem-yellow cherries!

(moving to the bowl
and taking one)

These are like little orgasms with stems. Can I have one?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

GEORGIA

Sure.
(disgusted, tossing
one back)
Have the whole bowl.

FISH

(never stops eating)
Really? Thanks. Look, I put you on
this case to help John out--he doesn't
seem to be in it to win it. So why
are you letting him put Ally on the
stand? It's not like she has anything
good to say about this woman.

GEORGIA

Tell me, Richard, do you even have a
heart?

FISH

Physically, sure. Emotionally...you
tell me. If my heart races during
sex is that emotional or physical?

GEORGIA

Ally dumped some pretty personal stuff
on us in there and you go and laugh at
her. How inconsiderate can you be?

FISH

Georgia, laughter, and I mean real
laughter, not the fake, polite
laughter that comes from the throat,
but real, honest laughter that comes
from the belly is an involuntary
response. Ally provided the stimulus,
making me laugh at a very crucial
moment and causing pain. So that
makes her the inconsiderate one.

Georgia laughs politely.

26 FANTASY - INT. ALLY'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

26

Renee enters the apartment with a bag of Chinese food. Ally buzzes about the apartment with superhuman speed, cleaning the kitchen, dusting the furniture.

RENEE

Ally?

Ally continues buzzing about, a blur. She begins vacuuming.

RENEE (CONT'D)

Ally!

27 REALITY

27

Renee unplugs the vacuum and startles Ally.

RENEE

Ally!

ALLY

Renee! Hi.

RENEE

What are you doing?

ALLY

I'm cleaning.

RENEE

What's wrong? You only clean when you're upset.

ALLY

If that were true this place would always be spotless.

Renee gives her a knowing look, and moves to the kitchen.

ALLY (CONT'D)

John wants me to testify. It doesn't make any sense.

28 INT. ALLY'S KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

28

They unpack the food and begin eating from the cartons.

RENEE

Not much of anything John does makes any sense. And, it doesn't explain why you're acting like a someone with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder who popped speed instead of their Prozac.

ALLY

Richard laughed at me when I was explaining about the bluebird.

Renee smiles.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Don't start.

RENEE

I'm not laughing at you, Ally. I just think you're giving this woman too much power over you.

ALLY

I'm not giving her power. When I was eight, she did have power.

RENEE

And you still think she's responsible for you being you?

ALLY

Yes...no. I don't know. I-I just wonder what I would be like if I never knew her.

RENEE

Ally, everyone can blame someone for making them who they are, how they feel, how they react to things. But that doesn't take away personal responsibility. Look at me, my whole family made me what I am.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

ALLY

And that explains why you never see them.

Renee gives a sharp look.

ALLY (CONT'D)

When was the last time you visited them?

(as Renee answers)

Funerals don't count...besides, family influence is a gradual thing. With Dragonheart, I can remember the exact moment.

FLASHBACK

In Ally's third grade classroom, Ms. Horveth stands over Ally's desk, shouting. The eight-year-old Ally looks terrified.

ALLY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She was yelling at me for wiping my nose on my sleeve.

MS. HORVETH

You disgusting little girl. You're so scatter-brained you'll never amount to anything.

She turns to a boy in the room.

MS. HORVETH (CONT'D)

Sit up straight! You're just as disgusting as she is; your zipper's open.

(as he reaches for his zipper)

Wait until we go to the bathroom. I can't believe how vulgar you are.

She turns to an **extremely** overweight girl.

MS. HORVETH (CONT'D)

And you!

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

The girl tenses up as:

FANTASY

Ally stands in her chair and tosses a bucket of water on Ms. Horveth. She begins to melt, screaming and moaning.

ALLY (V.O.)

At that point, she couldn't hurt me anymore.

REALITY -- PRESENT

ALLY (CONT'D)

Whenever she lost her temper, I'd just throw a bucket of water on her. In my mind anyway, it was a way to gain control of the situation.

RENEE

(a long, thoughtful moment)
My brother's birthday!

ALLY

What?

RENEE

I saw my brother on his birthday.

ALLY

Two years ago...and he was visiting you.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

29 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

29

Ally's dreaming. Ling is a witch. The Coroner of Munchkinland is on the stand, and he appears extremely nervous. Ms. Horveth sits with the witches.

LING

As Coroner of Munchkinland, you were the one to verify it legally that she was morally, ethically, spiritually, physically, positively, absolutely, undeniably and reliably dead?

CORONER OF MUNCHKINLAND

Yes.

LING

And you presented this Certificate of Death, and stated that you thoroughly examined her and that not only was she merely dead, she was really most sincerely dead?

CORONER OF MUNCHKINLAND

Yes...

A pink ball appears near the window and descends, dissolving into Elaine, dressed as Glinda wearing a face bra. People in the courtroom OOH and AHH, and Elaine revels in the attention.

ELAINE

Pardon the grand entrance. I couldn't help but overhear...

JUDGE

What the hell is that?

ELAINE

A face bra.
(alluding to the
witches)
Only bad witches are ugly.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Ling growls.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

The defendant is innocent. It was an accident, a miracle how she landed on the Wicked Witch of the East.

ALLY

(singing)

It really was no miracle/What happened was just this/The wind began to switch the house to pitch/And suddenly the hinges started to unhitch...

NEEDLE SCRATCH on:

LING

Yeah, yeah, yeah...we've all heard this song and dance before. Coroner, walk me down the Yellow Brick Road. A house falls on the witch, and you thoroughly examine her, and fill out the necessary paperwork all in a time span of what, ten minutes?

CORONER OF MUNCHKINLAND

Yes...

LING

How did you thoroughly examine her with a house on top of her?

ALLY

Objection!

JUDGE

Don't you have a lawyer for that?

ALLY

Yes.

JUDGE

Where is he?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

ALLY
Under the table, pouting.

JUDGE
Why?

ALLY
I told him to stop acting so childish.

JUDGE
He is a child.

OREN KOOLIE (O.S.)
She's mean.

ALLY
Could we just get back to my
objection? Please.

JUDGE
Sure.

ALLY
What does the Coroner's report have
to do with my house accidentally
falling onto the witch?

LING
This was no accident, Your Honor.
It was premeditated murder;
(to Elaine)
a conspiracy to assassinate the Wicked
Witch of the East, organized by you.

JUDGE
Bailiffs, take her into custody!

Elaine is dragged away, kicking and screaming.

30 INT. ALLY'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

30

Again, Ally wakes up with a start and the world is in black
and white. She doesn't panic this time.

31 INT. COURTHOUSE, HALLWAY -- DAY

31

Elevator doors open. Cage and Georgia emerge. Cage walks with determination, hearing the BELLS, until:

CAGE

Don't object.

GEORGIA

Huh?

CAGE

Don't object.

GEORGIA

To what?

CAGE

To anything.

GEORGIA

Don't object to anything?

CAGE

Nothing.

The BELLS resume. Georgia doesn't move as he enters the courtroom.

32 INT. COURTROOM -- LATER

32

Ally sits behind Cage, looking sour.

CAGE

We'd like to call Ally McBeal to the stand.

Ally approaches the bench and is sworn in while:

JUDGE

Mr. Cage?

CAGE

Yes, Your Honor?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

JUDGE

I assume Ms. McBeal still works at your law firm.

CAGE

Yes, she does. Opposing counsel is aware of this fact, and they have no objections.

JUDGE

Is this true?

TUCKER

No objections.

JUDGE

Okay then.

CAGE

I'd like it noted for the record that Ms. McBeal is a hostile witness.

JUDGE

She doesn't appear to be hostile.

ALLY

(vicious)

I am hostile.

JUDGE

So noted.

CAGE

I have no further questions for Ms. McBeal at this time.

ALLY/GEORGIA

What?

JUDGE

Mr. Cage?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

CAGE

Your Honor, she's so hostile it's making me queasy. I can't remember what it is I wanted to ask.

(to Georgia)

Do you have any antacids?

JUDGE

I'm not amused, Mr. Cage.

33 INT. COURTROOM -- LATER

33

Ally on the stand. Cage is fumbling, trying to open a roll of antacids.

TUCKER

Ms. Horveth was once your teacher?

ALLY

Third grade.

Cage rips open the roll; the tablets fly out in all directions, rolling onto the floor. Everyone looks at him.

CAGE

I apologize.

(picking one from the table)

Antacid tablets.

TUCKER

You don't have many fond memories of Ms. Horveth's class?

ALLY

Well...there were the three weeks she was out after surgery. The substitute teacher was wonderful.

34 FANTASY

34

Ms. Horveth as a witch.

MS. HORVETH

Curses!

35 REALITY

35

Cage looks at her as if he had heard her.

GEORGIA

(rising)

Obj-

Cage grabs her sleeve and yanks her back down. The judge watches Cage intently. Tucker displays Ms. Horveth's paddle.

TUCKER

Have you ever seen this?

ALLY

Every day I was in her class. She kept it hanging from the blackboard. Whenever we got a little loud she would bang it against the board to get our attention.

TUCKER

Did she ever bang it against her students?

GEORGIA

(rising)

Obj-

Again, Cage grabs her sleeve and pulls her back down.

TUCKER

Ever hit you with it?

Georgia gives Cage a sharp look, furious.

ALLY

Yes.

TUCKER

Is that why you're feeling hostile about being here today?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ALLY

(to Ms. Horveth)

No. I'd say I'm hostile because she was a horrible, horrible teacher and has no business being anywhere near kids.

36 FANTASY

36

Ms. Horveth as a witch.

MS. HORVETH

What have you done?

37 REALITY

37

Again, Cage looks at her as if he heard her say something.

GEORGIA

(rising)

Obj-

Again, Cage yanks at her sleeve, but this time Georgia stands her ground. Her sleeve doesn't, however; it comes off with a RIP.

JUDGE

Excuse me. Is there something you would like to say?

GEORGIA

You ripped my sleeve!

(to the judge)

I mean. No. I guess not.

JUDGE

Because it looked like you were trying to object. Is that the case?

GEORGIA

I'm-

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

JUDGE

And these do seem like questions and comments you might want to object to, don't you think so Mr. Cage?

CAGE

Do you think I should object?

JUDGE

(annoyed)

Let's just continue. I apologize for interrupting.

(to Ally)

You were saying?

ALLY

What was I saying?

TUCKER

I think you've said enough. Thank you.

Billy enters quietly and observes.

CAGE

Objection!

JUDGE

To what?

CAGE

I thought about what you said. I should have objected. Is it too late?

JUDGE

Yes...The witness may step down.

GEORGIA

Ally! I mean, Ms. McBeal. My client testified that she doesn't hurt her students with the paddle--she merely taps them for show. Would you agree with that?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

ALLY

Are you asking me if it hurt?

GEORGIA

Essentially...did it?

ALLY

Physically, no, not at all. She used the paddle to humiliate us. That's what she-

CAGE

Thank you, that will be all.

ALLY

I wasn't finished.

CAGE

You answered the question, you're finished. Thank you.

ALLY

(extremely hostile)

I'm supposed to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but. How am I supposed to tell the whole truth if you won't let me finish answering the damn question!

CAGE

Bite my head off!

Georgia and the Judge shoot Cage that "Georgia" look. Georgia takes her seat.

JUDGE

Mr. Cage. I've been incredibly tolerant of you today. Let's not push it. You've got just one more warning.

CAGE

Thank you. I appreciate that.

(a beat)

Does that count?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (3)

37

JUDGE

Excuse me?

CAGE

I just wanted to be clear if that counted as the one warning.

JUDGE

It does now.

CAGE

Oh, come on, Your Honor. My client would give her students at least two warnings before utilizing what some are saying are overly-harsh disciplinary methods.

JUDGE

Mr. Cage-

CAGE

And you have to admit, holding me in contempt does seem very harsh. Of course, I do understand that you might, at times, need to resort to such disciplinary actions so as to maintain order in your classroom--er, courtroom--otherwise we might not ever accomplish anything here. If you can imagine, Your Honor, a courtroom without order might very well put you in the same predicament as my client's colleagues. What did she call them? Not teachers, but baby-sitters?

JUDGE

(as Cage beams his
smile therapy smile)

Mr. Cage, your point is well taken. However, if you continue to demonstrate it in this manner, I will give you a detention the likes of which I'll make sure you don't soon forget. Understood?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (4)

37

CAGE

Yes, Your Honor. I apologize.

JUDGE

Now, if you don't mind...

(to Ally)

Go on.

ALLY

If you were to tell me that she was fired for being physically abusive, I'd seriously doubt it. If it was for being emotionally abusive...When she loses her temper, she really snaps. I once had a cold and she yelled at me because she felt that I had used too many tissues that day. So when I had to blow my nose I didn't know what to do--so I kept sniffing, and that made her more angry. Finally, I didn't know what else to do so I wiped it on my sleeve. That really set her off, and she began yelling at me, telling me what a disgusting girl I was. And while she yelled at me, a girl on the other side of the room sniffled and she turned on her.

(reliving the moment
to tears)

"You're just as disgusting as she is," she said. "You're so fat. Your parents are so stupid letting you eat so much. If they cared about you at all they would put a lock on the pantry until you weren't such a lard. Maybe then you won't be dead by the time you're twenty."

(looking up to the
judge)

This was an eight year old girl.

The courtroom is silent. Billy looks as if he finally remembers the truth.

38 FANTASY

38

Ms. Horveth as a witch.

MS. HORVETH

Ahh! I'm melting!

She screams as she melts into her seat and steam rises.

39 REALITY

39

Cage looks as if he smells something disgusting. He sniffs in Ms. Horveth's direction.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

40 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE -- EVENING

40

The office is dark. Billy knocks on the door and opens it.

BILLY

Ally?

He sticks his head in, looks around, and goes to leave.

ALLY

Down here.

BILLY

What are you doing?

He joins her on the floor.

ALLY

I'm just thinking.

BILLY

I've been doing some thinking too.
Maybe it's because she was never
that way with me, but I truly forgot
just how horrible she could get.

ALLY

Why didn't you ever stick up for any
of us?

BILLY

I don't know...I guess I just didn't
have the courage.

41 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ALLY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

41

Georgia goes to knock on the door, but then hears the
conversation inside. She listens.

42 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

42

ALLY

Do you remember the first time we
saw "The Wizard of Oz"?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

BILLY

Yeah.

(smiling)

You asked me if it was a true story.

ALLY

That's right, I did. But when I asked you that, I didn't really believe it was a true story. I asked you that because I needed to believe it was real. I'm not sure much has changed since then.

BILLY

You get so crazy sometimes.

ALLY

Are you trying to make me feel better?

BILLY

I'm trying to make a point. I'm not sure how to say it, but the crazy little things you do to keep yourself sane in this world can't be all bad. Some people have affairs...others throw themselves into their work. But most people spend all that energy just trying to keep themselves together by hiding from their obstacles. You run head first, challenging those obstacles most people run away from. You know what's missing from your life, whereas most people only sense as much. And you do get crazy sometimes, Ally, but the truth is, you're one of the strongest people I know.

Georgia knocks and enters as Ally wipes away a stray tear.

GEORGIA

Ready?

43 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE -- LATER

43

Ally sits at her desk, reviewing papers, when she begins to feel as if she is being watched. She looks left. She looks right. She looks up and thinks she sees something in the air vent in the ceiling.

She stacks her paperwork into a pile and hops up onto her desk. She reaches for the ceiling tiles, but can't reach them. She adds more to the pile and tries again. She reaches into the ceiling and feels about, finding one of Elaine's webcams. She begins to pull it out when the pile beneath her gives way. She dangles from the ceiling, holding onto the webcam, screaming.

Cage rushes in and looks up to Ally, perplexed.

ALLY

Help!

He moves in and begins to wrap his arms around her legs when he sees up her skirt. He becomes flustered and turns away. Elaine rushes in.

CAGE

Da da da da da...

44 INT. ELAINE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

44

The monitor on Elaine's desk displays her web site. A close up shot of Ally appears. She's screaming from the camera where she hangs. Suddenly, the picture becomes static.

45 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

45

Ally holds the webcam, on the floor, on top of Cage. Elaine helps them up.

CAGE

What were you doing?

ALLY

Elaine misplaced her...thing, and I found it.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

Elaine takes the webcam and looks at it as if it were her pet that just died. She leaves quietly as Cage helps Ally scoop up her scattered paperwork.

CAGE

We won.

Ally snatches the papers from Cage's hands.

ALLY

Congratulations.

CAGE

I think the judge agreed with you, though, that she shouldn't be with kids. The school board had to reinstate her so she could be put into early retirement. It was a good compromise.

Ally returns to her desk and sits.

ALLY

Dragonheart must be so thrilled.

CAGE

(pauses)

Would you care to join me for a drink?

ALLY

Thank you, no. I don't feel much like celebrating.

CAGE

(nodding, thoughtful)

You know, you should feel like celebrating.

ALLY

How's that?

CAGE

When you were in the third grade, and she went off on one of her tirades...you had to just sit there

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

CAGE (CONT'D)

and take it, correct? Couldn't really
fight back as she kept saying one
mean thing after another?

ALLY

Yeah, so?

CAGE

So...it must have felt pretty good
today, finally turning the tables on
her with her having no other option
than to just sit there and take it.

ALLY thinks a moment, and then smiles.

ALLY

Yeah...I guess it did.

46 INT. BAR -- LATER

46

Everyone sits around a table, enjoying each other's company.
As a song ends, Cage gets up and approaches VONDA and whispers
in her ear. As he returns to the table, Vonda begins to
sing "Over the Rainbow". Ally beams as he reaches for her
hand and leads her to the dance floor.

Elaine and Ling watch Nelle's reaction to their dancing.
She looks sad and thoughtful, yet there's almost a smile.
When she notices them watching her, it turns into smile
therapy.

FADE TO BLACK:

The End