

IMAGINATION FORT

PILOT

"Boys Can be Princesses Too"

Written by
Aiko Hilkinge

Animation

TEASER

OVER BLACK:

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Long ago, in a land filled with
magic and evil, the four
kingdoms...

FADE IN:

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Quick flashes of the ELF QUEEN, OGRE KING, MER-QUEEN (inside a cylinder glass filled with water) and HUMAN KING, stand around a witch's cauldron.

They have come together to create THE STONE OF ABUNDANCE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Elves, Ogres, Merpeople and Humans
came together to create The Stone
of Abundance.

The GOOD WITCH (60s), traditionally beautiful green face and wears a modest gown, appears at the top of the group.

She motions for them to put their ingredients into a large cauldron.

The Elf tosses a red immortality berry, the Ogre tosses a pottery tool, the Mermaid conjures an indestructible rainbow scale and the Human tosses a large chunk of gold.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
The kingdoms were going through a
lot of hardships, so they decided
to create a stone that had the
power to make all of their problems
go away.

The ingredients dissolve inside the cauldron as the Good Witch CHANTS and moves her hands over the cauldron. SPARKS burst out, startling the leaders.

The Stone of Abundance, a shiny, rainbow stone with gold veins ascends from inside the cauldron.

Everyone looks at it with gratitude, but a deep greed and thirst hides beneath.

From the shadows, the EVIL WITCH (60s), blue face and wearing typical witchy clothes, watches the stone with fire in her eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And for a while, the stone
worked...

EXT. ELF KINGDOM - DAY

A beautiful kingdom on the clouds, ethereal and almost angel like.

The clouds below and above can't stop raining, which is destroying elven homes and completely drowning elves.

The Elf King approaches, stone in hand. He holds it out to the sky and the rain stops. The sun comes out and blares hot on the kingdom.

Everyone CHEERS and celebrates.

EXT. MERPEOPLE KINGDOM - DAY

Underwater, the Merpeople Queen swims through piles of dead fish, oil spills and garbage.

Her people COUGH black liquid and get caught in human trash.

Enraged, the queen holds up the stone and the garbage gets sucked into the stone and disappears. The kingdom is as clean as ever.

Everyone CHEERS and celebrates.

INT. OGRE KINGDOM - DAY

Inside a steaming hot volcano, the Ogre King looks down at his people, working away.

They're crafting beautiful pottery but they all look depleted and exhausted.

The Ogre King looks down at the stone in his hand but before he can do anything, the Evil Witch appears from the shadows and WHISPERS something in his ear.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But there were more souls
interested in the stone than met
the eye.

The Ogre King likes what he hears.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
For you see, the Good Witch had a
sister...an evil sister.

INT. OGRE KINGDOM - THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Ogre King sleeps on a throne made of gold, gems and
crystals.

The Evil Witch smiles deviously as she reaches for the stone.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
But, the Good Witch was prepared
for this and as her sister tried to
steal the stone...

But as her hand touches it, the stone BURNS her.

The Evil Witch holds her burnt hand as the stone turns into
dust before her eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
And so the stone was lost to all,
even her.
(beat)
But this is not how our story
starts...

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. HUMAN CASTLE - YEARS LATER**

Inside a lavish throne room, PRINCE TREVOR (20s, White), the embodiment of "prince charming" and toxic masculinity, kneels before his FATHER (60s, White), the Human King.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Years later, the Human kingdom was on the brink of destruction, so the Human King entrusted his eldest son with the task of reconstructing the Stone of Abundance in order to bring the Human kingdom back to life.

The Good Witch steps forward and hands Prince Trevor a letter with the ingredients used for the stone.

Prince Trevor stands with pride.

TREVOR

I will not fail you, father.

He turns to leave when SQUIRE OSCAR (20s, Latino), a tired yet very loyal man, rushes into the grand hall quietly yet impatiently.

He approaches Prince Trevor and WHISPERS something in his ear. Prince Trevor's expression quickly turns from pride to concern.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Our story begins here, with Prince Trevor receiving news from his squire Oscar that his beloved, Princess Alana, had been captured by the Evil Witch.

Prince Trevor poses Fabio-like to the audience, lips pursed and muscles tense, a determined look on his face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And since Prince Trevor is...the most valiant and handsome prince ever?

(out of character)

Is this really what we're saying?

(Prince Trevor starts to get impatient)

Alright fine.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(back in character)
He decided to rescue his one true
love before going on his quest to
save the world.

SLAM CUT TO:

EXT. TOWER - DAY

A tower sits in the middle of a large clearing surrounded by forest on all sides.

At the base of the tower, two threatening OGRES stand watch, armed with axes.

At the top of the tower, PRINCESS ALANA (20s, White), your typical princess in distress, sits on the window sill, being helpless.

PRINCESS ALANA (O.S.)
Please! Somebody help! If only a
strong, smart, handsome prince
would come to my rescue.

Prince Trevor and Squire Oscar step into the clearing.

PRINCE TREVOR
Don't worry my love! I will save
you!

The Evil Witch appears behind Princess Alana. She holds her in place.

EVIL WITCH
Good luck with that, Prince. I'll
let her go, in exchange for that
list of ingredients my sister gave
you.

PRINCE TREVOR
How do you know about that?

EVIL WITCH
Um...I'm evil?

Prince Trevor thinks about her offer for a second. He gets an idea.

PRINCE TREVOR
Alright, we accept your terms.
We're coming over.

Squire Oscar shoots him a confused look, but Trevor reassures him with a simple "trust me" smirk.

Prince Trevor and Squire Oscar advance towards the Ogres, arms raised in surrender.

Once they're close enough, they swiftly reach for their swords and a fight ensues.

Metal meets metal. Sword meets ax. It's epic, it's dramatic. It's...repetitive?

After a short struggle, Prince Trevor kicks the first Ogre to the ground.

OGRE ONE
(in Ollie's voice)
Ouch! You hit me too hard!

The battle stops immediately.

POOF!

Ogre One on the floor turns into OLLIE (9, Asian), a kind and opinionated child that wears his heart out on his sleeve. He wears a crappy yet imaginative ogre costume made out of cardboard and glitter.

Prince Trevor GROANS very loudly. *Not this again.*

PRINCE TREVOR
Time out!

The facade fades away and the fantasy world turns into--

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY - MODERN DAY

A public kid's playground equipped with swings, a fort and slides.

As the playground changes, every character turns back as well.

Prince Trevor turns into TREVOR (10, White), a selfish kid that wears velcro shoes with conservative parents.

Squire Oscar turns into OSCAR (9, Latino), a lovable idiot and the embodiment of FOMO.

Ogre Two turns into MATEO (9, Latino), an imaginative and hyperactive kid with just as much heart as energy.

Princess Alana turns into ALANA (9, White), a type A child with strong opinions and hidden feelings.

The Evil Witch turns into SIMONE (10, Black), a strong willed kid that's willing to fight for what's right.

The kids all wear cardboard and foam costumes that represent their characters.

PRINCE TREVOR

Oh, come on Ollie, I didn't hit you *that* hard. Just get back up and--

OLLIE

No! This isn't fair. You always get to be the hero and we always have to be the monsters.

Mateo helps Ollie off the ground.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Thank you, Mateo.

Ollie and Trevor face off.

SIMONE (O.S.)

Ollie is right, Trevor. None of this is fair. Why do I have to be the "evil witch"? I want to be a knight, like you and Oscar.

OSCAR

I'm not a knight, I'm Trevor's faithful squire--

OLLIE

Yeah! And I want to be a princess!

Alana slides down from the slide castle.

ALANA

You can't be a princess, you're a boy.

MATEO

What does being a boy have to do with being a princess? This is all pretend anyway.

TREVOR

Alana is right, girls are princesses and boys are knights. Are you a girl, Ollie?

That strikes a nerve. Tears brim Ollie's eyes.

Simone, Mateo and Oscar watch, unsure how to intervene.

OLLIE
(unsure)
I--I'm a...boy.

TREVOR
That's what I thought. So you can't
be a princess.

Ollie can't hold the tears back any longer. He sprints away from the group, distraught.

Simone and Mateo feel for their friend but they don't quite understand the severity of what Ollie just admitted.

Trevor pulls out his brand new iPhone, ignorant to what he just did.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
Ugh, my mom wants me to go home.
See you all tomorrow?

Stunned nods all around.

ALANA
Walk me home?

Trevor and Alana walk away.

OSCAR
(to Simone and Mateo)
Bye guys!

Oscar trails behind them like a lost puppy.

Simone slides down to meet Mateo. She's deeply conflicted.

The two think for a second, neither saying anything.

Suddenly, a light bulb goes off in both their heads.

SIMONE	MATEO
I have an idea!	I have an idea!

They look at each other and smirk.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. SIMONE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

Simone enters the sleek and modern house in a rush.

Her parents, MARTHA (40s), and GEORGE (40s), don't even get to greet her as she takes off her shoes and bee lines for the sewing room at the end of the hall.

SIMONE

Hi mom. Dad, could you help me? I have a project to work on.

GEORGE

Okay honey!

She enters the sewing room, George follows close behind.

INT. SEWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Simone sits down in front of her sewing machine, her father supervises her.

Simone gets to work.

INTERCUT WITH:**INT. MATEO'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON**

Mateo enters the colorful and homy house, that somehow always smells like cinnamon, in a hurry.

ESTEFAN (20s, Latinx), Mateo's older brother and the father figure in his life, helps their mother NATA (40s, Latinx), in the kitchen.

MATEO

Hi mom, hi Estefan! Can't talk, gotta work!

Mateo sprints up the stairs.

INT. MATEO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mateo enters his bedroom and closes the door behind him.

He grabs a handful of papers and colored pencils and drops them on the floor.

MONTAGE:

- Mateo draws Ollie's new character Warrior Princess Olive. She wears light armor and a purple tutu.
- He snaps a picture and sends it to Simone.
- DING! Simone and her father see the picture. They smile and get to work.
- Simone measures fabric.
- Mateo colors.
- George puts together costumes on the mannequins.
- Mateo moves on to Simone's character Artemisa Silverstone. She's a grand knight, regal and strong.
- Simone sews, concentrated. George watches over the machine.
- Mateo holds up Simone's new character. He blushes and places the drawing upside down.
- Simone stitches, she pricks her finger and her dad puts on a band-aid.
- Mateo draws his character now, Grand Magus Martello. A flashy and suede inspired wizard.
- Simone sprinkles some glitter over her costumes.
- Mateo sprinkles some glitter over his drawings.

END MONTAGE.**INT. SEWING ROOM - DAY**

Simone is asleep on messy desk. George sleeps on the chair behind her.

Her mother enters the room and sets down a tray with breakfast.

MARTHA

Simone?

She gently shakes her awake.

She's startled awake, jumping off her chair and immediately checking her phone for the time.

The clock marks 10:42 am.

SIMONE

I'm late!

She quickly runs around the room and gathers all of the costumes she sewed, stitched and glued together. They're all colorful and sparkly.

She stuffs them into her backpack, grabs a piece of toast and kisses her mom on the cheek then rushes out of the room.

George wakes up, disoriented. The parents share a caring look.

EXT. OLLIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Simone and Mateo walk up to Ollie's house.

MATEO

Hey.

SIMONE

Hi!

They walk up to the door together.

Simone RINGS the doorbell.

MATEO

Woah did you sleep last night?

SIMONE

A few hours. But I finished them all!

MATEO

Yes! You're amazing!

SIMONE

Well, my dad helped me a lot.

Mateo clearly likes-likes Simone, but he's too shy to do anything about it.

He stares at her for too long. She notices.

Mateo shakes out of it.

Ollie opens the door. His face is puffy and his eyes red. He wears a cat hoodie over his head.

MATEO

Ollie, are you okay?

OLLIE
Why do you care?

SIMONE
We care, Ollie.

OLLIE
Whatever. Why are you here? Is it
to make more fun of me?

Instead of arguing, Simone grabs her backpack and opens it up for Ollie to see what's inside.

As she opens it, a golden ray of light blinds Ollie.

Ollie's eyes glisten with excitement, if he hadn't cried all night long, he'd cry out of happiness right now.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
Is that for me?

Simone nods.

Ollie jumps on her and gives her a big hug.

She hugs him back.

A BEAT.

Mateo joins them.

OLLIE (CONT'D)
Wait...I don't know if I want to
play with Trevor and Alana. They
were super mean yesterday.

MATEO
Well, last night Simone and I came
up with a plan for that.

Mateo pulls out the character sheets with the same flair as if they were Pokemon cards.

The kids grab their respective sheets as they huddle close for Mateo to tell them the plan.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Trevor, Oscar and Alana wait impatiently for Simone, Ollie and Mateo to show up.

They're all in their Party City costumes from the day before.

TREVOR

Ugh, what's taking them so long?

As if on cue, Simone, Ollie and Mateo walk into the playground wearing their crappy costumes, the new ones hidden underneath.

ALANA

Finally! We've been waiting for over 20 minutes.

MATEO

Sorry, guys.

Simone, Alana, Ollie and Mateo take their places from the day before.

TREVOR

(to Alana)

Do you want to start where we left yesterday or before so you can get in character?

ALANA

(duh)

Before.

Trevor CLEARS his throat.

TREVOR

Cool.

Trevor and Oscar sheath their "swords".

TREVOR (CONT'D)

And--

EXT. FANTASY WORLD - TOWER - DAY

Prince Trevor and Squire Oscar step into the clearing.

PRINCESS ALANA (O.S.)

Please! Somebody help! If only a strong, smart, handsome prince would come to my rescue.

PRINCE TREVOR

Don't worry my love! I will save you!

The Evil Witch steps forward.

A BEAT. A brief glimpse into the real world as Mateo nods at Simone encouragingly.

Back to the fantasy world--

EVIL WITCH

Wait! Don't hurt us!

Prince Trevor is confused but he refuses to break character.

The Evil Witch removes her disguise to reveal KNIGHT ARTEMISA SILVERSTONE (20s, Black), the smartest and bravest knight in all the land.

She wears intricately carved armor made of steel and carries a sword twice as big as Prince Trevor's.

TREVOR

Say what now?

ARTEMISA

The Evil Witch tricked us! She brought us here and put a spell on us so that you'd think we were her!

(beat)

Her spell has finally worn off, look!

Artemisa points to the two Ogres.

Ogre Two drops his disguise to reveal GRAND MAGUS MARTELLO (20s, Latino), a mad wizard with infinite knowledge.

He wears a deep blue cape that sparkles under the sun and a large pointy hat where he keeps everything he might need for a spell.

Ogre One drops his disguise to reveal PRINCESS WARRIOR OLIVE (20s, Asian), a badass princess warrior that uses she/they pronouns.

They wear super cool armor that's less bulky than Artemisa with a beautiful purple tutu over it and a crown on their head.

Artemisa emerges from the tower, followed by a pissed off Princess Alana.

ARTEMISA (CONT'D)

My name is Knight Artemisa Silverstone and these are my companions--

MARTELLO

Grand Magus Martello, at your service.

PRINCESS WARRIOR OLIVE

Princess Warrior Olive, pleased to meet you.

Before Prince Trevor can interject, Artemisa continues on.

ARTEMISA

We were on our way to meet with you, your majesty. We're after the same thing you are. Our kingdoms have suffered greatly because of the Evil Witch and we were hoping we could work together to rebuild the Stone of Abundance.

A BEAT.

PRINCE TREVOR

It's the Abundance Stone first of all, and--no, no! This is stupid!

GLASS SHATTERS.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

TREVOR

What are you wearing?

He motions at the three kids, specifically Ollie.

OSCAR

Yeah, what are you wearing...?

(whisper)

It looks cool. Where can I--

TREVOR

We went over this yesterday! Boys can't be princesses and...and *girls* can't be knights. Who even has the power to knight you?

OLLIE

Princess Warrior Olive does.

ALANA

This is stupid. Princesses can't be warriors.

SIMONE

(has had enough)

Yes they can! This isn't just your world, you don't get to make decisions for the rest of us and expect us to be okay with that. We can either play together or not at all.

Simone and Alana face off.

A BEAT.

ALANA

Daddy!

CUT TO:

EXT. PLAYGROUND - LATER

Simone, Mateo and Ollie stand on the outskirts of the park as a full blown construction team builds a fence around the park.

A worker slaps a DO NOT ENTER sign on the fence with Simone, Ollie, and Mateo's pictures below.

Alana, Trevor and Oscar stand at the top of the slide castle and watch on.

SIMONE

(yelling)

That's fine! We'll just have to find all of the ingredients before you can!

TREVOR

(yelling)

How are you going to do that when we're the only ones with a list?

Simone pounces but Mateo and Ollie hold her back.

OLLIE

We'll find another way, don't worry.

Simone calms down.

SIMONE

I'm sorry Ollie...I ruined everything.

Ollie gives her a warm smile.

OLLIE

No you didn't. You stood up for me
and made me this super cute dress.

Ollie twirls around, which makes Simone smile.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

(shy)

I also learned something about
myself today...

Mateo and Simone watch expectantly.

OLLIE (CONT'D)

I...I don't think I'm *just* a boy.

Ollie braces for impact.

SIMONE

That's okay.

MATEO

That's cool. You know, my dad's
sibling is nonbinary so we call
them titi instead of uncle. They
use they/them pronouns, maybe we
can use them for you too?

Ollie lights up. Tears well their eyes.

OLLIE

I'd like that.

Simone hugs Ollie. Ollie hugs her back. Mateo joins in.

(NOTE: From here on out, Ollie will be referred to with
they/them pronouns).

OLLIE (CONT'D)

Oh wait! What are we going to do
about our headquarters?!

MATEO

I might have another plan.

EXT. MATEO'S YARD - DAY

The kids stand in the middle of Mateo's yard. They look at a
pile of cardboard boxes, confused.

MATEO

Well?

SIMONE

Um...what's it supposed to be?

OLLIE

We're not cats, what are we supposed to do with cardboard boxes?

MATEO

You're not *seeing* it!

(beat)

This would be the entrance, that would be the east wing, this could be the stables...

As Mateo rambles on, Ollie and Simone start to imagine what the boxes could be, and by the power of their thoughts, IMAGINATION FORT, a club house made of cardboard boxes and a lot of glue starts to materialize.

It's charming and creative, and has everything they could need.

Simone and Ollie smile brightly, as Mateo rambles on.

This is what friendship should feel like.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And so our brave adventurers learned that it's more important to be kind and accepting over being liked, and thus they embarked on a journey like no other.

As the narrator speaks, the kids turn to camera and strike a heroic pose, their character alter egos taking shape behind them.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

With enemies and unknown dark forces fighting against them, will they be able to rebuild the Stone of Abundance and save the world?

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

END OF PILOT.