

Ten Thousand Wishes

Episode 1:  
"Pilot"

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FADE IN:

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Fourteen year old APRIL GREENAWAY walks along the corridor. Her long brown hair bounces as she steps. She looks as innocent as she does beautiful. Dressed casually she looks as if she couldn't have a care in the world. Little does she know what horror is about to occur.

To her right is TAYLOR SAILOR, also fourteen years old and April's best friend. She looks worried, fully aware of the impending horror. Taylor is dressed in 1940's Paris style from head to toe, a distinctive look.

APRIL

I'm so glad my parents let my birthday go by without any of their usual weirdness.

Taylor makes a face, not really trusting herself to keep a secret.

TAYLOR

Hmm. Yeah. But then again, who doesn't like a birthday party?

APRIL

Taylor! Is there something I should know?

(beat, thinking)

Are my parents throwing me a party that they forgot to tell me about ... again?

TAYLOR

(hesitates)

Umm, technically they didn't even tell me. I was just told to make

(MORE)

TAYLOR (Cont'd)

sure you were here by exactly six  
o'clock.

(beat)

Surprise!

APRIL

A party? Seriously?

April is frustrated even thinking about the party ready to start only a few feet away. They reach the door as they pause. April starts to turn around and flee, Taylor holding her arm to make sure she doesn't run.

TAYLOR

Just grin and bear it. You can do it.

Taylor pats April on the shoulder after the brief pep talk. She sighs, accepting the inevitable.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

FADE IN:

INT. GREENAWAY APARTMENT - NIGHT

A CROWD full of people stand around, streamers and balloons decorating the apartment. No-one looks particularly happy to be there with the exception of LOUISE GREENAWAY, she is a hot looking mom, takes pride in her appearance and yet maintains the caring warmth you would expect from a mother.

Louise signals to everyone to quiet down. Her excitement grows as she stands at the door, hands poised ready for the big reveal.

The door opens slowly, everyone makes a half-hearted attempt to cheer. Louise makes up for their lack luster attempt with a loud:

LOUISE

Surprise!

April and Taylor stand in the doorway, while Taylor at least manages a shocked expression, April looks unimpressed.

APRIL

Oh look, a surprise party! What a surprise.

LOUISE

All your friends are here, Honey!  
Come in, come in.

Louise takes April's arm and guides her through the room, indicating all the decorations and festivities. The music starts and the crowd starts to dance and mingle again, completely ignoring the birthday girl.

LOUISE

Isn't this wonderful?

APRIL

Yeah Mom, great.

The minute the grip loosens, April bolts, dragging Taylor with her. They steps out on the BALCONY.

INT. GREENAWAY APARTMENT BALCONY - NIGHT

April almost runs to the edge of the balcony, leans on the railings and stares out into the night sky.

Beside her, Taylor follows, wondering how she is going to fix the situation.

APRIL

I wish everyone would go home, I want them all to just go away.

TAYLOR

Maybe you should wish for that on your Birthday candles?

April gives her a look, warning that not only is she tired, but grumpy too. Taylor just smiles, used to it.

TAYLOR (Cont'd)

They're all here for you, at least people showed up.

APRIL

I know, but I want them all to leave. Mom shouldn't have done this. Does she hate me this much?

TAYLOR

I don't think she did it out of hate. It's kind of sweet.

APRIL

Even after what happened last time?

Suddenly the balcony door opens, surprising the girls. Louise pops her head out, grinning.

LOUISE

There you two are. Everyone is wondering where you've got to. I turned around and you were gone. Are you coming back?

April makes a face, making it obvious she is fed up with her guests already.

LOUISE

At least people showed up.

APRIL

Fine.

April rolls her eyes and succumbs to her duty. The two girls trudge back inside.

INT. GREENAWAY APARTMENT - NIGHT

April is trying to have a conversation with a GIRL and a BOY, both her school peers. She is trying her best to look interested while the awkwardness grows.

BOY

Great party you've got going on here.

Somehow, he's not believable.

APRIL

Thanks, my parents organized it. They thought I would like a surprise party.

GIRL

And you don't?

APRIL

I don't like surprises, unless I'm the one giving them.

Silence lingers until it's broken by Louise as she drags April to a table. A CAKE with candles burning awaits her.

LOUISE

It's cake time!

April reluctantly sits as Louise places a BIRTHDAY HAT on her head, the elastic snapping underneath her chin. She looks very unimpressed.

Seated beside April is BREE GREENAWAY, her eleven year old sister. Dressed in a frilly party dress, butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. Bree is the picture of a perfect girly daughter.

BREE

Blow them out! Hurry! I'm hungry.

April takes a deep breath and blows out the fourteen candles. The crowd applauds.

INT. GREENAWAY APARTMENT - NIGHT

April is showing the last of her guests out the door, using every bit of patience to not slam the door.

APRIL

(insincerely)

Goodnight, thank you for coming.

The last guest leaves, allowing April to close the door. She turns around and looks at her family, Louise, dad BYRON, brother JAKE, and sister Bree, all attempting to clean up the apartment.

APRIL (Cont'd)

I'm going to bed.

BYRON

How about a 'gee thanks for the party my loving parents'.

APRIL

Gee, thanks for the party my loving parents. Goodnight.

LOUISE

Goodnight Honey.

April stomps up the stairs, leaving her parents to shake their heads.

BYRON

Tell me teenagers eventually grow up.

LOUISE

Teenagers do. April, I'm not so sure about.

INT. APRIL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

April has changed into her pajamas, happy to finally flop into bed. She turns off her lamp leaving the room in shadows. She settles into the sheets and closes her eyes. Just as April is comfortable, the room lights up.

APRIL

(mumbling)

I'm trying to sleep, go away.

Appearing from nowhere, a woman GENIE dressed in regal harem pants with a purple veil looks down at the girl curiously. She quickly grows impatient.

GENIE

Wake up!

The Genie pulls back the bed covers, demanding attention. April opens one eye and looks confused, then the next eyes opens. She quickly sits up in bed, scared by her intruder.

APRIL

Who are you?!

GENIE

Are you April May Greenaway?

APRIL

Who wants to know?



GENIE

Oh do we have to do this? Are you  
April May Greenaway or not?

APRIL

Did my parents send you up here?

GENIE

No. Look, I'm going to assume you  
are April May Greenaway, you haven't  
said you aren't her.

The Genie is quickly getting bored. She shakes her head and  
starts to reel off her imaginary list.

GENIE (Cont'd)

April May Greenaway, I have been  
sent here by the Grand Counsel of  
Genies to inform you of your  
obligations under the Genies Act of  
1284 - BC.

APRIL

What?

GENIE

Don't interrupt me or I'll lose my  
place. You have officially turned  
fourteen years old and it is my  
pleasure to announce that your wish  
granting abilities have been  
delivered.

The monotonous tone to her voice betrays the fact that  
there is not pleasure in the delivery, just boredom. She  
starts to chew some GUM.

APRIL

What do you mean, 'wish granting  
abilities'?

GENIE

You know, wishes? As in someone wanting something and then you make it happen? Like right now, I wished I had some gum and then POOF, it appears for me.

APRIL

You got that out of your pocket.

GENIE

Yeah, well, sometimes it's not so magical. As you are now officially a Genie, there are some rules you really need to follow.

APRIL

I'm not a Genie.

The Genie throws up her hands in frustration and starts pacing.

GENIE

Haven't you been listening to anything I just said? You... Are... Now... A... GENIE!

APRIL

You're going to have to explain it again.

GENIE

Genies run in your family. You have therefore inherited the honor. You must grant wishes to those in need.

APRIL

Do I have to live in a bottle?

GENIE

Of course not, that was just a stupid rumor that the Elves started. They think they're so funny.

APRIL

Elves? Am I dreaming?

April pinches herself, trying to wake up. She cringes with the pain and understands that this is really happening. The Genie grows more impatient, she checks her watch.

GENIE

Elves are the annoying thorn in our side. Which brings me back to the rules. You are going to want to write this down.

The Genie makes a hurrying motion when April doesn't move straight away. April quickly catches on and grabs a NOTEBOOK and PEN from a set of drawers before returning back to the bed. She's a little afraid of the Genie, she would rather obey than see what the consequences are.

GENIE

Rule number one: You can never refuse a wish request. Even if you think it's the stupidest wish ever - and believe me it happens all the time, people are so silly - you must grant it. No exceptions. Rule number two: Never, ever, and I mean EVER, let an Elf know you are a Genie. They will do anything to expose us. You will risk all of Genie kind if you let your guard down for even a minute. Those little stupid heads. If I ever-