

THE WORST WITCH

EPISODE TEN:
"Mildred and the Mists of Time"

Written by

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Based on the books by Jill Murphy

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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PANICKED BREATHING echoes down a cavernous corridor, then-

FADE IN:

1

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MISS CACKLE'S OFFICE¹ -
DAY ONE (08.00)
(MISS CACKLE N/S)

MISS CACKLE hurtles past a long line of school pictures from the distant past to the present. As she peers through each passing window, her eyes become increasingly fearful, and at the end of the corridor, she flings open the door, and-

CUT TO:

2

EXT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS
(MISS CACKLE N/S)

2

Outside, only one thing can be seen - a thick mist has descended, rendering not only the far side of the courtyard invisible, but also everything in between. She lifts her hand slowly, holding it in front of her face, before inching it away, and... it's as if it disappears, her arm fading out in front of her. And her face fills with foreboding...

CUT TO:

3

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, DINING ROOM (PF) - DAY ONE (08.20) 3
 (BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DINNER WITCHES N/S, DRUSILLA N/S, ENID, ESMERELDA, ETHEL, FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE)

As MILDRED Hubble carries her tray across the dining room alongside MAUD Spellbody, DRUSILLA Paddock shoves her chair back into their path, oblivious to their presence and knocking MILDRED off balance. Desperately trying to keep hold of the tray, MILDRED staggers between table after table as everyone looks on, braced for disaster, but... when she finally comes to a standstill, it's still in hand, calamity narrowly averted for once. And she turns to MAUD with relief-

MILDRED
 (of the tray)
 Thought I was going to drop this
 then, didn't you?

However, as she grins, she turns and... CLATTERS straight into another girl instead, their gruel SPLATTERING them both, and their trays CRASHING to the floor. And when she looks up, she sees... a porridge-covered ETHEL Hallow blinking back.

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 (cheerfully)
 Mor-ning!

But ETHEL practically shakes with rage. Before she can turn her anger into words though, the passing ESMERELDA intervenes-

ESMERELDA
 Not to worry...

She CLAPS her hands together, and... the trays leap back into place, with the bowls on top, and porridge inside once more.

MILDRED
 Wow, thanks Esmerelda!

As ESMERELDA smiles and continues on her way, ETHEL scowls all the more, whilst MILDRED and MAUD sit on the first year table alongside ENID and the others, and the mortified MILDRED puts her head in her hands-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 (through her teeth)
 I'm such an idiot.

ENID
 No, you're not...

But ETHEL mimes over the table to her - 'yes - you are'. And MILDRED looks across the room at ESMERELDA-

MILDRED

Imagine being her. Not always
messing stuff up. Or doing stupid
things. Just... being basically the
best witch in the Academy.

MAUD

My Grandma Mona always says, 'we
are what we are - and that's never
going to change...'

ETHEL

Well that's marvellous news for
some of us.

(sneers, of MILDRED)

But it must be terribly depressing
for others...

And MILDRED frowns ruefully, until... MISS CACKLE suddenly
materialises in the middle of the room, and-

MISS CACKLE

Every year group is to go to their
next class immediately - *the
Academy is now under lock-down!*

And, as she CLICKS her fingers, doors are heard LOCKING and
windows SWINGING SHUT, and MILDRED, MAUD and the rest of the
girls turn to each other in alarm, then-

CUT TO:

4

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, HALLWAY - DAY ONE (08.21)

4

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA, ENID, ETHEL, FELICITY N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MILDRED, MISS BAT, MISS CACKLE, MISS DRILL, MISS DRILL N/S, MISS HARDBROOM, MR ROWAN-WEBB)

As everyone heads out, MISS HARDBROOM, MISS DRILL, MISS BAT and MR ROWAN-WEBB gather round MISS CACKLE-

MISS HARDBROOM
What is it, Miss Cackle?

MISS CACKLE
They're back...

MR ROWAN-WEBB
What are?

MISS CACKLE
(gravely)
The Mists of Time...

Whilst all the teachers instantly look as shaken as her though, ETHEL just heads for one of the doors, and the unimpressed MILDRED whispers to MAUD and ENID-

MILDRED
Ooh, a mist! We're done for!
Careful everyone...

ETHEL
I'll be two minutes, Miss Cackle.
Nightstar's still out there. I'd better go and get him...

But that door is now locked too.

MISS CACKLE
Too late, Ethel. All exits have
been sealed.
(to MISS HARDBROOM)
Miss Hardbroom, if you could come
with me.
(to MISS DRILL)
Miss Drill, if you could look after
the first years...

MISS DRILL
Certainly Miss Cackle.

MISS BAT
Come on, quick sharp!

ETHEL
But what if Nightstar can't find
his way back?

ENID
You couldn't get out even if you
wanted to...

But whilst the other girls follow the teachers, MILDRED just
stares at ETHEL, feeling her angst acutely, before-

MILDRED
I know a way...

And, as MILDRED turns, ETHEL hesitates, then... follows.

MAUD
(in unison)
Mildred?

ENID
(in unison)
Mildred?

DRUSILLA
Ethel?!

MILDRED
We'll be back before anyone even
notices we've gone!

As MAUD, ENID and DRUSILLA look horrified, MILDRED and ETHEL
start to run, then-

CUT TO:

5 **INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, BASEMENT CORRIDOR - DAY ONE (08.25)** 5
(ETHEL, MILDRED N/S)

They creep past a high window, before MILDRED crouches at a ventilation grate, and starts to lever it from the wall.

 ETHEL
 (gasps)
No wonder mother told me not to
hang around with girls like you!

But MILDRED tugs at it regardless, and-

CUT TO:

6

EXT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, GRATE - DAY ONE (08.31)
(ETHEL N/S, MILDRED N/S)

6

They clamber out the other side. And hearing a HISS in the distance, MILDRED takes the hand of the startled ETHEL, then steps forward, and... they disappear entirely.

CUT TO:

7

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (08.32)

7

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA N/S, ENID, FELICITY, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL)

MISS DRILL takes the register without looking up-

MISS DRILL
Felicity Foxglove?FELICITY
Here, Miss Drill.MISS DRILL
Ethel Hallow?

DRUSILLA glances at MAUD and ENID desperately.

MISS DRILL (CONT'D)
*Ethel Hallow?*MAUD
Excuse me, Miss Drill!

MISS DRILL looks at her - yes? But it quickly becomes apparent that MAUD hasn't actually prepared anything to say, and she umms and aahs for a moment, before-

ENID
What's so bad about going out in a mist anyway?MISS DRILL
Believe me girls, this is not just "a" mist. It is "the" mist. If anyone were to enter, the consequences could be truly...

But, noticing the space next to Drusilla, she stops mid-sentence-

MISS DRILL (CONT'D)
...hold on - where is Ethel?
(and noticing the space next to Maud too-)
And where is Mildred Hubble?!

And MAUD, ENID and DRUSILLA gulp, then-

CUT TO:

8

EXT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY - DAY ONE (08.35)
(ETHEL, MILDRED)

8

MILDRED and ETHEL tiptoe through the mist, still unable to see anything, until... they hear a SQUEAK, then a MIAOW-

ETHEL
Nightstar?!

Something scurries past, immediately followed by a flash of black, before disappearing with a CLUNK, and the girls follow it back to the Academy building, where... a small grid has come away from the wall and is lying on the ground-

ETHEL (CONT'D)
(peering into the gap)
He likes his breakfast 'to go'...

MILDRED
(pulls face)
Well if Nightstar's gone back inside, we'd better do the same - or we're going to get in an awful lot of trouble...

And they feel their way blindly back along the wall, then-

CUT TO:

9

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MISS CACKLE'S OFFICE -
DAY ONE (08.38)

(MISS CACKLE, MISS DRILL, MISS HARDBROOM)

MISS CACKLE looks at MISS HARDBROOM and MISS DRILL
frantically-

MISS CACKLE
We can't leave them out there, it's
far too dangerous...

MISS DRILL
If you follow them, it could make
everything worse.

MISS CACKLE
I remember what happened when the
Mists last descended. It changed
everything between Agatha and I -
it can't get much worse...

MISS HARDBROOM
Wait. Please. As long as Mildred
and Ethel come back into the
building at exactly the same place
they left it, there really is
nothing to worry about...

MISS CACKLE nods reluctantly, then turns to the pictures on
the wall, and focuses on one from a long time ago - and two
young witches within it, each identical to the other, then-

CUT TO:

10

EXT. / INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, GRATE - DAY ONE (08.40)
(DINNER WITCHES N/S, ETHEL, MILDRED)

10

MILDRED clammers onto ETHEL's shoulders to look through the high window - her hand squishing the unimpressed ETHEL's face. DINNER WITCHES are now walking back and to, carrying the remains of the breakfasts. And MILDRED's face falls-

MILDRED
Oh no - Dinner witches...

ETHEL
If we're not in class soon, Miss Drill's bound to notice...

MILDRED
It's OK - if we can't go back in through the grate, we'll just have to find another way...

And MILDRED turns to an old fire escape, snaking up the side of the building, then-

CUT TO:

11

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MRS CACKLE'S OFFICE, DAY ONE (09.00) 11

(ETHEL, MILDRED, MONA, MRS CACKLE, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

MILDRED and ETHEL run back past the line of pictures-

ETHEL
Mildred, you didn't have to help me then, so... I just want to say...

But, as ETHEL is about to thank MILDRED for the first time in her life, a girl steps out from behind an old chest of drawers that wasn't there a few minutes ago-

MONA
Shhhhh!

And when they look at her, both are thrown because the girl looks an awful lot like Maud, but a little bit different too - without glasses, and with a very different hairstyle.

MILDRED
Maud?!

MONA
(whispers)
No - Mona. Hasn't anyone told you this whole place is on lockdown?!

Hearing the commotion, a girl of a similar age leans out from the Head's study, and adjusts her spectacles-

YOUNG ADA
(to MONA, whispers)
Who are they?

This is YOUNG ADA, one of the girls Miss Cackle was looking at in the picture, and her twin is behind her too - identical apart from the glasses - and rifling through the papers on the desk. This is YOUNG AGATHA.

MILDRED
We're in Miss Hardbroom's year...

MONA
(whispers)
Never heard of her! Are you new?

ETHEL
No! But if you've never heard of HB, you must be. Suppose you've never heard of Miss Cackle either, even though you're in her study...

YOUNG AGATHA
 (whispers)
 It's *Mrs* Cackle, you pondbat...

MILDRED
 No, it... ('isn't')

But, as she turns to the door, she sees that it really does say 'Mrs Alma Cackle, Headmistress'.

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 Mrs Alma?! What happened to Miss Ada?!

But before anyone can respond, FOOTSTEPS are heard approaching, and YOUNG ADA and YOUNG AGATHA yank MONA into the study, whilst MILDRED pulls ETHEL behind the old chest of drawers. And, as a MRS CACKLE appears who looks nothing like her surnamesake, she scans the corridor, before pausing within a few inches of MILDRED and ETHEL, then stepping away and opening the door to her room instead, and seeing... YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA and MONA "hiding" beneath her desk.

MRS CACKLE
 (roars)
 Ada! Agatha! Spell-bodyyyyy!

And she enters, then slams the door behind her.

ETHEL
 (of the Twins)
That was Miss Cackle and Agatha?!

MILDRED
 (of MONA)
And that was Maud's grandma?!

They look around them. The pictures still go all the way back to the distant past, but they now stop half a century ago rather than reaching the present. And MILDRED turns to ETHEL in amazement, the world starting to spin around her-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 We've... we've gone back in Time!
 This isn't the Cackle's of the
 Present - this is the Cackle's of
 the Past...

But ETHEL just stares at her in fury, normal service resumed-

ETHEL
And this is all your fault!

FADE TO:

12

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, MRS CACKLE'S OFFICE - DAY ONE 12
(09.05)

(MONA, MRS CACKLE, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

As MONA looks on awkwardly, MRS CACKLE stares at YOUNG ADA and YOUNG AGATHA-

MRS CACKLE
They say that in every school,
there's always one. But in ours,
there are two... *and they both just
happen to be my daughters!*

The Twins glance over at MONA, then start to snigger.

MRS CACKLE (CONT'D)
I've long since despaired of you
Agatha. But now your behaviour
seems to be rubbing off on your
sister and your friend too...
(to YOUNG ADA)
And as the eldest, I expect a lot
better from you...

YOUNG ADA
I'm only thirteen minutes older!

MRS CACKLE
You entered my study without my
permission, and tried to take my
Spellbook...

YOUNG AGATHA
We thought some magic might liven
class up a bit.

MONA
Being stuck in all morning because
of that stupid mist is bor-ing...

MRS CACKLE
On the contrary, this is the
perfect opportunity to take the
official year group photograph...

YOUNG ADA pretends to yawn. YOUNG AGATHA and MONA GIGGLE.

MRS CACKLE (CONT'D)
(to YOUNG ADA)
Just because you're my heir, it
does not mean that you'll take over
this place whatever-

YOUNG AGATHA
Er, yes it does. And she's going to
let *me* run it with her...

MRS CACKLE
Not if you carry on like this. If
any of you three set foot in here
again, you'll be excluded.
Permanently.
(to the Twins)
And the Academy will *never* be
yours...

And none of the girls are smiling now...

CUT TO:

13

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (09.06)
(ETHEL, MILDRED, MRS DRILL N/S)

13

As a teacher who looks an awful-lot-like-Miss-Drill-but-not-quite - being less sporty and more severe - marches along the corridor carrying a 1950s or 60s-era camera and tripod, ETHEL peers through a gap in the door, keeping look-out-

ETHEL
(whispers)
I don't believe it - it's Miss Drill too. Except I suppose, it isn't. Must be her mother instead!

But MILDRED just rifles through some old books stacked along one wall of the empty classroom, until-

MILDRED
Here it is - 'The Mists of Time'!
(reading)
'Many moons ago, a Great Wizard enchanted a thick mist so he could step between that and the last such mist to have descended. But no-one should ever meddle with Time. And after he'd entered it, he was *never* seen again...'

ETHEL
Oh!

MILDRED
'Such Mists come and go within minutes, and anyone finding themselves in the wrong moment of History when they fade, will be trapped there... *for eternity*.'

ETHEL
(alarmed)
Does it tell us how to get back?!

MILDRED
(shakes head, horrified)
What if we're trapped like the Great Wizard? What if I never get to see mum or Maud or Tabby again?

ETHEL
(more horrified)
What if I have to spend the next fifty years... *with you*!?

MILDRED sits at a desk despondently.

MILDRED
At least you've got Nightstar...

ETHEL looks at her - huh?

MILDRED (CONT'D)
He must be back here too.

ETHEL
Great. So now he's more lost than ever!

MILDRED
We haven't got time to search the whole school for him on our own. We're going to need help...

ETHEL
Even if we find him, we still won't know how to get home...

And MILDRED thinks for a moment, then... realises that she's sitting at the same desk Maud is in the present, and her eyes light up-

MILDRED
No - but I know someone who will...

She lifts up its lid, grabs a compass, and starts to carve something into the wood determinedly-

ETHEL
(appalled)
Mildred! This is no time for vandalism!

MILDRED
Actually Ethel, it's the perfect time...

CUT TO:

14

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, THE GREAT HALL - DAY ONE (09.25)¹⁴
 (ETHEL, FELICIA N/S, GIRLS N/S, LORETTA N/S, MILDRED, MONA,
 MRS CACKLE N/S, MRS DRILL N/S, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

As MRS DRILL corrals the class into position, there are others who look familiar too - an almost-but-not-quite Felicity, more timid than we're used to, and an-almost-but-not-quite Lucinda, more robust. This is FELICIA and LORETTA. MRS CACKLE watches for a moment, then exits, and YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA and MONA whisper to each other-

YOUNG AGATHA
 What are we going to do now?

YOUNG ADA
 Well... we can either do exactly as
 Mother says, or...

YOUNG AGATHA looks at her - what?

YOUNG ADA (CONT'D)
 She has so much power, and we have
 so little, so... why don't we take
 some?

YOUNG AGATHA
 An Extraction Spell?

As YOUNG ADA nods, YOUNG AGATHA beams.

YOUNG ADA
 If she had a teeny bit less, it
 wouldn't make any difference to
 her. But if we had a teeny bit
 more, she might finally respect us
 as witches.

MONA
 You'd need her Spellbook for that
 though, and you know what she said
 about us going in her study...

YOUNG ADA
 (nods)
 Which means we have to find someone
 else to go in there for us...

And, as they consider this and MRS DRILL prepares the camera, MILDRED and ETHEL creep past and join the back row-

YOUNG AGATHA
 The New Girls!

MILDRED
(to MONA)
We need your help...

MONA
Me?

MILDRED
Wouldn't matter what time I was in,
I'd always trust a Spellbody...

MONA, YOUNG ADA and YOUNG AGATHA look at her - huh?

ETHEL
We know you're not meant to leave
this room, but... I've lost my cat.
And if we don't find him before the
Mists lift, you're going to be
seeing a lot more of us...

As MONA glances at the Twins, the camera FLASHES, then-

MONA
(to MILDRED and ETHEL)
We'll help. But only if you help us
too...

And, as the rest of the class looks on, MILDRED, ETHEL, MONA
and the Twins sneak out again, whilst MRS DRILL takes another
photograph chirpily, and the camera FLASHES once more, then-

CUT TO:

15

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (09.40)

15

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA, ENID, FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL)

MISS DRILL stares at the Mists with dread-

MAUD

Please tell us what's going on,
Miss Drill. Are Mildred and Ethel
in some sort of danger?

MISS DRILL

(bluffs)

No, no. They'll be back any minute.
Now please girls, get on with your
work...

But, as MAUD opens her desk, her face suddenly drops-

MAUD

No they won't - look!

Faded carving can be seen on the underside of her desktop-

ENID

(reading)

'Help! We're stuck in the past.
Send Miss Cackle! Mildred'

And, as everyone looks on aghast, DRUSILLA opens her desk and notices something scratched there too-

DRUSILLA

(reading)

'PS. Tell Maud Spellbody her
Grandma has a silly haircut.
Ethel'.

MAUD, however, just turns to MISS DRILL, who charges straight out into the corridor, then-

CUT TO:

16

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, MRS CACKLE'S OFFICE - DAY ONE 16
(09.50)

(ETHEL, MILDRED, MONA, MRS CACKLE N/S, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

As MONA and the Twins look on from the corridor, MILDRED and ETHEL enter the study-

MILDRED
Won't we get in trouble for this?YOUNG AGATHA
No more trouble than we'll get into
for looking for your cat...ETHEL
Come on, Mildred.And, as ETHEL begins the search, MILDRED joins in too.
Opening a wardrobe, she sees two boxes-MILDRED
Your mum's kept all the trophies
and certificates you've won.
(peers in, to YOUNG ADA)
There's a lot more in yours than
hers...ETHEL
(snorts)
Typical big sister favouritism...YOUNG AGATHA
Exactly!

And there's a moment of genuine understanding between ETHEL and YOUNG AGATHA, then... MILDRED finds an old scroll behind the boxes, and starts to unroll it.

YOUNG ADA
Is that it?MILDRED
No.

As MILDRED studies it, her face changes though, but ETHEL pulls a notebook from a cupboard-

ETHEL
Well this is!
(reading)
'Alma Cackle's Little Book of
Spells and Potions - Private and
Confidential'. Right, let's find
Nightstar...

But, as MILDRED slips the scroll into her pocket, YOUNG AGATHA steps in and snatches the book from ETHEL-

YOUNG AGATHA
I don't think so...

ETHEL
You promised.

YOUNG AGATHA
You don't know me very well, do you?

YOUNG AGATHA runs out, then YOUNG ADA follows. However, when MONA goes to do the same-

MILDRED
Mona, wait. You have to help us.

MONA
Why?

ETHEL
Don't tell her, Mildred. We can't tinker with Time, remember?

But, as MONA steps into the study, MILDRED turns to her anyway-

MILDRED
Because... I'm best friends with your granddaughter!

However, as MONA stares at MILDRED in amazement, MRS CACKLE appears behind her and looks like she's about to explode...

CUT TO:

17

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE MISS CACKLE'S OFFICE -
DAY ONE (09.51)

(MISS CACKLE, MISS DRILL N/S, MISS HARDBROOM)

MISS CACKLE stares at MISS DRILL and MISS HARDBROOM again, but MISS HARDBROOM just shakes her head dismissively-

MISS HARDBROOM
Desk graffiti is hardly evidence.
Anyone could have done it. The fact
is, we still have no idea whether
Mildred and Ethel are actually in
the Past or not...

But, as MISS DRILL nods, MISS CACKLE's face suddenly changes-

MISS CACKLE
Oh yes, we do!

And MISS DRILL and MISS HARDBROOM turn and see that... there are now two new witches alongside the Young Ada and the Young Agatha on the old class photograph - Mildred and Ethel! And we close in on this picture of the past, then-

CUT TO:

18

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, MRS CACKLE'S OFFICE - DAY ONE 18
(09.55)

(ETHEL N/S, MILDRED, MONA N/S, MRS CACKLE)

MILDRED and ETHEL blink as MRS CACKLE eyeballs MONA-

MRS CACKLE
I warned you Ms Spellbody. Gather
your things immediately.
(turns to the guilty
MILDRED & ETHEL)
And as for you...
(baffled)
...do you even go to this school?!

But MILDRED isn't even listening, she's focused on the window-

MILDRED
Ethel - the Mists!

And, as ETHEL looks at them too, she sees that... they're
starting to clear. And she and MILDRED glance at each other,
then... turn and run, before-

CUT TO:

19

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, ALCOVE - DAY ONE (09.56)
(ETHEL, MILDRED, MONA N/S, MRS CACKLE N/S)

19

Ducking into an alcove. MRS CACKLE appears at the end of the corridor with a shamed MONA, glances along it, then heads off. And MILDRED's face falls-

MILDRED
That wasn't meant to happen...

ETHEL
No, it wasn't. And if Mona really is expelled, it'll change her whole life...

MILDRED
(picking up on this)
And if her life changes... so will Maud's!

ETHEL
(nods)
It could turn her into someone else entirely...

And, as MILDRED's jaw drops, there's an almost imperceptible RUMBLE like the cards of time being reshuffled, then-

CUT TO:

20

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (09.57)

20

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA N/S, ENID N/S, FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL)

MAUD suddenly leans back in her chair, bends her ruler and pings a rubber off the side of LUCINDA's head. This is no longer the Maud we're used to... this is MAUD the Rebel!

MAUD
(to ENID)
What're you looking at,
Frightshade?
(clenches fist
threateningly)
If you want a Spellbashing from The
Spellbody, you're going the right
way about it...

DRUSILLA giggles sycophantically - forget Ethel, she's MAUD's minion now - and the rattled ENID turns to MISS DRILL for support. However, she just shrugs-

MISS DRILL
What d'you expect from a family
like that? I gave up on them years
ago...

Suddenly, this is a quite different present...

CUT TO:

21

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR - DAY ONE (10.08)
(ETHEL, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE)

21

As MILDRED looks out at the Mists, her panic increasing, ETHEL checks every alcove, and calls-

ETHEL
Nightstar? *Night-star?*
(beat)
I don't understand it. He always
comes when I call...

MILDRED
I've really done it this time. I
only wanted to help... but now I've
got Grandma Mona expelled, messed
up the present, and we're about to
be trapped in the past forever!

MISS CACKLE (O.S.)
Oh dear Mildred. That doesn't seem
like the best day's work...

And when they turn, they see-

MILDRED
(ecstatic)
Miss Cackle!

ETHEL
You came!

MILDRED
Do you know how we get out of
here?!

MISS CACKLE
'If your hand be not visible in
front of your face, step back into
a forgotten place. To return,
retrace your steps, and walk from
the last mist into the next...'

MILDRED
So we need to go back outside, then
come in through the grate, rather
than up the fire escape?

MISS CACKLE
Yes Mildred, you do. But now I've
moved in Time, I can't move us in
Space, so... you really need to get
a move on!

ETHEL
We can't go yet, we still haven't
found Nightstar.

MISS CACKLE
I'm sorry Ethel, but I need to get
you two through that grate before
the Mists disappear completely...

ETHEL's head drops.

MILDRED
What about you?

MISS CACKLE
Sounds like I'm going to have to
persuade my mother to change her
mind about Mona, before we're
lumbered with a different Maud,
and... well, a different everybody!

MISS CACKLE takes out a key and starts to unlock a door.

MISS CACKLE (CONT'D)
Is there anything else? Anything at
all you've disrupted or disturbed?

ETHEL shakes her head. MILDRED puts her hand on her pocket
and thinks for a moment, then... shakes her head too.

MISS CACKLE (CONT'D)
Good. Now come on!

And MISS CACKLE yanks open the door, then-

CUT TO:

22

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, POTIONS LAB - DAY ONE (10.09) 22
(ETHEL N/S, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

As YOUNG AGATHA raids the cabinets, YOUNG ADA checks the door-

YOUNG ADA
What's happened to Mona?

YOUNG AGATHA
Who cares?

YOUNG AGATHA grabs a handful of one of the ingredients-

YOUNG ADA
Hey, we only need two of those...

YOUNG AGATHA
I'm tripling every ingredient... in
fact, I'm times-ing them by ten!

YOUNG ADA
Why?

YOUNG AGATHA
We're not just going to take *some*
of Mother's power, we're going to
take all of it!

YOUNG ADA
(horrified)
We can't do that...

YOUNG AGATHA
The Academy's going to be ours
eventually... we're just speeding
up the process!

YOUNG ADA
We're not old enough to be the
Headteachers yet!

YOUNG AGATHA
Imagine it - a school without
rules, where the pupils are in
charge, not the staff...

YOUNG ADA
No, Agatha. I can't do that to
Mother.

YOUNG AGATHA
Well forget who's the eldest then -
I'll run this place on my own!

And YOUNG ADA looks thunderstruck, then-

CUT TO:

23

EXT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, GRATE - DAY ONE (10.25)
(ETHEL N/S, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE)

23

As the hole in the wall appears through the Mists, ETHEL starts to clamber back through, but... MILDRED doesn't move.

MISS CACKLE
Mildred?

And she waits till Ethel's completely disappeared, then-

MILDRED
I didn't want to say anything in front of Ethel, but... there is one more thing. Something I've taken. From your mother's study...

MISS CACKLE
Stolen?!

MILDRED
Yes. But I did it for you.

MILDRED takes the scroll from her pocket-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
It's your Birth Scroll. And there's something you need to know.

CUT TO:

24

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, BASEMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS
(ETHEL N/S, MISS HARDBROOM N/S)

24

As ETHEL dusts herself down, a fearsome SHADOW approaches on the wall, and she gulps, but... it belongs to MISS HARDBROOM. And ETHEL realises that she really is back in the present-

ETHEL
It worked!

But, as ETHEL beams-

CUT TO:

25

EXT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, GRATE - CONTINUOUS
(MILDRED, MISS CACKLE)

25

MILDRED unfurls the scroll outside-

MILDRED
You're *not* the eldest... Agatha is.

MISS CACKLE studies it with the look of someone who's discovering that everything they thought they knew was wrong.

MILDRED (CONT'D)
Agatha was born thirteen minutes before you - your mother just told you it was the other way round.

MISS CACKLE
Then Cackle's is rightfully hers.

MILDRED nods. And MISS CACKLE thinks for a long moment, then-

MISS CACKLE (CONT'D)
You... you need to go in too...

MILDRED
Will you make sure Mona's allowed to stay?

MISS CACKLE
The Spellbodys' are the least of my worries now. My sister is about to throw everything away - so I have to try and stop her...

MILDRED
You can't do that. *No-one* should meddle with Time. You have to put things back in place - not smash them to smithereens!

MISS CACKLE
History's important, Mildred. But not as much as family...

And, as MISS CACKLE turns and marches back into the increasingly-fast-thinning Mists, vanishing once more, MILDRED looks on in horror, then-

CUT TO:

26

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, BASEMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS
(ETHEL N/S, MILDRED N/S, MISS HARDBROOM)

26

MISS HARDBROOM floats up impatiently, looks through the window, and sees MILDRED disappearing back into the Mists too-

MISS HARDBROOM
Mildred Hubble!

FADE TO:

27

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (10.29)
(MILDRED, MONA N/S)

27

Standing in front of Maud's desktop again, MILDRED is desperately scratching something else into the underside as MONA passes the door forlornly with a suitcase and broomstick-

MILDRED
Mona!

MONA stops, and looks in. And MILDRED closes the lid-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
You're not going home... you're
coming with me!

And MILDRED races through the door, then grabs MONA's hand and pulls her after her, and-

CUT TO:

28

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, POTIONS LAB - DAY ONE (10.30) 28
 (MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, MONA, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA)

As YOUNG ADA watches uneasily, YOUNG AGATHA places the final ingredients in her bag, then turns to leave, but... MISS CACKLE is now blocking her way.

YOUNG AGATHA
 Who are you?

As MISS CACKLE glances at YOUNG ADA, MILDRED and MONA run in together, MONA still clutching her broomstick and case-

MILDRED
 Don't tell her!

MISS CACKLE
Mildred?!

MILDRED
 We can't mess anything else up...

MISS CACKLE
 I'm not. I'm fixing things.
 (to YOUNG AGATHA)
 I'll tell you who I am...
 (to YOUNG ADA)
 I'm you.

And, as YOUNG ADA stares at her - huh?! - MILDRED's head sinks. MISS CACKLE, meanwhile, turns to YOUNG AGATHA-

MISS CACKLE (CONT'D)
 You can't handle Mother's powers,
 you're not ready. The potion will
 just explode, and you'll be sent to
 Wormwood's Academy...

MONA
 Only the wickedest of witches end
 up there...

MISS CACKLE
 (to YOUNG AGATHA)
 You'll be permanently labelled the
 Bad Girl, whilst I go on to be Head
 Girl, and when we do run this place
 together, that will end in disaster
 too.

YOUNG AGATHA looks at her, struggling to take this in.

MISS CACKLE (CONT'D)
It doesn't have to be that way
though. Put the bag down Agatha.
Let's rewrite History...

But before YOUNG AGATHA can respond, YOUNG ADA grabs the bag from her, then snatches MONA's broomstick too-

YOUNG ADA
(to MISS CACKLE)
I don't want to be Head Girl. And I
definitely don't want to be you!
(to YOUNG AGATHA)
If you're not going to take
Mother's power, I am!

And, as she charges out, MILDRED turns to MISS CACKLE-

MILDRED
You haven't persuaded your sister
to be good, Miss Cackle - you've
just turned your younger self bad!

MONA
Where's Ada gone?

YOUNG AGATHA
The Junkroom. No-one ever goes in
there...

MISS CACKLE
We'll never get to her in time.

MILDRED
Mona being expelled was bad enough,
but if you're expelled too, it will
change everything...

And, as MISS CACKLE gulps, MILDRED starts to run, then-

CUT TO:

29

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (10.34)

29

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA, ENID N/S, FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL)

MISS DRILL glares at MAUD-

MISS DRILL

I'm warning you. If you don't get to work this minute, you'll be spending the entire afternoon outside Miss Cackle's door. Again.

MAUD

(rolls her eyes, then-)
OK Miss Drill, take a chill-out potion...

DRUSILLA sniggers again, and MAUD lifts up her desk once more, but... the previous graffiti has been scratched out, and a new line has now appeared beneath it.

MAUD (CONT'D)
(to DRUSILLA, reading)
'Maud! Miss Cackle's about to change everything. Tell Miss Drill. Mildred'

DRUSILLA
Why would Mildred Hubble ask you for help?

MAUD
Well she can't really ask a friend, can she? She doesn't have any!

MISS DRILL
(calls over, to MAUD)
What is it now, Maud?!

And MAUD looks at DRUSILLA, the back at MISS DRILL, then... takes out a book, closes the desk firmly, and grins-

MAUD
Nothing, Miss Drill! Nothing at all...

And, as DRUSILLA cackles-

CUT TO:

30

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, JUNKROOM - DAY ONE (10.36)
(YOUNG ADA N/S)

30

YOUNG ADA enters a very different version of Mildred's room. It's full of clutter and the largest cobwebs ever seen. She flings her broomstick aside, grabs an old cauldron, and sets to work. Nothing, it seems, can stop her now, and outside-

CUT TO:

31

EXT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY - CONTINUOUS

31

The Mists are thinner than ever...

CUT TO:

32

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR - DAY ONE (10.37) 32
(MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, MONA N/S, MRS CACKLE, YOUNG AGATHA
N/S)

As MILDRED charges down the corridor, MRS CACKLE steps out-

MRS CACKLE
I will ask you one more time, girl.
Who are you?

But, as MILDRED struggles for an answer, MISS CACKLE, MONA and YOUNG AGATHA come panting round the corner too-

MISS CACKLE
Same as me - someone from Cackle's
future. Mother - it's Ada...

They stare at each other for a long moment - one taking in the person her daughter will grow into, the other a mother she now knows to have been lying to her all her life.

MRS CACKLE
(tenderly)
The Mists?

MILDRED
Yes. And if you don't help us,
there's not going to be a school
for us to return to!

And MRS CACKLE looks back at MILDRED with panic, then-

CUT TO:

33

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, JUNKROOM - DAY ONE (10.38) 33
 (MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, MONA N/S, MRS CACKLE N/S, YOUNG ADA,
 YOUNG AGATHA)

YOUNG ADA picks up the final two ingredients-

YOUNG ADA
 Whiskers of a lion, petals of a
 flower, make Mother's magic mine,
 and give me her...

But as she's about to drop them in, MRS CACKLE, MISS CACKLE,
 MILDRED, MONA and YOUNG AGATHA materialise in front of her-

MISS CACKLE
 Stop!

MILDRED
 (looking around)
 It's my room...

YOUNG ADA
 (to MISS CACKLE & MRS
 CACKLE)
 I'm not interested in anything you
 have to say...

MILDRED
 (steps forward)
 Then what about me? I didn't want
 you to know about the future. But
 now you do, there's more you need
 to know too...

And MISS CACKLE focuses on MILDRED now as well.

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 I'm not a good witch. Might even be
 the worst one ever. But you've
 never stopped believing in me...

MILDRED steps closer still-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
 You don't just go on to become
 Head, you go onto become a great
 one. You're a good person, Ada. So
 please don't do this. It's not
 you...

YOUNG ADA stares at MILDRED, then MISS CACKLE, then... throws
 her arms round her mum. But YOUNG AGATHA just snarls-

YOUNG AGATHA
 ...well it's definitely me!

And she picks up the whiskers and petals and throws them in instead, then puts her hands in the air, and shouts-

YOUNG AGATHA (CONT'D)
And give me her... *power!*

However, the potion just starts to BUBBLE and RUMBLE, and...

MILDRED
Watch out!

...it EXPLODES, then-

CUT TO:

34

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (10.39)

34

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA, ENID N/S, ETHEL,
 FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL, MISS
 HARDBROOM)

As MISS HARDBROOM and ETHEL enter, everyone turns to them-

MISS DRILL
 Where are Mildred and Miss Cackle?

MISS HARDBROOM
 I wish we knew...

ETHEL
 (sadly)
 And we couldn't even find
 Nightstar...

MAUD
 (of ETHEL)
 Well well well, look what the black
 cat dragged in...

DRUSILLA
 (hisses)
 Ethel Shallow...

As MAUD and DRUSILLA high-five each other, ETHEL looks at them in amazement, then turns to the rest of the class and realises that no-one seems remotely surprised by this at all.

ETHEL
 Oh no. Mona being expelled really has changed things - and no-one even knows it...

MISS HARDBROOM
 (of MAUD)
 Don't worry, I hear we had much the same trouble with her mother.

ETHEL
 (gasps)
 ...Not even you!

And, as ETHEL reels, she turns to the window and sees that... the Mists have now almost cleared too...

CUT TO:

35

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR OUTSIDE JUNKROOM - DAY 35
ONE (10.40)

(MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, MONA N/S, MRS CACKLE, YOUNG ADA N/S, YOUNG AGATHA N/S)

Coughing and spluttering, MILDRED, MRS CACKLE and MISS CACKLE head out, covered in gunk-

MISS CACKLE
 (to MRS CACKLE)
 Why did you lie to us? I've seen
 the scroll...

And MRS CACKLE processes this for a moment, then-

MRS CACKLE
 Because of things like this. You
 and Agatha might be identical, but
 you've always been so different. I
 knew that if she inherited the
 school, she'd never stick to the
 values on which it's built. This
 place needs you. And I see that's
 what it's going to get...

MISS CACKLE looks at her, clearly touched, then-

MRS CACKLE (CONT'D)
 Now go - quickly!

As MISS CACKLE turns to leave, YOUNG ADA, YOUNG AGATHA and MONA enter though, and MILDRED looks at MISS CACKLE-

MILDRED
 There's one more thing. Please
 don't expel Mona. It's not meant to
 happen...

But MISS CACKLE grabs MILDRED and yanks her out before MRS CACKLE gives an answer. And she turns first to YOUNG AGATHA-

MRS CACKLE
 Agatha, you're going to
 Wormwood's...
 (then to MONA-)
 And you...

And, as YOUNG AGATHA's face fills with rage, and MONA waits nervously, MRS CACKLE puts her arm round YOUNG ADA, then-

CUT TO:

36

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (10.50)

36

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA, ENID N/S, ETHEL,
FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MISS DRILL N/S,
MISS HARDBROOM N/S)

There's the RUMBLE of the cards of history being reshuffled again, then - as ETHEL stares out of the window despairingly - MAUD leaps up, stands alongside her, and does the same...

MAUD
(worried)
Oh, come on Mildred - what would I
ever do without you? You're the
best friend I've ever had...

And, as ETHEL looks at her in amazement, DRUSILLA stands on the other side of her too-

DRUSILLA
Ethel, I'm so glad you're back - I
was so worried! Here. Take a seat.
Take my seat. Whatever...

MAUD
I wish we knew what was going on...

ETHEL stares at them both, then at the rest of the class - every bit as unsurprised as before - then-

ETHEL
I think I do. Mildred's put things
right. Now she just needs to get
out of there whilst she still can!

And, as MAUD and DRUSILLA look at ETHEL in amazement now, she turns back to the window urgently, then-

CUT TO:

37

INT. MRS CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CORRIDOR - DAY ONE (10.55)

37

(BERYL N/S, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE N/S)

NIGHTSTAR

MILDRED and MISS CACKLE charge along the corridor, until... MILDRED hears something and stops. It's a MIAOW. And she steps back, and sees... NIGHTSTAR hiding away with an almost-but-not-quite-Ethel, more timid than her granddaughter, and also with a very different hairstyle. This is BERYL Hallow.

MILDRED

Nightstar! So *that's* why you didn't come when Ethel called. You were with her Nan!

And BERYL looks at her in confusion, then-

CUT TO:

38

INT. CACKLE'S ACADEMY, CLASSROOM - DAY ONE (11.00)

38

(BELLA N/S, CHARLOTTE N/S, DRUSILLA N/S, ENID N/S, ETHEL, FELICITY N/S, GIRLS N/S, LUCINDA N/S, MAUD, MILDRED, MISS CACKLE, MISS DRILL N/S, MISS HARDBROOM)

NIGHTSTAR

The classroom door opens, and everyone looks round, but... it's just MISS CACKLE that enters-

MISS HARDBROOM
(looking behind her)
Mildred?

MISS CACKLE
I... I thought she was behind me -
but when I turned round...

And everyone turns back to the window where... the Mists of Time have now gone entirely.

MAUD
(choked)
So... I'm never going to see her again?

But, as MISS CACKLE shakes her head mournfully-

MILDRED
(carrying Nightstar)
Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

MAUD
Mildred!

ETHEL
Nightstar!

MILDRED hands Nightstar to ETHEL, then MAUD hugs her, and MISS CACKLE, MISS HARDBROOM, and all the others beam too.

MILDRED
Your Gran seems nice, Ethel. And d'you know what, Maud? I think yours will be now too. But I'm not sure she's right...

MAUD
About what?

MILDRED
Anyone can change...
(glances at MISS CACKLE)
I mean, I've seen the naughtiest of witches become the nicest, so...
(MORE)

MILDRED (CONT'D)
who knows? Maybe one day, even the
very worst might become the best...

MILDRED looks at MISS CACKLE-

MILDRED (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry for going out in the
Mists. But I can make it up to you.
(handing her the scroll,
quietly)
I'll never say a word. I know the
future of the school depends on it.

ETHEL
(overhearing)
What does it say in there? Why
didn't you come back when I did?

MAUD
What's been going on?!

MISS CACKLE
Oh, it's nothing to worry about
girls, is it Mildred?

MILDRED
No Miss Cackle, it's all in the
past. Lost... in the Mists of Time.

And, as MILDRED smiles, MISS CACKLE smiles too - and they
look out of the window... at a beautiful clear sunshiny day.

END OF EPISODE