

EDGE

By

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VC VIDEO MONTAGE

Bouncy MUSIC. We're watching the opening to the tween favorite "Magic Maddy". (Think Disney Channel meets "Sabrina the Teenage Witch".) Across twenty painfully peppy seconds:

- A leather bound spell-book... is lowered, revealing the face of MAGIC MADDY, pretty and perky. She beams at the CAMERA. A friendly dog jumps up on her shoulder.

- A high school corridor. A BULLY shoves a SMALLER KID and struts off. Magic Maddy snaps her fingers. A locker door opens and hits him. She looks back at the camera. A credit appears: "Madison Hunter".

- Magic Maddy's room. She stands in front of the mirror, dressed in purple velvet robes. She snaps her fingers. ZAP! Now she's dressed as a stylish teenage girl.

- Magic Maddy's room. She and her best pal CASEY have a silly dance-off inside sleeping bags.

- High school cafeteria. Magic Maddy spills a weird green drink all over Casey's cheerleader outfit. Casey looks at her with dismay/annoyance. Magic Maddy snaps her fingers. A CUTE GUY is magically dragged to the bench next to Casey. Casey lights up with glee. Credit: "Kathryn Karkowski".

- Magic Maddy's room again. She talks to the dog. The dog answers back. She reacts in adorable surprise.

- A swirling backdrop. Magic Maddy gives us a wink:

MAGIC MADDY
It's only a little magic.

She disappears in a puff of smoke. The words "Magic Maddy" swirl onto the screen. Suddenly, the MUSIC dips...

TROY BRADLEY (V.O.)
After six magical seasons, "Magic
Maddy" has cast its last spell.

The title "Created by Max Craswell" appears.

TROY BRADLEY (V.O.)
Family Funtime, which airs the show,
has announced that the series will not
be renewed...

CUT TO:

TROY BRADLEY, an entertainment reporter with excellent hair, at his desk. A picture of Magic Maddy appears in the corner of the screen.

TROY BRADLEY
Industry insiders speculate that
contract troubles are to blame...

PULL OUT TO REVEAL:

INT. RAINBOW TALENT AGENCY - LOUNGE - SAME TIME

The show has been playing on a TV in a New York talent management office.

TROY BRADLEY
... Series star Madison Hunter has
been looking to branch out for some
time now. And we wish her all the
best.

MADISON HUNTER, 23, is in the office. Sullen, annoyed. Apparently the sweet and smiley girl from "Magic Maddy" is just an act. She gestures offhandedly at the TV, which she's barely watching--

MADISON
Can we turn this off?

The RECEPTIONIST gets up to do so. Madison sighs theatrically and checks her phone.

A collage of tweets fills the screen:

"Maddy's leaving the show and my world just collapsed"

"Noooooo it can't be true! Magic Maddy forever! #fail"

"lol if Madison Hunter thinks she won't be doing infomercials this time next year"

She shuts her phone, annoyed.

The receptionist looks up at Madison:

RECEPTIONIST
They're ready for you.

Madison rises.

INT. RAINBOW TALENT AGENCY - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A meeting is in progress. Holding court is LISA BLAINE, 40s, African-American, Madison's agent. Madison sits with her.

Across the table from the women is MAX CRASWELL, mid-50s, unhappy but trying to be reasonable; GORDON SCHUMACHER, sour-looking, sweaty; and some other CORPORATE TYPES, all humorless men in suits.

CRASWELL

Look, it's not too late. We can tell the press they got it wrong and announce the seventh season. It'll be a hell of a comeback.

SCHUMACHER

Like when they brought back classic Coke! Ratings'll go through the roof.

MADISON

It's not about ratings. It never was.

SCHUMACHER

Well, what else is there?

Madison just stares at him.

MADISON

I'd have to be insane to put that costume on one more time.

Lisa is not 100% convinced of Madison's career plan either but is first and foremost a good soldier.

LISA

Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Craswell: my client is eager to pursue other creative opportunities.

Madison nods, satisfied.

SCHUMACHER

Your client wouldn't HAVE any opportunities without this network and without this show!

Craswell jabs a finger at Madison, annoyed.

CRASWELL

That's right! I've put my soul into

making "Magic Maddy" what it is. You know the character's name was Amy before you came along? Amy! A-M-Y! I changed MY vision for YOU!

SCHUMACHER

Family Funtime has made a commitment to this program. And we find your intransigence both childish and insulting.

MADISON

Look, I assume you came here to offer me something. So offer it.

Craswell is fuming. Finally, he spits it out.

SCHUMACHER

Four hundred thousand an episode.

Madison stares stonily. Craswell grimaces.

CRASWELL

And an executive producer credit.

MADISON

Nice try... Both of you. I'll see you at the taping, Max. Let's just try to make it a good last show.

She gets up and starts to leave. Craswell stands, apoplectic. Schumacher is embarrassed.

CRASWELL

You ungrateful BRAT! I oughta wring your neck. I MADE you, Goddammit!

SCHUMACHER

Let's not do this, Max.

MADISON

This all could have been avoided if you'd let me take those two weeks off to do Shakespeare in the Park.

She turns to leave, not even looking over her shoulder.

MADISON

I begged you, Max! Like you're begging now!

And she's gone. Schumacher goes gray. Craswell continues fuming. Lisa stares out the window diplomatically.

INT. RAINBOW TALENT AGENCY - CORRIDOR - DAY

Madison walks away proud. From the corner of her eye, she sees a silhouette at the end of the dark corridor. RAVEN, a mysterious girl, stops. Madison doesn't know if the silhouette is staring at her or not, at the end, she just decides to ignore her.

I/E. SUBWAY - SUNSET

Crossing the Manhattan Bridge towards Brooklyn. Madison wears a hoodie to disguise herself.

She's listening to her voicemail.

LISA (V.O.)

Hey Madison. Iiiiit's Lisa. Look, Max is gonna yell and scream--let him. He's out of ideas. Let's just finish out the show and figure out the next steps. I just pray you know what you're doing. I think we should...

Madison nods and lowers the phone.

But she's not done hearing voices.

VOICES (V.O.)

- You don't know what you're doing.
- Magic Maddy is worthless.
- Look at you, you fucking mess.
- No one would miss you.

As the cruel voices continue in disorienting and layering stereo, seemingly from all directions, Madison looks around. Her eyes move from one group of people to another, they all seem suspicious, but she is not sure. She stares at a group of three young people, they are laughing and looking at her. She gives them the finger and leaves the subway wagon.

The three youngsters look disoriented.

INT. BROOKLYN STREET - LATER

Madison heads toward an apartment building.

There's a MOTHER and her KID on the street--Madison deliberately scratches at the side of her face as she passes,

just to hide her face from the kid.

Madison's phone BEEPS--a text. She checks it.

It's from an unknown number.

The text: "I know who you are" and a heart.

Madison doesn't like this. She turns her cell phone off.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER

Madison shuffles toward her apartment. She passes her neighbor, ROBERT GLASSMAN--mid-20s, boyishly handsome--throwing out his trash.

He nods a neighborly hello. She pointedly ignores him.

INT. MADISON'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

A nice place--money has been spent. There's a wall of her memorabilia. It is clear that "Magic Maddy" has been the center of her career, and indeed her life--the apartment has more pictures of Magic Maddy than of family or friends.

Madison enters, tries to drop her keys where they belong, misses, doesn't care, and shuffles across.

INT. MADISON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The memorabilia wall continues.

Madison flops on her bed, and stares at a framed poster of herself as Magic Maddy on her wall.

MADISON
Bye-bye, beautiful.

She blows herself a kiss. Almost nostalgic.

INT. "MAGIC MADDY" DRESSING ROOM - ANOTHER DAY

Madison sits in her dressing room in a simple white t-shirt and sweatpants. Her purple wizard robes are hanging up behind her.

This is a top-shelf dressing room for a star. Tributes and flowers and cards and goodbyes are already piling up.

A make-up artist enters the room, NOREEN.

NOREEN

Hi! I'm Noreen. I'm going to be your
make-up artist today.

Madison nods and ignores her while watching some tic-tocs.

VOICES (V.O.)

You're a waste of life.

MADISON

What did you just say?

Noreen stops doing her make-up and looks at her surprised.

MADISON

Don't you dare say one more word, or
I'll kick your ass.

Noreen looks at her scared and upset.

MADISON

Don't stop! Work!

She practices a wink and smiles in the mirror. Then back to a
normal face.

Then another wink and smile in the mirror. Then back to a
normal face.

Noreen looks at her super uncomfortable.

Then another wink and smile in the mirror. Then--

A CALL on her phone - "HELL" is calling... Madison cringes
and ignores the call.

MADISON

Ah, the HELL with this! Are we done?

Noreen nods. She sighs, stands up, and moves to grab the
robes.

INT. "MAGIC MADDY" HALLWAY SET - LATER

Madison (as Magic Maddy) is in her wizard robes and holding
duffel bags. KATHRYN KARKOWSKI (as Casey) stands next to her
in her cheerleader outfit. They perform, in their chipper
sitcom way.

CASEY

Maddy! I can't believe you're not

finishing high school with us! I hope I'll get to visit you at Wyverngriff Academy!

MAGIC MADDY

Come visit any time, Casey! Just don't pick up any WITCHhikers!

They both do that awful pun-at-the-end-of-a-sitcom LAUGH. Then Magic Maddy does a nice wink for the camera. Then she holds it, holds it, holds it until...

CRASWELL (O.S.)

CUT! That's a wrap!

Big APPLAUSE from the crew--it's the last shot. Casey wipes away a little tear. Magic Maddy immediately drops her bags, stops winking.

Craswell comes out onto the floor and gives her a big hug, pretending to be jovial. A PRODUCER brings her flowers.

CRASWELL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Thanks to everyone for six fantastic years! And let's hear it for our very own Magic Maddy!

More APPLAUSE. Everyone's hugging and celebrating. Magic Maddy plays along in an aw-shucks manner.

She drops her bags and grabs her real purse, which has been hidden someplace behind the scenery. She goes for her phone.

But poking out of her purse is... a Russian nesting doll.

She wrinkles her nose: What?

And she starts looking around the set, wondering how the doll might have snack in there--who might have done it.

VOICES (V.O.)

- What an idiot.
- Celebrity or Cele-pity?
- What a bitch. (etc.)

She looks around. Some crew members and extras look at her suspiciously. Raven, the mysterious young beautiful black-haired girl, we saw before, is around, she is staring at her, stalking her, from behind the crowd. Madison is about to storm to her when...

She's interrupted. Kathryn/Casey gives her a hug:

CASEY

You're so brave going out there on your own. I couldn't do it. Oh, I'll MISS this... I'll miss US...

MAGIC MADDY

Ease up, Kathryn. You'll be fine.

CASEY

Yeah, I'll try...

Hubbub. Festive atmosphere. Champagne is being poured.

She shoves the doll back into one of her gift bags and puts on a happy face.

She's the center of attention; it's the one part of "Magic Maddy" she likes. She doesn't even care that half of these people are glad to be rid of her.

She grins and raises champagne to herself in salute. She's free.

EXT. QUEENS STUDIO - LATER

A crowd has gathered for the last taping. They cheer as Madison, back in street clothes, emerges. She gamely accepts gifts, signs autographs, poses for pictures with fans, and all that stuff.

The CAMERA watches her from the crowd, straining, bobbing, watching, trying to be close.

During all this, tweets:

"Just watched Madison Hunter leave the last taping of Magic Maddy. End of an era!"

"Magic Maddy signed my t-shirt. Go me! #GoodbyeMagicMaddy"

"Overpaid actor leaves dumb show. Why is this news? Because she's hot?"

"Let's just hope that bitch from magic Maddy gives up and does porn now"

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER

Madison shuffles toward her apartment, gifts and flowers and

whatnot in tow. She's in a good mood, HUMMING the catchy "Magic Maddy" theme song.

Robert is in the hall, just about to go out. He's got a tripod and camera equipment. Noticing her good mood, he finds the courage to say something:

ROBERT
Whatcha got there?

MADISON
(not stopping)
None of your business.

ROBERT
Fair enough.

She's already passed him. She doesn't see that she's hurt his feelings.

Nonetheless, the fact that he lets her go makes her stop: maybe this guy isn't a creep after all.

MADISON
It's nothing. It's just... wrap gifts... and some...

She pats her purse, wondering what to say.

MADISON
Nothing. Wrap gifts.

ROBERT
You wrap gifts? I thought Macy's only hired those people at Christmas.

She finds this remark wonderfully bizarre.

MADISON
No, I... we finished my TV show.

ROBERT
Ohhhh. You work in TV? That's cool. I do some documentary work. Give me your card some time, maybe I can hook you up with a gig.

He seems totally sincere. She searches his eyes, amused.

MADISON
You don't know who I am, do you?

ROBERT

Sure I do. You're the pretty neighbor
from down the hall.

He smirks. She accepts the line in its intended spirit.

ROBERT

Well. I've got a sunset to capture.

MADISON

Ah. Guess you better go get it.

ROBERT

Will do. I'll see ya, Madison.

He nods and heads on his way.

She looks back, wondering what he knows. For a moment she
wants to ask--but no.

She just heads on, a wonderful little smile crossing her
face.

INT. MADISON'S APARTMENT - LATER

She unceremoniously tosses her gifts into a closet.

She pulls a bottle of wine out of her fridge.

INT. MADISON'S BEDROOM - LATER

She pads into her room, a bottle of wine in hand.

She steps on something--we hear a CRUNCH--

MADISON

Shit!

She looks at her foot and swipes away some bits of broken
glass. No blood, at least.

Annoyed and unsure what could have happened, she looks
around, and up at--

--the framed poster of Magic Maddy is in the center of the
memorabilia wall, but the glass is smashed, Magic Maddy's
eyes are x'd out, and "Fuck You" is written in big angry
letters.

Madison's eyes open wide: What the fuck?

INT. MADISON'S BATHROOM - LATER

She splashes water on her face, shaking.

In the ALISA DEVICE, there is a blinking voice message from Lisa.

MADISON

Alisa play my messages.

ALISA (V.O.)

Heyyyy, Madison. It's Lisa. Your cell's off, your voicemail's out. Buuut, hope the taping went well...

Madison shuts off the water and paws at her cell phone.

MADISON

Turn on, turn on...

LISA (V.O.)

... I think we've got some real opportunities for growth here...

Lisa drones on AD LIB; it's not important.

Madison--now facing the door, away from the mirror--has her cell up and running. She's pressed a few keys and has the phone to her ear.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)

911 emergency.

As Madison turns toward the mirror:

MADISON

Hi, I--

But when her gaze reaches the mirror, Magic Maddy--wizard robes and everything--is in the mirror, smiling at her.

MADISON

Jesus shit!

She drops the phone.

It hits the floor.

She scrambles back, up against the wall. Magic Maddy waves, glad to see her.

MAGIC MADDY
Hi! There's my B.F.F.!

Madison, eyes wide, releases a quiet, pathetic whimper.

Magic Maddy sympathizes:

MAGIC MADDY
Awwww, did I scare ya?! More like
W.T.F., right?!
(puts hand to mouth)
Ooooh, I almost said a bad word.

A frustrated, frightened Madison shuts her eyes and SCREAMS.

And when she opens her eyes again in mid-SCREAM, she sees
only her own reflection roaring back at her.

She catches her breath. Buries her face in her hands.

BLACK

INT. CASTING AGENCY WAITING ROOM

Lisa, holding a coffee in each hand, nudges open the door
with her body. She takes us into a dingy waiting room and
leads us to Madison, who sits in a chair, reviewing a script.
She looks like hell--hasn't slept a wink.

There are a few other GIRLS in the room, either studying
their scripts or staring at the wall.

As Lisa gives Madison a coffee:

LISA
You don't look good. You all right?

MADISON
I'm FINE. I don't wanna talk about it.

She's clearly not fine, but Lisa decides not to push. She
just sips her coffee.

MADISON
It's ridiculous that I'm even HERE.
Basic cable headliners do not attend
cattle calls.

LISA
Well, you might have to work your way
up again. It's a different kind of