

TRISHA SCHLEICH AND SETH PEDERSON

BASEMENT

SHANNON 22 Female

DAD 50 Male

MOM 50 Female

NARRATOR

(Int. Shannon's room in her parents' basement. We see a castle made of cardboard boxes, painted pink. We hear Shannon's voice before we see her.)

SHANNON: Today's the day! Today will matter! Today... I make a difference!

(Enter Shannon from the cardboard castle. She is wearing an astronaut's outfit made of duct tape with a fishbowl on her head and pigtails. She pints to a pile of stuffed animals surrounding the castle.)

SHANNON: Today your reign of terror will fall!

(She leaps upon a stuffed duck, holds it in the air, and makes the duck's voice)

SHANNON: (as duck) That is untrue! *Quack* you are the one who will *Quack*!

(Enter Shannon's mom. She starts cleaning up dirty dishes from around Shannon's room)

MOM: (Thick, mid-western accent) Don't forget, honey, We're going to the Shoenfelder's Christmas party tonight. Iron something nice and brush your hair.

(Enter Shannon's dad. He wears a Walmart manager's vest. He points a finger at Shannon)

DAD: Shannon! What the hell are you wearin'? What are ya doin' down here all day?! You should be out lookin' fer another job! You had a good job at the Cluck and Bucket; then you went in there all talkin' about elves and some crap... I don't know... I must have failed you in some way...

MOM: Oh no, Henry dear... It wasn't you. She just takes after my cousin Bueford.

SHANNON: Mooommm! Dad! Seriously! Get out of here! I'm in the middle of something important!

DAD: Important?! Fer Christ's sake... all you do down here is beat up stuffed animals and I hear a rumpus and quacks and I don't know what all...

MOM: Oh settle down. I think it's great that Shannon is doing what she loves. And it's a comfort that she's living with us again. I worried about you when you were in the big city.

DAD: Big city?! She was only over there in Gopherton. They don't even have a super Walmart...

SHANNON: (whispers to herself) Super Walmart, more like super walfart. Heh heh...

DAD: That's it. This business ends now!

(He grabs a unicorn statue and starts bashing the cardboard castle. Mom starts crying. It is total chaos.)

SHANNON: Dad! That's my fortress of awesome-tude! What the heck, Mom and I spent like a whole week making that! Stop! Stop! Stop!

(He stops, with the unicorn statue raised over his head, a crazed look in his eyes. Shannon rushes into the castle. Dad and Mom look at each other, Mom shrugs. Shannon rushes back out with her laptop. She sits down in the corner and starts typing, reading what she types out loud.)

SHANNON: ... Then the great warlock Glavensprout hypnotized poor Queen Stephanie, the unicorn queen, and used her powers to enslave the wood nymphs and overtake the bejeweled castle...

DAD: What the hell?! I can't take any more of this!

(Dad storms upstairs.)

MOM: Honey, I think your books are great! What is this? Your third book?

SHANNON: Fifth book, Mom.

MOM: Five whole books! I'm so proud of you! And about the same thing?

SHANNON: (smacks her forehead) Duh!

MOM: You're so creative! You're going to make it big someday, I just know it.

(Enter Narrator)

NARRATOR: And Shannon did make it big, ten years later her "Pink, Fancy Castle" series of books, reaching 120 volumes, took its place among the other fantasy greats. She finally moved out of her parents' basement and into crazy Cousin Beuford's basement. The movie of her first book "Sparkles and Blood" is currently filming on the Paramount lot. So take a lesson from Shannon, you parents probably won't charge you rent and cardboard is the building block of dreams.

(Puts on a cardboard helmet, pulls out a cardboard laser gun, and runs out of the theater shouting)

NARRATOR: Pew! Pew! Pew!

End.

