

The Cupcake Queen
(Pilot Episode)

by
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FADE IN / LIVE ACTION:

1 EXT. EVENING THE OLIVER FAMILY'S NEIGHBORHOOD & HOUSE 1

Snow flurries are gently falling on a quiet street in the picturesque mountaintop community of Idyllwild, California. A small dog can be heard barking in the distance. A solitary car goes driving by. Lights are on inside the Oliver's home.

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. THE OLIVER FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM 2

Lindsey Oliver is 7 years old. She's a precocious second-grader who's full of curiosity and has a vivid imagination. She lives with her parents, Mark and Donna, and her 13 year-old sister, Jenn. It's Friday evening. Jenn is away at a teen slumber party and Mark & Donna are attending a retirement dinner for one of Mark's fellow firefighters. Lindsey's Uncle Damon is baby-sitting until her parents get home. Lindsey and Uncle Damon have been watching cartoons on TV. The grandfather clock in the hallway chimes 9:00 PM.

UNCLE DAMON

All right Lindsey, it's nine o'clock. It's way past time for you to hit the hay, little lady.

LINDSEY (*giggling*)

Oh, Uncle Damon, you always say that. You know I don't have any hay in my bed! Anyway, can't I stay up just a little while longer?

UNCLE DAMON

Come on now, Lindsey... I was supposed to put you to bed an hour ago. What if your parents come home early and find you still up and about? We'll be in big trouble then. We'll probably both get grounded for a month!

LINDSEY

Uncle Damon, you're so silly! How could my parents ground you? You're older than either one of them!

Lindsey and Uncle Damon share a good laugh together.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. LINDSEY OLIVER'S BEDROOM

3

Lindsey, already in her pajamas, climbs into her bed and Uncle Damon lovingly tucks her in under the covers. He leans down and gives her an affectionate kiss on her forehead.

UNCLE DAMON

Good night, little one. Sleep tight
and don't let the bedbugs bite.

LINDSEY

What's a bedbug, Uncle Damon?

UNCLE DAMON

I don't know, Lindsey. That's just
something my dear old Nana used to
say whenever she'd tuck me in.

LINDSEY

Did you ever get bitten by a
bedbug, Uncle?

UNCLE DAMON (*jokingly*)

Enough already with the bedbugs!
I've known you since the day you
were born, Lindsey Christine
Oliver! Don't think you're so sly
that you can keep this silly
conversation up to avoid going to
sleep! I'm on to your tricks and
I'll be falling for none of them!

Lindsey giggles and Uncle Damon joins in her mirth.

LINDSEY

Oh, Uncle Damon. You always know.

UNCLE DAMON

I've been around for a long time,
young lady. You'll have to get up
pretty early in the morning to put
one over on your old Uncle! Now
close your eyes and go to sleep.

Uncle Damon turns away, walks to the doorway and flips off the light switch on his way out. Before he can completely exit her bedroom, Lindsey softly calls to him.

LINDSEY

Uncle Damon?

UNCLE DAMON

Yes, sweetheart?

LINDSEY

I'm not tired enough to fall asleep just yet. Will you read me a story?

UNCLE DAMON

If I do, will you promise to go to sleep then?

LINDSEY

I promise.

UNCLE DAMON

All right. I give up. You win.

Uncle Damon turns the bedroom light back on and returns to Lindsey's bedside, where he pulls up a chair and prepares to read Lindsey a story. He picks up a book that's lying on Lindsey's nightstand. The story he will read to Lindsey is one that he authored and that has already been published as an illustrated storybook. Uncle Damon is, in fact, a professional writer with a real penchant for storytelling.

UNCLE DAMON

How about if I read you a story about a sweet little girl who was a lot like you. She was, in fact, born a princess and grew up to become a beautiful, beloved queen.

LINDSEY

Tell me her name, Uncle Damon.

UNCLE DAMON

Her name is Clarissa, but most folks just call her The Cupcake Queen.

LINDSEY

Oh, yes, Uncle! I love the story of "The Cupcake Queen"! Tell me all about her.

UNCLE DAMON

All right. Here goes. Just close your eyes and use your imagination to picture everything I'm about to describe to you.

Lindsey closes her eyes and puts a beautiful smile on her little face as Uncle Damon begins to read to her the story.

In her fertile imagination, Lindsey can picture all the colorful scenes her uncle is describing. The viewing audience is privy to her imagination of these scenes in the form of a montage of the illustrations from the book being projected onto the screen over the narration of the story.

UNCLE DAMON

Have you ever fancied sailing
To an island far away,
Where the people are so happy
All they want to do is play,

Where there are no tears of sadness,
No scratched elbows nor scraped knees,
Where each day's as warm and cozy
As a bowl of mac 'n' cheese?

Where the hills are mounds of taffy
And the lakes are filled with pop
And the trees wear barks of chocolate
And the gardens grow gumdrops?

Where the world's as calm and peaceful
As has elsewhere ne'er been seen?
Where you'll lovingly be cared for
By a loving Cupcake Queen?

If I told you that I live there
Would you say I'm off my bean
Or prevail on me to tell you
Of our lovely Cupcake Queen?

I can see that you're still waiting
As you've yet to leave the room,
So I'll weave for you her story.
Your keen mind will be my loom.

Let's begin now, if you're ready,
At this moment on this page.
Pay close attention and I'll try
To rightly set the stage.

On Éclair Island in the Milkshake Sea
Where the Creampuff Minstrels sing,
There was born a Cupcake Princess
To a round old Pound Cake King.

Rest assured the king felt grateful
That by fate he had been blessed.
He so deeply loved his darling girl
That he heaped on her his best.

He knew someday she'd make the laws
To govern all the land.

(MORE)

UNCLE DAMON (cont'd)

Her subjects would be subject to
Her dainty royal hand.

Quite often, softly, he'd remind her
She should be like he;
Kindhearted to the people
So to keep the people free.

As all things pass away with time,
The years went rolling by
And then one day the church bell tolled
To say the king had died.

When an old king flies to heaven,
Someone young must take his place.
His firstborn son succeeds him,
Or his daughter in our case.

Thus it was on Éclair Island
That our old king left the scene
And our precious Cupcake Princess
Rose to be our Cupcake Queen.

Ever since her coronation,
She has reigned with style and grace.
I'm sure somewhere up in heaven
There's a smile on our king's face.

He'd be proud of his fine daughter
Who still honors his advice
To be kind to all the people;
To treat everybody nice.

If you've ever fancied sailing
To an island far away
Where the people are so happy
All they want to do is play,

Where bright clouds of cotton candy
Paint amazing color schemes
As they shower rainbow sprinkles
Down on mountains of ice cream.

You should visit Éclair Island,
Where the light of childhood gleams.
There The Cupcake Queen awaits you
Every night in your sweet dreams.

The End.

Just as Uncle Damon says 'The End', we observe little Lindsey drifting off into peaceful slumber. The illustrated still montage then morphs into a full-screen, full-action animation of Lindsey's subsequent dream.

MORPH TO ANIMATION:

4 INT. MRS. HURLEY'S SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM - HERBERT JEFFRIES
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - IDYLLWILD, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Hurley has just finished taking attendance and all her students are present in the room, including Lindsey Oliver.

MRS. HURLEY

I'm so happy that all of you are here today because I have a special surprise for everyone! Can anyone guess what it is?

Hands go up as students strain to be called upon.

MRS. HURLEY

Matthew?

MATTHEW

We're off from school for the rest of the day and can all go home and play?

MRS. HURLEY

Nice try, Matthew, but no. Amber?

AMBER

We're going to have a special guest come to school today to teach us about something fun?

MRS. HURLEY

Well, not exactly, Amber. We are going to learn about something fun, but no one is coming here to visit us. Leo?

LEO

We're going to see a movie?

MRS. HURLEY

No, Leo, it's not a movie. It will be 100% real! Lindsey?

LINDSEY

Are we going on a field trip, Mrs. Hurley?

MRS. HURLEY

Yes! You're absolutely correct, Lindsey.

(MORE)

MRS. HURLEY (cont'd)

In just a few minutes we'll all be getting onto a big helicopter that will fly us from here to Catalina Island. From there we'll board a yacht that will take us just far enough out to sea where we'll encounter the California Current that flows from Alaska all the way down to the tip of Baja California. And do you know why we're going there? Emma?

EMMA

To dive for sunken treasure?

MRS. HURLEY

No, Emma. Though that might be fun some other time. We're going whale watching! The California gray whales are in the midst of their southward migration for the winter and we're going to see them... up close and in person!

The entire class erupts into cheers of joy as all the children are very excited to have such a wonderful opportunity. Just then the whirring of helicopter rotors can be heard approaching the schoolyard.

5 EXT. HERBERT JEFFRIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND 5

The helicopter lands and Mrs. Hurley begins to shepherd the children aboard.

MRS. HURLEY

Single file, everyone. Just climb aboard and find yourself a seat. Be sure to buckle your safety belt - just like you do in your car.

6 INT. HELICOPTER 6

The children and Mrs. Hurley take their seats and buckle up.

7 EXT. PLAYGROUND 7

The helicopter lifts off and flies away. The camera follows it as it gradually disappears into the distant, cloudy sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. AVALON HARBOR HELIPORT - CATALINA ISLAND

8

The helicopter transporting Mrs. Hurley's class approaches and lands safely. The passengers debark.

MRS. HURLEY

All right, everyone, let's line up
in a column of twos - side by side -
and we'll make our way over there
to our yacht.

PAN TO:

Tied up to the dock is a vintage mahogany, gingerbread-style yacht. Her master, Captain Bob Blake, is standing beside the gangway waiting to welcome his passengers aboard. At the stern of the yacht we can see her name in gold lettering: "Newton Minnow" and beneath, her home port: "Avalon"

CAPTAIN BOB

Welcome aboard the Newton Minnow
everybody. I'm Captain Bob Blake.
You can just call me Captain Bob.
Today we'll be navigating out to
the California Current to observe
the gray whales as they migrate
southward. All aboard who's coming
aboard! Ship's crew; stand by to
cast off and get underway!

The children clamber aboard, all very titillated to be going on such a wonderful adventure. Lindsey is in the lead and Mrs. Hurley brings up the rear. With all aboard, Captain Bob gives the order to begin their fantastic voyage.

CAPTAIN BOB

Cast off all lines!

CREWMAN

Aye, Aye, Captain Bob!

All lines are cast off and the yacht gets underway. We observe her from the dock as she sails toward the horizon.

9 EXT. ON DECK - THE NEWTON MINNOW

9

The children are chattering excitedly about the prospect of observing the California gray whales' annual migration.

LINDSEY

This is so cool! I've wanted to see real whales in person forever.

EMMA

Me, too. I've seen them lots of times on the National Geographic Channel, but seeing them up close will be so much better!

LEO

I've seen whales in person before.

AMBER

Have not!

LEO

Have too! Down in San Diego at Sea World.

MATTHEW

Oh, that doesn't count. Those are only small Orcas. They're not anything like the giant gray whales we're going to see today. And besides, you can't compare seeing Orcas in a swimming pool to seeing gray whales in the Pacific Ocean!

LEO (*sticking his tongue out*)

Can too!

MATTHEW (*returns the tongue-stick*)

Cannot!

DISSOLVE TO:

10 EXT. EDGE OF THE CALIFORNIA CURRENT 10

The Newton Minnow arrives at its destination. Gray whales can be seen cavorting in and out of the water. The children aboard are awestruck as they get closer to the whales.

PAN TO:

11 EXT. HORIZON - SEA SQUALL BREWING 11

The Newton Minnow is overtaken by this sudden squall. At once, the yacht begins to be tossed violently on the crests of enormous waves like a toy boat being battered about in a

hyperactive boy's bathtub. Aboard, the passengers are hanging on for dear life. The yacht, having lost propulsion power, is in danger of foundering and plunging to the bottom of the sea, when a huge gray whale swims underneath and picks the yacht up out of the roiling waters. The whale holds the Newton Minnow above the waves, balanced on its back and rapidly swims out to sea to seek calmer waters. The squall is unusually large, so the yacht is not set down until it's very far from where it was when the children were whale-watching. Once in calmer waters, everyone aboard tries to regain their composure and their bearings.

MRS. HURLEY

Where are we now, Captain Bob?

CAPTAIN BOB

I'm not quite sure. The force of the storm has damaged the yacht's electronic navigation and global positioning equipment. My first-mate is working to restore them.

LINDSEY

How long will that take, Captain Bob?

CAPTAIN BOB

I'm not really sure. But don't you worry, little one. We'll get it fixed and everything will be all right... that's a promise!

FADE TO BLACK.

12 EXT. OPEN SEA - NEXT DAY

12

The Newton Minnow continues to drift. The crew has been unable to repair the damage to either her propulsion or navigation systems. The children are awakening from having spent the night asleep on the open deck of the yacht.

PAN TO:

13 EXT. NEAR HORIZON - OUTLINE OF ÉCLAIR ISLAND

13

The turquoise waters are ever so calm and peaceful as the disabled Newton Minnow is slowly, gently and deliberately drawn toward the mysterious island by some benevolent, albeit invisible, force of nature.

14 EXT. THE MILKSHAKE SEA

14

The Newton Minnow continues to approach Éclair Island. On deck are Lindsey, her classmates, Captain Bob and Mrs. Hurley.

PAN TO:

Swimming out to meet the Newton Minnow is Éclair Island's Ambassador of Good Will, 'Marleina The Milkshake Mermaid'.

MARLEINA

Ahoy there! Hello boys and girls!
Welcome one and all to Éclair
Island! I'm 'Marleina The Milkshake
Mermaid' and I'll be your guide.
Just follow me back to the dock.

Marleina proceeds to act as an organic tugboat of sorts and, with the propulsion generated by her powerful flipper, guides The Newton Minnow into Éclair Island's sheltered harbor. The Newton Minnow is eased up to the dock and three elf-like characters catch the lines thrown from the yacht and tie it up. These three characters are 'Peaseblossom', 'Cobweb' and 'Mustardseed'. They're also known as 'The Creampuff Minstrels' and, as the kids debark, they break into song.

THE CREAMPUFF MINSTRELS (*singing*)

Welcome kids to Éclair Island
In the midst of The Milkshake Sea.
All who step ashore start smiling
Quicker than one can count to three.

You'll find life here quite amazing.
It's unlike any place you've been.
All sweet treats are free for tasting,
Compliments of The Cupcake Queen.

The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Bakes treats for you and me.
The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Makes yummy stuff for free!

15 EXT. PANORAMA - ÉCLAIR ISLAND

15

Éclair Island appears exactly as described in the story Uncle Damon read to Lindsey. The clouds in the distance are indeed made of cotton candy and are showering rainbow sprinkles down on mountains of ice cream, etc.

PEASEBLOSSOM

Hello, dear visitors! Welcome one and all to Éclair Island. May I inquire as to which of you might be Miss Lindsey Oliver?

LINDSEY (*raising her hand*)

I'm Lindsey Oliver.

COBWEB

Greetings, dearest Lindsey. We're 'The Creampuff Minstrels'. He's Peaseblossom, I'm Cobweb...

MUSTARDSEED

And I'm Mustardseed!

PEASEBLOSSOM

We've been sent here to greet you by Her Royal Majesty, Queen Clarissa.

LINDSEY

You mean 'The Cupcake Queen'?

COBWEB

Indeed I do! The very same!

MUSTARDSEED

Her Majesty wants us to bring you, your teacher and your schoolmates to The Butterscotch Ballroom at The Popover Palace for the grand celebration she has planned.

LINDSEY

A grand celebration? What's the celebration for?

PEASEBLOSSOM

Oh, maybe you didn't know what a special day this is here on Éclair Island.

LINDSEY

No, not really. I don't think I do. What special day is it?

COBWEB

Today is the anniversary of Her Royal Majesty's coronation.

MUSTARDSEED

Yes. It was twenty-five years ago
this very day that she became our
Queen.

PEASEBLOSSOM

We celebrate this day every year.

COBWEB

But this year is especially
special!

MUSTARDSEED

That's right... because it marks
the end of one quarter-century of
happiness here on our Island.

PEASEBLOSSOM

And the beginning of another!

LINDSEY

Wow! This is really cool! What luck
I and my friends have had to just
happen to visit Éclair Island on
such a special occasion.

COBWEB

Yes, there's going to be a
wonderful party with lots and lots
of cupcakes and ice cream and other
sweet treats for one and all!

LINDSEY

But... we didn't bring The Cupcake
Queen any presents for her
anniversary.

MUSTARDSEED

Oh, don't worry about that,
Lindsey! Her Royal Majesty
considers the presence of you and
your friends at her celebration to
be the greatest gift of all.

PEASEBLOSSOM

So come on, everybody! Just follow
us down the Lemon Drop Highway and
we'll take you to meet Her Royal
Majesty, The Cupcake Queen.

16 EXT THE LEMON DROP HIGHWAY

16

Lindsey and the other children merrily follow Peaseblossom, Cobweb and Mustardseed down a picturesque country road that is paved with golden lemon drop cobblestones. Marleina The Milkshake Mermaid also tags along on a special cart that allows her to get around on land, despite having the lower body anatomy of a fish. The Creampuff Minstrels start singing and Mrs. Hurley and the kids happily join in.

THE CREAMPUFF MINSTRELS (*singing*)

Welcome kids to Éclair Island
In the midst of The Milkshake Sea.
All who step ashore start smiling
Quicker than one can count to three.

You'll find life here quite amazing.
It's unlike any place you've been.
All sweet treats are free for tasting,
Compliments of The Cupcake Queen.

The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Bakes treats for you and me.
The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Makes yummy stuff for free!

DISSOLVE TO:

17 INT. QUEEN'S QUARTERS - THE POPOVER PALACE

17

Several ladies-in-waiting are grooming Her Royal Majesty The Cupcake Queen for her appearance at the day's festivities. The Royal Consort, The Cupcake Queen's husband, Count Carlo Cannoli is looking out a window as he waits for the Queen to be prepared.

COUNT CARLO

Clarissa, my dearest, I see now
your special guests are arriving at
the drawbridge gate.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Oh, how wonderful, Carlo! How
exciting! We can hardly wait to
meet them all!

COUNT CARLO

Who are they? And where are they
from, my beloved wife?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

These wonderful children are from a place called California in the United States of America. It's very far away from here, Carlo.

COUNT CARLO

Oh, yes! California! I've heard of it. It's a very nice place, no?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Yes it is, Carlo. And these children and their teacher are especially nice. There's one girl among them that we particularly want to meet.

COUNT CARLO

And who might that be, my dearest?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Her name is Lindsey Oliver. We know about her because we're acquainted with her Uncle Damon. He's visited us before, do you recall him?

COUNT CARLO

Oh, yes! Of course, I remember Uncle Damon very well, indeed! He is an author, is he not?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Yes, Carlo. He writes wonderful storybooks for children. He has even written about us!

COUNT CARLO

Has he, my dear? I should like to read this storybook sometime.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

So you will, dear husband, so you will. But now is not the time. We have honored guests arriving, so let us proceed to the Bitterscotch Ballroom to greet them at once and make them feel welcome in our home.

The Cupcake Queen takes the arm of Count Carlo. They exit her chambers, bound for the opulent Bitterscotch Ballroom.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. THE BUTTERSCOTCH BALLROOM - THE POPOVER PALACE 18

Lindsey Oliver and all her classmates are gathered in the Butterscotch Ballroom along with Mrs. Hurley, Captain Bob, The Creampuff Minstrels, Marleina The Milkshake Mermaid, and many dozens of other notable characters who are the permanent inhabitants of the mystically delicious Éclair Island. Tables are set up all around the perimeter of the great room. These tables abound with every manner of sweet treat any child on Earth could ever want or possibly imagine!

PAN TO:

19 INT. THRONE DAIS - THE BUTTERSCOTCH BALLROOM 19

Smithers, an imposing figure dressed in formal military regalia, is the Royal Sergeant-at-Arms. He steps onto the dais. The room hushes as he stands without uttering a word.

CLOSE UP:

Smithers' beady eyes survey the room. Then, in a booming baritone voice, he announces:

SMITHERS

My Lords and Ladies and Our Honored
Guests... make way for Her Royal
Majesty, Clarissa, The Cupcake
Queen... and... His Imperial
Excellency, Count Carlo Cannoli.

The Queen is escorted to her throne by her royal consort. She is seated and then addresses her assembled guests.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

It is our distinct royal pleasure
to welcome you all to the
celebration of this anniversary of
our coronation. It gives us
especially great delight to have
here among us, to share in the
day's festivities, Mrs. Hurley's
second grade class from the Herbert
Jeffries Elementary School in
Idyllwild, California.

The room erupts into applause for the honored guests.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

And now it is our royal decree that
the festivities shall begin!

Suddenly, the lights in the ballroom are turned way down low. The orchestra then strikes up The Cupcake Queen Theme Song as an elaborate cart bearing hundreds of cupcakes, each one topped with a flickering candle, is wheeled into the room.

THE CREAMPUFF MINSTRELS (*singing*)

All hail our dear Queen Clarissa;
Sweeter monarch there's never been.
To her subjects she's a blessing.
Everyone loves The Cupcake Queen.

Life's such fun upon her island.
Each new day brings a happy scene.
Everyone is always smiling,
Filled with love for The Cupcake Queen.

The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Bakes treats for you and me.
The Cupcake Queen ... The Cupcake Queen
Makes yummy stuff for free!

The lights are gradually turned back up as The Cupcake Queen descends the few steps from the throne dais to the cart full of glittering cupcakes. She pauses, surveys the room and then gazes at all the cupcakes. She waves her royal scepter and magically extinguishes all the candles at once.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

We proclaim that the royal wish
we've just made will come true...
that everyone here will have a
wonderful time and enjoy themselves
as never before. So it shall be.

PAN TO:

Lindsey and her best friend, Emma, are awestruck by the pomp and circumstance of the royal celebration. Meanwhile, all around them, the party goes on as the guests are having a grand time gorging on all manner of sweet treats.

LINDSEY

Isn't the queen beautiful, Emma?

EMMA

Oh, yes! This is all so amazing. It seems just like a dream.

LINDSEY

A dream? It's funny you should say that. It's what I've been thinking since I got to school this morning.

EMMA

Really?

LINDSEY

Actually, I don't remember getting to school at all. All I recall is that Mrs. Hurley took attendance and then...

EMMA

Yes... me, too!

LINDSEY

Oh, well. Maybe we just hit our heads or something when we were being tossed around in that storm.

EMMA

Hmmm.... maybe...

The great celebration continues and the people make merry. An attendant to the queen, dressed in a uniform similar to that worn by the Swiss Guards at The Vatican, approaches Lindsey.

QUEEN'S GUARD

Miss Lindsey Oliver?

LINDSEY

Yes?

QUEEN'S GUARD

Her Royal Majesty commands your presence in her antechamber.

LINDSEY

You mean The Cupcake Queen wants to see me?

QUEEN'S GUARD

Precisely! At once, if you please.

LINDSEY

Oh... OK.

QUEEN'S GUARD

Please be so kind as to follow me, Miss Oliver.

The Queen's guard leads the way and an astonished Lindsey follows close behind.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 INT. QUEEN'S ANTECHAMBER - BUTTERSCOTCH BALLROOM 20

The Queen's guard enters the room followed closely behind by Lindsey. He approaches The Cupcake Queen, bows and drops to one knee before her.

QUEEN'S GUARD

Your Royal Majesty, may I present
Miss Lindsey Oliver.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Ah, yes! Miss Lindsey Oliver...
Please step forward.

With some trepidation, Lindsey approaches the queen and curtsies with respect.

LINDSEY

Yes, Your Majesty?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Lindsey, we've been looking forward
to having the opportunity to
personally make your acquaintance.

LINDSEY

Really? I mean... you have? But...
how did you know about me?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Your Uncle Damon is a friend of
ours. He's visited us here on
Éclair Island many times in the
past. He's been coming here since
he was a youngster. He's told us
all about you and what a fine young
lady he thinks you are.

LINDSEY

My Uncle Damon? He's been here
before?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Indeed, he has. And now, after
having met you for ourselves, we
must say we cannot disagree with
his very high opinion of you..

LINDSEY

But I never knew that my uncle had
been here before. That's so
amazing!

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Really? Did he not read you the
book he wrote about us?

LINDSEY
You mean... "The Cupcake Queen"?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Yes, that is the title of the book.

LINDSEY
Well, yes, but... I thought he just
made all that stuff up in his
imagination...

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Oh, how quaint! What an adorable
child you are. Tell me now,
Lindsey, are you enjoying your
visit to Éclair Island?

LINDSEY
Yes, Your Majesty. It's a very nice
place to visit... but...

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Speak up, my dear child. Is
something the matter?

LINDSEY
Well... I really like it here...
And I'd like to come back again
sometime... but...

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Yes, my dear?

LINDSEY
Well... I'm getting a little
homesick. I miss my mom and dad.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
And your sister, too, We'd imagine?

LINDSEY
Nnnnnnn... yes, Your Majesty. I
guess I even miss my big sister,
Jenn... and my dog, Lucy and my
cat, Timmy, and my goldfish, too.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN
Lindsey, do you believe in the
magic of dreams?

LINDSEY

Yes. I love it when I dream.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Oh, how wonderful. We're very pleased to know that because there is something we need to tell you.

LINDSEY

Yes, Your Majesty?

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Lindsey, dear, we want you to know that it's time for you to leave us now. But you have our never-ending invitation to visit us here on Éclair Island whenever you desire.

LINDSEY

Oh, thank you, Your Majesty, but... Éclair Island is so far away from Idyllwild, California. I really don't know how I would ever manage to come back here again. To tell you the truth, I'm not really sure how I got here to begin with.

THE CUPCAKE QUEEN

Whenever you'd like to return, just close your eyes and sleep. You'll find your way back here to us on the wings of your beautiful dreams.

MORPH TO LIVE ACTION:

INT LINDSEY'S BEDROOM - MORNING
(Live Action)

Lindsey's mom is sitting on the bed and her dad is standing beside her. Her mom is softly calling her name. Lindsey remains asleep for the moment. She's wearing a big, beautiful, dreamlike smile on her adorable little face.

MOM

Lindsey? Lindsey? Come on, sweetie pie. It's time to wake up now.

DAD

Let's go, pumpkin. You've got a big basketball game this morning. If your team wins, you'll make it to the playoffs!

LINDSEY (*yawning*)
Uhhhhhh! Good morning mom and dad.

MOM
Did you sleep well, honey?

LINDSEY
Oh, yes, mom. I think I slept better than I've ever slept before in my whole entire life.

MOM
Oh, that's good to hear. Did you have a nice dream?

LINDSEY
Dream?..... Oh..... yes, mom. I had the best dream ever! ... By the way, is Uncle Damon still here?

DAD
Uncle Damon? No, he went home late last night... right after we got back from Chief Duggan's retirement dinner.

LINDSEY (*expressing disappointment*)
Ohhhhh, that's too bad.

DAD
Why's that? You know he always leaves here after he baby-sits for you... as soon as we come back home. Why are you so disappointed this time in particular?

Lindsey reaches over and picks up the storybook lying on her nightstand. She gazes longingly at the cover picture of The Cupcake Queen and then pulls the book toward herself to clutch it to her heart.

LINDSEY (*shrugging her shoulders*)
Oh, I don't know, Dad. It's nothing, really. I guess I just have some pretty interesting questions I'd like to ask my dear old Uncle Damon right about now...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END