

Beat Sheet of
Robyn
A Period Drama
Original Screenplay by Bruce Macintyre
WGAW Reg # 1671559

Opening Image (1)

- Eight-year-old PRINCESS AYLIN and her mother, PRINCESS AYLON, are in their cabin on a medieval ship. While getting ready for bed, Aylin and her mother are singing in beautiful voices.

Theme Stated (1-2)

- Aylon tells Aylin she has the most beautiful voice and wishes her father could hear her. Aylin says he does in Heaven.
- Her mother is eager for Aylin's grandfather, King Alek, to hear Aylin sing, saying he'd certainly make her a princess if she weren't already one. Aylin says she'd like to be a knight, Aylon telling her that when she's Queen she'll be head of all the knights. Both, however, don't want that to happen for a long time.
- Aylin is worried about her grandfather who's been ill. Aylon tells her he's strong and not to worry.

Set-Up (2-5)

- There's a thump against their ship and Aylon is alarmed to see another ship alongside.
- She makes Aylin hide in the closet.
- The evil LORD THROOP and two soldiers burst into the cabin.
- Aylon learns that Lord Mordant has poisoned King Alek.
- Throop has the soldiers look for Princess Aylin and Aylon fights them. A heart-shaped birthmark that the royal family shares is visible on her chest when her bodice is ripped.
- Aylin is discovered and both princesses are brought on deck where a massacre of the other passengers is taking place.

Catalyst (5-17)

- Throop orders the soldiers to kill the princesses. Aylon tries to protect Aylin but is cut down and her body thrown overboard where sharks are already tearing at the bodies in the water. Aylin fights with her captor and is brutally beaten on the head before jumping overboard to join her mother in the sea.
- The soldier assures Throop that Aylin is dead, muttering to himself “Or soon will be.”
- A dazed Aylin holds onto her mother’s body as long as she can while they sink, finally letting go. As her mother’s body disappears, Aylin hears strange but beautiful singing rising in a golden glow that envelops her as she’s on the verge of drowning. One of the sharks comes to Aylin and gently pushes her to the surface. A dolphin and other fish surround Aylin who clings to the dolphin as it sets off through the darkness with the golden aura around them.
- An old scavenger finds Aylin unconscious on the beach and steals from her.
- The same heart-shaped birthmark of her mother is visible on her chest.
- Aylin awakens with no memory of who she is or how she got there.
- She flees the creepy old man into the woods.
- Sleeping, a menacing wolf approaches her.
- In her dreams, she sees the golden glow as her mother’s body sinks into the water and she hears the beautiful strange singing, mimicking it in her sleep. (She’ll continue to have flashbacks to her past, only slowly growing clearer.)
- The wolf instantly becomes a protector of Aylin who wakes up and in her thoughts asks for the wolf’s help. The wolf howls and the pack arrives and they gently lead her off into the woods.
- Aylin is five years older and is sleeping by a pond in the woods with two poachers debating whether to run away or try to capture the rumored “Sorceress of the Woods” who is said to cast spells with her singing.
- They gag and bind Aylin and begin carrying her off.

- Two teenage children from an orphanage at the edge of the woods, JACK and BETH, see the poachers carrying the young girl and challenge them, the poachers running away in fright when Beth pulls the gag from Aylin's mouth, Jack menacing them with his homemade bow.

Debate (17-19)

- Aylin is grateful but thinks to flee back into the woods.
- Aylin's ankle is injured and the children insist she come with them to the orphanage.
- Aylin is uncertain. But she can't walk and these two have raised in her a longing for human contact.

Break Into Two (Choosing Act Two) (19-20)

- When the children insist, saying they'll get a cart to take her to her family, Aylin makes up her mind and admits she doesn't know who her family might be, that she has amnesia and has been living in the woods by herself.
- Jack jokes that she must be the fabled "Sorceress of the Woods," Aylin keeping her secret power over animals to herself.
- They help her to the orphanage.

B-Story (20-30)

- Jack is already attracted to Aylin, Beth noticing and thinking it's amusing. They introduce her to the other orphans too old to be adopted so they stick together: LEANNA, MAUDE, ERIK, FRANCIS and WILLIAM.
- FRIAR FURST who administers the orphanage hears Robyn's story and tells her she'll stay with them until her family is located. He asks her to take a name and she chooses Robyn from the bird watching from the windowsill.
- After years on her own, Aylin is tearful to have a home and friends.

The Promise of the Premise (30-38)

- A montage of scenes show Aylin's blossoming life at the orphanage through the winter.
- Aylin continues to have flashbacks to the scene of her mother and the ship, but doesn't know who the woman was or what exactly was happening.

- King Mordant executes Lord Brantwell of the lands including the orphanage, Throop to be the new lord of the lands.
- Naturally, no family is found who reported a young girl missing.
- The other orphans discover that Aylin has a beautiful singing voice and Friar Furst sets up a choir featuring Aylin.
- Friar Furst tells them that King Mordant has executed the lord of their lands and their new local baron, Lord Throop, is coming to take possession. Things are not well the way they were under Good King Alek. Both names echo in Aylin's memory, but she doesn't know why.
- The choir will sing for Lord Throop at the castle.

Midpoint (38-41)

- The children and Friar Furst go to the castle where they sing for Lord Throop and his aide, EMDAR.
- From Aylin's singing more than her look, Throop suspects it may be Princess Aylin.

Bad Guys Close In (41-96)

- Throop assaults Aylin in private, her birthmark confirming to him who she is.
- Throop tries to kill her to keep secret his failure to eliminate this heir to the crown.
- Aylin gets away from him and rushes to the orphanage to get her things and flee back to the woods.
- Her friends won't let her go alone, vowing, "Together, always for each other." They all flee just ahead of Throop and his soldiers.
- Emdar is left to scour the woods for the princess while Throop goes to the discontented northern barons to bring them into line for King Mordant.
- Beth sees Aylin singing to convene a gathering of the animals as she asks them to help protect them in the woods from the evil men chasing them. Beth keeps the secret to herself.
- Aylin saves them from being caught by using her powers over the animals.

- King Mordant learns from Emdar about Throop's failure to kill Princess Aylin and then keeping his failure to himself.
- The children decide to flee the woods and travel to the north country supporting themselves by their singing and a Punch-and-Judy puppet show. They get help from Friar Furst and set off, changing their names and creating a fake background for themselves.
- Mordant puts Throop in the dungeons before his execution and sends his loyal Viking, VINGARON, to capture the princess and her friends and bring them to him.
- Vingaron searches the woods uselessly and decides to scour the countryside.
- The children perform in a village and are seen by Lady MacSanvale who invites them to give their show at the castle for Lord MacSanvale, one of the northern barons.

All Is Lost (96-104)

- Vingaron and his men are also in the audience and capture the children in the night, carrying them away in a locked wagon.
- Aylin's power over the animals lets them escape, the other children learning her secret.
- Vingaron captures them again.

Dark Night of the Soul (104-107)

- Aylin threatens to kill herself if Vingaron doesn't let the others go, telling him she'll come with him if he just takes her.
- Vingaron admires her courage and as the others mean nothing, he agrees.
- They don't want to leave Aylin, but she tells them to run and finally they do.
- Vingaron and his men ride off with Aylin while the children go to the MacSanvale castle to try to get help.

Break Into Three (Choosing Act Three) (108-118)

- Aylin uses her powers to escape on horseback and flees to the castle.
- The children have been telling Lord and Lady MacSanvale their cover story, but Aylin admits who they really are though she still thinks she's just the orphan Robyn.

- Lord MacSanvale is puzzled why King Mordant would pursue these children and hearing the entire story finally realizes the truth, recognizing Aylin's royal birthmark and revealing that she is the rightful heir to the throne, bowing before Queen Aylin.
- The full memory of her past floods over Aylin and she's nearly overcome, her friends incredulous.
- Lord MacSanvale vows to attempt to overthrow King Mordant and place Aylin on the throne despite Aylin's request not to do so as it will mean danger for the northern barons. MacSanvale tells her, "Forgive me, your majesty, but for justice to prevail in the world, those who value it must sometimes fight for it. And this is that time."

Finale (118-122)

- The soldiers of King Mordant are lined up in a meadow with woods behind them and on both sides, the far less imposing troops of the northern barons opposing them. Mordant leads his forces from the rear, a splendid jeweled crown on his head.
- Aylin and her friends are hidden in the woods to one side, Aylin using her powers to command the animals to route Mordant's forces.
- Mordant and his troops are assaulted from the ground and air by all sorts of animals: insects, snakes, birds, foxes, wolves and bears. The troops flee in disarray, Mordant disappearing in the woods.
- The northern troops can't believe what they're seeing, offering all kinds of explanations according to their beliefs, none suspecting the truth.
- before the children head back from their hiding place, Aylin asks the larger, more menacing animals to capture the one who wore the jeweled crown without endangering themselves or hurting him.
- Mordant is found in the woods crying as a bear sits on him, the bear ambling off as the northern barons approach. Mordant's jeweled crown falls from his head as they arrest him for the murder of Good King Alek, Princess Aylon, and the attempted murder of Princess Aylin who is now the Queen.

Final Scene (122-125)

- At her coronation, Aylin refuses the jeweled crown of Mordant, ordering that it be disassembled with its wealth used for the good of the people. And then she sings and the people are absolutely in love with their new ruler.

- In her quarters alone with her friends, Jack addresses her as “Your majesty, Queen Aylin,” and Aylin laughs and says, “Come on, you know who I am.” She tells them they must stay and help her as she can’t do this by herself, and they all repeat their vow, “Together, always for each other.”

The End