



Title: Away with the Fairies
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Mission Statement:

AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES is a charming, heartfelt story that communicates deep sentiments and inspirational themes all while entertaining its readers. Poppy is a great protagonist that almost anyone could identify with or at least feel for. Her adventures in Dreamland in a film would be especially exciting for children and adults who are young at heart.

On the long road to becoming a film, all books must undergo changes. AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES benefits from its short length as well as how fun and imaginative many of its scenes are – they’re perfect for a film. Thus the treatment below is very faithful. However, certain aspects were changed. Poppy only visits the house in the forest once before her Grandma catches her, because film viewers tire more easily than book readers of repeated events. Grandma’s body doesn’t disappear, since this could confuse viewers as she’s a human. Some of Poppy’s happy days with the Prince during their engagement and celebrations after the wedding are reduced – in a film, one strong scene is enough to communicate a story point to the audience. Rules governing fairies in the human world have also been added to add more tension and explain why fairies aren’t seen by humans.

Other than those and a few more small changes, every effort was made to maintain the heart and soul of the charming book. The treatment below can be used as a tool with which to pitch producers, or could be expanded into the terse descriptions and rhythmic dialogue of a screenplay – the best way to give a book a chance at becoming a film. Either way, AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES well deserves this opportunity to reach wider audiences on the big screen.

Logline:

Orphaned by the passing of her grandmother, Poppy enters a magical fairy world where she has the chance to win the fairy prince she loves, and perhaps become a fairy herself.



Treatment:

The sun shines from a blue sky down on a lush, red poppy field. Lost gazing at this charming view, through a school house window, is POPPY – 13 years young with green-blue eyes and mousy-blond hair. The distant voice of a teacher calling out to Poppy fades in. Poppy snaps out of her reverie to notice the entire class staring at her. The teacher declares, “You’re away with the fairies again!” and the class laughs. The teacher repeats a question about the book *Flowers for Algernon* and Poppy replies that the main character can’t have healthy relationships until he deals with the losses he suffered as a child. The teacher is impressed while the other students whisper “nerd” and go back to texting on their phones beneath their desks.

Poppy runs into her little cottage, dropping her rucksack, grabbing an iced cake in the kitchen and greeting her kindly, grey-haired GRANDMA. As Poppy heads out the back door, pocketing the cake, Grandma asks what the rule is. Poppy shouts, “Don’t go past the trees!” She makes a daisy chain in the garden. At the edge of the field, dark evergreen trees form a natural wall. Poppy approaches the trees, plucking the beautiful daisies near their stumps. She stares between the trees into the forest, feeling drawn forward. Making sure Grandma isn’t watching, Poppy ventures past the trees. She comes upon a rotting, mossy bridge. Taking a big breath, Poppy runs across the bridge. She keeps running, arms outstretched in the dappled light, hair flowing behind her. Poppy laughs in joy – and then falls, tumbling down a hillside.

At the bottom, Poppy shakes leaves from her hair. She looks at the trees around her, sensing someone watching. Poppy starts pulling herself up the hill using the tree branches. A voice whispers, “No, stupid! I said get rid of the trees, not put more in!” Poppy whirls to see a willow very close to her that hadn’t been there before. Frightened, she tries to climb higher, but the tree she grabs disappears. Poppy tumbles back down.

Poppy sees many trees have vanished, revealing a little wooden house with a thatched roof. Poppy circles the house curiously. When she hears a door close within, she runs to the front door and knocks. It pushes open, revealing a dark interior. She peers inside, eyes adjusting, and realizes it is very dusty from years of neglect. Poppy ventures inside, noticing little pointy footprints leading through the dust and ending before a bookcase. In another room, she sees a pink, hardcover book with “Fairies” printed on the cover. Poppy hears Grandma calling. Looking around guiltily, Poppy grabs the book and heads for the front door. She runs back to leave her iced cake on a rickety wooden table and her daisy chain upon the door knob.

Poppy runs out of the forest into her backyard, where Grandma waits crossly. Poppy covers the book and apologizes, saying she fell asleep by the river.



That night in her room, Poppy opens the book to find a beautiful drawing of a winged fairy wearing a crown. A title announces, “Fairy queen of dreamland – Karena.” The next page has “Prince Alexander,” a handsome fairy with dark hair. Poppy stares into his brown eyes, which seem to stare back at her. Poppy turns the page to see “My best friend – Yasmina,” a fairy with bright blue eyes in her kind face. The next page causes Poppy to gasp: there seems to be a drawing of Poppy herself.

Entranced, Poppy doesn’t notice Grandma enter the room. Grandma gasps and snatches the book from Poppy’s hands, demanding to know where she found it. Poppy apologizes for going past the trees. Grandma explains that the book belonged to Poppy’s mother – the final drawing was actually her self-portrait. The house in the forest was built by Poppy’s grandfather so Poppy’s mother had somewhere to play in the forest. However, Poppy’s mother became obsessed with imaginary fairies, hardly spending any time in the real world. One day, Grandma secretly followed her daughter through a secret door in the house. Grandma emerged in a magical land and saw her daughter playing with fairies. Grandma snuck back into the real world and never revealed what she saw. In time, Poppy’s mother fell in love with Poppy’s father and they started a family, so Poppy’s mother turned her back on the fairy world. Grandma doesn’t want Poppy torn between two worlds, labeled as crazy in the human world for believing in fairies, and never truly accepted in the fairy world because she has no wings. Grandma makes Poppy promise to never go back to the little house again.

That night, Poppy dreams of ALEX, the teen fairy prince, who beckons her to him. Poppy awakens and steps to her window, looking at the trees at the end of the garden.

Months pass. Poppy plays in the garden but stays true to her word – she looks at the trees but doesn’t pass them. Every night she dreams of Alex flying to her and beckoning her to follow him. One day, Poppy returns home from an errand to find a surprise 14th birthday party. Poppy thanks Grandma for being the best grandmother ever.

The next morning, Poppy makes breakfast, looking from Grandma’s bedroom door to the clock. Two hours later, Poppy cautiously enters the bedroom to find Grandma lying in bed, clutching the fairy book with cold, lifeless fingers. Poppy cries, begging Grandma to wake up. She finds a letter from Grandma apologizing for having gone to a better place. Since Poppy has no family left tying her to this world, she should find the fairies. Grandma hopes that they will take care of Poppy. Grandma closes by asking for one more promise – once Poppy goes to the fairy world, she should never return here.

Poppy packs a rucksack and takes a silver teddy bear necklace from Grandma. She ventures through the forest to the little house. The daisy chain has long since withered and died. Poppy enters the house and finds her iced cake is gone – only stale crumbs remain. Poppy searches for a secret door but cannot find one. Worried, she closes her



eyes and Alex appears. He mouths the word “books.” Poppy runs to the bookcase and pushes it aside to reveal a locked door. She looks for a key until someone whispers, “Move it!” One book flies forward and hits Poppy in the face. “Stupid, look what you’ve done!” says the voice. Poppy picks up the book and finds its pages have been cut away to hide a key. Poppy unlocks the door, revealing a blinding white light. Poppy takes a big breath, and steps through.

Poppy emerges in a mirror-image version of the house. This version is much cleaner, but sparsely furnished. Poppy walks out the house’s front door, and finds a fairytale world of vibrant colors. Human-sized, winged fairies flit about in the distance. Two fairies from the book – QUEEN KARENA and Prince Alex – land before Poppy and introduce themselves. Alex asks why Poppy didn’t answer his calls in her dreams every night. Poppy tries to talk, but is amazed that only the sound “nnngggh” comes out. The royal fairies stare at her, concerned. Poppy faints.

Poppy wakes up in the little house to discover it has been gorgeously redecorated. She finds a note from Karena saying Poppy is welcome here just like her mother was. Poppy remembers that she fainted in front of them and groans in embarrassment.

Poppy walks from her house along a cobblestone road into a small fairy town. AMELIA, a little girl with bright blue eyes and blonde ringlet hair, greets Poppy by name from a flower store. Amelia explains that everyone knows who Poppy is. Poppy buys some flower plants for her house from Amelia’s mother YASMINA, a tall fairy with a light blonde bob. Yasmina asks if Poppy has thought about how she’ll support herself. Poppy thinks and says she’d like to be a dressmaker. Yasmina smiles, promising to gift Poppy an old sewing machine.

Poppy plants poppies before her house in both worlds. In the human world, she looks off to the trees and cries softly, telling Grandma she misses her. Poppy hears Amelia’s voice calling and she rushes to the fairy world, wiping her tears away. Amelia gives her a welcome basket from the town. Poppy pulls out a bottle of clear juice from it and pours two glasses. She takes a sip and frowns – it tastes like water. Amelia says, “No, silly, you have to make it into juice by saying what it is!” Poppy says “pineapple juice,” and the liquid turns yellowish. Poppy savors it. Amelia declares that she’s the youngest fairy in Dreamland and will be having her birthday soon. Poppy promises her a birthday present.

Over the following weeks, Poppy puts up flyers around town advertising her dressmaking. Yasmina is the first to place an order. She then wears the dress happily, telling everyone how talented Poppy is. Poppy gets many more orders, designing and sewing dresses late into the night. She looks up from the sewing machine to the fairy book, which is propped open to the prince’s page, and sighs lovingly.



One day, Poppy walks into the town hair salon to find fairies APRIL and MAY apparently fighting. Poppy cries out for them to stop, and the girls burst out into laughter, saying they were trying to give each other piggyback rides. April has curly purple hair above big green eyes, while May has a reddish-brown bob and silvery wings. April and May do Poppy's hair, bickering with one another constantly. Poppy loves what they do with her hair, but falls silent when she hears gossip that the prince is marrying a flower fairy because the queen wants to retire.

At home, Poppy works on a lilac child-sized dress covered in sparkles and flowers. Alex clears his throat from the open front door, startling Poppy. This time, she finds her voice and invites him in. She fetches juice from the kitchen, and passing a mirror, groans to herself that she looks like a mess. Alex, however, compliments her on her hair. As she hands him the juice and asks what he wishes for, their fingers touch. Alex says he spent so many nights watching her in her dreams, wishing for her to come to Dreamland and be his friend. Now he wishes for nothing more. A blushing Poppy says she meant what kind of juice did he wish for. Alex, also reddening, says pineapple. They drink in silence for a moment, eyes meeting and then looking away in excited embarrassment. Poppy finally asks why Alex dropped by, and his face falls as he remembers. He somberly requests that she make a wedding dress. Poppy coughs up her juice. Alex explains that he is engaged to some fairy from another fairy world. Poppy covers her sadness, saying she is amazed that Alex hasn't even met his bride. Doesn't he want to marry someone he loves? Alex says it's too late for that – his mother wants to retire. When Poppy exclaims that he's only fifteen, he replies, "You're never too young to fall in love." He hands Poppy a note and leaves. The note invites her to the palace to take the bride-to-be's measurements. Poppy tears up, but then tells herself to stop it and grow up.

Poppy approaches the palace, walking through beautiful gardens into a marble entrance hall. She hears a voice – the same voice she heard by the house in the forest. The owner is MOSS, a snakelike little goblin with a greasy mop of hair. His companion is RIKE, a short, fat goblin with yellow teeth and bushy brows. The goblins explain that Alex asked them to help lead Poppy to Dreamland with Rike's magic. Poppy laughs as they bicker with one another and zap each other with harmless magic, saying that goblins are stereotyped as mean and clever, but these two seem nice enough and not very clever. The goblins hear someone approaching and scamper off fearfully.

Poppy turns to see Alex escorting SOPHIA. She has deep red lips, black hair and yellow, catlike eyes. Her wings have dark, petal-like feathers and she wears a sophisticated black dress. Poppy compliments Sophia's tattoo – a chain of leaves in the skin of her ankle. Sophia says it's a birthmark, showing her to be a flower fairy. Poppy exclaims that she has one of her own, pulling down her collar to reveal a dark brown splodge. Sophia reacts with disgust, asking Alex to send this "maid" away. Poppy explains that she's his friend and Sophia's dressmaker. Sophia says it was an easy mistake to make due to what



Poppy's wearing. She lets Poppy take her measurements, groaning when Poppy needs a stool because she doesn't have wings. Sophia is caked in makeup, perhaps to look younger than her twenty-something years. Poppy marvels at Sophia's beautiful engagement ring. When Poppy's finished, Sophia says she doesn't want Poppy designing the gown – she gives Poppy a paper with a design of her own. Poppy hurries out of the palace, holding back tears.

In Poppy's dreams that night, Alex approaches with a pink flower. He whispers, "Sorry," pressing the flower into Poppy's hand before vanishing into thin air. Poppy wakes in the morning to find the flower on her nightstand. She realizes someone is knocking on the door and rushes over to discover Alex and Sophia. Poppy lets them in, excusing herself for a minute to throw on her nicest dress and some makeup. When she emerges, Sophia judges her as overdressed and then asks to see the wedding gown. When Poppy says she hasn't started, Sophia calls her lazy – Sophia could have finished the dress already. She marches out. Alex lingers a moment to reveal he feels bad about how Sophia treated Poppy. She asks why he didn't stand up for her, and Alex confesses that he didn't want to cause bad blood between himself and the woman he has to marry – the woman he loves. Poppy says he's lying to himself – he doesn't love her. Sophia also doesn't love him – she just wants to be queen. Alex doesn't know what to say, so he leaves.

Poppy stews for a moment, and then runs out her door and along the cobblestone road. She passes a surprised Alex, then Rike and Moss in the palace grounds, where they practice magic by turning a tree into a pig. Poppy catches up to Sophia in the entrance hall and declares that she's tired of being treated poorly – Sophia can make her own dress. Sophia turns to the entering Alex and asks if he's going to let Poppy treat her like that. Alex says, "I will never let anyone talk to the one I love like that, but you're not the one I love, Sophia." He declares that he's been fooling himself and everyone else – he's in love with Poppy. Poppy, awestruck, declares that she loves him too.

Sophia laughs harshly, saying they can't marry because Poppy's a disgusting human. At that moment, Karena enters and silences Sophia. She won't allow her son to marry such a cold-hearted, power-hungry woman. Karena will hold a special ceremony, and if the prince and Poppy share true love, Poppy may get her own wings and magic. Sophia wails, hurls her engagement ring at Alex, and flees. Without batting an eye, Alex turns to Poppy, gets on one knee, and proposes. Poppy's eyes well up with tears of joy.

The next morning, Poppy prepares breakfast. She looks at a framed picture of Grandma and tells her how much she misses her. She wonders if she's really old enough to love Alex. She notices the lilac child's dress hanging by the door and remembers Amelia's birthday. Poppy rushes to the party and presents the dress. Amelia loves it. Poppy notices a small cloud-like picture on Amelia's wrist. Amelia explains it marks her as a dream fairy. Poppy sadly says that her own birthmark is disgusting, but Yasmina takes a look



and says it makes her unique. Poppy tells Yasmina and Amelia that the most amazing thing happened – but then stops, apologizing. She says she has to keep it a secret for now.

Poppy walks along the cobblestone road to the castle, where fairy maids escort her to a bedroom and help her curl her hair and change into a pearly pink dress of her own design. Poppy steps out of the bedroom to find Alex waiting. He's stunned by her beauty, the romantic tension thick as they come face to face. Alex bends down, takes Poppy's hand and kisses it. They walk towards a balcony and Alex notices Poppy is nervous. He tells her that the people are going to love her and kisses her on the cheek. Alex joins his mother on the balcony, overlooking all their subjects, and declares loudly that to be a queen, one must be courageous, kind and loving, but also more. "To be my queen, I must love you. And you must love me back. So now, I would like you to meet my future wife, your future queen." He beckons to Poppy, who steps out onto the balcony. The fairies stare in shocked silence, until Amelia flies up in excitement and shouts, "That's my best friend poppy!" The whole crowd laughs and cheers. Alex takes Poppy's hand and they whisper, "I love you," to each other at the same time. With Karena waving a wand at her, Poppy glows all over and rises into the air. Two beautiful golden wings sprout on her back. Giggling joyfully, Poppy flies through the gardens. Everyone rejoices and follows. Alex catches up to Poppy. He takes her hand, pulls her into his arms, and kisses her deeply on the lips as the other fairies swirl around them.

That night, Poppy wakes up to hear something plinking against her window. She steps out of her house and approaches a bush. A hand thrusts out and grabs her. Poppy screams as she and her attacker fall down a hill. Then her attacker kisses her, and Poppy realizes it's Alex. He says he missed her too much. They float up into the night sky, chasing each other and kissing. Poppy looks at the stars and a tear comes to her eye. She admits she's thinking about Grandma, and Grandma's house. Alex suggests they visit the house, but Poppy says Grandma told her never to return. Alex promises they'll be okay going just this once.

Alex and Poppy travel through the secret door into the human world and Alex vanishes. Poppy yelps, worried that this is why she wasn't supposed to return. She herself has become see-thru. Alex's voice calms his fiancée, explaining that he's okay - fairies are just invisible in the human world. Poppy still has some of her humanity left, so she's transparent. However, if a fairy spends too long in the human world, they cease to exist. Poppy and Alex hurry through the forest, Poppy getting scratched by nettles. She comments on how these things never happen in Dreamland. They approach Grandma's house, which has fallen into a state of disrepair. A "For Sale" sign hangs out front. Poppy and Alex enter the house, finding dust everywhere and moldy fruit on the kitchen table. Poppy goes to Grandma's bed, now empty, and cries. Alex investigates Poppy's room and discovers her journal. He reads a poem written months ago, describing Poppy's love



for the prince that visits her dreams. Alex is touched, telling Poppy that he also fell in love with her during those visits.

Back in Dreamland, Poppy goes to bed. In her dream, she sees a bright light and a silhouetted woman emerges – Poppy’s MOTHER. Her mother tells Poppy that now that she’s a dream fairy, she can summon anyone to her dreams. Poppy discovers that her birthmark has changed to a silvery cloud. Mother and daughter embrace. Poppy’s mother pulls out the fairy book and draws Poppy into it, saying that she will fill it for Poppy with the very special people that Poppy meets and loves in life.

In the morning, Poppy stops by the baker and buys a pink, iced bun with a cherry on top. She’s surprised when the baker addresses her as “your highness.” Poppy brings the bun to the school, where she longingly watches Amelia playing. She gives Amelia the bun.

Poppy meets with Alex in the palace gardens. He brings up wedding plans, but she says sometimes she wonders if they’re too young – when she watches Amelia, she yearns to be a kid. Poppy explains that her mother and father divorced before her mother died of cancer. Alex has never heard of divorce or cancer before. He takes her hands and promises they won’t make the same mistake her parents did. Alex leads her to a secret garden with ivy walls and a carpet of enchanted rose petals. Alex’s father made this place for Karena, but died fighting to keep Dreamland safe. Now it belongs to Alex and Poppy. They dance together, their wings sparkling in the sunlight.

Poppy meets her mother in her dreams again and frets over wanting to be mature enough to be Alex’s queen, but still feeling like a child at times. Her mother says there’s no rush – if their love is true, it will last. Her mother gives Poppy a golden chain with a heart.

At Christmas, Poppy, Alex and their loved ones exchange gifts by a roaring fireplace. Amelia is thrilled by Poppy’s gifts – a blue teddy bear and a cream-colored dress. Amelia gives Poppy a tightly folded piece of paper. Poppy unfolds it many times to see a hand-drawn picture of Poppy and Amelia holding hands and holding pink iced buns. Alex and Poppy announce that they’ve finally settled on a wedding date – next June.

In June, Poppy dons her wedding dress in a palace bedroom. The dress is white, corseted at the top, with Victorian laced flowers on the front and a dress hoop covered in many layers. Poppy wears the golden heart chain from her mother on her ankle and white roses in her hair. When Poppy meets Karena outside the throne room, Karena places a veil and a golden tiara on Poppy’s head, telling her, “You look like a queen.”

They enter the throne room to see all kinds of magical creatures – fairies, goblins, pixies, trolls, gnomes and elves – in pews facing the altar. As April and May throw a carpet of pink rose petals, Poppy and Karena walk up the aisle to the handsome, smiling Alex.



Amelia and Yasmina hold the train of Poppy's dress. At the altar, Poppy and Alex exchange their vows and rings. They kiss, and fireworks fill the air. Later, during a sumptuous feast, Karena grants Poppy one wish, ahead of her becoming the new queen. Alex wants to know what she wished for, but Poppy doesn't want to jinx it, so she instead pulls Amelia onto the empty dance floor. After charming the crowd with their moves, Yasmina pulls Amelia away to dance. Poppy turns to see her prince striding toward her. He takes her in his arms and twirls her across the dance floor.

Years later, Poppy and Alex look through the book of fairies with their beautiful baby girl. On the pages of loved ones they see many new additions, including Amelia, April, May and their new baby. Alex marvels at what a wonderful life they have, and Poppy says this is exactly what she wished for.

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