# LIONS, TIGERS AND GIRLS OH MY

Written by

Simone Nikkole

Based on Stranger Things

Simone Nikkole Lasugarfactory1016@gmail.com

#### E/I. THE UPSIDE DOWN -- NIGHT

### INT. BYERS HOME

WILL BYERS, 13, slams the door shut and bolts the lock.

Will runs through the house and calls for his family.

WTTıTı

MOM?! JONATHAN?! MOM?! ARE YOU HERE?

There is no answer.

#### INT. BYERS HOME - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Will hears a GUTTURAL SOUND behind him.

The chain bolt slides open and the metal SHRIEKS.

### EXT. BYERS HOME - NIGHT

Will SPRINTS outside the house into --

### THE FOREST.

The SHADOW and THE GUTTURAL SOUND rises and falls behind him.

Will PANTS as he runs ZIGZAG through the trees... fighting leaves and roots...

#### MOMENTS LATER.

Will trips over a pair of glasses. He is startled by the CRUNCH of the lenses.

Will crawls and tries to get to his feet.

A gust of wind blows....

Will falls on his back and looking up he sees...

A GIRL'S FACE IN BETWEEN THE TREES. LEAVES OUTLINE HER EYES. BRANCHES FOR HER HAIR. TOXIC PARTICLES FOR HER NOSTRILS. BIRDS AT THE TIP OF THIN BRANCHES AS HER LIPS.

Will pauses. He hears the GUTTURAL SOUND become louder and closer...

### MINUTES LATER

Will sprints into...

### INT. CASTLE BYERS

Will plops onto his pillows. Breathing hard.

Will looks back at the walls.

He finds:

A PICTURE OF A GIRL. FACE SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN THE SKY. SHOULDER LENGTH BLONDE HAIR.

WILL

Eleven?

The curtains of the castle door slowly... ever slowly... part. They wisp in the wind.

HEAVY FOOTSTEPS pierce the wind. GUTTURAL SOUNDS follow. The monster has entered the castle.

Will huddles underneath the blankets. Body shaking. Teeth shattering.

And...

WOOSH! The castle roof is torn off.

A HIGH - PITCHED SCREAM surrounds Will then...

An eerie silence.

Will hears his name in the distance...

A MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Will! Will!

UNTIL...

### INT. BYERS HOME - HAWKINS - MORNING

Will jerks open his eyes. Pulls the covers off. Breathing heavily. Face covered in sweat.

TITLES SEQUENCE: "STRANGER THINGS"

### INT. THE BYERS HOME - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

#### INT. WILL'S BEDROOM

JONATHAN BYERS, 17, Will's older, string bean of a brother, is standing over Will, shaking him.

JONATHAN

Will! Will! Time for breakfast.

WILL

(panting)

I-I-I'm up. I'm up.

Jonathan notices the sweat on Will's face.

JONATHAN

You ok bud?

Will sits up in the bed and swings his feet over the side.

WILL

Yea, I'm ok.

Jonathan is not buying it.

JONATHAN

Yea, right. What's wrong? You can talk to me.

Silence.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

A nightmare or something?

Will looks back at Jonathan. Silence. Jonathan knows he's right.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

It's ok to be scared of something. When Nancy and I first found the demogorgon, he took her. I was scared I couldn't find her. When I did and we went to her house, we had to sleep with the light on.

WILL

You slept with the light on?

JONATHAN

Yea. Even your big bro gets scared.

### MOMENTS LATER.

Their mom, JOYCE BYERS, 40s, throws open the door, looks at Will. Worried.

Jonathan leaves the room.

JOYCE

Did you have another episode? Tell me how you felt. Tell me what you saw.

WILL

I couldn't find you or Jonathan. I was scared and cold. The Demogorgon was chasing me.

(pause)

He almost got me in the castle.

Joyce holds Will and rubs his back.

WILL (CONT'D)

I saw a girl.

JOYCE

-- Eleven? She's a sweet girl.

WILL

Maybe.

JOYCE

--She helped us find you when you were  $\underline{\text{there}}$ .

Joyce starts to tear up. Pulls herself together.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

It's ok. You're with me now. You're safe. I'm here. I'm right here.

# INT. BYERS HOUSE - BATHROOM

Will brushes his teeth. Washes his face.

Will looks into the mirror and...

THERE IS A FLASH OF A GIRL STANDING BEHIND HIM. POLKA DOT DRESS. SHOULDER LENGTH HAIR.

Will turns around.

The girl is gone.

### INT. KITCHEN

Jonathan plates the breakfast for Will to eat.

Will sits at the table. Joyce stands, putting things in her purse, with a piece of toast in her mouth.

**JONATHAN** 

You ready for your first day back, Sandman?

WTT<sub>1</sub>T<sub>1</sub>

I don't transform my particles.

JONATHAN

But you did come back to life.

### INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

JIM HOPPER, 40s, stands in front of his closet. Ponders his decision... feels pasts brown pants... brown collared shirt...

He pulls out a black suit jacket... matching black slacks... a white button-down shirt ... a black tie.

He reaches for his belt with a holster and stops.

# EXT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER.

Hopper stands on his porch. Smokes a cigarette. Sips a cup of coffee.

His phone rings...

He puts the cigarette out.

# INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

He walks past the phone. Dread on his face. He knows  $\underline{\text{who}}$  that is.

As he heads to the front door, he looks back.

We see a stuffed tiger on his couch.

He takes moment and heads out the door. We watch as he climbs into A BLACK GOVERNMENT CAR.

END ACT ONE.

#### INT. DR. BRENNER'S TOWNCAR

Hopper is sitting next to DR.BRENNER,40. TWO AGENTS look Hopper up and down. One next to Dr. Brenner, the other from the passenger seat.

DR. BRENNER

Thank you for agreeing to the terms. Remember you must help us find Eleven so no more children die.

HOPPER

So you can you can use her as your petri dish and test dummy?

DR. BRENNER

I won't hurt her. I promise. She is very special to me.

The agents smirk. Hopper gives Dr. Brenner the side-eye.

HOPPER

If I don't find her?

DR. BRENNER

If you don't find her, You fail your end of the deal. Will Byers becomes our baseline for the Upside Down and your officers can do nothing about it.

Silence.

DR. BRENNER (CONT'D)

I don't anticipate any problems. Do I?

HOPPER

No sir.

The car eeks to a stop at a traffic light.

# EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING - CONTINUOUS

The glare from the sun hits Will's bike light as it slams into the bike rack.

#### INT. HALLWAY

MIKE WHEELER, LUCAS CONLEY, and DUSTIN HENDERSON, all 13, join Will as he walks the halls.

\*

OTHER CHILDREN stare and whisper.

CHILD

Nerd Alert.

The crowd laughs. One is not so coy. TROY, 15, catches Will's gaze..

TROY

Hey Zombie boy.

The boys ignore him.

TROY (CONT'D)

Hey Zombie boy. I know you can hear me.

A skateboard glides past the boys into Troy's legs. Troy trips. The crowd laughs.

Troy gets up and flinches. The crowd hushes.

A red headed girl runs past and picks up the skateboard. We see that it is MAX, 13. She stares at Troy and smiles.

### EXT. CALIFORNIA MIDDLE SCHOOL-FLASHBACK

Troy now morphs into BILLY, 17, scruffy and rough around the edges with a mullet and torn jeans. We see Max watching Billy torment a girl in the parking lot.

BILLY

Hey Cow. Do you need more milk? Will you fall if I push you?

Max turns her back. BACK TO PRESENT DAY

The boys turn the corner. Lucas looks back at Max.

LUCAS

(whispering)

Thanks.

Max turns around and just misses Lucas's eye contact.

TWO GIRLS AND BOY with glasses enter their SCIENCE CLASSROOM.

### INT. MR. CLARKE'S SCIENCE CLASSROOM

The boys nod at MR.CLARKE, 30s, as they enter the room.

Lucas smiles at the two girls as he passes them to get to his seat.

Dustin follows behind and winks at them. Mike follows close behind.

Will walks slowly past paying special attention to the girl in the polka dot dress and then...

#### INT. THE UPSIDE DOWN - MR. CLARKE'S CLASSROOM

The room becomes dark and cold. Particles floating in the air. Slime entangle itself on the walls and around the windows.

### INT. MR. CLARKE'S SCIENCE CLASSROOM

Mike stops and looks at Will.

Will stares off into space.

MIKE

Are you ok?

Silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Will? Are you ok?

Will shakes his head. Heart beats fast. This is not the time.

WTTıTı

Yea, I'm ok.

Mike, Dustin and Lucas exchange looks. Max is sitting in the back of the class with a confused look on her face, rocking her skateboard back and forth with her foot.

MIKE

Will's quiet today.

LUCAS

He's always quiet.

Dustin looks back at Lucas and grins.

DUSTIN

I think Will likes her.

LUCAS

Really? Love at first sight. I hope he doesn't lose his shit.

#### INT. HAWKINS GENERAL STORE - DAY

Joyce stands at the back of the store on the phone.

#### INT. HAWKINS POLICE STATION - SAME

FLORENCE, 61, Hopper's sassy secretary, is on the other end at THE POLICE STATION. We see her sipping coffee.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JOYCE

Hi. This is Joyce. Is Hopper there?

FLORENCE

Hi, Joyce, Hopper is not here. He is on a call. Is everything ok?

JOYCE

I don't know Florence. I need to speak with Hopper.

Joyce starts breathing harder and harder.

FLORENCE

OK. Don't worry. I'll make sure he gets the message.

JOYCE

Tell him to call me the  $\underline{\text{second}}$  he gets back.

#### HOURS LATER.

Joyce is at the cashier. Taps her foot. Looks at her watch. Looks back at the phone.

A customer is standing in line growing impatient.

CUSTOMER

Hey lady. Can you ring me up please? I have places to go.

Joyce glares at the customer. Rings him up. Stuffs his boxes in the plastic bags.

Joyce looks back at her boss.

JOYCE

I'm going on break.

Joyce runs out the store SLAMMING the door.

### EXT. HOPPER'S HOUSE

Joyce bangs on the windows to Hopper's trailer.

JOYCE

Hopper! Hopper! Are you in there? It's important.

Joyce looks around Hopper's trailer. The less she sees, the more anxious she gets.

### INT. JOYCE'S CAR

Joyce bangs on her staring wheel and screams.

### INT. BILLY'S CAR

Billy screams along with a song on the radio. Max sits in the passenger seat and rolls her eyes.

BILLY

I saw that.

MAX

And what?

BILLY

Don't tempt me.

Billy looks at Max. He notices her skateboard in her hands.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What happened to your board?

MAX

What are you talking about?

BILLY

The chip on the nose and the wheels are scuffed. You better fix that.

MAX

I'm surprised you noticed.

BILLY

Did you get in a fight?

MAX

No.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

BILLY

Look you gotta be careful. There's certain people in this town you can't trust.

MAX

Like you.

BILLY

Just be careful ok.

MAX

Whatever.

Max looks out the window as they pass a...

#### **PAYPHONE**

We see Joyce frantic on the phone.

JOYCE

Is he back yet? (break) Did he get any of my messages? (break)

No. I need Hopper.

Joyce slams the phone down on the receiver.

She gets back in her car and drives away.

CLOSE UP ON THE ROAD.

### INT. WHEELER'S HOME - MIKE'S BASEMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE UP ON THE GAME BOARD.

AS WE PAN OUT WE SEE MIKE, WILL, DUSTIN AND LUCAS PLAYING DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS.

... the hissing becomes louder. But Will the wise is not afraid. He turns the corner and finds a--

LUCAS

--Mind Flayer?

\*

MIKE

--He looks up and he sees a--

DUSTIN

-- Cloud Giant

Will starts coughing.

MIKE

--A githyanki.

LUCAS

--Githyanki?

DUSTIN

--Throw a fireball!

LUCAS

-- Pick up your sword! Fight!

Will continues to cough. Mike sees Will face get flush.

MIKE

Will, you ok?

Will gets up and runs into THE BATHROOM

Will stands in front of the mirror. Coughs up another slug. Washes his face.

He looks in the mirror and...

### INT. THE UPSIDE DOWN - WHEELER'S HOME - BATHROOM

The bathroom becomes dark and cold. Particles are floating in the air. Slime entangle itself on the walls and around the windows.

Will turns around just as a shadow exits the room.

He catches a glimpse of what looks like a shadow of a dress.

A gust of wind passes him...

### INT. WHEELER'S HOME - BATHROOM

Will starts sweating and breathing hard. Gathers himself before reentering THE BASEMENT.

Will sits back down.

DUSTIN

So what are you going to do? Fireball or Fight?

Silence.

LUCAS

Well? C'mon Will?

Will rolls the dice.

As he lets go, he coughs. The spittle from the his cough lands on the dice.

Will jumps up and heads back to THE BATHROOM.

Will coughs up another slug.

We hear Dustin in the other room...

DUSTIN (O.S.)

Ewww. Really Will. The Upside down is all over the dice.

All the boys laugh except Will.

Will slowly walks out of the bathroom into THE BASEMENT.

Will stares into space. Eyes widen.

MIKE

C'mon guys.

DUSTIN

What? Did I say something wrong?

MIKE

Will, what do you see?

Silence.

LUCAS

It's ok. You can tell us.

WILL

Sometimes I feel like I am still in the Upside Down. Whereever I am becomes dark and cold. Slimey stuff everywhere.

Mike looks at Lucas and Dustin.

MIKE

Like the classroom.

Mike looks back at Eleven's old makeshift fort.

WILL

Yes.

(pause)

But that was a little different.

DUSTIN

So you're not in love with the girl from class?

Will takes a deep breath. Dustin moves in closer.

WILL

It gets worse when I start coughing. I cough up slugs.

LUCAS

Slugs?

WILL

Slimey and black. Like Dart with no tail or legs.

DUSTIN

Like an Amoeba?

LUCAS

A living booger in your throat?

MIKE

I wish Eleven was here. She would know what this is.

WILL

I saw a girl there too. She was in the sky. And I felt a someone behind me--

MIKE

--Eleven. Was it Eleven?

WILL

-- I don't know.

MIKE

Sometimes I feel her. But I look around but she's not here. Like that?

WILL

Yea. kinda.

DUSTIN

--Did she have no hair? A wig?

LUCAS

Dustin you're confusing him!

Mike hands Will a blank sheet of paper and some crayons. Will begins to draw frantically.

A GIRL. GRAY EYES. SHORT WAVY GRAYISH HAIR. A DRESS.

### MOMENTS LATER.

Will stops moving.

Mike takes the drawing.

MTKE

There are no colors.

LUCAS

He did see her in the sky.

MIKE

Can you try again?

Mike hands Will a crayon and...

# INT. THE UPSIDE DOWN - CASTLE BYERS

Will looks back at the walls.

A PICTURE OF A GIRL. BLUE EYES. SHOULDER LENGTH BLONDE HAIR.

# INT. WHEELER'S HOME - MIKE'S BASEMENT

Will starts to draw frantically.

Picks up a blue crayon.

Then a yellow crayon.

### MOMENTS LATER.

Will is still. Eyes wide. Staring into space.

The boys pass around the drawing.

To Mike.

A GIRL. BLUE EYES. SHOULDER LENGTH WAVY BLONDE HAIR. POLKA DOT DRESS.

MIKE

It's not Eleven.

Mike passes the drawing to Dustin.

DUSTIN

She looks like Farrah Fawcett.

LUCAS

Farrah Fawcett?

DUSTIN

If Farrah Fawcett was our age.

Dustin passes the drawing to Lucas.

LUCAS

Wait. She looks like that girl in our class.

Dustin grabs the drawing from Lucas.

DUSTIN

Oh Shit.

Dustin rips open the Dungeons and Dragons book.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

If you return from the Vale of Shadows, you may bring back a shadow version of yourself to the real world.

LUCAS

But Will is not a girl.

DUSTIN

I don't know. Maybe it doesn't have to be exact.

Dustin shuts the book.

END ACT TWO.

### INT. VOID - NIGHT

ELEVEN ,13, wearing a dress, walks around a black void surrounded by water and toxic organisms in the air.

In the distance, we see a field.

As Eleven walks closer to the field, three bodies begin to become clear.

There are THREE CHILDREN playing and laughing in a circle.

Eleven continues to creep up to them...

#### MOMENTS LATER.

Eleven struggles to move her feet...

She looks down...

Her feet are no longer in water, but in a slimey substance...

She trudges toward one of the children...

We see a stuffed tiger in the child's hands...

ELEVEN

Lion?

We see the child's blonde hair...

Eleven is a foot away from the children...

She starts panting... Her arms weaken as she reaches out..

### INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - FLASHBACK

The Demogorgon is up against the blackboard. LOUD SHREIKS.

Eleven's arm is still stretched out as...

The Demogorgon BLASTS into a million pieces...

Eleven CRUMBLES down to the floor with her last bit of strength... disappears into the light...

### INT. VOID - NIGHT - PRESENT TIME

Eleven looks around the field.

The children are playing in the same slimey substance that is at her feet.

ELEVEN

Pudding?

CLOSE UP ON THE SLIMEY SUBSTANCE.

# EXT. THE UPSIDE DOWN - THE WOODS

CLOSE UP ON A TREE TRUNK.

AS WE PAN OUT WE SEE HOPPER LOOKING A SLIMEY TREE TRUNK.

Hopper looks behind the tree...

He finds:

An old blonde wig. Stuffs it in his pocket.

Hopper continues searching through the woods...

#### HOUR LATER.

Hopper climbs through a slimey pathway into...

### INT. DR. BRENNER'S LAB - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Hopper cleans himself up. Climbs out of the suit. Touches the wig in his pocket.

# INT. HALLWAY

Hopper walks through the hallways contemplating.

HOPPER

(to himself)

Dr. Brenner she's not in the Upside

Down

(pause)

I didn't find her in the woods.

(pause)

There is no sign of her. Yet--

Hopper runs into AN AGENT.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Have you seen Dr. Brenner?

AGENT

Check the girl's room.

Hopper nods. Waits for the Agent to turn the corner.

HOPPER

(to himself)

Maybe she's hiding in the buildings.

### MOMENTS LATER.

A door hinges SHREIK.

### INT. ELEVEN'S ROOM

Dr. Brenner jumps up from Eleven's bed. Papers cascade to the floor.

Brenner turns around... Hopper is standing there.

Silence.

DR. BRENNER

Well? Have you found her?

HOPPER

Not --

DR. BRENNER

-- Well where is she?

HOPPER

I'm gonna check the buildings. The kid is not in the woods. She knows better than that.

DR. BRENNER

She does, now, does she?

HOPPER

I mean, if she  $\underline{is}$  hiding from you, she's not gonna make it easy.

Especially not this time.

(pause)

Where does she go in her mind?

Dr. Brenner gathers the papers from the floor. Heads towards the door.

DR. BRENNER

What I am about to show you is highly classified.
(MORE)

\*

k

DR. BRENNER (CONT'D)

If any of this gets out, it's not only Will who will be my test subjects but his three nosy brats he calls friends as well.

HOPPER

Understood, sir.

### INT. HALLWAY

The two are walking towards a file room.

DR. BRENNER

When trying to make Eleven stronger, I had her locate a few persons of interest to the United States Government.

HOPPER

Persons of Interest?

Dr. Brenner makes eye contact with an AGENT down the hallway. The AGENT follows.

DR. BRENNER

Just when we were about to make contact with these important individuals, Eleven went missing.

HOPPER

She escaped.

AGENT

Eleven never resisted the attempts at contact. We always took our time.

HOPPER

Sure you did.

### INT. FILE ROOM

Dr. Brenner places the papers from Eleven's room on the table. Opens a drawer and grabs a manila folder.

WE SEE A FOLDER WITH THE WORDS "CLASSIFIED" MARKED ACROSS IT IN RED.

Dr. Brenner, the Agent and Hopper sit at the table examining the file.

Dr. Brenner passes a portrait of a man to Hopper.

DR. BRENNER

Eleven located this Russian man. He worked underground construction building tunnels.

Dr. Brenner shares another portrait.

DR. BRENNER (CONT'D) She located this man in Canada. Never did tell me what he was doing. She just threw the picture on the ground.

Dr. Brenner passes over a few photos. Hopper notices.

HOPPER

Wait. Go back.

Dr. Brenner ignores him. Settles on another picture of a man.

DR. BRENNER

This man, he worked with us. Each time she located him, he was on a different part of the grounds. She would repeat back every word he said.

HOPPER

Worked with you?

DR. BRENNER

Will was not the only one trapped in the Upside Down.

HOPPER

What about those previous photos? One looked like a woman. Did she locate her?

Hopper reaches for the folder. Dr. Brenner holds on tight then concedes.

Hopper finds the picture of the woman. It is a different size than the others. Uneven scissor marks on the bottom.

WE SEE A PHOTO OF A YOUNG WOMAN WITH BROWN HAIR STANDING BEHIND SOMEONE. HER HANDS ON WHAT LOOKS LIKE SHOULDERS. THE FACE OF THE OTHER PERSON IS OBSCURED BUT THE HAIR LOOKS LIGHT.

Dr. Brenner closes the folder.

DR. BRENNER

I'm sure you now understand her reach is all over the world. Keep looking.

Hopper nods.

DR. BRENNER (CONT'D) We'll get back to you in a few days.

### INT. THE BYERS HOME - HALLWAY

Joyce is on the phone facing the door.

JOYCE

In a few days?

A WOMAN'S VOICE Yes. Check back in a few days. Hopper has not come back yet.

# EXT. THE WOODS - NIGHT

Hopper exits his cruiser. Checks the box where he left food for Eleven.

It's empty.

# EXT. / INT. WHEELER'S HOME

WE PAN OUT AS THE SKY TAKES SHAPE. WE SEE OUTSIDE MIKE'S BASEMENT WINDOW.

### INT. WHEELER'S HOME - MIKE'S BASEMENT

Mike sits in the makeshift fort with a walkie talkie in hand.

The STATIC fills the room.

MIKE

El? Can you here me?

Silence.

MIKE (CONT'D)

El? Eleven, Are you there?

Static.

# INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hopper's walkie is full of static. Hopper sits on the couch holding the stuffed tiger.

A woman's voice cuts in and out.

FLORENCE

Hop? Come in Hop. Come in Hop.

HOPPER

Hello? Yes. Yes. I'm running late. I'll be there in a few.

FLORENCE

Joyce Byers has called almost 10 times a day in the last few days. Please deal with her.

We see Hopper running out of the house...

### I/E. HOPPER'S CRUISER

Hopper jumps in his cruiser. Wheels SCREECH and SMOKE as he speeds off down the road.

### INT. HAWKINS GENERAL STORE

Joyce notices Hopper walk in as she hears the doors CHIME.

Joyce gets the attention of her MANAGER.

JOYCE

Can I take a break?

MANAGER

You just came back from lunch

JOYCE

I only need five minutes.

(pause)

Make it a smoke break.

Hopper passes the manager and flashes his badge.

Manager nods his head.

Joyce leads Hopper to the BREAK ROOM.

Hopper and Joyce sit at the table by the vending machines.

HOPPER

I heard you been looking for me.

JOYCE

Will has been having nightmares.

HOPPER

About the Upside Down?

JOYCE

Yes. But now he sees it everywhere. School. The Wheeler's house. Everything.

HOPPER

Just in his mind?

JOYCE

He feels it too. He gets cold and frozen in his body.

(pause)

And he thinks a girl is following him.

HOPPER

A girl? Could it be Eleven?

JOYCE

His drawing had blonde hair and a blue polka dot dress.

HOPPER

Polka dots?

Hopper looks toward the doorway...

WE SEE THE PICTURE OF THE WOMAN HOPPER SAW IN THE LAB. AT THE SCISSOR CUT EDGE, THERE ARE REMNANTS OF POLKA DOTS.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

I'll look into it.

JOYCE

Dr. Brenner said nothing about being followed once leaving the Upside Down.

HOPPER

Are you sure Will's seeing a person not a ghost or a spirit?

JOYCE

The way he looked, she seemed real.

HOPPER

Maybe he should get checked out?

JOYCE

By a doctor? Hop, I believe my son.

Hopper gets a soda from the vending machine.

HOPPER

Have you seen this girl for yourself?

JOYCE

No. If Will says he sees her. Then he sees her.

Hopper takes a deep breath.

HOPPER

I'm not saying I don't believe him.

Hopper hands Joyce the soda. Their hands touch.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

After Sara's funeral, I used to think I could feel her around. In the kitchen, when I pass the poptarts, I'd think she took some. I would count them. A shadow I saw walking around the house. I coulda swore that was her.

JOYCE

See.

HOPPER

It turned out to be a shadow cast by the light from the blinds.

(pause)

But a person. A human person coming from the Upside Down?

MANAGER (O.S.)

Your five minutes have magically turned into twenty.

JOYCE

This is not over, Hop.

They hear footsteps. Joyce looks at Hopper.

\*

JOYCE (CONT'D)

I can't lose this job.

Joyce gulps down the soda.

Joyce and Hopper quickly exit the break room.

# INT. HAWKINS GENERAL STORE

HOPPER

Let me know if Will sees her again.

JOYCE

I think Florence has had enough of me this week.

HOPPER

Tell her to reach my walkie.

Hopper alters the channel on his walkie. Static.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Maybe not today.

Joyce returns behind the cash register and nods at her boss. Hopper leaves.

# INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - AV CLUB

Will, Mike, Dustin and Lucas are testing out the new Heathkit radio. Max is outside the door upset.

MAX

C'mon guys, I can help. This is so not fair.

Lucas looks at the door. The other guys ignore her.

Lucas turns back to the Heathkit.

LUCAS

Dustin, don't get your cheese on the radio.

DUSTIN

Sorry. It is lunch time.

Mike adjusts the channels. Leans toward the microphone.

MIKE

El, if you're there, give me a
sign.

\*

LUCAS

Eleven? Are you there?

### EXT. VOID - NIGHT

Eleven is roaming around in the darkness.

ELEVEN

Mike? Is that you? Mike?

Eleven walks closer to the boys voices. Finds a walkie talkie.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

Mike? I hear you.

### INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - AV CLUB

Mike looks defeated.

MIKE

Where is she? We heard her last time.

LUCAS

Maybe she's too deep in the Upside Down?

WILL

Maybe it's not strong enough.

MIKE

Mr. Clarke just fixed it.

Dustin runs out the room almost bumping into Max.

MAX

So what happened? Is anyone going to tell me?

Mike, Lucas and Will follow after Dustin. Max follows but keeps her distance.

Dustin runs through the halls. Head turning left and right frantically. Dustin taps Mr. Clarke on his shoulder.

### EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - TEACHER'S ROOM

The boys crowd around Mr. Clarke. Max peaks her head out from around the corner.

DUSTIN

I have an alternate dimension question.

MR. CLARKE

Ok. Shoot.

DUSTIN

(talking fast)

Is it possible for spirits to travel between dimensions? Is your reflection here, the same as the ones in an alternate dimensions?

MR. CLARKE

Slow down buddy. One question at a time.

DUSTIN

Sorry, Mr. Clarke.

Mr. Clarke smiles.

MR. CLARKE

Well. Light bends when it comes in contact with surface. Glass reflects the light. Mirrors distort what you are looking at when you view it at different angles.

LUCAS

Like in fun house?

MR. CLARKE

Exactly.

Dustin looks at Lucas.

DUSTIN

That could be why the shadow looks like a girl.

MR. CLARKE

What?

DUSTIN

Nothing. What about the spirits?

MR. CLARKE

Mirrors were used in Salem to summon spirits and energies of the dead. MIKE

The dead could be walking around with living people?

MR. CLARKE

Yup.

Mike looks at Will. Will clears his throat.

LUCAS

Mr. Clarke, do you know anything about the new girl that sits in the third seat on the right in class? Does she act strange in class?

MR. CLARKE

Who? Charlotte. No. She's not as interested as you boys but that's most of your class. Why?

LUCAS

Just curious --

DUSTIN

It's a curiosity door.

Mr. Clarke knows something is off.

MR. CLARKE

I see.

Mr. Clarke looks at his watch.

MR. CLARKE (CONT'D)

Recess is almost over. I'll see you boys in class.

Mr. Clarke walks away.

LUCAS

Maybe Charlotte is a spirit --

DUSTIN

-- Or a dead person from the Upside Down?

END ACT THREE.

^

### EXT. HOPPER'S OFFICE - DAY

OFFICERS POWELL and CALLAHAN are just walking out to begin patrol.

Hopper stops them as he opens his office door.

HOPPER

Did you hear of any reports of stalking lately?

CALLAHAN

Not to my knowledge. Why?

Hopper pulls them into HIS OFFICE.

HOPPER

When we looked into Hawkins last year did you find any articles about near death experiences?

POWELL

We stopped after we found that Terry Ives lady.

HOPPER

Go back and report to me anything that you find. Anything. You got that?

POWELL

Copy, sir.

Powell and Callahan look at each other. Here we go again.

HOPPER

What are you waiting for? Go.

CALLAHAN

Yes, sir.

Powell and Callahan rush out. Hopper grabs his paperwork and follows behind.

Hopper almost bumps into Florence.

HOPPER

If anyone asks, I am hunting down a lead.

FLORENCE

You closed the last open case last week.

#### HOPPER

I am hunting down a lead, Flo.

Florence stares into the files into the file cabinet.

CUT TO:

# I/E. HOPPER'S CRUISER

Hopper is driving around the neighborhood, Somebody's Watching Me plays on the radio.

# MOMENTS LATER.

Hopper looks out the window and sees...

GIRLS playing on the playground. One child has blonde hair. She is smiling.

Hopper looks down...

She has a stuffed tiger in her hand...

Hopper starts breathing hard.

He pulls over...

### EXT. HOPPER'S OLD HOUSE - FLASHBACK

It's SARA's birthday. She is wearing a birthday hat and laughing.

She has left over cake on her cheek and her fingers.

Sara is surrounded by presents.

Hopper's wife hands Sara a present.

Sara starts tearing the wrapping.

Hopper and his wife are smiling at Sara.

The wrapping is all over the grass.

Sara discovers the present is a stuffed tiger. She dawns a huge smile.

She SQUEEZES it against her chest.

# I/E. HOPPER'S CRUISER - PRESENT TIME

Hopper SQUEEZES the steering wheel.

VOICE ON THE RADIO
I always feel like somebody's
watching me/Who's playing tricks
on me?/I always feel like
somebody's watching me./ I always
feel like somebody's watching me.

The sun starts to set.

Hopper notices the girls leaving the playground.

Hopper keeps his distance and follows the girls.

The song continues to play.

Once the girls split off, Hopper follows the girl with the tiger.

#### MOMENTS LATER.

The girl stops in front of a house and knocks on the door.

Hopper looks around. He sees the Wheeler's home.

The girl is not in front of the Wheeler's house.

The front door opens to the house next door.

# MOMENTS LATER.

Hopper fixes his uniform. Exits the cruiser. Stands tall and walks to the house.

Hopper knocks on the door.

# EXT. WHEELER'S NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR HOME

A WOMAN with brown hair and a blue and white polka dot dress opens the door.

The little girl cannot be seen.

Hopper's eyes widen. Clears his throat.

WOMAN

Excuse me. Can I help you, Officer?

\*

HOPPER

Sorry. I'm Chief Hopper. I am looking for Karen Wheeler.

WOMAN

Oh. She's the house next door.

HOPPER

Sorry for the mixup, maam.

WOMAN

Oh it's no harm.

### EXT. WHEELER'S HOME

Hopper takes the wig out of his pocket. Stares at the wig and rubs.

HOPPER

In the park. Behind the swings.

CUT TO:

# EXT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr. Brenner's towncar is outside.

Two agents exit the car and walk up to the house.

They knock on the door.

AGENT #1

Chief Hopper?

AGENT #2

We are here to follow up. Chief?

They peek through the window.

They knock one more time and ...

# EXT. WHEELER'S HOME

KAREN WHEELER, late 30s, open the door and sees Hopper.

KAREN

Is Nancy ok? Did something happen at the party?

HOPPER

Everything is ok, Karen. I just came by to return this wig.

Hopper hands her the wig.

Karen looks confused.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

I found it in the playground by the seesaw. I remember Nancy saying it was hers.

KAREN

Oh that's right. Probably from her costume. Mike? Mike? Come here sweetheart.

Silence.

#### INT. WHEELER'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

# MIKE'S BASEMENT

The Dungeon and Dragons board is open in mid-game. The Githyanki piece is in plain sight.

The boys are not around the board.

# MOMENTS LATER.

We hear coughing.

### **BATHROOM**

Mike, Lucas and Dustin are huddled around Will.

Will is coughing into the sink.

Dustin and Lucas reach for a slug before it goes down the drain.

Lucas catches it... Holds it up the mirror...

The slug begins to squirm...

The slug begins to take a different shape...

And...

4

KAREN (O.S.)

(yelling)

Mike? I know you are down there.

The boys jump.

Lucas throws the slug into the toilet.

We hear footsteps running up the stairs into...

DOORWAY

It is Mike.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Mike, can you put this in your sister's room. Hopper found it in playground.

Karen hands Mike the wig. Hopper and Mike lock eyes. Mike knows that's a lie.

MTKE

OK mom.

Mike takes another look at Hopper and then retreats down the stairs.

Mike stops MID STAIRS.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Can Hopper stay for dinner mom?

KAREN

If it is ok with him? We definitely will have a full table.

MIKE

You don't mind Hopper do you?

Mike takes a long look at Hopper.

HOPPER

Not at all. I'd love to join you for dinner.

KAREN

It'll be ready in fifteen minutes.

MTKE

Ok mom.

Mike pulls Hopper down the stairs.

MIKE (CONT'D)

(to the boys)

Guys, we have company.

#### INT. BASEMENT

Dustin, Will and Lucas are now sitting around the game board.

Hopper and Mike join them.

MIKE

Guys, look.

Mike holds up the wig and smiles.

DUSTIN

Where is she? You found her? Is she a spirit now?

LUCAS

Let the man answer.

Lucas leans in closer to Hopper.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Well, did you find her?

Hopper sits back in his chair.

HOPPER

I found the wig in the woods in the Upside Down near a tree with a slimey trunk.

LUCAS

If she is near a door between here and the Upside Down, why haven't we seen her?

HOPPER

I think she knows that Dr. Brenner is still looking for her.

MIKE

We tried to talk to her using the radio at school and we got nothing.

WILL

There was too much static.

DUSTIN

Maybe she was there but couldn't hear us.

MIKE

You gotta go back and keep looking for her. You gotta go.

HOPPER

I think she knows I'm with the lab.

LUCAS

You're still helping those douchebags.

Lucas paces back and forth.

HOPPER

To keep them away from you guys. If I don't tell them where she is, they'll come after you too. All of you. Not just Will.

Will looks down at the floor.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

(to Will)

Your mom told me you're still having episodes. And some girl is following you?

LUCAS

-- The spirit girl. We think she is a spirit from the Upside Down.

DUSTIN

-- Or a dead person from the Upside Down haunting him.

Mike hands Hopper the picture Will drew. That face looks familiar.

WILL

I feel like she wants something from me. But I can't ask her. She just disappears.

HOPPER

Can I keep these pictures?

Will nods.

Hopper's walkie is full of static. A voice comes through on the walkie.

POWELL (O.S.)

Chief. Come in. Come in Chief.

Hopper can barely make it out. Hopper switches the channel. Static and then Silence.

Hopper looks at the game board. Points at a monster piece.

HOPPER

What is that?

DUSTIN

A githyanki.

LUCAS

They are slaves of the Mind Flayer. They watch over their conquests before they steal things from them and make them weak.

POWELL (O.S.)

Chief. It's important. Come in Chief. I found something.

Hopper picks up his walkie.

HOPPER

I copy. Where are you Powell? Is Callahan with you?

POWETITI

Outside the arcade. We are about to go inside and ask some questions.

HOPPER

I'm on my way.

(to the boys)

I'll keep looking for her. I promise I'll find her before Dr. Brenner does.

Hopper grabs his coat. Runs up THE STAIRS into Karen.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Sorry about dinner. But I have to go.

KAREN

Be safe out there.

Hopper slams the door behind him.

### EXT. POLICE STATION

Dr. Brenner's towncar sits idle outside the station.

We see agents talking to Florence.

FLORENCE

Chief Hopper is not here.

AGENT #2

Where is he? Call him back.

FLORENCE

He is working on a case.

AGENT #2

Call him back.

Agent 2 walks closer to Florence. Agent 1 holds him back.

AGENT #1

We can't get arrested or draw attention to ourselves.

DR. BRENNER

Let's go. He is not here. Let's go.

### EXT. PALACE ARCADE

Officer Powell and Callahan are walking outside the arcade as Hopper pulls up. Billy is sitting in his car watching attentively.

Hopper, Powell and Callahan stand around Hopper's cruiser.

POWELL

Here are the files you requested.

Hopper squints to look at them and takes out a flashlight.

HOPPER

I'm not gonna look at these under flimsy light.

Hopper storms into the arcade right past Max. Powell and Callahan follow behind. Max's skateboard almost hits them

Max jumps into...

#### INT. BILLY'S CAR

BTTTY

Didn't I tell you to be careful?

XAM

Sorry. It didn't touch them.

BILLY

What did you do? I hope they're not looking for you.

MAX

Or you.

BILLY

What did you say?

MAX

They were asking about some guy named Brenner.

BILLY

So you were sticking your nose where it doesn't belong.

Max scoffs. Billy revvs the engine and drives off. Smoke trails behind the car.

#### INT. PALACE ARCADE

CHILDREN on the arcade games exchange weird glances as Hopper, Callahan and Powell pass by "Dig Dug" and turn the corner.

### INT. PALACE ARCADE - PARTY ROOM

Hopper stands over the table. Callahan flips on the light.

HOPPER

So what is this?

POWELL

Besides Terry Ives, three other mothers with their children have had encounters with Dr. Brenner.

Powell hands Hopper and article with a picture of a mother and daughter.

POWELL (CONT'D)

The daughter almost died deconstructing weapons.

Powell hands Hopper another set of photos.

POWELL (CONT'D)

This one died manipulating time too fast.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

HOPPER Manipulating time?

Hopper starts reading the article... he stops at the photos...

CALLAHAN

Chief you ok?

Hopper compares Will's drawings to the article.

CALLAHAN (CONT'D)

We talked to that mother. Her daughter died years ago. It's a dead end.

HOPPER

The mother is here?
 (pause)
Good work. Take these back to the station. Put them in my office.

# END ACT FOUR.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

#### EXT. WHEELER'S GARAGE

The boys mount their bikes just as Jonathan pulls up.

JONATHAN

Will where are you going?

WILL

I'm gonna help them find Eleven.

JONATHAN

You're going back to the woods?

Will nods.

DUSTIN

We are all going together.

JONATHAN

Nice try. Mom wants you home and we're not gonna end up looking for you all over again.

WILL

You can come with us.

DUSTIN

Are you coming Lucas?

Lucas scratches his head.

LUCAS

I don't know. Doing the same time over and expecting a different result, isn't that insanity?

Dustin, Will and Mike turn of their bike lights and put them in Jonathan's trunk. As Jonathan slams the trunk down...

# INT. BYERS HOME - LIVING ROOM

Hopper slams a beer on the table next to the articles.

Joyce sits next to him engaged in a cigarette.

JOYCE

That's insane.

HOPPER

He's breeding these kids like an army.

Joyce picks up a photo.

JOYCE

You think she's the one that's following Will?

Hopper nods as he takes a sip.

HOPPER

Don't go snooping around her house. I need more evidence.

JOYCE

What are we going to do?

HOPPER

You are going to take Will to the doctor about those nightmares and I'll keep digging.

### MEANWHILE AT THE WOODS.

Dustin and Lucas are biking in one part of the woods. Mike, Will and Jonathan in the other.

**JONATHAN** 

Guys. Only for a few minutes. Not too far.

MTKE

Dustin you see anything?

DUSTIN

Not yet.

LUCAS

What about you, Will.

Mike looks back and Will is frozen in front of a tree.

JONATHAN

Will? Buddy? You ok. We're all here with you. You are not back in that place.

Mike touches Will's shoulder. Will jumps.

WILL

I think I found it.

Jonathan looks down at the trunk.

JONATHAN

There is no portal here.

MIKE

It probably closed.

Jonathan touches the trunk.

JONATHAN

You might be right.

Mike looks around for Dustin and Lucas.

MIKE

Dustin. Lucas. I think Will found it.

Silence.

JONATHAN

Dustin? Lucas?

Leaves CRUNCH underneath tires.

LUCAS

I'm right here.

Jonathan turns around. Lucas is behind him on his bike. Without the light on.

**JONATHAN** 

Where's Dustin?

LUCAS

I thought he was behind me.

Will starts walking off towards the road.

JONATHAN

Will where are you going?

LUCAS

Will wait up.

Will stops at a box and opens it... It's empty.

#### A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Dustin spots everyone in the distance and pedals towards them.

Leaves CRUNCH louder and louder as Dustin pedals faster.

Dr. Brenner pops up behind Will and covers Will's mouth...

Will bites Dr. Brenner's fingers...

\*

Dr. Brenner fights a scream...

He tries to drag Will away toward his car....

Will kicks and punches his way out from under Dr. Brenner's grip...

And runs...

#### MOMENTS LATER.

Jonathan, Lucas and Mike reach the box.

MIKE

He was just here.

LUCAS

I thought I heard something.

Dustin catches up. Panting heavily.

DUSTIN

Where's Will?

Dr. Brenner is now standing in front of the box.

Jonathan steps in front of Lucas, Dustin and Mike.

Dr. Brenner pushes Jonathan away...

Dr. Brenner reaches down into the box... Picks up plastic wrap and smells it.

Dr. Brenner looks up from the box...

It is dark.

Dustin is pedaling in one direction. Lucas in another. Mike and Jonathan toward the car. All without their bike lights.

### INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

#### INT. LIVING ROOM

Hopper turns on the light.

The light flickers.

Hopper drops all the paperwork on the coffee table.

Hopper plops on the couch sitting on his walkie talkie.

He is startled by the static.

Hopper switches channel after channel until the static becomes a quiet hum.

Hopper puts the walkie on the mantle by his picture of Sara.

Hopper heads to **HIS BEDROOM.** Taking his badge and his weapons off along the way.

#### MEANWHILE,

### EXT. VOID - NIGHT

Eleven adjusts the channels on her newly found walkie.

The static dissipates..

ELEVEN

Mike? Are you there?

Silence.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

Mike? Where are you?

### INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM

Hopper is hanging up his uniform.

He hears a voice coming from the living room...

It sounds familiar...

Hoppers runs into...

# THE LIVING ROOM

He grabs the walkie and listens.

Hopper cracks open a beer near the receiver.

Eleven screams into her walkie.

Then silence.

ELEVEN

Mike, was that you?

Silence.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

It's day 360. Mike, can you hear me.

HOPPER

Eleven? Is that you?

Silence.

ELEVEN

Y--

HOPPER

Don't say anything. Wait. Wait a minute.

Hopper looks around the living room. Hopper looks up at the lights hanging from the ceiling.

Hopper walks to the window and peeks through the blinds and sees...

#### EXT. HOPPER'S HOUSE

Dr. Brenner's towncar parked outside. Lights off.

We see the agents with headphones on. Dr. Brenner looking out the car window intently.

### INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Hopper searches through the bathroom drawers...

He finds a screwdriver.

He unscrews the light switch.... No bug.

Hopper runs the water from the sink.

Hopper unscrews the lights above the sink... No bugs.

He pulls back the shower curtain.... No one there.

He checks the window... No cracks... No wires.

Hopper picks up his walkie.

HOPPER

Ok. Eleven. You are safe now. We can talk now.

ELEVEN

Mike?

HOPPER

No this is Hopper. A friend of Mike's.

ELEVEN

Hopper.

HOPPER

Yes. Where are you? Mike and I are looking for you.

ELEVEN

Safe.

HOPPER

Yes. You can tell me. You won't get hurt.

ELEVEN

Upside Down. Different.

HOPPER

You're in a place like the Upside Down?

ELEVEN

Yes.

Eleven takes a deep breath.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

Pudding.

Silence. Hopper is confused for a moment.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

Pudding. Feet.

HOPPER

There's the bad--

Hopper stops himself.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

There's pudding on your feet?

ELEVEN

Yes.

HOPPER

Oh you mean mud. Pudding is food. Mud is the same color but it's outside on the ground. You're stuck in mud?

ELEVEN

Mud. Sometimes.

HOPPER

Is it hot or cold?

Silence.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Do you need more dresses to wear so you don't shake.

ELEVEN

Shake?

HOPPER

When you're cold you're body shakes so you know to warm up.

ELEVEN

Yes. I shake.

HOPPER

Is there anyone else there?

The transition cuts in and out.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Eleven are you still there?

Hopper sits on the bathroom floor.

ELEVEN

Me but different.

HOPPER

There are other girls there too?

ELEVEN

Yes Girls. And Mike but different.

### EXT. HOPPER'S HOUSE

Dr. Brenner opens the passenger door slowly. Puts one foot on the ground.

An agent grabs his arm.

Dr. Brenner puts his foot back in the car and quietly closes the door.

# INT. HOPPER'S HOUSE - BATHROOM

Hopper is writing in his notebook.

HOPPER

A boy is there?

ELEVEN

Boy.

HOPPER

Yes. People like Mike are boys.

The transmission goes in and out again. The lights begin to flicker.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Eleven, if you can still hear me, tell me about the girls.

ELEVEN

Dress.

HOPPER

What else?

ELEVEN

Wig.

HOPPER

What do you mean?

ELEVEN

Wiq.

Eleven starts to curl up in a ball and rock herself.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

Wig.

HOPPER

Her hair is like the wig Mike gave you?

ELEVEN

Yes. Wig. Mike.

HOPPER

So she is blonde.

ELEVEN

Lion. Lion.

Hopper stops writing and drops the pencil.

HOPPER

Lion. Do you mean she has a stuffed lion?

The transmission cuts out.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Lion. Eleven, what are you trying to say?

Silence.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Eleven, are you there? Tell me what is lion? Tell me --

END EPISODE.