

OVER BLACK:

The cheery, adventurous melody of a CARTOON THEME SONG.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Dark and dramatic. Band posters erratically pinned to every surface. Obsessive. Chaotic. A teenager's realm.

The cartoon theme song is coming from the room next door, waking MASON MULLIGAN, 16. Sweating. Shaking. Reaching for a BOTTLE OF PILLS at his bedside, we see a peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) line in his arm.

Mason sits up and swallows the pill. Then a different one. And another. He runs down a line of medications by rote.

He pushes the jet-black hair out of his face, revealing a shock of bright green that distracts from his weak pallor.

Mason hits PLAY on his iPod to drown out the merry melody with angsty rock as he musters the strength to get up.

Grabbing some floor clothes, he finds a used HOSPITAL BRACELET beneath. He adds it to a collage on the wall. There's a lot of them. He smells the clothes and shrugs.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dressed in the floor clothes, Mason heads down the stairs, but his foot hits a stray COMIC BOOK, slipping on the pages. He takes a rough spill on the steps, grabbing the railing.

Wincing, he gathers himself. Until he sees what he slipped on. There's no love between Mason and comics. He grabs the comic and storms upstairs, barging through another door.

INT. WYATT'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason busts in, causing his brother WYATT, 14, to scramble to cover up what he's doing in bed.

WYATT

You don't just open doors!

Mason grabs the bed covers and yanks them off, revealing COMICS and PADS and PENCILS. Wyatt tries to hide a cartoon he's drawn of HIMSELF MAKING OUT WITH SPIDER-MAN.

MASON

He chose this crap over us.

He flings the comic he's holding at Wyatt and walks out. Wyatt picks it up, smoothing the pages to reveal the title, "Hammerspace," by HENRY MULLIGAN.

The same title splashes across the cartoon on his TV.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Mason's mother ELLEN, 45, is frazzled. She's on the phone, has paperwork out, an open laptop, and is making something resembling breakfast.

ELLEN
 (into phone)
 Yes, I've been on hold for ten minutes. I just want to speak to someone about payment options.

Mason enters, casually dodging around Ellen's frantic movements like it's a dance they do regularly.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 A payment plan. Yes. Preferably one where I don't have to plan to pay. No don't put me on... hold.
 (to Mason)
 Where's your brother?

Mason starts flipping through the paperwork just long enough to see the OVERDUE BILLS FROM THE ONCOLOGY UNIT.

MASON
 Doodling himself in bed.

She looks at him funny, then hangs up and snatches the bills away, embarrassed, but hiding it. She sits him at the table.

ELLEN
 You have to eat.
 (her phone buzzes a text)
 Shit.

MASON
 But I don't want to eat shit.

ELLEN
 What? Oh. Clever.

She hands him his food. It's unappetizing, but she's trying.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I finally get a buyer to come see that godforsaken roller rink and Larry double books me with open houses. He knows we have an appointment.

MASON

I can show the rink.

ELLEN

Maybe I can close the Putnam property early.

MASON

I need to get out of the house.

ELLEN

I'll just have to reschedule.

MASON

MOM. Let me do it!

ELLEN

Sweetie. I appreciate the offer, but I just don't want you over -

MASON

- doing anything that would make me feel the least bit normal? I feel good today. Let me be useful.

Ellen isn't convinced, but her phone buzzes again. Overwhelmed, she hands him a set of keys.

ELLEN

Just show him around. Have him call me with questions. I'll pick you up here at four, okay?

Mason eyes the hidden bills again. She turns his eyes to her.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

That's my business. You understand? Your business is getting better. So take it easy on that bike.

She kisses his forehead, struggling to let him do this. He hands her bag to her and they both head out.

A beat later, Wyatt comes downstairs. Totally forgotten.

WYATT

Hello?

EXT. CARMEL, NEW YORK - DAY

Mason coasts through this little hamlet on his bike. Past parks and ponds, he shuts his eyes in the breeze. Freedom.

HONK. He opens his eyes to dodge a car. He skids to a stop, nearly falling off. When he recovers, he sees some KIDS HIS AGE laughing at the near-miss. There's a CUTE GIRL smiling.

He goes to wave, but his sleeve pulls up, revealing his PICC line. He pulls his sleeve down as another boy starts flirting with the girl. Not a care in the world. Must be nice.

MALLORY (O.C.)

She thinks she's so mature because she's hanging with older boys.

Mason cringes and turns to see MALLORY BARNES, 15, and wearing too much Hammerspace merchandise for one human being.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

But maturity is more a state of mind. Don't you think? Like, a search for greater meaning. Intellectual curiosity. Finding the poetry within what others find trivial.

MASON

(told her a million times)
I don't read the comics. I don't watch the show. I have no comment.

Mason gets on his bike again. But he's winded and goes so slow that Mallory can keep up on foot if she hurries.

MALLORY

Well as president of the Putnam County Hammerspace Fan Club, it's my duty to make sure no one harasses you or your family.

Mason notes the irony. Behind him, Wyatt approaches on his skateboard, spots Mallory, and quickly rolls by unseen.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

(super serious)
Don't you sometimes think Hammerspace is just a metaphor for the existential dread we all feel when faced with the uncertain realities of infinite nothingness?

Mason stops his bike and blinks at her, dumbfounded.

MASON

It's just a cartoon.

Mallory's mouth drops. Her phone comes out. She queues up an episode of the Hammerspace cartoon, featuring its adorable "Hello Kitty meets big-eyed alien" protagonist PUNCHY.

MALLORY

JUST a cartoon? You clearly haven't seen season two episode four in which Punchy throws a party...

She looks up. Mason is already down the road.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

... and nobody shows up.

CUT TO:

Mason rides through town, but a familiar SKATEBOARD rolls out of an alley in front of him, causing him to crash.

INT. BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Wyatt is cornered by much bigger TRAVIS BUNK and his geeky cronies, JAY and MILO. Travis shoves Wyatt against a wall.

TRAVIS

Your review of Guardians of the Galaxy 2 got more retweets than mine. That's a total violation of my cred in the blogosphere.

WYATT

I've been reading those comics for years. It's not my fault you're a bandwagon geek.

Jay and Milo gasp in shock. Travis seethes.

JAY

(to Travis)

You gonna let this little fag get away with besmirching you?

Milo shoves Jay, totally offended.

MILO

Hey! Would you call me a fag?

JAY

I meant fag like loser, not fag like gay. He just happens to be both.

MILO

Then call him a loser. Don't degrade me by insulting him. It's counterproductive.

TRAVIS

(to Jay and Milo)

You guys are ruining my glory!

(to Wyatt)

I got you something to retweet.

He punches Wyatt in the stomach. Wyatt drops to his knees.

MASON (O.C.)

When did geek-on-geek violence become a thing?

They turn to see Mason, holding Wyatt's skateboard.

TRAVIS

Hey look, it's The Fault in Our Stars.

JAY

(sotto, offended)

I like that book.

WYATT

Mason, I got this.

MASON

What are they gonna do, hit a cancer kid?

Travis shoves Mason hard into a wall. Mason drops the board with the wind knocked out of him.

TRAVIS

Why hit you when a gust of wind could knock you over?

The skateboard rolls over to Wyatt, who flips it up and kicks it at Jay and Milo, landing the wheels in their groins.

The bully geeks collapse in pain as Wyatt rolls the board and stomps it just right, slamming it up into Travis' face.

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
 (clutching a nose bleed)
 Aw, man. This is gonna ruin my
 Comic Con makeup! This isn't over!

He scurries out of the alley. Jay and Milo limp after him.

WYATT
 (to Mason)
 I told you I got this.

MASON
 What are you even doing here?

WYATT
 Mom texted me to check on you.

Wyatt tries to help Mason up, but Mason swats him away.

MASON
 I don't need your help. I'm the
 older brother. I'm supposed to be
 checking on you.

WYATT
 You think I like being sent after
 you? You think this is what I want
 my life to be like?

Mason eases himself up, frustrated with his limitations.

MASON
 It won't be an issue much longer.

That stings. Wyatt doesn't want to think about that. Mason
 retrieves his bike, nursing his ego.

MASON (CONT'D)
 I can handle the rink by myself.
 Just go home.

When Mason is gone, a TRASH CAN suddenly falls over. Wyatt
 turns to find Mallory recording it all on her PHONE.

MALLORY
 I caught the whole thing on video.
 I could post it online to expose
 them if you want! You're like a
 real-life hero.

Wyatt watches his brother riding off. Shakes his head.

WYATT
 Heroes can actually save lives.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

Mason rides into an empty parking lot at the edge of town, looking a lot worse for wear. He stops at an abandoned roller rink, overgrown and out of touch with the times.

A VAN pulls up as Mason unlocks the door. Out pops the bookish, inquisitive face of CHET STANLEY, 45.

CHET STANLEY

Oh. Hi, there. Chet Stanley. I'm looking for Ellen Mulligan.

MASON

She couldn't make it. I'm gonna show you around.

CHET STANLEY

Oh, okay. Mind if I take pictures?

INT. ROLLER RINK - MOMENTS LATER

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo of the rink's sound booth. Mason looks around uneasily at the cavernous realm, scattered with remnants of its mid-90s heyday. Haunted by bad memories.

CHET STANLEY

So when was it last operational?

MASON

I think the 90s? We've had it like five years. Never actually skated.

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo of an open tape deck.

CUT TO:

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo of the kitchen's industrial fridge. Mason fiddles nervously with his keys.

CHET STANLEY

Did your father actually reside here? I think your mother mentioned that. He was some sort of cartoonist?

MASON

Something like that.

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo inside a microwave.

CUT TO:

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo of an open bathroom stall. Mason is finding this progressively weirder.

CHET STANLEY

What could have drawn him to this location? Seems weirdly specific.

MASON

Yeah. A lot of things seem weird.

FLASH. Chet snaps a photo of a flushing toilet.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They're walking down an aisle of lockers. Chet's examining random doors as he goes. Mason fumbles and drops his keys.

CHET STANLEY

Your dad ever tell you about any... odd... happenings?

Mason reaches under the lockers, pawing around for the keys. But his hand lands on something else. He pulls out a HAMMER SHAPED KEY, confused by the strange object.

MASON

We didn't talk much.

He pockets it before Chet can see, then grabs his other keys.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

CARTOON SKETCHES pinned everywhere. Like a madman's realm. Mason can barely look at them. But Chet snaps pictures, fully intrigued. Mason is increasingly more uncomfortable.

MASON

(suspicious)

What did you say you were planning to do with this place?

Chet spots an old FAMILY PHOTO, fascinated by something on it. He pulls it down for a better look.

CHET STANLEY

Did he seem... different before he disappeared?

He turns the photo to Mason, revealing that Henry scratched a SMILEY FACE over his own. It's disturbing. Mason takes it.

MASON

I never told you he disappeared.
 (realizing)
 You're not a buyer. What are you,
 another reporter?

Mason drops the photo and pushes Chet out of the office. Chet keeps snapping pictures as he goes.

MASON (CONT'D)

I thought you guys gave up on this
 years ago. There's no story here!
 My dad is dead.

CHET STANLEY

Missing doesn't mean dead! There's
 more going on here than you think!

MASON

Leave us alone!

Mason shoves Chet out the exit. He watches from a window as Chet snaps another photo before getting in his van to leave.

One last look back at his father's office. He's done here.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Mason drags himself inside, exhausted. He face plants on the couch for a nap. Wyatt comes in and turns on the TV. Loudly.

Mason rolls over and grabs ANOTHER REMOTE, turning the TV off. Wyatt turns it back on. LOUDER.

Mason turns it off again and throws a pillow at Wyatt. Wyatt turns it on again and throws the pillow back.

Mason sits up. A momentary standoff. They start throwing anything they can at each other, ducking and diving.

Mason rolls off the couch and nails Wyatt with a pillow. Wyatt retaliates, but Mason dodges, up on his feet. Smiling. Until Wyatt sees Mason is standing on a BLANKET and yanks it.

Mason FLIPS BACKWARDS in the air, hits his head on the TV, and BOUNCES BACK the other direction, landing face-first.

WYATT

Oh shit. Mason!

He runs over to him, horrified at what he's done. But Mason rolls over with an expression of utter shock. He's fine.

MASON

Did I just do a back flip?

Mason sits up. Wyatt checks him for injuries. Nothing.

ELLEN (O.C.)

What is going on in here?

They turn to see their mom gaping at the mess.

MASON

Nothing!

WYATT

Nothing!

Ellen isn't buying it, but it's time to go.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Mason sits in a chair as a NURSE inserts an IV into his PICC line. He's still processing the weirdness in the living room. Almost hopeful. Then he hears his mom and DOCTOR in the hall.

ELLEN (O.C.)

But he's been doing so much better.
He was even on his bike today.

DOCTOR (O.C.)

Sometimes patients get a surge of energy. But the cancer is aggressive. The prognosis hasn't changed. I'd say he'll be lucky to see Halloween this year.

He's still dying. The Nurse pats his arm comfortingly and he tries to act like this isn't a blow, but it is.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Mason comes in to find Wyatt watching cartoons.

MASON

Is mom gone?

WYATT

Yup.

They both smile mischievously.

EXT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Mason and Wyatt stand opposite each other on the back porch.

MASON

Okay. Just not the face.

Wyatt picks up a FRYING PAN, preparing to hit Mason with it. He swings, but Mason chickens out and runs.

When he's safely away, he turns around, only to see Wyatt, standing on the porch, astounded. He drops the frying pan.

Confused, Mason looks down, realizing he's run a good twenty feet off the porch and is now HANGING IN MID-AIR.

As soon as he realizes this, he FALLS.

Landing on the ground, the Hammer Key drops out of his pocket. Wyatt runs up to him, amazed.

WYATT

Dude. You were like, flying!

MASON

More like floating. Until I wasn't.

WYATT

Do it again!

CUT TO:

Mason pumps himself up and runs straight off the porch again. But this time he instantly crashes to the ground. It hurts.

That's when he notices the key in the grass. He picks it up.

MASON

Hit me with the frying pan.

Wyatt grabs the frying pan and hits him. Mason bounces back, unharmed. They both look at the Hammer Key with wonder.

WYATT

What is that? Where'd you get it?

MASON

From Dad.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

Mid-dinner, the family picks at their meals. Everyone's minds occupied. Mason and Wyatt exchange looks, egging each other to initiate a convo. Wyatt kicks Mason into action.

MASON

You know, that guy I showed the rink to was asking a lot of questions about Dad.

ELLEN

I'm so sorry you wasted your time.
(really upset)
I'm sorry I wasted your time.

MASON

No, Mom, it's not that. It's just... I guess I don't really know any of the answers myself.

WYATT

Why did you guys buy that place?

ELLEN

He said it inspired him.

MASON

It's a dump.

ELLEN

You're looking for reason where there isn't any. Henry wasn't well. He struggled. His work just never connected. And when you got...

She trails off, not wanting to go there.

MASON

When I got sick. You can say it.

ELLEN

I know I can say it. But I never want it to sound like it was your fault. It wasn't. It was his fault.
(sighs)
Or maybe it was no one's fault.

Her boys look confused. She tries again.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

The art thing wasn't working out for him. He was helping me with some property sales and went out to the rink to get it in shape for me to show. But when he came back... he was different. He had all these ideas. Said he found his "muse" in there and that we should buy it.

Ellen gets lost in a brief dose of nostalgia.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'd never seen him so excited. So I thought it was worth the investment. In him and in whatever he wanted to make of that place. And for a while, things got better. He came up with Hammerspace and Cosmic Comics bought the rights. Money was coming in.

(nostalgia sours)

But he became obsessive. Reclusive. Turns out the deal he signed was a screw job. So he holed up in that rink. I tried to reach him, to help him. But he was just so unhappy. And then one day he was gone.

She picks up the plates to take to the sink.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Now we're stuck with that useless rink in the middle of a recession.

MASON

Did he mention any odd happenings, you know, before he...?

ELLEN

You'd have to ask Cosmic Comics. Pretty sure they were the last people he spoke to. Right before the restraining order.

A flood of difficult memories washes over her.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I'm exhausted. I think I'm just gonna...

She kisses them each on the head and goes up to her room. Wyatt picks up a Hammerspace comic book, pointing out the Cosmic Comics address. Mason was thinking the same thing.

MASON

You up for a field trip?

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Wyatt's watching the scenery. Mason examines the Hammer Key.

WYATT

Mom's gonna kill us if she finds out we did this.

(looks at the key)

So, I'm thinking it's either magic or alien. Maybe future tech, but that seems unlikely.

MASON

It all seems unlikely.

Wyatt tries to touch the key, but Mason pulls it away.

WYATT

Please don't make me quote Spider-Man. It's beneath me.

MASON

What are you talking about?

WYATT

You need to read more comics.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - SAME

Chet opens a HAMMERSPACE COMIC, comparing an image of Punchy to a series of old etchings, cave drawings, and Egyptian hieroglyphics, all showing similar big-eyed creatures.

He looks up at a wall covered in RESEARCH. Newspaper clippings of strange sightings. Reports of items mysteriously vanishing and reappearing elsewhere.

He ends on Henry Mulligan's photograph. He grabs his phone, feverishly walking the line between brilliant and bonkers.

CHET STANLEY

(into phone)

I'd like to speak with Agent Broder. This is Chet Stanley.

(bored muffled response)

I have pertinent information directly related to his-

(annoyed muffled response)

Yes. I know I'm not-

(annoyed muffled response)

But if you could just let him know that I may have found another-

(angry muffled response)

Yes. Of course he's busy, but-

They've hung up. Chet traces his finger across a world map, pinned with each report, forming a FIBONACCI-STYLE PATTERN. Henry's photo completes it, pinned on the roller rink.

CHET STANLEY (CONT'D)
- I may have finally found one.

EXT. COSMIC COMICS BUILDING - DAY

Mason and Wyatt approach the imposing glass door.

INT. COSMIC COMICS OFFICE - LATER

They've been waiting in reception a long time. FLAT SCREENS play the Hammerspace cartoon and Punchy product commercials, like a new PUNCHY POGO STICK. Mason is in Hell.

RECEPTIONIST
Ms. Mathers will see you now.

INT. VELMA MATHERS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The boys enter a vast, perfectly curated corner office with floor to ceiling windows and a statuesque woman in high end corporate attire, VELMA MATHERS, 58. She smiles tightly.

VELMA MATHERS
I don't usually see unscheduled visitors, but Henry Mulligan's boys? Call me intrigued. I'm Velma Mathers, CEO of Cosmic Comics.

MASON
Mason. And this is Wyatt.

VELMA MATHERS
I can see the resemblance. Now, what has brought you all the way to the city just to see me?

MASON
I want you to tell me about your dealings with my father.

Velma looks uncomfortable, perhaps defensive. She gets up and struts to the window, looking out over the city.

VELMA MATHERS
Can you be more specific?

WYATT

Why did you get a restraining order?

Velma cocks her head, considering how to reply. She walks over to a wall of featured comics properties, pausing at a promotional poster of Hammerspace. She straightens it.

VELMA MATHERS

At Cosmic Comics, we value our content creators. We kept Henry in the loop after securing the rights to Hammerspace because we thought he would be an asset. But Henry became... irrational. He refused to collaborate. Wouldn't make necessary creative adjustments because he said, "that's not how it is." As if Hammerspace is a real thing.

WYATT

Is that why you shut him out? Cause he was losing it?

Velma sits behind her imposing desk, crossing her arms.

VELMA MATHERS

The last time I saw Henry, he pulled out a sledgehammer and smashed every piece of Hammerspace memorabilia on the premises. I don't even know where he got that weapon. But he was obviously unstable. Security removed him, I had our lawyers void his contract, and enacted a restraining order against him. For the good of the brand.

MASON

And his vision for Hammerspace wasn't for the good of the brand?

VELMA MATHERS

Creative differences are not uncommon in these situations. It's just the nature of our business.

WYATT

Your business is screwing over troubled artists?

Velma stands up, politely having enough of this.

VELMA MATHERS

Violently delusional artist. And no. He did that to himself.

(she opens the door)

Please feel free to grab a Punchy Pogo Stick on your way out.

INT. COSMIC COMICS - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Wyatt did, indeed, take a Punchy Pogo Stick. Mason is angry.

MASON

I can't believe you took that.

WYATT

I can't believe you have a magic power key. Life is unpredictable.

Mason glares at Wyatt, then turns right into the closed glass exit door... AND CRASHES RIGHT THROUGH IT.

Mason stops on the other side, uninjured. He looks back to see a hole in the glass in the EXACT OUTLINE OF HIS BODY.

Wyatt stands on the other side, examining the clean cut.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Curiouser and curiouser.

SECURITY shouts at them. Wyatt slips through the hole and hops on his pogo stick, bouncing away. Mason follows.

INT. MASON'S ROOM - MORNING

Mason is sleeping soundly. Until Wyatt creeps in and sets Mason's iPod speakers super loud. He hits play. SONIC BOOM.

The shock causes Mason to shoot up out of bed, into the air, slamming against the ceiling, before crashing down to bed.

Wyatt turns the iPod off and touches the Hammer Key, now hanging from a string around Mason's neck.

WYATT

We really need to properly test your powers.

Mason snatches the key away and hides it under his shirt.

MASON

GET OUT!

Ellen comes in to wrangle Wyatt. Mason looks worn out.

ELLEN

Wyatt, don't bother your brother.
(to Mason, concerned)
Are you okay?

MASON

I hate that question.

ELLEN

I'm driving Wyatt to school. I'll
try to check in on you between
meetings. Breakfast is on the
table. You have to eat.
(Wyatt silently warns
Mason against it)
I want you to take it easy today,
okay?

She kisses his forehead and heads out. Wyatt follows, but
pauses at the door, thoughtfully.

WYATT

What do you think it's a key to?

He hears the car start outside. She's leaving without him.
Again. He runs out the door.

Mason waits for the front door to close before rushing
through his morning pill routine.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

Mason's bike is propped up against the wall.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Mason searches the aisle where he found the key, but the
lockers all have orange "lock and take" keys on them.

He crouches to look under the lockers again, spotting a track
of disturbed dust where something slid from the other side.

Mason walks around until he's directly across from LOCKER 17.
Unlike the other lockers, this one has a STRANGE KEY HOLE. He
pulls out the Hammer Key and it begins to GLOW AND SHAKE,
pulling towards the lock.

The key clicks into place. A BRIGHT LIGHT illuminates from
within the locker. Mason tentatively turns the key.

Locker 17 swings open in a burst of light. The locker seems to warp and expand like a portal.

Mason stares into it, almost emotional. Like this is the tunnel of light at the end of his life. He reaches up and takes his own pulse. Still alive. This is real.

He steps closer. But before he can get a good look, SOMETHING JUMPS OUT, knocking him over and slamming the door shut.

When he regains his bearings, Mason hears MUSIC playing in the rink. He puts the Hammer Key around his neck again.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

A late 80s/early 90s jam is blaring over the sound system.

In the dim light from outside, Mason can just make out the child-sized shape of SOMETHING moving around in the rink.

VOICE

Everything is so messed up over there. I thought you'd never open that door again.

Mason grabs AN OLD SKATE to arm himself as he slowly circles the rink, trying to get a better look.

VOICE (CONT'D)

I missed my jams!

Mason keeps his eyes on the dark, dancing silhouette.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Are you even listening to me?
(beat)
Henry! Don't be a grump!

Mason throws the light switch. The rink explodes with colorful lights, illuminating the talking creature.

Mason's mouth drops. The creature freezes. If Hello-Kitty were bred with an alien, this would be the result.

About three feet tall, pure white with obsidian eyes and lashes in a round featureless head, it has a pair of lumps that look sort of like ears, mitten-style hands, and is wearing tube top overalls with a large pocket on the front.

If Mason didn't know better, he'd think this is a living, breathing 3D version of Henry's Hammerspace character PUNCHY. But Mason tries to convince himself that he knows better.

MASON

(to himself)

Okay. Okay. I'm dying.

(steps into the rink)

That was the tunnel of light. But I didn't go in.

(moves closer)

So I'm alive. For now.

(closer still)

And I'm hallucinating. Because this isn't real. That's not real. That can't be -

He pokes Punchy. She's squishy. And real.

MASON (CONT'D)

Punchy?

Scared, she hits him in the gut, causing him to drop the skate and hunch over so she can upper cut his face, sending him flipping over in exaggerated fashion.

When he lands, Punchy is on him, searching his body and inadvertently tickling him until she finds the Hammer Key tied around his neck. She gasps. Her eyes narrow.

PUNCHY

Where did you get this? How did you know my name? Where is the Land Lord?

Mason freaks out and tosses her off him, squirming backwards against the rink wall.

Punchy lands on her squishy, tube-like feet, bouncing backwards and crashing hard onto the rink floor, bonking her head. She sits up, rubbing her head where it's hurt.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

(weirdly happy about it)

Ow! Consequence.

(gets up and comes closer)

Do it again!

MASON

Stay away!

(Punchy pauses)

What are you? What is this?

PUNCHY

My questions first.

MASON

I... I found the key in the locker room. I know your name because you're a cartoon.

PUNCHY

I'm a Tewn.

MASON

That's what I said.

PUNCHY

No you didn't.

MASON

A toon.

PUNCHY

Tewn.

MASON

Toooooooooooooon.

PUNCHY

Tewwwwwwwwwwn.

MASON

T-O-O-N.

PUNCHY

T-E-W-N.

(blank stares exchanged)

I don't know what a TOON is, but it sounds stupid and I'm not one. Now where is the Land Lord?

MASON

Who's the Land Lord?

PUNCHY

Henry. The Land Lord. The Ruler of Human Space!

MASON

Human Space?

PUNCHY

This universe.

Mason just blinks at her, not computing. Punchy bounces up onto the rink wall to get a good look at his head.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
Maybe I hit you too hard. I've
never met a small human before.

Punchy is examining his head. Mason is still processing.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
(noticing the green hair)
Did I do this? Are you leaking?

MASON
(realizing)
My father wasn't insane.

PUNCHY
Who's your father?

MASON
Henry.

PUNCHY
The Land Lord?

MASON
If you say so.

Mason stands up. They circle each other suspiciously.

MASON (CONT'D)
How did he make you?

PUNCHY
He didn't make me.

MASON
He drew you. And now you're here.

PUNCHY
No. I was here, and then he drew
me. A lot rounder than I am I might
add. He's not very good.

MASON
Then where do you come from?

PUNCHY
Hammerspace.

MASON
The cartoon?

PUNCHY
Again with this word. I don't know
what that is!

(MORE)

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

I came from Hammerspace. It's another dimension. Connected to Human Space through that metal chamber.

She points back towards the locker room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason runs in and stands in front of Locker 17 again. The Hammer Key is being pulled towards it.

Punchy bounces in, smacking the Hammer Key out of his hand.

PUNCHY

Where is the Land Lord?

MASON

(retrieving the key)

He went missing. Was declared dead.

PUNCHY

(in whispered awe)

The ultimate consequence.

MASON

What?

PUNCHY

Then you are the Land Lord now.

MASON

What does that even mean?

PUNCHY

You are the ruler of Human Space.

Mason looks down at this bizarre creature inexplicably standing there talking to him saying these things. And he suddenly bursts out laughing. He sits on a bench.

MASON

I'm not even the ruler of my own space.

PUNCHY

Then who rules this world? There are no other humans here.

MASON

This is an abandoned roller rink. "Human Space" is an entire planet filled with people.

Punchy gasps in shock and amazement.

PUNCHY
There's... more?

MASON
Have you never looked out the window?

PUNCHY
It's just an empty lot. Henry said it's where The Misery lives. And if we go out there, it will get us.

MASON
Misery can reach you anywhere.

Punchy is suddenly scared. Mason gets up and holds the Hammer Key out to the lock, it's involuntarily pulled in again. Punchy shoves him away from the door again.

PUNCHY
DON'T OPEN THAT!

Mason stares at the locker, now lit up from within. He's nervous. Afraid of what the other side might hold.

MASON
What if he went through there?

PUNCHY
If a human were living in Hammerspace, I would know.

She pulls the key out of Locker 17. It goes dark again.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
We should never open that again. It's better here. I'm staying. In fact, maybe we should just open it real quick and throw the key through so it closes forever.

MASON
Why?

PUNCHY
(duh)
The lock is only on this side.

Mason is really struggling to keep up with her logic.

MASON
How is this even possible?

PUNCHY

I dunno. One day I was cleaning my room and found this locked door that wasn't there before. I couldn't open it since I didn't paint it there. So I sat and watched it. And watched it. And watched it. And then it opened and there was Human Space and Henry and this wonderful new feeling.

She intentionally slams her hand in another locker door, hurting herself. But she smiles up at Mason.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

(happily)
Consequence!

MASON

Great. A cartoon cutter.

PUNCHY

I got cut once. And I did something called bleeding! It was amazing!

MASON

(unnerved)
You don't bleed in Hammerspace?

PUNCHY

Have you bled since you got the Hammer Key?

MASON

(realizing)
No.

He grabs the key from her, examining it once more.

PUNCHY

Let's get rid of it!

Mason swats her away, keeping the key and letting all of this insanity wash over him. His phone RINGS. It's Ellen.

MASON

(into phone)
Hello?

ELLEN (O.S.)

Mason! Where are you? I told you to take it easy today. I'm worried about you.

Punchy climbs to the top of the lockers, jumps off, bounces off her feet, and slams her head into the other side. She lands on her butt, dazed, hurt, and smiling excitedly.

MASON

I am too.

ELLEN (O.S.)

What? Why? Where are you? I'll pick you up.

Realizing she'd see Punchy, Mason snaps out of it.

MASON

NO! No. I mean, I'm on my way.

He hangs up. Punchy looks at his phone, curiously.

PUNCHY

Who were you talking to? Henry had one of those but it just made noise and then he'd turn it off.

Mason looks at Punchy, looks at Locker 17, looks at the Hammer Key, and then calmly walks out the door.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

Mason shuts down the music, then the lights. Punchy is following after him, confused.

PUNCHY

My jams! Where are you going?

MASON

Home.

Punchy bounces up to a window, looking out to the empty lot.

PUNCHY

(scared)
Into The More?

MASON

Yup. Bye.

Mason goes outside. Punchy watches with bated breath. When she sees no "Misery" coming to get him, she emboldens.

She rushes to the door, but looks down at herself, realizing she's pretty conspicuous. She bounces over to the skate rental desk, ducking behind it to find the LOST AND FOUND.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

Mason gets on his bike, but pauses to compose himself. That was a lot to take in. His world is different now. And he's not necessarily okay with that.

As he rides away, the roller rink door opens. Punchy, hidden beneath a flannel, Hyper Color tee, novelty sunglasses, and a Rasta hat with fake dreads, cautiously steps out.

When she realizes no "Misery" is coming to get her, she pauses to compose herself. This is a lot to take in. Her world is different now. And she's totally okay with that.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - LATER

Ellen is multitasking as usual. But she's more frantic this time. She burns dinner. Of course. Into the disposal. It GRINDS, CLUNKS, and stalls out. She hangs her head, defeated.

Mason comes in, looking shell-shocked and exhausted. Ellen composes herself, then touches his face with concern.

ELLEN

You feel warm. Where have you been?

MASON

Discovering new worlds.

He looks so sincere, Ellen forms a genuine smile.

ELLEN

You are stuck in this house a lot.
Go lie down for a bit. Dinner... is
gonna need a reboot.

Mason shuffles up the stairs. Ellen takes a deep breath and opens the fridge, looking for options.

Behind her, the front door opens and closes. Punchy walks in, still wearing her 90s era disguise. She's in awe of everything she sees. Touching everything. Making a racket.

Ellen grabs too many ingredients. A jar slips, spilling sauce on the floor. The paper towel roll is empty.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(without looking)

Wyatt, can you go to the basement
and grab me some paper towels?

Punchy freezes, staring at this new human being, uncertain.

MASON (O.S.)
 Mom, where's the rubbing alcohol?

ELLEN
 In the bathroom. Under the sink.
 Where it always is.

Recognizing Mason's voice, Punchy bounces up the stairs.

Ellen steps over the mess to put the food on the counter. The front door opens again and Wyatt actually enters. Ellen looks up, seeing that Wyatt is empty handed.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
 Are paper towels really too much to ask for?

WYATT
 Huh?

INT. MASON'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason walks in from the bathroom, wiping his PICC line down with alcohol. Punchy is sitting on his bed, fiddling with his iPod. He doesn't notice her until the music BLARES.

He's startled right up into the ceiling again. He crashes down and crawls up to the bed, peering over at Punchy.

PUNCHY
 I hate when that happens. And these are not my jams.

He kicks the door shut, then grabs the iPod from Punchy.

MASON
 (urgent whisper)
 What are you doing here?

Punchy hops off the bed and explores the room, examining anything she can get her hands on.

PUNCHY
 Exploring The More!

Mason follows her, taking things away and putting them back.

MASON
 How did you get here? Why are you following me?
 (seeing her outfit)
 What are you wearing?

PUNCHY

A small human disguise.

She opens a drawer and finds a MAXIM MAGAZINE. She cocks her head at the sexy pictures.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

What do you do with this?

Mason snags it and shoves it back in the drawer.

MASON

In Human Space we have a thing called personal boundaries.

PUNCHY

In Hammerspace we have a thing called boundless personalities!
(thinks for a beat)
Those aren't the same, are they?

MASON

My mom is going to freak out if she sees you.

PUNCHY

Is that the human downstairs with the sad eyes and clumsy hands?

Mason flops down on the bed, at his wit's end.

MASON

I'm gonna need a straight jacket.

PUNCHY

So pull one.

MASON

It's a figure of speech. Obviously I don't have a straight jacket.

PUNCHY

(motions reaching behind her back)
Then pull it.

MASON

You think I can just pull a straight jacket out of my ass?

PUNCHY

Well, it doesn't have to be from there, but if that's where you want to reach, I'm sure it'll work.

Mason sits up, looking at her.

MASON
You're serious?

PUNCHY
(reaching into her pocket)
Why do you think I have this stupid
thing on my belly?

Mason expects something to pull out, but she's empty handed.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
What? I can only put things into it
on this side of the door. You're
the one with the Hammer Key. Pull
something.

Mason looks at the key. He stands up and concentrates. He reaches behind his back. It looks like the fabric of the universe warps as he digs around and POP! He yanks out... a DVD. It's STRAIT JACKET, an old Joan Crawford flick.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
(shrugs)
It takes some practice.

MASON
(still utterly amazed)
Just like cartoons. All of these
powers. It's like I'm a cartoon!

PUNCHY
Would you quit it with that word?

MASON
You have no idea, do you?

CUT TO:

An episode of Hammerspace in which a CARTOON PUNCHY bounces around doing ridiculous things in a strange, colorful world.

CARTOON PUNCHY
Punchy Power!

Pull back to see the real Punchy's eyes wide in horror. She reaches her mitten-like hand out and turns it off. She's clutching COMICS with her likeness in the other hand.

PUNCHY
This is the most offensive,
degrading representation of my
species I have ever seen.
(MORE)

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

And I don't sound like that. Do I sound like that? I'm so annoying. I want to punch me. And everyone else. With my hands. These are HANDS! They are not MITTENS! They don't come off! It's basic biology!
(she turns on Mason)
Are there more of these cartoons?

MASON

Six seasons and hundreds of comic books. And that's just Hammerspace. There's thousands of similar ones.

Punchy boils into a rage. She tears up the comic books and punches the DVD set until it shatters and cuts her hands. She bleeds ORANGE. Mason is taken aback. By all of it.

PUNCHY

(looking at the blood)
I'm so angry I can't even enjoy this consequence.

MASON

Wow. You hate them as much as I do.

PUNCHY

He lied to me. He used me. He exploited me. I've never felt so violated. So dirty. So...

MASON

Disposable? Henry was good at that.

Punchy and Mason share a moment. It turns out Henry wasn't the man either one of them thought he was.

The door suddenly opens and Wyatt busts in.

WYATT

Mom says dinner's ready. Though I'm not sure ingestion is what it's ready for.

He sees his destroyed Hammerspace stuff and shoves Mason.

WYATT (CONT'D)

You asshole!

Wyatt crouches down to collect the remains of his stuff. He looks up and sees Punchy sitting there, motionless.

WYATT (CONT'D)
 You ruin my Hammerspace stuff, but
 you buy a Punchy doll?

PUNCHY
 THEY MAKE DOLLS OF ME TOO?!

Wyatt falls backwards, shuffling up against the closed door.

WYATT
 (to Mason)
 What is that? WHAT IS THAT?!

MASON
 Shut up! Mom will come in here!

Punchy rolls her eyes and calmly walks over to Wyatt,
 examining yet another new human. She holds up the comics.

PUNCHY
 Do you own this defamatory horror?

WYATT
 Y-yes.

She slaps him.

PUNCHY
 Stop it.

She returns to Mason. Wyatt, slapped out of his shock, crawls
 closer, becoming more and more intrigued.

WYATT
 (to Mason)
 Is... is this about the key?

MASON
 It opens a door to another
 universe. Turns out dad ripped the
 entire concept of Hammerspace. And
 now I have cartoon powers.

PUNCHY
 TEWWWWN powers!

WYATT
 (putting it together)
 Parallel dimensions. Like Counter-
 Earth or Otherplace or The Larval
 Universe. Pylea! Oz! Narnia!

PUNCHY
 (to Mason)
 Are those words?

WYATT
 (excitedly)
 It's multiverse theory! It's a staple of comic books and sci-fi and fantasy. If something can happen, then there is a parallel universe in which it does. Like cartoon physics!

PUNCHY
 You're annoying.

WYATT
 You're amazing!

The door opens and Ellen peeks her head in. POP!

ELLEN
 You're letting dinner get cold.
 Don't make me eat alone.

She notices something out of the ordinary behind them.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
 (weirdly moved)
 Is that a Halloween costume? I...
 dinner. Let's have dinner.

She heads downstairs. Wyatt turns to see Mason holding a REAL STRAIGHT JACKET. Punchy's head pops out from inside.

WYATT
 Where did that come from?

EXT. ROLLER RINK - NIGHT

Chet's van rolls into the abandoned lot. He gets out, eyeing the roller rink to make sure no one is there.

He slides the van's door open to reveal A LOT OF HIGH TECH EQUIPMENT. This is not something a reporter would have.

CHET STANLEY
 (mimicking detractors)
 It's not possible, Chet. You need evidence, Chet. Cartoon alien dimensions don't exist, Chet.

He grabs a couple STRANGE DIGITAL METERS and plants them in the weeds all around the perimeter of the building.

CHET STANLEY (CONT'D)
 Stop talking to yourself, Chet.
 You're not crazy, Chet.
 (annoyed with himself)
 Seriously, stop it.

Back at the van, he checks to make sure he's receiving readings. Satisfied, he shuts the door and drives away, not noticing the DARK-SUITED AGENTS WATCHING HIM FROM AFAR.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - MORNING

Mason tiptoes down the stairs, looking around to make sure Ellen is gone. Punchy pushes past him.

PUNCHY
 I stayed in your smelly closet all night and ate your table scraps. I'd like to reestablish my independence, please and now.

WYATT (O.C.)
 Join the club.

Mason jumps. Wyatt is eating cereal in front of the TV.

MASON
 Aren't you supposed to be in school?

WYATT
 Isn't mom supposed to drive me?

Punchy starts ransacking the kitchen.

MASON
 She left without you?

WYATT
 Again.
 (jumps up)
 But who cares? There's an entire universe in a roller rink locker!

PUNCHY
 (mouth full of food)
 It's not actually IN the locker;
 It's THROUGH the locker. And it's kinda lousy. The key gives you the good stuff right here.

WYATT

She's right! Mason, you have to do something with this. You're a sickly, bullied teenager who found an object that grants you fantastic powers. This is textbook origin story stuff! You're a -

MASON

- Please don't say superhero.

WYATT

Screw superheroes. Let's get wicked!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

School is letting out. Mason, Wyatt, and Punchy (in her 90s gear again) peek around a corner. Mason is nervous.

MASON

I told you to stay in the closet.

WYATT

A little late for that.

MASON

Not you. Her!

PUNCHY

I'm wearing human clothes. I blend.

That's debatable. They spy Travis, lording over his disciples, Jay and Milo, in a courtyard. He's gesturing with a TOY SONIC SCREWDRIVER ala Doctor Who. It's dramatic.

WYATT

Okay. So it looks like they're knee deep in their daily debate over which Doctor Who was the best. The answer is David Tennant, but Travis insists on being contrary.

PUNCHY

(whispers to Mason)

If that's another cartoon, I'm gonna punch him.

WYATT

I'll go over there and rile them up. Then they'll chase me back here, and that's when you do it.

MASON

Do what?

WYATT

(gesturing cartoonishly)

Zing. Wham. POW!

(off their confusion)

Let's just call it comic relief.

Mason and Punchy watch as Wyatt rolls over on his skateboard. They can't hear what he's saying as he circles the bullies, but clearly it's offending their geeky sensibilities.

Travis shoves Wyatt off his board, but Wyatt bounces back up, snatches Travis' sonic screwdriver, and hops on his board.

Mason and Punchy duck behind the wall, neither knowing exactly what's about to happen. Mason reaches behind his back for something. We don't see it. POP!

WYATT (CONT'D)

(speeding around the wall)

Do it. Do it. Do it. Do it. Do it!

Travis, Jay, and Milo come tearing around the corner and stop abruptly when they see Wyatt, confused and alone, aiming the sonic screwdriver at them. Travis scoffs.

TRAVIS

You think I'm afraid of a toy?

Wyatt notices a PAINT CAN and THE SLOPPY IMAGE OF A DOOR PAINTED ON THE WALL where Mason and Punchy had just been.

Wyatt pushes the screwdriver button, it lights up with noise.

JAY

He's kidding, right?

MILO

Like we don't have them too.

They pull out their own SONIC SCREWDRIVERS. It's a really lame stand off with no consequences.

TRAVIS

You guys are so embarrassing.

The painted door opens behind them, swinging part of the wall with it. Mason steps out unseen. Punchy peeks her head out too, motioning for Mason to pull something.

Mason reaches behind his back and POP! He pulls out what look like TWO BLACK CIRCLES. He places them on the ground behind Jay and Milo, then ducks back through the door.

Wyatt sees this and flips his board up the same way he did in their last encounter. Jay and Milo flinch, stepping back and falling through what we now realize are actual black holes.

They disappear and the holes close up behind them.

INT. GIRLS BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Two matching holes are on the ceiling above a pair of stalls. Jay and Milo fall out of the ceiling, splashing into toilets.

Mason and Punchy exit the wall door just as some GIRLS enter.

Jay and Milo step out of the stalls, soaked in toilet water and horribly confused. The girls freak out. Jay and Milo run for the door that Mason left behind, only to run smack dab into the wall it's painted on.

The girls stand over them, considering what to do.

Mallory comes out of the next stall, totally confused.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Mason and Punchy stand where Jay and Milo used to be.

TRAVIS
(to "Jay and Milo")
You guys grab this nerf herder.

When nothing happens, he turns to see his friends have been replaced by Mason, and a short, strangely dressed "kid."

TRAVIS (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?

MASON
Comic relief.

Wyatt pulls Travis's pants down, revealing SUPERMAN BRIEFS.

Jay and Milo run out of the school, faces covered in words like "perv," "loser," and "creepo" in makeup and markers.

They spot Travis and he spots them, stunned by their mutual embarrassing states. Travis pulls his pants mostly up, angry.

TRAVIS
 (to Mason)
 You're dead, sick boy.

MASON
 Not quite yet.

Travis runs after Mason, who ducks behind a tree, only to seemingly disappear. POP! His head pops out from behind another tree nearby and taunts him.

Confused, Travis runs that way, but Mason pops out from behind another tree. Travis gets infuriated.

This time he can see Mason's legs sticking out from behind a tree on the right. He runs up to give him a swift kick, but Mason's head and torso pop out from behind a tree on his left, grabbing Travis' exposed briefs for a wedgie.

The others watch in amazement. Then Milo and Jay slowly turn toward Punchy, a strange looking "kid." She looks up at them.

PUNCHY
 You like cartoons, don't you?

They nod, slowly and silently. She hits them in the nuts.

Mason lets go of Travis and steps out from behind the tree. Travis tries to recover, crawling away, scared and confused.

TRAVIS
 How are you doing this?

MASON
 C'mon Travis. You read enough comics to figure it out.

TRAVIS
 That shit's not real.

MASON
 It was real enough to harass my brother about it.

TRAVIS
 (to Jay and Milo)
 Are you guys just gonna stand there? Avenge your fallen leader!

Jay and Milo are recovering from Punchy's punches.

MILO
 I'm a firm believer in not engaging with that which I don't understand.

JAY

I fell into a girl's toilet.

They back away toward the painted door, tripping over the paint bucket and spilling it all over themselves.

Mason and Wyatt close in on Travis, who double takes Punchy.

TRAVIS

Who... what is that?

MASON

Don't stare. She has a condition.

PUNCHY

What color is your blood? Mine's orange.

Travis scoots away from her, totally creeped out.

MASON

Tell Wyatt you're sorry.

TRAVIS

I-I'm sorry.

MASON

Tell him he's the king of the geeks.

TRAVIS

Y-you're the king of the geeks.

MASON

Now tell him who the best Doctor Who is.

TRAVIS

It-it's... David Tennant.

WYATT

Damn straight it's David Tennant.

POP! Mason pulls a PAINT BRUSH from behind his back, slapping it into Travis' hand. Mallory comes out of the school just as Mason and Punchy hop on his bike and Wyatt grabs his board.

MALLORY

(to Wyatt)

Did you see Jay and Milo come out of the girls' bathroom? What are you guys doing out here?

(noticing Punchy)

Who's that?

WYATT
Not now Mallory.

MALLORY
But-

The boys ride off in a hurry, leaving Mallory to stew in her stifled attempts at friendship.

TEACHER (O.C.)
Mr. Bunk! Care to explain this?

Behind Mallory, Travis, still shell shocked, turns to see an ANGRY TEACHER throwing accusatory glares at the three bullies covered in paint next to a wall defaced with a fake door.

INT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

Another 90s Hip-Hop jam blasts on the sound system. Punchy does a little dance on roller skates. Wyatt's amused. He hops off his board to join her in the celebratory choreography.

Mason rests behind the guardrail, watching with a smirk.

MASON
Think they'll tell anyone?

WYATT
Who would believe them?

Mason looks at the key, cocking an eyebrow. He has a point.

MASON
You know Mallory likes you, right?

WYATT
She seems to be delusional about a lot of things. Including me.

Wyatt rolls over and reaches out to touch the Hammer Key.

WYATT (CONT'D)
Can I try it?

Mason instinctively tucks it back in his shirt. Protective.

MASON
I think we used it enough today.

Punchy notices this action, but goes on with her routine.

WYATT

Sorry. Forgot the "Land Lord" is the only one who can use it.

MASON

Don't call me that.

WYATT

How about Land Lord Jr.?

Wyatt rolls back over to rejoin Punchy.

WYATT (CONT'D)

I can't believe Dad kept this all to himself. Do you think he looked like Gollum at the end?

(to Mason)

Do you think you'll look like Gollum too?

MASON

I'm nothing like him.

Punchy loses control of her skates and crashes into the guardrail right below Mason, smacking her head hard. It hurts, so she smiles. Mason looks down at her.

MASON (CONT'D)

Your jams are dated.

PUNCHY

You haven't even heard my favorite ones. Henry took them away because one made him sad. But he's gone now, so I get them back!

She bounces out of her skates and across the rink towards Henry's old office. Wyatt watches her go, then eyes the key.

WYATT

(to Mason, off the key)

If you do go crazy, can I have it?

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Punchy bounces in, rummaging around, looking for her jams. She scowls at some sketches of herself before finding a CD in a drawer beneath them, smiling big.

As she turns to leave, her squishy foot brushes against a PHOTOGRAPH fallen to the floor. It's the one of the Mulligan family, with Henry's face scratched out with a smiley face.

Punchy picks it up, disturbed by the image. Hand shaking. She looks at the rest of the drawings, noticing for the first time a progression of these over-exuberant added smiles.

Her face floods with recognition, fear, and regret.

PUNCHY

The Grinz.

She quickly hides the photo in her pocket.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - LATER

Mason and Wyatt walk in to find a spotless house and Ellen calmly preparing final details of a meal. It's suspicious.

Punchy wanders in behind them as if she owns the place. The boys motion for her to go upstairs, but she jokingly makes a silent scene behind Ellen's back.

Mason finally lifts and spikes Punchy, her squishy legs bouncing her upstairs just before Ellen turns to see them.

ELLEN

It's so nice to see you two spending time together. What have you been up to this afternoon?

Mason and Wyatt ease into their seats skeptically. Ellen's demeanor is eerily calm. Like she's overcompensating.

MASON

Not much. But you've been busy.

ELLEN

I just thought it would be nice to have a clean house and dinner you don't have to pretend to like.

She smiles, but her eyes betray an impending emotional break.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I want you both to know that it's going to be okay. Everything will be fine. But I lost my job today and I have to put the house on the market.

WYATT

We're moving?

MASON

What happened?

ELLEN
Just cut backs. You know?

WYATT
We're moving?

MASON
Are you okay?

Ellen looks at him like no one has asked her that in years.

ELLEN
You hate that question.

She smiles sadly and wipes a stray tear, keeping it together.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
I'll find another job. But we just can't afford this place. Not with our other expenses.

MASON
You mean my expenses.

ELLEN
No. Well, yes. But this is okay. I'll find a job with better health coverage. It'll be better for us.

WYATT
I don't want to move.

MASON
But my expenses will end soon.

Ellen slams the table with her hands.

ELLEN
DON'T SAY THAT! Stop saying that!

Ellen stands and clears the plates that haven't been eaten.

WYATT
What about the royalties? From Dad.

Ellen drops the plates in the sink, taking a breath.

ELLEN
They ended years ago. Your father wasn't exactly a master negotiator.

WYATT
But Hammerspace is huge!

ELLEN

And Cosmic Comics owns it. Not us.
I'm sorry sweetie. It's best we all
put that stupid cartoon behind us.

WYATT

But it's not just a cartoon! It's -

Mason kicks Wyatt under the table to shut him up. Wyatt
throws him an accusatory glare, like this is all his fault.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Fine. Whatever.

He storms upstairs, door SLAMMING behind him. Ellen stares
after him, feeling like a failure. Mason goes to the sink and
picks up a piece of uneaten food. He tentatively tastes it.

MASON

(it's awful)
That's... good.

Ellen's emotions break into laughter. She touches his face.

ELLEN

I'll order pizza.

INT. MASON'S ROOM - LATER

Mason comes into his room, hands a slice of pizza to Punchy
and lays down on his bed, exhausted. She peeks over his bed
as she eats, finally noticing the PICC line in his arm.

PUNCHY

Is that a consequence?

Mason pulls his sleeve down self-consciously.

MASON

What is it with you and your
consequences, anyway? Getting hurt
isn't a good thing.

PUNCHY

But if you've never been hurt, you
wouldn't know the difference.
Opposites provide meaning.

MASON

So you come here looking for
meaning?

Punchy bounces onto the bed, causing Mason to cartoonishly bounce off and crash to the floor.

PUNCHY

Did you really appreciate not falling off the bed before you did?

MASON

You don't have to give examples!

Punchy picks at her pizza, sadly contemplating.

PUNCHY

There's no pain in Hammerspace. No consequences to actions. It's just never ending happiness.

MASON

And that's bad?

PUNCHY

(getting worked up)

It's oppressive! Most Tewns don't think about it. Most Tewns don't think about anything. I didn't either. Until I came here. Then I found danger and pain and fear! Everything I do has meaning here. All because there are consequences.

MASON

But if there are no consequences in Hammerspace, does that mean you don't die there?

PUNCHY

(whispers reverently)

The ultimate consequence.

(back to normal)

I've never seen it happen. Every day just blends into the next.

MASON

Do you get sick?

PUNCHY

What's "sick"?

MASON

I'm sick.

PUNCHY

Is that why your hair is green?

Mason glances over at the mirror above his dresser. It's surrounded by the hospital band collage he's made. He runs his fingers through his green streak, revealing white roots.

MASON

After the first round of chemo, it grew back white. I felt like a freak.

PUNCHY

And green makes you feel normal?

MASON

Green. Blue. Red. Whatever I feel like. Because I can.

Punchy climbs up on the bed and examines him closely.

PUNCHY

What is sick doing to you?

MASON

It's killing me. It came back. And it's everywhere now.

(getting emotional)

You talk about the "ultimate consequence" like it's something special. But it's something awful. And it's ruining my family.

PUNCHY

They have the sick too?

MASON

It spreads in all sorts ways you don't expect.

PUNCHY

Can you stop the sick from spreading to them?

MASON

Not unless I can pull a wad of money out of my ass.

PUNCHY

Why must you always pull from there?

Mason suddenly sits up, grabbing the Hammer Key.

MASON

Wait. I can just pull the money!

PUNCHY

But where would it come from?

MASON

What do you mean? From Hammerspace.
Like everything else.

PUNCHY

Oh you're not pulling anything from
Hammerspace. Everything you pull,
you're pulling from someplace here.

MASON

What do you mean?

PUNCHY

In Hammerspace, pulling is part of
the fabric of reality. But here, it
has to come from somewhere real.

MASON

So, I've been stealing stuff?!

PUNCHY

Is that not okay?

MASON

Taking things that don't belong to
you is wrong.

He spies the leftover pieces of Wyatt's torn up comic books
on the floor. The Cosmic Comics logo pops out at him.

MASON (CONT'D)

Unless you're just taking back
what's owed to you.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Mason and Wyatt sit next to Punchy, back in her 90s era
disguise, glued to the window, watching Human Space roll by.

WYATT

(to Mason)

The longer you're kicking around,
the less you fear Mom killing us.

MASON

(re: Punchy)

I'm more concerned that she won't
stay hidden. She looks ridiculous.

They pass a HAMMERSPACE BILLBOARD reading, "Punchy Power!"

PUNCHY

I would never say something so stupid. What does that even mean?

A LITTLE KID stares at Punchy, clearly recognizing something familiar beneath the disguise. He pulls his FATHER'S sleeve.

LITTLE KID

Daddy. Daddy! It's Punchy.

KID'S FATHER

Yeah, yeah. I saw.

LITTLE KID

(pointing at Punchy)

No. Daddy. Right there. In the weird clothes.

The kid's Father grabs his arm and pulls it down.

KID'S FATHER

It's rude to point. You have no idea why that person looks that way.

Punchy sees the look of awe and love on the kid's face. And the unfair confusion. They both know he's right.

MASON

(to kid's Father)

She has a condition.

PUNCHY

(whispering to the kid)

Yeah. It's called Punchy Power.

The kid's face lights up. The train stops and his father drags him off at their stop, smiling the whole way. Punchy can't help but smile too. Mason and Wyatt stare.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

(defensively)

You're getting to pull all the fun stuff! I can't pull a smile?

EXT. COSMIC COMICS BUILDING - NIGHT

Punchy is enthusiastically running around the street, touching and exploring everything and everyone. Mason and Wyatt desperately hustle to keep her incognito.

They stop outside Cosmic Comics, closed for the night.

WYATT

You're really taking this "let's get wicked" thing seriously.

MASON

I prefer the term "comic relief."

Mason pulls on an IRON MAN mask. Wyatt, a STAR LORD mask. Punchy pulls on a "Punchy" mask. It looks ridiculous.

INT. COSMIC COMICS BUILDING - NIGHT

A SECURITY GUARD watches TV at the front desk. Behind him, THE WALL OPENS LIKE A DOOR. Mason holds a paint brush as he ushers Wyatt and Punchy in and over to the stairs unseen.

INT. COSMIC COMICS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They sneak in through reception. Punchy's image is everywhere. Posters. Toys. Candy dispensers. She hits one and M&Ms spew out of "her" mouth. She's astounded and horrified.

PUNCHY

Can we destroy it? Can we destroy it all? Can we destroy it now?

MASON

That's not the plan.

INT. VELMA MATHERS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

They walk in, not sure what they're looking for.

WYATT

I know they screwed dad on the royalties, but how are we supposed to get them back? It's not like they keep money lying around.

Punchy sees a statue of herself in the corner. She hates it.

PUNCHY

This doesn't look like me. Does this look like me? It doesn't.

Mason starts rummaging through Velma's desk.

MASON

Maybe if she has a bank statement. An account number. Something like that. I could pull the money.

Punchy hits the statue, but doesn't make a dent.

PUNCHY

They can't just put my image on everything. Especially if they don't get it right.

Wyatt searches a filing cabinet behind the desk.

WYATT

(holding a file)
Is this what you need?

Mason takes it. It's a CORPORATE ACCOUNT file. Account numbers and balances. BIG BALANCES.

MASON

Yes. Okay. Okay. I'm just gonna make a little withdrawal.

Mason focuses intently on the file numbers, on the bank address. He takes a breath and reaches behind his back, rummaging around in the fabric of reality for big money.

He's got it. He pulls. POP! He's snagged AN ENTIRE LAPTOP. He fumbles it to the ground, where it turns on with the bank's logo as a screen saver. It's password protected.

WYATT

Everything is digital these days.
(to Mason)
You're a terrible super villain.

Punchy bounces onto the statue, finally knocking it over, sending her crashing into a wall, smashing framed pictures that fall to the ground. AN ALARM WAILS.

PUNCHY

Consequence!

They run!

INT. COSMIC COMICS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Just as they reach reception, the ELEVATOR DINGS. Mason shoves Wyatt and Punchy out of sight.

MASON

Get out of here. I'll lead him away.

Wyatt and Punchy hide behind a Punchy statue as the Security Guard exits the elevator, TASER at the ready. He spots Mason, temporarily confused by his Iron Man mask.

SECURITY GUARD

Freeze!

Mason bolts down the hall for the stairway. When Security Guard chases, Wyatt and Punchy hop in the elevator.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

Stop or I'll taze you!

Mason doesn't stop. The guard pulls the trigger. The taser connects with Mason. His body jerks and spasms as cartoonish bolts of electricity shoot through him, x-ray style.

He crashes to the floor, smoking like a barbecue.

Security Guard approaches, reaching for his radio for backup.

But Mason hops right up and stumbles away, looking back just long enough to not realize he's hit the door. He busts right through, leaving another hole in the shape of his silhouette.

INT. COSMIC COMICS - STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mason starts to go down, but hears GUARDS coming up. He's scared and turns the other way, temporarily treading his feet in space like a cartoon before running up the stairs.

EXT. COSMIC COMICS BUILDING - ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Mason busts through a door and straight to the edge. No escape. He turns the other way, but the GUARDS have arrived.

Mason blindly runs away from them. He's reaching in his pockets and anywhere the Guards can't see, POP! POP! POP! He's pulling BLACK HOLES and tossing them behind him.

Some Guards fall through to the floor below. But Security Guard is still on his tail. Mason is so distracted by the chase he doesn't realize he's run straight off the roof.

It's not until he turns to see the dumbfounded look on the Security Guard's face, still safely on the roof, that he looks down. He's sixty stories above Manhattan.

He promptly falls.

Mason plummets through the air, desperately trying to pull anything to help him. POP! INFLATED BALLOONS, which only tangle him up. POP! A PARACHUTE PACK that slips away.

The ground is coming quick.

POP! He's got Wyatt's PUNCHY POGO STICK. He gets it under his feet as he lands, bouncing down the sidewalk, out of control. Right past Wyatt and Punchy, hiding in an alley.

Mason slips and crashes to the pavement below. Balloons release from his body in a festive display.

He opens his eyes. Wyatt and Punchy are looking down on him.

MASON

I think I've had this dream before.
But I was dead.

WYATT

(holds up his phone)
Well, Mom knows we snuck out. So I
might be joining you.

They help him up, leaving a Mason-shaped hole in the ground. Punchy gets a good look at the pogo stick with her fake face plastered on it. Her real face drops.

PUNCHY

(dejected)
What the misery is that?

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - MORNING

Mason and Wyatt quietly enter the house. Punchy is behind them. Mason spots Ellen waiting up for them and instinctively shoves Punchy into a bush outside.

ELLEN

Where the hell have you been?

The boys shut the door. Ellen is pacing around. She's wired. Two mugs of coffee, unaware that she's double-fisting.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how worried
I've been? Do you have any idea
what you've put me through?
(notices her two mugs)
Do you have any idea what a cliché
you've made me? Look at this!

She puts the mugs down, calming a bit.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I don't want to be a cliché. But I'm a mom. I can't avoid it. And you can't just disappear like that.

MASON

Normal teenagers disappear. Normal teenagers lie and sneak out and go to parties and hook up and their parents never know what they've really been up to.

ELLEN

You're not a normal teenager!

MASON

You think I don't know that? It's all I ever know.

ELLEN

So you were, what? Partying? On your meds?

MASON

No. I was just trying to do something. For you. For us. To help with everything. But it didn't work. It was stupid. So forget it.

ELLEN

I'm just trying to keep it together here. Keep us together here.

MASON

Well "us" is gonna be one less in the near future. And I'd like to at least pretend I've lived a little first.

Mason goes upstairs. Ellen sits down at the kitchen table, defeated. She takes a sip of one coffee mug, then the other.

She looks up to see Wyatt standing there expectantly.

ELLEN

I've got an interview to go to. You better get ready for school.

Wyatt realizes he's not getting chewed out. Like he didn't sneak out too. Like he's not worth the trouble.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'm glad you were at least out there with him. Thank you for that.

WYATT

I'm surprised you even noticed I was gone.

He heads upstairs, letting that sink in. She feels terrible.

INT. VELMA MATHERS' OFFICE - DAY

Velma Mathers reviews video footage of the comically inept invasion last night. She sees "Iron Man" seemingly pull a computer from out of nowhere. She pauses and cuts to:

Old footage of Henry Mulligan trashing her office, seemingly pulling a SLEDGEHAMMER out of nowhere. The exact same way.

VELMA MATHERS

Curioser and curioser.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

CHET STANLEY'S VAN lingers in the empty lot behind the rink.

INT. CHET'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Chet's comparing readings from the digital meters, triangulating a location over the BLUEPRINTS OF THE ROLLER RINK. And it's pinpointing the locker room. He smiles.

A BEEPING goes off, alerting him to video surveillance as he sees Mason and Wyatt heading his way. He gets nervous.

CHET STANLEY

You're trespassing, Chet. You don't want to go to jail again, Chet.

(beat)

That's when you started talking to yourself, Chet. It was bleak.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

As Wyatt, Mason, and Punchy, hunched in front of Mason on his bike, pass in front of the rink, Chet's van slowly pulls out from behind it, rolling away unseen.

The van nearly hits Mallory, trudging along on her own Hammerspace-themed bike a ways behind the boys. She flips Chet off from the ditch she's now landed in.

PUNCHY

Who's that human covered in my
face?

MASON

(to Wyatt)

Shit. I'll take Punchy inside. You
get rid of her.

Mason and Punchy duck inside as Wyatt rolls over Mallory's
way. He helps her out of the ditch.

MALLORY

You've been weird lately.

WYATT

You've been weird always.

MALLORY

That's what I like best about
myself.

Wyatt can't help but respect that. He half smiles.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

And my Hammerspace blog. Ranked
number one in the Tri-State area.

WYATT

I'm officially renegeing that smile.

MALLORY

(nodding toward the rink)

What's going on in there? You guys
have been spending a lot of time
here. Not that I follow you.
Normally. Not counting today.

(she heads that way)

Did your dad leave stuff behind?

Wyatt doesn't want to have to do this, but he knows it's the
only way to get rid of Mallory. He rolls to block her path.

WYATT

Mallory, I need you to hear this.
To really hear this. And coming
from a total comic book geek, this
really means something. Okay? You
ready? Here it comes. GET. A. LIFE.

Mallory absorbs this. Simple. Clear. And it dug deep.

MALLORY

You don't mean that.

WYATT
 (he doesn't)
 Please go home.

Wyatt boards back to the roller rink. Mallory turns her bike away, hurt. Angry. But pauses to look back, suspicious.

INT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

Wyatt locks the door behind him just as the opening notes of a classic Bone Thugs 'N Harmony 90s jam "Tha Crossroads" echoes through the dimly lit rink. It's eerie.

PUNCHY
 (to Mason)
 Henry hated this jam because it's about the ultimate consequence. He always hid the CD. But I found it.
 (starts singing along)
*"Now tell me what you gonna do/
 When there ain't nowhere to run/
 When judgement comes for you/ When judgement comes for you/ Now tell me what you gonna do/ When there ain't nowhere to hide/ When judgement comes for you/ Cause it's gonna come for you..."*

And Punchy mumbles out as the song continues in a smooth, fast rap that's too hard to understand.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
 And then I have no idea what they're saying. But it just sounds so right. Like, inside. Right?

She turns it up, grooving to the jam. Mason is dubious, but starts to really listen to it. His head is bobbing along.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
 I heard what you said to your mom.
 (catching a few lyrics)
"It's steadily creeping up on the family, exactly how many days we got lasting/ while you laughing, we're passing, passing away."

Wyatt circles the rink, watching this moment unfold, having not yet been noticed. Mason is watching Punchy butcher this song, and it's striking a chord deep inside him.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

"Hey, and we pray and we pray and we pray, every day every day every day/ And we pray and we pray and we pray, every day every day every day."

Mason starts to get into the vibe with Punchy. He surprises himself by joining in, with growing passion.

MASON	PUNCHY (CONT'D)
<i>See you at the crossroads.</i>	<i>So you won't be lonely.</i>

MASON	PUNCHY (CONT'D)
<i>See you at the crossroads.</i>	<i>So you won't be lonely.</i>

MASON	PUNCHY (CONT'D)
<i>See you at the crossroads.</i>	<i>So you won't be lonely.</i>

MASON	PUNCHY (CONT'D)
<i>See you at the crossroads.</i>	<i>So you won't be lonely.</i>

MASON

And I'm gonna miss everybody/ And I'm gonna miss everybody/ And I'm gonna miss everybody/ And I'm gonna miss everybody.

PUNCHY	MASON (CONT'D)
<i>Living in a hateful world/ Sending me straight to Heaven.</i>	<i>That's how we roll.</i>

PUNCHY	MASON (CONT'D)
<i>Living in a hateful world/ Sending me straight to Heaven.</i>	<i>That's how we roll.</i>

PUNCHY	MASON (CONT'D)
<i>Living in a hateful world/ Sending me straight to Heaven.</i>	<i>That's how we roll.</i>

They mumble-laugh through the lyrics they don't understand. But Mason knows this part. He knows it well.

MASON (CONT'D)

Can somebody anybody tell me why, hey/ Can somebody anybody tell me why, we die, we die/ I don't wanna die.

He's got tears in his eyes. The song plays itself out as he allows this much-needed release. Punchy comes up to comfort Mason. He laughs at how silly this was. Composes himself.

PUNCHY

What's Heaven?

MASON

Sounds a lot like Hammerspace, actually. But I'm not sure it even exists.

WYATT (O.C.)

Multiverse theory says it could.

Mason scrambles to collect himself, wiping tears away.

MASON

(to Wyatt)

How much of that did you see?

Wyatt's eyes are watery too. He half smiles.

WYATT

(enough)

Just play it again.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

As the song starts over inside and Wyatt joins the jam, we pull out to find Mallory standing outside a dusty window, recording it on her phone, amazed at what she's seeing.

Her video zooms in on a semi-distorted image of Punchy.

MALLORY

This is Mallory Barnes with a Hammerspace exclusive. What we're looking at appears to be a new prototype Hammerspace toy. A life-size Punchy doll that moves to music, being tested out by none other than the sons of original Hammerspace creator Henry Mulligan. It seems Cosmic Comics has kept this on the down low. Perhaps for a Christmas rollout. But Christmas has come early to this fan. And now, for all of you.

She hits a few buttons and watches it load onto her Hammerspace Fan Page. As she steps away from the window, her foot hits something. One of Chet Stanley's strange METERS.

She crouches down for a better look at the unusual device, but her phone PINGS. Her video got a hit. And another. And another. And suddenly the hit counter is all that matters.

INT. MASON'S ROOM - MORNING

Mason's asleep. Wyatt busts in, startling him awake so fast he inadvertently pulls A SEXY BRA from under his pillow. POP!

They both look at it, confused. Mason drops it, embarrassed.

MASON

I was having a good dream.

Wyatt drops his laptop on the bed, pointing at it in a panic. It has Mallory's Hammerspace fan page. The video is playing.

MASON (CONT'D)

You read Mallory's fan page?

WYATT

I do when everyone I know sends me the link because we're the headline.

Mason clicks the video and sees Punchy revealed to the world.

WYATT (CONT'D)

It's gone viral! 355,454...5...6.
It just keeps getting hits!

MASON

She has to take this down.

WYATT

It won't matter. The Internet is forever!

Off screen, the PHONE RINGS. We hear Ellen answering.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Where's Punchy?

Mason opens the closet, where Punchy has set up camp with all sorts of items she's been coveting from Human Space.

PUNCHY

You don't just open doors!

They hear Ellen coming up the stairs. Quickly.

MASON
 (to Punchy)
 Get to the roller rink. Stay
 hidden. We'll meet you there.

Before Punchy can respond, she's buried in Mason's laundry. She pops her face out and is hit with the sexy bra. Mason slams the door just as Ellen enters the room, confused.

ELLEN
 Why am I getting phone calls from
 Cosmic Comics' legal team accusing
 you of copyright infringement?

INT. CHET'S VAN - DAY

Chet watches the video, rapt. It's beyond anything he could have expected. His mind is exploding. He dials his phone.

CHET STANLEY
 (into phone)
 Agent Broder, please. It's Chet
 Stanley. Don't hang up!
 (cold muffled response)
 Tell him I've made contact.
 (dubious muffled response)
 Well, I've seen contact.
 (angry muffled response)
 No. Not the movie. Well, yes, that
 too. But no. I sent an e-mail. It's
 remarkable.
 (annoyed muffled response)
 It's not a toy. The readings at the
 time say three biological beings
 inside the building. It fits with
 my calculations. I was right. The
 portal is here.
 (dramatic beat)
 And something came through.

INT. MALLORY'S HOUSE - DAY

Ellen drags Mason and Wyatt to Mallory's house, a small, dilapidated place with an overgrown lawn.

MASON
 Mom, please. Let's not do this.

ELLEN
 If you say this Mallory girl is the
 one who put the video up, then I
 want to talk to her parents.
 (MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

We have enough issues to deal with.
I don't need a lawsuit too!

She rings the doorbell. A moment later, Mallory opens the door, a bit startled to find the whole Mulligan clan there.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Mallory? Are your parents home?

MALLORY

No.

ELLEN

Will they be back soon?

MALLORY

I wonder that myself most of the time.

Glimpsing into the house, it doesn't seem like parental supervision is a popular hobby here.

She wasn't expecting that. Ellen's phone RINGS.

ELLEN

It's the Cosmic Comics jerk again.

Ellen steps away to take the call. Mason and Wyatt step closer to Mallory. She half closes the door, nervous.

MASON

Mallory, listen. You have to say it was a hoax.

MALLORY

But it wasn't. I saw it. Where did you even get that toy? I thought you hated Cosmic Comics.

WYATT

It's... complicated. But trust us. You have to take it back.

MALLORY

That would totally violate my journalistic integrity.

Mason hears his mom getting worked up on the phone. He's desperate to keep a lid on this. There's only one way.

MASON

If you say it's a hoax, we'll tell you everything.

MALLORY
What's everything?

WYATT
What you saw. What it really is.
Where it came from. EVERYTHING. At
the roller rink. Later.

The kids shut up as Ellen returns, thoroughly frustrated.

ELLEN
Now they claim they're sending a
representative out here to
"investigate." What's to
investigate?

The guys look at Mallory. Her mental debate begins and ends.

MALLORY
(reluctantly)
There's nothing to investigate. I
doctored the footage.
(killing her)
It's just a hoax.

Ellen is surprised to hear this so easily. She's relieved.

ELLEN
Oh. Well, thank you for admitting
that. I know that wasn't easy. And
I may need your parents to talk to
this legal looney if he calls back.

MALLORY
If you manage to get in touch with
them, tell them I said hi. And
we're out of dish soap.

She shuts the door. Ellen's phone PINGS. She sighs.

ELLEN
(overwhelmed)
I forgot your appointment this
afternoon. I have a follow up
interview. I just...
(she takes a breath)
I'll drop you two at home. Mason,
you have got to rest. I'll be back
to pick you up later. Do not leave
the house. Do not talk to anyone
who calls. Do not make this any
more complicated. Do you both
understand?

The boys nod their agreement.

CUT TO:

INT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

They clearly didn't understand, because both Mason and Wyatt are sitting in the roller rink instead of at home.

A KNOCK at the door. Wyatt checks the window, then unlocks it, pulling Mallory inside before locking it again.

She's equal parts intrigued and skeptical. She looks around.

MALLORY

So? Where is it? And you better have a good explanation because I don't appreciate being dicked around like this.

MASON

(to Wyatt)

Do you want to tell her?

WYATT

I'm a little afraid of what will happen.

MASON

All her dreams come true?

WYATT

Or maybe our nightmares.

MALLORY

JUST. TELL. ME.

WYATT

Punchy is real.

Mallory nods her head like she knew this was a waste of time.

MALLORY

You must think I'm the biggest idiot in the world. Just because I care about something doesn't give you the right to make fun of me.

She turns for the door, But Punchy blocks her way.

PUNCHY
 (to Mason)
 Should I say something stupid like
 "Punchy Power" or is this enough?

Mallory's mouth drops in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. ROLLER RINK - LATER

Mallory's mouth is still hanging open. Mason, Wyatt, and Punchy stare at her with concern. It's clearly been a while.

Punchy's had enough. She hauls back and punches Mallory, knocking her onto her butt.

MASON
 (to Punchy)
 You can't just go around hitting
 people! Humans don't like
 consequences!

But it did the trick. Mallory snaps out of it. She's beaming.

MALLORY
 (to herself)
 I was just punched by Punchy.
 (to Mason)
 I was just punched by Punchy!
 (to Wyatt)
 I WAS JUST PUNCHED BY PUNCHY!

WYATT
 (walking away)
 Yeah, join the club.

Mallory stares at Punchy in amazement. Her favorite fictional character alive and in the flesh. It's like a religious experience. She falls to her knees, eye-level with her.

MALLORY
 (beyond moved)
 You're beautiful.

Suddenly Madonna's "Like a Prayer" echoes through the rink. Mason turns to see Wyatt at the sound booth.

MASON
 Really?

WYATT
 It just seemed appropriate.

Mallory's got tears in her eyes. Punchy gives her the once over, not appreciating her Hammerspace apparel one bit.

PUNCHY
(to Mason)
Why is she crying?

MASON
Punchy. You literally just blew her mind. Humor the girl.

PUNCHY
Fine. She can ask me one question.
(to Mallory)
Make it good.

Mallory doesn't have to think very hard for the right one.

MALLORY
Don't you sometimes think
Hammerspace is just a metaphor for
the existential dread we all feel
when faced with the uncertain
realities of infinite nothingness?

And now it's Punchy's turn to have her mind blown. She stares at Mallory like she's seen the very core of her inner mind.

PUNCHY
I do. I do think that.

Mason can't believe these two just bonded over that. Punchy gets surprisingly emotional, looking away from them.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
Ever since The Grinz showed up,
Hammerspace hasn't been the same.

WYATT
What's The Grinz?

PUNCHY
The Overlord of Hammerspace.

MASON
You never mentioned an Overlord.

PUNCHY
(shrugging)
You never asked. Humans are a
pretty self-involved species.

CUT TO:

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - DAY

Ellen comes home to take Mason to his appointment, but he's not there. Neither is Wyatt. She storms out, annoyed.

CUT TO:

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Punchy finishes telling Mallory about Hammerspace.

PUNCHY
(very dramatic)
Hammerspace isn't what it used to be. The Grinz is the worst.

MASON
Does he torture?

PUNCHY
We don't hurt there.

WYATT
Imprison?

PUNCHY
It's too easy to escape.

Mallory approaches Punchy, placing a gentle hand on her arm.

MALLORY
Is he psychologically abusive?

PUNCHY
Yes. Yes he is. He's so... happy. Oppressively happy. No other emotions are allowed. If he catches you thinking or feeling something else, he forces you to...

MASON
To what?

PUNCHY
It's too horrible.

MALLORY
It's okay. You can tell us.

PUNCHY
He forces us to laugh.

Mason, Wyatt, and Mallory stare at her, unimpressed.

WYATT

When did laughing become a bad thing?

PUNCHY

Have you ever had to fake a laugh?

WYATT

Sure. It's easy.

Wyatt does it. Mason and Mallory join him. It doesn't last.

PUNCHY

Now imagine having to do that for days straight. Listening to this big, smiling monster's jokes. He'll just follow you around, all day, all night, until you've broken.

MASON

Has he done this to you?

PUNCHY

(yes)

The Grinz won't be satisfied until there is nothing but happiness left.

MALLORY

But that sounds nice. Outside the psychological abuse part.

Mason shakes his head, realizing why this is so bad.

MASON

Opposites create meaning. Without them, it's just oblivion.

Punchy looks up at Mason, surprised he actually did listen to her. A CAR can be heard pulling up outside. Wyatt looks out.

WYATT

Speaking of oblivion. We forgot your appointment.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Ellen exits the car and spots Chet Stanley's van around the side of the rink. She assumes he's the Cosmic Comics guy.

ELLEN

(to herself)

That was fast.

She storms right up to him, catching him off guard.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

For your information, my sons had nothing to do with that video. It was a hoax created by the girl who posted it. So you can go back to Cosmic Comics and tell them they're barking up the wrong tree.

Chet realizes that Ellen thinks he's someone he's not. Ellen realizes his hands are full of high tech sci-fi style equipment, like the meters he had put around the building.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

What kind of investigation is this?

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

Mason, Wyatt, Punchy, and Mallory crowd around the windows.

WYATT

Who is that guy?

MASON

I thought he was a reporter.

PUNCHY

What's he holding?

MALLORY

I saw those things around the perimeter of the building when I was...

They all glare at her.

MALLORY (CONT'D)

Yeah. I know. I'm sorry.

WYATT

Why would a reporter have high-tech gadgets like that?

Mason looks to the right and sees a SWARM OF GOVERNMENT STYLE VEHICLES descending upon the vacant lot.

MASON

Because he's not a reporter at all.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

The vehicles come to a halt. ARMED, UNIFORMED MEN jump out to secure the perimeter as LAB TECHS set up mobile laboratories.

Ellen is stunned. It's all happening so fast.

ELLEN
(to Chet Stanley)
You're not from Cosmic Comics?

Chet looks at her quizzically, but snaps to attention as a stern man with a vaguely military air approaches. This is AGENT BRODER, 40s. Chet is astounded.

CHET STANLEY
You're here. You believe me!

AGENT BRODER
I believe my agents who keep an eye on everyone on our watch list.
(Chet isn't a fan of that)
Show me what you've found.

CHET STANLEY
(handing him reports)
The portal is inside. In the locker room at the south west corner to be exact. There are three humans and one unspecified life form in the building.

Ellen hears this and scurries after them, more concerned.

AGENT BRODER
You're certain they've made contact?

ELLEN
Excuse me?

CHET STANLEY
Video authentication confirmed.

AGENT BRODER
And the portal is stable?

ELLEN
Hello?

CHET STANLEY
It appears to be contained, somehow. Direct examination will tell us how and for how long.

AGENT BRODER
(takes in the roller rink)
Years of searching the most exotic
and scientifically relevant
locations on Earth, but we finally
find one in this depreciated dump.

ELLEN
THIS IS MY DEPRECIATED DUMP!

Agent Broder looks at Ellen as if for the first time.

AGENT BRODER
I'm Special Agent Broder.
(flashes a badge)
We're quarantining your building.
(to ANOTHER AGENT)
Nothing in or out except us.

Ellen panics and moves towards the building.

ELLEN
Those are my kids in there!

Agent Broder holds her back. Looking dead in her eye.

AGENT BRODER
And they may be in serious danger.

He nods to some OTHER AGENTS, who step up to contain her.

INT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

Mason and Punchy have been watching it all intently. But when they see Ellen detained, they have to act.

MASON
We've got to get out of here.

Wyatt comes running from the back of the building.

WYATT
They've surrounded us.

Mallory runs down the stairs from the second floor snack bar.

MALLORY
I can hear them on the roof too.

PUNCHY
What do they want?

All eyes fall on Punchy.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
Wait. Me?! Why do they want me?

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason leads them all into the locker room, right up to Locker 17. Punchy eyes it warily. Mason pulls out the Hammer Key.

PUNCHY
That's not an option.

MASON
It's not safe for you here.

PUNCHY
It's not safe for you either. And you're not going through that locker. So try again.

MALLORY
If only we could go under them.

They all look at her like she's a genius. She doesn't get it. POP! Mason pulls a BLACK HOLE. Mallory is amazed.

MALLORY (CONT'D)
What the how?

POP! Mason pulls a SHOVEL.

INT. ROLLER RINK - MOMENTS LATER

Armed agents bust in, securing the location.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Agent Broder leads Chet Stanley into the locker room, but there's no sign of the kids or Punchy anywhere.

Instead, they find MASSIVE PILES OF DIRT all over the floor, but no hole to explain where it came from.

AGENT BRODER
(into radio)
Be advised, subjects are on the move. Apprehend with non-lethal force. I repeat, non-lethal force.

Chet Stanley is holding a BEEPING meter directly in front of Locker 17. He examines it, noticing that it has a strange, specific lock unlike any of the other lockers.

CHET STANLEY
Curioser and curioser.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

They kids tunnel underground, upending the earth as they go. The bizarre trail runs directly into a TELEPHONE POLE, causing it to shake. Ellen notices this from a distance.

She watches as Mason and the others pop their heads out from underground. He tosses the shovel and they quickly run into the woods. And that includes Punchy, bouncing behind them.

Ellen can't believe her eyes. A SECONDARY AGENT approaches.

SECONDARY AGENT
Ma'am. Are you okay?

ELLEN
Hmm? Oh. Yes. I'm just a bit dizzy.

She stumbles towards her car. The agent thinks quick and opens the door for her to sit and compose herself.

But Ellen slips her keys in the ignition and turns it over, peeling away. She barrels through the perimeter, nearly taking out other agents as she goes.

Broder exits the building, noting the strange disrupted dirt leading away from the east side.

SECONDARY AGENT
Sir. The owner fled.

AGENT BRODER
You placed the device first?

SECONDARY AGENT
Yes, sir.

AGENT BRODER
Then she'll lead us right to them.
(into radio)
I need an extraction team on Kent
Cliffs Road.

EXT/INT. ELLEN'S CAR - SAME

We see a TRACKING DEVICE underneath the car and pan up to Ellen, inside, talking to herself in shock and panic.

ELLEN

I'm fleeing. I'm fleeing the government agents. I'm in the car and I'm fleeing. I saw a cartoon. With my kids. But not on a screen.

EXT. CARMEL, NEW YORK - LATER

The gang is trudging through the woods towards the road.

MALLORY

You guys realize that this is all, like, life-altering stuff, right? I mean, I've only known for half a day and my concept of reality and fantasy is a manic mess.

WYATT

What else is new?

MASON

We won't be able to hide for long.

PUNCHY

They can't get into Hammerspace without that key. Can we please destroy it?

Mason flips the Hammer Key around in his hand, thinking.

MASON

You'd never go home again.

PUNCHY

I'd never have to fake laugh again.

WYATT

(reaching for the key)
Here, let me try something.

MASON

(yanking the key away)
No.

Punchy sees Mason's possessiveness and gets worried.

WYATT

Just let me see it.

MASON

No. It's caused enough trouble!

WYATT

In your hands! Give it!

Wyatt tries to grab the key, turning into a tug-of-war. The boys start wrestling each other, neither letting go.

It quickly devolves into a cartoon-like fight, with limbs and heads popping out of a cloud of dust as they roll along.

Wyatt gets flung out of the cloud, having let go. He lands in the nearby road in front of ONCOMING TRAFFIC.

Mason shoves Wyatt out of the way, taking the hit from a car and bouncing across the pavement. He stands up, unharmed.

He looks over at Wyatt, also getting up, unharmed.

That's when they all notice Ellen behind the wheel.

Mixed emotions flood over her as she watches three familiar kids and an alien-like creature climb into her car.

INT. ELLEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Mason in front, the others in back. Ellen looks Mason over - he's totally fine. She looks ahead, horrified and baffled.

They all sit there for an extended beat of silence as Ellen tries to wrap her head around Punchy. It's awkward.

MASON

We should probably go.

Ellen nods, still in shock. She drives. She keeps eyeing Punchy in the rearview mirror.

ELLEN

(to Mallory)

The video wasn't a hoax.

MALLORY

No.

Ellen nods, accepting this. Then:

ELLEN

And where did... she... come from?

MASON

An interdimensional portal contained within a locker inside the roller rink.

Ellen nods again, finding it harder to accept this. Then:

ELLEN
And did that exist before or after
your father made the cartoon?

PUNCHY
BEFORE!

Ellen nods a third time, like she's finally lost her mind.

ELLEN
Right. Well. This explains a lot.

They continue driving in silence for an extended beat.

EXT. KENT CLIFFS RD. - CONTINUOUS

Ellen's car approaches Kent Cliffs Road, a two lane open air
stone causeway across a reservoir.

INT. ELLEN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

The silence continues. Until:

WYATT
If you think about it, things could
be worse. We could be on drugs.

ELLEN
(snapping)
My children have been harboring an
interdimensional alien -

PUNCHY
- Tewn.

Ellen still isn't used to Punchy speaking.

ELLEN
Okay, interdimensional cartoon.

PUNCHY
TEWN. With an ewwwwww.

ELLEN
Toon.

PUNCHY
Tewwwwwwn.

ELLEN

Toooooooooon.
 (she doesn't care)
 The government is after us!

WYATT

Do you think they're FBI or NASA?

MALLORY

Probably neither. I feel like this is one of those agencies we don't know exists. Like Men In Black, only real. Like, we'll never really know. You know?

ELLEN

I should have been home more. I should have kept an eye on you.

MASON

You can't protect me from the world, Mom. It already got me.

ELLEN

So you're running around acting -

MASON

- Normal. I'm acting normal!

ELLEN

Normal? You said normal kids sneak out and party and hook up, Mason! This is not that!

MASON

You'd prefer I were doing drugs?

ELLEN

I'd prefer to not be an X-File!

Through the back window, we see GOVERNMENT VEHICLES catching up to them. Wyatt and Mallory take note.

WYATT

Um. Guys...

INT/EXT. ELLEN'S CAR/KENT CLIFFS RD. - CONTINUOUS

The Government Vehicles are fast approaching. POP! Mason pulls a LARGE CAN OF OIL and tosses it out the window.

It spills all over the road. The cars swerve, but maintain.

POP! He pulls HANDFULS OF NAILS, tossing them onto the road.

ELLEN

How are you doing that?!

Turns out the Government Vehicles have run-flat tires. They slow down, but are not deterred.

WYATT

Pull dynamite! Pull a bazooka!

ELLEN

NO! NO DYNAMITE! NO BAZOOKAS!

PUNCHY

Move the line.

MASON

What?

PUNCHY

The line in the road. Move it.

Mason catches on to what she's thinking. He opens his door and jumps out of the moving vehicle.

ELLEN

Mason!

EXT. KENT CLIFFS RD. - CONTINUOUS

Mason rolls to the side. He's fine. He jumps up and runs across the road, reaching down and ACTUALLY GRABBING THE CENTER YELLOW LINE and curving it directly into the water.

He steps back, uncertain if it's going to work.

The Government Vehicles catch up. But before they reach him, they inexplicably follow the yellow line right over the edge and into the reservoir. Just like a cartoon.

Mason is amazed. He actually laughs. But AGENTS swim out of the vehicles and Mason runs back to Ellen's stopped car.

INT. ELLEN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

They're all a bit stunned by that one.

ELLEN

We need to have a serious talk when we get home.

MASON

Not our home. It won't be safe.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - SAME

Chet sits to the side as LAB TECHS study the portal energy from Locker 17, trying to crack it open. Chet can't take it.

CHET STANLEY

You mustn't disrupt the locker!
Breaking it open could be
devastating. It could cause the
portal to expand. To destabilize.
Who knows what lies on the other
side or how it will effect us?

AGENT BRODER (O.C.)

There is one thing that knows.

Chet turns to see Agent Broder watching intently.

AGENT BRODER (CONT'D)

And we'll have it back soon enough.

Secondary Agent enters the room with a DIGITAL TABLET.

SECONDARY AGENT

Sir. They've evaded extraction.
I've got dashboard video feed from
the pursuit.

Agent Broder watches Mason's bizarre, cartoon antics ending with the traffic line plunging the cars into the reservoir.

AGENT BRODER

(intrigued, but unfazed)
Where are they now?

SECONDARY AGENT

They've stopped at a residence on
the east end of town.

Agent Broder nods and motions for several of his agents as he heads out to handle this himself.

INT. MALLORY'S HOUSE - SAME

They take refuge in Mallory's house.

MALLORY

My parents won't be home till... I
don't know. So just, do whatever.

Ellen plops down on a recliner, her brain on overload.

ELLEN

All this time, Henry wasn't crazy.

Punchy looks at a smiling PUNCHY DOLL with existential angst.

PUNCHY

(off handedly)

If he wasn't crazy then, he's definitely crazy now.

Mason realizes she just spoke of Henry in the present tense.

MASON

What do you mean "now"?

PUNCHY

(realizes what she said)

What do YOU mean "what do I mean?"

WYATT

Punchy. Is our dad alive?

Punchy looks at the hopeful, confused humans in front of her. She knows it's time to tell them. And she knows it won't go well. She punches the Punchy doll.

PUNCHY

The Land Lord crossed over and became The Overlord.

ELLEN

Henry went to Hammerspace?

WYATT

Dad is The Grinz?

ELLEN

What's a Grinz?

MASON

(to Punchy)

You said if a human were living in Hammerspace, you'd know it.

PUNCHY

I didn't know because he's not human anymore!

She pulls the MULLIGAN FAMILY PHOTO from her pocket. The one with Henry's face scratched over with a creepy smiley face.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

I didn't recognize him until I saw this. The physics of Hammerspace must have warped him. Turned him into how he wanted to feel.

Mason looks at the photo. The aggressive smiley face.

MASON

This wasn't the first time, was it?

PUNCHY

No. We had a deal. If he'd unlock the door, I'd come through and wait with the key so he could get back. We could experience each other's worlds. Get the perspective we need to continue on in our own.

(getting sad)

Until he opened it without me and sealed us both in there.

WYATT

So our dad's been in there all along? We have to get him out!

PUNCHY

NO! The reason I haven't wanted you to open that door again is because The Grinz wants to destroy Locker 17. He wants to unleash the portal so he can spread the unending "happiness" of Hammerspace to Human Space as well.

Mason stares at the Hammer Key like it's to blame for it all.

ELLEN

Unending happiness doesn't sound too bad right about now.

MALLORY

That's what I said.

PUNCHY

An uncontrollable portal could destroy both worlds! I couldn't believe I made it through and shut the door before he had the chance.

Mason tosses the Hammer Key across the room, disgusted with it, with himself, and with Punchy. He can barely look at her.

MASON

Maybe you never should have.

That hits Punchy right in the heart space. But it's Mason who suddenly looks like he's going to be sick.

Mallory hears a CAR OUTSIDE. She peeks out the window.

ELLEN

Are those your parents?

MALLORY

(to Punchy)

RUN!

THE DOOR BUSTS OPEN. AGENTS stream in, securing the location at gunpoint. Mason eyes the Hammer Key, too far out of reach.

Agent Broder enters, assessing the humans in front of him. Contained. Not pulling any inexplicable tricks.

INT. MALLORY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is filled top-to-bottom in Hammerspace merchandise. Punchy's face is everywhere. It's hard to know where the real Punchy is, but she's hiding in plain sight. Right on the bed.

The door creaks open. Secondary Agent enters the room, scanning for life. Even he seems a bit shocked at the over-fanatical decor. He looks right past Punchy.

But then he presses a button on his GLASSES, providing him with HEAT VISION. He scans the room again, landing on the now-colorful shape of Punchy lunging at him with a punch.

She literally bounces off the walls trying to take him out with as many Hammerspace-related items as she can grab.

Secondary Agent bides his time, aiming his firearm. Punchy bounces at him again.

PUNCHY

Punchy Power!

And she's shot with a TRANQUILIZER. She flops to the ground.

EXT. MALLORY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

HAZMAT-SUITED LAB TECHS load unconscious, restrained Punchy into a transport vehicle. Mason and the others watch stoically from inside the house.

MASON (PRE-LAP)
 You don't know what you're doing.

INT. MALLORY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Agent Broder turns to Mason, who now looks seriously ill.

AGENT BRODER
 I know more than you think.

Mason makes a sudden move for the Hammer Key on the floor. But Broder quickly subdues him, picking the key up himself. He smirks, now holding an unusual key for an unusual lock.

AGENT BRODER (CONT'D)
 But I didn't know that. Thank you.
 (to Ellen, re: the kids)
 We'll need to question them.

As Agent Broder walks out, Mason takes a step to follow, but he collapses to the floor, unconscious.

CUT TO BLACK:

LAB TECH 1 (PRE-LAP)
 Should we take the gloves off?

LAB TECH 2 (PRE-LAP)
 Um. Those appear to be the hands.

INT. ROLLER RINK - DAY

Punchy groggily blinks awake, finding herself restrained on an examination table, hooked up to MYRIAD MACHINES.

A pair of Lab Techs hover over her, while others analyze various readings from the surrounding equipment.

Punchy struggles to free herself, but only manages to draw Chet Stanley's attention. He's in awe of this new life form.

CHET STANLEY
 I've been searching for you my
 whole life.

PUNCHY
 That's creepy.

Chet is equal parts surprised and elated that she speaks.

CHET STANLEY

Perhaps you come from a pocket universe within our own? One where the things we imagine here come to life?

PUNCHY

Is that a thing?

Agent Broder steps in, nudging Chet aside.

AGENT BRODER

How are you able to recover from blunt force trauma? To pull things out of thin air? And what happens if we cross over?

PUNCHY

You can't cross over without -

Agent Broder holds up the Hammer Key. Punchy's eyes go wide.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

Where's Mason?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Mason wakes up in the hospital. Ellen, Wyatt, and Mallory are there with him, but the AGENTS outside have them sequestered.

MASON

What happened?

ELLEN

(teary)

I think reality caught up with you a little bit, sweetie. You've run yourself into the ground.

MASON

And Punchy?

WYATT

They took her. And the key.

Mason nods, realizing how badly he's messed up. He looks at Wyatt, suddenly overcome with guilt and responsibility.

MASON

I'm sorry.

WYATT

Sorry, me? For what?

MASON

For everything. I wanted things to be better for you, but I couldn't undo any of it.

WYATT

Shut up. You're a hero.

MASON

Not without the key. I'm nothing.

WYATT

(shaking his head)

Why do you think I've been able to be so open about being gay?

MASON

I thought it was Glee.

WYATT

You're an asshole. It's because of you. If you could face cancer, then I could face anything life throws at me too.

Mason isn't quite convinced. Wyatt gets annoyed.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Look at you! Terminal diagnosis, but you've used every ounce of your remaining energy trying to set things right. If that's not heroic, then every comic I've ever read is wrong. And that's not possible.

MASON

But when they open that door...

WYATT

You'll be there to go through.

That gets everyone's attention. Ellen stands up.

ELLEN

No one is going through any interdimensional portals!

She feels weird having to say that. She looks at Mallory.

MALLORY

It sounded as silly as you think.

MASON
 (to Wyatt)
 Why would I go through?

WYATT
 Because you have to convince The
 Grinz... you have to convince DAD
 not to destroy it. The door will be
 opened one way or another, but what
 happens after is up to us.
 (Looks around the room)
 It's up to all of us.

Ellen isn't having any of this.

ELLEN
 No. I lost one family member this
 way and I won't lose another.

MASON
 Mom.
 (gently)
 You're going to lose me either way.
 (Ellen starts crying)
 At least this way it might mean
 something.

Ellen looks at Mason. Weak, fading, but still willing to
 fight. She might not understand everything that's going on,
 but in this moment, she understands him.

She wipes her tears and composes herself before opening the
 door and addressing Secondary Agent.

ELLEN
 Mason's awake. Tell Agent Broder he
 has information to share.

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Punchy is mid-confession.

PUNCHY
 And there's this really large
 smiling monster who lords over
 Hammerspace, demanding unrelenting
 happiness from us all. He wants to
 destroy the door to spread
 happiness to Human Space too.

Chet seems open to what Punchy is saying, but Broder is not
 impressed with this story.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
 (knows it sounds stupid)
 It's... horrible. I swear.

EXT. CARMEL, NEW YORK - SAME

A pair of Government Vehicles drive by, Mason and Ellen in the first, Wyatt and Mallory in the second. Agents in both.

INT. GOVERNMENT VEHICLE

Mallory spots her PHONE in an Agent's pocket. Wyatt follows her eyes. She motions for him to grab it. Wyatt leans over the agent, pointing at something out the window.

WYATT
 Whoa. Is that another portal opening?

He picks the agent's pocket and slips the phone to Mallory.

Mallory does some quick maneuvering on the phone, posting something online before giving it back to Wyatt to replace.

WYATT (CONT'D)
 Oh, no. Just a cloud. A really cool cloud. I like clouds.

The agent pushes Wyatt back into his seat. Wyatt looks at Mallory, done with her phone, unsure what she's up to.

MALLORY
 I'm not a ridiculous person. I mean, I know I can be ridiculous, but I'm not ridiculous. Sometimes it just feels better to focus on something...

She trails off, not knowing how to finish.

WYATT
 Unreal?

MALLORY
 (surprised)
 Yeah.

They share a rare moment of connection.

WYATT
 You know we're not gonna kiss, right?

MALLORY

Um. Ew. Weirdo. You like guys and I like your brother.

Wyatt is weirdly disappointed with this ego-blow.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

Punchy continues pleading with Broder and Chet.

PUNCHY

If you open that door, The Grinz comes through. And he'll destroy it. I don't know much about portals, but that has to be bad.

CHET STANLEY

A destabilized portal could be devastating to both worlds.

AGENT BRODER

Listen, Stanley. Your semi-psychotic obsession with this theory has been helpful. You filled in the blanks when our funding fell through. But do you really think we haven't been tracking these anomalies? That you're somehow aware of something the United States government is not? You've been working for us without even knowing it. You're just a crackpot without a payroll.

CHET STANLEY

If I were a crackpot, you wouldn't be here.

(motioning to Punchy)

She wouldn't be here.

AGENT BRODER

And she won't be here much longer if she doesn't start talking.

(to Punchy)

My lab techs are itching to performing an autopsy on a toon.

MASON (O.C.)

You mean Tewn.

They all turn to see Mason, still weakened, being led in by Agents. Ellen, Wyatt, and Mallory are there too.

MASON (CONT'D)

With an ewwwwwww.

PUNCHY

Thank you!

MASON

She only looks like a toon. My dad discovered the portal and copied the world. A world where cartoon physics exist. Like...

(to Wyatt)

What's the term?

WYATT

Multiverse theory.

MASON

That.

Agent Broder absorbs this intel, not particularly surprised.

AGENT BRODER

And the smiling monster?

MASON

My dad. And I'd like to talk him out of inadvertently destroying us.

AGENT BRODER

You think I'm going to let a kid walk through a portal to another dimension you've just claimed psychotically distorted the last human to do so?

MASON

(shrugs)

If it could save the world, sure.

AGENT BRODER

You want to save a world?

(Getting angrier)

A world where terrorists kill thousands of innocent people? Where soldiers die protecting a country that cares more about reality TV than national security? Where infectious diseases threaten to eradicate our population and biological warfare is already underway?

MASON

Um. I guess?

AGENT BRODER

Saving the world is more than protecting it from outside threats; it's protecting it from ourselves. And doing so requires power. Power from beyond that portal. Imagine an entire army immune to violence and disease. With the ability to bounce back from gunfire and pull whatever weapon they want from behind their backs. They'd be unstoppable.

CHET STANLEY

(horrified)

You want to weaponize Hammerspace?

AGENT BRODER

(genuine)

I want to save the world.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

A ROWDY CROWD OF HAMMERSPACE FANS, including Travis, Jay, and Milo, approach the Agent-guarded perimeter of the lot.

AGENT 1

Restricted access. Leave now.

TRAVIS

If you guys are turning Hammerspace into one of those live action/CGI abominations, there will be hell to pay. I'm a master troller.

AGENT 1

I-I don't understand your words.

JAY

Smurfs.

MILO

Chipmunks.

JAY

Airbender.

TRAVIS

The secret is out.

Travis holds up Mallory's fan page, revealing her recent post claiming the video was leaked footage from a live-action Hammerspace movie being secretly filmed in town.

Agent 1 looks around. With all the Government Agents and NASA-like equipment, a film set is exactly what it looks like.

AGENT 1
(into radio)
Sir. We have a situation.

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Agent Broder marches to a window, not happy. Wyatt looks outside, then at Mallory, impressed. She shrugs.

MALLORY
I have a lot of followers.

While Broder is distracted, Chet spies the Hammer Key in his hand. When Broder turns around, Chet punches him in the face. Broder spins around cartoonishly, but felt nothing.

They both look at the Hammer Key, making the same realization. Chet snatches it and hits Broder again. He takes it on the chin, tough as nails, and slugs Chet right back.

Chet is launched across the room.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He crashes into the LAB TECHS, knocking them away from Locker 17. But he gets right up, totally fine. He eyes the Hammer Key, amazed at its abilities. But Broder is charging.

As Broder tackles him, Chet tosses the key to Mason.

Mason turns to Locker 17. The Hammer Key glows as he inserts and turns it. The door to Hammerspace opens, expanding within the locker. Agents and Lab Techs don't know what to do.

Agent Broder releases Chet and pulls his gun on Mason.

AGENT BRODER
Don't move.

Mason considers diving through the door with the key, closing it forever, but hesitates. Looks over at Chet.

MASON
Keep it open.

He tosses the key to Chet and dives through the portal.
But Broder catches the key instead. Smiling maniacally.

INT. PUNCHY'S HOUSE

Mason lands on the other side, revealing a bizarre world that is clearly the inspiration for the Hammerspace cartoon.

EVERYTHING LOOKS LIKE 2D ANIMATION HERE.

Mason stands up, looking back at the normal little door he came through. It seems innocuous in this cartoonish setting.

Mason steps past a mirror, noticing for the first time that HE, TOO, LOOKS LIKE 2D ANIMATION. It's rather alarming.

He touches his face, stretching it around in an exaggerated manner, then letting it snap back into place.

Yup. This is happening.

EXT. HAMMERSPACE - CONTINUOUS

The door to a little house opens and Mason pops his head out. Hammerspace looks like a brightly colored cartoon world.

He sees other TEWNS similar to Punchy going about their goofy, unfamiliar lives, happy as can be. All the cartoon physics that seemed special in our world are on full display all around him. It's organized chaos.

He needs to find The Grinz, but doesn't know where to begin.

That's when A GIANT YELLOW BALL rises in the sky like the sun. But as it spins around, a pair of DISEMBODIED WHITE GLOVED HANDS uncover a GIANT SMILEY FACE.

THE GRINZ

Mason! You're still alive! I'm so
happy to see you!

This is THE GRINZ, the creature Henry evolved into, and he truly is disturbingly happy. Mason is speechless.

THE GRINZ (CONT'D)

That means the door must be open!
This is wonderful news!

The Grinz approaches, seemingly floating through the sky. Mason is equal parts horrified and fascinated.

MASON

Dad?

The Grinz pauses, hovering above him.

THE GRINZ

Why aren't you smiling?

MASON

I thought you were dead.

THE GRINZ

Then you should be happy I'm not!

The Grinz pulls Mason's face into a forced smile and lets it go. It snaps back to a concerned look.

THE GRINZ (CONT'D)

Turn that frown upside down!

The Grinz literally flips Mason's mouth upside down. Mason is annoyed and flips it back.

MASON

Do you have any idea what you did to us? To mom?

THE GRINZ

I went to a better place. And I'm going to bring it to you!

(face darkening)

In Human Space, you suffer. You hurt. You feel guilt and sadness and hopelessness.

(face lights up again)

But Hammerspace is the opposite!

The Grinz swirls around, showing off the wonders of this universe. The Tewns all start to pay attention.

Mason pulls out the FAMILY PHOTO, now appearing like a hand-drawn cartoon. He thrusts it up in The Grinz's face.

MASON

You abandoned your family. How are you happy about that?

The Grinz looks at the photo with his ever-present smile, then shows it to all of the Tewns watching curiously.

THE GRINZ

Look how sad. Soon we'll make them happy!

MASON

If you destroy Locker 17, you could
destroy life as we know it.

THE GRINZ

Life as you know it has been pretty
rotten. So it can only get better!

POP! The Grinz pulls DYNAMITE AND A MATCH from behind his
back. He reaches out his other hand to Mason.

THE GRINZ (CONT'D)

Give yourself to the bright side!

Mason backs away, slowly. The Tewns advance, even slower.

MASON

You're crazy.

THE GRINZ

It's pronounced "happy"!

Mason turns and runs back through Punchy's house. The Grinz
chases after him, striking the match as he goes.

Mason reaches the little door to Human Space and dives
through. But The Grinz is right behind him, LIGHTING THE
DYNAMITE.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason tumbles out onto the floor, gasping for air as he
recovers from the sudden transformation from 2D.

Agent Broder and his team have Chet and the others held at
gunpoint. Mason looks at Chet for the key.

MASON

SHUT THE DOOR!

But Broder dangles the Hammer Key, tauntingly.

AGENT BRODER

I don't think so.

A PAIR OF LARGE WHITE GLOVES reach through the door, pulling
the bulbous, yellow globe that is The Grinz out of
Hammerspace and into Human Space.

Like Punchy, The Grinz appears as a CGI-style creature in
this universe. A giant floating head with disembodied hands.

The humans stand there in awe and horror. The Grinz takes it in with a huge smile. He looks back at the LIT DYNAMITE planted on the open locker door, no longer just a 2D item.

THE GRINZ

This New-niverse starts with a bang!

The humans all run for cover in the roller rink.

The Grinz happily floats their way as the dynamite DETONATES behind him, blowing Locker 17 apart. The door flies into the roller rink, knocking Agent Broder over.

He drops the key. It slides over to cowering Chet just as the locker door lands next to him, useless.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The portal, now destabilized, starts to expand into the rink. LIGHT AND ENERGY pulsing outward in unpredictable ways, blending the 2D look of Hammerspace with anything it touches.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

As the Lab Techs flee the building, Agent Broder recovers from the blow, rallying his men.

AGENT BRODER

(into radio)

Regroup. Contain and control. Take lethal measures if necessary.

In the chaos, Ellen, Wyatt, and Mallory take cover in Henry's office. Punchy's table has fallen over. She's still stuck.

PUNCHY

Little help here!

Mason crawls over to free Punchy from the table in the rink. She bounces up and hugs Mason. He's surprised, but hugs back.

THE GRINZ (O.C.)

How touching!

They turn to face The Grinz. Punchy is livid.

PUNCHY

(getting in his face)

You lied to me. You stole my image.
You put stupid words in my mouth!
And now I keep saying them!

THE GRINZ

Oh, Punchy. You've become such a
downer. Chin up!

The Grinz smacks Punchy across the room. She bounces into the sound booth, triggering an upbeat 90s jam to echo through the rink. Punchy stands up, hurt, but determined.

PUNCHY

Okay. You wanted Punchy Power,
you're gonna get Punchy Power.

ARMED AGENTS rush in, surrounding The Grinz. But their guns are aimed at Punchy too. Her hands go up.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)

Or... not.

Mason sees Chet uselessly trying to put the Hammer Key back into the lock on the blown off door to Locker 17.

MASON

That could be put to better use.

Chet, out of his element, hands it over.

CHET STANLEY

I just wanted to find other worlds.

MASON

And I just want to save them.

In the center of the rink, The Grinz and Punchy are surrounded. The energy from the portal encroaching nearby.

AGENT BRODER

Surrender yourself.

THE GRINZ

I don't take orders from Grumpy
Guses. I cheer them up!

The Grinz does a fantastic spin, his disembodied hands swinging out and knocking all the Agents over. Punchy ducks and rolls, running up to Mason across the way.

The Agents regroup as the energy from the portal expands into the rink, lashing out at them. Wherever its energy hits, it turns our 3D reality into 2D cartoons.

AGENT BRODER

OPEN FIRE!

Bullets riddle The Grinz, but they seemingly detonate on impact, leaving his face cartoonishly smoke-blasted, but not the least bit harmed. He's basking in the portal's energy.

THE GRINZ

You see! In Human Space the answer is violence. The response is pain. The result is misery. I'm offering you an escape from all of that!

The Grinz rises up to the second floor, looking down upon them all. The Agents are being consumed by the energy, blending the physics and appearance of both worlds.

THE GRINZ (CONT'D)

An escape from the confines of cause and effect. An escape from the suffering of illness and injury.

(noticing Mason is gone)

An escape from death as you know it.

Agent Broder looks at his arm as it pulses between human and cartoon-looking. His stoic demeanor is gone.

THE GRINZ (CONT'D)

Come, Tewns! It's the dawn of the New-niverse!

OTHER TEWNS FROM HAMMERSPACE tentatively come through the portal. They, too, fluctuate between their 2D selves and 3D versions, depending on their portal exposure.

Chet Stanley is in awe as the Tewns outnumber the Agents. They pounce on them, rumbling like a cartoon cloud fight.

When it's over, the Tewns have the weapons in the portal energy. They bend them all like cartoon rifles. Useless.

Agent Broder flees the building.

INT. OFFICE - SAME

Mason and Punchy strategize with Ellen, Wyatt, and Mallory.

MASON

The only way to hurt The Grinz is to lure him away from the portal energy. Mom?

ELLEN

Yes?

MASON
Think you could talk to dad?

ELLEN
(processing)
I have a thing or two I'd like to
say to him.

MASON
Okay. The rest of you. Arm
yourselves. We have a Tewn army to
send back to Hammerspace.

Wyatt grabs his skateboard. Mallory grabs a PAIR OF ROLLER
SKATES TIED AT THE LACES. Punchy grabs the Punchy Pogo Stick.

PUNCHY
(annoyed)
Really?

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Wyatt speeds out into the rink on his skateboard, dodging in
and out of cartoon energy, amazed at how it changes him.

Punchy bounces out behind him on her pogo stick. She lands on
a TEWN, knocking him to the ground. The Tewn responds in
utter terror.

TEWN 1
(clutching his face)
What is this horrible feeling?

PUNCHY
That's a consequence.

TEWN 1
I-I don't like it!

The Tewn runs right back through the portal. Punchy realizes
the Tewns are easily scared off by the new sensation of pain.

PUNCHY
(calling to the others)
They're afraid of consequences!

Mallory, wearing one pair of skates and swinging the tied
together pair like nunchucks, is taking out Tewns left and
right. The ones not in the energy get hurt and run away.

Wyatt flips his board around, smacking TEWNS as well.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
 (to the other Tewns)
 Don't listen to The Grinz! He's
 taken all the good of Hammerspace
 and warped it for his own means. We
 used to be happy. BEFORE these
 worlds were connected. BEFORE The
 Grinz. BEFORE fake laughing!

The destabilized portal starts to shake the whole building. Walls crack. The rink splits in half. And the fabric of reality seems to be stretching and warping in front of them.

PUNCHY (CONT'D)
 Look what he's done to us all!

The Tewns start to see that Punchy is right. We follow a few of them back through the portal into...

INT. HAMMERSPACE - CONTINUOUS

The Tewns come piling back into Hammerspace, nursing wounds they've never experienced before in a world that's being torn apart. Human Space and Hammerspace are destroying each other.

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

Punchy, Wyatt, and Mallory continue scaring off the Tewns, enraging The Grinz. He's about to go after them when Ellen steps out of the shadows before him.

In the portal light, she shifts into a 2D Hammerspace look.

THE GRINZ
 Ellen?

ELLEN
 H-Henry?

THE GRINZ
 You look beautiful like this!

ELLEN
 You look monstrous like that.

It's the first time The Grinz shows any sign of insecurity.

THE GRINZ
 I did this for us.

ELLEN

You left me for us? You left the boys for us? No. You did this for you. Because you're a coward.

Ellen slowly backs away, luring The Grinz out of the energy.

THE GRINZ

I had to find a better way.

ELLEN

You had to run away. From life.

THE GRINZ

From pain. No more pain, Ellen.

ELLEN

Without pain there's no perspective. And you've given me both since you left.

THE GRINZ

Hammerspace will change that.

Ellen steps out of the energy, shifting back into her human self. The Grinz goes with her, no longer protected.

ELLEN

Hammerspace didn't change you. It just let the real you out. Sad, addicted, and delusional.

THE GRINZ

(infuriated)

IT'S PRONOUNCED "HAPPY"!

Mason steps out behind The Grinz. POP! He pulls out the TASER used on him by the Cosmic Comics Guard and fires.

Shock waves of electricity flow through The Grinz.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

The crowd outside the perimeter watches Lab Techs and Agents regrouping outside, but can only see what seems like an excessive light show going on inside.

TRAVIS

Those special effects are weak.

A car pulls up and out pops Velma Mathers with her COSMIC COMICS LEGAL REP, 40s, confused about the hubbub.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

Without the protection of the portal energy, The Grinz suffers. But it's not enough. He flies into the sky, pulling Mason by the taser cords with him.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

The Grinz smashes through the roof of the rink, revealing himself to the crowd outside. A wall falls down, revealing multiple Tewns bouncing all over the place inside.

TRAVIS

Okay. Those effects are decent.

The whole crowd is FILMING THIS ON THEIR PHONES.

VELMA MATHERS

(to her Legal Rep)

We're going to have a much bigger problem than we thought.

INT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

The Grinz swings Mason around by the taser, finally swiping him loose. Mason goes crashing into the second floor snack bar. He recovers quickly, just as the rink begins to crumble.

Down below, Mason sees Wyatt about to get squashed by a falling object outside the energy field. Without thinking, Mason rips the Hammer Key from his neck.

MASON

WYATT!

Wyatt looks up as Mason throws him the Hammer Key, but they're both lost in the falling rubble. Wyatt is squashed.

MASON (CONT'D)

No!

Mason, suddenly weakened without the key, stumbles down to the rink. Ellen and Mallory have already rushed over in a panic, trying to dig Wyatt out. The Grinz hovers nearby.

MASON (CONT'D)

(to The Grinz)

You see what you've done!

Punchy gets the last of the Tewns through the portal just in time to see one of her humans receive the ultimate consequence up close and personal. It's horrible.

THE GRINZ
 Something that wouldn't happen if
 he'd been in Hammerspace.

The portal energy pulses and flashes between them, constantly altering their states, warping reality.

MASON
 There won't be a Hammerspace!
 You're destroying both worlds!

THE GRINZ
 It's just growing pains! Now, show
 me that smile again!

Mason can't believe he's making jokes. He really is insane.

MALLORY (O.C.)
 Look!

A FLATTENED HAND reaches out from under the debris. It pulls out the FLATTENED BODY of Wyatt. He stands up, paper thin and wobbling around. The Hammer Key in one hand.

He's amazed he survived. He puts his other thumb in his mouth and blows, inflating himself back to a healthy state.

WYATT
 That. Was. AMAZING!

Mason hugs his brother. Ellen hugs them both. Then she takes Wyatt's face in her hands, so relieved.

ELLEN
 I always see you. You're just so
 strong I forget you need me.

THE GRINZ
 You see. Everything's better!

Wyatt steps forward, facing his dad for the first time. And really seeing him for what he is. He nods his head.

WYATT
 Everything's better. Without you.

MASON
 You're not The Grinz. You've been
 The Misery all along.

The Grinz is enraged. He flies into a fit, revealing that even he isn't as happy as he may seem.

Enveloped in the portal energy, he smashes through a wall.

EXT. ROLLER RINK - CONTINUOUS

Agent Broder is ready for him. They open fire, blowing The Grinz back into the rink.

INT. ROLLER RINK - SAME

The Grinz smashes through a back wall. It's unclear if he's survived this onslaught. The family huddles together.

Punchy looks around at the destruction unfolding, finally realizing that her visits to Human Space have had real consequences. Ones she needs to take responsibility for.

Punchy reaches out and takes the Hammer Key from Wyatt. Mason realizes what she's doing.

MASON

But there's no actual door.

PUNCHY

There's still a portal.

She heads into the energy, back where the locker room used to be. Mason gets up and chases after her.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mason and Punchy get close to the origin of the portal.

PUNCHY

Here. Hold this for a second.

Mason takes the key, confused. Punchy steps through the portal to Hammerspace, facing each other.

MASON

Wait. You're going back?

PUNCHY

You're not the only one with a family to protect.

MASON

You have a family?!

PUNCHY

Humans. So self-involved.

Punchy hauls back and punches Mason with all she's got, but it doesn't knock him back; her hand went right into him.

But Mason is suddenly yanked away. The Grinz has him by the feet, dragging him and the Hammer Key away from the portal.

THE GRINZ

Mason! You're holding the key to happiness! Don't throw it away!

MASON

You want the key to happiness?
(looks up at Punchy)
Never fake a laugh.

Mason throws the key through the portal. Punchy catches it on the other side, CAUSING THE PORTAL ENERGY TO REVERSE.

Reality bends and warps as the Hammerspace element is quickly pulled away from Human Space, spiraling towards the portal.

THE GRINZ

No!

Punchy shares one final wave to Mason from across two worlds.

PUNCHY

See you at The Crossroads!

THE BLOWN APART DOOR OF LOCKER 17 flies back toward the portal, slamming shut between them and sealing it forever.

Everything is suddenly silent. No more destruction. No more warping reality. Just plain old Human Space.

The Grinz has lost all hope. He lets go of Mason.

Mason stands up, staring at Locker 17, which now has the same "lock and take" key as every other locker. He opens it, but it's just a regular locker. Punchy and Hammerspace are gone.

Behind him, Ellen, Wyatt, and Mallory come in.

ELLEN

Are you okay?

MASON

(shell-shocked)
I hate that question.

They turn to see The Grinz, writhing on the floor. Trapped in Human Space, he's starting to revert to his human form of HENRY MULLIGAN, 40s. Shaking and panicked like an addict.

The transformation is disturbing, but his face finally resembles the man Ellen once knew. He looks up at her, manic.

HENRY

The key to happiness. I had it.

ELLEN

(looks at her boys)

Yes. You did.

Agent Broder and his team rush in, guns ready. Ellen and the kids back away from Henry, hands up. Agents secure the room.

AGENT BRODER

(to Mason)

Where is it? Where is The Grinz?

Mason motions to Henry on the floor.

AGENT BRODER (CONT'D)

And the alien known as Punchy?

Mason gestures to Locker 17. Agent Broder approaches cautiously. He opens the door. Nothing. Just a locker.

AGENT BRODER (CONT'D)

(into radio)

It's clear.

Chet Stanley and the Lab Techs come back in, cautiously observing the destruction all around them. Some objects remain warped by the Hammerspace energy. It's fascinating.

Chet sees Henry, rocking on the floor like a crazy person.

HENRY

I'm not The Misery. I'm not The Misery. I'm not The Misery.

CHET STANLEY

Mr. Mulligan?

HENRY

MY NAME IS THE GRINZ!

LAB TECH 1

Okay. Mr. Grinz. Up on the table.

He starts to resist, but they restrain him on a stretcher.

AGENT BRODER

(to Chet)

We've appropriated your van and the research you left in your motel. Is there anything else you want to share with us?

CHET STANLEY
 (innocently)
 Me? I'm just a crackpot.

Chet turns and walks out of the rink with a satisfied smile.

HENRY
 (to his family)
 Happiness. Happiness. You all want
 this happiness.

Mason looks at his family, his friend. Then back at his father, with a sense of closure he never expected.

MASON
 We'll settle for this happy mess.

Lab Techs roll Henry away, ranting and raving like a lunatic.

CUT TO:

INT. MALLORY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's really late. Mallory comes home to find her PARENTS watching the news. She's startled to see them.

MALLORY
 Hey. Did you get dish soap?

MALLORY'S DAD
 Didn't have time.

Mallory nods, it figures. She heads to her room. Mallory's Mom actually looks away from the TV at her.

MALLORY'S MOM
 This place is a mess. What have you
 been doing?

Mallory tries to think of how to explain it. Shrugs.

MALLORY
 Saving the world.

She escapes to her room just as VIRAL FOOTAGE FROM THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE ROLLER RINK comes up on the news. Mallory walking away from the rubble. Her parents exchange a surprised look.

CUT TO:

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Under the covers, Mason sleeps like he's dead. Wyatt stands over him, nervously, trying to see if he's breathing. Mason opens his eyes. And SCREAMS. Wyatt screams too.

MASON

What are you doing?!

WYATT

I thought you were dead!

MASON

I will be if you keep doing that!

Out of habit, Mason reaches for a BOTTLE OF PILLS at his bedside. He goes down the line. Back to the routine.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - KITCHEN

The boys come downstairs, hearing the familiar sound of Ellen cooking breakfast while talking on the phone.

But when they enter, they're surprised to see she's talking to Velma Mathers and her Legal Rep, sitting at the table.

MASON

Whoa. What... what's going on?

WYATT

You can't sue us!

ELLEN

Guys. Settle down. Ms. Mathers is just about to sign some documents.

Ellen passes her a PROPERTY DEED. Ms. Mathers signs it.

VELMA MATHERS

I still don't fully understand what went on in that roller rink, but I do understand the value of social a media phenomenon.

Legal Rep pulls up an iPad, flipping through various sites and clips, showing footage of last night's epic events.

LEGAL REP

Hammerspace is trending through the roof.

(off The Grinz footage)

Quite literally. You can't buy this kind of publicity!

VELMA MATHERS
 (finishes signing)
 But you can buy property.
 (eyeing Ellen)
 For an exorbitant fee.
 (to the boys)
 But it's a small price to pay for
 what will surely be a family
 destination for years to come.

MASON
 Family destination?

Velma and her Legal Rep pack up and head for the door.

VELMA MATHERS
 A theme park, of course. Tied
 directly into the live-action
 movie. We've put that into
 development immediately. It'll be a
 found-footage approach, to maintain
 the illusion of reality.

She spots an IRON MAN MASK. Wyatt quickly kicks it away.

VELMA MATHERS (CONT'D)
 (suspiciously)
 Which is becoming harder and harder
 to do these days.
 (shaking Ellen's hand)
 Thank you for your business. Send
 our regards to Henry. I hope he
 gets the help he needs.

And with that, Velma Mathers walks out of their lives.

EXT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Mulligans stare after her.

WYATT
 The illusion of reality?

MASON
 (to Ellen)
 She bought the rink?

ELLEN
 (giddy, with a secret)
 She bought the rink.
 (MORE)

ELLEN (CONT'D)

A property she has yet to realize
has been seized by the government
and won't be available for
development for a long, long time.
But hey, we don't have to move.

Her phone PINGS. She looks down at it.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(to Mason)

Go get dressed. You missed your
appointment and they're squeezing
you in today.

Ellen and Wyatt go back inside. Mason stands there, looking
at his PICC line. So much has changed. So much is the same.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Mason sits in a chair as a NURSE sets up an IV into his PICC
line. He's still processing everything he's been through. He
hears his mom and DOCTOR in the hall.

ELLEN (O.C.)

But I-I don't understand.

DOCTOR (O.C.)

We'll have to run more tests to be
certain. I'm honestly baffled. The
cancer just seems to be... gone.

Mason hears this and looks up at The Nurse, equally confused.
She motions that she'll be a moment and steps outside.

Mason looks down at the PICC line, at his body. He puts his
hand on his chest where Punchy last hit him.

FLASH BACK: LOCKER ROOM

Punchy's hand is inside Mason's chest. The Grinz yanks Mason
away. What Mason didn't see in the chaos was that Punchy was
left holding a GLOB OF GREENISH GOO.

POP! She pulls a HAZARDOUS WASTE BAG from her pocket and
dumps the goo inside, tossing it out of sight in Hammerspace.

BACK TO SCENE:

Mason realizes that Punchy removed it. He looks at the
returning Nurse, who starts to remove his PICC line.

A million emotions run through his face. He looks up to see Ellen mirroring his reaction. Everything really has changed.

INT. MULLIGAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mason finds Wyatt and Mallory on the couch, watching CARTOON PUNCHY in another adventure on the Hammerspace series. Somehow, they know the real Punchy is doing the same.

CARTOON PUNCHY
It's time for Punchy Power!

MASON
(smiles at the TV)
It's time to go.

He pulls on his straight jacket. Wyatt is surprised.

WYATT
I thought we were going as heroes.
You look like... Dad.

MASON
(shrugs)
Losing his mind saved my life.
(off Wyatt's doubt)
Sometimes villains can be redeemed.
You need to read more comics.

Wyatt rolls his eyes with a smirk and dons his Star Lord mask. Mallory puts the Punchy mask on. It's Halloween. A day Mason didn't think he'd see again. They head outside.

Ellen watches the kids go off. She smiles, at peace with her family. Then she sees the TV still on. She grabs the remote, takes one last look at Hammerspace. And clicks it off.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER THE CLOSING CREDITS:

We see all the things Mason pulled and where they came from:

1. A GAY COUPLE preps for movie night. The STRAIT JACKET DVD by the TV. Mason's hand warps through reality, groping around unseen till he grabs it. The couple turns back, confused.
2. ORDERLIES in a mental ward try to wrangle a CRAZY INMATE. Mason's hand warps through reality, snatching the STRAIGHT JACKET behind them. They can't find it. Inmate runs free.
3. A MAN paints his house. He puts a BRUSH AND PAINT CAN down to evaluate his work. Mason's hand warps through reality, snagging the can and brush. The man reaches down. Nothing.
4. A ROAD MAINTENANCE CREW opens a MANHOLE COVER, but the hole below is missing. It's just paved over. They're baffled. THREE MORE MANHOLES behind them are the same.
5. The same Man painting his house comes back with another BRUSH. When he puts it down, Mason's hand appears behind him and snatches it. The man thinks he's losing his mind.
6. The Man exits a hardware store, puts new PAINT AND BRUSH in his back seat. Mason's hand warps through and grabs them. The man looks in his rearview - they're gone. He gives up.
7. A high-security bank is closed for the night. Mason's hand warps through reality, snatching a LAPTOP off a banker's desk. When it unplugs, an ALARM BLARES.
8. A WATER PARK EMPLOYEE is baffled as he notes that all the holes at the top and bottom of the slides are now closed off. No holes. Water is bursting out of all the seams.
9. A kid's birthday party. Mason's hand warps through and grabs his BALLOONS. The BIRTHDAY BOY sees, drops his cake.
10. On a plane, a SKYDIVER preps for a jump. Reaches for a PARACHUTE just as Mason's hand pulls it away. The skydiver decides against pursuing this activity.
11. Ellen enters Wyatt's room, discovering they've snuck out. When she turns around on her phone, Mason's hand warps through Wyatt's bedroom, grabbing the Punchy Pogo Stick.
12. An actual VICTORIA'S SECRET MODEL at a photo shoot. Mason's hand reaches in and unsnaps her bra, pulling it away. She covers herself, totally confused.
13. A fire alarm blares in a fire station. FIREMEN run to slide down the pole to the garage, but the hole is gone.

14. A GRAVE DIGGER is about to refill a cemetery plot. He reaches for his SHOVEL, but Mason's hand reaches through and snags it first. The Digger is totally spooked. He runs away.

15. A WOMAN in Costco's automotive section places a LARGE OIL CAN in her cart and reaches for another. Mason's hands reach in and take the first one. The woman is so confused.

15. A HARDWARE STORE EMPLOYEE refills their nail stock. He pulls out bin after bin, not seeing Mason's hand reaching through reality behind him, repeatedly emptying them.

16. Cosmic Comic's Security Guard sits at his front desk, feet up. Mason's hand warps through reality, pulling the TASER from his belt. The Guard doesn't notice. He's watching the Hammerspace cartoon on his security monitors. He laughs.