

WONDER VIEW

Episode #209

"Chapter Nine: The Gate"

by

The Duffer Brothers

Directed by

The Duffer Brothers

PRODUCTION DRAFT

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WONDER VIEW

"Chapter Nine: The Gate"

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WONDER VIEW

"Chapter Nine: The Gate"

CAST LIST

JOYCE BYERS
POLICE CHIEF JIM HOPPER
MIKE WHEELER
NANCY WHEELER
JONATHAN BYERS
ELEVEN
LUCAS SINCLAIR
DUSTIN HENDERSON
KAREN WHEELER
WILL BYERS
STEVE HARRINGTON
MAX MAYFIELD
BILLY HARGROVE (fka BILLY MAYFIELD) *

TED WHEELER
MURRAY BAUMAN *

MR. CLARKE
CLAUDIA HENDERSON
ERICA SINCLAIR
MRS. HOLLAND
MR. HOLLAND
SUSAN HARGROVE (fka SUSAN MAYFIELD) *

CUTE GIRL
STACEY
TV NEWS ANCHOR
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOY #1 *

WONDER VIEW

"Chapter Nine: The Gate"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

BYERS HOUSE
 HALLWAY
 JONATHAN'S ROOM
 KITCHEN
 LIVING ROOM
 WILL'S ROOM
 CABIN
 HAWKINS LABS
 HALLWAYS
 NEXT STAIRWELL LANDING
 RIFT LAB
 CONTROL ROOM
 EXCAVATED HOLE
 RIFT LAB HALLWAY
 STAIRWELL LANDING
 STAIRWELL, RIFT LAB LVL
 WHEELER HOUSE
 FOYER
 KITCHEN
 LIVING ROOM
 MASTER BATHROOM
 STAIRS
 TV ROOM
 HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL
 GYMNASIUM
 HENDERSON HOUSE &
 DUSTIN'S ROOM
 THE HIDEAWAY BAR
 BOOTH
 ENTRY
 MAX'S HOUSE
 MAX'S ROOM
 SINCLAIR HOUSE
 LUCAS'S ROOM
 UNDERGROUND TUNNELS
 ADJACENT TUNNEL
 THE BONE CHAMBER
 THE HOLE
 HUB
 RIFT CHAMBER & PLATFORM
 THE SPORE CHAMBER

EXTERIORS

BYERS HOUSE
 BACK YARD/SHED
 DRIVEWAY
 FRONT YARD
 CABIN
 CEMETERY
 COUNTRY ROADS
 ROAD
 ROAD TO MERRILL'S FARM
 FORESTED ROAD
 HAWKINS LABS
 FRONT PARKING LOT
 MAIN ENTRANCE
 MAIN GATE
 HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL
 GYM/GYM ENTRANCE
 *
 MERRILL FARM
 PUMPKIN PATCH/HOLE
 WHEELER HOUSE
 WOODS
 * BILLY'S CAMARO
 HOPPER'S BLAZER
 JONATHAN'S CAR
 JOYCE'S GREMLIN
 *
 STEVE'S BMW

1 INT. BYERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 8 CONT'D

1

We pick up right where we left off as...

MIKE and ELEVEN gaze at one another, making eye contact for the first time all season... slowly, so slowly, they move toward one another, as if drawn by some unseen force.

Mike isn't even sure if what he's seeing is real.

Are his eyes deceiving him? Is he... *dreaming*?

MIKE

... El?

Eleven gives a small nod. Then --

Mike pulls her into an embrace. *She's real alright.* He holds her tight, *so tight*, as if he's never going to let her go again.

EVERYONE ELSE watches from the sidelines. Slack-jawed.

MAX looks at LUCAS and DUSTIN.

MAX

(low, awed)

Is that...?

Lucas and Dustin nod. Speechless.

Mike and Eleven finally pull out of their embrace. Mike's eyes are filled with tears; his voice trembles with emotion.

MIKE

I... I never gave up on you... I...
I called you -- I called every
night... *every night* for --

ELEVEN

Three-hundred fifty-three days.
(off Mike, surprised)
I... heard.

MIKE

You were... there? Listening?

Eleven nods. She's fighting tears of her own now.

MIKE (CONT'D)

... Why didn't you say anything?
Why didn't you tell me you were
there? That you were okay?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Eleven hesitates.

HOPPER (O.S.)
... Because I wouldn't let her.

Mike turns in surprise to find HOPPER, who steps over to Eleven. He looks her up and down, examining her strange new punk clothes, her slicked-back hair.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
What is all this? Where have you
been -- ?

Eleven snaps back --

ELEVEN
Where have you been?

And suddenly it hits Mike. He looks at Hopper. Eyes wide.

MIKE
You've been hiding her... hiding
her *this whole time*.

Hopper hesitates, not even sure where to begin here. But one thing is clear -- he's not denying it. Everyone shares stunned looks as they take in this bombshell.

DUSTIN
Holy. Shit.

Mike is so shocked he can't even find words. He just... stares at Hopper in growing anger. He's about to explode.

And Hopper senses it.

HOPPER
... Let's talk. *Alone*.

We PUSH IN on Mike as his anger grows, and...

MIKE (PRE-LAP)
"Protecting" her??!!

2 INT. BYERS HOUSE - WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

2

Mike and Hopper are now in Will's room with the door shut.

They're mid-argument, trying to keep their voices down -- but that's difficult for Mike, who is so angry his voice *shakes*.

MIKE
"Protecting" her -- ?!

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

HOPPER

The more people who know about her,
the more danger she's in -- the more
danger *you and your family* are in --

MIKE

Oh, okay! So I should be -- what?!
Thanking you?!

HOPPER

I'm not asking you to thank me --
I'm just asking you to *try* to
understand --

MIKE

Well I don't, I DON'T understand -- !

HOPPER

Just... don't blame her, alright?
She's upset enough --

MIKE

I *don't* blame her -- I blame YOU --

HOPPER

And that's okay --

MIKE

No, no, it's NOT OKAY!! NOTHING
about this is OKAY!!

WHAM! Mike suddenly punches Hopper right in the gut!

Hopper winces. *Jesus, that kinda hurt.*

MIKE (CONT'D)

You're a stupid -- disgusting --
lying PIECE OF SHIT!

WHAM! Mike punches Hopper again! Again!

MIKE (CONT'D)

A LIAR!! A LIAR!! A LIAR!!

Mike continues to pummel Hopper's gut.

Hopper lets him get a few more shots in, then --

HOPPER

Hey, okay -- that's enough -- hey
hey!! That's enough -- !!!

Hopper pulls Mike toward to him to stop the punching and --

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Mike just folds into his arms -- and begins to cry. All of his emotion pouring out of him. Hopper doesn't know even what to do. So... he hugs him back.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, kid... *I'm sorry...*

Off Hopper, holding Mike tight, we CUT TO:

3 **INT. BYERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

3

A CLOSE UP of Eleven, her head now SMUSHED between...

Dustin and Lucas, who are hugging her at the same time.

LUCAS
... We missed you.

DUSTIN
Yeah. We talked about you like --
pretty much every day.

They finally pull away. Eleven smiles softly.

ELEVEN
I missed you -- too.

Dustin flashes his classic smile. Eleven startles.

ELEVEN (CONT'D)
... *Teeth?*

DUSTIN
Huh?

She points at his mouth --

ELEVEN
You have teeth.

Dustin perks up.

DUSTIN
Oh! Yeah! You like my "pearls"
huh?

Dustin makes his PURRING sound:

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
GRRRRRR!!!

Lucas rolls his eyes. *What an idiot.* Then --

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

MAX (O.S.)
... Eleven?

Eleven turns to find Max walking over to her now. Max is timid in her approach, clearly in *awe of Eleven*.

It's almost like she's... *a fan girl or something*.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hey... I'm Max. I've heard... a
lot about you.

Max extends a hand. Eleven looks it. Considers. Then --
Nah. She strides past Max, blowing her off.

Off Max, a little hurt by this...

WE MOVE INTO THE KITCHEN AREA,

Where Eleven walks up to Joyce instead -- and embraces her.

JOYCE
Hey... hey there...

Joyce pulls Eleven closer, gently caresses her hair.

JOYCE (CONT'D)
It's okay... I'm here... *I'm
here...*

As Eleven withdraws from the embrace, she looks up at Joyce with knowing, worried eyes.

ELEVEN
Can I see... him?

Off Joyce...

4 **INT. BYERS HOUSE - JONATHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT**

4

Eeeeeee... The door opens as Eleven enters Jonathan's room.

WILL is laid out on the bed, still unconscious.

Eleven walks over and kneels by his side. She places a hand on his cheek, feeling his cold skin with her open palm.

His eyes still move under his eyelids. We hear the gentle thump of his heartbeat. *Thump. Thump. Thump.*

The group hovers behind Eleven. *An audience.*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

JOYCE
... He's sick.

ELEVEN
... I know. I saw.

Shared looks from the kids and teens.

DUSTIN
Super powers...

Joyce considers. Then:

JOYCE
... What else did you... see?

5 **INT. BYERS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

5

Eleven walks up over to the kitchen table where the Morse code message is clearly written: C.L.O.S.E. G.A.T.E.

Joyce sits beside Eleven.

JOYCE
You opened this... Gate before,
right?

FLASHCUT TO: ELEVEN OPENING THE GATE FROM EP #106.

Eleven winces. Feeling guilt, regret.

ELEVEN
... Yes.

JOYCE
If we got you back there... could
you... close it again?

We SLOWLY PUSH IN ON ELEVEN. Scared, but determined.

As we continue to PUSH IN ON ELEVEN, we PRE-LAP:

THE SOUND OF A GROANING coming from...

6 **INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - NIGHT**

6

The MASSIVE RIFT. We're back underground now.

THE RIFT TOWERS before us. Enormous. Pulsing.

We SLOWLY PULL BACK TO FIND HORDES OF DEMO-DOGS swarming the grounds below. Guarding The Gate. The Mind Flayer's Army.
How in the hell will they even get Eleven in here?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

As we ponder the impossible task ahead...

DART steps into close-up. And ROARS.

And right here we CRASH TO --

MAIN TITLES

7 **INT. WHEELER HOUSE - MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT**

7

We open on FLICKERING CANDLES. CHEESY ROMANTIC MUSIC PLAYS.

The candles are all perfectly lined up along the back rim of a bathtub. *Where are we?* We DRIFT FURTHER BACK to find...

KAREN WHEELER TAKING A BUBBLE BATH!

She's got a glass of red wine in one hand, a ROMANCE NOVEL in the other. The book cover features a half-naked hunk with flowing hair. She flips the page, spellbound, when --

DING DONG! The doorbell rings, jarring her out of her fantasy! She ignores it, returns to her book, but then --

DING DONG! *Again!*

KAREN

Ted -- would you *please* get that??

DING DONG!

KAREN (CONT'D)

TED!!!

8 **INT. WHEELER HOUSE - TV ROOM - NIGHT**

8

TED isn't getting *anything* -- he's SNORING LOUDLY in his La-Z-Boy with the TV BLARING. He doesn't hear the doorbell, much less Karen. DING DONG! There it goes again!

9 **INT. WHEELER HOUSE - MASTER BATHROOM - NIGHT**

9

Karen sighs. She starts to push up out of the tub and...

10 **INT. WHEELER HOUSE - STAIRS - NIGHT**

10

CLOSE ON: Bare wet feet as...

Karen hustles down the steps now, exasperated and annoyed now. She drips water as she hastily ties on a bathrobe.

DING DONG!!

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

KAREN
Just -- hold on -- please!

11 INT./EXT. WHEELER HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

11

Karen swings the door. Her annoyance abruptly vanishes.

REVERSE TO REVEAL A VERY SURPRISING VISITOR: BILLY. He looks *stunningly* like the hunk on her romance novel. It's like her fantasy man just... materialized outside of her own home!

Billy seems equally *taken* by her appearance. He glances down at her (somewhat exposed) legs and body.

BILLY
Oh -- hi --

Karen pulls her robe tighter, suddenly self-conscious.

KAREN
(flustered)
-- Hi...

BILLY
I didn't realize Nancy had a sister --

Karen almost chokes on a laugh. Billy is confused --

BILLY (CONT'D)
... What's so funny?

Karen can't tell if he's messing with her or not. She blushes regardless.

KAREN
I'm Nancy's mother --

BILLY
No --

KAREN
Yes --

BILLY
Mrs. Wheeler?

Karen flings her wet hair, laughs a bit --

KAREN
I know. Hard to believe --

BILLY
It is. It is. Wow.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Karen can hardly stand this flattery!

KAREN

And you are...?

BILLY

Oh -- I haven't even introduced myself, have I?

Billy laughs, holds out his hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Billy. *Billy Hargrove.*

*

Karen shakes his hand.

KAREN

And... you're here for Nancy...?

BILLY

Nancy? No no -- not my type. No, actually -- I'm looking for my little sister -- Maxine, goes by Max. Redhead? She's been missing all day and I've been worried *sick*. I *thought* she was at Lucas's house. But Mrs. Sinclair said *your house* is the designated hangout, so...

Billy leans an arm up against the door frame --

BILLY (CONT'D)

Here I am.

KAREN

... Here you are.

Off Karen, blushing, charmed, we CUT TO:

12 INT. WHEELER HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

12

A pen scribbling across a SCRAP OF PAPER as --

Karen writes down directions. She's bent over the counter a bit, giving Billy *quite* the view of her cleavage.

KAREN

... Their driveway is really dark at this time, so just drive slow --

BILLY

Oh -- always.

She looks up. Hands Billy the address.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

KAREN

And when you see Mike, tell him to
come home already, okay?

BILLY

I can't think you enough
Mrs. Wheeler. You're a real life
saver.

KAREN

Any time.

Billy gives her one last look, then saunters off.

Karen watches his ass sway, lost in another fantasy, and --

13 **INT./EXT. BILLY'S CAMARO - WHEELER HOUSE - NIGHT**

13

WHAM! The door slams shut as Billy climbs back into his
Camaro. As he slots his key into the ignition, his smile
slowly vanishes from his face. *He's back on mission mode.*

He hammers the gas and the car peels off into the night.

He's headed for the Byers...

14 **EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

14

A SEA OF FOG drifts across the lawn...

HOPPER (PRE-LAP)

It's not like before -- it's
grown... *a lot.*

15 **INT. BYERS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

15 *

Hopper and the group debate the plan... *

Hopper seems nervous -- scared even.

HOPPER

And that's *even* if we get in there --
that lab is crawling with those dogs --

DUSTIN

Demo-dogs.

HOPPER

What?

DUSTIN

Demo-dogs.

(off Hopper)

Demogorgon dogs. Demo-dogs --

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HOPPER
How is this important right now?

ELEVEN
... I can do it.

Everyone turns to Eleven.

HOPPER
You're not hearing me --

But Eleven is emboldened with a newfound confidence:

ELEVEN
I'm hearing. I can do it.

Before Hopper can argue back, another voice chimes in --

MIKE
... Even if El *can* -- there's
another problem.

All eyes now turn to Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)
If the brain dies -- the body dies.

MAX
I thought that was the *whole point* --

MIKE
It is. But *if* we're really right --
if she closes the Gate and it kills
the Mind Flayer's army...

LUCAS
(picking up on this now)
Will is *part* of that army...

Mike nods. *Bingo.*

MIKE
Closing the Gate will kill him.

An OMINOUS SILENCE washes over the group. Everyone scared.

We PUSH IN on Joyce as an idea begins to form. And...

16 INT. BYERS HOUSE - JONATHAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

16

Joyce steps back into Jonathan's bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

As Hopper and others step up behind her, wondering what she's thinking, her eyes move from Will to the open window behind him. The curtain billow gently in the cold breeze.

SILENT FLASH TO WILL STANDING OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM IN #204. STARING IN FEAR AT THE TUB AS THE WATER HISSES -- BOILS.

HE THEN TURNS TO HIS MOM AND TELLS HER THAT --

JOYCE
(low, almost to herself)
... He likes it cold.

HOPPER
... What?

JOYCE
"He likes it cold." Will told me that. And we just -- we just keep giving it what it wants.

As Joyce strides over to the open windows, the others begin to pick up on her idea:

NANCY
If this is virus, and Will's the host --

JONATHAN
We need to make the host *uninhabitable*.

Joyce SLAMS the window shut. Silencing the wind. Then -- She turns back to the others. More confident now.

JOYCE
Maybe we can burn it out of him.

Shared looks from all. It *just might* work but --

MIKE
We'd have to do it somewhere he doesn't know this time --

DUSTIN
Somewhere far away.

We PUSH IN ON HOPPER as an idea hits him. *He knows just the place*. Off his look --

A17 EXT. BYERS HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

A17

WHOOM! The front door to the house explodes open as --

(CONTINUED)

A17 CONTINUED:

A17

Hopper carries Will outside to Jonathan's car.

Joyce and Jonathan walk with him. Hop talks fast.

HOPPER

-- Stay on Denfield until you see a big oak tree -- then swing a right. You'll hit a dead end -- it's a five-minute walk from there --

JONATHAN

And it's channel ten -- ?

HOPPER

Yeah, ten. As soon as he's safe -- you let me know.

Jonathan opens the back of his car. Hopper lays Will gently down inside. Off Jonathan, watching, nervous as hell...

17 EXT. BYERS HOUSE - SHED - NIGHT

17

Steve and Nancy rummage through the junk pile, when --

STEVE

... You should go with him.

Nancy looks at Steve, confused.

NANCY

What -- ?

STEVE

With Jonathan.

Nancy shakes her head. Resumes rummaging.

NANCY

No -- I, I'm not leaving Mike --

STEVE

No one's leaving anyone. I may be a shitty boyfriend, but turns out I'm a pretty damn good babysitter.

Steve unearths a PAIR OF DUSTY SPACE HEATERS. He passes one to Nancy.

*

They lock eyes. Nancy still seems unsure, but --

*

STEVE (CONT'D)

It's okay, Nance.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

They share a knowing, emotional look. They both know that this is Steve letting Nancy go -- in more ways than one. *

STEVE (CONT'D) *

It's okay. *

Before Nancy can respond, Steve grabs up his space heater and starts walking away. Nancy watches him go for a beat -- *

Then she follows. As...

18 OMITTED 18

A19 EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT A19 *

Mike hugs Eleven by the porch. A heart-wrenching goodbye. *

MIKE

Just... be *careful*, okay?

Eleven nods. Mike pulls out of the hug, fights tears.

MIKE (CONT'D)

... I just... I can't lose you.
Not again.

A tear slips down his cheek.

ELEVEN

... You won't. You *won't* lose me.

MIKE

... You promise?

ELEVEN *

Promise. *

Mike doesn't seem so confident, but... *

ELEVEN (CONT'D) *

Friends don't lie. *

Eleven reaches out a hand, gently wipes his tear away. *

Their eyes lock... their breathing quickens...

Are they going to kiss again??

HOPPER (O.S.)

El.

Eleven snaps out of the moment, turns to find --

Hopper, standing by his car, ready. *

(CONTINUED)

A19 CONTINUED:

A19

HOPPER (CONT'D)

It's time.

Off Eleven and Mike, realizing *this is it...*B19 **EXT. BYERS HOUSE = NIGHT**

B19

Hopper and Eleven climb into the Blazer.

A few feet away, Jonathan, Nancy, and Joyce get into Jonathan's car.

As Nancy starts to climb in, she looks back at Steve, who is watching her from the porch with the kids. They share an emotional look.

*

Nancy climbs into the car. Shuts the door. And...

19 **EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER**

19

VROOM! TIRES SQUEAL, spitting up a wave of dirt as...

Jonathan and Hopper's cars drive away from the house.

Steve, Mike, Max, Dustin, and Lucas all stay behind, watching from the steps of the porch. Everyone is nervous and scared, feeling just... *helpless*. All they can do now is... *wait*.20 **INT. HOPPER'S BLAZER - BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT**

20

Eleven looks out the rear window, watching as Mike recedes from view. He gets smaller... and smaller... and...

21 **EXT. FORESTED ROAD - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

21

WE SOAR THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY AS WE FOLLOW...

Hopper's Blazer. Speeding down a dark and empty road.

22 **INT. HOPPER'S BLAZER - FORESTED ROAD - NIGHT**

22

Hopper and Eleven ride in awkward silence.

Hopper glances at Eleven, checking out her new look again.

Then he looks back at the road. Then back at Eleven.

Then... back at the road.

HOPPER

So... we're just... not gonna talk about this, huh?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

ELEVEN
... About... what?

Hopper stares.

HOPPER
I don't know... just curious, you
know -- why you all of a sudden
look like some... MTV punk.

ELEVEN
MTV?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

HOPPER

Don't play dumb. I know you've
been watching that garbage.

Eleven looks away, annoyed. *Whatever.*

Hopper sighs. *Shit.* He knows this is not the way in.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

I'm not mad, alright, kid? I just --
I want to know where you've been.
That's all.

Eleven looks back at the road. Then, finally:

ELEVEN

(low)
... To see Mama.

Hopper turns to her. *Surprised.*

That was NOT the answer he was expecting.

HOPPER

... Okay.

He gathers his composure, then...

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... And... how'd you get there?

ELEVEN

A truck.

HOPPER

A truck?

ELEVEN

A big truck.

Hopper looks at her. Freaked out by this.

HOPPER

A big truck? Whose big truck -- ?

ELEVEN

A man's --

HOPPER

What man -- ??

ELEVEN

A nice man.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

Hopper takes a real deep breath. *Don't snap. Don't snap.*

HOPPER

... Okay. So I'm just... getting this all straight in my head now. A... nice man... in a big truck -- he drove you to your Mama's. And then Becky -- your aunt -- did she give you those clothes? That makeup?

Eleven hesitates. And suddenly we *FLASHCUT TO IMAGES FROM EPISODE #207: KALI AND THE GANG DANCING IN THE CAR -- RAY CARROLL SLIDING ALONG THE FLOOR -- BEGGING FOR HIS LIFE -- THE FBI RAIDING THE WAREHOUSE -- GUNFIRE SPARKING -- AND --*

She fights back tears from these painful, charged memories.

She's faced with a dilemma here. *Lie? Or tell the truth?*

ELEVEN

I...

Screw it. She opts for a third option: *omission.*

ELEVEN (CONT'D)

... I shouldn't have left.

Hopper shakes his head. Not accepting this.

HOPPER

No. No. This isn't on you. I -- I should've been there. And -- I never should've lied to you about your mom. Or about when you could leave. I... I shouldn't'a done a lot of things.

He looks back at the road. Getting emotional now.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... Sometimes -- I don't know. I... I just feel like I'm this... black hole or something.

ELEVEN

Black hole?

HOPPER

It's a -- thing in space. It sucks everything toward it, destroys it. Sara, she uh -- she had a picture book. About outer space. I can show you.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

ELEVEN

Who is... Sara?

Hopper grip tightens on the steering wheel.

FLASHCUT TO SARA SPRINTING THROUGH THE PARK. GIGGLING.

HOPPER LIFTS HER UP INTO HER ARMS. LAUGHING TOO.

HOPPER

... My girl. She's my little girl.

Eleven looks at him. Surprised.

ELEVEN

Where... is she?

HOPPER

That's... the thing. She left us --
too early. Way too early.

ELEVEN

(realizing)

... Gone.

Hopper nods. "Gone."

HOPPER

Sometimes bad things-- they happen
to good people, you know? The
black hole. It took her.

FLASHCUT TO SARA FLATLINING.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... And I've just -- I've been
scared, I guess. That somehow --
it'd take you too.

Shit he's starting to cry now.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... I think that's why I get so
mad. 'Cause I'm scared, you know?
It's not an excuse... I'm just
trying to figure out why I've been
the way I've been. Towards you.
And I guess I just... I wanna
say...

He looks at Eleven. Finally gets it out.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (5)

22

HOPPER (CONT'D)
I'm *sorry*. For everything.
Sometimes I can just...
(searching for the words)
I can be so... so...

ELEVEN
Stupid.

HOPPER
Yeah. Stupid. *Real stupid.*

Eleven considers. Then:

ELEVEN
... I've been stupid too.

Hopper smiles softly.

HOPPER
... Guess we broke our own rule,
huh?

Eleven. Yeah. *They did.*

Hopper removes his blue bracelet.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
... This was Sara's.

He hands it to Eleven. Eleven takes it.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
I think it'll help with your look.
Give it a little color, you know?

Eleven slips it on her wrist. Moved by this gesture.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
I don't hate it, by the way.

Eleven looks back at Hopper. He motions to her outfit.

HOPPER (CONT'D)
This whole -- *thing*, I mean. It's
kinda cool.

ELEVEN
Bitchin'.

HOPPER
Yeah. Okay. Sure.
(beat)
Bitchin'.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (6) 22
 They share a soft smile. And then...

23 **EXT. FORESTED ROAD - NIGHT** 23
 VROOM! The Blazer drives away from camera.
 As it gradually recedes into darkness...

24 **EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING** 24
 We DRIFT toward the Byers house. The porch swing sways.

25 **INT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT** 25
 LEFTOVER FOOD is now scattered across the entire kitchen!
 WIDEN TO REVEAL: Dustin clearing everything from the fridge!

DUSTIN
 Okay, he should fit now...

He turns to the DEAD DEMO-DOG, body wrapped up in a blanket on the kitchen floor.

STEVE
 ... Is this *really* necessary?

DUSTIN
 This is a *significant* scientific discovery -- you can't just bury it like some common mammal --

STEVE
 Alright, well -- you're explaining this to Mrs. Byers...

As Dustin and Steve work to SHOVE the dog into the fridge...

26 **THE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 26
 Mike paces. Back and forth. On edge.
 Lucas and Max work to sweep up all the broken glass.
 Lucas is getting annoyed by Mike's pacing

LUCAS
 Mike -- would you please stop it, already? You're just making it worse --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

MIKE

You weren't in there. Okay, Lucas?
That lab is swarming with hundreds
of those *dogs* --

DUSTIN

(correcting from kitchen)
Demo-dogs!!

Lucas rolls his eyes, turns back to Mike.

LUCAS

The chief will take care of her --

MAX

Like she needs protection.

Steve SLAMS the fridge shut. That did it!

STEVE

Dude, *listen* -- if a coach calls a
play in a game, bottom line -- you
execute it.

MIKE

Okay, first of all, this isn't a
stupid sports game -- and second,
we're not even *in* the game, we're
benched --

STEVE

My point is...
(what was his point?)
Right. We're benched. So. Yeah.
There's nothing we can do.

DUSTIN

Well... that's not *entirely true*.

All eyes go to Dustin.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

I mean... the Demo-dogs have a hive
mind. They ran from the bus
because they were called away --

Max and Lucas share looks, picking up on this.

LUCAS

... So if we get their attention --

MAX

Maybe we can draw them away from
the lab --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

MIKE

And clear a path to The Gate.

STEVE

Yeah -- and then we'll all die.

DUSTIN

Well, that's one point of view --

STEVE

No, that's not a point of view --
that's a fact.

But Mike is into this plan. He fast walks into --

27 **THE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

27

He taps the X on the tunnel map, energized.

MIKE

-- This is where the chief dug his
hole -- this is our way into
tunnels --

The other kids begin to crowd around him. Drawn in now too.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And look -- here -- *right here* --

Mike drags his finger to a HUB of some sort.

MIKE (CONT'D)

This is like a... *hub*. See how all
of the tunnels feed into this?
(the kids nod)
So maybe if we set this *on fire* --

STEVE

Okay, yeah -- that's a NO --

DUSTIN

The Mind Flayer would call away his
army --

LUCAS

They'd all come to stop us --

MIKE

(motioning to map)
And we'd circle back to the exit
here. By the time they realized we
were gone --

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

MAX

El would be at the Gate.

STEVE

Guys!! HEY!! HEY!!!

They turn to find Steve, his hands raised in disbelief. This is not the Steve that they're used to. This is not fun Steve. This is a "Dad" Steve. And he's not happy.

He motions to the tunnels angrily.

STEVE (CONT'D)

This -- this is NOT happening --

MIKE

But --

STEVE

NO. No "BUTS." I promised to keep you shitsheads safe, and that's exactly what I'm going to do. We're sitting here -- on the *bench* -- and we're waiting for the starting team to do their job. Does everyone understand that?

The kids share frustrated looks.

MIKE

(under breath)

This isn't a sports game --

STEVE

(firmer)

DOES EVERYONE UNDERSTAND?

More shared looks.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I need a *YES*.

Before anyone gets a chance to give Steve his "yes" --

THERE IS A GROWL OUTSIDE. BUT *NOT* FROM A DEMO-DOG.

IT'S FROM A CAR ENGINE. A FAMILIAR ONE.

Max's eyes go wide. *It can't be...*

28 INT. BYERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

28

Max races to the living room. Throws open the curtain.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

MAX'S POV: BILLY'S CAMARO SPEEDING UP THE DRIVEWAY.

MAX

... It's my brother --

LUCAS

What -- ??

She spins back and locks eyes with Lucas, panicked.

MAX

He can't know I'm here -- he'll
kill me -- he'll kill us.

Steve's eyes go to Lucas. Realizing the situation. Then --

29 **EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT**

29

CLOSE ON: A BOOT STOMPING THE GROUND AS --

Billy exits his car. His eyes narrow, baffled, as he spots --
Steve! He's walking out to meet him on his own.

BILLY

Am I dreaming -- or is that *you*,
Harrington?

STEVE

It's me. Don't cream your pants.

WIDE PROFILE SHOT AS: The two "kings" meet halfway between
the car in the house. *A showdown in the Byers driveway.*

BILLY

What are you doing here, amigo?

STEVE

I could ask you the same question.
Amigo.

BILLY

I'm looking for my stepsister. A
little bird told me she was here --

STEVE

Huh. That's weird. Don't know
her.

BILLY

Small. Redhead. Bit of a bitch?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

STEVE

Yeah... that's not ringing any bells, man. Sorry.

Billy steps closer to Steve. Studies him. Eyes narrowed.

BILLY

This whole situation, I don't know, Harrington... it's giving me the heebie-jeebies.

STEVE

Yeah? How's that?

BILLY

My thirteen-year-old sister is missing all day. Then I find her with you... at a stranger's house... and -- you *lie* to my face about it --

STEVE

Dude. Were you dropped too much as a child or what? I don't know what you don't understand about what I said: She's NOT here --

Billy sniffs. Rubs his nose.

BILLY

Yeah -- okay. Then who is that?

Billy motions behind Steve. Steve turns and sees --

The kids spying out the window. Clearly visible.

30 INT. BYERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

30

The kids quickly duck back into hiding.

DUSTIN

Shit! Did he see us???

31 EXT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT

31

Steve grimaces. *Idiots!!!* He turns back around --

STEVE

Listen man -- I can exp--

Too late. Billy shoves Steve. *Hard.*

Steve falls to the ground. Lands on his back. WHOOM!

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

BILLY

I told you to plant your feet.

BAM! Billy STOMPS Steve now, driving the HIS BOOT HEEL into the pit of Steve's stomach. As the wind SUCKS OUT OF STEVE --

32 INT. BYERS HOUSE - NIGHT

32

WHOOM! The front door EXPLODES open as --

Billy bursts inside. He scans the house. Locks onto --

The kids. Now backed up into the kitchen. Terrified -- Max most of all. Lucas stands in front of her -- protective.

BILLY

Well, well, well... if it isn't
Lucas Sinclair. What a *surprise*.

Billy starts to move toward the kids. His eyes move to Max.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I thought I told you to stay away
from him, Max --

MAX

Billy, go away --

BILLY

You disobeyed me. And you know
what happens when you disobey me.

MAX

Billy -- !

BILLY

I break things.

WHOOM! Billy suddenly pivots -- grabs Lucas by the jacket -- then drives him backwards -- deeper into the kitchen and --

WHAM! He SLAMS Lucas into a shelf. Pots scatter!

The other kids SHOUT and SCREAM --

MIKE/DUSTIN

Let him go! HEY!

MAX

BILLY!

LUCAS

Get off me!!! GET OFF!

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

But Billy doesn't get off. He leans in. Seething.

BILLY

Since Maxine won't listen to me,
maybe you will: You stay away her.
STAY AWAY FROM HER. You hear me???

LUCAS

I SAID: GET -- OFF!!!

KA-WHAM! Lucas KNEES Billy in the balls! Billy falls back.
Stunned. Then he looks back at Lucas. His eyes flare.

BILLY

Oh, Sinclair, you're DEAD -- you're
dead -- !!

STEVE

No. You are.

Billy turns just in time to meet --

Steve's CLOSED FIST. BAM! IT SOCKS HIM RIGHT IN HIS JAW.

Billy stumbles back. Shaken.

Steve is back, baby!!!

Billy wipes blood from his nose as he looks at Steve. He
seems actually -- *impressed.*

BILLY

You got some fire in you after all,
huh? I've been waiting to meet
this "*King Steve*" they tell me so
much about.

Steve points to the open door.

STEVE

Get. Out.

Billy laughs. Rubs his nose again. Then --

WHOOM! He swings at Steve. SUDDEN and HARD.

But Steve is ready for it. Ducks. Evades. Then --

BAM! Steve punches Billy again. Lands it!

The kids cheer for their hero!

DUSTIN

KICK HIS ASS STEVE!!!

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

BAM! Steve punches Billy again. BAM! Again. BAM! *Again.*

Steve knocks Billy into the kitchen stove. He's winning!

But then Billy grabs a PLATE with his free hand -- SWINGS IT -- *

CLANG! THE PLATE SMASHES STEVE across the head, shattering on impact! *

Steve stumbles back, woozy. He touches his head. *It's bleeding.*

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

STEVE -- !

MAX

BILLY STOP -- !!

Billy *doesn't stop.* He tracks the now-woozy Steve into --

33 **THE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

33

Billy grabs Steve by the jacket.

BILLY

No one tells me what to do.

BAM! HE HEADBUTTS STEVE. Steve DROPS, his eyes flag.

Billy straddles him.

BAM! He now begins to PUMMEL STEVE. FIGHT CLUB-style.

BAM! Again -- BAM! Again -- BAM! *Again* --

He's going to kill him!!! Just as things get unbearable:

THUNK! A NEEDLE PLUNGES INTO BILLY'S NECK.

Billy whips around in shock to find --

Max. Standing behind him.

Billy RIPS the needle out of his neck. Stares at it.

BILLY (CONT'D)

... The hell is this -- ??

We know. It's the IV needle used to sedate Will!

Billy rises, staggers toward Max, seething.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

BILLY (CONT'D)

You little shit -- what did you
do?? What did yo -- y -- o --

Billy's words slur. His knees buckle. And --

WHUMP! HE FOLDS DOWN TO THE GROUND. LIMP AS A RAG DOLL.

His eyes flutter. His consciousness is fading.

But Max isn't through with him. *Not yet.* She grabs Steve's
NAIL-STUDED BAT. Then stands over her brother. She's got a
wild fire in her eye. And for the first time all season --

Max has the upper hand.

MAX

From here on out -- you're going to
leave me and my friends alone -- Do
you understand???

Billy manages a few slurred words:

BILLY

... Screw... you --

Max swings the bat. WHAM-THUNK!

The nails dig into the wood floor, *inches* from Billy's leg.

MAX

SAY YOU UNDERSTAND!

She raises up the bat again and we get the feeling that she's
NOT bluffing. *She's really gonna do it.*

MAX (CONT'D)

SAY IT!!!! SAY IT!!!!

BILLY

(low)
O... kay --

MAX

I couldn't hear you --

BILLY

I -- I under... stand...

MAX

What -- ??

BILLY

I... understand...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

And then: Billy's eyes flutter to a close. He's out cold.

Max exhales. Shaken. She tosses the spiked bat.

The other kids stare at her. Slack-jawed. Speechless.

Even *Mike* is impressed. Maybe Max *is* awesome after all.

Max kneels down, digs into Billy's jacket, and removes --

HIS SKULL KEYCHAIN. The Camaro keys jangle.

She looks back at the others.

MAX

Let's get out of here.

34 **EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

34

WHOOM! BOUNCING HEADLIGHTS cut through the dark as...

Jonathan's car winds its way down a dark dirt road in the woods. As it pulls to a stop by a familiar tree, CUT TO:

35 **EXT. WOODS - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER**

35

WIDE SHOT: Three silhouettes march through woods as...

Jonathan, Nancy, and Joyce head through the woods. Joyce carries the space heaters, Nancy carries a MELVALD BAG and a FLASHLIGHT, Jonathan carries Will.

They make their way toward...

HOPPER'S SECRET CABIN.

36 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT**

36

The door creaks open, WOOD GROANING, as...

Jonathan, Joyce, and Nancy enter. Joyce places down the space heaters, then flips on the lights, revealing this curious space. The group takes it all in. *Hopper's hidden life...*

All a little weird and unexpected, but --

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

NANCY
(surprised)
It's... kind of nice actually.

As Jonathan sets Will down on the couch, Joyce crouches by the stove, looks it over, then turns back to the teens --

JOYCE
We'll do it here.

WE MOVE INTO A FAST-PACED MONTAGE AS:

-- Joyce and Nancy drag Eleven's bed out of the bedroom --
-- They position the bed in front of the wood stove --
-- Jonathan carries Will over -- lays him onto the bed --
-- Jonathan ties down Will's legs using rope --
-- Joyce secures his hands -- yanking the rope tight --
-- Nancy tosses wood into the stove -- more wood --
-- Joyce sets the radio frequency to channel ten -- tests it --
-- Jonathan sets the various space heaters (two old, three new from Melvald's) onto the floor surrounding the bed --
-- Jonathan plugs the heaters into an extension cord -- and --

WIDEN OUT TO REVEAL: Will secured on the bed, encircled by the various heating sources. *They've created a makeshift oven for Will.* Everyone exchanges looks. Nervous.

JONATHAN
(to Joyce)
... You sure this is a good idea?

Joyce looks at Will. Lying sick on the bed.

JOYCE
This thing has had Will long enough.

Her eyes harden with determination.

She looks back Jonathan. Fierce.

JOYCE (CONT'D)
Let's kill the sonofabitch.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

MOMENTS LATER.

FWOOM! Joyce strikes a match and --

Tosses the match into the stove. Wood catches and flames rise as Jonathan and Nancy turn on the space heaters.

CLOSE ON: The black coils heat up.

They begin to turn RED, growing hotter...

And hotter... *and...*

37 **EXT. HAWKINS LABS - MAIN GATE - NIGHT**

37

VROOM! Hopper's Blazer SPEEDS through the open lab gate.

38 **EXT. HAWKINS LABS - FRONT PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

38

The Blazer SLAMS to a stop in the parking lot.

The doors fly open as Hopper and Eleven exit on either side.

As Hopper crosses to the trunk to grab more weapons, we hold Eleven, whose gaze is fixed on one thing and one thing only:

Hawkins Labs. It towers before her. Imposing. Scary.

AS WE PUSH IN ON ELEVEN, WE FLASHCUT TO VIOLENT, VERY BRIEF MEMORIES FROM HER PAST HERE: ELEVEN DRAGGED DOWN THE HALLWAY -- AN EEG NEEDLE SCRATCHING -- THE CAT HISSING -- AND --

CHA-CHOK! The sound of COCKED SHOTGUN snaps her out of it.

She turns to find Hopper. Armed and ready now. He's got:

The ASSAULT RIFLE taken from the M.P. guard -- a BULLETPROOF VEST over his chest -- a SHOTGUN slung over his shoulder.

He looks almost like... well... a little like Rambo.

HOPPER

... Let me do the heavy lifting up front. Save yourself for when we're below.

Eleven nods. Got it. Then she looks back to the lab. Uneasy.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... You okay?

Eleven gathers her composure. And then, without a word...

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

She starts walking toward the lab. Determined. *Guess that's a... yes?* Hopper hoists the shotgun over his shoulder and follows.

As these two small figures approach the giant building...

We hear the ROAR OF THE MONSTERS from within.

And then we SNAP TO --

39 **INT. BILLY'S CAMARO - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT**

39

AN EXTREME CLOSE UP OF Steve's eyes fluttering awake.

We SLOWLY REVEAL what's happening from Steve's BLURRY POV:

-- He appears to be inside the Camaro. He's buckled up, which is good, because the ride itself seems to be a rocky one.

-- ON HIS LEFT, Mike holds a can of gasoline in his lap. The gas can bobs up and down. The gas inside of it sloshes.

-- ON HIS RIGHT, Dustin, inches away, holds a bag of ice to Steve's bleeding head. He speaks to us in a soothing voice.

DUSTIN

Shhhh, stay still, it's gonna be okay, shhhh...

-- IN THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT, Lucas reads directions from a GIANT FOLD-OUT MAP OF HAWKINS (the same one that Bob used).

LUCAS

... Okay, you're gonna keep straight for half a mile or so, then take a left on Mount Sinai...

-- AND IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, Max... DRIVES!

Let us be clear here: Max is DRIVING.

Steve begins to panic, fumbling for words:

STEVE

What -- what is happening?

Dustin calmly reassures him:

DUSTIN

Don't worry, she's driven before --

MIKE

In a parking lot --

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

LUCAS

That counts --

STEVE

Oh my God --

DUSTIN

They wanted to leave you behind --

STEVE

Oh my God --

DUSTIN

But I promised them you'd be cool --

We now shift our focus to Max. Her hands grip tight to the steering wheel and her eyes are fixed on the road ahead. She is propped on a phone book and there is a wood block tied to the accelerator (*Temple of Doom* style!) so that her foot can reach the pedal. She HAMMERS the gas and --

40 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT**

40

VROOM! The car ROARS down the road, careening wildly.

She's driving alright. Just... *not very well*.

41 **INT. BILLY'S CAMARO - COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT**

41

Steve is now full-on panicking.

STEVE

-- Stop -- stop the car, STOP THE CAR -- !

MIKE

I told you'd he'd freak out -- !!

DUSTIN

Steve please don't freak out -- !

STEVE

STOP THE CAR -- !!

MAX

WOULD EVERYONE SHUT UP I'M TRYING TO FOCUS!!

Lucas looks out the window, spots a street sign.

LUCAS

That's Mount Sinai -- !

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

MAX

What -- ?

LUCAS

Turn left -- LEFT!!!

Max spins the wheel *hard* to the left. Steve SCREAMS as --

42 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT**

42

SCREEECH! The Camaro SWERVES around the corner -- too tight -- it careens off the road -- SMASHES into a mailbox -- then --

Swerves back onto the road again.

It SQUEALS away from us *and* --

43 **EXT. CABIN - NIGHT**

43

Silence. We DRIFT through the dark woods towards the cabin.

The windows are now fogged up, glowing a burnt orange...

It looks like *Hell in there*.

44 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT**

44

Will stirs awake. He tries to look around, but --

His hands and legs are tied.

WILL

(panicked)

What -- what is happening -- ??

Jonathan, Nancy, and Joyce are standing outside of the "heat circle". They've shed layers of clothing and are down to undershirts. Their hair is soaked, their skin dripping sweat. *This little makeshift oven is clearly working...*

No one dares speak to Will. They just watch. On edge. As...

Will grimaces. In pain.

WILL (CONT'D)

Please -- it -- it hurts -- it
hurts --

Joyce fights tears. *God this is hard to watch.*

Will's breathing quickens --

WILL (CONT'D)

IT HURTS IT HURTS! IT HURTS!!!!

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

Will thrashes wildly, trying to free himself --

WILL (CONT'D)
LET ME GO LET ME GO LET ME GO!!!
IT HURTS IT HURTS IT HURTS!!!!

Jonathan fights tears himself. Nancy notices, takes his hand. *Squeezes tight.* As Joyce clocks their contact, we --

FLASHCUT TO BOB HOLDING HER HAND AS THEY DANCE ON HALLOWEEN.

Joyce's eyes harden with determination. *Fuck this thing.*

She silently moves around the bed, and, one by one --

Dials up the space heaters.

Jonathan and Nancy share a look. *Holy shit.*

Jonathan moves forward, worried --

JONATHAN
Mom --

But she doesn't stop. She turns up another. *Another.*

The heater coils turn a DARKER RED.

Jonathan can't watch anymore. Turns away as --

Will's SCREAMS INTENSIFY and --

45 **EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - MERRILL'S FARM - NIGHT**

45

WHOOM!! The Camaro runs over the "PICK YOUR OWN PUMPKINS" SIGN!

It BUMPS and CAREENS its way over uneven terrain and --

46 **INT./EXT. BILLY'S CAMARO - MERRILL'S FARM - NIGHT**

46

SCREECH! THE CAMARO SLAMS TO A VIOLENT STOP BY THE GIANT HOLE.

Max shifts the car into park. Exhales. *Whew.*

Steve looks like he's about to throw up in the back.

The boys, however, are impressed.

DUSTIN
Whoa.

LUCAS
That was...

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

MIKE
Incredible.

MAX
 Told you. *Zoomer.*

47 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - BY HOLE - NIGHT**

47

WHOOM! The Camaro door explodes open and everyone leaps out.

Steve stumbles out last. Still dazed. He finds his balance, then staggers his way around to the back of the car, where --

Dustin distributes supplies from the trunk. Each kid receives one of the following item: 1) swim goggles 2) bandanas 3) gloves 4) gas cans, and 5) flashlights. *Of course.*

Steve watches in growing disbelief. Exasperated:

STEVE
 Hey -- guys -- guys!! HELLO??

The kids ignore Steve and continue to put on their protective gear. Goggles go over eyes, bandanas over their mouths.

They look like little POST-APOCALYPTIC BANDITS!

STEVE (CONT'D)
 You think you're going down there --
 you're -- you're wrong! Okay???
 This -- this ends RIGHT NOW!!

The kids keep moving forward with their plan. Mike ties a ROPE to the front of the car as Steve watches in disbelief.

*
*

DUSTIN
 Listen -- Steve. I get you're upset, *okay?* But the bottom line is a party member requires our assistance. And it's our *duty* to provide that assistance.

Mike carries the rope toward the giant hole. His body vanishes over the lip of the crater. Max and Lucas follow.

*
*

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
 But I know you promised Nancy you'd keep us safe -- so...

*
*

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

Dustin holds out a STACK OF SUPPLIES AND STEVE'S SPIKED BAT.
Dustin brought gear for Steve.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
Keep us safe.

Off Steve, realizing what this means, we SMASH TO --

48 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - HOLE - NIGHT - A FEW MINUTES LATER 48

WHOOM! Dirt falls as tennis shoes dangle into view as...

Steve drops down into the tunnels! He's coming with them!

He's now wearing the bandana over his mouth and his goggles and he wields his SPIKED BAT. He looks... well... *badass.*

His eyes go wide as he takes in the tunnel.

STEVE
... Holy shit...

We SLOWLY PULL BACK to reveal that the other kids are already down here, exploring this INCREDIBLE, ENORMOUS TUNNEL SYSTEM.

Max and Lucas scan the walls with their flashlights, while Mike studies a HAND-DRAWN MAP (based on Will's drawings).

MIKE
Alright, we don't have much time.
Everyone stay close to me, okay?

Mike starts to lead them down the tunnel, but then --

Steve places a hand on his shoulder, halting him.

STEVE
Any of you little shits die down here -- I'm getting blamed.

He snatches the map away from Mike.

STEVE (CONT'D)
From here on -- I lead the way.

CLICK! Steve hits on his flashlight and starts "leading."

The kids share looks. Then follow "Dad Steve".

As our "Goonies" slink into darkness...

49 INT. HAWKINS LABS - HALLWAY - NIGHT

49

Hopper and Eleven *slink* through a dark lab hallway.

Lights FLICKER, illuminating remnants from the massacre: papers everywhere, a dented wall, a hint of blood on the floor. But there are no Demo-dogs. At least -- *not yet*.

They round a corner, slip through a door, and enter...

50 INT. HAWKINS LABS - STAIRWELL LANDING - NIGHT

50

Hopper shuts the door behind them, takes a deep breath.

They've almost made it. But they're not safe yet --

A TRAIL OF BLOOD SLIPS DOWN THE STEPS. Then: A FAINT SHUFFLING SOUND ECHOES from below. *Demo-dogs?*

Hopper holds up a hand, motioning for Eleven to stay.

51 INT. HAWKINS LABS - NEXT STAIRWELL LANDING - NIGHT

51

Hopper creeps down to the next landing. Ready to fight.

But then: his face darkens, his gun lowers.

REVERSE TO REVEAL: DR. OWENS. He's slumped with his back against the wall on the next landing down. And he doesn't look good. He's been attacked by a Demo-dog!

HOPPER

... *Shit.*

Hopper walks down to the landing and kneels by Owens. He's got two nasty cuts across his chest and a DEEP GASH on his right leg.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... Suckers got you pretty good, huh, Doc?

Owens manages a small nod. He tries to speak, but it's taking a lot of energy, and --

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Don't talk. Just -- hold on -- *hold on*, okay? I got you.

Hopper, thinking fast, removes his belt from his pants to create a MAKESHIFT TOURNIQUET. As Hopper works...

TAT TAP TAP. APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS. Owens looks up as...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

Eleven creeps down the steps and into view. Owens' eyes glint with recognition -- *confusion*. It... *can't be...*

As Hopper wraps the belt around Owens' leg...

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah... I've been meaning to tell you, Doc... This is Eleven. Eleven, meet Doc Owens. Doc Owens, *Eleven*.

Hopper threads the belt's tongue through the buckle.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

She's been staying with me this past year and she's about to save all our asses. Then, after that -- maybe you can help her out, huh? Let her live a normal life, you know -- where she's not poked and prodded like some lab rat -- I don't know -- Just a thought. But...

Hopper cinches the tourniquet tight. Owens grimaces.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Think about it. Yeah?

Hopper now removes the handgun from his holster.

He curls it into Owens' hand.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

Don't go anywhere.

With that, Hopper starts down the stairs, Eleven follows.

Off a stunned Owens, watching Eleven, holding his gun...

52 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL SYSTEM - NIGHT**

52

Steve leads our "GOONIES"-squad deeper into the tunnels.

They round a bend and enter...

53 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - SPORE CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS**

53

The SPORE ROOM. Their eyes go wide with awe, fear.

The fog is dense in here. Spores dance in the air. Their flashlights illuminate disgusting, bulbous growths on the wall, just visible beneath the curtain of fog and spores.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

LUCAS

... God --

MAX

... What *is* this place...

STEVE

Guys, come on -- let's keep moving.

Steve pushes forward, leading them out of the spore room and into the tunnel opposite. That is, everyone except for...

Dustin. He freezes. Hears a STRANGE GROANING SOUND.

He follows the sound up, shining his flashlight up at --

THE ENORMOUS CHANDELIER GROWTH. IT SWELLS AND THEN --

SPEEWWW! It *HEAVES*, SPEWING SPORES RIGHT INTO HIS FACE!!!

Dustin screams hurries away and --

54 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - ADJACENT TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS**

54

Dustin joins the others. Full-on panicking now.

DUSTIN

Ohmygodohmygod --

MAX/LUCAS

Dustin?!

STEVE

What happened??

Dustin rips off his bandana.

DUSTIN

I think some got in my mouth!! I
THINK SOME GOT IN MY MOUTH -- !!!

Everyone stares, scared, as --

Dustin doubles over and SPITS frantically on the ground.

A tense moment passes then --

Dustin looks back up.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

... I'm okay.

Shared looks. *Jesus Christ*. And...

55 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL HUB - NIGHT - A FEW MINUTES LATER** 55

WE CRANE DOWN as one by one the gang enters THE HUB. Their flashlights sweep the area.

Steve checks the map. *X marks the spot.*

STEVE

Alright -- I think this is your hub, Wheeler.

Mike looks around. *Seems so.* He turns to the others.

MIKE

Drench it.

The kids quickly set to work, drenching the room in gas. Mike and Max use gas cannisters; Max sprays gas out of the weed killer. Soaking the vines, the walls, the floor, *EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.* They are gonna burn this place to the ground.

As gas SPLASHES OFF THE WALLS...

56 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT** 56

The FIRE ROARS and --

Will SCREAMS. Still straining against those ropes.

Jonathan, Nancy, and Joyce continue to watch him from behind the heaters. *Holding firm.* But it is getting harder and harder to stomach this.

JONATHAN

-- It's not working --

He looks at Joyce.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

(more certain now)

It's not working!

Tears stream down Joyce's face. But she doesn't budge.

She keeps her eyes fixed on Will.

Jonathan steps toward Joyce.

JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Mom are you listening to me??

JOYCE

Just wait --

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

JONATHAN
How much longer -- ??!

JOYCE
Just wait --

JONATHAN
Mom look at him!! It's NOT
WORKING! It's just killing Will!!

WILL
HELPPP HEEELLLLPPPP!!!!

But Joyce makes no move to help him. Jonathan stares at his mom. There's a wildness in her eyes -- a recklessness. Finally he can't take it anymore. *He just can't.* He races to one of the heaters and starts to dial it back down but --

JOYCE
NO!!!

Joyce charges over and shoves Jonathan away and SCREAMS --

JOYCE (CONT'D)
LEAVE IT!! LEAVE IT!!

Before Jonathan has a chance to respond --

NANCY
-- Jonathan -- !!

Jonathan looks back up at Nancy.

NANCY (CONT'D)
His neck!!!

Jonathan and Joyce follow her gaze to find that the veins on Will's neck are visible now. DARK AND THROBBING AND SLOWLY RISING up toward the base of his neck.

The heat is doing *something* to him. *Holy shit.*

NANCY (CONT'D)
It's happening -- !!

Will suddenly unleashes an ANGRY SCREAM -- DEEP and GUTTURAL.

The lights in the cabin begins to flicker as his possessed body makes a last-ditch attempt to free itself.

Will yanks on the rope, harder, harder. The skin on his wrists CHAFES against the rope, skin *peeling away*, and --

WHOOM! HIS HAND TEARS FREE!

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

As Will reaches to free his other hand --

Joyce runs up to the bed -- *into the scorching heat* -- and shoves Will down flat with all of her strength, but --

Too late. Will's HAND shoots upward and --

WHOOM! GRABS JOYCE BY THE THROAT. CHOKING HER.

His eyes bore in his "mother" with a look that can only be described as PURE RAGE. Whoever this is... *whatever this is...* it's NOT WILL. As the sockets around his eyes darken --

The lights FLICKER EVER MORE WILDLY and --

57 **INT. HAWKINS LABS - STAIRWELL, RIFT LAB LEVEL - NIGHT**

57

CH-CH! Lights flicker in the Rift Lab hallway as...

Hopper and Eleven reach the bottom of the stairs.

They slowly step forward. Ahead they hear:

THE SOUND OF MONSTERS. *CLOSE.*

Hopper holds up a hand --

HOPPER

Stay here.

58 **INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB HALLWAY - NIGHT**

58

Hopper edges his way toward the lab. He can't see anything in there... but he can hear those monsters. They're in there alright. He presses his back against the wall by the door.

Then, keeping quiet, he... removes the KNIFE from his belt... inches it out *SAVING PRIVATE RYAN*-style... and...

IN THE REFLECTION OF THE KNIFE BLADE, WE SEE DOZENS OF DEMO-DOGS IN THE RIFT LAB. IT'S *THE ARMY* -- GUARDING THE GATE.

Hopper pulls the knife away and drops back. His face is pale.

HOPPER

(low)
... Shit.

As he readies his assault gun, bracing for battle...

- 61 CONTINUED: 61
He releases Joyce.
- 62 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB HALLWAY - NIGHT 62
Hopper sweeps around the corner with his assault rifle --
Ready to fight -- *to die* -- finger ON THE TRIGGER... as --
- A63 INT. CABIN - NIGHT A63
Joyce SLAMS Will back down onto the bed. *Pissed now.*
- JOYCE
GET. OUT. OF. MY. SON!
- Will SCREAMS, veins throbbing, as --
- 63 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - ADJACENT TUNNEL - NIGHT 63
Steve tosses the lighter. It SOARS through the air in SLOW-
MOTION... Then...
- 64 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL HUB - NIGHT 64
Flame meets gas. FWOOOOOOM! The hub GOES UP IN FLAMES!!
THE VINES SHRIEK -- THRASH -- IN TERRIBLE PAIN AS --
- 65 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 65
Will SHRIEKS and THRASHES in TERRIBLE PAIN TOO as...
- 66 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB - NIGHT 66
The Demo-dogs SHRIEK and THRASH TOO! *The hive mind at work.*
Hopper stares, baffled. *He didn't even fire a shot.*
He lowers his gun, watching as the Demo-dogs leap through the
shattered glass partition. They scramble back down into the
excavation hole as...
- 67 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 67
WILL CONTINUES TO SCREAM IN PAIN.
Joyce scrambles away as his back arches up and...
- 68 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB - EXCAVATED HOLE - NIGHT 68
WE CUT TO AN OVERHEAD SHOT of Demo-dogs clambering down into
the throat-like hole, which we then MATCH CUT TO:

69 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

69

AN OVERHEAD SHOT OF WILL -- his back still arched upward -- as a VORTEX OF BLACK PARTICLES ERUPT OUT OF HIS THROAT.

Joyce and Jonathan and Nancy watch, stunned, as --

The TRAIL OF PARTICLES races through the cabin and --

WHOOM! The PARTICLES EXPLODE OUT the cabin door.

70 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

70

Nancy races outside onto the cabin porch. She watches in awe as the particles swirl into the dark forest -- *dissipating*.

71 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

71

WHOOM! Will collapses back down onto the bed. Limp.

Jonathan RIPS the extension cord out of its socket. As the heat lamps ZAP out -- killing this makeshift oven --

Joyce drops by Will's side.

JOYCE

Will -- baby -- Will -- can you
hear me??!? Can you hear me????!!

A tense beat as Will doesn't answer. And then --

His eyes flutter open and he looks up at...

WILL

(low)
... Mom?

Joyce nods through tears. Her voice trembles.

JOYCE

Yeah... it's me -- *it's Mom*...
it's Mom --

She pulls Will tight, tears rushing down her cheeks as...

72 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB - NIGHT

72

Eleven joins Hopper in the now-empty Rift lab. She looks up at him. Baffled. *Where did they go?*

Before Hopper even has a chance to explain --

HISS! His radio CRACKLES TO LIFE:

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

RADIO VOICE
(filtered)
Hopper? You copy ? Do -- you --
copy??

Hopper, still shaken, answers --

HOPPER
Yeah. ... I -- I copy.

73 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

73

It's Jonathan. He now sits at the desk by Hopper's transponder. He's drenched. *Exhausted.* He looks at...

Joyce. She's still holding Will. Crying now. Then...

He turns back to the transponder. And says, simply:

JONATHAN
Close it.

74 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB - NIGHT

74

Hopper and Eleven share a look. And we SMASH TO: *

75 INT. HAWKINS LABS - RIFT LAB - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

75 *

Gears and pulleys turn as... *

76 INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - NIGHT

76 *

WHOOM! The elevator begins to drop toward us from high above, silhouetted by the light of the Rift Lab. *

We MOVE TIGHT on Eleven as they journey downward, the cage swaying in the air as they drop. A look of awe and fear washes over her as she watches the ENORMOUS RIFT pass before them. A hundred feet tall. Fifty feet wide. *

It GROANS in anger -- almost as if it is taunting her.

She instinctively reaches out and takes Hopper's hand as --

77 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - NIGHT

77

Steve and the kids sprint back through the tunnels.

78 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - THE BONE CHAMBER - NIGHT

78

They burst into the bone chamber.

It's dark in here. *Scary.* There are many "doors" but --

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

Steve reads the map and --

STEVE

This way -- *this* way!!

The kids follow Steve toward a "door" on their right when --

Mike suddenly trips -- falling HARD. He spins to find:

A NETHER VINE ENSNARING HIS ANKLE. He frantically tries to kick his leg free, but the vine *tightens* its grip -- and then it begins to travel UP his leg like some python, HISSING!

MIKE

HELLLPP!!!

79 INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - PLATFORM

79

Hopper hits the red button on the platform and --

WHOOM!! The platform ROCKS to a violent stop.

We now CUT SUPER WIDE: The small cage hangs directly before the *very center* of the ENORMOUS RIFT. The *heart*. The platform seems tiny before it.

Hopper looks at Eleven. Eleven looks at Hopper. Then...

Eleven takes a deep breath... removes her hand from Hopper...

She slowly raises it up... targeting the Rift's *heart*.

We SLOWLY PUSH IN ON ELEVEN as she exerts her power.

Her hand trembles... BLOOD slips from her nose...

The Rift GROANS... THROBBING faster...

It *seems* to be reacting. And then... *

A dark shape emerges behind the Rift. *

THE MIND FLAYER. *

Eleven locks eyes with it... terrified... as... *

MIKE (PRE-LAP)

Help!! HELP!!

80 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - THE BONE CHAMBER - NIGHT

80

The kids race back to Mike as --

The vine continues to climb up his leg.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

STEVE

Everyone back -- EVERYONE BACK!!

Steve raises up his spiked bat and WHACK! He brings it crashing down into the vine. WHACK! Again! WHACK! Until --

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

80

The vine RIPS IN HALF, spewing black blood!!! The severed "snake" HISSES in anger as it slithers away, retreating.

Mike staggers back to his feet. Free at last. When --

A GUTTURAL GROWL ECHOES OUT FROM BEHIND THEM.

The kids slowly turn around. *Shit.*

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL: A DEMO-DOG standing in their doorway. It has a very familiar yellow BIRTH MARK on its back.

This is not just any Demo-dog. This is --

DUSTIN

... *Dart.*

Everyone backpedals away. That is, everyone except...

Dustin. Who takes a step *toward* Dart.

MIKE/MAX/LUCAS/STEVE

Dustin! Get back!! DUSTIN!

Dustin ignores them and continues to approach Dart.

DUSTIN

... Hey Dart... hey. It's me...
It's... *Dustin.* Your friend?
Remember?

Dart looks at Dustin. He breathes heavily. But... he's *not attacking.* Shared looks from the others. *Is it working?*

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Will you... let us pass?

Dart GROWLS. Everyone tenses. But Dustin remains calm. He slowly unzips his backpack, reaches inside, and digs out...

A THREE MUSKETEERS BAR.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

... You hungry?

He unwraps the candy.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

... Nougat... your favorite.

Dustin kneels down and tosses the candy bar on the ground.

Dart stares at it. Then pads up to the candy bar. Nudges it. He seems to be considering it. And then, finally...

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (3)

80

He begins to eat it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
That's a good boy. *Good boy...*

The other kids share stunned looks. *Holy shit.*

Dustin looks back at his friends and waves them on! *Come on!*

They all begin to *sneak* past Dart. Dustin pushes to his feet and follows. He pauses at the door and casts one look back at --

Dart. Still eating the candy bar.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
... Bye, buddy.

And with that, he turns and leaves and --

81 INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - PLATFORM

81

CLOSE ON: Eleven's outstretched hand trembling violently.

The Mind Flayer draws closer to the Rift. Coming for Eleven. *

Eleven blocks out her fear. Shuts her eyes. And... *

WE FLASHCUT TO #207 *

KALI (FLASHBACK) *
... I want you to find something *
from your past -- something that *
angers you... channel it. *

BACK TO SCENE *

Eleven's eyes re-open. *Determined now. Angry.* *

As she remembers back: *

-- *HER MOTHER IS DRAGGED AWAY FROM HER* *

-- *ELECTROCUTED BY RAY AND BRENNER* *

THE SIDES OF THE RIFT BEGIN TO NARROW. *

IT'S STARTING TO CLOSE!!! *

82 OMITTED

82 *

83 INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - NIGHT

83

As the kids sneak through the tunnels --

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

83

BOOM! The whole tunnel shakes. They look around --

MAX

-- What was that -- ?

And that's when they hear it. GROWLING.

COMING FROM BEHIND THEM. MORE DEMO-DOGS. *THE ARMY.*

MIKE

Run -- RUN!

Everyone runs.

84 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - THE HOLE - NIGHT**

84

They race through the tunnels. Fast as they can.

They hear the ROAR OF *THE ARMY* BEHIND THEM.

LUCAS

There!

A shaft of moonlight ahead! The exit!!

STEVE

GO GO GO!

Steve lifts Max up. She grabs onto the rope and starts to pull herself through the hole and --

*
*85 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - THE HOLE - NIGHT**

85

Max climbs out onto the ground above. She drops onto her knees and helps Lucas up the rope. They're escaping *one at a time*.

*

86 **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - THE HOLE - NIGHT**

86

As Steve begins to help Mike onto the rope --

*

Dustin's eyes shoot wide. **ACROSS THE TUNNEL: THE ARMY OF DEMO-DOGS** race around the corner. Charging right for them.

WE GO SLOW MOTION AS: Steve raises his spiked bat. *Not going down without a fight.* Dustin squeezes his eyes shut --

87 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - THE HOLE - NIGHT**

87

SLOW MOTION: Mike reaches down his hand -- screams:

*

MIKE

DUSTIN!!!!

*

92 CONTINUED: 92

Hopper quickly switches to his shotgun. BOOM! *

He shoots that fucker down in mid-air. As the dog spirals down -- *

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! He keeps firing at more dogs off-screen, doing *everything* he can to protect -- *

ELEVEN. AS WE SLOWLY PUSH IN ON HER, WE FLASHCUT TO MORE MEMORIES FROM HER PAST: SHE IS THROWN INTO THE ISOLATION ROOM -- REFUSES TO KILL THE CAT -- SNAPS THE GUARDS' NECKS -- TOUCHES THE MONSTER -- SCREAMS IN THE ISOLATION TANK -- *

AS THE GATE CONTINUES TO CLOSE...

THE MIND FLAYER MOVES AN ARM THROUGH THE RIFT... *

IT IS REACHING FOR ELEVEN! *

PARTICLES SWIRL... A MINI-TORNADO SWIRLING TOWARD HER... *

AS... *

93 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - THE HOLE - NIGHT** 93

Dustin and Steve clamber up out of the hole as...

The Camaro's HEADLIGHTS begin to glow brighter and brighter... their flashlights grow brighter too!

Shared looks among the kids. *Something* is happening...

A94 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT** A94

Jonathan, Joyce, Nancy, and Will looks up as --

The lights in the cabin begin to glow brighter too...

AB94 **EXT. CABIN - NIGHT** AB94 *

Light pours through the slats covering the cabin windows -- *

Growing bright and brighter as... *

B94 **INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - PLATFORM** B94

The MIND FLAYER'S ARM draws closer to Eleven as... *

She continues to close the gate, cycling through those painful memories: *

A LOOP OF PAIN AND SUFFERING AND VIOLENCE. HER WOUND IS DEEP AND PAINFUL AND *UNHEALED*. BUT SHE CONFRONTS IT ALL --

(CONTINUED)

B94 CONTINUED: B94

TEARS SPILL DOWN HER CHEEK... MIXING WITH BLOOD FROM HER NOSE... *

THE RIFT THROBS AND GROANS -- *

THE ARM DRAWS CLOSER -- *

IT ALMOST HAS ELEVEN -- *

C94 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT** C94

The lights grow brighter and brighter as...

D94 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - THE HOLE - NIGHT** D94

The lights grow brighter here as well, almost blinding us --

The kids look at one another in awe as...

94 **INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - PLATFORM** 94

The ARM is inches away from Eleven when... *

ELEVEN'S FEET SUDDENLY LIFT UP A FEW FEET THE PLATFORM.
SHE'S LEVITATING. REACHING A NEW STATE OF POWER.

SHE THRUSTS OUT BOTH HANDS NOW --

RELEASES ONE FINAL SCREAM --

AND -- *

The arm sucks back into the Upside Down a split-second before -- *

CRACKKK-RARRRRR! THE GATE CLOSES WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR!!!

Eleven collapses back onto the platform as we CUT TO -- *

95 **INT. UNDERGROUND RIFT CHAMBER - NIGHT** 95

An EPIC view from below as the ARMY OF DEMO-DOGS RAIN DOWN FROM ABOVE. As they hit the ground, limp, we PUSH IN on one. *

Dark veins creep up its body and its skin shrivels and grays... *dying*... *

A96 **EXT. MERRILL'S PUMPKIN PATCH - NIGHT** A96

The glass headlights dim as...

B96 **INT. CABIN - NIGHT** B96

The lights in the cabin dim too as...

100 CONTINUED: 100

WIDEN TO REVEAL: AN M.P. GUARD is locking up the lab.

TITLE CARD: ONE MONTH LATER.

He snaps a padlock over the chains. CA-CHUNK!

101 **EXT. HAWKINS LABS - DAY** 101

The Guard climbs into a MILITARY VEHICLE. It drives off, linking up with a CARAVAN OF MILITARY VEHICLES.

102 **EXT. HAWKINS LABS - MAIN GATE - DAY** 102

The CARAVAN exits through the main gate. They're leaving!

WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL: MURRAY BAUMAN!! He sits cross-legged on the hood of his van, watching this caravan pass.

The M.P. GUARD looks at him out his window. Murray salutes him. The guard looks away, annoyed. *Hippie scum.*

TV NEWS ANCHOR'S VOICE

... Since the release of the incendiary tape, the once quiet town of Hawkins, Indiana, has spent time in a place it never expected:

(beat)

The national spotlight.

As the last vehicle exits the facility...

The GATE SWINGS swings shut, revealing a new sign:

AREA CLOSED. TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

103 **EXT. CEMETERY - DAY** 103

We CRANE DOWN to find a small group of mourners gathered beside an open grave. We survey the various mourners:

Nancy, Jonathan, Steve, Karen, Ted, and...

MR. and MRS. HOLLAND. *We're at Barb's funeral.*

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED:

103

TV NEWS ANCHOR'S VOICE
*... Under mounting pressure,
 several high-ranking members from
 the U.S. Department of Energy have
 admitted to involvement in the
 death and cover-up of Hawkins
 residents Barbara Holland and Bob
 Newby, who died due to exposure to
 an experimental chemical asphyxiant
 which had leaked from the grounds
 of the lab...*

The FUNERAL DIRECTOR releases the lock on a lowering
 mechanism and the casket slowly begins its descent.

The Hollands sob and hold tight to one another.

104 INT. THE HIDEAWAY BAR - DAY

104

The NEWS REPORT continue to play out on a TV above a bar.

TV NEWS ANCHOR (ON TV)
*... We sent our own April Kline to
 Hawkins to speak to residents...*

We PULL AWAY from the TV and we DRIFT past a few day-
 drinkers. *Residents.* Their eyes are *glued* to the TV...

TV NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
*... Residents who told us they
 thought they lived in a safe town --
 the kind of town where, they say,
 nothing ever happened...*

We arrive at the front door just as... DING! Hopper enters.

105 A HIDEAWAY BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

105

Hopper sits at a booth opposite a surprising "date":

Dr. Owens. A pair of crutches nearby, but otherwise he seems
 to have recovered quite well from the attack. He's eating --
 and appears to be enjoying -- A ROAST-BEEF SANDWICH.

DR. OWENS
 Chief-o.

HOPPER
 How's the leg?

DR. OWENS
 Better. But pretty sure my
 football career is over.

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

105

Owens swallows a bite, motions to his sandwich.

DR. OWENS (CONT'D)

Want some? No way can I eat all
this...

He slides half the sandwich to Hopper. Hop pushes it away.

HOPPER

... On a diet --

DR. OWENS

You're a better man than me.

Dr. Owens wipes his hands with a napkin, then brings out a
MANILA ENVELOPE and slides it across the table to Hopper.

Hopper takes a peek inside. It's a BIRTH CERTIFICATE.

Hopper looks back up at Owens -- surprised. *Thankful.*

HOPPER

I thought --

DR. OWENS

Sometimes I impress even myself.
Still -- I'd let things cool off
awhile if I were you.

Hopper slips the BIRTH CERTIFICATE back into the envelope.

HOPPER

... What's "awhile?"

DR. OWENS

You want to be safe? Give it a
year.

Hoper winces. *That's a long time. A real long time.* Screw
it, he takes the half of the roast-beef sandwich and starts
to stress-eat.

Then, reluctantly, and against his better judgement:

HOPPER

What about... one night out?

DR. OWENS

One night?

HOPPER

Yeah. How... risky would that be?

Owens considers this. A little miffed.

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED: (2)

105

DR. OWENS

... What's so important about one night?

Hopper hesitates, *not sure how to put this*, and...

We PRE-LAP: THE JINGLE BELL ROCK and we CUT TO:

106 INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT 9

106

MR. CLARKE standing on a ladder! He looks down at THE ELDERLY TEACHER (from #204), who hands him colored string.

As Mr. Clarke lifts the string and tapes it to the wall, we widen out to reveal that he's hanging a BANNER which reads:

"HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL SNOWBALL -- 1984!!"

"THE JINGLE BELL ROCK" plays. The songs carries over as --

107 INT. BYERS HOUSE - WILL'S ROOM - NIGHT

107

CLOSE ON: A NEW DRAWING on the wall. This one depicts a familiar-looking man in a red cape. Titled: BOB NEWBY, SUPERHERO.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: Joyce helping Will put on a tie.

Jonathan records with Bob's video camera.

JOYCE

-- How's that?

WILL

It's too short, Mom --

Yeah, um, it's wayyyyyy too short.

As Joyce tries again, she shoots Jonathan a look.

JOYCE

Jonathan, come on, just help --

JONATHAN

I don't know how! And *someone's* gotta document this -- *failure* --

Joyce rolls her eyes, redoubles her efforts.

108 INT. WHEELER HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

108

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! Karen takes Polaroids of Mike, in a suit, who stands awkwardly in front of the family Christmas tree.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

MIKE

Okay okay -- that's enough, Mom --

KAREN

Just one more --

MIKE

No --

KAREN

You look *so* handsome --

MIKE

Moommm --

KAREN

Miiiiikeee --

Karen SNAPS another picture as --

109 INT. SINCLAIR HOUSE - LUCAS'S ROOM - NIGHT

109

Lucas, in a suit, looks in the mirror, his eyes dreamily narrowed.

LUCAS

... "Hey -- so... you wanna...
dance?"

(beat, more casual)

"Hey, maybe we should, you know --
get out there. You and me?"

(beat, more chirpy)

"I love this song. You?"

He holds out his hand to an imaginary girl, when --

ERICA (O.S.)

(girly voice)

"Yeah! I love it!"

Lucas turns to find Erica. Watching from the doorway.

ERICA (CONT'D)

"But not as much as I love you,
Lukeeeee!!"

LUCAS

GET OUT OF MY ROOM!

Lucas walks over and SLAMS the door on his sister as --

110 INT. MAX'S HOUSE - MAX'S ROOM - NIGHT

110

MAX
OW! That hurts!

Max winces as her mom, SUSAN, pins up her hair.

SUSAN
It's gonna be worth it -- promise!

As Susan continues to get her hair *just right*, Billy saunters past the door. He shoots Max daggers -- and Max shoots daggers right back. Billy bites his tongue and stalks off.

Susan finishes with the hair, looks Max over.

SUSAN (CONT'D)
See -- pretty -- !!

MAX
... Yeah okay --

SUSAN
... Now -- you *surrre* you don't want to wear a dress?

Max looks at her mom. Then stalks away in response as --

A111 INT. HENDERSON HOUSE - NIGHT

A111

Dustin races through his house, searching for *something*.

DUSTIN
Sonofabitch -- *sonofabitch!!*

He's wearing a colorful suit, complete with a bow tie.

He hustles past CLAUDIA, who cradles a NEW KITTEN.

CLAUDIA
Where did you see it last?

DUSTIN
Where I *put it* -- right here --

Dustin checks a bowl on the kitchen counter. *Not there.*

CLAUDIA
What's in there that's so important anyway? You look fabulous baby!!

But just then, Dusting finds it. Hidden behind a BAG OF CAT FOOD: A SHOPPING BAG FROM MELVALD'S!!

(CONTINUED)

A111 CONTINUED:

A111

DUSTIN

Got it --

As Dustin races away, sprinting back past his mom --

The doorbell RINGS --

CLAUDIA

That's your ride! Dusty???

111 **INT. HENDERSON HOUSE - DUSTIN'S ROOM - NIGHT**

111

The bag from Melvald's upends. Out tumbles --

A BOTTLE OF FARRAH FAWCETT HAIR SPRAY.Dustin picks it up. Takes a breath. And... *here goes nothing.*

CLOSE ON: His finger as he squeezes the trigger.

As SPRAY meets hair, we SMASH TO:

112 **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - NIGHT**

112

The SNOWBALL!! We CRANE DOWN as a PARADE OF KIDS head into the gym. They are all dressed to the nines. Ready to party!

A BMW pulls into the front of the drop-off line. This is...

113 **INT. STEVE'S BMW - HAWKINS MIDDLE - NIGHT**

113

Steve talks to an off-screen passenger:

STEVE

Alright... so remember --

DUSTIN

Pretend like I don't care.

REVERE ANGLE TO REVEAL: Steve is talking to Dustin!!

His hair is now CRAZY BIG.

STEVE

You're learnin', my friend.

Dustin checks himself out in the rearview mirror.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You look *great*, dude. Now get out there and slay 'em dead --

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

113

DUSTIN

Like a lion --

Dustin does his signature *purr*. Steve winces.

STEVE

But don't -- don't do that.

DUSTIN

Yeah -- right. Okay.

Dustin takes a deep breath. And...

114 **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE - GYM ENTRANCE - NIGHT**

114

Dustin exits the car. He struts up to the ticket booth, which is manned by Mr. Clarke. Dustin hands Mr. Clarke his ticket.

MR. CLARKE

Looking very snazzy tonight, sir.

DUSTIN

Thank you, my Lord. *

115 **INT. STEVE'S BMW - HAWKINS MIDDLE - NIGHT**

115

Steve watches Dustin talking to Clarke. This is a new side of Steve: "proud dad" Steve! But then Steve's expression changes as, through the open gymnasium door, he sees -- *

Nancy. Smiling. Serving punch to kids from behind a table.Steve pushes back his emotions, then *speeds away*.116 **INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT**

116

Dustin now heads through a BALLOON ARCHWAY and enters... *

The Snowball! We CRANE UP to reveal the party. The dance floor is jam-packed with students, a disco ball glowing above, the whole gym smothered in decorations -- magical. *

As Dustin heads into the dance, he waves hello to -- *

Nancy, who is serving punch to a line of MIDDLE SCHOOLERS. All of her "customers" are... boys. They ogle her like she's some kind of exotic species. *

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOY #1

What's in this...? *

NANCY

Pure fuel. *

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED:

116

As Nancy scoops more punch, she glances over at --

Jonathan, who is taking pictures at a PHOTO STATION. He's the official Snowball photographer tonight!!! CHOOM! He snaps a kid's photo, then looks up and makes eyes with Nancy. He smiles. And just the way these two are looking at each other, we can tell they're still together -- and *in love*.

*

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GYM,

Dustin walks up to Mike, Lucas, Will, and Max.

They stand around a fold-out table in the (way) back.

All eyes go *straight* to his hair.

MIKE

Whoa -- what happened??

DUSTIN

What?

MIKE

"What?"

LUCAS

Dude -- !!!

MAX

Your hair!

*

*

Lucas reaches out to touch it.

LUCAS

Is a bird nesting in there???

Everyone laughs. That is, everyone except for Dustin, who is now suddenly self-conscious about his new look. But before he has a chance to say anything in his defense --

A ROMANTIC SLOW SONG BEGINS TO PLAY. Couples move onto the dance floor. Dustin, per Steve's advice, tries to act like he's not interested.

Lucas, meanwhile, turns to Max.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Hey -- Max -- you uh -- you -- uh --

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED: (2)

116

MAX

Are you trying to ask me to dance,
Stalker?

LUCAS

No. No... I mean -- unless -- do
you -- want to?

Max shakes her head.

MAX

So smooth. *Come on...*

Max takes his hand and drags him onto the dance floor.

Dustin watches them go, his heart-sinking, when...

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, zombie boy.

Will turns to find a CUTE GIRL walking over to him.

CUTE GIRL

Wanna dance?

Will hesitates, uncertain --

WILL

I, I don't know, I --

Mike nudges him. Shoots him a look. *Dude.*

Will turns back to the girl. Awkward.

WILL (CONT'D)

I mean -- yeah -- *sure.*

Will follows her onto the dance floor, which leaves --

Mike and Dustin alone. Dustin watches the dance floor as...

Lucas wraps his arms around Max's waist. Dustin averts his
gaze. *Damn it hurts.* But he perks up a bit as his gaze
shifts to a GROUP OF CUTE GIRLS NEARBY. A new objective!

He takes a deep breath. Pats down his hair a bit. And...

DUSTIN

Wish me luck, Mike. *I'm going in.*

117 **MOMENTS LATER**

117

Dustin saunters up to the girls.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

DUSTIN

Hey -- uh -- Stacey? Stacey?

The cutest girl -- STACEY -- stares at him like he's some alien.

STACEY

... Yeah?

Dustin extends his hand, staying confident.

DUSTIN

... Shall we?

Stacey looks at her friends. GIGGLES.

STACEY

Um, no thanks...

Stacey and friends hurry away, giggling. Dustin watches them go, clearly hurt by the rejection. He shifts his gaze to --

Another PAIR OF GIRLS. He starts to walk toward them --

But they walk away *as soon as they see him*. Giggling too.

Dustin is now alone. Abandoned. And *hurting*.

AT THE PUNCH STATION,

Nancy sees Dustin all alone. He keeps looking around. But everywhere he turns, girls laugh and walk away.

Off Nancy, her heart breaking a bit...

118 **OVER AT THE BLEACHERS,**

118

Dustin, defeated, sits down on the bleachers all by himself. *He's given up*. His eyes return to the dance floor, where he sees --

Max and Lucas. Max rests her head on Lucas's shoulder.

It's almost *too much* to bear. As tears fill his eyes...

NANCY (O.S.)

... Wanna dance?

Dustin looks up to find Nancy. She holds out a hand.

Dustin quickly wipes his tears away.

DUSTIN

Huh -- ?

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

118

NANCY
Come on. *Let's go.*

Nancy yanks Dustin to his feet and...

DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Nancy drags Dustin onto the dance floor! He doesn't even know what to do now that he's out here -- he just stands stiffly in place, a few feet from Nancy, rocking awkwardly.

NANCY (CONT'D)
... Like this... *here...*

She places his arms around her waist and --

NANCY (CONT'D)
... Closer...

She draws him closer to her. Dustin can hardly breathe.

NANCY (CONT'D)
Now. Feel the song... the
rhythm... *move to it...*

Dustin begins to feel the rhythm.

NANCY (CONT'D)
There... yeah, that's good.

Stacey and her friends all watch in disbelief!

*

Nancy smiles at Dustin.

NANCY (CONT'D)
You know -- of all my brother's
friends, you're my favorite.
You've *always* been my favorite.

We can tell this means *the world* to Dustin.

DUSTIN
... *Really?*

NANCY
Girls this age are... dumb. But
when they get a little older and
wise up -- you're gonna drive 'em
nuts.

DUSTIN
... You really think so?

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED: (2)

118

NANCY

I know so.

Dustin beams. The glint of a tear in his eyes.

119 **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE - GYM - NIGHT**

119

The music grows faint as we DRIFT DOWN TO FIND...

Joyce, resting up against her car outside the gym.

She hears FOOTFALLS. Looks up to find Hopper.

HOPPER

... Thought I might find you here.

He smiles. Leans next to her. She smiles softly.

JOYCE

Will wanted space, so... I gave him
a few feet.

Hopper pulls a hand-rolled cigarette from his pocket.

HOPPER

... Whaddaya say? I'm pretty sure
Mister Cooper retired in the
seventies, so... I think we're
good.Hopper lights the cigarette, takes a puff in silence, then
passes it to Joyce. As she takes a drag, Hopper eyes her.

There's a sadness in her eyes.

HOPPER (CONT'D)

... How you holding up?

JOYCE

Oh -- you know...

She takes another heavy drag. *Hopper knows alright.*

HOPPER

... That feeling -- it never goes
away. But it's true -- you know.
What they say. Every day, it gets
a little bit easier.Joyce takes this in, passes the cigarette back to Hop. As he
smokes, she gently rests her head on Hopper's shoulder.We SLOWLY PULL AWAY from these two old friends, sharing a
cigarette just like old times as...

120 INT. HAWKINS MIDDLE - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

120

"IN THE AIR TONIGHT" begins to play now. Nearly all of the kids are out on the dance floor now. That is, everyone save for...

Mike. Sitting alone at the fold-out table. He taps his foot, desperate for this night to just be over already. But then, suddenly -- his breath catches, his heart skips, and...

He pushes to his feet. ACROSS THE GYM:

Eleven enters the Snow Ball! She wears a dress. Her hair is longer, done up. Her make-up inspired by her time with Kali.

She surveys the crowd, overwhelmed, until at last she sees --

Mike. Their eyes lock. Mike gathers his composure. Then...

He begins to walk toward her. She walks toward him.

They finally meet. Mike stares. Heart-in-throat.

MIKE

... You -- you look --
(beat)
Beautiful.

Eleven smiles, flustered. An awkward beat, then...

MIKE (CONT'D)

Do you want to... dance?

Eleven looks out at all those other kids. Nervous.

She's a little embarrassed by this, but --

ELEVEN

I... don't know... how.

MIKE

Neither do I.

A shared smile.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You want to... figure it out?

She smiles. And takes Mike's hand.

DANCE FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Mike leads Eleven onto the dance floor. He gently places his hands on her waist. As they sway to the song, eyes locked...

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

120

WE MOVE THROUGH the packed dance floor, finding all our kids one final time...

-- Lucas with Max, her head still on his shoulder.

-- Dustin with Nancy, still not believing his luck.

-- Will with the Cute Girl, dancing awkwardly. But his eyes aren't on the cute girl. They are on --

-- Mike, who is dancing with Eleven. Their eyes firmly locked. They look like they're just about to *burst with happiness*. As "IN THE AIR TONIGHT" swells with emotion...

121 **EXT. HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL - NIGHT**

121

We PULL AWAY from the school gym. Further and further.

It seems like we've reached the end of our story. But then, ever so slowly, we begin to ROTATE around 180°. As we do, the world slowly deteriorates around us, until we once again find ourselves in --

*
*
*
*

THE UPSIDE DOWN.

*

TOWERING OVER THE GYM, BENEATH A RAGING STORM:

*

THE MIND FLAYER. STILL ALIVE. ANGRY.

*

BOOM! RED LIGHTING SPLITS THE SKY --

*

AND WE SMASH TO --

*

BLACK.

*

STRANGER THINGS 2

*

122 **OMITTED**
THRU
124

122 *
THRU *
124 *

END SEASON

*