

STRANGER SINGS! THE PARODY MUSICAL

Book and Score by Jonathan Hogue

SAMPLE SCRIPT

the
Licensing
HOUSE

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STRANGER SINGS!
THE PARODY MUSICAL

BOOK AND SCORE BY
JONATHAN HOGUE

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NOTE: All actors will also play various ENSEMBLE roles.

MIKE – Playing age 12.

DUSTIN – Playing age 12.

LUCAS – Playing age 12. Doubles as the DEMOGORGON, EIGHT, and ERICA.

NANCY/ELEVEN – Playing age 12-17. Doubles as ROBIN.

BARB – Playing age 17.

STEVE/JONATHAN – Playing age 17. Doubles as DR. BRENNER.

HOPPER – Playing age 40. Doubles as MRS. WHEELER and MR. CLARKE

JOYCE/WILL – Playing age 40. Doubles as WILL (in puppet form)

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1:

Welcome to Hawkins - Mike, Dustin, Lucas, Will, Mrs. Wheeler, Nancy, Barb, Steve

Hopper Triggered - Hopper

Forever - Nancy, Barb

Forever (Reprise) - Barb

The Adventure Song - Mike, Dustin, Lucas

The Dad I Never Had – Eleven, Ensemble

In These Woods - Jonathan, Nancy

Crazy – Joyce

Getting Closer - Mike, Dustin, Lucas, Eleven, Mr. Clarke, Joyce, Hopper, Steve

ACT 2:

Nice - Dustin, Steve

Stranger - Mike, Eleven

Where There's A Will – Will, Ensemble

Barb's Turn – Barb

The Final Battle – Ensemble

The Dad I Never Had (Reprise) - Hopper, Eleven

The Dad I Never Had (Reprise 2) – Dustin, Lucas, Mike

Upside Down/Welcome to Hawkins (Reprise) - Joyce, Steve, Dustin, Lucas, Eleven,
Hopper, Mike, Will, Barb

PROLOGUE: OUTSKIRTS OF HAWKINS

(At blackout, an overly synthy, brooding musical intro begins to play - one that sounds vaguely similar to the theme music of the TV series. An onstage street sign points in the direction of Hawkins, Indiana.)

(A SCIENTIST runs onto the scene, panting heavily and dramatically. He looks around as if being chased by... something. Suddenly, he sees a dark shadow closing in on him. He backs up slowly, in fear, as the music builds. The unseen creature moves in closer... closer...)

(The lights dramatically flicker into a blackout. A loud scream is heard.)

(Transition to:)

SCENE 1 - WHEELER'S HOUSE

(Lights up on MIKE, LUCAS, and DUSTIN, are sitting around a table playing a very intense “Dungeons and Dragons” campaign. MIKE is leading the story.)

SONG: Welcome to Hawkins

MIKE

IT'S A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT

DUSTIN

Oh no—

LUCAS

—shut up!

MIKE

THE KIND OF DARKNESS THAT FILLS YOU WITH FRIGHT

DUSTIN

We're dead we're dead—

LUCAS

—shhhhh!

MIKE

OUT OF THE SHADOWS COMES A CREATURE WITH NINE HEADS!

LUCAS

The Demogorgon!

DUSTIN

We're screwed, dude.

LUCAS

Nooooooooo...

MIKE
HERE HE COMES WITH GIANT TEETH
NOW WILL YOU ADMIT DEFEAT?

LUCAS
No!
ROLL A 7! CAST A PROTECTION SPELL OR—

DUSTIN
Fireball!

MIKE
You can't do that! You have to have the Golden Femur of
Khthulu to cast a fireball!

DUSTIN
Mike, we are literally making up our own rules up for this
game.

LUCAS
Wait... where's Will?

WILL
I'm right here guys!!!
(A toilet flushes. WILL, a scrawny
looking puppet, runs onstage.)
...what did I miss?

MIKE
WILL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO YOU CHOOSE?
IF YOU SCREW THIS UP, YOU LOSE.

WILL
I'LL CAST A MAGIC SPELL WITH THE FLICK OF MY WAND!

MIKE
AND YOU'RE DEAD.

WILL
What!?

MIKE

THE DEMOGORGON RIPS OFF YOUR HEAD!

LUCAS

Unicorn hair wands are the pussy wands, Will, we told you.

WILL

Yeah but they're... pretty.

MIKE

AND THAT ENDS HOUR TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE OF THE
GAME!

Chapter 82 –

(MRS. WHEELER enters.)

MRS. WHEELER

Michael Wheeler, it is way past your bedtime.

MIKE

Awwww Mom, it's only 7:15! Come on, just two more hours?

LUCAS

Yeah, we're almost done!

DUSTIN

Only got seventy chapters left to go!

MRS. WHEELER

I don't want to hear a single word out of any of you. It's a
school night. Now you boys march upstairs and head
straight home.

(The boys groan.)

Come on, scoot! Mama's gotta get in her hot bath with her
porn novels.

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN, WILL

Awwwww Mom/Mrs. Wheeler...

ALL

WE WANNA WELCOME YOU TO HAWKINS

WHERE EVERYTHING IS A TOTAL CLICHE!
WE'RE JUST LIKE FOLKS FROM CLASSIC FILMS AND TV SHOWS
IT'S NOSTALGIC AND YOU LOVE US THAT WAY!

WE LIVE A SAFE, SIMPLE LIFE HERE IN HAWKINS
OUR GOVERNMENT SAYS THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR!
EXPECT NOTHING BUT THE EVERYDAY NORMAL
CUZ STRANGER THINGS HAVE NEVER HAPPENED HERE.

(MRS. WHEELER exit. Cut to NANCY's
bedroom, where BARB and NANCY are
attempting to study.)

BARB

Oh my gosh, Nancy, in homeroom I overheard Susie Q tell
Carol B tell Carol C tell Molly R that Greg N totally thought
the blouse you wore today was "pretty neat".

NANCY

Ugh, that Greg N is such a skeeze. He's nothing like that...
Steve Harrington.

BARB

I don't know, I think his hackysack skills are quite
impressive—

NANCY

—OH MY GOSH, THIS MORNING WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL
HE WAS IN THE HALLWAY LOOKING COOL
AND I SMILED AND I SWEAR HE SMILED BACK AT ME!

BARB

No way!

NANCY

Yes!
BUT MY HEART BEAT OUT OF MY CHEST
WHEN HE TOLD ME:

“You got nice breasts”

BARB

Oh wow.

NANCY

AND THEN HE WINKED AT ME

AND GIRL I MELTED LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE

I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE DAY I GET TO MARRY STEVE!

(STEVE enters.)

STEVE

Did someone say my name?

NANCY

Steve Harrington, what are you doing here? Oh my
goshhhhh.

STEVE

I was just in the neighborhood and saw your window open,
and thought I'd pop in to see if you needed help studying.

BARB

Oh it's okay, Nancy and I have flash cards!

STEVE

Is that your mom?

NANCY

Oh no, Steve, this is my best friend Barb.

BARB

We've actually been in the same classes together since
Kindergarten, but—

STEVE

Yeah yeah, whatever. So, we gonna study or what?

NANCY

We can do whatever you want, Steve Harrington.

BARB

...Is it still cool if I join?

ALL

WE LOVE OUR STEREOTYPES IN HAWKINS
WE ROUNDED UP EVERY TYPE YOU COULD BEAR
WE'VE GOT THE HOTTIES, NERDS, AND LAME ASS PARENTS
AND EVERYONE'S GOT GIANT TEASED HAIR!

WE'RE SIMPLE MINDED PEOPLE HERE IN HAWKINS
WE LEAN CONSERVATIVE AND NOBODY'S QUEER!
THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE MAY BE IN OTHER TOWNS BUT
STRANGER THINGS HAVE NEVER HAPPENED HERE...

WILL

Bye Nancy! I hope you have a good night's rest!

STEVE

Umm, what the hell was that?

NANCY

Oh that's just Mike's nerdy little loser friend, Will.

STEVE

Wow... that kid sucks. Now come on Nance, let me teach you
how to... study.

BARB

Hey, should I go, or...

WILL

I MAY BE SMALL
I MAY NOT BE GREAT
I MAY HAVE HIT MY PEAK AT ONE FOOT EIGHT
BUT I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING BIGGER IN ME STILL

I MAY BE A NERD
AND ALLERGIC TO ANTS
ONE TIME I TALKED TO A GIRL AND WET MY PANTS
BUT LIKE MY BLADDER, MY DREAMS ARE BURSTING AT THE
SEAMS!

SO I'LL NEVER THE COOL KID
I'LL NEVER BE A PRINCE
THOUGH MOM SAYS SMARTS ARE JUST AS SEXY TO WOMEN STILL
I MAY NEVER SAVE THE DAY BUT
IMAGINE IF I DID!
THE WORLD WOULD NEVER SEE IT COMING
FROM ONE SMALL BOY NAMED WILL

DUSTIN

Go in peace, my brethren!

LUCAS

Dude, you're so weird. See you guys tomorrow!

MIKE

Will, you sure you don't want someone to escort you back to
your creepy secluded house in the woods?

WILL

I'm fine! I can take care of myself.

MIKE

Okay! See ya!

WILL

BUT STILL I'LL NEVER GET TO
TRULY FLY IN HAWKINS

ALL (EXCEPT WILL)

LOOK AT HIM, HE'S SUCH A NERD!

WILL

BECAUSE I'M GROUNDED BY CONVENTION HERE IN HAWKINS

ALL (EXCEPT WILL)

NERDS LIKE HIM WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING

WILL

BUT SOMEDAY THIS WHOLE
TOWN WILL SEE
THE HERO THAT'S INSIDE OF ME

ALL (EXCEPT WILL)

AHHH-AHHH

AHHH-AHHH

WILL

AND YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT THIS ONE SMALL BOY HAS
WITHIN

ALL (EXCEPT WILL)

ONE SMALL BOY

ONE SMALL BOY

WILL

I'M JUST WAITING FOR LIFE TO BEGIN!

ALL (EXCEPT WILL)

JUST LOOK AT THAT ONE SMALL BOY GO!

WILL

IN MY DREAMS I CAN FLY LIKE THE EAGLES AND—

(The lights flicker and then black out.
There is general commotion. When the
lights come back on, WILL is gone.)

ALL

SO SOMETHING STRANGE HAS JUST HAPPENED IN HAWKINS!

NANCY

We just lost power! Oh wait - now it's back on!

ALL

THIS SEEMS LIKE NOTHING BUT IT'S REALLY CONCERNING CUZ
NOTHING HERE HAS EVER GONE WRONG!

BLACKOUTS NEVER HAPPEN WITHOUT REASON
WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR LITTLE TOWN?
JUST TAKE OUR VAGUE CONCERN AS EXPOSITION

CUZ STRANGER THINGS

STRANGER THINGS

STRANGER THINGS...

ARE HAPPENING HERE IN
HAWKINS
HERE IN HAWKINS
HERE IN HAWKINS!

DUSTIN

Nothing bad ever happens in small towns!

SCENE 2 - SHERIFF'S STATION

(HOPPER enters. He turns the radio on as he prepares his morning coffee, lights a cigarette, and enjoys a serene moment.)

RADIO ANNOUNCER

(Voice-Over:)

...you're listening to WKMZ Hawkins News Radio. The weather today is a brisk forty-five degrees with partly cloudy skies and chance of rain at 30%. And in local news... let's see... ah, nothing of course! Another news-free peaceful day in Hawkins, Indiana, the greatest little town this side of the Mississippi. As your state and local government would like to remind you, nothing bad ever happens here!

(HOPPER takes a nice peaceful breath. Suddenly, JOYCE bursts in.)

JOYCE

HOPPER!!

HOPPER

Mornin' Joyce.

JOYCE

It is three o'clock in the afternoon. Where the hell have you been??

HOPPER

(shrugs, stirs his coffee with his cigarette)

JOYCE

HOPPER!!!

HOPPER

What?

JOYCE

My son Will is missing!!!

HOPPER

Ehh, you know boys—they get all angsty, run away, and

come right back in a couple days.

JOYCE

Will isn't like other boys. He's different.

HOPPER

Ohh... I know that kid. Short, scrawny, has a hand up his ass?

JOYCE

Nooooo!

HOPPER

Just saying your son's a—

JOYCE

He's not a puppet, he's a real boy! Now are you going to do something or what?

HOPPER

Look Joyce, this is Hawkins. In my four years as Sheriff of this town, the craziest thing that's ever happened was that time when those five high schoolers with nothing in common met in detention for the first time. A brain, an athlete, a basket case, a princess, AND a criminal? Man, that shit was WILD—

JOYCE

—HOPPER.

HOPPER

WHAT JOYCE.

JOYCE

Do you even know what it's like to lose a kid?

(Hopper pauses, then takes a dramatic turn out with the music.)

SONG: Hopper Triggered

HOPPER

HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A KID?

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED YOUR CHILD DIE IN YOUR ARMS?

DO YOU BLAME YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU BROUGHT HOME ALL
THOSE CHEMICALS FROM VIETNAM
AND NOW YOUR DAUGHTER'S SLOWLY DYING—

JOYCE

—HOPPER!! We don't have time for you to explore your past
trauma through song!! We need to find my BOY!!

HOPPER

...Okay, I'm on it, Joyce. I'll start looking at the school.
(dramatic look out)

For Sarah.

(JOYCE exits.)

SCENE 3 - HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

(A class bell rings. MIKE, LUCAS, and DUSTIN enter.)

MIKE

Hey, have you guys seen Will today?

LUCAS

No. Maybe he's sick? He was looking kinda sickly and pale last night.

MIKE

He always looks like that.

DUSTIN

Maybe he got eaten by the Demogorgon!

(The boys consider this seriously. Then they burst out laughing.)

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

That *would* happen / Will would be the one to get eaten /
Classic Will!

HOPPER

Hey, nerds. I'm on special assignment to find your friend Will. He went missing last night, and was last seen with the three of you. You boys have any idea where he could be?

DUSTIN

Well, usually when we can't find him, he's hiding out in his fort in the middle of the woods.

LUCAS

Or he's by his TV crying while watching "The Muppet Show".

MIKE

Is he gonna be okay?

HOPPER

Yeah, kid, he'll be fine. But for now, I need you three boys to stay in your houses until we find him. Okay? No searching for him in the woods, no looking for bad guys to defeat, and certainly no going on any crazy life-changing adventures.

Hear me?

(The BOYS are wide eyed at his suggestion. They exit, giddy.)

Damn it.

(HOPPER exits.)

SCENE 4 - STEVE'S HOUSE

(NANCY and BARB enter.)

NANCY

I can't believe we're going to a party at *the* Steve Harrington's!

BARB

Ooh, he's really a *the*? Wow...

NANCY

Yeah! I heard he only invited like three people. So that means... we're *in*! I bet you're SO happy you're friends with me.

BARB

I thank Joseph Smith every day.

NANCY

Oh my gosh, Barb, do you see that??

BARB

What? Where?!

NANCY

Out there, in the woods! There's something moving around!

(JONATHAN enters, taking pictures of random things in the dark.)

Is that... Jonathan Byers taking pictures in the woods?

BARB

I didn't know he was a *night* artist.

(JONATHAN approaches the girls.)

JONATHAN

.....hey.

(An uncomfortable pause as JONATHAN looks at both girls, takes a picture of them, and walks off.)

NANCY

Ugh, he's such a freak...
What?

BARB

Wow that was hot.

BARB

You know, Nance... I'm like so happy for you and everything,
but—

NANCY

I know, right? All of my wildest dreams are coming true!

BARB

OMG I know—you're a real life princess, your life is a fairy
tale—but umm... you're not gonna like... forget about me
when you and Steve, like, fall in love and get married?

SONG: Forever

NANCY

What? No! Of course not! Why would you say that?

BARB

I don't know, it's just that I sometimes get the feeling that
I'm kind of in the way—

NANCY

Barb, no! You will always be the most important person in
my life. We're best friends forever!

BARB

Yeah, but—

NANCY

GIRL, COME ON

LOOK AT ME BARB

IT'S ME, NANCY

YOUR BEST FRIEND EVER

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THE FIRST GRADE

DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU GO

FOR A GUY?

I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE I MIGHT LEAVE
BUT TRUST ME, YOU COULD NEVER BE REPLACED BY STEVE
YOU MATTER MORE TO ME
THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD
CAN'T YOU SEE?

YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU'RE
FRIENDS FOREVER
NOTHING CAN KEEP US APART WHEN WE
STICK TOGETHER
NO GUY CAN COME BETWEEN
THE BEST FRIENDSHIP YOU'VE EVER SEEN
BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS FOREVER
AND BEST FRIENDS NEVER DIE!

See girl? It's always been you and me.

BARB

Yeah girl, you're so right.

NANCY

Chicks before dicks!

BARB

Nancy! That's crude...

NANCY

Oh Barb, you know what I mean. We'll always be there for each other, no matter what. And we're always there to tell each other the truth!

WHEN I'M INSECURE
YOUR LOVE FOR ME IS SO PURE
YOU TELL ME THAT I'M BEAUTIFUL
AND IT'S TRUE!

BARB

AND WHEN YOU CALL OUT MY WEIGHT
SAY I WON'T GET A DATE
I JUST REMEMBER
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!

NANCY, BARB

TWO BOSOM BUDDIES
HOS BEFORE BROS
FRIENDS 'TIL THE END
THAT'S JUST HOW IT GOES

NANCY

SURE, I'M A SEVEN

BARB

AND I'M A THREE

NANCY, BARB

BUT TOGETHER WE'RE A PERFECT TEN
YOU AND ME!

YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU'RE
FRIENDS FOREVER
NOTHING CAN COME IN OUR WAY WHEN WE
STICK TOGETHER
BEST FRIENDSHIP IS OUR DIAGNOSIS

BARB

LIKE MY DEBILITATING SCOLIOSIS

NANCY, BARB

CUZ WE'RE FRIENDS FOREVER
AND BEST FRIENDS NEVER DIE!

NANCY
WE'RE JUST LIKE LEIA

BARB
AND C-3PO

NANCY
IF I'M LIKE JULIET

BARB
I'M THE NURSE

NANCY
IF I'M MADONNA

BARB
I'M THE VIRGIN!

NANCY, BARB
WE'RE TOGETHER
FOREVER
FOR BETTER OR WORSE!

NANCY, BARB
YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU'RE
FRIENDS FOREVER
THERE'S NOTHING STRONGER THAN FRIENDSHIPS THAT
STICK TOGETHER!
THOSE BOYS WILL RUN AND COWER
WHEN THEY SEE OUR LADY POWER!
CUZ WE'LL STICK TOGETHER
FRIENDS FOREVER
AND BEST FRIENDS NEVER...

NANCY, BARB
(NANCY takes the high belt harmony,
BARB takes lower)

THEY NEVER DIE!
THEY NEVER DIE!
THEY NEVER—

NANCY

(Goes for an impressive high riff and
BARB backs off)

DIE!
WHAOOOHH

BARB

(Summoning courage to take the high
belt solo.)

THEY NEVER
DIE—

(immediately cut off by Steve:)

STEVE

—Hey ladies.

(Song ends.)

Welcome to the party.

(To NANCY, referencing BARB)

Did you bring a Jehovah's Witness?

NANCY

Oh, no Steve—this is my best friend, remember?

STEVE

Oh yeah... what's your name? Boob?

BARB

Haha, you're so funny Steve... it's—it's Barb—I've said it a
couple—umm—you know what? Actually yeah, it's Boob!
Call me Boob. Whatever!

NANCY

You're so funny, Steve Harrington.

STEVE

Mmm yeah baby, call me by my full name.

NANCY

Steve—

STEVE

Oh yeah come on.

NANCY

—Harrington.

STEVE

Mmmmmm yeah. Let's take this to my room.

BARB

Nancy, hold on. You're not gonna... you know... *lie* with him, are you?

NANCY

Eeww no, of course not! We're just gonna, I don't know, study?

BARB

At a party...? ...Well, uh, just promise you'll use protection.

NANCY

Oh don't worry Barb, it's a safe neighborhood!

(NANCY and STEVE exit.)

BARB

That's not what I mean, but... okay! I guess I'll just grab this leftover can of—New Coke!—I just found and... wait for you here... on the diving board... alone.

(She sighs.)

Don't say that Barb. You're never alone.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WHEN YOU'RE
FRIENDS FOREVER
THERE'S NOTHING STRONGER THAN FRIENDSHIPS THAT
STICK TOGETHER
WHILE NANCY'S ACTIONS ARE KINDA SLUTTY
I KNOW I'M STILL HER FOREVER BUDDY
CUZ WE'LL STICK TOGETHER

FRIENDS FOREVER
AND BEST FRIENDS NEVER...

Wow... Nancy's kind of a bitch.

(She opens her can and cuts her finger.)

Owww! I just cut half my finger off on this can! Wait...
what is—??

(The lights flicker, a scream is heard,
and BARB disappears.)

SCENE 5 – BOYS HOMES/FOREST

(MIKE, LUCAS, and DUSTIN sit on different sides of the stage with oversized walkie-talkies.)

LUCAS

Ughhh. House arrest is SO. BORING. Over.

DUSTIN

Seriously ... It's been twenty minutes and I've already eaten all of my mom's Figurines bars.

MIKE

Are you guys thinking what I'm thinking? Over.

LUCAS

Will needs us to find him?

MIKE

Yeah, but think about it. When has a kid ever gone missing in Hawkins? Can you imagine what would happen if we found him? Over.

LUCAS

You're right - we could be heroes!

DUSTIN

And then girls would finally notice us!

(The boys pause to reflect on this.)

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

We're doing this/Yep, let's go/Well, I'm sold.

LUCAS

You guys ready? I've got my wrist-rocket, pocket knife, and my Dad's binocs from 'Nam.

DUSTIN

I've got Twinkies, Hohos, and Funyuns.

MIKE

And I've got my natural leader's charm. Let's do this, boys. It's time for our adventure.

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

OVER AND OUT.

SONG: The Adventure Song

MIKE

Bye Mom - I've gotta go study at Lucas' house!

LUCAS

Bye Mom - I've gotta go study at Mike's House!

DUSTIN

Bye Mom - I've gotta go ride my bike through the dark
woods in the middle of the night with no adult supervision!
(beat)

God I love the 80's.

MIKE

EVERY DAY IT'S
DO YOUR HOMEWORK

LUCAS

TUCK YOUR SHIRT IN

DUSTIN

GO TO BED

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

EVERY DAY WE DREAM ABOUT
WHAT LIFE COULD BE INSTEAD

MIKE

EVERY DAY IT'S

DUSTIN

EAT YOUR VEGGIES

LUCAS

BE NICE TO YOUR SISTER

MIKE

SIT UP STRAIGHT

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

IS THIS REALLY THE LIFE WE GET

UNTIL THE DAY WE GRADUATE?

THERE'S A GREAT ADVENTURE WAITING FOR US

MEANT FOR THREE BRAVE BOYS TO CLAIM

A BOLD ADVENTURE FILLED WITH DANGER AND THRILLS

THAT'S CALLING OUT OUR NAMES

WE'RE HEADING INTO WAR

THREE BOYS AIMING TO RAISE SOME HELL

WE'RE POISED AND READY FOR THE FIGHT

BETTER WATCH OUT FOR THE SOUND OF OUR —

(Bike Bell Sound: "Ring Ring!")

HERE WE GO!

ADVENTURE IS CALLING

NO TELLING IF WE'LL EVER COME BACK

WHAT WE KNOW IS

SOMETHING IS OUT THERE

AND US THREE BOYS ARE HERE TO ATTACK

WE'RE READY TO TAKE ON WHATEVER'S AHEAD

DUSTIN

BUT WAIT, DON'T YOU THINK WE COULD WIND UP DEAD?

(A beat, as the three boys stop to
consider...)

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

Nah!

ADVENTURE IS OUR GOAL!

AND ALSO TO FIND WILL

(Fantasy sequence:)

JUST IMAGINE WHAT'S WAITING OUT THERE FOR US!

MIKE

A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS IN DISTRESS

WHO'S LONG AWAITED FOR

A KNIGHT TO SET HER FREE!

MAYBE THAT'S ME!

LUCAS

I WANT A BLOODY BATTLE

AGAINST AN EVIL BEAST

I'LL CUT HIS HEAD OFF AND HIS BLOOD AND GUTS

WILL SPILL ALL OVER THE FLOOR!

Like Rambo!

DUSTIN

I WANT TO FIND HIDDEN TREASURE

UNLIMITED NOUGAT WOULD BE THE BEST

OR ENDLESS COMIC BOOKS

ALSO I WANT TO FIND A REALLY COOL LIZARD!

Yeah!

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

EVERYTHING WE EVER WANTED

EVERYTHING WE EVER DREAMED OF

IT'S ALL IN STORE

ALL THIS AND MORE!

MIKE

WHERE'S THE PRINCESS
NOW?

LUCAS

I WANT A BLOODY BATTLE
AND SLAY AN EVIL BEAST

DUSTIN

TWINKIES
HO-HOS

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| I'LL SAVE HER SOMEHOW! | AND WHEN I SAVE THE DAY EVERYONE WILL CHEER | FROM THE DOLLAR STORE AND MAYBE MORE! |
| I'M ALMOST THERE JUST WAIT FOR ME! | I'LL CARRY A GIANT SWORD AND MY HANDY WRIST ROCKET | HERSHEYS NOUGAT |
| I'll COME AND SET YOU FREE! | AND BE A REAL HERO LIKE THE MUSKETEERS! | AND ALSO A REALLY FREAKING COOL LIZARD! |

(A slight beat, as the BOYS try to
remember the one part they forgot...)

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

AND ALSO FIND WILL!

HERE WE GO!
ADVENTURE'S IN STORE
NOW WHAT WE'VE DREAMED OF HAS FINALLY BEGUN
EVEN THOUGH
WE'RE SMALLER THAT MOST
WE'RE BOLDER AND BRAVER THAN ANYONE
WHATEVER'S OUT THERE WILL NEVER WIN
AGAINST THE THREE BEST FRIENDS THAT HAVE EVER BEEN
ADVENTURE LIES AHEAD
LET'S MAKE IT HOME IN TIME FOR BED!

MIKE

SO HERE WE GO!

LUCAS, DUSTIN

ALSO WE'RE LOOKING FOR WILL!

DUSTIN

HERE WE GO!

MIKE, LUCAS

ALSO WE'RE LOOKING FOR WILL!

LUCAS
HERE WE GO!

MIKE, DUSTIN
ALSO WE'RE LOOKING
WE'RE LOOKING FOR WILL!

(ELEVEN appears.)

DUSTIN
Wait, who's that?
(Song ends.)

(The BOYS stare at ELEVEN, confused.
ELEVEN stands silently.)

LUCAS
So.... what is... it?

DUSTIN
She looks like an escaped mental patient.

MIKE
Stop! I think she can hear us.
(He approaches ELEVEN.)
Do you...
(attempts sign language)
understand us?

ELEVEN
Yes.

MIKE
Omigosh she talks! Do you have a name?

ELEVEN
Jane.

LUCAS
Hey, what's that on your wrist? Is that a tattoo? Is that a permanent tattoo??

DUSTIN
Umm, badass alert.

MIKE

Oh-one-one. Eleven. That's so cool. I think we'll call you Eleven.

ELEVEN

My name is Jane.

LUCAS

Eleven! That is the COOLEST name. It's like a sci-fi movie.

DUSTIN

Totally! My dad's last girlfriend's name was Eleven! And the one before her's name was Ten... Oh wow, my Dad sucks.

MIKE

Do you have a Dad, Eleven?

ELEVEN

Papa?

MIKE

Yeah, a Papa. What's he like?

ELEVEN

Papa... Papa...

SONG: The Dad I Never Had

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO WAS LOVING AND STRONG AND KIND
WHO'D STICK FLOWERS IN MY HAIR
INSTEAD OF NEEDLES IN MY BEHIND

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO'D PICK ME UP WHEN I'M DOWN
WHO WOULD TAKE ME TO THE ZOO
AND NOT LEAVE ME IN A TANK TO DROWN

HE COULD TEACH ME TO SWING A BAT

OR WE COULD READ A BOOK OR JUST SIT AND CHAT
INSTEAD OF TELLING ME TO KILL MY CAT WITH MY MIND...
I WANT THE DAD I NEVER HAD.

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
TO PICNIC WITH IN THE SUN
WHO WOULD TAKE ME OUT FOR ICE CREAM
AND NOT DRUG ME JUST FOR FUN

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO NEVER WOULD MAKE ME CRY
ONE WHO'D TELL ME "KID, I'M SO PROUD OF YOU,"
INSTEAD OF "STAY IN YOUR CELL TIL JULY"

OH I HATE MY DAD
HE'S THE WORST THERE'S EVER BEEN
OH I WANT THE DAD
WHO'LL LOVE ME FOR WHO I AM
STILL I GOT THE DAD
WHO USES ME TO COLLUDE WITH THE RUSSIANS....

I WANT THE DAD I NEVER HAD.

(DR. BRENNER appears in a vision from
the past. Several SCIENTISTS appear in
the background with clipboards.)

DR. BRENNER

How's Papa's little lab rat?

ELEVEN

(shrugs him off)

DR. BRENNER

I've just got one little task for you today Eleven. Very simple.
All I want you to do is to crush this can of—New Coke!—

with your mind.

(He holds a can of New Coke in his hand)

Can you do that for me?

ELEVEN

No.

DR. BRENNER

Please? It will make your one and only Papa very happy.

ELEVEN

(sighs, begins to send her energy towards the New Coke can until—)

DR. BRENNER

Oh I forgot to mention... this can just so happens to be filled with the ashes of all your favorite Cabbage Patch Kids!!

ELEVEN

(horrificed)

PAPA NOOOOOOOO!!!!

(The Scientists pick her up and begin performing other studies on her as she sings:)

ELEVEN

ALL I WANTED WAS A DAD WHO
WOULD SHOW ME THAT HE
CARES
ALL I WANTED WAS A DAD WHO
WAS ALWAYS ON MY SIDE
I DIDN'T NEED A DAD THAT WAS
PERFECT
I DIDN'T NEED A DAD THAT WAS
GREAT

SCIENTISTS

AHHHH-AHHHH

ALL SHE WANTED WAS A DAD

ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE

OOOH

OOOH

ELEVEN

ALL I WANTED WAS A DAD WHO DIDN'T SHOVE ME IN A CLOSET
OR TAZE ME OR SHAVE MY HEAD OR CALL ME A MONSTER OR
SEPARATE ME FROM MY MOTHER OR
WHO WASN'T COMPLETELY INSANE!!

(The flashback ends, and all SCIENTISTS
disappear. ELEVEN is left alone.)

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO WOULD NEVER TELL ME LIES
WHO WOULD HOLD ME IN HIS ARMS
AND SING ME LULLABIES.

I ALWAYS WANTED A DAD
WHO LOVED ME NO MATTER WHAT
WHO TELLS ME THAT I'M BEAUTIFUL
WELL, THAT'S NOT THE DAD I GOT.

OH, WHERE ARE YOU DAD?
ARE YOU THAT FAR AWAY?
PLEASE COME QUICKLY DAD
AND BE WITH ME TO STAY
BECAUSE I NEED MY DAD
TO SAY "I LOVE YOU"
INSTEAD OF "HEY KID,
GET IN YOUR CAGE."

PAPA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

LUCAS

Well, nice meeting you! Bye!

MIKE

Wait! We can't leave her here!

LUCAS

Mike, she's got a prison tattoo and the same hairstyle as my Dad. She's a freak.

MIKE

She's not a freak. She needs our help. And maybe she can even help us find Will.

ELEVEN

Will?

MIKE

Yeah, our friend Will. He's the token victim. Do you know where he is??

(ELEVEN nods)

LUCAS

This is crazy. Some freaky homeless girl we found in the woods, who we've never seen before, knows where Will is. I'm calling my parents.

(LUCAS walks away to find a phone when suddenly... he freezes.)

Ummm guyth... I'm thuck. I'M THUCK.

DUSTIN

Is he having an aneurysm?

MIKE

No—look!

(He looks at ELEVEN, who is holding an arm out and staring intensely at LUCAS.)

LUCAS

Ith not huddy! Teh her to stah it.

(She releases LUCAS. LUCAS immediately relaxes, then tenses up.)

What the hell was—

MIKE, DUSTIN

WHOA!! / HOW DID SHE DO THAT?? / SHE IS ONE OF THE X-MEN / DO YOU KNOW MYSTIQUE

(ELEVEN gets a bloody nose. She tilts her head back and pinches her nose. MIKE hands her a tissue.)

DUSTIN

Eleven... you know where Will is?

(Eleven pulls a piece of paper from the audience, stabs a hole through it, and then points to it to signify Will's location.)

MIKE

Whoa—Will is trapped in another dimension that's an evil parallel to our own and he can only be rescued by opening a portal between our two dimensions! Did you guys get that??

LUCAS

...no.

DUSTIN

Where'd she get that paper from?

LUCAS

We need to get her to Mr. Clarke. He should know what we should do next.

MIKE

You're right. Come on, Eleven. We have to take you to school.

ELEVEN

School?

DUSTIN

Yeah, it's where our parents make us go so they can drink during the day.

MIKE

Wait, hold on. We need to disguise you in a dress and a wig, so you look more like a girl.

ELEVEN

But I am a girl.

MIKE

Yeah I know, but this is a red state. Now put this on and let's go!

(He pulls a wig and dress out of his backpack and hands it to ELEVEN. They both run off.)

LUCAS

I'm not even going to ask why that outfit was in his backpack.

(LUCAS and DUSTIN exit.)

(Two SCIENTISTS run onstage. They search left and right, using devices to try and track down ELEVEN. They see the footprints of ELEVEN on the ground.

SCIENTISTS

She's that way!

(The SCIENTIST points in the direction of the footprint, and they both run offstage in that direction.)

SCENE 6 - DEEP FOREST

(STEVE and NANCY enter, fighting)

NANCY

I just don't know where she could've gone — I've looked everywhere! The library, the swap meet, Aunt Fanny's Discount Mom Jeans...

STEVE

What's wrong with you?

NANCY

My best friend Barb is missing! Ugh, you don't care about my feelings at all Steve Harrington.

STEVE

Umm I *do* care about your feelings! I just don't get why you need to have like, more than one.

NANCY

Omigod, I literally can't.

STEVE

...do you wanna have sex and talk about it?

NANCY

I never want to speak to you again!

STEVE

Soooo... does that mean your friend Molly Ringwald is fair game now?

NANCY

Goodbye, Steve.

(NANCY glares at him. STEVE exits.
JONATHAN enters.)

NANCY

(Calling out)

BARB?? BARB!!

JONATHAN

(Calling out)

WILL?? WILL!!

NANCY

Jonathan Byers, what are you doing in the woods in the middle of the night?

JONATHAN

I'm looking for my brother, Will. He went missing yesterday, and I don't know where—

NANCY

Your brother went missing?? Oh my gosh, that's horrible! Let me help you find him!

JONATHAN

Wow, really? Thanks.

NANCY

Of course! This is important—he's your only brother! We have to find Will!

JONATHAN

But what about your best friend Barb?

(A beat.)

JONATHAN, NANCY

(calling out)

WILL?!?!

NANCY

You know, I'm really glad you're here. Steve and I just had a fight, and I'm feeling kinda vulnerable right now.

JONATHAN

Oh. Actually, I think I'm gonna go.

NANCY

What? You just got here?

JONATHAN

Yeah I know, but I'm an INFP and I'm already exhausted by this interaction.

(He goes to exit. NANCY stops him.)

NANCY

Wait! Has anybody told you that your "brooding loner" vibe is kinda... cute?

(They look at each other for a moment.
JONATHAN breaks away while NANCY
stays frozen.)

SONG: In These Woods

JONATHAN

HELP!

WHY AM I FEELING THESE FEELINGS ABOUT HER?

HELP!

WHY DOES MY HEARTBEAT FEEL LIKE THUNDER?

IT'S LIKE I'VE NEVER FELT THIS FEELING OF KNOWING SOMEONE
SO TRUE

MAYBE IT'S ALL OF THAT TIME ALONE WITH MY BROTHER THAT
BLINDED ME TO YOU...

SUDDENLY

I LOOK IN YOUR EYES

AND SUDDENLY

I LOSE ALL FEELING INSIDE, AND I'M SURPRISED

CUZ SUDDENLY

YOU'RE SO MUCH MORE THAN THE PICTURES I TOOK OF YOU
HAVING SEX WITH STEVE

NANCY

Wait, what?

JONATHAN

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE WOODS...

I... sang all of that out loud didn't I...?

NANCY

Yeah... but it was sweet! Even though you totally exploited
my privacy during an extremely intimate moment of my life,
you... thought I was pretty enough to be the subject of your
art.

JONATHAN

Uhhhh... yeah... I've got more pictures if you want to see them?

NANCY

HELP!

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD FEEL LIKE THIS

HELP!

I FEEL THIS TINGLING OF FULL-BODY BLISS

IT'S LIKE THE DANGER IN YOUR COLD BROWN EYES MAKES ME
WANT TO BELIEVE

AND REALLY WHAT DID I EVER THINK I SAW IN THAT TOTAL
ASSHAT STEVE

SUDDENLY

I SEE A NEW START

SUDDENLY

YOU'RE REPLACED PATRICK SWAYZE IN MY HEART

AND SUDDENLY

I'M JUST LIKE PRINCESS DI

AND FAIRY TALES ARE FINALLY COMING TRUE

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE WOODS...

JONATHAN

YEAH IT'S SOMETHING IN THESE WOODS...

JONATHAN, NANCY

WHOOAAA-AAAA

I ALWAYS THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT LOVE WAS

JONATHAN

FROM BOOKS AND MUSIC

NANCY

AND MTV!

JONATHAN, NANCY

BUT STILL I NEVER KNEW THE FEELING OF TRUE LOVE
ALIVE WITH RAGING ECSTASY!

(Suddenly, JONATHAN and NANCY enter into Xanadu. Ensemble members enter on roller skates, carrying rainbows, streamers, and shooting stars. A disco ball spins above their heads. JONATHAN and NANCY board a unicorn and fly through the skies.)

SUDDENLY!

WE'RE ROLLER SKATING THROUGH HEAVEN

AND SUDDENLY

WE'RE MOON WALKING ON A RAINBOW OF OUR LOVE

SUDDENLY

WE'RE FINALLY ONE STEP CLOSER TO FINDING XANADU

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THESE WOODS THAT BROUGHT
ME TO YOU

OOHHHH

I THINK I'M FALLING FOR YOU

OOHHHH

I THINK I'M READY TO—

(They make out aggressively.)

JONATHAN

Ohhhhhhhhh Nancy.

NANCY

Ohhhhhhh STEVE.

(They stop.)

...what? **JONATHAN**

I—I—uhhh... **NANCY**

You're still into him? **JONATHAN**

No of course not, he's a total wastoid! **NANCY**

It's his hair, isn't it. That's a turn on. **JONATHAN**

It's just so... big. **NANCY**

And mine is what? Flat? **JONATHAN**

I was gonna say flaccid but... anyways, we can't talk about this right now, we need to find Will before it's too late! **NANCY**

(Suddenly, a roar is heard.)

What is that??

I don't know... but we should probably run away?? **JONATHAN**

(JONATHAN and NANCY exit hurriedly. We see the DEMOGORGON creepily enter, looking for something to devour until... music starts playing—which sounds something like that one “thrilling” Michael Jackson song—and he begins to dance. And he's actually quite good.)

SCENE 7 - BYERS HOUSE

(Christmas music is playing overhead as JOYCE enters with Christmas lights. She plugs in the lights along the wall and celebrates her new decorations. HOPPER enters.)

HOPPER

Umm, what the—

JOYCE

WILL IS IN THE LIGHTS.

HOPPER

In the lights?

JOYCE

IT'S CHRISTMAS.

HOPPER

Did you bake gingerbread cookies...?

JOYCE

Look—look!!

(She shows him the Christmas lights in her hands)

Will baby... can you hear me?

(The lights do nothing. JOYCE yells into them anyway.)

Will, I need you to stay away from heavy objects baby boy, you know your little arms will tear!!!

HOPPER

Joyce, you need to calm down.

JOYCE

I AM CALM.

HOPPER

Okay, but... and here me out.... You are talking. To your missing son. Through Christmas lights.

JOYCE

HOPPER LOOK—MY MAGNETS! MY MAGNETS!! THEY'RE

NOT WORKING ANYMORE!!!

(She pulls out two magnets, and demonstrates that they no longer stick together. She stresses more.)

HOPPER

Joyce... I think you're going crazy.

JOYCE

...what did you just call me?

HOPPER

Oh no.

SONG: Crazy

JOYCE

CRAZY?

I'M NOT CRAZY

YOU'RE THE CRAZY

I'M NOT ONE

AM I CRAZY TO BE A MOTHER

AM I CRAZY TO LOVE MY SON

CRAZY

I'M NOT CRAZY

YOU DON'T KNOW ME

I'M QUITE MILD

HOW COULD YOU THINK THAT I'M CRAZY

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A CHILD...

HOPPER

Actually... I do. In fact I uh, brought you a book that I thought might help.

(demonstrating this book to the audience:)

It's this "Handbook for the Recently Deceased".

JOYCE

(in shock)

...where did you get that?

HOPPER

In the gift shop at the Marriott.

JOYCE

NO—HOW DID YOU—I CAN'T—I—NO—(She gasps) I HEAR
HER VOICE AGAIN...

HOPPER

Who's voice—

JOYCE

(She begins to go into a trance)

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I USED TO HEAR A VOICE SAY...

Winonaaaaaaaaa.

...WELL, THAT'S NOT REALLY MY NAME, BUT STILL I'D HEAR HER
SAY

Winonaaaaaaaaa.

AND EVERY TIME THAT VOICE WOULD TELL ME THINGS TO DO OR
SAY
AND EVERY TIME I HEARD THAT VOICE, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO
OBEY...

HOPPER

Wait, who's Winona?

(JOYCE is suddenly, dramatically shifts.
Almost like a possession.)

JOYCE

ME!!!

(Suddenly, the music gets fast and
whimsical as JOYCE lets loose.)

DO MEN WITH SCISSORS TURN YOU ON?
DO UNDEAD PEOPLE SOUND LIKE FUN?

WELL LET ME BE YOUR NUMBER ONE!
WINONA!

DO YOU LIKE TO DREAM ABOUT TEEN REVENGE
DRESS IN ALL BLACK AND CREEP OUT YOUR FRIENDS
WELL STAY WITH ME CUZ THE FUN NEVER ENDS
WINONA! THAT'S ME!

MY PASSION FOR MY CHILD IS CLEAR TO SEE
WORLD'S BEST MOTHER 1983

(JOYCE falls out of her trance)
BUT OH, WHAT THIS DARKNESS HAS DONE TO ME....

Oh no.

(A Tim Burton-esque musical interlude,
where several characters from past
Winona films suddenly appear:)

BEETLEJUICE

It's showtime!

(Musical vamp.)

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

I'm not complete...

(Musical vamp.)

HEATHER CHANDLER

Did you have a brain tumor for breakfast?

(Musical vamp.)

AMY MARCH

Oh Jo, all the girls at school are teasing me because I don't
have enough money to buy LIMES!

JOYCE

...what?

(JOYCE is perplexed as various
characters from her past films dance

around her. Eventually, she begins to warm up to them.)

GUILTY ARE THEY WHO LED TO MY DEMISE
BUT DO I WEAR THIS MASK OF SANITY AS A DISGUISE?
WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO BE SET FREE
TO LIVE OUT IN THE REAL WORLD
AS THE REAL ME?

(JOYCE considers her two personalities...)

Take it away boys!

HOPPER

There's nobody here...?

JOYCE

SO YES I'M CRAZY!
I'M COMPLETELY CRAZY
MY MIND IS GONE NOW
YES, IT'S TRUE
BUT IF YOUR CHILD GOT TAKEN TO ANOTHER DIMENSION
WHAT ELSE IS A MOTHER TO DO?

OH YES I'M CRAZY
BATSHIT CRAZY
I'M THIS CLOSE TO EATING MY HAND
BUT IF MY PRECIOUS BOY'S STILL OUT THERE
THEN I HAVE TO TAKE A STAND
SO I'LL WRITE ON THE WALLS
AND BUST DOWN THE DOORS
AND SCREAM AT THE SKY
AND BREAK ALL THE PHONES
AND SET FIRE TO MY HOUSE

That's a great idea Winona! (She suddenly shifts personality) Thanks Joyce!

UNTIL MY BOY
COMES
HOME!

Somebody give me my damn Emmy!

(BEETLEJUICE hands her an Emmy as
the ensemble exits.)

Thank you, thank you so much!

(Song ends.)

HOPPER

...Alright. ... Well... I just came here to tell you that we found
your son's dead body in the quarry. And your taillight is out.

JOYCE

...what?

HOPPER

Yeah, I've been telling you about that taillight, Joyce.

JOYCE

No he's not—he's in the lights—he's with us right now—
he's—

HOPPER

Joyce, look. I know this is hard to receive. I too have a dead
child—

(HOPPER is triggered briefly with
music).

JOYCE

NO NO NO (pointing to sound booth:) NO. No this isn't
happening—this isn't real—I can't—HOLD MY EMMY.

HOPPER

Joyce, I think your Emmy is imaginary.

(JOYCE breaks down and sobs.)

Also it's probably not a good time to tell you that the
Academy actually gave me the Emmy nom...

JOYCE

But... but... did they even see the faces I've been making??
You've only had one expression this whole time!

HOPPER

Must've been a good one. See ya, Joyce.

(HOPPER exits. Suddenly, the phone rings. She answers it, panicked.)

JOYCE

Hello Byers Residence! (listening) Yes, this is she.

(The DEMOGORGON suddenly appears in a spotlight, a phone up to his ear. JOYCE is horrified as she listens to the sounds of the DEMOGORGON trying to have a polite conversation in his native tongue.)

Will baby?? Will baby, it's Mommy — can you hear me??
Will baby talk to me!!

(JOYCE's fervor causes the phone to explode. She runs off hysterically screaming and crying. The DEMOGORGON is confused as to why the service cut out, then shrugs and exits.)

SCENE 8 - HAWKINS MIDDLE SCHOOL/BYERS HOUSE/FOREST

MR. CLARKE

So you're saying she does what?

LUCAS

She can make people freeze in place with her mind!

MR. CLARKE

Sounds like she has telekinetic powers... which, according to some comic books I've read, people with telekinesis can do cool stuff like use various objects as conductors for communication between alternate dimensions.

DUSTIN

Hey! Our friend Will is stuck in an alternate dimension!

MIKE

Eleven... El. Do you think you could connect us to Will through this radio?

(ELEVEN nods, and reaches her hands out to the radio. A frequency is heard, and the suddenly: WILL's voice over the radio!! ...singing a weepy version of the Sesame Street theme song.)

WILL (ACAPPELLA)

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET
HOW TO GET TO SESAME STREET

(The BOYS are stunned.)

ALL

WHOA.

MIKE

Don't you know what this means??

ELEVEN

Tissue. Tissue. Tissue.

(MIKE hands her a tissue.)

SONG: Getting Closer

MIKE

Don't you know what this means??

MR. CLARKE

Your friend Will is in another dimension?

MIKE

Yes! And he needs us to rescue him!

LUCAS

But we don't know how to travel between dimensions.

MIKE

With El's help, I know we'll be able to find him in no time!

MIKE

CAN'T YOU SEE IT?

DUSTIN

What?

MIKE

DON'T YOU SEE IT?

DUSTIN

See what?

MIKE

WE'RE JUST ONE STEP CLOSER

DUSTIN

I don't know what we're looking at.

MIKE

CAN'T YOU HEAR IT?

DUSTIN

What?

MIKE

DAMMIT LISTEN!

DUSTIN

Okay!

MIKE

THAT'S THE SOUND OF BELLS, THEY'RE RINGING FOR VICTORY

WE MAY NOT HAVE SEEN IT

WE MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN WHAT WOULD LIE IN STORE

BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE IT'S CLEAR

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE —

—than we've ever known before!

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

NOW WE KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING

HERE WE GO WITHOUT DELAY!

CUZ ALL IT TAKES IS THREE SMART BOYS

MIKE

AND A GIRL WITH MIND POWERS

MR. CLARKE

Plus a really great science teacher!

MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN

TO SAVE THE DAY

**MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN, ELEVEN, MR.
CLARKE**

HOPEFULLY WILL DOESN'T DIE ALONG THE WAY!

CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO OUR HAPPY ENDING

WE'RE JUST ONE STEP CLOSER NOW TO SAVING OUR TOWN

YESTERDAY WE THOUGHT WE'D LOST OUR FRIEND FOREVER

NOW WE'RE ONE STEP CLOSER TO ETERNAL RENOWN!

CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO OUR HAPPY ENDING NOW!

(The KIDS run off, excited. HOPPER enters into the Byers House to find JOYCE.)

HOPPER

Joyce! Joyce, you'll never believe it, I—WHOA.
(He sees JOYCE wielding a giant axe.)

JOYCE

THERE'S A MONSTER IN THE WALLS.

HOPPER

Okay, cool. Well, you know how we found Will's body in the quarry? Well, upon closer inspection, it wasn't even a body at all! It was just a sack of flour attached to a Richard Simmons Chia Pet!

JOYCE

My... my Will baby is...

HOPPER

And there's more! There's a whole conspiracy going in this town, and I think Hawkins Lab is—

JOYCE

WILL CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HOPPER

What?

JOYCE

SAY SOMETHING, BABY!

HOPPER

He's not here.

JOYCE

MAMA'S COMING FOR YOU.

HOPPER

Joyce—

JOYCE

Shut it—Look!

SEE THAT BLINKING?
NOW I'M THINKING
WILL IS RIGHT HERE WITH US
BLINK ONCE TO TELL US YES!

HOPPER
JOYCE, YOU KNOW THIS IS CRAZY

JOYCE
Don't get me started...

HOPPER
JOYCE, YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SON'S NOT IN THE LIGHTS
DON'T YOU TELL ME YOU REALLY THINK HE'S—

JOYCE
Stuck in another dimension and we have to get him out!

HOPPER
...Okay.

JOYCE
NOW I KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING

HOPPER
AND I DON'T, SO LEAD THE WAY!

JOYCE
ALL I KNOW IS WILL IS SO CLOSE, I COULD JUST BREAK DOWN
AND SOB
Will baby, we're coming!

HOPPER
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER
I'M ACTUALLY DOING MY JOB!

JOYCE
CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO MY HAPPY ENDING

HOPPER

OUR HAPPY ENDING

JOYCE

WE'RE NOW ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY FINAL GOAL

HOPPER

OUR FINAL GOAL

JOYCE

NOW I KNOW MY BOY IS CLOSE TO COMING HOME SOON

HOPPER, JOYCE

AND WITHOUT YOU I WOULD NOT BE HERE AT ALL...

JOYCE

You know, maybe now's a good time to reconcile our complicated relationship history?

HOPPER

...Nah, let's put it off until next season.

JOYCE

Okay.

HOPPER, JOYCE

CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO OUR HAPPY ENDING NOW!

HOPPER

THE MORE TIME GOES BY,
THE MORE THIS EMPTINESS EATS AWAY
THIS LONGING TO BE SOMETHING MORE
TO FIND THAT LOVE AGAIN

ELEVEN

OH, WHERE ARE YOU DAD?

HOPPER

I KNOW I WASN'T MUCH BEFORE

ELEVEN
ARE YOU THAT FAR AWAY?

HOPPER
BUT IF I KNEW WHERE TO START

ELEVEN
PLEASE COME QUICKLY DAD

HOPPER
I PROMISE I WOULD BE THERE

ELEVEN
AND BE WITH ME TO STAY

HOPPER, ELEVEN
MAYBE SOMEDAY SOON

(STEVE enters.)

STEVE
MAYBE SOMEDAY SOON
I'LL FIND THAT GIRL THAT REALLY MATTERS
YEAH THAT CHICK WHO'LL MAKE ME FEEL
LIKE I'M MORE THAN JUST MY HAIR

MIKE
BUT IF ONLY I COULD FIND HER

HOPPER
IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT COULD BE

ELEVEN
IF ONLY HE WAS RIGHT HERE

STEVE
IF ONLY SHE DIDN'T HATE ME

HOPPER, ELEVEN, STEVE, MIKE,
I KNOW THAT LOVE IS OUT THERE

THOUGH ARE WE GETTING ANYWHERE?
BUT FOR NOW, WILL'S OUR GOAL—

ALL (ADD JOYCE, LUCAS, DUSTIN)
AND WE'RE ALMOST THERE
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!

CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO OUR HAPPY ENDING
WE'RE NOW ONE STEP CLOSER TO OUR CURTAIN CALL
EVERYTHING WE'VE WANTED IS NOW COMING FOR US
ONLY ONE STEP CLOSER NOW TO HAVING IT ALL

CUZ WE'RE GETTING CLOSER
GETTING CLOSER
GETTING CLOSER
TO OUR HAPPY ENDING
NOW
WE'RE ALMOST THERE

JOYCE
WILL!!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT 2

SCENE 9 – HAWKINS FOREST

(MIKE, LUCAS, DUSTIN, and ELEVEN enter. MIKE is following his compass.)

MIKE

Come on guys, the interdimensional portal is this way!

LUCAS

How do you know?

MIKE

Because! Eleven's last nosebleed trickled slightly to the left, which means the portal must be northwest!

ELEVEN

(pointing the opposite direction)

It's that way.

(TWO SCIENTISTS suddenly appear)

DUSTIN

Whoa. Where did those guys come from?

SCIENTIST 1

Hey there, little kids. Want some free candy?

SCIENTIST 2

It's right here in our windowless van!

ELEVEN

Mike. Bad.

MIKE

They're bad?

ELEVEN

Yes. Run.

DUSTIN

But they have candy!

MIKE

Guys, we have to split up to get Eleven away from them.

Lucas, can you distract them?

LUCAS

On it, boss. Hey scientists!

(He gestures to DUSTIN)

It's Chunk from "The Goonies"—and he's signing autographs!

DUSTIN

HEYYYYY!!! ...actually, that's fair.

(DUSTIN and LUCAS run off, and the SCIENTISTS chase after him. MIKE and ELEVEN run in the opposite direction.)

SCENE 10 – HAWKINS MALL

(STEVE and ROBIN are standing behind the counter of the “Spoofs Ahoy” Ice Cream Parlor at the Hawkins Mall. They are both dressed in tacky retro sailor uniforms. Goofy sailor music plays in the background, as various female mall patrons pass by.)

STEVE

(calling out to female passerby's)

Ahoy ladies—why don't you sail on over here and I'll show you my banana boat?

ROBIN

You are the salt of the earth, Harrington.

STEVE

Thanks.

(calling out)

Hey Stacey—how 'bout a Frosty Freeze for those double D's?

ROBIN

Girls really fall for that shit?

STEVE

Totally. Chicks love being told how hot they are.

ROBIN

Hmm. I don't.

STEVE

You would if you actually had... boobies.

ROBIN

Please don't say that word again.

STEVE

What, boobies?

ROBIN

Stop.

STEVE

Boobies.

ROBIN

Omigod.

(she hands STEVE her ice cream
scooper)

Alright, well when you're done being a douche-asaurus, I'll
be in the back sorting all the cases of—New Coke!—that no
one wants to buy.

(ROBIN exits to the back room.)

(DUSTIN suddenly comes running on.)

DUSTIN

SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT

(DUSTIN ducks behind the Spoofs Ahoy
counter.)

STEVE

Henderson? What the hell man—

(Two SCIENTISTS come running on the
scene, clearly looking for DUSTIN.)

DUSTIN

LOOK NATURAL.

(The SCIENTISTS look to Spoofs Ahoy.
STEVE waves, unsure. The SCIENTISTS
wince in disgust at STEVE in his dorky
sailor outfit, then run off.)

Wow that was close. Thanks Harrington.

STEVE

Yeah yeah whatever man. (seeing another girl walk by) Hey
Kendall—buy a scoop of Pecan and you can see my penis!—
What is wrong with me today...

DUSTIN

I'm sorry, what the fresh hell was that.

STEVE

I'm just off my game, man. I thought getting a job selling ice
cream at the mall would be a total hot boy summer move
but...

(He lifts up his dopey sailor's hat to point to his hair)
It's this stupid hat. It's covering up my best asset.
(Overwhelmed with emotions, he begins to eat ice cream out of a tub)

DUSTIN

Yeah, it's definitely the hat.

STEVE

I just can't live like this anymore, man! Nancy dumped me, all these chicks keep ignoring me, some evil Russians want to blow up the mall...

(He angrily shoves a whole scoop of ice cream in his mouth.)

Why does *everybody* hate me?

DUSTIN

Dude, seriously? It's because you're like a *humongous* asshole.

STEVE

I know!

DUSTIN

No, dude. That's *bad*.

STEVE

Oh.

DUSTIN

Yeah. You're an asshole who doesn't understand that women actually want guys who respect them and treat them right.

STEVE

Dude, you're like twelve. You don't know anything about what women want.

DUSTIN

That's cute you think that.

SONG: Nice

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT ALL GIRLS WANT IS SEX
WELL BOY YOU GOT IT WRONG
WHAT GIRLS WANT AS MUCH AS WHAT'S IN YOUR PANTS
IS A HANDWRITTEN POEM OR SONG

LADIES WANT YOU TO CARE
THAT THEY JUST CUT THEIR HAIR
INSTEAD OF ASKING 'BOUT THE COLOR OF THEIR UNDERWEAR
HERE'S A FRIENDLY PIECE OF ADVICE
TRY BEING

(Introducing a brand new concept to
STEVE:)

NICE

STEVE

(Trying to understand this new word:)

NICE...

DUSTIN

NICE...

STEVE

Where'd you learn all this stuff?

DUSTIN

(Mystical:)

Observation.

STEVE

SO YOU'RE SAYING GIRLS MIGHT NOT THINK I'M A GOD?
AS SEXY AS I AM
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY COULD SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME
MAYBE NOW I SHOULD GIVE A DAMN

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THEY WERE INTO MY OBJECTIFYIN'
BUT NOW I SEE THAT THEY'RE TOTALLY LYIN'
SURE, I'M SEXY BUT
INSTEAD OF CALLING HER A SLUT,
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL HER:

Hey, I respect and validate your feelings as a woman, and I
am here to listen and offer you unlimited cookie dough for
as long as you need.

DUSTIN

NICE!!

STEVE

NICE!

STEVE, DUSTIN

NICE!

DUSTIN

LET HER TALK AND QUIT YOUR BITCHIN
A WOMAN'S PLACE AIN'T IN THE KITCHEN!

STEVE

THINK SHE LOOKS WEIRD WITHOUT MAKEUP?

That's a heinous affront!

AS WELL AS BLAMING HER ANGER ON THAT
TIME OF THE MONTH!

GIVE HER SOME ROOM INSTEAD OF SPREADING THOSE THIGHS

DUSTIN

QUIT MANSPLAINING LIKE THE REST OF THE GUYS

STEVE

SAY HER BOOBS AIN'T HALF AS PRETTY AS HER EYES
AND THAT'S—

STEVE, DUSTIN

NI-NI-NI-NI-NICE HEY!

(Various female customers—possibly some other recognizable Hawkins faces perhaps—appear to order ice cream. DUSTIN scoops the ice cream while STEVE serves the customers, trying out his new “nice” persona. The customers are a little confused but flattered by STEVE’s “feminist” phraseology.)

STEVE

(to the first customer:)

Let’s close that wage gap, lady boss!

(to the next customer:)

Girl, you shatter that glass ceiling!

(to the next customer:)

Let’s make you the first woman president!

(ROBIN re-enters. The music pulses under this interchange:)

DUSTIN

Dude—here’s your chance!

STEVE

Hey... uh... Robin...?

ROBIN

Yeah Steve?

STEVE

You’re umm... a strong, confident, beautiful grunge-goddess, and I would love to get to know your incredible mind. Can I... take you out to dinner tonight?

(The music cuts out.)

ROBIN

Oh wow, Steve... I’m gay.

(ROBIN exits. STEVE and DUSTIN stand in stunned silence.)

STEVE

(A sudden, joyful revelation:)

...that means she's happy!

(DUSTIN cringes.)

AND THAT'S

NICE!

STEVE, DUSTIN

NICE!

NICE!

STEVE

NOW I KNOW THE SECRET TO LOVE'S SUCCESS

INSTEAD OF COMPLIMENTING HER BREASTS

I'LL WIN HER HEART BY BEIN'

MOTHER EFFING—

DUSTIN

Take it away, Steve.

STEVE

You're my *best friend*.

DUSTIN

...I *am* twelve.

STEVE

NIIIIIIICE!

YEAH!

(They high five during the music
playoff.)

STEVE

Just you wait Robin—I'm gonna make you the gayest girl
alive!

(STEVE runs off.)

DUSTIN

...I'm gonna let him figure that one out.

(DUSTIN goes behind the empty counter and begins eating ice cream out of a tub. Suddenly, ERICA bursts onto the scene! And the bitch. Is. FIERCE. She gives a full *performance* as she dances across the stage to “drag ball/beat” type music. Finally, she comes up to DUSTIN at the ice cream counter:)

ERICA

I want two scoops of triple chocolate mocha fudge ripple—
and make it snappy, BITCH.

(She death drops. DUSTIN hands her ice cream.)

(Suddenly, the two SCIENTISTS
reappear, seeing DUSTIN)

SCIENTIST 1

There he is!

SCIENTIST 2

Let’s get him!

DUSTIN

SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT

(DUSTIN runs off as the SCIENTISTS
chase him. ERICA now owns the stage.)

ERICA

America *runs* on Erica.

(ERICA dances and struts off.)

SCENE 11 – HAWKINS FOREST

(MIKE and ELEVEN run onto the scene being chased by SCIENTISTS. They quickly duck behind a tree, and the SCIENTISTS immediately become confused and run past them. MIKE and ELEVEN are alone.)

MIKE

Phew. That was close!

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

That was so crazy. They almost found us.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Yeah.

(a godawful silence)

So I... guess now we're... alone.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Which is cool.

ELEVEN

Yes.

MIKE

Yeah...

(another godawful silence)

Sooo ummm... do you... like to do stuff?

ELEVEN

What?

MIKE

Like do you... go out much?

ELEVEN

Go out?

MIKE

Nevermind, I'm sorry, I don't know what I—

ELEVEN

Mike. It's okay.

MIKE

No, it's just... I have really low self-esteem because of being bullied. But it doesn't matter, those guys are all just a bunch of mouth breathers anyway.

ELEVEN

Mouth... breathers.

MIKE

Yeah, it's because they all have deviated septums and can't breathe out their noses.

(ELEVEN looks confused)

I'm sorry, I'm such a freak.

ELEVEN

Mike.

MIKE

What?

ELEVEN

I understand.

SONG: Stranger

MIKE

You do?

ELEVEN

YES.

MIKE

WOW THAT'S—YOU'RE—WE'RE SO—I'M—AHHHH—IIII...

ELEVEN

...are you okay?

(As MIKE goes off in his own direction
to sing, the SCIENTISTS reappear behind
him. ELEVEN begins fending them off
with her powers, completely
unknownst to MIKE.)

MIKE

WHY AREN'T THE WORDS COMING OUT?
WHY ARE MY WORDS JUST STICKING TO THE ROOF OF MY MOUTH
I'M USUALLY GOOD AT THIS
BUT NOW I'M... NOT.

WHY AM I TALKING SO LOUD?
WE'RE IN THE WOODS MIKE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOUT
JUST TALK TO HER
SHE'S JUST ANOTHER GIRL

BUT LIKE LIGHTNING
SOMETHING ABOUT HER STRUCK MY CORE
MAYBE IT'S WHEN SHE'S CRUSHING PACKS OF EGGOS
I JUST CAN'T IGNORE
THAT'S SHE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
SOMETHING STRANGE
AND NOTHING LIKE THE GIRLS I'VE KNOWN BEFORE...

SHE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
LIKE NOBODY EVER HAS DONE FOR ME
SHE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
LIKE, I KNOW I'M TWELVE, BUT WITH HER I FEEL EIGHTEEN
SHE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
SO ALIVE
IS THIS WEIRD, OR JUST HUMAN NATURE?
WHAT IS SHE DOING TO ME?

THIS TOTAL STRANGER?

MIKE

I'm sorry, I don't know what just happened to me there.

ELEVEN

It's okay.

MIKE

WHAT?? YOU SAID SOMETHING??

ELEVEN

What?

MIKE

I'M SORRY I—

ELEVEN

No Mike, it's okay! I... umm...

I LIVED MY WHOLE LIFE IN A CAGE
HUMANS ARE EVIL, THEY'RE ANGRY, THEY'RE CRUEL
I THOUGHT YOU WERE NO DIFFERENT
BUT HERE YOU ARE
TALKING LIKE A... FOOL

I'VE NEVER BEEN A NORMAL KID
A FREAK OF NATURE, A CHILD GONE WRONG
I KNOW I'M STRANGE
BUT WHEN I'M WITH YOU I DON'T NEED TO CHANGE...

(ELEVEN and MIKE dance together,
with the SCIENTISTS being
inadvertently thrown around by
ELEVEN'S powers as she dances.)

HE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
LIKE AN ELECTRIC SHOCK BUT IT FEELS SWEET
HE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE

LIKE I FINALLY KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL COMPLETE
HE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
SO ALIVE
LIKE HE'S BREAKING THROUGH MY ANGER
WHAT IS HE DOING TO ME?
THIS TOTAL STRANGER?

(MIKE now sees the two SCIENTISTS
behind them.)

MIKE

Oh no, they found us! Quick, El — jump on my bike!! And put
this blanket on so they don't see you!

(MIKE pulls a blanket out of his
backpack and hands it to ELEVEN, who
puts the blanket over her head. They
both hop on the bike, ELEVEN in front.
MIKE starts pedaling fast. The
SCIENTISTS start inching closer.)

They're gaining on us!! El, what do we do??

(ELEVEN lifts up her finger slowly, and
suddenly MIKE and ELEVEN begin to lift
off the ground. MIKE is astounded. The
SCIENTISTS stop and watch,
dumbfounded, before disappearing.)

MIKE

HAHA!! Look at us!! We're flying!!!

(The theme from ET plays.)

I can see all of Hawkins from up here!! Hey, what's that
hunky lifeguard doing to my mom? Whatever—El, you're
amazing!!

SHE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING CHANGING INSIDE OF ME

ELEVEN

HE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
LIKE I CAN FINALLY BE THE GIRL I'M MEANT TO BE

MIKE, ELEVEN
SHE/HE MAKES ME FEEL SO ALIVE
SO ALIVE
LIKE WE COULD GET THROUGH ANY DANGER

MIKE
WHAT IS SHE DOING TO ME?

ELEVEN
WHAT IS HE DOING TO ME?

MIKE, ELEVEN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME...?
THIS TOTAL STRANGER?

MIKE
Do you wanna...

ELEVEN
What?

MIKE
...kiss?

ELEVEN
I think you're kinda rushing things.

MIKE
YEAH THAT'S COOL I DIDN'T WANT TO EITHER.

(Song ends. EIGHT enters.)

EIGHT
Hello, Jane. I'm your lab sister, Eight. Come with me for an unnecessary plot diversion.

ELEVEN
Mike... I have to go.

(MIKE is confused. ELEVEN goes up to him with her index finger pointed out to him and touches his heart.)

Be... good.

(EIGHT and ELEVEN exit. MIKE is crushed. He sulks off stage.)

(DR. BRENNER appears. He looks around, then picks up a half-eaten Eggo on the ground.)

DR. BRENNER

...she's close.

(DR. BRENNER exits.)

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