

Quitter
The Beginning

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First Draft

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TEASER

Shadows move across the screen, symbols from another dimension flashing.

We can hear a heartbeat, slowly growing in pace, as well as a whisper of a voice, dark and cold.

What he's saying sounds broken, like he's muttering the words of some forgotten spell...

A different voice breaks through the darkness, a woman's voice. Her message is urgent--

VOICE (V.O.)

Hope... wake up! The future of the
world is in your hands...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Bloody, thin fingers squeeze around a trinket covered in the same symbols that flashed across the screen. Those fingers belong to HOPE FROST, 14, her ear-length blonde hair disheveled in every which direction, who hunches forward in the middle of a forest.

Her eyes slowly flicker open as her body continues walking in a straight line towards some set-up ritual. Her breathing hitches and her face contorts in confusion.

Hope leans back to get her body to stop moving. She drops the trinket.

A cold breeze pushes past her ripped clothing, her body underneath covered in scrapes and bruises.

She holds onto her head, letting out a gasp of pain. Her fingers leave streaks of red in her hair. Hope looks at her other hand before wiping both on her shirt.

HOPE

(to herself)

What happened...

She shields her eyes from the sun and looks up.

The sun shines brightly through the trees, burning her eyes. It's nearly 4PM, judging by where the sun is. She looks back down.

HOPE (cont'd)

Where am I...?

She rubs the side of her neck, and we can see an injection sight--there's a needle hole with the skin extremely pale around it.

There's a snapping twig behind her. She turns in a defensive stance to take on whatever dares come near her.

CUT TO:

Hope wandering around the forest, the sun having gone down. She's shivering, and eating the remains of a rat.

Suddenly, through the trees, a light shines through. PHILLIP FROST, 50, spots Hope and runs at her. His blonde hair is betrayed by white-gray streaks, and his thick round glasses are so dusty you can barely make out his fake-smile wrinkled eyes.

Hope squints and spits out the remains of her meal, rubbing her arms.

PHILLIP (O.S.)

Hope!! Oh, God, is that really you?

HOPE

... Dad..?

Phillip runs on screen and drops the flashlight, grabbing onto Hope's face and examining her every feature. His expression drops once he notices her eyes. They're *orange*.

PHILLIP

(to himself)

No... I was too late...

HOPE

How did you find me out here?

Phillip feigns a reassuring smile.

PHILLIP

It's like winning the lottery.

Phillip pulls Hope into a tight hug.

PHILLIP (cont'd)

Let's get you home.

INT./EXT. PHIL'S CAR - NIGHT

Phillip and Hope climb into the car, an old mustang. The engine spit for a second before finally revving on. Phil turns on the radio, which plays the theme song.

Phillip shakes his head as Hope leans into the heater.

He pulls out onto the road, and starts speeding down the highway, showing off his license plate.

"KULIT 3R"

Amazing, incredible, I'm the king of transitions.

ACT I

INT. THE FROST RESIDENCE - MORNING

AURORA ASHBLUFF-FROST, 33, beautifully brunette who believes her mere presence costs more than most homes, lays down on a couch, happily painting her toenails like a teenager. A knowing smile plays on her lips.

Just in front of her, her son AXOLOTL ASHBLUFF, 17, paces the floor, his baggy eyes darting wildly at the door as his even baggier sweater twists around his thinning frame.

AXOLOTL

He's been gone for a whole week
now... why wouldn't he let me just
call the police when she went
missing??

AURORA

Don't worry about it, sweetheart.

Aurora hums happily to herself, her smile widening as she looks at the door.

AURORA (cont'd)

Everything is perfectly wonderful
now. Just you, me, and Harmony.

Axol (Axolotl) shoots his mother a dirty look as she blissfully continues painting her nails.

HARMONY FROST, 14, pokes her head into the room. Her long, well-tended to golden locks sway, but are kept in place by a bow. She's hiding something behind her back.

She flashes a quick, happy smile at her brother.

HARMONY

Don't worry about it, Axol! Dad
will be back with Hope before we
know it!

Aurora tenses up, her smile faltering.

Axolotl runs a hand through his curly hair.

AXOLOTL

I hope you're right...

Right on cue, the front door clicks open. Phillip and Hope walk in.

Axol looks at Hope's disheveled state. He grimaces.

AXOLOTL (cont'd)

Welcome back. You disappeared to
fight some random "villain of the
week", again, huh?

Axol walks off into the kitchen before getting an answer.

Aurora stops painting her nails. Her entire body tenses and her mouth curls into a thin line. She narrows her eyes at Phillip.

AURORA

Oh. You're back.

Aurora forcefully gets up and looks down at Hope. Her nose twitches.

Hope returns the snarky look.

HOPE

Glad to see you too,

(with malice)

Aurora. Have fun with the neighbors
while we were gone?

Aurora raises a hand to her chest in offense.

AURORA

How dare you.

Phillip lightly grabs Hope's shoulders and leans down.

PHILLIP

Hey now, I can't have two of my
favorite girls fight each other.
Call her "Mom," Hope.

HOPE

(annoyed)

Mom.

Phillip looks at Aurora and cocks his head towards their bedroom, motioning her to leave.

Aurora glares at Phillip one more time. She pulls out her phone and starts dialing a number before walking out of the room.

Phillip sighs, lets go of Hope, and pats her shoulder.

HOPE (cont'd)

Love you too.

Harmony runs in, carrying an angel's necklace.

HARMONY

Hope!! You're finally back!!

Hope relaxes the pure hatred from her face and looks at her twin. Harmony throws the necklace over Hope's neck.

HARMONY (cont'd)

For the next time you go missing. I
charmed it myself!

Hope looks at the necklace with a soft smile.

HOPE

Thanks.

HARMONY

Is that blood all over you?

HOPE

I actually don't know where it came
from.

Harmony chuckles and taps Hope with her fist.

HARMONY

You're a menace, even in your
sleep.

Hope forces a laugh before clutching onto her side, in pain.

Phillip steps between the two, gently pushing Hope into the kitchen.

PHILLIP

We can't have you going to school
looking like a serial killer.

HOPE

Who knows what those monsters have
gotten up to while I've been away.

Phillip nervously laughs and hurries her along.

Once in the kitchen and away from Harmony, Phillip pulls a black pill covered in mysterious markings out of his pocket and hands it to Hope.

For the first time, Phillip looks deadly serious.

PHILLIP

Take this.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

"Missing Child" posters with Hope's face litter the bulletin board, though most have been vandalized in some way.

HOPE

Homey as ever.

HARMONY

At least I'm glad you're back.

Harmony gives Hope a little side hug.

HARMONY (cont'd)

I gotta go to class. You know...
being a junior and all. Talk to you
at lunch!

Harmony takes off down the hall. Hope looks back at the posters. She frowns when VICTOR, built like mini fridge, knocks into her.

VICTOR

Oops, didn't see you there. Wishful
thinking.

Victor grins, a sickening look, and Hope grabs onto him.

HOPE

There's 17 different ways to kill a
person using a plastic spoon,
Victor. Give me another reason.

A TEACHER walks by and overhears the threat.

TEACHER

We don't want to spend another week
in suspension, do we?

Hope lets go of Victor and brushes off his shirt, flashing a
fake smile.

TEACHER (cont'd)

That's my girl.

The teacher continues on to her classroom. Victor takes a
step away from Hope.

VICTOR

Even your own sister skipped two
grades to get away from you, Frosty
the Freak.

HOPE

At least I have both my parents.

VICTOR

Yeah? Well-

BILL, 15, come barreling down the hallway, his brown hair
shrouding one of his glasses-covered eyes. His heavy book-
ridden backpack hits against his back and tears stream down
his face as he tackles Hope to the ground in a hug.

Victor scrunches his face in disgust.

VICTOR (cont'd)

And that's my cue to leave. Romance
between weirdos is territory even I
can't tread.

Victor finally goes to his own class.

BILL

Hope!! You're finally back!!

Hope pushes herself and Bill back up to a standing position.
She pats Bill on the back.

HOPE

Jeez, Bill, what's got you so
worked up?

BILL

You've been gone... for a week..
and... and...

Bill blows his nose on Hope's shirt.

BILL (cont'd)

Someone's been replacing my lunch
with dead rats every day since
you've been gone!!

Hope wipes the boogers back onto Bill.

BILL (cont'd)

That's not all, either!!

Bill pulls a note out of his backpack and hands it to Hope.

BILL (cont'd)

They left this on the first day.

HOPE

(mumble-reading)

If you get that freaky Frost girl
involved, we'll sabotage her lunch,
too.

Hope stares at the note for a moment, thinking.

She puts a hand on Bill's shoulder. His breathing hitches,
and he stops crying.

BILL

What are you gonna do?

Hope crumples the note up.

HOPE

I'll handle it. Rats don't actually
taste that bad.

ACT II

INT. BILL'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Hope sits behind Bill, eying his backpack like a hawk.

BILL'S TEACHER, middle-aged and exhausted, stands at the
front of the classroom, trying to teach.

BILL'S TEACHER

Miss Frost, please. I have students
that need that seat you're taking
up.

HOPE

No-can-do, Mr. Teacher. I'm here on
official business.

Bill's Teacher sighs, presses a button on his desk and turns around, writing equations on the board.

Hope taps her finger on the desk before kicking Bill's leg.

HOPE (cont'd)

(whispered)

So when does this cook appear?

BILL

I don't know?

HOPE

Of course...

Another student, LILY, walks close to Bill's backpack, and Hope springs from her seat and grabs onto her.

HOPE (cont'd)

YOU!!

LILY

(yelps)

Me?!

HOPE

What are you doing, getting so close to Bill's backpack, huh?! You got any dead rats on you?!

LILY

No!! NO!!!

She begins crying.

Bill's Teacher turns back around.

BILL'S TEACHER

That's it! Miss Frost, get out of my classroom!

The HOPE SECURITY, late 30s, barges into the classroom. He's got the body of a drunkard and the smile of someone who enjoys tormenting kids.

Hope grumbles to herself, and lets go of Lily.

HOPE SECURITY

It's the same song and dance every
day, Miss Hope.

The Hope Security escorts Hope out of the classroom.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Hope stares intensely into Bill's classroom through the window in the door, her hands cupped around her eyes.

From behind her, she can hear three bullies--LUCKY (14), ODYSSEY (16), and STEVEN (15). All three wear matching pants.

ODYSSEY

... Yeah, my cat understands
English. I tell her to bring me
dead rats, she comes back with 4.

STEVEN

Aww!

Hope turns her head so slowly you can hear her bones.

She starts walking down the hallway to confront these lunch-swapping fiends. Suddenly, she doubles over.

She grabs onto her head as the world around her begins to spin, and then... there's a voice, not entirely unlike Markiplier's, yelling at her.

This voice belongs to VVOYD, a trillion-year-old shape-shifter.

VVOYD (O.S.)

You!!! Forcing me to take a nap??

Get me out of here, RIGHT! NOW!!

Hope looks around, holding her stomach as if she needs to vomit.

HOPE

(to the bullies)

Did you morons say something to me?

Steven, Lucky, and Odyssey look at Hope.

ODYSSEY

(bluntly)

No.

The voice comes again, louder.

VVOYD (O.S.)

I KNOW you humans have magic. The
ones that got me here certainly
did.

HOPE

I don't know what you're--

VVOYD (O.S.)

Fine, let's see if I can take this
body for a test-drive since you
ruined my ritual yesterday.

Hope's body contorts unnaturally, bending in ways that it shouldn't go. Her eyes flash a bright orange. Her movements and jagged and broken.

Hope digs through her own pockets, turning the fabric inside out. She takes off her jacket and shakes out the contents, finding nothing but a pocket knife.

HOPE

H-hey!

Hope walks over to a locker and breaks it open with her bare hands, leaving bruises on her knuckles. She digs through the

poor kid's personal belongings, taking a maggot-filled sandwich.

VVOYD

(through Hope)

These little creatures look very
helpful.

Hope takes the sandwich and stuffs it inside her pockets.

Lucky taps Steven on the arm and points him at Hope. He stops his cool-boy pose and approaches.

STEVEN

Hey! That's my stuff! You can't
just take that!!

Hope's eye's look at Steven, but she can't say anything. Vvoyd talks for her.

VVOYD

(frustrated)

Your stash of magical items is
PATHETIC.

Steven charges at Hope, but she catches him with one arm and shoves him to the ground.

Steven exhales slowly and painfully, his face bright red.

STEVEN

My face...

VVOYD

I've seen rock shards with more
form than your face.

Hope leans down with her arm extended towards Steven, but she twitches back and forth between a standing position.

ODYSSEY

That's it. I'm calling Hope
Security.

VVOYD

Stop fighting me, kid!

Hope jerks back to a standing position and walks to a second locker. Her hand hesitates for a second before growing one and a half sizes and punching the locker open.

This locker is full of Harry Potter merchandise.

VVOYD (cont'd)

These should help get me back.

Hope, through jagged movements, gathers together the hat, the wand, and a broom, and puts it all on herself. She looks at herself in a locker mirror and pulls on her facial features.

VVOYD (cont'd)

Humans are so much squishier than I
remember...

Axolotl walks out of his classroom and looks at Hope. He rubs his eyes.

AXOLOTL

... Hope?

Hope strains to look at Axol. She reaches a hand out.

HOPE

(strained)

Axolotl.. help...

Hope turns to look at the bullies. Odyssey is recording Hope on his phone.

ODYSSEY

Frosty has gone mad, guys!

Hope charges at Odyssey and grabs for his phone. He holds it above where she can't reach and pushes her away.

ODYSSEY (cont'd)

Don't touch me!

Finally, Hope Security shows up.

HOPE SECURITY

Miss Frost!!

VVOYD

A COP!!

Hope's finger's become little knives, and she goes to stab the Hope Security. She finally regains control of herself and jerks her hand back.

She grabs onto her head and gasps for air as her hand goes back to normal.

Axolotl clears his throat.

AXOLOTL

Um. I need to go back to class.

He walks back into the classroom he came from.

Hope takes off the wizard hat, her movements finally back to normal. She no longer moves jagged and weird.

HOPE SECURITY

What do you think you're doing??

Hope holds her hand, which is turning red and swelling.

HOPE

I don't know!

HOPE SECURITY

That's two weeks lunch detention...

you're lucky I'm not sending you

back to Juvi!

Hope looks back at the property damage she's caused.

HOPE

Yikes...

HOPE SECURITY

Best. Behavior. From now on, Miss Frost. Or It's the big house for you.

HOPE

Yes, sir.

HOPE SECURITY

The break room is calling my name for now... Best. Behavior.

Hope nods as the Hope Security disappears.

The three bullies burst out laughing hysterically.

ODYSSEY

You're just in love with trouble, aren't you?

Steven does a terrible impression of Hope losing control of her body and breaking down the lockers.

STEVEN

I'm Hope Frost, I love breaking stuff, derp.

VVOYD (O.S.)

I had better control than that.

Hope laughs to herself. Odyssey stops smiling.

ODYSSEY

What the hell is so funny, Frosty?

HOPE

See you in detention, Odd-ball.

ACT III

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

The Hope Security sits at the adult table, playing a gambling game on his phone. He wahoos loudly as he wins \$20.

Bill's teacher gives him a look, so he looks over at the detention table to make sure things are going smoothly.

Hope sits at the lunch detention table, poking at her "food". It's a pile of actual garbage with a loving note from Odyssey on it. Her hand is purple now.

Bill sits across from her, lunchbox in hand.

He opens it to reveal 4 dead rats where his lunch should be.

HOPE

I know... I'm working on it.

BILL

What happened to your hand?

HOPE

Something weird. But I found the culprits.

Hope points Bill towards Odyssey, Lucky, and Steven, who are all sitting next to Harmony. They're eating Bill's snacks.

HARMONY

(sly)

Stealing is so nasty.

ODYSSEY

Not if you're the one I'm stealing for, baby girl. Besides, his mommy

(MORE)

ODYSSEY (cont'd)

will give him plenty of snacks when
he goes back home...

Odyssey breaks a Striped Cake in half and gives the second
half to Harmony, and the two get close and rub noses.

Hope's face goes red with rage in the background.

HARMONY

Oh, hehe. Well, in that case...

Harmony takes a bite and smiles sweetly. She notices Hope.

HARMONY (cont'd)

One moment, Odysseus. I wanna go
say hi to my sister.

ODYSSEY

That freak? You know, she attacked
me earlier.

HARMONY

Oh, how awful.

Harmony smirks and walks to Harmony.

HARMONY (cont'd)

(to Hope)

Detention already?

HOPE

Why are *you* hanging out with
THOSE guys?

Harmony takes another bite out of the cake.

HARMONY

Free snacks. Hahaha!

Hope groans.

BILL

(small voice)

Those... those were mine.

HARMONY

Sorry?

HOPE

That was Bill's lunch.

Harmony swallows what was in her mouth. She offers the rest of the cake to Bill.

Hope stands up.

HOPE (cont'd)

I'll deal with you later. Right now, it's their turn.

VVOYD (O.S.)

Always so violent...

Hope smacks her head.

HARMONY

What was that for?

HOPE

It's weird. Whatever.

She grabs onto Bill's lunchbox, rats and all.

Hope rolls up her sleeves and marches over to Odyssey, who sits on the table. Hope straight up punches the half-eaten Striped Cake out of his mouth.

Odyssey holds his mouth and spits.

ODYSSEY

We warned crybaby not to get you involved, Frost. It's gonna be

(MORE)

ODYSSEY (cont'd)

garbage for lunch from here on out
for you.

Hope dumps the dead rats onto the table. All the other high-schoolers get up and leave.

HIGH SCHOOLER

Nope. Nope. Nuh-uh.

Steven gets up.

STEVEN

You're out of your league, kid. We
have the one thing you'll never
have: connections.

Hope punches Odyssey in the face again. He holds his now bloody nose.

ODYSSEY

I didn't say anything!

Lucky looks up.

STEVEN

You think a girl could take me out?
My dad would be furious.

HOPE

So that's why you don't have a
girlfriend.

Harmony chuckles from the detention table.

Steven throws a punch, but Hope grabs him and slams him into the table, catching a bunch of loose snacks as they go flying. She throws them into the lunchbox.

Odyssey comes at her again, but she kicks him right where the sun doesn't shine and he goes down like a baby.

HOPE (cont'd)

I'm back in town, boys. You know
what that means? Your reign of
terror is over.

ODYSSEY

Lucky... you know what to do...
ow...

Hope gathers more of Bill's stolen lunch and zips the
lunchbox shut, ready to take on Lucky. She smiles, sure of
herself.

HOPE

Come on, you feeling.. Lucky?

Lucky stares blankly at Hope.

Hope stands in a martial art stance, ready for his move.

He pulls pepper spray out of his pocket and sprays Hope
right in her face. She backs up, covering her burning eyes.

Steven throws some mashed potatoes at Hope from the ground.

The Hope Security stops playing gambling solitaire on his
phone and looks up to see the commotion. He starts running
towards Hope with tiny handcuffs in his hands.

HOPE SECURITY

You're going straight to Juvi.

Hope's glowing orange eyes water intensely and she grabs
onto her head. Her heartbeat thumps intensely.

Vvoyd is back, and talks through Hope's teeth.

VVOYD

You kids ruined this already
hideous body.

Hope suddenly stands up straight, leaning back a bit.

The Hope Security steps back.

HOPE SECURITY

Uh, kid? You're not *so* ugly that
you have to pretend to be
possessed...

She looks at the Hope Security with an intense expression.
Her eyes seem too big for her face.

VVOYD

And you...

In a series of bone-cracking shape-shifting, Hope grows 3
sizes. Her smile pulls extra wide, and half of her face
grows the texture of a painting. She's winning the Tumblr
Sexyman Award for sure.

Hope, now a monster, hits the Hope Security across the room,
sending him flying through a window.

Hope is now the voice inside of Vvoyd/Hope's head.

HOPE (O.S.)

Stop! He didn't do anything!

Odyssey and Steven look in the window's direction in horror.
Odyssey starts crying.

ODYSSEY

I'll never steal again!! Please
don't hurt me!!

Odyssey gets on his knees.

STEVEN

What ARE you?! Freak!! I'm getting
out of here!!

Steven runs out, carrying Lucky in his arms.

Hope turns, her legs breaking tables in half.

Bill's lunchbox, now full of real food, gets slid across the
floor towards Bill.

All the occupants run away screaming, except for Bill and Harmony. Bill stands there, staring at Hope in complete horror.

Vvoyd groans.

VVOYD

Come on... use your magic to fight
back.

Hope gets even bigger, her back scraping against the very high cafeteria ceiling.

HOPE (O.S.)

That hurts!!

Hope uses one of her... appendages? to punch/kick herself in the... stomach?. She cringes in response.

Meanwhile...

HARMONY

(to Bill)

We need to do something.

Harmony grabs onto Bill and they run into the kitchen.

INT. SCHOOL KITCHEN

Harmony grabs a pot and pours some water into it.

Bill finally comes to his senses and freaks out.

BILL

What are we doing??! What happened
to Hope?!

HARMONY

You know how to make Holy Water?

BILL

No??

Harmony smiles.

HARMONY

You boil the Hell out of it.

She clicks the stove on.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Hope turns around unnaturally from fighting herself, constantly punching and poking herself.

Vvoyd realizes that he's alone.

VVOYD

Come back! It was just a joke. I
need help!

Hope morphs back into her old humanoid shape... but something is slightly off. Her arms are too long, and her face is slightly different.

Hope chases after the crowd of people, her movement completely inhuman. She keeps trying to stop herself.

She runs past a classroom with Axolotl in it, skidding to a stop and wandering in.

INT. ABANDONED CLASSROOM

Axolotl and D&D GOER are playing D&D, with Axol as the DM.

AXOLOTL

... and that's a 17. You hit.

D&D GOER

Yes! Now there's a guarantee that
I'll kill it... hey, Lot, why is
your sister in here?

Axolotl turns towards Hope.

AXOLOTL

Um... can I help you? Hope?

(squinting)

You look... off.

Hope looks at all the D&D equipment and reads the posters that claim that D&D is magic.

VVOYD

I need all your magic supplies.

Right now. I hate this body.

Hope sticks her hand out expectantly.

Harmony runs past the classroom with the pot of "holy" water, and skids to a stop to turn around once she realizes Hope is in there.

AXOLOTL

Um. No?

Hope cricks her neck unnaturally and goes to punch Axol, but she stops herself. She finally regains control of herself.

HOPE

(as herself)

Don't you dare hurt my brother!!

She moves her arms around her body, slow and in pain, but a soft smile crosses her lips.

HOPE (cont'd)

I... did it!

Harmony throws the boiling water onto Hope.

HARMONY

Begone, Satan!!

Axolotl covers up his paper so it doesn't get wet.

AXOLOTL

Hey!! Do your Christian Mythology
roleplay somewhere else! I get
enough of this at home.

D&D GOER

Yeah. This room is taken.

Hope turns around.

Harmony drops the bucket.

HARMONY

You need better friends. Bill took
off screaming the second I told him
we needed Holy Water.

Hope grabs Harmony and pulls her into a tight hug, dragging
her out of the room.

HOPE

Every part of my body hurts. That
boiling water didn't even phase me.

HARMONY

I can't believe you got yourself
possessed...

HOPE

I don't remember pissing off a
witch.

HARMONY

Who cares! This is awesome! I've
always wanted a front-row seat to a
live demon!!

VVOYD (O.S.)

What an interesting sister you've
got there...

Hope pushes Harmony away from her.

HARMONY

You're right. We should go home.
It's been a long day. I'm just
really glad that you're safe.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - DAY

Hope and Harmony walk out of the school.

INT. CULT CAR

A man wearing a suit with a pin saying "The Society For the
Betterment of the Enlightened" on it sits in a car, watching
the two twins walk out.

He grins as he notices Hope's unnatural features.

He grabs his phone and dials a number.

CREEPY DUDE

(over the phone)

Soul Keeper... we found our missing
Host. We'll get our demon back
before long.

ACT IV??

EXT. FROST RESIDENCE - EVENING

Hope walks up to her house with Harmony, holding every part
of her body. Every step she takes, she lets out a huff of
pain.

Harmony rests a hand on her back.

HARMONY

Are you okay...? Whatever happened
back there, anyway?

Hope shakes her head.

HOPE

Do you think it's possible to have
your organs misplaced and still be
alive?

Harmony laughs at the question before getting another look
at Hope.

HARMONY

Oh, are you serious? I'm surprised
that necklace I gave you didn't
help at all.

Hope grabs the necklace and looks at it. She shrugs.

HOPE

Maybe it's not a demon.

HARMONY

What else could it be?

Phillip walks out of the front door, carrying several boxes
in his hands. He carries them to the car.

PHILLIP

Hello girls, how was school?

Hope looks inside and notices that the entire house has been
packed into boxes.

HARMONY

Exciting!

HOPE

Dad, what's going on?

Phillip drops the boxes into the trunks and looks at Hope, his expression dropping as he notices her looking slightly off.

He clears his throat and resumes a happy face.

PHILLIP

(lying)

Great news, kids! I got a new job,
and we're moving. Right now. Today!
Please help your mother and I load
up.

Harmony smiles along with Phillip.

HARMONY

Moving? Okay! New friends, new
place, it'll be amazing. Let's go,
Hope!

Harmony goes inside the house, her shoulders drooping.

Aurora walks out, carrying a single box. She scoffs at Hope before turning her eyes away from her.

Phillip nudges Aurora. She drops the box in the trunk and sits in the passenger seat of the car. He buries his face into his hand.

PHILLIP

Of course... Hey, Hope, can you
come here for a second?

Hope walks towards her father, who pulls out another black mystery pill.

Hope's eyes grow orange again and she walks away from Phillip, her movements jagged.

VVOYD

(through Hope)

You're not disembodimenting me again,
kid.

Phillip grabs onto Hope and shoves the pill into her mouth.
Hope contorts and doubles over, clearly in pain, until... it
finally subsides.

PHILLIP

Hope? Honey, how are you feeling?

HOPE

... What is that? How did you get
it?

PHILLIP

You don't need to worry about that
now... I'll keep you safe.

Phillip pulls Hope into a hug, his breathing heavy.

PHILLIP (cont'd)

I'm so sorry...

Harmony comes out of the house, carrying 6 boxes at once.
Axolotl follows, carrying 2. They drop the stuff off in the
trunk, slamming it shut.

HARMONY

That should be the rest of it!

AXOLOTL

I can't believe this is happening.

Phillip rubs Hope's back before letting her go.

PHILLIP

Let's go. There's not a second to
waste.

HARMONY

You're pretty excited about this
new job, huh? What is it, anyway?

Phillip smiles at Harmony and pushes Hope to climb into the
car.

PHILLIP

It's the opportunity of a lifetime.

TO BE CONTINUED