

Eighty-Six the Special

by

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INT. DINER - NIGHT

The diner is slightly dirty and mostly empty. A BUSBOY (19) is wiping down booths with a well-worn towel and a WAITRESS (40) is marring bottles of ketchup.

A BEARDED MAN (40) is sitting by himself in a large booth. He is in a back corner of the diner, but still has a good view of the front window. He is wearing a hoodie, dark glasses and a hat, as though he were in a poker tournament or wearing some sort of low-key disguise. The man pushes his cup of coffee to the edge of the table.

The waitress looks annoyed. She removes the carafe from the warmer, walks over to the man's table and fills his cup with dark, burnt-looking coffee. She speaks as she pours.

WAITRESS

The kitchen is closing soon. It's kinda now or never if you want anything.

BEARDED MAN

You have waffles?

WAITRESS

Only on Sunday mornings.

BEARDED MAN

What about a Monte Cristo?

WAITRESS

I don't know what that is.

BEARDED MAN

Well, what do you have here?

The waitress looks down at the menu resting on the table directly in front of the man, and stifles a sigh as best she can.

WAITRESS

Burgers, hot dogs, soups, salads, omelettes, pancakes, cottage cheese, toast, fruit cups, pudding, baklava, ice cream and probably something else I'm forgetting.

BEARDED MAN

Pizza?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WAITRESS

Nope.

BEARDED MAN

Can you come back?

WAITRESS

I can, but by that point I will not be able to offer you food.

BEARDED MAN

Cheeseburger. Fries.

WAITRESS

What kind of cheese?

BEARDED MAN

Wha-

WAITRESS

American, cheddar, provolone, Swiss, or Velveeta.

BEARDED MAN

(confused)

Velveeta?

WAITRESS

Cool, thanks.

She walks away, scribbling his order onto a tiny green checkbook.

The man rips open a tiny container of creamer and pours it into his coffee cup. He takes a big sip, finishing nearly half the cup. He plays with the remaining creamer packages: stacking and re-stacking them, building towers and pyramids. Keeping his head looking down at the table, we can see that he continually looks up over his glasses at the window.

We see the waitress in the background filling up the salt, pepper and sugars on the tables.

The man turns his head from the table and looks to his side. On the booth, between him and the wall is a serious looking aluminum suitcase, something akin to a Zero Halliburton.

The waitress brings a plate with a cheeseburger and fries.

The man stares at the Velveeta.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BEARDED MAN

Oh, that was fast.

WAITRESS

The guys in the kitchen are always fast at this time of night; they want to go home.

BEARDED MAN

Oh. Yeah. I would think so. Can I get more coffee when you get the chance?

WAITRESS

(bitterly)

Sure.

What sounds like a cowbell rings, and the bearded man jumps. A LANKY MAN (35) in a tee shirt and track pants enters. He has short red hair, a 90s style goatee, and a friendly face. He's carrying a gym bag. He adjusts something that looks like a Fitbit on his wrist.

The busboy stops him,

BUSBOY

Sorry, man. Kitchen is closed.

LANKY MAN

I'm meeting my friend.

BUSBOY

Well, you can look for him, but we can't, like, serve you anything.

LANKY MAN

Why, that sounds more than fair.

The lanky man walks directly to the bearded man, who is now awkwardly half-standing, constrained by the booth.

LANKY MAN (CONT'D)

Hi. Tim? Right? You don't have to get up.

He sits across from the bearded man, now Tim.

TIM

So, you're Mr. X?

LANKY MAN

Rami.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TIM

What?

RAMI

My name. It's like Sammy, but with an R and an AH instead of an S and an a.

TIM

Rammy Sam! Uh, sorry, I've got th-

RAMI

I'm sure you do, Tim. Oh, and I see you've brought along the most ostentatious case for it.

TIM

Well, it's got the cut-outs and su-

RAMI

I'm sure it does. Is that included in the price?

TIM

What do you mean?

RAMI

Tim, that's a \$500 suitcase.

TIM

Oh, I dunno. I just had one-

RAMI

You just had a \$500 suitcase laying around?

Meanwhile, The busboy is talking to the waitress. The waitress is studying a book titled PROBABILITY SAMPLING AND SURVEY DATA, paying him little mind.

BUSBOY

(to waitress)

Yo, Melitza, you think, uh, you think those guys are spies?

MELITZA

(staring at her book)

No, Ed. I don't think they are spies.

Melitza the waitress looks up from her book and sees that Ed's shirt is worn and stained.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ED

What?

MELITZA

Didn't you just get in trouble for wearing a dirty shirt?

ED

This is clean. I just spilled some bleach over here. Look! See?

Ed rubs the bleach stain on his shirt attempting to prove. .
. something. He licks his thumb and rubs some more.

MELITZA

Just buy a new shirt, man. And go wash your hands now.

A pause. Ed chuckles but doesn't go to wash his hands.

ED

The guy who looks like a poker player is totally carrying a spy case. You know, like the ones that have bombs or chemicals or diseases and shit in them.

Melitza sets down her book.

MELITZA

It's a suitcase, Ed. I keep my ice skates in something like that.

ED

You like to ice skate?

MELITZA

Not really.

ED

Well, the other guy has a bag too.

MELITZA

It looks like he came from the gym. He probably has his work clothes in there.

ED

Why isn't he sweaty, though?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MELITZA

I don't know, man. Maybe he's going to the gym later. Maybe gingers don't sweat much. I got a lot of reading to do.

ED

Due tonight?

MELITZA

End of next week.

ED

I never start my homework till, like the morning it's due.

MELITZA

Maybe someday I'll try to live my life by your teachings.

ED

Well, don't ask these guys if they are spies. That's how you get, um, disavowed, you know?

MELITZA

I can promise you that I will not ask them if they are spies.

ED

And if they walk out with each other's bags, I'm totally calling the, I dunno, the FBI?

Melitza walks away from the busboy and over to Tim's table. She rips the top sheet out of her green checkbook.

MELITZA

I'm just gonna give you this. No hurry. Well, maybe a little bit of a hurry, since we are closed and all.

Rami puts a 50 dollar bill over the check without looking at it.

RAMI

There you go.

MELITZA

You pay at the register.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

RAMI

Tell you what, why don't you do that for us so we can finish up our conversation, and you can keep the rest. How's that?

MELITZA

Um, we don't technically accept bills over \$20.

RAMI

I'm sure you can figure something out.

MELITZA

Well, um, thanks. Appreciated.

A pause.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

You know the bill's only like 15 dollars. So that's like a two hundred thirty three percent tip.

RAMI

You're welcome.

MELITZA

Okay. Thanks.

Melitza walks over to the register. JESSE THE COOK walks past her and nods "goodbye" as he wraps the string around his apron.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow, Jesse.

JESSE

Make sure Ed puts the chairs up. The cleaning crew was giving me shit about it.

MELITZA

I got you.

JESSE

Yeah, well I don't need their shit.

MELITZA

Who does?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

JESSE

Not me.

MELITZA

Listen, I'm the best Ed wrangler we got.

JESSE

I don't know where Sarah finds these guys.

MELITZA

Good night, Jesse.

JESSE

Yeah.

Jesse shoves his apron into his coat pocket and exits. Melitza nods back, then holds the \$50 bill up to the light to check its authenticity.

We see the bill from her POV as she holds it to the light, checking for the appropriate watermarks, faces, and etc.

The lights go out.

Total darkness.

A moment.

ED

Hey, guys, I think the lights-

BANG

An explosion shakes the diner.

Melitza is knocked off her feet, and slumps to the ground.

She awakes (in the light once again) to find Ed standing over her.

ED (CONT'D)

You okay?

MELITZA

Maybe? What happened?

ED

Um, you fell?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MELITZA

Before that, you ding-dong.

ED

Oh, um, something weird. You might want to look out the window.

Ed helps Melitza to her feet. The first thing she notices is that all the power is out, but it isn't as dark as it ought to be.

She turns to the window.

Looking outside she sees nothing.

Literal nothingness.

A blank white space, like Morpheus showing Neo the Construct, minus the cozy looking chairs.

MELITZA

What the fuck?

ED

Right?

MELITZA

Are we dead?

ED

I don't feel dead. But I've never been dead before, so-

MELITZA

Where is the rest of the world?

ED

Well, I think it's either gone or it's somewhere else right now. Or maybe we are someplace else right now.

MELITZA

Thanks, Ed.

ED

No problem.

MELITZA

Do you think it's safe to open those doors?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

ED

Yo, I bet it's those spies!

MELITZA

Ugh.

ED

Spies.

MELITZA

Ok, fine. Where are they? Where are the spies?

ED

I don't know. Wait hold on.

We see a pair of feet sticking out from underneath the booth where Rami and Tim were. The feet belong to Tim. Ed jogs over to him, Melitza is more tentative.

ED (CONT'D)

Hey, buddy! Aw, man!

MELITZA

What?

ED

You should look at this! OR maybe you shouldn't look at this. I don't-

Melitza walks over to the booth and finds Tim centered underneath the table. Also centered under there is the table's metal support pole. It looks like a metal tree growing out of the middle of Tim's chest.

MELITZA

Ugh.

ED

I know, right?

Melitza bends underneath the table to examine. There is no space between metal pole and flesh. The hoodie has fallen away a bit and we can see blood beginning to pool.

ED (CONT'D)

Maybe you should sit down?

MELITZA

What? At the death booth?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

Melitza waves Ed off and slowly extends a finger towards the dead man.

FEMALE VOICE
Power's out back there!

Melitza jumps, banging her head on the bottom of the table.

MELITZA
Goddamnit, Al!

We see AL, an athletic, 20-something woman with short black hair.

AL
What the fuck is happening over here?

ED
I'm going to call the police.

MELITZA
You try that.

Ed pulls out his cellphone.

AL
Police? I mean, I was just going to complain about there being no power or wifi.

ED
Aw man, no signal!

MELITZA
Kinda figured that.

ED
I'm going to try the podium.

Al notices the nothingness outside the windows.

AL
For real, though, what the fuck is happening?

Ed runs to the podium and attempts to call 911 on that phone. He pushes buttons in frustration.

MELITZA
No luck, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

ED

I'm going to try a couple more things.

MELITZA

If you reach the cops tell them that they can find us right in the middle of the endless white void.

ED

Well, we don't know it's endless.

AL

Why the fuck are we in the middle of a white void?

MELITZA

We don't know.

AL

Is there air out there? Is there ground underneath us?

MELITZA

We don't know.

AL

This diner isn't air tight, right? I mean, it's not a fucking submarine. Do you think we could run out? Run out of air?

MELITZA

Al, we all know just as much as you do. There was no narrator that you missed when you were in the bathroom.

Al sees Tim's feet.

AL

OH SHIT! Who's that guy and what happened to him?!

MELITZA

A customer and I don't know. He was with another guy who isn't here right now.

AL

Where's he?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

MELITZA

I don't know.

ED

Hey guys? You guys!

MELITZA

What? Oh my god, what did you find?

ED

Oh, no nothing!

MELITZA

Don't scare me like that!

AL

That's uncool, Ed.

ED

I was just thinking that we should look in the mystery case.

AL

What mystery case?

MELITZA

Our dead friend here was selling a metal suitcase to- Hey, Ed do you know what happened to the other guy?

ED

I don't see him.

AL

Metal suitcase? Like some spy shit?

ED

Exactly like that!

AL

Maybe we find the suitcase, we can get out of here.

MELITZA

How? How would that even work?

ED

Exactly. First we got to find that dude!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

AL

I might have heard somebody moving around in the bathroom after the blackout. I wasn't thinking about anything like-

MELITZA

Guys!

ED

Well, I'm about ready to kick that dude's ass!

MELITZA

Guys!

AL

Hell yeah!

MELITZA

Guys!

ED

Yeah?

MELITZA

The case is right here.

Ed and Al crowd around as Melitza moves the case from the booth to the top of the table. She then looks at Tim's feet, and awkwardly shuffles it over to the top of another table.

AL

Are you going to open it?

MELITZA

Maybe we should find the guy.

ED

I'll go. I'm the only one who can look in the men's room.

MELITZA

Ed-

AL

Just let him.

Ed runs to do that thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

MELITZA

Be careful, Ed.

AL

This is fucking crazy. I thought that my Snapchat not working was going to be the worst part of my day.

MELITZA

Heh. Surprise!

AL

Well, I guess nothing bad has actually happened yet. Question mark? I mean- Well, I'm not going to say anything and put that out in the universe.

MELITZA

Thanks for that.

AL

You try going outside yet?

MELITZA

No. Did you? Seriously, how long did you think you were in that bathroom?

AL

Bitch, I don't know.

ED (O.S.)

Guys!

Melitza runs towards Ed.

ED

There's nobody back here.

Melitza rolls her eyes. She and Ed walk back to the case.

ED (CONT'D)

Let's open it, but, like, open it real slow.

MELITZA

That could be a terrible idea, Ed.

AL

We could go try to go outside and see what's what.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

MELITZA

That's a worse idea.

ED

I have an idea.

MELITZA

Okay.

ED

We could try to leave out the *back*
door.

MELITZA

You're so-

AL

Well, why don't you look through the
peephole and see if there is anything
back there.

MELITZA

Literally anything.

ED

Okay.

Ed runs to the back to check. We stay with Al and Melitza.

AL

This sucks.

MELITZA

Yep.

AL

I had some big plans, you know? Stuff
that's overdue.

MELITZA

Yeah.

AL

I mean, I was planning on feeling
invincible tonight, if you know what I
mean.

MELITZA

Drinking?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

AL

Invincible is what I call Danny's
cock.

MELITZA

I hate you.

AL

And he was going to feel lucky. Lucky
is what I call my-

ED(O.S.)

Hey guys!

MELITZA

I'm not running this time.

AL

(screaming)

What?

ED(O.S.)

You should come look at this.

Melitza and Al grunt, then go to meet Ed by the back door.

MELITZA

What?

ED

I think its best if you, like, just
kinda look.

Al looks through the back door peephole. She looks shocked.

AL

Holy shit. He's right.

MELITZA

What?

Al steps to the side and allows Melitza to look through the
peephole.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

What? That's. . . what?

ED

Right?

We look through the peephole to see what all the characters

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

have seen. For the most part, there is blank white space behind the diner, but directly behind our diner is another identical diner. In front of that diner ANOTHER ED is waving. He is identical to our Ed save that Other Ed wears a disgusting blue T-shirt and our Ed wears a disgusting red T-shirt. Other Ed starts running towards our diner.

ED (CONT'D)

We should let him in.

MELITZA

No!

AL

We don't know that there's air out there, fool!

ED

It looks like he's breathing.

MELITZA

We don't know what that is.

ED

Oh, really? I think it's me. Um, I pretty sure. I think that's what I look like. In the mirror, I'm flipped around.

AL

We know how mirrors work, Ed. Mel, listen, if we let him in we might be able to figure out what's going on. Our other option right now is to sit and wait. And I'm not sure what we would be sitting and waiting for.

MELITZA

You know, I'm willing to sit and wait for a little bit more.

Ed pushes open the back door and waves for Other Ed to come in.

AL

Ed, we were voting!

MELITZA

Damnit Ed, we were having a conversation about whether or not it was safe to let you in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (19)

ED

But I'm already in.

AL

Other you!

MELITZA

The one that could be a demon or
monster or something!

Other Ed enters. Our Ed backs away.

The door closes.

OTHER ED

Thanks for letting me in, guys!

ED

No problem.

AL

Well, I guess there is air out there,
at least.

OTHER ED

Oh, I didn't check.

MELITZA

Goddamnit.

AL

He's seems like our Ed.

OTHER ED

So, guys, what do you know about
what's happening right now?

AL

Nothing! We are completely in the
dark.

OTHER ED

In the white.

MELITZA

Whatever!

AL

She means to say whatever you could
tell us would be helpful.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (20)

OTHER ED

Oh, but, um, I asked you guys first.

MELITZA

(To Al)

He doesn't fucking know anything.

AL

No, no, he was out there in the void,
I mean-

OTHER ED

Yeah, they sent me out to ask you guys
questions about what is going on here.
So, um, yeah, what's going on here?

ED

Who sent you?

OTHER ED

Those two. (pointing to Al and
Melitza) Oh, and Jesse.

AL

We sent you? Well, tell us we don't
know anything. We don't even have a
Jesse! Who's Jesse? Is that one of the
spies.

MELITZA

It's the cook. You never learned the
kitchen staff's names?

AL

I think they all hate me.

ED

They all definitely hate me.

OTHER ED

Me too. Well, the ones over there.

ED

Did you guys have the spies?

OTHER ED

Oh, that dude with the case?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

OTHER ED (CONT'D)

MELITZA

Hey, why did you think we would know anything?

OTHER ED

Um, cuz, you guys are in the front.

AL

The front?

OTHER ED

Yeah. You guys are in the front of the line.

MELITZA

What do you mean?

EXT - VOID

Ed and Other Ed are standing outside in the void. From this view we see only them.

ED

It's safe.

OTHER ED

Yeah, it's safe.

We see Al waiting by the back door. She pokes a foot through the threshold and taps it down. Though we see nothing, it stops where the ground ought to be.

AL

(to Melitza)

You coming?

MELITZA

(from inside)

Why don't you just tell me about it?

AL

Shoot yourself.

MELITZA

(correcting)

Suit yourself.

AL

Whatever.

Al starts walking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AL (CONT'D)

Hey, Mel.

MELITZA

What?

AL

Do you find it kind of sexy that there are two Eds?

MELITZA

No. No. Sure don't. Not really in a sexy mood.

AL

All right.

Al meets the two Eds in the void and from this vantage point she sees that there are even more diners behind the other diner. Diners are spaced behind diners as far as she can see, each about 100 feet away from the one in front and in back.

AL (CONT'D)

So. We're in the front.

ED

Yep.

AL

What do you think that means?

OTHER ED

I dunno.

The two Eds and Al look at the Other Ed's Diner. OTHER JESSE and OTHER AL can be seen from the front window. They point and wave over OTHER MELITZA.

AL

I think we should go back.

ED

Yeah?

AL

I have a terrible feeling that the diners are all gonna disappear when we are outside, and we are gonna get stuck in this fucking polar bear in a snow storm situation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OTHER ED

Okay. C'mon bro!

Other Ed taps Ed on the shoulder. A shock like a massive discharge of static electricity, orange in color, send both Eds to the non-existent floor. Both Eds, shake their heads and return to their feet in identical manners. Both are now wearing purple T-shirts.

ED AND OTHER ED

(in unison)

Whoa! That was weird.

AL

(pointing to one Ed)

Your shirt!

ED

It's purple.

OTHER ED

Gay!

ED

Yours is purple too, ya dorkus!

OTHER ED

Aw, man! What happened?

ED

I don't know. It's not a new shirt. It still has the bleach spot.

Ed goes to touch the stain on Other Ed's shirt. Al dives in the way and stops him!

AL

Don't touch each other, fools!

OTHER ED

Oh, shit, she might be right!

INT. DINER - NIGHT?

Al and the two purple Eds re-enter the back door of the diner where Melitza waits.

MELITZA

How'd it go? You guys changed shirts?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AL

These dickheads touched, and that happened.

MELITZA

Which one is our Ed?

ED AND OTHER ED

(in unison)

Um, it might be me.

AL

What?

MELITZA

Yes, me too, what?

ED AND OTHER ED

(in unison)

Well, you see.

MELITZA

No, stop. That's making my skin crawl.
You!

(she points to the one to her
right)

You talk.

ED

Um, I kinda remember being here and being there.

OTHER ED

Me too! Oh, I'm glad you said it.

ED

I know, right?

AL

Yo, so, uh-

MELITZA

Other than the different diners, do you have any other double memories.

ED AND OTHER ED

(in unison)

Well, not really, I don't think-

MELITZA

You this time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Melitza points to the Ed on her left.

OTHER ED

I can't really think of anything specific that I have double memories of. It's hard though, because I've got like twenty years worth of 'em.

MELITZA

Really?

OTHER ED

Oh, shit, I think I've got two birthdays!

ED

Me too!

ED AND OTHER ED

April 19th and April 20th!

AL

Those two got to stop that.

MELITZA

Seriously. Wait. We used to have two different Eds, but they touched and merged, and now we have two different of the same Ed.

AL

And each of them is like a double Ed.

ED AND OTHER ED

Double Edder!

AL

Stop.

MELITZA

So, the different diners are probably all slightly different versions of this one.

ED AND OTHER ED

Or we are a slightly different version of them?

AL

What?

(She points at Other Ed)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

This one. What do you mean?

OTHER ED

So, I read this book, where all the other dimensions and shit were, like, just reflections of the one true world. So, it starts in our world, our real world, but it turns out the real real world is someplace else and we're just, like, an imitation of someplace else.

MELITZA

I don't see how any of that matters. What's your point?

ED

Dude, you read that book?

OTHER ED

Well, my mom did, and she would always talk about it.

ED

Mine too!

AL

Well, you know what this means?

MELITZA

What?

AL

We got a spare Ed.

MELITZA

Yeah?

AL

We can get one of them to open the spy case and if it explodes, we got a backup.

MELITZA

You sociopath, that's -

ED AND OTHER ED

I'll do it.

Melitza points to ED.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MELITZA

Speak.

ED

Well, I really want to know what's in that suitcase.

OTHER ED

Yeah, me too.

MELITZA

You guys.

Ed and Other Ed look at her.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

Ugh. Fine.

CUT TO:

INT. DINER - NIGHT?

One of the Eds is walking to the table with the suitcase. Al, Melitza, and the other Ed are cheering him on from as far away from the case as they can.

Ed steps over Tim's feet.

ED

Sorry buddy.

He walks to the table.

He takes a deep breath, and breathes it out in a half whistle.

Ed fiddles with one of the mechanisms in an attempt to open the left latch.

Tension builds.

Melitza grimaces, waiting for an explosion.

Al chews her nails.

We see sweat drip off Ed's forehead.

ED (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Okay. Here we go.

(Yelling across the diner)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Oh. Do any of you guys have the code?

MELITZA

(yelling across the diner)

Why would we have the code?

ED

Um, actually, I think there are two codes. Do you have the two codes?

AL

Jesus the Christ. This guy, right?

Al turns to Other Ed, for confirmation of Ed's idiocy. Other Ed starts to say something, but then just looks confused.

MELITZA

Fuck it. Just forget about the case for now. We need a new plan.

AL

Fuck yeah, we do.

MELITZA

We can assume that these different diners come from different dimensions or realities.

AL

Even if it is something else, for all intensive purposes, that's how we can look at it.

MELITZA

Intents and purposes.

OTHER ED

I agree.

AL

We know that there are little differences because the new Eds have two birthdays.

MELITZA

Right, but the differences can't be too big. Like, the diners all looked the same right? So we're probably not going to find a diner full of lizard people or vampires or something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AL

What do you mean find?

MELITZA

Well, I say we go from diner to diner, we catalog the differences we can find, and use that to see if we can figure out why we're here and how not to be here anymore.

AL

So, you're willing to go out there now?

MELITZA

Man, I got places to be that are not this diner.

AL

It's easier than just waitin' around to die.

Ext. Void

Mel, Al and the Eds are walking. Mel is taking notes on a tiny green waitress notebook. She has a few more books stashed in her apron.

AL (CONT'D)

Well, we already know something about this diner. We've got their Ed. . . Sort of.

MELITZA

And their Jesse is still there. Let's skip them. I'll write some notes and we'll move on to Diner 3.

AL

Okay. What are you taking notes on?

MELITZA

I'm not sure what's relevant, yet. I guess I'll ask birthdays, see who is in the diner, and keep track if anything looks different in there.

ED

You could ask favorite color.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OTHER ED
Or favorite movie.

AL
Why, though?

ED
Well, what if they lived in a world
where Sylvester Stallone was the
Terminator?

OTHER ED
Yeah, like in Last Action Hero.

ED
That's my favorite movie!

OTHER ED
Mine too!

Ed and Other Ed motion like they are going to high five.

AL
Dickheads, do not high five!

ED AND OTHER ED
Right.

AL
Hey, Mel, do we have a contingency
plan in case all the diners disappear
when we are outside, and we get stuck
in an endless void forever?

MELITZA
Well, I plan on being full of
existential dread and sobbing
uncontrollably. But you can feel free
to have your Ed three-way.

AL
Don't be an asshole. I mean, yeah, no,
I think, yeah I might be down to
clown.

MELITZA
You are the grossest person I know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MELITZA (CONT'D)

AL

You ought to get out more, bitch. Well here we are.

TITLE CARD - DINER 3

The diner is identical to our diner, except we can see, even through the windows that it has been completely trashed.

MELITZA

I was expecting to start out with more subtle differences.

Al enters first.

AL

Hello?

MELITZA

Eds, why don't you go in front of me.

ED AND OTHER ED

Okay!

Melitza lingers behind the Eds, as AL gets a closer look around the sacked diner using her phone as a flashlight to check under tables and darkened spaces.

MELITZA

What the fuck happened here?

Melitza walks over to this diner's version of the booth where Tim was impaled. She ducks underneath it to examine. There's no body here, but there is a trace of something that might be blood.

She leans in closer, trying to smell it.

AL

HEY!

Melitza bangs her head under the booth.

AL (CONT'D)

I see you back there. Come on out. I got a gun, bitch!

Al holds her smart phone as though it were a Beretta.

From shadows of the bathroom area steps a thin man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

It's Rami. He appears identical to our original, same clothes, same goatee, same fit-bit looking bracelet.

ED

Yo, where did Al get a gun?

OTHER RAMI

Don't hurt me. I-

AL

Where the fuck is everybody else?

OTHER RAMI

They got taken.

MELITZA

That's the other guy Ed thought was a spy.

AL

Taken?

MELITZA

Taken by whom?

OTHER RAMI

These things took them.

AL

Oh, great, things. We've got things.

OTHER RAMI

They were like featureless people.
They were like mannequins or androids,
I don't know. I hid. I guess they
didn't want me.

ED AND OTHER ED

Hey, we're investigating the different
diners, want to come with?

MELITZA

(To the Eds)

What are you doing? Just you.
(Pointing to one of them.)

ED

I thought we could-

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

ED (CONT'D)

AL

Well, we shouldn't just leave him here.

OTHER RAMI

I would much rather not stay here. If I am afforded a vote, I would-

MELITZA

Fucking fine.

Melitza writes: DINER THREE- TRASHED TO HELL in her notebook.

OTHER RAMI

My name is Rami. It's like Sammy-

MELITZA

Are you a spy?

ED AND OTHER ED

You promised-

OTHER RAMI

No. I am not a spy.

The Eds look relieved.

AL

Is the case still here?

OTHER RAMI

The case? Sure, but why-

Al points to one of the Eds.

AL

Go get it and open it!

MELITZA

But wait this is a different case. Or kind of a- eh fuck it.

Ed has grabbed the case and flops it onto a table. Melitza directs everybody else about ten yards away.

ED

What's the password?

Other Rami looks confused.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

MELITZA
(explaining)
The combination.

OTHER RAMI
The combination? I don't know. It's
Tim's case.

AL
Goddamnit!

MELITZA
Déjà vu.

OTHER RAMI
Why don't you just try all zeroes? Tim
might not have ever set a combination
for it.

Ed turns all six numbers to zero, and fiddles with the
mechanism.

The locks snap open. Melitza dives under a table.

Ed carefully opens the lid and looks inside.

ED
Is this a bomb?

OTHER RAMI
What? No!

ED
There's like a little yellow and red
cage in here and a tube and they all
look shifty.

Al walks over to check. Mel gets up from under the table and
bumps her head. She shakes it off and walks in front of Other
Rami to block his path.

MELITZA
Why don't we stay back here. You know,
just in case?

ED
What the fuck is this shit?

AL
It's a Van Der Put's Enclosure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MELITZA

What?

AL

It's a magic trick.

ED

Like Doctor Strange?

AL

More like David Copperfield, I mean,
not that Copperfield would use
something like this.

OTHER RAMI

I was buying a magic trick.

MELITZA

Magic tricks? Are you sure.

AL

Yeah.

MELITZA

Are you sure? How do you know?

AL

Well, I mean, my brother-

MELITZA

Oh my god, your brother was a
magician?

AL

Hey. Shut up.

MELITZA

Ohmygod did he make you wear a
swimsuit covered in rhinestones then
shove you in a box and then put swords
in the box.

Al starts blushing.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

Oh shit, he did!

ED AND OTHER ED

You know magic? Can you help us get
out of here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

AL

You guys are such dildos.

OTHER RAMI

I was just buying a prop from Tim.
It's just-

MELITZA

Yeah, man, whatever. Is this an older
brother or a younger brother?

Ed starts examining the trick. Al keeps Other Ed from touching him as he also tries to examine the trick.

OTHER ED

Um, you guys, I think that the case
might not have anything to do with our
current, uh, predict-ament.

EXT - VOID

Melitza, the two Eds, Other Rami and Al are walking to Diner number 6.

MELITZA

I'm sorry if it seemed like I was
teasing you, Al.

AL

Bitch, you are not sorry.

MELITZA

No, I am not. Did he ever saw you into
halves?

AL

Yes. Fine. Shut up. I did cool stuff
too.

MELITZA

Cool magician stuff? I'm skeptical.

AL

Yeah! I did pick-pocketing. I could
steal a watch from anybody at 13.

MELITZA

You could steal watches from 13 year
olds, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AL

You are a heartless bitch. Also,
here's your notebook.

Al brandishes Mel's change notebook.

MELITZA

Oh, so you trying to David Cop-a-feel?

AL

Oh, shut up!

ED AND OTHER ED

(to Other Rami)

So you're a magician.

OTHER RAMI

Sort of. Not really.

ED AND OTHER ED

If we make it out of this, um, can we
be part of the act? Better than twins.

OTHER RAMI

I suppose you're right.

ED AND OTHER ED

It's like *The Prestige*, only more like
the Batman tricks and not like the
Wolverine tricks.

OTHER RAMI

Ok.

ED AND OTHER ED

Please don't kill us, over and over.

TITLE CARD - DINER 4

INT. DINER - NIGHT?

ED 4, in a green shirt, opens the door right away for our
characters. Al enters first.

ED 4

Hey guys. How's it going?

AL

Where are the rest of your people?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ED 4
You're not them?

AL
No, we came from the diner in the front.

MELITZA
Well, most of us.

ED 4
Oh.

MELITZA
Also, as you may notice, we already have two of you.

ED 4
Oh, shit, you're right!

MELITZA
Dear god. Anyway, where did your people go?

ED 4
You went out back to take some notes on the differences between the diners to see if you could figure out what happened.

AL
You're a nerd in this universe too, Mel.

MELITZA
Shouldn't you be gesturing wildly in from of a Mylar curtain while wearing an outfit that your mom bedazzled?

AL
You bitch.

MELITZA
Did Rami go with them?

ED 4
Oh, um, no?

OTHER RAMI
Why not?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ED 4

Is Rami one of the kitchen guys?

OTHER RAMI

Rami's me.

ED 4

Oh, then you're here, not there.

OTHER RAMI

They are talking about a different me.

ED 4

I think I never saw you before.

MELITZA

Really? Who else was here when the world vanished?

ED 4

I mean there's this guy that's dead under that table. But I don't think that's you. Um, sorry?

Other Rami runs to this diner's version of the death booth. In this diner, just like our first, Tim is impaled through the table. Other Rami looks sick.

ED 4 (CONT'D)

It's probably weird to see that, huh?

AL

I think so, but getting less weird all the time.

MELITZA

Listen, Ed, uh, when is your birthday?

ED 4

April 20th.

MELITZA

(writing)

Was Jesse part of the group?

ED 4

Is that the kitchen dude's name?

MELITZA

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ED 4

I think he left before the, um, bang.

OTHER RAMI

What about Tim? Was anybody with him?

ED 4

I don't know who Tim is.

AL

Floor dude.

ED 4

Floor dude. Right. Naw, he looked like he was waiting for somebody, but nobody showed by the time we closed.

MELITZA

(To Other Rami)

In our diner, you disappeared and Tim ended up like, um, he did here. Maybe this you ran late or something?

OTHER RAMI

Well, I'm just glad that I don't have a metal table leg growing out of the middle of my chest.

MELITZA

That's fair.

AL

(To Ed 4)

You wanna come with?

ED 4

I'm supposed to wait for the others.

AL

Ok. We'll tell them you're still waiting if we run into them.

MELITZA

We won't know which ones belong to you, though, so we'll just try to do our best.

TITLE CARD - DINER 5

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Our characters stand outside of Diner 5. Things look a little disheveled but not nearly as bad as Diner 3. We can see nobody inside.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

I don't know if this is proving to be.
. . fruitful.

AL

I dunno. It's keeping us busy at
least.

OTHER RAMI

Also, no faceless monsters have
abducted us.

ED AND OTHER ED

That's true.

AL

I'm still worried that our diner will
disappear before we get back there,
and we'll be stuck here and-

MELITZA

Stop putting that out in the universe,
man!

As our characters are talking a bloodied and bruised AL 5 rushes to the door, slamming her body against the glass, causing members of our group to startle.

Al 5 steps outside the door, closes it and leans on it as if to hold it shut.

AL

Guys, what the fuck?

AL 5

Oh god. Oh god. Wait, why are you me?

OTHER RAMI

What happened in there? Is it the
mannequin people?

AL 5

No! It's the fucking things.

AL

Great. More things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

AL 5

You're me, and you're dead. And now there are two Eds?

OTHER RAMI

It's been kind of a weird day.

MELITZA

What things?

AL 5

Take a look!

The group takes a closer look inside Diner 5.

At first they see nothing.

Then they see Mel's and Ed's dead bodies.

ED AND OTHER ED

Look! We're Dead!

Then, what looks like a large white bird appears.

AL

You were attacked by a swan?

The creature turns to the windows. It looks vaguely like a goose, but is about twice the size.

Also, it has rows of sharp teeth.

OTHER RAMI

Is that a dinosaur?

AL

No.

MELITZA

I think that's a dinosaur.

ED AND OTHER ED

Dinosaurs are big.

AL 5

I don't care what it is; it killed everybody.

MELITZA

Where did it come from?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

AL 5

Three of these little dickheads attacked us about 10 minutes before the world disappeared.

AL

Before? They didn't cross over from another reality?

AL 5

Bitch, I have literally no idea what you are talking about. These things showed up and the world disappeared, and everybody died, but you're also still okay somehow. I'm ready to go the fuck home.

MELITZA

Look, calm down. It's okay.

Two of the "dinosaurs" take turns ramming the glass.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

It's gonna be okay.

The dinosaurs bang on the glass some more.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

It's mostly gonna be okay.

AL

Time to move on?

OTHER RAMI

Let's do that thing.

AL

(to AL 5)

Be careful not to touch me.

AL 5

Umm, ok?

EXT - VOID

Melitza, the two Eds, Other Rami and both Als are walking to Diner number 6.

Al is attempting to explain their current situation to Al 5 while keeping a safe distance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AL

At least you're alive.

OTHER RAMI

For all the trauma, you managed to be the sole survivor. You gotta be feeling lucky.

Al and Al 5 laugh.

AL 5

I wish I was at home feeling lucky right about now.

Other Rami looks confused. Melitza grabs him by the elbow and pulls him along.

MELITZA

I'll explain it to you later.

OTHER RAMI

I could use a laugh. There are monsters and dinosaurs and an endless void. Would you be able to tell me a joke or something, so I can think about anything else?

MELITZA

I'm terrible at jokes.

OTHER RAMI

Tell me something funny about waitressing, then.

MELITZA

Waitressing, huh?

OTHER RAMI

That's not a real word, eh?

MELITZA

No.

OTHER RAMI

Serving, then?

MELITZA

Okay. Serving is harder at times than you think, but not particularly interesting. ~~MORE~~ More people are weird and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MELITZA (CONT'D)

annoying and oblivious, but it's only interesting as inside baseball nonsense. I mean, the whole thing makes you crazy, where you suddenly hate people who want lemons for their water, ya know?

OTHER RAMI

Fuck those lemon people. Lemons ain't free.

MELITZA

What do you do? Magic?

OTHER RAMI

No. I've never even done a show. I just like it.

MELITZA

So are you a professional magic appreciator?

OTHER RAMI

I currently work for my dad.

MELITZA

Oh, fun. Doing what?

OTHER RAMI

He's a vet. He's got this kinda house-call business.

MELITZA

What's that like? You like working with animals?

OTHER RAMI

Basically I drive him around so that he can put down very sick cats and dogs.

MELITZA

Was that your dream as a kid, being a door to door euthanasia salesman for pets?

OTHER RAMI

I mean, it's no waitressing.

(A beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OTHER RAMI (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, that wasn't meant to be rude.

MELITZA

Whatever Dr. Ke-Bark-ian.

OTHER RAMI

Okay, that's pretty good.

MELITZA

Thank you.

The group approaches-

TITLE CARD - DINER 6

So far, the diner looks like all the others.

ED AND OTHER ED

If all the different us-es are doing the same thing, wouldn't we just be missing them?

AL

We could skip one or two and run into more us-es?

OTHER RAMI

Well, if we decided to do that, maybe they would too?

MELITZA

Well. . . shit. . . We've got to out-think ourselves in a way that we wouldn't normally out-think ourselves.

ED AND OTHER ED

Sounds legit.

AL

Y'all, this is why I don't like trying things.

MELITZA

You try things all the time Al.

AL

You know what I mean.

AL 5

I know what you mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

OTHER RAMI

Let's just check it out. I mean, we're already here.

Other Rami opens the door to Diner 6 and enters. The rest follow, cautiously.

This diner looks clean and empty.

AL

Maybe we closed early tonight.

AL 5

I still don't know what's going on, I'm going to sit down for a bit.

ED AND OTHER ED

That's a good idea.

MELITZA

Fine. Rami, why don't you come with me and look around?

OTHER RAMI

Sure. I will remind you though, that I am a known coward.

MELITZA

Noted.

OTHER RAMI

I may say "do what you want to the girl, just leave me alone" without any prompting.

MELITZA

Girl?

OTHER RAMI

Young lady?

AL

Young?

Al 5 laughs.

MELITZA

Shut up. Both of youse.

(to Other Rami)

Let's just check out the kitchen.

We see Al 5 sitting with the Eds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ED AND OTHER ED

Yo, you think they're gonna bone?

AL 5

Don't care. But I guess, good for them?

AL

It would solve a lot of her problems.

The Eds nod.

Rami and Melitza are slowly walking through the kitchen.

MELITZA

Maybe Al was right. It doesn't look like it was open today.

OTHER RAMI

Yeah. Didn't you guys have anybody working the kitchen? Dishwashers? Were they killed?

MELITZA

Jesse left right before we vanished. George the dishwasher leaves early because his brother is on the night cleaning crew and finishes up his work, so George can drive his kids to school.

OTHER RAMI

George's kids or the brother's?

MELITZA

All of them, maybe? I dunno. Follow me to the ladies' room.

OTHER RAMI

Oh, well-

MELITZA

To look. We're going to look for people hiding.

The Ladies' Room, a simple two stall version with tile walls.

OTHER RAMI

So this is the ladies' room? I pictured a couch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MELITZA

This is a diner, not the Radisson.

Melitza carefully scans the stall door. She checks underneath for feet, then finally pushes it open. Nobody is there.

OTHER RAMI

That's your pull? That's what you got when you are brainstorming a fancy hotel?

Melitza repeats the same process with stall number 2, with the same results.

MELITZA

Don't tease me. My last vacation I stayed in a garage apartment air B and B next to three sets of railroad tracks.

OTHER RAMI

All right. Geez.

MELITZA

Now, take me to the men's room, like a proper gentleman.

Other Rami gestures for Melitza to walk past him.

OTHER RAMI

Après vous.

MELITZA

Mercy buckets.

The Men's Room is exactly like the ladies' except one of the stalls is replaced by a urinal.

Other Rami stares at the urinal.

OTHER RAMI

I, for one, am glad we are being thorough with our toilet searches.

MELITZA

Yeah, well, you got anything better to do?

OTHER RAMI

Well, I can think of a few things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

Rami moves in closer to Melitza. She grabs him around the waist. As they lean in, Mel knocks open the stall door, momentarily revealing a featureless humanoid shape.

The door swings back shut.

Rami's eyes grow wide.

OTHER RAMI (CONT'D)

Run!

He takes Melitza by the arm and begins running.

They reach the main section of the diner.

OTHER RAMI (CONT'D)

Go! Go!

The Als and Eds give strange looks.

MELITZA

(explaining)

There's a mannequin creature.

AL

Is it chasing you?

MELITZA

I don't know.

OTHER RAMI

Well, let's assume yes.

ED AND OTHER ED

Okay, um, let's go, I guess.

OTHER RAMI

Let's go!

Other Rami herds the group towards the front door. He opens it, and freezes. Ten Mannequin creatures are waiting, motionlessly.

ED AND OTHER ED

Oh. That's a lot.

MELITZA

Back door!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

The group stumbles backwards and runs to the back door of the diner. Melitza leads and kicks open the back door.

Three mannequin creatures are waiting there.

AL
Well, that's less.

OTHER RAMI AND MELITZA
Fewer.

A glance is exchanged.

MELITZA
Scatter and run.

The group does that thing.

The mannequins don't move.

At first.

Their limbs roll forward unnaturally, with uncanny speed.

The Eds nearly collide, but after a few steps begin striding in unison, running left.

The Als run right, Al outpacing the limping Al 5.

That seems to be moot though as all three mannequins are heading toward Melitza and Other Rami. Soon the three expressionless figures form a perimeter around the two.

Beams of purple light connect the mannequins, forming a triangle.

There is an explosion of purple and a small flash of green. Rami disappears into the floor first followed by Melitza and the Mannequins.

Purple energy rolls along the floor, knocking the Eds and Als to their feet.

There is no trace of Rami, Mel or the mannequins now.

Ed notices this before Other Ed as the get up off the floor.

ED
You think we can stop running?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

OTHER ED

Brah.

Al and Al 5 jog over to the Eds.

AL

Are they dead? Did they just die?

AL 5

Everybody is dead. I think we're dead.
Everybody is dead.

OTHER ED

Hey guys?

ED

Huh?

OTHER ED

Where are all the diners?

There are no diners to be seen. There is nothing but white space, 2 Als and 2 Eds.

AL

Goddamnit!

ED AND OTHER ED

This is what you were worried about.

AL

Yeah!

ED AND OTHER ED

All the diners went away, and now we're out here in the nothing.

AL

Uh-huh. Yeah.

ED AND OTHER ED

So, uh-

AL

Goddamn sons of bitches. Dickhead fucker cocks.

AL 5

Why don't we just pick a direction to walk, and hope we run into something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

AL

I fucking said this would happen.

AL 5

We can leave a trail of pennies or some shit to keep track of how far we make it or don't make it.

AL

I fucking said this would happen.

ED AND OTHER ED

I don't have any pennies.

AL

Fine, fuck. Pennies. We'll do that then.

INT. ORANGE VOID

Melitza wakes up supine on the floor of a void with a slightly orange tint. She rolls to get to her feet and in the process bangs her head on a translucent force-field.

MELITZA

Ow.

FEMALE VOICE 2

We hit our head a lot.

Melitza turns and finds herself face to face with another Melitza.

MELITZA

Too much, I'd say.

Behind other Melitza we can see blurry figures in other holding cells, spreading out in all directions.

OTHER MELITZA

I hope this isn't weird for you, I don't know if you've met any alternate reality selves yet.

MELITZA

I've only seen dead me, but I was palling around with two Eds and two Als.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELITZA (CONT'D)

OTHER MELITZA

Oh, you poor thing. I was thinking about trying that old bugs bunny mirror bit when you woke up, and now I'm glad I didn't.

MELITZA

Where are we now?

OTHER MELITZA

From the little bit of chatter I could hear, I think this is the processing center for the mannequins.

MELITZA

Processing, like turning us into canned food?

OTHER MELITZA

Naw, I don't think it's like that. It's more like a police holding cell. The mannequins are looking for something that was in one of the diners, and pulled all the diners from the closest matching realities to find it. The number I heard 65,000.

MELITZA

You seem to hear quite a lot.

OTHER MELITZA

Time moves funny around here. It feels like I've been here around three weeks, but when I see a new one of us pop up, they all say that they just got here.

MELITZA

Three weeks?

OTHER MELITZA

There's no sunrise or set, so I'm not sure how accurate the hash-marks in my notebook are.

MELITZA

Three weeks?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MELITZA (CONT'D)

OTHER MELITZA

It takes a long time to capture and interview 65,000 diners' worth of people.

MELITZA

They have to interview 65,000 Eds, huh? Maybe in some realities he's a genius.

OTHER MELITZA

Maybe. I haven't seen one, but it only takes one black swan, ya know?

MELITZA

I know.

OTHER MELITZA

But of course you do. I'm also gonna assume there are a few Als that aren't quite so thirsty.

MELITZA

Did your diner have a Jesse?

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah. The diner went into the white void right before he went out the door.

MELITZA

Ours made it out.

OTHER MELITZA

Oh. Funny. I guess one Jesse literally had one foot out the door when the boom happened and came here without it. So, I've heard. I didn't see him hopping around or anything.

MELITZA

Oh, man. Did you see the dinosaurs?

OTHER MELITZA

You got to see the dinosaurs? I think there are only ten realities that got dinosaurs.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OTHER MELITZA (CONT'D)

MELITZA

Yeah! Not in our reality, but one of the ones we walked over to. Man, ten, still sounds like a lot.

OTHER MELITZA

Seriously. I thought they might be in a world where they didn't go extinct, but one of the Eds was telling me that they were from an ancient, intergalactic zoo that was trying to re-introduce their zoo animals to their native homeworlds and didn't understand our timeline.

MELITZA

Ed told you that?

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah. I mean, he might have just been recapping an episode of "Futurama," though.

MELITZA

Seriously. So, what now?

OTHER MELITZA

I guess we wait for our interviews. Time is passing weird, so hopefully they can just send us back like nothing's happened.

MELITZA

Fair. Hopefully, they've got some spare Tims in the back.

OTHER MELITZA

Your Tim phased through a table, too? That's like three-quarters of them!

MELITZA

Fucking Tims.

OTHER MELITZA

Fucking Tims.

EXT - VOID

We see a penny.

We travel forward a yard and see another.

One yard more and we see another.

And another.

After 36 pennies, we see a nickel.

Then 16 dimes.

Then 8 quarters.

We see the two Als and the two Eds. Al is crumpling up a piece of waitress ticket book paper.

AL 5

Okay, so I thought we would be a lot farther before it came to this.

ED AND OTHER ED

How far do you think we are? Like five miles?

AL

No. Not. . . no.

ED AND OTHER ED

Six?

AL 5

Can anybody even see anything in any direction?

ED AND OTHER ED

Um-

AL

Not counting the coins!

ED AND OTHER ED

The coins or the direction of the coins?

AL 5

What do you mean by that?

AL

Yeah, what do you mean by that?

ED AND OTHER ED

What do you think that is?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

A dinosaur creature with bright red feathers is running along the trail of coins.

It's gaining speed.

ED AND OTHER ED (CONT'D)

Wait, why weren't we supposed to count the coins? Because I think there are like seventy.

AL 5

Eds left, Als right!

ED AND OTHER ED

Al's right about what?

AL

Scatter!

The four do that thing.

INT. ORANGE VOID

Melitza is pacing the invisible floor of her tiny, translucent orange cell. Other Melitza is sitting on the floor of hers.

MELITZA

How much longer do you think it'll be?

OTHER MELITZA

Sometime between one minute and one year.

MELITZA

Does this count as talking to myself?

OTHER MELITZA

Sure. Then again for all I know you could be one of the mannequins trying to interview me.

MELITZA

I was just about to say the same to you.

OTHER MELITZA

I guess our stories check out then.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OTHER MELITZA (CONT'D)

MELITZA

Do you know where Rami is? I mean, my Rami. Well, I guess, he wasn't actually from my reality, I met him in one of the other- Never mind. The one I was with. I don't know about your reality, but it kinda felt like we were starting a little something.

OTHER MELITZA

Who's Myrami?

MELITZA

Rami? It's like Sammy, but with an R instead of an S and an "Ah" instead of an "a."

OTHER MELITZA

Doesn't ring a bell.

MELITZA

Lanky ginger guy?

OTHER MELITZA

Nobody like that here.

MELITZA

He was with me when I got taken. He was the one that was meeting with Tim.

OTHER MELITZA

Tim's guy cancelled right after he got his burger. That's what it sounded like in my reality.

MELITZA

There's gotta be another one somewhere.

OTHER MELITZA

I've seen hundreds of us, I've seen hundreds of Als and Eds, a bunch of Jesses and a few Tims. I even saw ten Georges. End of list, kiddo.

MELITZA

Man, this is our life, huh? I meet somebody who I feel like I have even a slightest connection to-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OTHER MELITZA

-and he is literally the only one like him in the multiverse.

MELITZA

Seriously.

OTHER MELITZA

Wait.

MELITZA

What?

OTHER MELITZA

You don't see it?

MELITZA

See what?

OTHER MELITZA

If he's the only Rami, maybe he's the thing that the mannequins are looking for.

MELITZA

He's not, though. There are at least two.

OTHER MELITZA

You've seen other hims?

MELITZA

Well, there was one in my restaurant, then we found one in another diner.

OTHER MELITZA

So you had two Ramis then?

MELITZA

No, ours disappeared when the void thing happened.

OTHER MELITZA

Disappeared how? You saw him disappear?

MELITZA

No, he was gone when I got up from the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OTHER MELITZA

And when you met the other Rami, the other folks knew him from their world?

MELITZA

No. He was the only one there. Everybody else had been taken by the mannequins.

OTHER MELITZA

Did he look different from the first Rami?

MELITZA

No, No, not even a little bit, same clothes, same hair, same Fitbit. The Eds were wearing different colored shirts, but he was exactly the same.

OTHER MELITZA

So, the original Rami could have just ran and hid in one of the other diners.

MELITZA

I guess, but, well, shit.

OTHER MELITZA

Forgive me jumping to conclusions, here, me, but it looks like you got some competition for your man. I'm talking about the mennequins, and not me. I'm not really in a dating place right now.

EXT - VOID

Al 5 runs with a limp.

The Red Dinosaur is gaining on her.

She looks behind her, breathing heavily, trying to devise a plan.

When she turns her head forward again, she sees a Green Dinosaur running toward her from the opposite direction.

AL 5

Are you fucking kidding me, right now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She turns ninety degrees, and runs with a new burst of speed. Off in the distance, she can just make out a row of diners.

AL 5 (CONT'D)

Come on, come on!

They close in.

The Red Dinosaur jumps at Al from behind and bites her arm at the shirtsleeve.

Bleeding now, she grabs the creature's body and throws it at the green dinosaur.

They connect with each other and

EXPLODE into orange electricity.

AL 5 (CONT'D)

Yeah! I'll fuck you up you little bitches!

Al looks over and sees the two dinosaurs stumble back to their feet. Now each has a mix of green and red feathers.

The Christmas Dinos look at Al 5.

AL 5 (CONT'D)

Fuck my life.

INT. ORANGE VOID

Both Melitzas are seated in the same position.

MELITZA

Hey, Mel?

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah, Mel?

MELITZA

How would you like to try something to get out of here?

OTHER MELITZA

I don't know. I don't want to piss our overlords off.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OTHER MELITZA (CONT'D)

MELITZA

If you do this for me, an alternate version of yourself will owe you one.

OTHER MELITZA

Ugh. What's your plan?

MELITZA

You know how when two versions of one thing touch, they kinda explode?

OTHER MELITZA

I've seen it. Haven't done it.

MELITZA

Do you think we could try that? I mean, each of us puts a hand on the same part of the orange barrier, and maybe we are close enough to disrupt the system?

OTHER MELITZA

I guess the energy of the fields could be similar to the exploding energy stuff.

MELITZA AND OTHER MELITZA

They're both orange.

MELITZA

See. Sounds science-y.

OTHER MELITZA

But wait. Doesn't that also blend us into two of the same people?

MELITZA

What's your favorite color and favorite movie?

OTHER MELITZA

Blue and The Godfather.

MELITZA

(skeptical)

It's me.

OTHER MELITZA

Fine. Purple and Dirty Dancing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MELITZA

See. Close enough.

OTHER MELITZA

I don't know if I should be doing this.

MELITZA

C'mon. We've done 100 more self-destructive things in our 20s. Remember Rigo?

OTHER MELITZA

Oh god. Why? Don't mention- Ugh, fine.

Each Melitza puts her hand on the same part of the force field.

Nothing happens.

They linger there for a moment.

MELITZA

Well, it was worth-

A huge explosion of orange.

We see Melitza wake up on the floor.

She shakes her head.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

Did it work?

We see both Melitza and Other Melitza stand up at the same time in the same fashion.

They both stand up straight and stare in the same direction.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

Holy-

OTHER MELITZA

-Shit.

We see what they are swearing about.

Their explosion has caused a chain reaction of more explosions.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Force-fields are exploding and disappearing causing Eds to run into Eds, Als to run into Als, and so on causing even more explosions.

MELITZA

Okay. So this looks bad.

Mannequins appear, rising up from the floor. An explosion sends an Ed flying through the air, colliding with group of mannequins like a bowling ball into a stack of pins.

OTHER MELITZA

Did we blend?

MELITZA

I don't feel blended.

Indeed, all the subtle differences between the two Melitzas are still there.

In the background, an Al, missing an arm, charges at a mannequin with reckless abandon. She bounces off the oblivious automaton.

OTHER MELITZA

You didn't really have a plan for what to do after the fences fell, huh?

MELITZA

If we were blended, you would have said we.

OTHER MELITZA

I take no responsibility for this shit show.

Chaos escalates around them. We hear screaming.

Somehow, one of the Eds has managed to light a Mannequin on fire.

MELITZA

Want to head this way?

OTHER MELITZA

Why not?

The two Melitzas slowly walk away from the direction of the escalating chaos.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MELITZA

So, if we go back to the diner at the exact point in time we were taken, we're still going to have to finish up closing side work.

OTHER MELITZA

Don't remind me.

Something behind them explodes.

Fifteen feet away from the pair of Melitzas, we see Other Rami rise from the floor.

He sees the pair, walks towards them, then stops to look at all the carnage.

MELITZA

Rami!

OTHER RAMI

The Mel from the front?

MELITZA

Yep.

OTHER MELITZA

That's Rami?

OTHER RAMI

What in heckfire is going on here?

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah, uh, I think it was one of the Eds did something.

MELITZA

Where did you come from?

Other Rami gestures to the object around his wrist.

OTHER RAMI

I got one of these off of a mannequin.

Melitza looks at the item.

It looks like the same fitbit style thing he's been wearing this whole time.

OTHER MELITZA

Cool, can you get us home?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

OTHER RAMI

I can try. Wait, which one of you guys do I know from before?

Melitza raises her hand.

OTHER MELITZA

Her.

MELITZA

Me.

OTHER RAMI

Okay, cool. I haven't been able to figure out how to get out of the void yet, but I have been able to move to and fro and up and down in it.

OTHER MELITZA

Well, let's get a ways away from the explosions and such.

OTHER RAMI

Okay. Both of you get close to me, but don't touch each other. I have to increase the field size a little bit.

They are surrounded by a ball of green electricity.

The three reappear in a new blank white void. A few ends of Other Melitza's hair have been singed and/or cut off.

She grabs the singed hair.

OTHER RAMI (CONT'D)

Okay. Next time, I'll make the ball bigger.

OTHER MELITZA

How do you even know how to use that thing?

MELITZA

Because he's had it since he walked into my diner.

EXT - VOID

Al 5 checks behind herself as she runs. The two Christmas Dinos are seven feet away and closing.

There's hope, though. She closer now to the row of Diners off in the distance.

She checks over her shoulder again The dinos are closing in. As she turns her head back, she trips... over the head of a mannequin rising from the floor.

Another one rises beside it.

The dinos dive mouth first at the mannequin. They begin to gnaw on its artificial flesh, until its legs flash purple. This new energy causes the dinos to stumble backwards, before running away.

AL 5

Thanks for that. I should probably get going.

The mannequins surround her and lock hands in a London Bridge is falling down fashion.

There is a flash of purple energy and all three fall through the floor.

Al and the mannequins slowly rise from the floor now presumably in a different location, but all we see is the familiar nothingness.

AL 5 (CONT'D)

Did we go someplace different?

An Ed passes by, on fire, riding the head of a mannequin.

AL 5 (CONT'D)

Oh. All right then.

EXT - VOID

The two Melitzas and Rami continue their conversation.

RAMI

I have no idea what you are talking about.

MELITZA

I saw you wearing that thing, when you walked in to the diner.

RAMI

I don't know-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELITZA

And I thought, is that like a Fitbit?
Because my mom won't shut up about
hers.

OTHER MELITZA

Seriously. Truth.

MELITZA

But now, it seems like that thing has
the power to transport us around the
white space. So what's your excuse,
did you get a plug in upgrade from the
robots or something?

RAMI

You are relentless. Can't you ever
stop second guessing everything? This
is why it never worked out between us.

MELITZA

We never-

OTHER MELITZA

Oh, you mother fucker.

RAMI

Great, two of you.

OTHER MELITZA

This mother fucker has dated you in
other realities.

MELITZA

Gross!

OTHER MELITZA

And I bet more than one.

MELITZA

How many, Rami? How many mes have you
screwed over?

RAMI

Okay, so the thing about that is-

Rami disappears into an green bubble, fleeing the interview.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAMI (CONT'D)

OTHER MELITZA

Maybe we should have done the whole
j'accuse thing after we got out of
here.

MELITZA

Hindsight being twenty-twenty and all.

Both Melitzas decide to sit down on the non-existent floor.

And sit.

And sit.

Both lie down at the same time and sigh.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

Would you be able to tell me a joke or
something?

OTHER MELITZA

I'm terrible at jokes.

MELITZA

Me too.

OTHER MELITZA

I bet if I did remember one, you'd
know the punchline.

MELITZA

Yeah. Heh.

They both sit up.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

We should probably do something.

OTHER MELITZA

Ugh, fine.

They both stand up.

MELITZA

North?

OTHER MELITZA

Sure. Which way do you think that is?

MELITZA

Hey you see that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

A small shape appears over the horizon(?).

OTHER MELITZA

What is that?

MELITZA

I think we might need glasses.

The shape approaches rapidly. We see that it is an Ed riding a scorched mannequin.

OTHER MELITZA

Ed!

The mannequin crumbles to the ground roughly 20 feet from the Melitzas.

They run toward him.

An Ed stands up from the twisted mannequin body.

AN ED

Oh, hey guys.

MELITZA

What the hell happened here?

AN ED

It's a long story. I rode this guy for a bit. Then he fell apart. And now here I am.

OTHER MELITZA

You tell it so well.

AN ED

Thank you.

MELITZA

Do you think this mannequin has a magic fit bit?

OTHER MELITZA

Worth a look. I'll check right side.

Other Melitza does that thing, while Melitza checks the left side.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

OTHER MELITZA (CONT'D)

MELITZA

I believe that this robot is wearing a bracelet.

AN ED

Noice. Stylish robot, heh?

OTHER MELITZA

Now be careful. Rami knew what he was doing and still almost cut off part of my head.

MELITZA

That's just what I was thinking.

AN ED

Hey guys, why are you stealing a robot's jewelry?

MELITZA

We think it might be able to get us out of here. I don't know how to work it.

(to Other Melitza)

You've see the most stuff of the three of us. . . I think. You want to try.

OTHER MELITZA

Naw. I'm good.

MELITZA

Goddamnit.

AN ED

When my phone is acting funny, I just hold all the buttons until the little fruit appears. Maybe you should try that.

MELITZA

I'm not going to- Eh fuck it. What's the worst that could happen?

OTHER MELITZA

Why do you even have to -

A aqua light glows from the bracelet, and expands, taking our three characters and the robot with it.

EXT. A FOREST - DAYTIME

We see a path in a bright forest. At the end of that path there is a wall surrounding a shining city of glass, stone and steel. At the center of it all, high on a hill is a castle that looks like a skyscraper or maybe it's a skyscraper that looks like a castle.

AN ED

Yo, you did it!

OTHER MELITZA

Did what?

MELITZA

Exactly.

A Mannequin rises from the grass. This one looks different, more like a human, but in a creepy sex doll sort of way. The robot speaks-

HERMAN

S'up. I'm Herman. I'm here to take y'all to city hall.

MELITZA

And what if we don't want to go there?

AN ED

Yo, I heard somewhere that you can't fight city hall.

HERMAN

He's right you know.

OTHER MELITZA

Well, what else are we going to do?

MELITZA

All right.

HERMAN

Excellent. You guys, all follow me, and we're gonna head off to City, the one true city.

MELITZA

City?

EXT. CITY, THE ONE TRUE CITY - DAY

Herman leads our group through an opening in the city walls.

HERMAN

Outsiders, welcome to City, the one true city!

After the last member of our party enters, Herman closes the opening behind them. He produces a series of note cards from his mouth, grabs them with his left hand, and reads them as he walks backwards.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

"Outsiders, welcome to City, the one true city." Oh I read that part, hold up. "Now you may be wondering what makes City, the one true city?"

AN ED

I was wondering that!

HERMAN

Hold all questions for the end please.

MELITZA AND OTHER MELITZA

That wasn't a question.

HERMAN

Hold all Ps and Qs until the end. "The City is the one true city as it is the first and largest city in the prime world. What many outsiders fail to understand is that non-prime worlds are run by sadistics, chaz, and rambo-ness." Sorry this card got wet from my mouth.

AN ED

Oh yeah. That'll happens.

Herman produces a new card.

HERMAN

"The worlds of the other dimensions are splitting an infinite amount of times for every infinitesimally small amount of time."

MELITZA

So a lot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HERMAN

True dat. "Unlike those other dimensions,"

OTHER MELITZA

True dat? Is it just me or does the one true city seems a little 2004, man?

HERMAN

Please hold all questions.

AN ED

And "p"s.

HERMAN

And "p"s.m"The prime world exists within a statistical certainty, never branching into other worlds. Each of its residents is unique, the only truly unique creatures in existence in the multiverse. As such, their actions hold much more resonance-

AN ED

Hey Herman. How come we are going to City Hall?

MELITZA

Because we left our diner in a white zone.

AN ED

We got a parking ticket?

HERMAN

C'mon guys, questions for the end.

AN ED

It wasn't so much of a question as me just saying something, wanting to know an answer.

OTHER MELITZA

How is that not a question?

AN ED

It's a subtle difference, Mel!

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

Herman leads our characters to a fashionably decorated anteroom. It resembles the waiting room of a hipster dentist. Our characters approach the RECEPTIONIST who sits behind a large chrome desk. The desk is covered with Beanie Babies.

HERMAN

All right, you guys.

Herman begins to walk away.

OTHER MELITZA

You're leaving?

HERMAN

Yeah, man. I gotta go. I got word that five Als just landed in the woods.

AN ED

But we didn't get to ask our Ps and Qs. I wanted to know how dead people have babies.

MELITZA

What are you talking about?

AN ED

Like, if Spider-man's parent's are dead, how did they have a baby?

Herman disappears and The Receptionist drops a clipboard onto the desk in front of Other Melitza.

RECEPTIONIST

You can take a seat and fill this out over there. Each sheet has two sides. Bring it up here when you are done, and I'll check it over.

AN ED

Do we all need a form?

RECEPTIONIST

(with disgust)
One should suffice.

MELITZA

Do you have a pen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RECEPTIONIST

Ugh, yes.

The Receptionist lifts a small stuffed monkey off of the desk and hands it to Melitza. Attached to the monkey via a string is a cheap-looking ball point pen.

The three sit down in a row of white plastic seats. Other Melitza holds the clipboard between herself and Melitza. They start filling out forms.

OTHER MELITZA

My social is also that.

MELITZA

Middle name too?

OTHER MELITZA

And address.

MELITZA

I can just use ditto marks for this part then.

AN ED

Edgar is my middle name.

OTHER MELITZA

Really? What's your first name?

AN ED

Lyman. Like Odie's owner.

MELITZA

That's Jon Arbuckle.

OTHER MELITZA

Actually that's a retcon.

MELITZA

So the key distinction between us is knowledge of Garfield comics?

RECEPTIONIST

The Mayor will see you now!

AN ED

We aren't finished with the form yet.

RECEPTIONIST

You can fill it out later.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AN ED

Cool.

He grabs the monkey and stands up.

OTHER MELITZA

Should we be nervous?

MELITZA

Probably?

AN ED

I betcha the mayor is just a giant floating green head.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is quite a bit smaller than the waiting area. Binders, manila envelopes, and loose papers are everywhere, so much so that we cannot see the desk and shelves upon which they rest. Actually, it looks a lot like Joe Franklin's office.

In the middle of all this sits THE MAYOR, a rather small woman in her mid to late 20s.

She greets our trio.

AN ED

I thought you were going to be a head.

THE MAYOR

Ahead of what?

MELITZA

Ignore him.

THE MAYOR

Well, come in, come in. Sit down.

They look around and sees that every surface is covered with files.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe squat or kneel or something instead.

AN ED

We have our paperwork almost done here.

He goes to hand the clipboard to the mayor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE MAYOR

Oh my god, just fucking throw that
shit away.

AN ED

Okay.

He awkwardly tucks the clipboard under his armpit.

OTHER MELITZA

So, what's going on?

THE MAYOR

Which ones are you guys?

Ed removes the clipboard from under his armpit and begins to
hand it to the Mayor.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

This guy for real?

MELITZA

Sadly, yes.

OTHER MELITZA

We were among the groups rounded up
from all the diners.

A pause. It's not ringing a bell.

MELITZA

The 65,000 diners in the endless white
void?

THE MAYOR

Oh, the Rammy thing.

MELITZA

Rami.

THE MAYOR

Same thing.

Melitza starts to say something but other Melitza stops her.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

Listen, so you guys just want to go
home, right? That's the wish, right?

MELITZA

That would be nice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AN ED

Are other wishes on the table? Cause I always kinda wanted to be able to fly.

OTHER MELITZA

Shut up, Ed.

THE MAYOR

Okay, so here's the deal: we need to kinda corral *Rami* back here to the one true city. People from the one true city must stay in the one true city, or at least in this reality. They can move to one of the several true suburbs. But anyways, you help with that and we send you back to some close approximation of your original reality.

MELITZA

What do you mean "approximation?"

AN ED

Approximate means like about or almost-

OTHER MELITZA

We know what approximately means, we are asking for context.

THE MAYOR

A'ight, so I'm gonna level with you guys. Time moves differently from dimension to dimension, but it still passes. Right now, you all have been missing for basically only a few minutes, but that's enough time for all of your realities to splinter off into hundreds of thousands of different realities of differing probabilities. So, we kinda aim for the most likely and put you there.

MELITZA

How does that work?

THE MAYOR

Not great, honestly. But the quicker it happens the easier it is for us and the better it is for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OTHER MELITZA

What do we need to do?

THE MAYOR

I'll show you.

The Mayor buzzes for the receptionist, who shows up with a bunch of cheap-looking plastic bracelets.

THE MAYOR (CONT'D)

So, Rami stole a dimensional slider, in order to go from reality to reality.

AN ED

Oh yeah, I got it.

THE MAYOR

Let me finish. The White Zone blocks the slider somewhat. Basically, he can't leave the white zone, but he can shift within from one spot to another. Which means that every time the robots get close, he just shifts away.

OTHER MELITZA

So, how are we supposed to wrangle him?

THE MAYOR

Each of you takes a red bracelet and a green. When you get close to him, touch the button on the red bracelet, and it will short out his slider.

MELITZA

Well, why don't you just give the robots red bracelets.

THE MAYOR

It shorts out the robots, too.

AN ED

Oh, yeah, I get it.

THE MAYOR

Well, I'm so glad it makes sense to you. Anyways, once you short out his slider, get close enough to touch Rammy, then push the button on the green bracelet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

OTHER MELITZA

Do we actually have to touch him or just get close.

THE MAYOR

Might as well touch him just to be safe.

AN ED

Do we all have to touch our buttons at the same time?

THE MAYOR

No, just the one touching him.

MELITZA

What about the rest of us?

THE MAYOR

If you touch the green button, you'll end up back here.

AN ED

In your office?

THE MAYOR

In the forest. Why you guys got so many questions?

MELITZA

Well, it's a lot to take in.

OTHER MELITZA

We're pretty new to this.

THE MAYOR

You've got to press two fucking buttons.

AN ED

I figured it out right away, ma'am.

THE MAYOR

Well, thanks if you find him, and we'll see what we can do for you if you don't. Listen, my schedule is filling up like crazy, so if you all could just get a move on.

MELITZA

Ok.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

THE MAYOR

As soon as you leave the building, you all can push your green buttons to go back to the white space, and you know, start your mission or whatever.

AN ED

Can I push it now?

THE MAYOR

No. Don't ever press it inside City Hall. It fucks up the network printers for several hours and is a real pain in the buttocks.

They start to leave, but Melitza stops and turns back to the Mayor.

MELITZA

Oh, so apparently, Rami has dated a bunch of different mes across a few realities. Is that something-

THE MAYOR

I don't care if Rammy took a shit in your bathtub, he just needs to stick to his own reality.

AN ED

That was so specific.

Our Melitzas and Ed exit the office. Upon opening the door, they discover that the waiting room is now full of Als, Mels, Eds, a Tim, and a Jesse.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Woof. We got here just in time.

Ed goes to high five the Melitzas, but each rejects the proposal.

EXT - VOID

We see a blank space. Suddenly, the familiar energy appears and out of the center an Ed and our Melitzas emerge.

OTHER MELITZA

All right, so we are, uh, back here.
Awesome.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELITZA

Yep. Awesome.

AN ED

Yeah! Awesome!

MELITZA

I kinda wished she gave us a map or something. I don't know which way is which.

The three look around, finding nothing in most directions, but eventually making out some diner shapes off in the distance.

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah, or a golf cart or something to look around this place.

MELITZA

Well, it looks like the diner row is that-a-way. Let's check there first. At least there's some geography there that we can have some sort of sense of place.

They start walking.

AN ED

So, this Rami guy dated you guys?

OTHER MELITZA

Technically he didn't date either of us, but he dated a bunch of different versions of us.

MELITZA

I guess he has a type.

AN ED

Cool. So, it's like you're Andie MacDowell.

OTHER MELITZA

Explain.

AN ED

Groundhog Day. Bill Murray tries to date Andie MacDowell over and over again. And(~~more~~)day, he learns more

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AN ED (CONT'D)

and more about her, but she never learns anything more about him, because he's dating a new her every day which is also the same day which is also Groundhog day which is why the movie is called *Groundhog Day*.

MELITZA

So. . . Okay?

AN ED

Weird guys like that are always trying to date Andie MacDowell. Sometimes they have clones, sometimes an angel is trying to hook her up with somebody, and sometimes its James Spader.

OTHER MELITZA

I have questions about the things you learn and subsequently retain.

MELITZA

My feet hurt. This is the longest shift of my life.

OTHER MELITZA

Well, just a little more walking until the real walking starts, I guess.

AN ED

You guys! I brought my scooter to work.

OTHER MELITZA

Good for you, buddy!

MELITZA

We can all ride scooters, and cut down our travel time by like a third.

AN ED

We could do that, too! Oh, but I only brought one.

The Melitzas exchange a glance, standing in front of row of diners stretching left and right as far as the eye can see.

TITLE CARD: Ten minutes later.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

All three are riding razor scooters past a seemingly endless line of Diners. They scoot as they talk.

MELITZA

So if we start at one end, and work our way down, we can check every diner one by one, and if Rami is in one of them, we will probably find him.

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah, so, um, that doesn't sound like a great plan.

MELITZA

No. No it does not.

OTHER MELITZA

If there are 65,000 diners here, and each one is, what, maybe 100 feet away from the next one, well, how much scooting are we gonna have to do?

MELITZA

Well, one end to the other is going to be about 65,000 times a hundred-

OTHER MELITZA

-divided by fifty-two-eighty in a mile, so we're looking at about-

MELITZA AND OTHER MELITZA

-twelve hundred and thirty miles.

They stop scooting.

AN ED

Well, we could all split up. That would make things go like five times faster.

OTHER MELITZA

Honey, no.

AN ED

What? I take good notes!

MELITZA

Last shift we worked together, you told me that keeping track of the table numbers was too complicated.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

AN ED

That's confusing! There's no table two!

OTHER MELITZA

If Rami keeps shifting in and out of the diners, maybe the thing to do is to stay in one spot and wait for him to come to us.

MELITZA

How could we expedite the process, though?

AN ED

Maybe we could light the diners on fire?

OTHER MELITZA

I'm willing to consider that.

MELITZA

Me too. Stupidly enough.

Ed grabs a lighter and starts scooting towards the nearest diner.

MELITZA (CONT'D)

No. Wait. . . Eh. Whatever, we've got plenty.

OTHER MELITZA

Really, he's earned this.

MELITZA

Just the one, though, right?

OTHER MELITZA

Yeah, I think so.

LATER

The three are scooting around the seemingly endless line of diners, one of which is on fire.

An Ed spots something.

AN ED

There's something going on up there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Ed rides his scooter towards the shape. As we get closer and it grows larger, we see that it is one of the robots. Well, the top half of a robot. The Melitzas are following Ed from a safe distance.

It is seemingly stuck halfway in the process of rising through the invisible floor.

Ed goes right up to the half-mannequin. It swats and grabs for him slowly, like a corpse reaching out from its own grave.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Aw, man, this is trippy. It's like a zombie movie.

MELITZA

Don't taunt the machines, Ed.

The robot looks at Ed, as though it were about to say something. Part of its head opens up and emits a screech like those heard in the 1978 version of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

Ten Machines all rise from the ground around Ed. All clawing and grasping at him.

They all seem to be stuck about halfway out of the ground like the first, though.

Ed remains just out of reach.

He breathes a sigh of relief.

OTHER MELITZA

Ed, get out of there.

AN ED

That's a good idea.

The first robot manages to pull itself out of the ground, ripping its torso from the rest of its body. It starts slithering toward Ed, like Johnny Eck crawling through mud.

Another robot rips itself in half and starts crawling.

Ed screams, and starts hitting the robots with his razor scooter, its base flying around him like some sort of perverted nunchaku.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

He looks down. One of the robots has grabbed his leg. It starts sinking back into the ground and pulling Ed down with it.

Ed screams again.

A red light washes over everything for a moment, and all the robots stop, and fall to pieces.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Huh?

He turns to see both Melitzas holding their red bracelets up with their fingers on the red buttons.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Huh?

The Melitzas point a little harder at the buttons.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Oh, right. It shorts out the robots.

Ed goes to walk, but finds that the ankle the robot had grabbed is still sunk into the ground. He can't pull it out.

AN ED (CONT'D)

Little help?

The Mels pull on Ed's leg, but it looks like it won't budge without removing Ed's foot.

MELITZA

Well, this isn't happening.

OTHER MELITZA

Do we really need an Ed?

MELITZA

He did come up with the fire plan.

OTHER MELITZA

That's true. Though, I don't know if that was a good plan.

MELITZA

True. True.

AN ED

Hey! I provided the scooters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

OTHER MELITZA

And we'll always remember you for that.

MELITZA

Chances are, we'll just run into another one anyway.

AN ED

You guys are not funny. Help me out.

OTHER MELITZA

I can't get you out, Ed. But you can get out, yourself. Just push your green button. It'll send you back to the forest. Then you can either hit the button again and try to find us, or you can stay in the forest and wait for somebody else to find Rami so everybody can go home.

AN ED

Okeydokey.

Ed pushes the green button right away and disappears.

MELITZA

I hope his foot went with him.

OTHER MELITZA

Eh. There's more Eds where he came from.

MELITZA

You want to sit by the fire for a bit?

OTHER MELITZA

Yes I do.

Later.

The Melitzas have dragged diner chairs out into the void. They are sitting down and watching the flaming diner.

After some time, three Als approach.

MELITZA

Any of you guys from the front?

AN AL

Does it matter?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

OTHER MELITZA

Not really. Any of you have the jewelry?

She brandishes her green and red bracelets. The other Als do the same.

AN AL

Fashion!

MELITZA

The latest fashion of the one true emerald city.

AN AL

Bitch, this ain't an emerald.

Melitza stops and looks at a battered and bruised Al. She looks extra familiar.

MELITZA

Hey! Are you the Al that we rescued—well, that's probably too strong a word—

AL 5

The Mel from the front!

MELITZA

Bingo.

AL 5

Yeah. They got me on this squad as their Rami expert. They've been trying to get one person on each team who has seen the guy. So it's mostly just me and a bunch of you bitches he dated.

OTHER MELITZA

Ah, yes, the Andies MAcDowell.

MELITZA

Shut up, me.

They all sit by the fire. A few Melitzas arrive, none with bracelets. An Ed, walks over carrying pieces of a semi-alert mannequin creature.

OTHER MELITZA

Hey Ed. Pop a squat.

Mel notices that he is wearing a purple shirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

MELITZA

You the Ed from the front?

ED

Like the war?

OTHER MELITZA

That's inconclusive.

More and more doubles arrive, including a group of five Als all with bracelets, and a one group of Al, Mel, Jesse, and Ed all brandishing butcher knives.

MELITZA

Where'd you get the knives?

JESSE

There are thousands of kitchens with thousands of knives.

OTHER MELITZA

Why didn't we think of that?

They all stare at the fire.

The doubles grab chairs, and some non perishables from the diner.

MELITZA

There are worse ways to spend a Wednesday night.

OTHER MELITZA

Is it Wednesday?

MELITZA

Who the fuck kno-

An explosion of green appears knocking a section of the doubles out of their chairs.

The green bubble dissipates and Rami falls to the "floor."

Half of a dinosaur head falls on him, along with various dino parts falling to the floor beside him.

He brushes the head off nervously.

RAMI

Well, that worked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

He awkwardly gets back to his feet. He looks around and sees the collection of doubles.

RAMI (CONT'D)

The fuck?

MELITZA

(screaming)

It's Rami!

Around a third of the doubles lift up a wrist and push red buttons.

A few Eds push green buttons and disappear.

Rami's bracelet sparks and falls off his wrist.

RAMI

Ok. So this seems bad.

RANDOM ED

Hey guys, it's Rami!

The entire crowd murmurs and moves toward Rami. Rami is scrambling, putting pieces of his bracelet into his pockets.

RAMI

If you could just give me a moment to explain.

Various doubles boo.

RAMI (CONT'D)

C'mon. I just need a few minutes to explain. You guys have been so cool about this whole thing. I think most people would be panicky messes-

RANDOM ED

Harari says that panic is egotistical, for it comes from one being upset at one's lack of control. Bewilderment is the reaction of humility.

RANDOM AL

Bitch is you for real?

RAMI

Just, let's step inside this diner here, the ~~one~~ one, uh, on fire and

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

RAMI (CONT'D)

talk it out. Just one on one, I don't care who it is. Five minutes, okay.

The crowd murmurs some more.

RAMI (CONT'D)

You all can surround the diner. I'm not going anywhere.

MELITZA

I'll do it.

RAMI

Awesome, I'll meet you inside.

Rami starts toward the closest diner that isn't on fire. Mel brushes past a group of bracelet-less Als, eventually breaking from the crowd and following Rami inside.

Al 5 looks right at Mel.

AL 5

Bitch, don't fuck this up.

INT. DINER - VOID

You know what it looks like in here.

Rami is sitting at a booth as Melitza enters. He has the pieces of his broken bracelet on the table and is attempting to reassemble it.

RAMI

Would you mind taking off your, um-

MELITZA

You don't trust me?

RAMI

I just want to make sure I get a chance to say my piece, before you reach across the table and send me away.

MELITZA

Fine.

Mel takes off the green bracelet and the red bracelet, and sets them on the hostess stand. She walks toward the seat across from Rami, smoothing her lumpy apron as she sits down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAMI

Thanks for-

MELITZA

Dude, what the fuck?

RAMI

So, as you may know, my name is Rami, that's like Sammy-

MELITZA

Yeah, I know. So you're not an assistant pet euthanizer?

RAMI

I heard about that on a podcast. I thought it sounded like an interesting backstory that people wouldn't want to ask follow up questions about. So I take it you're the Melitza from the front?

MELITZA

Yeah.

RAMI

Listen, I'm sorry about how you found out about all that relationship stuff. I didn't mean-

MELITZA

For me to find out?

RAMI

Well, that's not fair. I'm not trying to trick you or anything.

MELITZA

That so?

RAMI

We're just, we're just good together. It works. It's easy. I mean, we've been together almost two dozen times.

MELITZA

You know that means we've broken up two dozen times, too, right.

Rami continues to work on his bracelet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAMI

No. Not really though. Listen, I've been trying to stay one step ahead of city hall. When they get close, I jump to a new timeline.

MELITZA

Yeah. Why is that?

RAMI

People of the one true city aren't allowed to leave. We have the technology to explore a literal infinite amount of realities, but we can't go. Can you imagine all the things out there that you want to do and see, and you're stuck in one place for no good reason?

Melitza looks around the diner.

MELITZA

Yes I can imagine that. But why? Why aren't you allowed to go?

RAMI

It's not important.

MELITZA

Pretend it is.

RAMI

When somebody from the city goes to another reality, that reality stops splitting into different time lines. They don't like that. I think they want to be the only world that doesn't split because that makes them special.

MELITZA

Yeah, but aren't you also effectively killing an infinite number of realities by keeping the timeline from splitting?

RAMI

That's technically true.

MELITZA

So, it's basically genocide.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAMI

Well, no. Isn't that like saying abortions kill babies? Actually no, it's like saying condoms kill babies.

MELITZA

I don't think that analogy is apt. These realities are definitely going to appear without your intervention. And your reason for blocking their existence is, what? Some fun away from home?

RAMI

That's not fair.

MELITZA

It's a shitty thing to do.

Rami holds up his bracelet. It's mostly together.

RAMI

Listen. I'm going to have this thing fixed in about 90 seconds. Come with me. I prepaid for an apartment a while ago. There are now infinite realities where I have, essentially, a free apartment. We can do whatever we want. And as soon as our credit card bill get too high, or we have too many parking tickets, or we piss off the landlord, we'll split to the next closest reality and start all over again.

MELITZA

No consequences.

RAMI

Not a one that you don't want to deal with.

MELITZA

What about my family and friends? Am I just supposed to abandon them?

RAMI

You already have.

MELITZA

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RAMI

Since you've been taken, your reality has already split off a million times. There is one of you. If you get sent back, you will have mysteriously vanished in 999,999 of those timelines. What difference does one more make?

MELITZA

You know, it makes a difference to me. You don't fucking know me at all.

RAMI

I know every intimate detail about you. I know you more than you know you. What are you leaving behind, really? A few work friends, a bunch of strangers you see on Facebook, your overbearing mother, a shitty waitressing job?

MELITZA

Well, when you put it that way: go fuck yourself Rami.

RAMI

Fine. I was just trying to be nice. I don't actually need you.

Rami puts the finished bracelet on his wrist and starts fiddling with it.

The bracelet fall apart on the table.

MELITZA

I'm nobody's Andie MacDowell.

RAMI

What?

Melitza sets a red bracelet on the table.

MELITZA

Did you hear that Al's a pickpocket? I guess most of them are. Apparently it works in reverse too. I don't know what you call that, though.

RAMI

Reverse pickpocketing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MELITZA

Makes sense.

She grabs a green bracelet from the front of her apron, which we can now see is full of bracelets.

RAMI

Hold on.

MELITZA

I'm going to hold on for one more question. Why did you have to come into my diner?

RAMI

Tim picked it to sell me the magic trick. It's close to his apartment. And I had already been there plenty of times.

Melitza sighs, grabs Rami and pushes the green button.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

It's a fairly standard bar and grill, like a Chili's or one of those places. Mel is sitting at table with BRAD, a 40 year old in business casual attire.

MELITZA

-and so that was my last relationship.

BRAD

Huh. My last girlfriend cheated on me with my father. I thought that was weird. Yours is definitely weirder.

MELITZA

I can show you half a dinosaur head back in my place if you don't believe me.

BRAD

That's a little forward right?

MELITZA

Well, I don't normally show men my half dinosaur head on a first date.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELITZA (CONT'D)

BRAD

Do you think that this has happened a bunch before? Like maybe half of all disappearances are people going to the white space and only returning to one of a million realities?

MELITZA

You're accepting these shenanigans rather nonchalantly.

BRAD

I watch a lot of youtube. No, but seriously, what if like a bunch of missing people were just plucked from a branching timeline and put back after a bunch of branches branched.

MELITZA

You mean like that Malaysian flight?

BRAD

Or the SS Cotopaxi?

MELITZA

DB Cooper?

Their waitress, AMY (25) approaches.

AMY

The kitchen is closing soon. It's kinda now or never if you want anything else.

BRAD

Do you have waffles?