

PORTAL POPPERZ

Written by

Paul Benson

Story by Paul Benson and Jerry Macaluso

967 S Barrington Ave #1
Los Angeles, CA 90049
310-245-2569
comicscribe@yahoo.com

EXT. WHATELEY'S OCCULT BOOKS AND ODDITIES - DAY -
ESTABLISHING

A tiny storefront with a peeling, painted sign that reads,
"Palm Readings. Tarot. Crystal Divinations."

Stacks of old books line the interior of the large glass
window on the storefront.

INT. WHATELEY'S OCCULT BOOKS AND ODDITIES - DAY

The store is quiet - there are no employees or other
customers in sight. Besides shelves of books running
throughout the cramped space, there are also scores of
stereotypical new-agey items like crystal balls, ankhs,
candles and incense.

JEZ(20), a freaky naughty Goth girl, enters the store with a
TINKLING of a bell over the front door.

JEZ

Hello?

BEAT. No response.

JEZ (CONT'D)

(shrugging)

Whatever.

Jez looks at some CRYSTAL PENDANTS on a table. She takes a
quick glance around and, not seeing anyone, POKETS A
PENDANT.

Jez moves along the book shelves until stopping at the SPELLS
SECTION. She scans the shelf.

MR. WHATELY (O.S.)

Can I help you?

Jez JUMPS at the sudden voice behind her. She wheels to find
WILBUR WHATELY (60'S), the shop proprietor.

Whately has a patchy, salt and pepper beard and wears glasses
that show off his extreme far-sightedness. He looks as if he
stepped out of the pages of a history book on the Dustbowl.

His pleasant demeanor is cut by an intensity of attention
that he pays to Jez.

JEZ

Oh shit, I didn't know anyone else
was here. Way to give me a heart
attack.

MR. WHATELY
I'm sorry to have startled you,
young lady.

Jez SNORTS at this...she's no lady.

JEZ
You work here?

MR. WHATELY
I'm the proprietor. Wilbur
Whately, at your service.

JEZ
Yah...well, I'm looking for a book
about spellcasting. You got any?

Whately briefly consults the shelf, and then pulls a book
down and hands it to Jez.

MR. WHATELY
Is this what you're looking for?

Jez looks at the book with distaste. The title reads,
"Spellcasting for Beginners: A Simple Guide to Magical
Practice."

JEZ
This is just some bullshit "magic
for dummies" book. Come on, where
do you keep the good shit?

An uncomfortable BEAT as Whately stares intently at Jez, as
if peering into her soul. Then:

MR. WHATELY
I can see that you're a very
discerning customer. Perhaps you'd
like to see my private collection?

JEZ
Now we're talking.

MR. WHATELY
Right this way.

Whately escorts Jez through a door in the back into:

INT. BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The difference between the main shop and the back room are
like night and day.

There is a feeling of dread and antiquity, with musty old tomes, TORTURE IMPLEMENTS and even a MONKEY'S PAW.

Resting on an antique bookstand in a place of prominence is AN ANCIENT BOOK BOUND IN HUMAN SKIN. Whately almost reverently takes the book from its stand and hands it to Jez.

MR. WHATELY

Perhaps this is more to your liking?

Jez examines the book, which has "NECRONOMICON" emblazoned in a rusty red color across the cover.

JEZ

This is so cool. Is this leather?

MR. WHATELY

Er, yes. Sure. Let's say leather.

Jez flips through the pages, which are illustrated with horrific images of demons copulating and blood sacrifice. Her eyes shine with lustful hunger as reads.

MR. WHATELY (CONT'D)

What do you think?

JEZ

Oh, I want it. How much?

Whately takes back the book.

MR. WHATELY

I'm afraid I cannot sell the Necronomicon. It may only be given to someone in exchange for something of value.

Jez examines Whately distastefully for a moment.

JEZ

Oh, I see where this is going. Fine, I've done worse.

Jez starts to TAKE OFF HER SHIRT. Whately's composure is momentarily broken by this unexpected act.

MR. WHATELY

NO! No, young lady. That's not what I meant. Look, why don't you just give me what you took earlier?

Whately holds out his hand. Unabashed, Jez SHRUGS and takes out the crystal pendant and places it into Whately's hand. Whately hands the book back to her.

MR. WHATELY (CONT'D)

The Necronomicon is now yours, as is all the forbidden knowledge it contains.

JEZ

Sweet! Later, geezer.

Jez takes off with her prize. Whately watches her go, his face grinning. His grin continues to grow until it is IMPOSSIBLY LARGE and still growing as we

FADE TO:

TITLE SEQUENCE

Titles play over a SERIES OF SHOTS OF PEOPLE YOUNG AND OLD playing games on their phones. A NARRATOR speaks over the titles.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When mega game company Kaijuko released their hit game app, Portal Popperz, in 2017, it immediately captured the imaginations of kids and adults alike. Downloads of the app set records worldwide. In the game, cute creatures known as "Popperz" invade our world through a portal to another dimension, and players must banish them before they conquer the Earth. It's widely expected that with the game's one-year anniversary, Kaijuko will be having a special Portal Popperz event to celebrate...

EXT. TOWN OF EMPTY CREEK, CA - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

A sleepy, small town in Northern California. It looks much like any other small town...semi-rural, a tiny main strip, and a single off-brand gas station. It's a crisp, clear Spring night.

SUPERIMPOSE: Empty Creek, California. Saturday May 13, 2018. 10PM.

INT. GILROY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Insecure but bright geek GILROY(17) leans forward intently on a tattered couch, playing PORTAL POPPERZ on his smartphone. Sitting relaxed on the other side of the couch is DAN(16), a belligerent smartmouth. Dan also plays on his smartphone.

Gilroy has a fading, yellowish BLACK EYE.

SUPERIMPOSE: Gilroy Simms and Dan Merkin.

Dan holds up his phone, scanning the room.

ON THE PHONE SCREEN

We can see the simple Portal Popperz graphical interface, and an augmented reality view of Gilroy's basement. Hovering over the television is a CARTOONISH CGI CREATURE. This is a Popper- much like Pokemon, they come in many varieties.

INT. GILROY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - BACK TO SCENE

DAN
(to phone)
You're mine, fuckstick.

Dan SWIPES his finger across the surface of his phone. The BANISHMENT SOUND plays.

DAN (CONT'D)
Banished back to the dark portal.
One hundred XP. Boom.

GILROY
How do you keep getting grabbing all these Popperz? I haven't seen any in the last half hour. Except for that Hawkalith you snatched from under me.

DAN
Maybe if you used some Popper Fly to lure them like I did, you'd have better luck. Instead you got Portal Popperz blue balls!

GILROY
I do not!

DAN
Oh sorry, I meant you've got Jennifer Sommers blue balls.
(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

It's not my fault you were mentally jerking it to her and didn't see that Popper that showed up right next to you.

Gilroy blushes.

GILROY

Screw you Dan. I was not thinking about her.

DAN

Dude you're always thinking about her. You're obsessed.

Dan GRABS GILROY'S PHONE and presses a button. A candid photo of an ATTRACTIVE TEENAGE GIRL comes up on the screen. This is JENNIFER SOMMERS.

GILROY

Hey!

DAN

You have her as the wallpaper on your phone. Admitting you have a problem is the first step towards a cure, Gilroy.

Gilroy snatches the phone back from Dan.

GILROY

Can we just play the game? And not discuss Jennifer?

The voice of GILROY'S STEPFATHER calls from upstairs. Gilroy tenses, shrinking into himself.

GILROY'S STEPFATHER (O.S.)

You still on that goddamned video game, Gilroy? You've got chores!

GILROY

(calling up)
I'll be right up.

GILROY'S STEPFATHER (O.S.)

You'd better!

Gilroy's shoulders slump. Just then, a PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT TONE BEEPS on both of their phones. Dan's eyes go wide as he reads the alert.

DAN

Holy shit dude, the Portal Popperz anniversary event. It's happening. Here.

GILROY

Here?

DAN

Well not right here, douche nozzle.
But here in Empty Creek.

Gilroy examines a MAP in the game app on his phone.

GILROY

Hangman's Woods! That's only about
three miles from here.

Just then a graphic of the ultra-rare KEEZARU flashes on both their screens. Both the boys' jaws drop.

DAN

Fuckin' A, there might be a Keezaru
too! Let's go!

GILROY

(defeated)

I can't. You heard my stepdad.

Dan grabs Gilroy's shoulders.

DAN

Fuck him! It's a Keezaru! No one's
ever caught one!

Dan stares into his friend's eyes, willing him to join him.

EXT. GILROY'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Dan and Gilroy, now wearing hoodies and carrying back packs, sneak out of the basement window. Dan is excited, but Gilroy looks nervously about, like a trapped animal.

GILROY

I don't know, Dan. My stepdad's
gonna be pissed.

DAN

Look, do you want to be a little
bitch?

GILROY

No...

DAN

Then stop acting like one and let's
go! We'll figure out a way to get
you off the hook with him later.

INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom of the most popular girl at the local high school. A couple of athletic trophies, photos of friends, and artsy POSTERS OF EUROPEAN LANDMARKS like the Eiffel Tower and Big Ben adorn the walls.

SUPERIMPOSE: Jennifer Sommers.

Stepping out of the bathroom wrapped in a towel is JENNIFER SOMMERS(17). Pretty in an accessible way, Jennifer is the girl next door that every high school boy has a crush on. Jennifer BLOWDRYS her hair.

The SOUND OF A PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT is barely audible above the BLOWDRYER. Jennifer doesn't hear it at first, but when she turns off the blowdryer the phone is audible.

Jennifer walks to her desk and picks up her phone, which rests next to an ACCEPTANCE LETTER from Brown University. Jennifer smiles when she sees the KEEZARU GRAPHIC on the phone.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house has a rustic feel, but mixed with a hodgepodge of decorations - - the owner obviously decorated with whatever struck her fancy at the time. All of the furniture is from IKEA.

Seated in front of the television is DOTTIE STANTZ(80), an eccentric old gal wearing a HEAD SCARF leaving no hair visible.

She's watching an MMA match on her TV and cheering on her favorite fighter with gusto. While she watches she packs a bowl in her BONG.

SUPERIMPOSE: Dottie Stantz.

DOTTIE
Come on Fabricio, kick that little punk's heinie! Ooh, nice jab. And kick! And kick! Oh no you didn't just get him in a guillotine hold! Dear sweet baby Jesus have mercy that man is good.

Dottie lights up the bong and takes a HUGE HIT. As she exhales, her cell phone plays the PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT. Dottie grabs her phone and lights up when she looks at it.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
A Keezaru? Hot damn!

Dottie spryly springs up from her chair.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - BRIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

While the living room was full of kitsch, this room has a stylish urban sensibility.

A handsome naked man sits up in the bed, looking at his phone. This is BRIAN STANTZ(26), Dottie's gay nephew.

SUPERIMPOSE: Brian Stantz.

BRIAN
Well look at you, sexy beast.

REVEAL that Brian is browsing gay personals on his phone. He's looking at the profile of a BURLY BEAR.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Annnnd....swipe right!

He does so. Suddenly, Dottie BURSTS THROUGH the door to the bedroom. Surprised, Brian quickly covers himself.

DOTTIE
Brian! Get your pants on, we're going out.

BRIAN
Hey, ocupado!

INT. KEN GONZALEZ DEN - NIGHT

A combination study and hobby area. Various MILITARY MINIATURES AND MODELS sit on shelves, as well as books on military strategy and a FRAMED PHOTO of a scout troop and its leader.

At a table sits KEN GONZALEZ(45), gung ho Scout Troop Leader from the photo and woodshop teacher for the local high school. Spread out on the table is a MAP of the SIEGE OF VICKSBURG during the Civil War. BOOKS ON THE CIVIL WAR are stacked around the map.

On the map are a few CONFEDERATE AND UNION TOY SOLDIERS to mark troops. Ken moves one of the Confederates next to a Union toy soldier outside of Vicksburg on the map.

SUPERIMPOSE: Ken Gonzalez.

KEN
And if Johnston had been able to make it back to reinforce Pemberton...

As if he were playing chess, Ken topples the Union Toy Soldier.

KEN (CONT'D)
 ...then game over, Grant.
 Vicksburg would have been saved.

Just then, Ken's phone BEEPS with the Portal Popperz alert.
 Ken looks at the phone and GRUNTS in satisfaction.

KEN (CONT'D)
 Well all right then.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - MAKEOUT POINT - NIGHT

A battered PICKUP TRUCK with a shotgun rack and confederate flag bumper sticker is parked at a spot overlooking the town. The truck BOUNCES RHYTHMICALLY up and down, the shock absorbers SQUEAKING.

SUPERIMPOSE: Gary Henderson and Lisette Conner.

INT. HONDA CIVIC - SAME TIME

In the bed of the pickup truck, GARY(20), muscular and mulletted, has sex with LISETTE(20), a tattooed temptress. Gary is on top of Lisette, and they are fucking hard. Gary's face drips with sweat at the effort.

LISETTE
 Yeah fuck me Gary!

GARY
 Shut the fuck up.

Gary SLAPS Lisette on the face. She grins at this, and grinds against him hard.

LISETTE
 You're so hard.

GARY
 Do that thing with your finger.

Lisette moves her hand towards Gary's ass, leaving frame. Gary's eyes grow wide for a moment, and then a look of contented bliss comes over his face as he ORGASMS.

GARY (CONT'D)
 Aaah yeah.

Gary rolls off Lisette and digs in the pocket of his nearby Dickies shirt. He produces a crumpled pack of cigarettes and a lighter, and lights up a cigarette.

LISETTE
 What about me?

GARY

Oh, sorry.

Gary carelessly throws the pack of cigarettes and lighter at Lisette. The lighter bounces off of her chest.

LISETTE

Not the cigarettes, asshole. You came before I could finish.

GARY

Well can't you finish by yourself?
I'm spent.

That familiar PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT sounds on Lisette's phone. Before Lisette can look at the screen, Gary pulls the phone out of her hands and examines it.

GARY (CONT'D)

What's this "Portal Popperz" shit,
Lisette?

Lisette yanks the phone back out of Gary's hands.

LISETTE

It's just this dumb video game everyone's playing. I was bored so I thought I'd check it out.

(examining screen)

Huh, looks like there's some big game event happening pretty close to here.

GARY

Get your clothes on. I think we should check it out.

LISETTE

You don't even like video games.

Gary GRINS cruelly.

GARY

Nope. But I sure do love fucking with the dweebs who play them.

Lisette grins and GIGGLES at this.

EXT. SHERIFF STATION - NIGHT

A small sheriff station for a small town. Several CARS drive down the main strip past the station.

INT. SHERIFF STATION - BENNETT'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

The CLOCK on the wall reads 10:30 pm. Seated at his desk is SHERIFF BENNETT(46), a hard drinking misogynist. Typical small town lawman. He looks through the blinds at the cars driving past the station.

Standing at the open door to Bennett's office is RASHIDA JONES(26), a rookie transplant from Los Angeles that has found herself in this one-horse town.

SUPERIMPOSE: Sheriff Tyler Bennett and Officer Rashida Jones.

RASHIDA

Sheriff? Things are kind of quiet...I was wondering if I could take off for the night.

BENNETT

That's the difference between you and me, rookie. You see quiet, I see a disaster waiting to happen.

RASHIDA

What disaster? Worst thing I've seen since moving here last year is when Mark Bader fell down drunk and smashed his two front teeth in.

Bennett points out the window.

BENNETT

You got any idea what's going on with all these cars?

RASHIDA

I'd say they're on their way to Hangman's Woods to play Portal Popperz.

BENNETT

And how did you come to that bit of deduction?

Sheepishly, Rashida pulls out her cell phone.

RASHIDA

Because I was hoping to head up there myself. There might be a Keezaru!

BENNETT

A what?

RASHIDA

Keezaru. It's an ultra-rare Portal Popper that's never been collected in-game. Everyone's going to be fighting over it if it shows up.

BENNETT

Well guess what Jones. You get your wish.

Bennett grabs his sheriff's hat.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

With that many people running around in the woods late on a Saturday night, there's bound to be some trouble...especially if this "Kee-Zee-Roo" is as big of a deal as you say.

RASHIDA

Keezaru.

BENNETT

You think I give a flying fuck?

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PARKING AREA - NIGHT

A dirt parking lot bordering the woods is almost completely full of cars, with more arriving. There are already PLAYERS of all ages, running about glued to their phones.

SUPERIMPOSE: Hangman's Woods - 10:46 PM.

Gilroy and Dan ride up on their bikes. As they chain the bikes up, their creepy classmate with a mouth full of braces BILLY(16) recognizes them, and heads over.

BILLY

Gilroy! Dan! About time you showed up. I've already banished a Catalith and a Molazar.

DAN

I've banished dozens of Cataliths. Those things show up like pimples on your ass.

BILLY

Screw you, Dan.

GILROY

Wow there sure are a lot of people here.

BILLY

Yeah, and you're not going to believe it. Little Miss Perfect is here too.

Billy points to a spot nearby, where Jennifer is chatting and laughing with her bff, the slightly less attractive DONNA(17). Gilroy looks at her with sad puppy dog eyes.

DAN

(to Gilroy)

That's great! We should go over and say hello.

BILLY

Good idea! Maybe we can get some puss-ay!

DAN

Like you're ever gonna get laid, wee willy Billy.

BILLY

Fuck you, I get plenty of tail.

DAN

Jizzing to internet porn doesn't count.

ANGLE ON JENNIFER AND DONNA

As Dan, Billy, and a bashful Gilroy walk towards them.

DONNA

Oh great, here come the fucktards.

JENNIFER

They're not that bad. Just kind of pathetic, really.

DONNA

Yeah, well you never caught Billy Thompkins trying to look up your skirt at cheerleading practice.

JENNIFER

Ugh, what a little pervert.

The boys join them, with Dan at the vanguard.

DAN

Well hello, ladies. Lovely night here in the woods.

Jennifer and Donna give them tight-lipped smiles. Billy LEERS at Donna.

BILLY
Hey there, Donna.

Donna FLIPS OFF Billy.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - NIGHT

Jez and three other greasy-faced, pale young GOTHs are seated around a firepit, smoking, drinking ABSINTHE, and listening to BAUHAUS.

ROZZ(22), a pasty guy with eyeliner and wisps of chin hair, has his arm around Jez.

Rozz passes the bottle of absinthe to DRAVEN(23), the intense defacto leader of the group. Draven's chainsmoking nihilist girlfriend WINTER(19) grinds out a cigarette and lights another.

ROZZ
I heard that he haunts the forest
at night, grabbing up kids and
taking them away to eat.

WINTER
That shit freaks me out.

DRAVEN
That shit's just that...bullshit.
There's no Slenderman. It's from
that fake horror website. What's
it called...creepy something.

JEZ
Creepypasta. I love that site.

WINTER
You would Jez.

DRAVEN
It's just some bogeyman someone
made up because they were bored,
and people started believing it was
true.

WINTER
Yeah, some kids even tried to kill
a classmate because they thought
Slenderman was real, and they were
gonna be acolytes or something.

ROZZ
Shit, I thought it was real.

DRAVEN
That's because you're an idiot,
Rozz.

ROZZ
Eat me Draven.

DRAVEN
You wish. I'm too much man for you.

Winter grabs Draven's crotch, smiling.

WINTER
That's for sure.

Rozz sulks. Jez changes the subject.

JEZ
You know what would be cool? If we
created our own Slenderman. But,
like, for real.

Jez pulls the Necronomicon out of her bag.

JEZ (CONT'D)
We could use this spellbook to
raise a demon.

WINTER
I don't know.

JEZ
Come on, it'll be fun.

Draven takes a long swig of the absinthe.

DRAVEN
Sure. Why the fuck not.

Jez GRINS and starts to take out spellcasting supplies from
her bag: candles, chalk, a rooster foot...

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NIGHT

Gilroy, Dan, Jennifer, Donna and Billy are SCANNING the woods
with their phones in an isolated copse.

ON GILROY'S PHONE we can see the augmented reality of a cute,
CATLIKE CREATURE in animated-style, with the actual forest
visible behind it.

Gilroy SWIPES on the screen, and the creature VANISHES IN AN
ANIMATED SPLASH OF ORANGE.

The creature is replaced by a GRAPHIC that reads "Popper banished - 100 XP." Simultaneously, the phone DINGS with a unique EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED SOUND.

DAN
Anything good?

GILROY
Nah, just another Catalith.

Jennifer and Donna, who are keeping themselves slightly removed from the boys, smile and giggle as Jennifer's phone dings with the EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED SOUND.

JENNIFER
I just got a Kangasaur!

DAN
Fuck me, those things are five hundred XP!

DONNA
Suck it, losers. We're kicking your ass at this game.

Just then, Gary and Lisette enter the clearing. Gary has the look of a cat about to toy with a bunch of little mice.

When everyone sees the pair, they freeze. They all recognize Gary and Lisette, and know they're trouble.

GARY
Well, well, what do we have here?
A bunch of little losers playing their little loser game.

Lisette SQUEEZES Gary's arm and grins in anticipation.

JENNIFER
What do you want, Gary?

GARY
I'm glad you asked. I was just saying to Lisette that I was feeling left out. Everyone's having fun playing this game on their phones, except for me. And Lisette said...

LISETTE
Maybe there's a game you can have fun with.

Gary whirls on Lisette, pointing threateningly at her. She immediately shuts up. Gary turns back to the group, who are frozen in place.

GARY

She said, maybe there's a game that I could have fun with. I just need to find the right kids to play it with.

Gary caresses Donna's face with the back of his hand. She shudders in disgust.

GARY (CONT'D)

I'm definitely thinking of one game that would be fun to play.

Billy takes a step towards Gary.

BILLY

Hey, leave her alone, or I'll...

Billy shuts up when Gary produces a SWITCHBLADE. Gary turns on Billy.

GARY

Or you'll what? Or you'll what?

Billy says nothing.

GARY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I didn't think so.

Gary takes Billy's phone and hurls it into the woods.

GILROY

That's not cool.

GARY

What, you feel bad for your little boyfriend?

Gary PUSHES Gilroy to the ground.

GARY (CONT'D)

If you love him so much, why don't you kiss him?

Gary grabs Gilroy by the hair on the back of his head, and forces Gilroy towards Billy. At the same time, a grinning Lisette pushes Billy towards Gilroy.

GARY (CONT'D)

Come on, kiss!

Gary and Lisette force Billy and Gilroy's faces together, until their lips are mashed up against each other. Gary and Lisette laugh cruelly.

Dan, Donna and Jennifer look away.

GARY (CONT'D)
 Aw, how sweet. Isn't that sweet,
 Lisette? The two little butt
 buddies in love.

The SOUNDS OF OTHER PORTAL POPPER PLAYERS can be heard coming
 closer.

GARY (CONT'D)
 Well this was fun. We're going to
 head off, but maybe we can play
 some other games later.

Gary gives a lascivious wink to Donna and then he and Lisette
 disappear into the woods.

Dan rushes over to Gilroy and Billy. Gilroy wipes away
 tears.

DAN
 Are you guys OK?

GILROY
 Yeah. Assholes.

Billy, looking numb, heads off in the direction that Gary
 threw his phone.

BILLY
 I'm going to go find my phone.

JENNIFER
 Gary and Lisette are total cunts.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT

In another part of the woods, Ken diligently hunts for
 Popperz, staring at his phone and MUTTERING to himself.

KEN
 Given historic distribution of high-
 level Popperz, the algorithm
 clearly indicates that I would
 likely find them...

Head buried in his phone, Ken BUMPS into the bespectacled
 MARVIN(12), one of the members of his scout troop who was
 similarly engrossed in his phone. Marvin is dressed in his
 scout uniform.

KEN (CONT'D)
 Marvin!

MARVIN
 Mister Gonzalez?

KEN
We're not at a troop meeting,
Marvin. You can call me Ken.

MARVIN
(unsure)
Okay.

KEN
Why are you in your uniform?

MARVIN
I'm working on my Portal Popperz
merit badge. And my study of the
algorithm for the game app suggests
that I would find some rarer
Popperz in this direction.

Marvin points off into the woods.

KEN
I knew there was a reason I liked
you Marvin. We're going to get you
that merit badge tonight.

MARVIN
We?

KEN
I'm certainly not going to let down
my favorite scout when he has the
opportunity to benefit from my
experience.

MARVIN
But Ken, I'd really rather...

Ken waggles a finger.

KEN
Ah ah. Mister Gonzalez. Now, the
first thing we need to figure out
is which Popperz you're trying to
find. As Sun Tzu said, "He will
win who knows how to handle both
superior and inferior forces."

Marvin's shoulders slump in defeat as Ken leads him away.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PATH - NIGHT

Dottie cheerfully hikes through the woods, searching this way
and that for Popperz. A GRUMBLING Brian trudges behind.

BRIAN

It's awfully chilly out here. I don't think this weather is doing you any good, especially at this hour.

DOTTIE

Stop being such a pussy, Brian. Ooh! There's one!

Dottie finds a Popper and presses a button on her phone. Her phone flashes "It Got Away!" and plays a unique TONE.

BRIAN

You're not even playing the game right...you're supposed to banish the Popperz, not let them go.

DOTTIE

They're so darned cute I don't want to do anything mean to them.

BRIAN

Dottie, I just think you should be home, where you can be warm and comfortable.

DOTTIE

You sure it isn't you that wants to be all nice and cozy before the fire? Listen up, Brian. The "Big C" isn't going to kill me any faster just because I'm out on a brisk spring night. And I'm having fun. So you can just shut up and indulge your old auntie Dottie.

Brian smiles wryly...he knows when he's been beaten.

BRIAN

Hell, it's not like I was getting any other action tonight.

Brian follows after Dottie, a bit more spring in his step.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - BUSHES - NIGHT

On his hands and knees, Billy reaches deep into a bush. His expression brightens as he pulls out his cell phone.

BILLY

Yes!

Billy unlocks the phone and the Portal Popperz game appears on the screen.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - NIGHT

Jez completes a ritual circle using CHALK DUST. Candles burn at all the points of the PENTAGRAM within the circle.

WINTER

What now?

JEZ

Now I just need to recite the spell.

Jez opens up the spellbook to a page marked with a POST-IT NOTE. She reads from the passage with theatrical gravity.

JEZ (CONT'D)

In darkest midnight, in dankest moon, hear our call, o Satan! Take this, our sacrifice, that you may come walk among us, and guide us in your infernal glory!

Jez starts to speak in Latin, and her voice takes on a deep, otherworldly quality.

JEZ (CONT'D)

Caelo terraque plura sunt quam mente concipere tua potest philosophia!

An excited Jez RIPS OFF HER TOP, revealing her supple breasts and pierced nipples. A now-smearred LIPSTICK PENTAGRAM adorns the center of her chest.

Just then, Billy enters the area, glued to his cell phone. Everyone jumps at this sudden intrusion.

WINTER

Fuck!

A surprised Billy suddenly looks up, tripping on a tree root. He flies forward, and his head lands RIGHT BETWEEN JEZ' BREASTS.

Jez SCREAMS. Billy, his voice even higher than Jez, also SCREAMS.

JEZ

Ah! Get him off!

Billy's face is still buried in Jez' breasts, and we see why...JEZ' NIPPLE PIERCING IS STUCK IN BILLY'S BRACES!

Billy pulls away, but he's still stuck, stretching out Jez' breast.

Suddenly, Billy SNAPS FREE! Jez and Billy both go flying backwards in opposite directions.

Billy's head HITS A JAGGED ROCK, and Billy collapses in the circle, his cell phone dropping from his hand and BREAKING on the ground. Billy lies in the circle, eyes rolled up in his head and body twitching. A POOL OF BLOOD seeps from his head.

Billy's cell phone screen has cracked from the fall, but we can see the PORTAL POPPERZ GAME still active behind the spiderweb of broken glass. As the pool of blood from Billy's head makes contact with the phone, it SPARKS.

ROZZ

Oh fuck oh fuck oh fuck.

Rozz grabs the topless Jez and runs.

Draven is looking at the dying boy with fascination. Finally, something interesting in this existential hell of a life. Winter grabs his arm.

WINTER

Come on Draven, we have to get out of here.

DRAVEN

Yeah.

Draven and Winter run after Rozz and Jez, leaving the dying Billy. Billy's phone SHORTS OUT AND DIES.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NIGHT

Gilroy and Dan hunt for Popperz, their eyes glued to the phones. Dan excitedly looks up at Gilroy.

DAN

Holy fuck, a level 3 Grunderher!
Billy's going to be pissed he missed out on this one.

Dan moves in the direction indicated by the game. The screen shows the trees and brush as he moves closer, and then...A PAIR OF GLOWING RED EYES looking out of the undergrowth at him. These look *real*, not the cartoon version from the game.

Dan moves the phone away and looks in the same direction.

Nothing.

He brings the phone back up, and the red eyes reappear.

DAN (CONT'D)

Gil, you have to see this!

Gilroy comes over, his phone held out before him.

GILROY

See what?

Dan looks back at his phone. The eyes are gone.

DAN

It was right there! Glowing red eyes!

GILROY

Yeah, right. Sure you haven't been drinking too much Mountain Dew? You get kinda twitchy.

DAN

Whatever fuckwad. I know what I saw.

The brush RUSTLES from where Dan saw the red eyes. Both boys freeze as they stare at the brush.

Suddenly Jennifer and Donna appear from behind a tree. Dan and Gilroy JUMP.

JENNIFER

Sorry, didn't mean to surprise you.

DAN

Oh hey, Jennifer. Donna.

Dan smiles widely at Donna.

DONNA

I was hunting a Grunderher and lost track of it.

DAN

Me too. Someone else must have banished it.

JENNIFER

Hey...Gilroy, right? From second period?

GILROY

(blushing)
Yeah.

Dan puts his arms around Jennifer and Gilroy's shoulders.

DAN

Let's go get us some fucking Popperz!

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT

Straying from his friends, a TEENAGER tracks a Popper on his phone. He sees it in some nearby bushes, and slowly approaches. On his screen, he gets ready to banish the Popper when...

SOMETHING INVISIBLE YANKS HIM OFF HIS FEET AND DRAGS HIM INTO THE BUSHES!

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PARKING AREA - NIGHT

Sheriff Bennett leans against his patrol car, watching with disgust as people run around with their phones out playing Portal Popperz.

BENNETT

I tell you Jones, this is just sad.
Bunch of grown men and women
chasing around after imaginary
monsters. Back in my day, I'd be
getting laid on a Saturday night,
not playing some namby pamby game.

Bennett glances over at Rashida, who hasn't moved, but also has her phone out and is playing.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

Fer chrissakes rookie, you're on
duty. Get rid of that phone.

Bennett grabs Rashida's cell phone and TOSSES IT INTO THE PATROL CAR.

RASHIDA

Hell Bennett, it's not like
anything's going on out here.
People are just playing the game
and having a good, wholesome
Saturday night.

Just then, a MOSTLY NAKED JEZ RUNS BY, with the other Goths close behind. They move as if the devil was at their heels.

BENNETT

You were saying?

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - SAME TIME

Gilroy, Dan, Jennifer and Donna enter the clearing. Jennifer and Donna pull up short as they suddenly find Billy's body laying still in front of them. The scene is still lit by candles and the firepit.

Gilroy isn't paying any attention and trips on the SAME TREE ROOT that Billy did earlier, and falls next to Billy's body, right in the now large puddle of blood.

GILROY

What the hell is thi...

Gilroy looks from the blood on him, to the obviously dead body of Billy. His eyes grow wide as the panic inside him mounts, and his breathing comes fast and shallow.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PARKING AREA - SAME TIME

GILROY'S SCREAM sounds from the direction the Goths were running from.

BENNETT

What the fresh hell now? Come on.

Bennett and Rashida jog off towards the fire pit area.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - MOMENTS LATER

Bennett and Rashida emerge from the undergrowth to find a blood-soaked Gilroy, in shock, sitting in the pool of Billy's blood.

Several LOOKIE-LOOS have gathered, milling about and staring at the body. They include Dottie, Brian, Lisette and Gary.

BENNETT

Ah, fuck me. Alright everyone, this is a crime scene. Move back.

Bennett notices Gary.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

Except for you. Gary Henderson, as I live and breathe. You haven't been a guest in my jail for at least what, a week? Funny to see you here at the scene of a crime.

GARY

Fuck off Bennett. I heard some girl screaming and came to see what it was. Turned out it was this little dipshit.

Gary indicates Gilroy with his thumb.

BENNETT

Deputy.

Rashida goes over to Gilroy, who's still in shock. Dan hovers worriedly, and Jennifer and Donna look frightened and sick.

RASHIDA

Anyone have some tissues or a handkerchief?

Jennifer produces a travel-sized packet of tissues and hands it to Rashida. Rashida starts cleaning Gilroy's face.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

It's going to be okay. What's your name?

LISETTE

Gilroy.

RASHIDA

Listen Gilroy, we need to know what happened here.

DAN

We found Billy like this.

RASHIDA

You know this kid?

Gilroy nods.

GILROY

He's in school with us. Was. Was in school with us.

Bennett hauls Gary and Lisette over to a nearby log.

BENNETT

You two. Sit. Stay.

Bennett unclips the 2-WAY RADIO from his belt and speaks into it.

BENNETT (CONT'D)

Dispatch, this is Sheriff Bennett. We need an ambulance and more officers out here in Hangman's Woods. Copy?

Bennett is met with STATIC. He switches channels on his radio and tries again.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
Dispatch do you copy?

More STATIC.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
(slapping the radio)
Piece of junk.

Rashida unclips her 2-way radio and tries it.

RASHIDA
Dispatch, this is Officer Rashida
Jones. Do you copy?

STATIC. Rashida gives Bennett a puzzled look.

BENNETT
Alright, enough of this bullshit.

Bennett raises his voice, addressing all the bystanders.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
Your stupid fairy game is over.
Everyone except for these two
miscreants...

Bennett indicates Gary and Lisette.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
...is to return to their homes,
right now.

No one moves, just shuffles about.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
(booming)
What are you waiting for, an
engraved invitation? Get the fuck
out of here!

Everyone runs off into the woods, leaving Bennett and Rashida alone with Gary, Lisette and the body of Billy.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
Officer Jones, you're in charge of
making sure everyone clears these
woods.

(MORE)

BENNETT (CONT'D)

Go back to the patrol car and call for assistance, maybe the radio there will work. I'll keep an eye on these two suspects.

Bennett CLAPS his hands at Rashida.

RASHIDA

Shouldn't I stay with you? There might be a killer on the loose.

BENNETT

I know you're still wet behind the ears from the academy, but does this look like a murder scene to you?

RASHIDA

Well, the satanic symbols suggest...

BENNETT

Get some hustle in those boots, rook! I'm sure I can manage to take care of these two until you get back.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - CLEARING - NIGHT

Dan, Gilroy, Donna and Jennifer walk towards the parking area, in a shocked daze.

GILROY

I can't believe Billy's dead.

DAN

I know. How fucked up is that?

Gilroy GLARES at Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

What? What the fuck am I supposed to say?

JENNIFER

It is pretty fucked up.

DONNA

He creeped me out.

The other three STARE at Donna.

DONNA (CONT'D)

What? It's not like I'm saying he deserved to die. He didn't. But the way he would stare at me and Jennifer...it's like you could tell all the perverted thoughts running through his head.

JENNIFER

I've got to back Donna on this one. He always made me nervous. But definitely sucks that he's dead.

DONNA

Definitely.

DAN

Definitely.

GILROY

Yeah, he was kind of a creep. Still...yeah.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PARKING AREA - NIGHT

While some people are still trying to play Portal Popperz, the Looky-Loos are somberly heading towards their cars and leaving.

LOOKY-LOOS

(various)

He's dead! So much blood. The horror, the horror!

Rashida calls out to the crowd.

RASHIDA

Everyone please proceed to your vehicles in an orderly fashion. There's nothing to worry about.

Rashida moves in the direction of the PARKED PATROL CAR.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - NIGHT

Bennett, with flashlight in hand, finds one of the Goth's absinthe bottles, still half-full. He opens it, sniffs, then takes a swig. He promptly SPITS OUT the liquor.

BENNETT

Ugh. What the hell is this crap?

GARY

Beats me. I'm a malt liquor man, myself.

BENNETT

You think you're so smart, don't you, Gary? You and your little skank here.

LISETTE

Hey!

BENNETT

Ever since you were a teenager, you've been causing trouble in Empty Creek. But always small stuff. Enough to be a nuisance, but not enough to keep you locked up. But guess what, Gary. This time you didn't just screw the pooch, you went and put a bun in its oven.

Some of Gary's cockiness evaporates as he realizes that shit, he might be in some real trouble.

GARY

Look, Sheriff, I was telling you the truth. Me and Lisette were just fucking around in the woods when we heard that kid scream. We didn't do nothing.

BENNETT

Didn't do nothing. You realize you just said you did something, right, you illiterate sumnabitch?

GARY

What, you're going to arrest me for bad grammar?

BENNETT

No, I'm going to arrest you for murder.

Bennett discovers the open SPELL BOOK. He puts an evidence glove on, and picks up the book.

Using his pen, he flips the book closed, and sees the satanic symbols on the cover.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
 (shaking head)
 Fucking degenerates.

Bennett tosses the book to Gary, who reflexively catches it.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
 Guess now I don't have to wonder if
 I'm going to find your prints at
 the crime scene.

Gary DROPS THE BOOK like it was on fire.

LISETTE
 You can't get away with this. I'll
 tell the judge you framed Gary!

BENNETT
 And who do you think the court's
 going to believe? Me? Or the
 little twat that's been causing
 trouble with her boyfriend for
 years?

The sound of a TWIG SNAPPING immediately alerts Bennett. His head whips over to the bushes, which RUSTLE as if someone was hiding within.

Bennett unclips his holster and draws his pistol, sighting down the barrel at the rustling bush.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
 Step out with your hands where I
 can see them.

A BUNNY RABBIT hops out of the bushes. Bennett LAUGHS nervously as he reholsters his gun.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 Good thing that black piece of ass
 wasn't here to see me make a fool
 of myself.

Bennett's jaw drops as the bunny is suddenly YANKED INTO THE BUSHES by something invisible.

BENNETT (CONT'D)
 What the hell?

Gary and Lisette seize their opportunity and take off quietly. Bennett, focused on the bush, ignores them.

Bennett moves closer to the bushes, peering in. A POOL OF BLOOD pours out from the bush.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - DIRT LOT - NIGHT

Gilroy, Dan, Donna and Jennifer head to the bikes chained up in the lot.

GILROY

Do you girls want to ride home with us on our bikes?

DONNA

We came in my car.

JENNIFER

We can give you and Dan a ride home if you want.

Just before they reach the bikes, something unseen WARPS THE BIKE FRAMES. The foursome come to a skidding halt.

Donna SCREAMS.

DAN

Fuck me!

There are SCREAMS of terror and agony all around as various people are bloodily DISMEMBERED, EVISCERATED AND EATEN by unseen forces. It's D-Day on Omaha Beach.

DAN (CONT'D)

FUCK! ME!

Dan, Gilroy, Jennifer and Donna run and leap past the dead and the dying.

DAN (CONT'D)

I told you I saw something!

GILROY

(gasping for breath)

This is no time for I told you so's!

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - PARKING AREA - NIGHT

Rashida is still trying to clear the crowd as she heads to the patrol car.

RASHIDA

Everyone move along and head home.

A HEADPHONES-WEARING TEEN bops his head to a rhythm as he ignores Rashida, fixated on the game.

Rashida reaches for his headphones.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Sir, I'm going to have to ask you to...

Suddenly, an INVISIBLE FORCE RIPS THE TEEN APART in front of her eyes, showering Rashida with an arterial spray! Rashida falls back on her ass.

Rashida gets back to her feet. Carnage is happening all around her. She TAKES A LONG, SHUDDERING BREATH.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

(to self)

You can do this, Rashida.

Near her, a FREAKED-OUT WOMAN with badly shaking hands fumbles with her car keys at her car door. She DROPS THE KEYS on the ground and they bounce under the car.

FREAKED-OUT WOMAN

Oh god.

The woman gets on her knees and frantically feels for the keys. She cracks a smile as she finds the keys, but the smile turns to horror as she starts to get dragged under the car.

FREAKED-OUT WOMAN (CONT'D)

Someone help me!

She tries to hold onto the bottom of the car frame, but loses her battle and disappears under the car. A moment later and a huge splash of BLOOD AND VISCERA shoots out from underneath the car, as if she'd gone through a high speed grinder.

RASHIDA

(to self)

You'd better fucking do this!

Rashida races to the parked PATROL CAR.

She opens the door and reaches for the radio, but the radio IS RIPPED TO SHREDS BY SOME UNSEEN FORCE.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Shit!

Rashida reaches for the shotgun. Suddenly, SOMETHING INVISIBLE IS PULLING AND BITING AT HER JACKET!

Rashida struggles with the zipper, and finally opens the jacket, pulling free.

The jacket moves away seemingly of its own accord for several yards, and then EXPLODES in a flurry of feathers.

Rashida cautiously moves a safe distance away from the patrol car. She CALLS OUT.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Everyone! Back, get back into the woods!

Rashida runs into the woods.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - DIRT LOT - NIGHT

Rashida comes running up to Gilroy, Jennifer, Dan and Donna.

RASHIDA

You four. Follow me! Hurry!

Rashida leads them deeper into the woods.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NATURE TRAIL - NIGHT

Ken and Marvin are walking along the nature trail, playing Portal Popperz. There are SCREAMS sounding in the distance.

MARVIN

What's going on, Mister Gonzalez?

KEN

I don't know, but whatever it is, it doesn't sound good. We should get the hell out of here.

MARVIN

Maybe people are hurt. The scout oath says we should help other people at all times.

KEN

We need to help ourselves before we
can help others, Marvin.

Marvin is YANKED OFF HIS FEET by something invisible. He
gets dragged backwards, struggling all the way.

MARVIN

Mister Gonzalez!

Ken leaps and GRABS MARVIN'S HAND. The dragging momentarily
stops.

KEN

I've got you, Marvin.

The dragging resumes, with Ken moving along with Marvin.

MARVIN

Don't let go!

KEN

Just hold on!

As the pair are dragged, Ken spies a SMALL TREE off to the
side. He angles himself towards the tree and wraps his arm
around the trunk.

Ken and Marvin's momentum is halted, but the pulling
continues. Ken squeezes his eyes shut with the strain,
YELLING incoherently.

KEN (CONT'D)

YAAAAAAAHH!

Abruptly, the pulling stops. Ken tumbles back from the tree,
relieved until he realizes that he holds onto MARVIN'S
DISMEMBERED ARM and Marvin is nowhere to be seen.

Ken freaks out, trying to get rid of Marvin's arm which has a
literal deathgrip on his hand. Finally, Ken extricates
himself, and takes off running.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NIGHT

Dottie and Brian walk back towards the house. Brian regards
the HYSTERICAL PEOPLE that run past nervously.

DOTTIE

What's with all the commotion?
You'd think people had never seen a
dead body before.

BRIAN
I don't like this, Dottie. Maybe
we should hurry up.

DOTTIE
Oh, quit yer bellyaching. We'll
get home when we get home.

Just then, a SOBBING MIDDLE-AGED MAN gets ripped apart right
in front of Brian and Dottie.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
On the other hand...run!

Brian and Dottie run away as fast as they can.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FIREPIT - NIGHT

Bennett still has his gun trained on the bush, but the bush
isn't moving.

Rashida rushes into the area, trailed by Gilroy, Dan,
Jennifer and Donna. There is no more screaming.

Rashida has the wild-eyed look of a trapped animal.

RASHIDA
Oh thank God sheriff. I don't know
what the hell's going on here, but
we need to get the fuck out of
these woods!

Bennett keeps his eyes peeled on the bush. Rashida realizes
that Bennett is alone.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)
Where are Gary and Lisette?

BENNETT
Gone. Don't matter. There's
something weird in this bush, here.
What was all that screaming I heard
earlier?

RASHIDA
There's something killing people.
Something we can't see.

Just then, the bush RUSTLES again. Everyone's eyes turn
towards it.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Oh shit.

Gilroy has an epiphany. He pulls out his smartphone and points it in the direction of the bush.

On the screen, SEVERAL SETS OF GLOWING RED EYES peer out from the rustling bush.

GILROY

Guys, look through the Popperz game camera! You can see them on your phone!

Everyone except Bennett and Rashida pulls out their phones and looks through them, shock and horror growing on their faces as they see the glowing eyes.

DAN

Hah! I fucking told you I saw that, Gilroy!

Bennett COCKS the hammer on his pistol. Rashida draws her gun.

RASHIDA

What. The hell.

The bush EXPLODES with flying leaves!

The sheriff SCREAMS as his throat is ripped open. Rashida's face is splattered in a fountain of arterial blood.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Run!

The rest need no encouragement and take off into the woods, away from both the firepit and the parking area.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - SECLUDED PARKING SPOT - NIGHT

Gary is almost to his truck, Lisette following close behind him. He unlocks the truck remotely, and the loud BEEP BEEP in the unnatural quiet makes Lisette jump.

Gary gets into the truck and starts up the engine, and puts it in reverse. As he checks the rear view mirror, Lisette gets into the passenger seat.

LISETTE
Thanks for waiting. Asshole.

The entire truck starts ROCKING VIOLENTLY.

Gary and Lisette gape as THE HOOD OF THE TRUCK BUCKLES LIKE PAPER BEING CRUMPLED. Lisette GRABS Gary's arm painfully.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
Do something!

Gary gives Lisette a dumbfounded look.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
Call 911!

Gary pulls out his phone and hits the call button, but the PORTAL POPPERZ APP launches instead. He tries again, but gets the same result.

A befuddled Gary turns to Lisette, holding the phone out before him.

GARY
I can't make any calls, it just keeps launching Portal...Popperz...

Gary's jaw drops in surprise.

ON THE SCREEN he can see a HIDEOUS FANGED CREATURE balanced on the passenger side door in the open window next to Lisette. This is a PORTAL POPPER, the first we get a clear view of. Lisette is unaware of the creature.

LISETTE
What?

The Portal Popper GRABS LISETTE'S ARM AND BITES DOWN.

LISETTE (CONT'D)
Motherfucker!

Seen without the phone's camera, blood pours out of BITE MARKS that appear on her arm.

GARY
Shit shit shit!

Gary swings open the driver's side door and scrambles out of the truck, grabbing the SHOTGUN from the shotgun rack as he does.

Gary SLAMS the truck door shut and takes off running.

Lisette scrambles out of the passenger side door and runs after Gary, clutching her bleeding arm.

LISETTE
Motherfucker!

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NIGHT

Dottie and Brian run through the woods. Dottie is having trouble keeping up.

DOTTIE
(panting)
I chose the wrong day to give up
running.

BRIAN
Today?

DOTTIE
More like fifty years ago.

Rashida, Gilroy, Dan, Jennifer and Donna appear, running. Dottie beckons them over.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
Oh thank goodness. Officer,
something funny is going on out
here.

BRIAN
The queen of the understatement.

RASHIDA
Is it just the two of you? We need
to find someplace safe.

DOTTIE
My house isn't far. We were just
headed that way.

JENNIFER
Oh thank God.

RASHIDA
Let's move it people. Ma'am, lead
the way.

As they start to move off, Donna TWISTS HER ANKLE and goes down hard. Jennifer goes to help her up, but SOMETHING INVISIBLE slams Donna flat, as if it had landed on her.

Jennifer looks through her phone and sees a DROOLING SIX-ARMED POPPER with its sharp claws sunk into Donna's back.

JENNIFER

Help her!

RASHIDA

What's happening?

Donna SCREAMS AS THE POPPER SHREDS FIRST HER SHIRT, THEN THE SKIN OF HER BACK. It rips Donna open right to the spine.

Gilroy is rapidly scanning the area around them, and he can see Popperz at a distance, moving through the woods towards them.

Gilroy takes Jennifer's hand.

GILROY

There's more coming. We need to get out of here!

BRIAN

This way. We're almost back to the house.

RASHIDA

What the hell is going on here?

The group runs.

EXT. HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Rashida, Gilroy, Jennifer, Dan, Dottie and Brian emerge from the woods to see an old but well cared for HOUSE and CORN FIELD down the hill. On another side of the corn field is a BARN.

Dottie sits on a stump, panting.

DOTTIE

I'm not gonna make it. Go on without me.

BRIAN

Get up, you cantankerous old bat. I didn't come all the way out from New York just to watch you give up.

DOTTIE

If I wasn't so tired, I'd give you a whooping for speaking to me like that.

There is RUSTLING in the trees behind them.

RASHIDA

We've got to go.

Rashida and the rest of the group start running down the hill. Brian GRABS Dottie in both hands.

DOTTIE

Hey, what are you...

Brian HOISTS DOTTIE INTO A FIREMAN'S CARRY and runs down the hill with the others. Dottie BOUNCES on Brian's back.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

It'll serve you right if I throw up all down your back!

EXT. CORN FIELD - NIGHT

Brian catches up with Rashida just as they enter the corn field.

BRIAN

Stay close. It's easy to get lost in here, especially at night.

The group makes their way through a row of the corn field, heading towards the house. After some tense progress, they see CORN FLYING INTO THE AIR, as if something was crashing through the corn field headed directly towards the group.

Gilroy is SIDESWIPE BY SOMETHING INVISIBLE, and the straps of his backpack are severed as the backpack goes flying several feet off.

More corn starts flying into the air as SOMETHING reverses direction and heads back towards Gilroy.

GILROY

Shit! Come on.

Gilroy, clutching Jennifer's hand, ducks down a row perpendicular to the one they were in.

THE BARN is visible at the end of the row, and Gilroy and Jennifer dash towards it.

The flying corn CHANGES DIRECTION, now headed towards Rashida's group. Rashida and the others run pell mell through the corn, husks slapping against them as they try to escape whatever is pursuing them.

DOTTIE
Ow! Slow down!

Dottie looks back at the exploding corn behind her. She urgently PATS Brian's shoulder, urging him on.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
A little faster sweetie!

EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Gilroy tries to pull open the barn door. It won't move!

GILROY
It must be locked.

Suddenly, a HAND falls on Gilroy's shoulder. He jumps and Jennifer SHRIEKS.

Reveal that it's Ken, sweaty and dishevelled from running.

KEN
Slide, don't pull.

Ken SLIDES THE DOOR OPEN, and the trio hustle inside.

EXT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Rashida's group emerges from the corn field not far from the house, where a BUG ZAPPER glows blue on the porch.

Brian, Dottie and Dan scramble onto the porch, Rashida bringing up the rear.

Rashida whirls and FIRES BLINDLY into the corn field at their unseen pursuer. The shots seem to have no effect.

Dan holds up his phone just in time to see a LARGE POPPER burst out of the corn field, leaping at Rashida's head.

DAN
Duck!

Rashida drops to the ground and the Popper sails over her, landing RIGHT ON DAN'S HEAD.

Dan blindly struggles with the Popper, stumbling about and trying to pull off the invisible creature which has a death grip on him.

DAN (CONT'D)
Get it off!

Dottie watches through her phone, where we can see the Popper gripping Dan's head.

DOTTIE
Oh my.

Dottie hits RECORD on her phone.

Finally, Dan stumbles blindly into the bug zapper. With a CRACKLE OF ENERGY the Popper is electrocuted and falls, twitching, from Dan's head.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Ken closes the barn doors. There is no latch inside. Gilroy feels around and finds a LIGHT SWITCH. There is a CLICK, and a dim light bulb hanging in the center of the barn flickers to life.

Gilroy and Jennifer quickly scan the immediate surroundings with his phone.

KEN
(hushed)
What are you doing?

GILROY
We can see those things through our phones.

KEN
You've got to be kidding me.

GILROY
(to Jennifer)
Do you see anything?

JENNIFER
No, you?

GILROY
No.

They put away their phones. Now that she's got a moment to breathe, Jennifer loses it, crying uncontrollably. She slumps to the floor.

JENNIFER

Oh god, Donna!

Gilroy wants to comfort her, but he's not sure how. He starts to walk to her, but Ken grabs his arm.

KEN

We need to find something to secure the door!

Gilroy nods, and looks around. He lights on a RUSTY CHAIN AND PADLOCK which he brings over.

GILROY

What about this?

Ken wraps it through the handles as best he can. He LOCKS the padlock and POCKETS THE KEY.

KEN

That's a start. But we need to find things we can stack up against the door. Build a barricade.

JENNIFER

(wiping back tears)

Do you think we'll be safe in here?

KEN

Well it's not the walls of Constantinople, but I think we can make a defensible position.

GILROY

If we just hole up in here and wait for someone to come help us, I'm sure we'll be fine.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT

Brian pulls apart a WOODEN CHEST, handing pieces of wood to Dan, who frantically nails them into place over a window. As he works, small BREAKS IN THE GLASS occur where Popperz are trying to get in.

Dottie, looking at the Popperz through her phone, beats the Popperz off with a broom.

Rashida works on boarding up another window. She doesn't use her phone, but when the glass breaks, she swings the hammer at the holes in the glass. When she does so, there are SOUNDS OF THE HAMMER HITTING FLESH, and INHUMAN SHRIEKS.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

There are now bales of hay and crates piled up against the barn doors. Jennifer, knees pressed up against her chest, sits against the wall.

SOUNDS OF SCRATCHING at the barn door have everyone on edge.

Ken paces about the floor.

KEN

This is just like the Siege of Vicksburg. Well, except for the fact that the Union soldiers weren't invisible monsters, of course. Ugh does that make us the Confederates? That's unfortunate. Well, that, plus the fact that the Confederate army wasn't able to hold out against General Grant. That's not good for us.

Gilroy confronts Ken.

GILROY

If we just try to hold out we're going to get swarmed and overtaken. That's how it always works in the games I play. You have to keep pushing forward to the objective, otherwise the game keeps respawning the same enemies to fight you over and over.

Ken and Gilroy are both stunned as Jennifer SHOUTS at them.

JENNIFER

Will you two shut the hell up!
This isn't some historical battle that took place hundreds of years ago, or a videogame you play on your Xbox. People died out there!
(to Ken)
People you worked with.
(to Gilroy)
People we went to school with. My best friend just got killed, for fuck's sake!

KEN

You should be happy. It could have been you.

Gilroy glares at Ken.

GILROY

Dude.

Ken shrugs.

Suddenly there is MOVEMENT at the back of the barn, SHADOWS shifting against the wall behind some farm equipment. Jennifer and Gilroy freeze.

Ken grabs a HOE from the wall. Motioning for Gilroy and Jennifer to be quiet, he creeps up to the farm equipment and raises the hoe, ready to strike.

After a tense moment, Gary and Lisette emerge from behind the farm equipment. The hoe BURIES INTO THE WALL right next to Gary's head. Gary places the shotgun under Ken's chin.

GARY

What the fuck man? You could have killed me.

Ken raises his arms in surrender.

KEN

I'm sorry. I thought you were one of those things.

GARY

So you've seen them too?

KEN

Yes. Uh, do you think you could...?

Ken points to the gun pressed under his chin.

GARY

Whatever.

Gary releases the pressure of the gun against Ken, but keeps it pointed at him. Gary notices Jennifer and Gilroy.

GARY (CONT'D)

Oh great, it's the little homo and his girlfriend. What a bunch of fucking losers to be stuck with during the apocalypse.

GILROY
You think this is the apocalypse?

GARY
Well it sure as hell ain't a house
party.

Jennifer sees the bite on Lisette's arm. It looks inflamed
and possibly infected.

JENNIFER
Are you OK Lisette? That doesn't
look good.

Lisette self-consciously covers the bite wound with her hand.

LISETTE
I'm fine.

Gary swings the gun over towards Jennifer.

GARY
Hey. Stop hassling my girlfriend.
Just stay over there and shut the
fuck up.

GILROY
Who the hell put you in charge?

GARY
Oh finally growing some balls, huh
little man?

Gary points the gun at Gilroy's crotch.

GARY (CONT'D)
Be a shame to lose them.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Brian checks the heavy locks and latch on the front door, and
then joins the others in the KITCHEN.

Dottie pours tea for the group. They sit around the
breakfast table, huddled and nervous like animals.

DAN
Do you have any soda?

Dottie glares pointedly at Brian.

DOTTIE

Sorry, I don't. According to someone I know it causes cancer.

BRIAN

What the hell is going on?

DOTTIE

Well sweetie, it seems like invisible monsters are trying to murder us. But I'm just an old lady, what do I know.

BRIAN

That's impossible. This can't be happening.

RASHIDA

Impossible or not, something's killing people. So deal with it.

Rashida tries her 2-way radio again.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Dispatch, do you read.

STATIC.

She switches off the radio in disgust.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Dammit. Any of you have any luck on your cell phones?

DAN

All I can get on my phone is Portal Popperz.

BRIAN

No calls, no internet...just that game. I never even downloaded it, and that's all I can get on my phone!

DAN

That's fucking insane.

DOTTIE

I, um, might have downloaded the game onto your phone. Sorry.

BRIAN

Aunt Dottie!

DAN

Ok, so it's just a tiny bit less insane. Still totally batshit fucking insane, just not mega ultimate totally batshit fucking insane.

RASHIDA

Dottie, do you have a land line? Maybe that will work.

DOTTIE

Land lines are for old people that don't know how to use cell phones.

RASHIDA

Well that's just great. We're completely cut off.

DAN

We are so fucked.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

There is SCRATCHING at the door, but much less. Gary, Ken and Gilroy talk near the barricade, which seems to be working.

Jennifer sits with Lisette. She notices the BITE on Lisette's arm, which now looks inflamed.

GILROY

What happened?

LISETTE

One of those ugly fuckers bit me. It's probably infected.

Lisette scratches her cheek, and a LARGE CHUNK OF SKIN sloughs off her face, revealing a sickly-colored gash.

Jennifer, horrified, scoots away. She CALLS to Gary.

JENNIFER

Uh...I think something's really wrong with your girlfriend.

Gary, Ken and Gilroy all approach her.

LISETTE

What?

JENNIFER

(to Gilroy)

She got bitten by one of those things.

Gilroy takes out his phone, and opens the in-game PORTAL POPPERZ POPCYCLOPEDIA, which lists and describes all of the different Popperz in the game. He pauses on one that looks like a cartoon representation of the Popper that had bit her.

Gilroy holds the phone up to Lisette.

GILROY

Is this what attacked you?

LISETTE

I don't know.

GILROY

I need you to think really hard.

LISETTE

Gary saw it, not me! Leave me alone.

Gilroy shows Gary the picture on his phone.

GILROY

Is this what bit her?

GARY

Yeah. I mean, it didn't look like that cartoon, but it was pretty much the same.

GILROY

This is a Mutago. Its bite causes players to mutate, turning them into Popperz.

GARY

Oh shit, I forgot about those.

KEN

What, so she's going to change into one of those things?

GILROY

Well, that's what happens in the game.

JENNIFER

Is there any way to cure her?

GILROY

Players are stuck that way until
the end of the game round.

Gary walks to a wall holding various FARMING TOOLS. He grabs
a SICKLE.

LISETTE

When's that? I don't want to be a
Popper!

GILROY

Let me check.

Gilroy presses a button on the game app, and a COUNTDOWN
TIMER flashes, "6hr:17min"

GILROY (CONT'D)

Looks like it ends around sunrise.

JENNIFER

Oh god. It's going to go on all
night.

Gary rejoins the group, brandishing the sickle.

GARY

Step aside.

JENNIFER

What the hell.

LISETTE

Gary. Baby, what are you doing?

GARY

Lisette, if you're changing into a
monster, we're all at risk.

GILROY

But she might change back.

GARY

You don't know that!

Ken grabs a PITCHFORK from the wall and squares off against
Gary. Lisette shrinks away from the confrontation.

KEN

Back off man.

GILROY

Everyone just calm down.

Ken's phone plays the BANISHMENT SOUND and his screen shows "300 XP."

JENNIFER

Is it dead?

Ken pokes around with the pitchfork. To the naked eye, he just seems to be poking the ground, but on his phone, he is poking a puddle of VISCOUS ORANGE GOO.

KEN

I'm pretty sure.

Gilroy snatches Ken's phone and examines the screen.

KEN (CONT'D)

Hey!

GILROY

I thought that's what that sound was before. You just got experience for banishing a Popper.

JENNIFER

So you just killed a Popper. A real life Popper.

KEN

This is big. "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." Sun Tzu.

GILROY

"If it bleeds, we can kill it." Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Gary, wincing with pain, interrupts.

GARY

"You two are dipshits." Gary Henderson. Now can someone please help me with this?

Gary points to THE SICKLE EMBEDDED in the meat of his bloody shoulder.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Brian finished NAILING A BOARD across a door to the kitchen. The kitchen window is already boarded up, and Dan checks that they're secure.

Dottie pours out a plastic bin filled with TOOLS AND KNIVES onto the center of the table. Rashida looks at the pile.

 DOTTIE
 These are all the weapons I could
 find in the house.

Rashida picks up a battery-operated HAND MIXER from the pile. She cocks an eyebrow at Dottie.

 RASHIDA
 Really?

Dottie snatches back the mixer.

 DOTTIE
 Hey, I'm trying to think outside
 the box here.

 RASHIDA
 At least we've got some firepower.

 DOTTIE
 What are you packing?

Rashida pulls out her gun and two clips, and lays them on the table next the pile.

 RASHIDA
 Glock and two clips. One's spent.

 DOTTIE
 30 shots? That's it?

 RASHIDA
 Afraid so. I tried to get the
 shotgun from the patrol car, but
 one of those creatures was there.

 DAN
 Let's just hope they don't know how
 to shoot a gun, then.

 BRIAN
 You're joking, right? He's joking?

Dan SHRUGS.

 DOTTIE
 If you kids will excuse me, I need
 to go take my medication.

Dottie leaves the room.

Rashida moves to Brian's side.

RASHIDA

Medication? Is there something wrong with your aunt I should be aware of?

BRIAN

She's got stage four breast cancer. Terminal. It's why I'm here in Empty Creek.

RASHIDA

I'm sorry.

DAN

The way this night is going, she might outlive us all.

Brian and Rashida glare at Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm just sayin'.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The window is already boarded up. Dottie sits in her chair, changing channels on the television. They all show STATIC. She turns off the TV.

SIGHING, Dottie lights up her bong and takes a long hit. She COUGHS VIOLENTLY on the exhale as a STRANGE CHIRPING comes from the fireplace.

Dottie frantically grabs her phone and looks through it at the fireplace. Sitting inside is a small POPPER hiding behind the logs. This is a SEEBU. It is cute in an ugly sort of way...like a Brussels Griffon dog.

DOTTIE

Well aren't you the cutest thing. You're not gonna try and eat me, are you?

The Seebu looks up at Dottie quizzically, with large, endearing eyes.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

Nah, with a face like that I can tell you're a lover, not a fighter. Let's see here...

Dottie has an assortment of SNACKS to fuel her munchies spread across the coffee table. She roots through them, deliberately tossing aside a bag of REESES PIECES.

She finally settles on some GUMMIE BEARS. Dottie lays them out in a trail from her chair to the fireplace, then returns to her chair.

The Seebu cautiously peeks out from behind the logs and grabs a Gummie Bear. It sniffs at it, tastes it, then gobbles it up. The Seebu tosses candy after candy into its mouth until it reaches Dottie.

The Seebu jumps into Dottie's lap and settles in, almost like a cat. Dottie strokes it.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

Aww. I'm gonna call you Ruprecht.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Gary still has the sickle embedded in his shoulder. Jennifer RIPS STRIPS OF FABRIC from a discarded undershirt. Gilroy puts a STICK into Gary's mouth.

GILROY

Here, bite down on this.

KEN

One...two...two and a half...

GARY

(around the stick)

Just do it already!

Ken YANKS THE SICKLE FREE from Ken's shoulder, blood spraying. Gary SPITS THE STICK OUT in surprise. Jennifer moves in with the strips of fabric to use as a bandage on the wound.

KEN

Three.

GARY

Sonafabitch!

JENNIFER

Serves you right for trying to kill your girlfriend.

GARY

You'd better hope she doesn't end up trying to kill all of us like those other things!

GILROY

These things...they're Popperz. From the game.

There's a moment's SILENCE as the group processes this.

GILROY (CONT'D)

It's pretty clear that somehow, no matter how idiotic it may sound, the Portal Popperz have come to life and are attacking.

JENNIFER

Jesus, what am I going to tell Donna's parents? "Sorry Mrs Martin, but your daughter was ripped apart by imaginary monsters from a videogame.

KEN

They look like the Popperz from the game. Hell, I got experience points for killing one.

GILROY

Let's say we're playing out a real life game of Portal Popperz. If we aren't able to banish all the Popperz that have come through the portal before the end of the round, we lose.

LISETTE

Lose? What do you mean, lose?

GILROY

Well, in the game, the Popperz conquer the planet. Here? I don't know. But considering they've been killing people left and right, it can't be anything good.

Crying, Lisette runs off to the back of the barn.

GARY

Well that's just fucking great.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dottie is in her chair, cuddling the Seebu. Rashida and Brian enter the room.

BRIAN

Aunt Dottie, we finished boarding
up the house.

Brian and Rashida pull up short as they see the odd sight of Dottie stroking something invisible in her lap and COOING to it.

RASHIDA

Either your aunt has lost it, or...

Brian pulls out his phone and he and Rashida look through it, seeing the Seebu curled up in Dottie's lap. Rashida whips out her pistol.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

All right Dottie, I want you to
very slowly get up from your
chair...

BRIAN

(panicked)
No, stay right where you are!
(to Rashida)
It might attack if she moves.

Dan comes in, holding a hammer and a box of nails. When he sees the tableau before him, he drops the tools and takes out his phone.

Seeing the Seebu on Dottie's lap, he gets excited.

DAN

Wow! Holy shit. Everyone just
calm down. It's a Seebu.

BRIAN

A what?

DAN

A Seebu. You get them if you catch
and release enough Popperz, instead
of banishing them.

Dottie gives a smug look at Brian.

DOTTIE

Brian here said I was playing the game wrong by doing that. Guess I showed him.

DAN

They're not worth any XP, but in the game they'll protect you from other Popperz.

Brian cautiously approaches Dottie, phone outstretched before him. The Seebu SNARLS PROTECTIVELY at Brian, who jumps back.

BRIAN

You want to maybe tell this thing I'm not a Popper?

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Ken and Gary argue near the door. Nearby sit Gilroy and Jennifer, with Lisette a little ways off from the group.

GARY

Look, it's been awhile and we haven't heard any Popperz. I say we try to make it back into town. Then we can get some weapons, and these motherfuckers will be toast.

KEN

These things seem to be smart. They could just be trying to lull us into a sense of false security. If we leave the barn, then we'd be easy to pick off. We've got a pretty good defensible position here. I say we wait things out. Hopefully by morning, help will arrive.

GARY

(histrionic)

What if there's no help coming? We don't know how far spread these Portal Popperz are. Maybe these things aren't just out here but all over town...hell, all over the world? We have no way of knowing!

KEN

Do you really want to risk everyone's lives by heading out? You just said it yourself...we have no way of knowing just how many of these things are around.

GARY

If you want to stay here waiting to be killed by those things, that's up to you. Me, I'm getting out of here.

Gary starts shoving crates and bales of hay out of the way of the door, revealing the LOCKED CHAIN. Ken grabs his arm.

KEN

What the hell do you think you're doing?

Gary PUNCHES Ken, who falls back onto his ass.

GARY

Who died and made you leader of this sorry group, huh? You think you're some kind of big military strategist but you're just another loser like this one here.

Gary jerks his thumb in Gilroy's direction.

GARY (CONT'D)

And I'm not going to die with a bunch of losers. Now give me the goddamn key to the lock.

Gary raises his fist as if to strike Ken. Gilroy and Jennifer both go to Ken's side.

KEN

No.

BEAT.

GARY

Fine.

Gary turns away from Ken. He grabs the pitchfork and wedges it into the gap in the door. He USES IT LIKE A LEVER, straining against the wood.

The pitchfork handle SNAPS. Gary whirls around to look for something else to use...

...and a FIST CONNECTS WITH HIS FACE. Ken's fist. Gary crumples.

GILROY

Whoa.

Ken picks up the pieces of the pitchfork.

KEN

(sighing)

Great. This idiot destroyed one of the few things we had to fight off the Popperz. Here, let's move the crates back.

Gilroy and Jennifer help Gary. As they do, Gilroy's phone BUZZES. He takes it out.

JENNIFER

What is it?

GILROY

Aw, man. Look.

Gilroy shows Jennifer his phone. There is an ALERT letting him know that there's a Keezaru in the area.

GILROY (CONT'D)

The Keezaru's somewhere here in Empty Creek. Just my luck...the rarest Popper in the game shows up, and we're probably going to get killed tonight. By Popperz.

Ken indicates the unconscious Gary.

KEN

Well if we do die tonight, at least it won't be because of this asshole.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

Brian holds up his phone at the Seebu in Dottie's lap. The two have a stare down, making faces at each other. Brian backs off when the Seebu HISSES warningly at him.

Dan pets the Seebu.

DAN

Wow, it's just like it is in the game. This is so fucked up.

BRIAN

How could a video game come to life?

DAN

Maybe Kaijuko is really working secretly for the government. The Portal Popperz app is just a testing ground for genetically modified monsters to deploy as troops in places like Syria and Afghanistan.

DOTTIE

Now that is a load of horseshit if ever I heard some. Why the hell would some Japanese company want to create monsters for the American military, especially after what we did to them in dubya dubya two? If anything, they'd be dropping some lifesize Godzillas on us as payback.

Rashida checks the boards on the window, to make sure they're secure.

RASHIDA

Everything looks pretty well nailed down.

BRIAN

Girl, relax for a bit. We're safe now.

Rashida puts out a hand to the Seebu. It sniffs it, then LICKS Rashida's hand like a dog.

DOTTIE

Hey, Ruprecht likes you!

BRIAN

Unless he's just checking to see how you taste.

RASHIDA

(concerned)

Dottie, where did you find Ruprecht? I thought we'd looked over the house pretty thoroughly earlier.

DOTTIE

Oh he was hiding in the fireplace.
Poor little guy must have fallen
down the chimney.

BRIAN

You mean the flue's open?

RASHIDA

Oh god.

Just then, a large amount of ASH falls down the chimney, into the fireplace. The Seebu GROWLS at the fireplace.

Everyone scrambles for weapons. Rashida has her gun, Dan retrieves his hammer, and Brian grabs a FIREPLACE POKER. Dottie wields her bong like a sword.

An ARMORED POPPER, curled up into a ball like a pillbug, drops out of the fireplace and rolls into the room. It unfurls, standing on two legs and flashing sharp claws.

BRIAN

Stay back, Dottie!

What follows is a frenetic melee, with the Popper alternately slashing at the group with its claws, then rolling as a ball to chase the group or dodge their attacks.

Everywhere the balled-up armored Popper careens, it SMASHES various heirlooms and collectibles, to Dottie's dismay.

The Popper regards the group maliciously, CLICKING its claws. Realizing that they're fighting a losing battle, Brian is suddenly struck with a plan.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Everyone...when I tell you to run,
follow me as fast as you can.

Brian starts to edge towards the hallway, the others following suit. The Popper tracks them, but doesn't yet attack. When Brian is at the hallway...

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Run!

Everyone tears down the hallway, as fast as they can sprint. Even Dottie is showing surprising hustle. The Popper turns back into a ball and rolls after, right at their heels.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LAUNDRY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They run into the laundry room.

BRIAN
Get off to the sides!

Rashida, Dan and Dottie pull to the sides of the room. Brian opens the door of the front-loading dryer, just as the Popper rolls into the room and BOUNCES RIGHT INTO THE DRYER!

Brian SLAMS the dryer door shut and turns the dryer onto "High." Sounds of HEAVY TUMBLING and ANGRY SCREECHING come from inside the dryer.

As the screeching dies down, Brian opens the dryer door. A dizzy Popper tumbles out, staggering drunkenly.

Dan and Brian beat the Popper to death. It dissolves into a puddle of orange goo, and BANISHING SOUNDS ping from both Dan and Brian's phones.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dan, Brian, Rashida and Dottie enter the room.

BRIAN
Let's get that fireplace closed.

Brian reaches up into the chimney with his right hand, feeling for the FLUE SHUTTER LEVER.

A look of horror comes onto Brian's face as SOMETHING INSIDE THE CHIMNEY GRABS HIM! Brian starts to get pulled up into the chimney.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Oh my god!

RASHIDA
We've got you!

Rashida and Dan each grab one of Brian's legs and pull. Whatever's in that chimney is strong! They start to get pulled as well.

DAN
We don't got you.

Rashida pulls out her pistol and AIMS IT UP THE CHIMNEY.

BRIAN
Don't shoot me.

RASHIDA
I'll do my best.

Rashida FIRES A COUPLE OF SHOTS up the chimney. Brian is suddenly free. He crashes to the floor along with Dan and Rashida.

Brian's right hand is horribly scratched and BLEEDING PROFUSELY.

BRIAN
Thank you. Thank you. Oh sweet
baby Jesus thank you.

Dottie goes to the fireplace and with one movement finds the flue shutter lever by feel and closes the flue.

DOTTIE
Never figured out why so many
people have trouble closing the
flue.

Rashida looks at Brian's hand.

RASHIDA
I'll go get something to clean that
up with.

Rashida leaves the room.

BRIAN
Why didn't the Seebu help me? I
thought you said it was supposed to
protect us.

DAN
No, it protects whoever gets it in
the game. In this case, Dottie.

BRIAN
Well it didn't seem to be
protecting her, either.

DAN
Did she get hurt?

BRIAN
No.

DAN
Alright then.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Gilroy sits huddled with Jennifer. Gary is still unconscious, and Ken is checking on Lisette.

GILROY
I'm kind of worried about Lisette.
Maybe Gary was right.

JENNIFER
(shocked)
You think we should kill her?

GILROY
What? No! But we should probably
keep an eye on her. Just in case.

Jennifer SIGHS.

JENNIFER
Yeah, you're probably right. You
know, it's ironic.

GILROY
What?

JENNIFER
I never really liked living in
Empty Creek. It's such a small
town, filled with small people. No
offense.

GILROY
None taken. It's not like we're
all the same.

Gilroy takes Jennifer's hand. She SMILES at him.

JENNIFER
No. No, you're not. But still.
Everyone here attends the same
schools, hangs around with the same
groups. Meets their high school
sweetheart, gets knocked up, and
all thoughts of leaving for college
and a better life go out the door.

Gary YANKS BACK his hand.

GILROY
Are you...pregnant?

Jennifer looks at Gilroy in stunned disbelief.

JENNIFER

What? No! Oh, god no! Ew. I was just making a point. Ever since I was a little kid, I could see how easy it would be to get trapped here. I was going to be different. I was going to get out. I just got accepted to Brown. In the fall, I was going to be thousands of miles away from Empty Creek. I was going to be one of the lucky ones. I was going to escape. Instead, here I am, trapped in this barn. I've lived my whole life in this stupid town, and now I'm going to die here. Literally and metaphorically.

Gilroy takes her hand again.

GILROY

You don't know that. I think we're going to live! And you'll go to Brown in the fall. And I'll come visit you! We can hang out and laugh about when that stupid videogame came to life.

Jennifer's phone goes dark.

JENNIFER

Oh crap.

Jennifer mashes the power button, but nothing happens.

INT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Gilroy, Ken, Lisette, Jennifer and Gary all compare their phones. All the power indicators on every phone except Jennifer's are on the last bar.

Gary nurses a PURPLING BRUISE on his jaw.

GILROY

Jennifer's phone is already dead.

KEN

And the rest of ours are soon to follow.

JENNIFER

If the phones die, we'll have no way to see the Popperz.

GILROY

I have a couple of cell phone battery packs. I always bring them with me when I play Portal Popperz.

KEN

That's great! We can charge our phones up.

GILROY

The only problem is, they were in my backpack.

GARY

Where's your backpack?

Gilroy points off in the distance.

GILROY

Out there.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian hammers in the last nail into the boards over the fireplace. He stands up, stretching out his back.

BRIAN

Done.

Rashida looks it over.

RASHIDA

Looks good.

DAN

So what do we do now?

RASHIDA

We just hunker down and wait for help to arrive. I haven't been able to check in with the station, so they'll be sure to send someone out to investigate.

Suddenly, the lights go out.

BRIAN

Oh, you have got to be kidding me!

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Gary climbs up the ladder to the loft, joining Ken, Gilroy and Jennifer.

JENNIFER
Where's Lisette?

GARY
I left her down there. She said she's feeling worse, anyway.

Gilroy points out the barn window.

GILROY
Take a look over there.

ANGLE ON CORNFIELD

Where Gilroy's distinctive backpack can be seen lying in one of the rows of corn.

GILROY (O.S.)
I think that's my backpack, lying where I lost it.

BACK TO SCENE

GARY
And what, one of us is going to run out and get it? Do I need to remind you that there's fuck all knows how many invisible monsters out there that want to eat our brains?

GILROY
Just for the record, I have not seen any brain eating...

KEN
And do I need to remind you that the only way we can see these things is through our phones?

GILROY
If we're going to fight them, we need a way to track them, our phones are almost dead, and I have battery packs in my bag. If you have a better plan, I'd love to hear it.

Gary stares at Gilroy, silently fuming.

GILROY (CONT'D)
 Didn't think so.

JENNIFER
 So how are we going to get in touch
 with everyone in the house?

GARY
 (incredulous)
 What?

JENNIFER
 We need to let the others know that
 we have to stop the Popperz before
 morning.

GARY
 Oh yeah, right, or "bad things will
 happen." How do we know that?
 Maybe the world ends, maybe it
 doesn't. You don't know.

KEN
 So you're willing to take that
 chance. With not just our lives at
 stake but possibly everyone's on
 the planet?

GARY
 Yes.

JENNIFER
 Gary. You are such an asshole.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Rashida uses her flashlight to give Dottie light as she
 rummages in a drawer.

DOTTIE
 I know I've got them somewhere in
 here...let's see...

Dottie produces some CANDLES.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)
 Ah, here we go.

Dottie produces an old FLASHLIGHT from the drawer. She
 switches it on- it works. She hands the candles and a lighter
 to Dan and Brian, who light their candles.

DAN
Hey, how come you get the
flashlight?

DOTTIE
Because it's my house, and my
flashlight. Damn millenials, always
wanting something for nothing.

Brian checks his cell phone. It shows one bar.

BRIAN
Is anyone else's cell phone getting
low on batteries?

RASHIDA
I think all of ours are.

DOTTIE
Can't even charge them up, now that
the power's out.

Dan looks out the window. He can see the barn, and the lights
are still on there.

DAN
The lights are still on at the
barn. The Popperz must have cut the
power here.

RASHIDA
They can't be that smart. Can they?

There is a sudden SCRABBLING outside of the window to the
kitchen. The glass is BROKEN, and the boards start to work
free from the wall.

DAN
Fucknuggets!

RASHIDA
Try to hold the boards in place!

Everyone scrambles to do so. As Brian presses against one of
the boards, an ANGRY SCRATCH appears across his hand.

BRIAN
Yaaah!

Brian yanks his hand away. The board is knocked free.

Sounds of WINDOWS BREAKING and WOODEN BOARDS FALLING echo
from other parts of the house.

DAN

Shit. They're getting in all through the house.

DOTTIE

I've gotta say. This is not how I was expecting to go.

RASHIDA

Nobody's dying here, Dottie. All of you sack up. It's time to kill some Popperz.

INT. BARN - LOFT - NIGHT

Ken, Gary, Gilroy and Jennifer, as before.

GILROY

So what should we do, draw straws or something to see who goes after my backpack?

GARY

Fuck that. No way I'm going out there.

KEN

I'll go. It makes the most sense. I've studied military strategy. I can get inside the minds of these Popperz, and anticipate their moves before they make them.

JENNIFER

Wouldn't it make more sense for me to go? I run track for our high school. I'm definitely the fastest one here.

Gilroy gets suddenly protective.

GILROY

I think Ken's right, he should go.

Jennifer glares at Gilroy.

GILROY (CONT'D)

I mean, speed is good, but he's got the experience to deal with these things. I think he's got the best chance of getting the battery packs.

GARY
Works for me.

JENNIFER
No one asked you, Gary.

INT. BARN - GROUND FLOOR - SAME TIME

On the bottom floor, Lisette listens in on the conversation up in the loft. She scratches at her scabby hand. The skin sloughs off completely, revealing a SCALY, SLIMY CLAW underneath.

Lisette shudders, and brings the mirror from her compact up to her face. RED EYES STARE BACK AT HER FROM HER REFLECTION.

Lisette smiles at her reflection and HISSES in pleasure.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The boards are almost completely off the window now. Brian, Dan and Rashida are in a defensive circle around Dottie.

They hold their cell phones out before them, and can see the red-eyed Popperz as they invade the kitchen, stalking after them.

Dottie clutches onto the Seebu. Dan has a hammer, Brian a fireplace poker and Rashida her gun. Rashida FIRES her pistol, missing a Popper but destroying a kitschy COOKIE JAR.

DOTTIE
That was my favorite cookie jar.
Can't you shoot better?

RASHIDA
You try aiming at something through
your phone. It's not so easy.

Rashida FIRES again. Again the Popper dodges out of the way, and this time the MICROWAVE OVEN is the victim of Rashida's errant shot.

DOTTIE
At this rate I'm not going to have
a kitchen left.

Rashida FIRES again, missing the Popper yet again. The Popper she had been aiming at leaps at her.

POW! POW! The Popper takes two bullets to the chest and falls to the ground, dissolving.

REVEAL that Dottie is clutching a smoking Beretta, a thigh holster visible on her wrinkly leg. She holds her phone in the other.

The BANISHMENT SOUND plays on Dottie's phone.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

Wasn't that hard to aim through the phone.

BRIAN

Aunt Dottie, when did you get a gun?

DOTTIE

I've had it for years.

BRIAN

Why didn't you ever tell me?

DOTTIE

I didn't want you to get ahold of it and hurt yourself

Brian just looks at her incredulously.

Dan swings his hammer nonstop, keeping the Popperz at bay. One of his wild swings connects with a BAG OF FLOUR on the counter, and the bag explodes, showering everyone with flour...

...including the Popperz with are now visible thanks to the dusting of powder!

The Popperz in the kitchen are dispatched by the group, now that they're visible. For each one that dies, a phone DINGS with the BANISHMENT SOUND.

Dottie runs out of ammo, CLICKING the trigger uselessly. She grabs the electric hand mixer, and DISEMBOWELS A POPPER with the hand mixer. Dottie looks at the hand mixer approvingly.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

Huh.

Dan smashes the head in of the last Popper.

DAN

That wasn't so hard.

BRIAN

There's still plenty more in the house, and probably more outside.

RASHIDA

I don't suppose you have any more flour, Dottie?

DOTTIE

Nope. But I might have something even better. We need to get to the garage.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

The crates and bales of hay have been moved away from the door. Ken is standing in front of the door, looking ridiculous with a MILKING BUCKET on his head like a helmet.

He clutches a HOE in one hand. The business end of the broken PITCHFORK has been duct taped to his other arm like a poor man's Wolverine.

Jennifer adjusts the bucket.

KEN

I feel ridiculous.

GARY

(sarcastic)

Really? 'Cuz you look great.

Ken yanks the bucket off of his head and tosses it at Gary.

KEN

Let's just get this over with, before I lose my nerve.

Ken hands Gilroy the KEY, and Gilroy unlocks the chain, removing it from the door.

GILROY

You ready?

Ken, mouth clamped tightly shut, tersely NODS at Gilroy.

Jennifer and Gary hold up their phones as Gilroy opens the barn door. They don't see any Popperz in their phones.

JENNIFER

Go!

Ken resolutely jogs out towards the corn field.

EXT. BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Keeping low, Ken creeps through the corn field, phone held out before him. The LOW BATTERY INDICATOR blinks.

KEN
(to self)
Going behind enemy lines.

After some tense, careful movement through the corn, Ken finds the backpack. He reaches for it with his left hand but can't close the distance because the tines of the pitchfork taped to his arm won't let him reach that far.

KEN (CONT'D)
Oh, for chrissakes.

Ken puts down the hoe and grabs the bag with his other hand. He feels inside the bag but there's nothing there.

KEN (CONT'D)
Shit.

Ken switches on the FLASHLIGHT APP on his phone. The light shows that scattered all over are the battery packs. Ken scrambles towards the nearest one when HIS CELL PHONE DIES.

The moment the light goes out, there is rustling in the corn all around him. Ken grabs the hoe and holds it like a spear.

KEN (CONT'D)
May God have mercy upon my enemies,
because I won't.

Ken raises the hoe defiantly and YELLS.

KEN (CONT'D)
Yaaaah!

INT/EXT BARN - NIGHT

Gilroy stands at the open door, his cell phone held out before him, looking into the field.

JENNIFER
Can you see anything?

GILROY
There was some movement, and then,
nothing.

The corn RUSTLES.

GILROY (CONT'D)
Wait! Something's happening.

A ROUND OBJECT comes bouncing and rolling out of the field right towards Gilroy. When it reaches him, we see that it's the SEVERED HEAD OF KEN, his face a rictus of pain.

GILROY (CONT'D)
Oh shit!

Through his phone, Gilroy can see RED EYES start to appear in the corn field.

JENNIFER
Get back in the barn, hurry!

INT. BARN - SAME TIME

Gilroy scrambles inside of the barn. He, Jennifer and Gary quickly reattach the chain and start shoving crates back into position. They all move away from the door.

GARY
Well that was a good plan.

GILROY
Shut up, Gary. Ken died trying to help us.

JENNIFER
That's more than you've done. All you do is bitch and moan.

Just then, phones make the PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT SOUND. Gilroy looks at his phone.

GILROY
That's a Popper alert. There's one nearby.

GARY
Yeah, no shit. One of them just killed Ken.

GILROY
No, really close. Like, inside the barn.

Gilroy's phone dies.

GILROY (CONT'D)
Fuck. There goes my phone.

GILROY (CONT'D)

Gary?

GARY

Mine died a few minutes ago.

A PORTAL POPPERZ ALERT can be heard, but a ways off. The trio makes their way towards the sound.

They find Lisette's jacket and her CELL PHONE laying on a bale of hay. There are also pieces of SHED REPTILIAN SKIN on the floor around the bale.

GARY (CONT'D)

That's Lisette's phone.

Gilroy picks up a piece of the reptilian skin.

GILROY

What's this? It looks like snakeskin or something.

JENNIFER

I've got a bad feeling about this.

GARY

(calling out)
Lisette?

Emerging from the shadows is a half human, half Popper composite. It's still recognizably Lisette, but she's in mid-transformation, and both human and reptilian features war for dominance on her face and body.

Lisette speaks with a deep, alien voice.

LISETTE

Right here, lover.

Lisette swings a claw at Gary. Gary ducks out of the way, but a CHUNK OF A WOODEN POST is knocked out by Lisette's blow.

GARY

Fuck, I knew I should have killed that bitch earlier!

Gilroy and Jennifer run away in one direction, and Gary in another.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Rashida, Brian and Dan form a circle around Dottie, as they run down the hallway. Rashida is in the lead, holding Dottie's phone and her gun in front of her, with Dan and Brian bringing up the rear.

Dottie holds a flashlight, lighting their way.

Rashida fires a shot down the hallway.

DOTTIE

Are you still shooting up my house,
or is your aim getting better?

Dottie's phone plays the BANISHMENT SOUND, and "300 XP" flashes on her screen.

RASHIDA

Does that answer your question?

Rashida uses Dottie's phone to take them to the end of the hall, where there's a BOARDED UP DOOR.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

We're clear here. Get to work,
boys. I'll keep you covered.

Using their hammer and fireplace poker, Dan and Brian hurriedly PRY THE BOARDS from the door. Rashida tensely watches in the direction they came.

On the phone, a couple of Popperz appear at the end of the hall.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

I don't want to rush you or
anything, but hurry the fuck up.

Rashida fires down the hall. The Popper's head EXPLODES, and it dissolves into a puddle of orange goo. Dottie's phone plays the BANISHMENT SOUND.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Got you some more XP, Dottie.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Dottie, Brian and Dan hustle inside of the door. Rashida is the last one in, and she SLAMS the door behind her. She finds the lock on the door and turns it.

RASHIDA

Dottie, your cell phone's dead.

Rashida hands the phone back to Dottie, who pockets it.

The door SHAKES with impacts of Popperz, and there is SCRATCHING from behind the door.

DAN

That's not gonna hold for long.

DOTTIE

I just need to find that box the hardware store delivered last month.

As Dottie plays the flashlight beam over the floor of the garage, we see that there are a LOT of boxes stacked up on the floor.

RASHIDA

Oh great.

BRIAN

Aunt Dottie does a lot of online shopping.

DAN

If we live through this, maybe we can get Dottie onto that Hoarders show.

Dottie finds a box and pulls it out.

DOTTIE

Let's check in this one.

Rashida takes out a POCKET KNIFE and cuts the box open. She pulls out a couple of UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS.

RASHIDA

Um...

DOTTIE

Oops. Nope, that's one of Brian's Christmas presents. Look away, sweetie.

BRIAN

Sorry, the image of those is seared onto my retinas.

Dottie goes back to looking through the boxes. She grabs another one, which is much heavier. Dan helps her pull it out and Rashida cuts it open.

Rashida lifts out a CAN OF HOUSE PAINT.

DOTTIE

That's the one! House was due for a fresh coat of paint, but I figure this will serve our purposes just fine.

RASHIDA

Dottie, that's brilliant!

DOTTIE

Yeah, well my body might be on its way out, but my brain is doing just fine.

Brian looks at his phone.

BRIAN

My phone's dead.

Dan checks his.

DAN

Mine too. We are so boned.

RASHIDA

Find a screwdriver to get these cans open. We might have lost our phones, but this should even the odds.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Jennifer and Gilroy are huddled together under a tarp, hiding as best they can. Jennifer SHAKES nervously. The tarp only partially conceals their location.

They can see Lisette's legs from under the tarp as she slowly, methodically stalks past. Lisette's feet are now clawed lizard-like feet.

LISETTE

Where are you, Gary?

Lisette stops right in front of Gilroy and Jennifer's hiding place. Jennifer claps a hand over her own mouth, suppressing a scream.

ANGLE ON LISETTE

Lisette SNIFFS the air. Her face wrinkles in disgust.

LISETTE

Ugh, what is that smell. Did you
shit yourself, Gary? I think you
did.

Lisette moves away, SNIFFING as she goes to track the scent.

ANGLE ON JENNIFER AND GILROY

Who let out the breaths they had been holding.

ANGLE ON GARY

Who is hiding behind some bales of hay. Some of the bales
are knocked away, revealing Lisette.

LISETTE

There you are, Gary.

GARY

Lisette. Baby. Everything's going
to be OK. Together we can fix
this.

This stops Lisette in her tracks for a moment. Then she
LAUGHS a hideous laugh. She starts clawing at Gary, who
tries to get away. A new slash of claws emphasizes each of
her sentences.

LISETTE

The sad thing is, that would have
worked on the old me. But my eyes
have been opened, Gary. I'm a new
woman. And I can see you for the
selfish, manipulative asshole
you've always been. And guess
what, Gary. Payback's a bitch, and
so am I.

Lisette RIPS GARY'S CROTCH OPEN up to his belly. His GUTS
SPILL ONTO THE FLOOR.

Gary SCREAMS a death rattle.

ANGLE ON JENNIFER AND GILROY

Who scramble for the barn door. Gilroy struggles with the key, drops it.

GILROY

Fuck!

JENNIFER

(urgently)

Come on!

Gilroy picks up the key, opens the rusty padlock and pulls the chain free from the door.

Gilroy and Jennifer flee the barn.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The door to the garage swings open, revealing Rashida who SPLASHES A CAN OF PAINT down the hall. The paint hits once-invisible Popperz, revealing them.

Rashida kills a couple of the Popperz with her gun, now that she can see them.

CLICK! She's out of bullets. Rashida pops out the old clip and reaches for her other clip.

As she reloads, Brian leaps into the fray with his poker and ends up in a tug of war with a Popper. Dan swiftly steps in with his hammer and bashes the Popper's head in.

The hallway is clear for the moment, but they can hear the SOUNDS OF POPPERZ throughout the house.

RASHIDA

We need to keep moving and clear these things out.

The group grabs the other paint cans and they hustle down the hall.

EXT. CORN FIELD - NIGHT

Gilroy and Jennifer run like the devil is on their heels. Dottie's house is visible at the end of the row of corn they're in.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian, Rashida, Dottie and Dan have taken up a defensive position behind a couch, which they've pulled into a corner of the room. Dottie still holds the invisible Seebu.

There is PAINT all over the living room floor, and several Popperz are now visible, splattered in paint. Near the broken living room window, POPPER FOOTPRINTS appear in spilled paint.

Rashida pops up from behind the couch and gets a couple of SHOTS off. One shot misses, but the other shot KILLS A POPPER. She immediately ducks back down behind the couch.

RASHIDA

Shit. This was not a good idea.

BRIAN

Could things get any worse?

Rashida pops back up again. She fires off another shot, killing another Popper...and then the trigger on the gun CLICKS impotently.

Rashida THROWS HER GUN at a Popper. It hits the Popper in the head, and it staggers drunkenly for a moment until it collapses. Rashida pops back behind the couch, taking out her nightstick.

RASHIDA

And now I'm out of ammo. I swear, the next time anyone says, "could things get any worse," I'll kill them myself.

DAN

There's too many of these ass goblins.

One of the Popperz has managed to work its way around the couch, and it GRABS A FISTFUL OF DOTTIE'S HAIR.

The Seebu suddenly turns visible, its hair bristling and its mouth pulled back into a snarl.

Ruprecht leaps from Dottie's arms onto the Popper attacking Dottie. This cute little creature becomes a WHIRLING DERVISH OF DESTRUCTION, ripping Dottie's attacker apart. It then leaps at a group of Popperz.

Dismembered Popper limbs go flying as Ruprecht does his work. One of the Popperz tries to climb back out the window, but Ruprecht pulls it back down, and SMASHES THE POPPER'S HEAD INTO THE LOGS IN THE FIREPLACE until its head is crushed.

Other Popperz, instead of fleeing, circle towards both the Seebu and our heroes.

EXT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - NIGHT

The PANTING Gilroy and Jennifer make it up onto the porch.

Gilroy POUNDS on the door. Jennifer joins in.

GILROY
(shouting)
Open up!

JENNIFER
(shouting)
Let us in!

Gilroy looks back the way they came. The corn field is alive with movement, the SHAKING OF THE CORN STALKS steadily heading ever closer in their direction.

Gilroy pounds on the wall next to the door, his panic growing.

GILROY
(shouting)
It's us! Come on!

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Dottie, Brian, Rashida and Dan are still behind the sofa, picking off any stray Popperz while Ruprecht continues his swathe of destruction.

Suddenly, they hear the VOICES OF GILROY AND JENNIFER calling from outside.

DAN
That's Gilroy! We have to let them in!

BRIAN
If you hadn't noticed, we're kind of in the middle of something here.

DAN

He's my best friend fuckface. We can't just leave him to die.

Rashida makes a quick tactical decision.

RASHIDA

All right. Dan, Brian, you get to the front door and get them inside. Dottie and I will keep any Popperz off your back. Ready?

BRIAN

Uh, no?

RASHIDA

Too bad. Go!

Dan and a reluctant Brian crawl out from behind the couch. A Popper sees them go and starts to pursue.

Rashida pops up from behind the couch and HURLS A LAMP at the Popper. It SMASHES against it.

EXT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Gilroy and Jennifer are POUNDING on the front door and wall of the house, SCREAMING to be let in.

Gilroy looks through his phone back at the corn field. The corn stalks at the edge of the field begin to part, as if something was pushing through them.

GILROY

They're almost here.

Gilroy turns back to the door, POUNDING AWAY.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - SAME TIME

Dan and Brian use their hammer and fireplace poker to work the boards away from the door. They did their original job too well though, and the work is slow going.

They can hear the FRANTIC YELLING of Gilroy and Jennifer.

GILROY (O.S.)

Open the door!

DAN

We're trying, it's all boarded up! Hold on!

Dan and Brian POP A BOARD FREE of the door. There's still a few more to go.

EXT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - SAME TIME

Gilroy sees an AXE with the firewood on the porch.

GILROY

Fuck this.

Gilroy grabs the axe and starts CHOPPING AT THE DOOR.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - SAME TIME

The door SHAKES with the impact of Gilroy's axe against the door. Dan and Brian pull at one of the three remaining boards.

DAN

Almost there...

Dan and Brian pop the board out from the door. At the same time, the last two boards CRACK AS THE AXE HEAD BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR, narrowly missing Brian.

Gilroy and Jennifer tumble into the house.

BRIAN

Hurry up and get inside!

Brian SLAMS the door shut and locks all the locks.

Dan hugs Gilroy.

DAN

Holy fuck dude, I thought you were dead.

GILROY

Me too.

BRIAN

Help me board the door back up.

GILROY

No, we all have to get out of here. If we don't kill all the Popperz and close the portal, we're going to lose the game.

Dan slaps his palm against his forehead.

DAN

Oh shit! And then the Popperz take over the world! I can't believe I forgot that.

JENNIFER

Yeah, it's kind of a lost cause, but really, do we have anything better to do?

DAN

Dude. If only we had the Keezaru. It would kill all the Popperz.

Gilroy grabs Dan's shoulders.

GILROY

Dude! I got an alert on my phone earlier...there's a Keezaru somewhere out in the woods.

BRIAN

What's the big deal about the Keezaru?

GILROY

It works like a smart bomb. If we can catch it, it will banish all the other nearby Popperz.

DAN

Plus get a shit ton of XP.

The others stare incredulously at Dan.

DAN (CONT'D)

What? I'm just sayin'.

BRIAN

You said you saw it on your phone earlier. Can you track it?

JENNIFER

Gilroy's phone is dead. So's mine.

DAN

Ours died too. Man, we are so boned.

GILROY

You know I always bring those battery packs when we're hunting Popperz, right?

DAN
You have them with you?

GILROY
Uh, not exactly. I know where they
are though. But we have to hurry.

INT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Brian, Dan, Gilroy and Jennifer come into the living room. Ruprecht, though scratched and bloodied, is still fending off the Popperz. Dottie and Rashida are behind the couch.

Both Gilroy and Jennifer's jaws drop at the sight of the Seebu.

GILROY
What is that?

DAN
It's a Seebu.

GILROY
Holy shit.

BRIAN
Dottie, Rashida, we need to go.

DOTTIE
I can't leave my little Ruprecht.

BRIAN
You have to.

JENNIFER
We've got a plan to stop the
Popperz, but we're running out of
time. We need to go. Now.

Rashida pulls Dottie away.

RASHIDA
Everyone, grab the rest of the
paint. Come on, while the Seebu
keeps these ones occupied.

As Gilroy, Jennifer and Dan grab cans of paint, Rashida and Brian haul Dottie away. Dottie plaintively reaches a hand towards the Seebu.

DOTTIE
Ruprecht!

Tears run down Dottie's face as Ruprecht fights a losing battle with the other Popperz.

EXT. DOTTIE STANTZ HOUSE - NIGHT

Gilroy, Jennifer, Dan, Dottie, Brian and Rashida are all gathered on the porch. They all clutch their improvised weapons and carry the remaining cans of paint.

Gilroy hands the axe to Jennifer.

GILROY

Here, this is only going to slow me down.

JENNIFER

But you need something to protect yourself with.

GILROY

I'll be fine.

RASHIDA

Don't be an idiot, kid. Here.

Rashida removes a CANNISTER OF PEPPER SPRAY from her belt and hands it to Gilroy.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)

Just make sure you point it in the right direction.

Gilroy pockets the pepper spray.

Dottie hands Gilroy her flashlight.

DOTTIE

You can probably use this.

Gilroy takes it.

BRIAN

Good luck.

Brian shakes Gilroy's hand.

Dan PUNCHES Gilroy on the arm.

GILROY

Ow!

DAN
 Fuckhead! You'd better not get
 killed.

Jennifer comes up to Gilroy.

JENNIFER
 I don't know if you're really brave
 to do this, or just really stupid.

GILROY
 Hey, I'm just trying to impress
 you. Is it working?

Jennifer KISSES him. She joins the others.

GILROY (CONT'D)
 Fuck. Guess this is it.

Dan makes a voice like Rob Schneider from all of those Adam
 Sandler movies.

DAN
 You can do eet!

Gilroy involuntarily BARKS OUT A LAUGH.

DAN (CONT'D)
 (serious)
 You got this.

GILROY
 Right.

Dan and Gilroy FIST BUMP, and then Dan joins the others.
 Gilroy, now alone, NODS towards the group.

At that signal, Gilroy runs silently towards the corn field,
 while everyone else runs towards the woods, YELLING to create
 a distraction.

VARIOUS
 Hey Popperz! This way! Come on you
 fuckers! Suck my balls!

INTERCUT BETWEEN

Gilroy running through the cornfield and the rest of the
 group running into the woods.

The group headed to the woods SPLASHES PAINT in arcs as they
 go. When Popperz are revealed this way, they are swiftly
 dispatched by one of the group.

Gilroy makes it to the batteries. He also is shocked to find BLOODY PIECES OF KEN in the area.

GILROY

Oh shit. Ken.

Gilroy does his best to ignore the gore and gather up the batteries. As he does so, there is RUSTLING IN THE CORN STALKS.

Gilroy gets out the pepper spray and readies it. The corn stalks in front of him part as if SOMETHING INVISIBLE HAS BURST OUT.

Gilroy SPRAYS THE PEPPER SPRAY. The Popper is now visible from the spray, and temporarily blinded.

Gilroy rolls out of the way of the Popper's leap. It lands, disoriented and rubbing at its eyes.

There is a tense standoff as the Popper, blind, listens for Gilroy to make a sound, while Gilroy tries to be as quiet as possible.

Gilroy FARTS. He has a brief moment of panic when he realizes that his body has betrayed him, and then the Popper is on him!

Gilroy wrestles with the Popper, which snaps its teeth at Gilroy's face.

Suddenly, the Popper is bisected by an axe. It's Jennifer, who has come to help Gilroy.

JENNIFER

Thought you could use a hand.

GILROY

Oh thank god.

The pair quickly gathers the batteries and they run off towards the woods.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Lisette holds the half-eaten bloody corpse of Gary. Lisette takes a bloody bite of the corpse, and swallows it down.

Lisette suddenly STIFFENS. She drops Gary's corpse, and stands.

LISETTE

It's coming.

Lisette goes through a METAMORPHOSIS, transforming into a truly frightening and formidable creature.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - NIGHT

Dottie, Rashida, Dan and Brian are nervously waiting when Jennifer and Gilroy appear.

RASHIDA
Did you get them?

GILROY
Yeah. I've only got three, though.

RASHIDA
That'll have to do.

Gilroy hands Rashida two of the chargers, and plugs one into his phone. Rashida hands one of the chargers to Dottie.

RASHIDA (CONT'D)
Here, Dottie. You can help us keep a lookout for Popperz.

DOTTIE
It's nice to feel wanted.

Dottie plugs in her phone while Rashida does the same.

BRIAN
Alright, we've got the phone chargers. But what do we do now?

GILROY
Now we just need to find the Keezaru, catch it, and use it to kill the other Popperz.

DAN
No fucking pressure.

RASHIDA
I could have stayed in LA. But no, I wanted the peace and quiet of a small town. And now we're running after things that would make a Crip shit himself.

BRIAN
How are we going to kill all the Popperz anyway?

GILROY

That's the beauty. We don't have to kill them all ourselves. We just have to lure all the Popperz to where the Keezaru is, catch the Keezaru, and it will wipe out all the Popperz for us.

BRIAN

And just how are we supposed to lure the Popperz?

EVERYONE BUT BRIAN

Popper Fly!

BRIAN

What?

Dan looks at Brian with disdain.

DAN

Noob.

Dan and Gilroy share a quick high-five.

JENNIFER

Popper Fly acts as a lure in the game. It will attract all the Popperz in the area to anyone that uses it.

GILROY

I have one Popper Fly lure left on my Portal Popperz account.

DAN

Thank god. Otherwise we'd be totally fucked in the ass.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - FORKED PATH - NIGHT

Gilroy is in the lead, holding his phone before him. The rest are in a ragged line behind him, with Rashida bringing up the rear and keeping watch with her phone. Dottie sweeps her phone from side to side.

They come to a FORK IN THE PATH and Gilroy consults his phone. On the screen is a blinking KEEZARU INDICATER.

After a moment, he points to the path on the left.

GILROY

This way.

He leads the way down the path, until the group is out of sight.

BEAT.

The group reappears, Gilroy leading them back down the path.

GILROY (CONT'D)

Sorry. Guess we should go this way.

BRIAN

You sure you know how to use that?
I don't want to end up dying
because we can't find the damn
thing.

DAN

Hey shut the fuck up. It's not
Gilroy's fault...Kaijuko gets a lot
of complaints about their Popper
tracking system.

JENNIFER

They say that it's more of an art
than a science to finding Popperz,
but I think it's just an excuse for
lazy programming.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - DIRT PATH - NIGHT

Everyone looks tired and frustrated. Gilroy looks at his phone, and then points towards some trees.

GILROY

I'm pretty sure it's this way.

BRIAN

That's what you said the last three
times.

GILROY

Process of elimination. It's
really close.

JENNIFER

Lead on, MacDuff.

Gilroy moves into the trees, the others trudging behind.

EXT. HANGMAN'S WOODS - CLEARING - SAME TIME

The group emerges into a clearing. Gilroy pulls up short, and the others follow.

Through the phone, Gilroy sees the KEEZARU sitting on a log in the middle of the clearing. It looks like a cross between a rabbit and a fox.

DAN
(hushed)
Holy shitstains, is that the
Keezaru?

GILROY
It must be.

Gilroy notices that Dan is looking at the center of the clearing, not at his phone.

GILROY (CONT'D)
Wait...can you see it?

DAN
Yeah dude, can't you?

RASHIDA
We can all see it.

GILROY
It must be visible because it's a
special Popper, like the Seebu.

Dottie SNIFFLES at this.

DOTTIE
Ruprecht.

A SHAFT OF MOONBEAM illuminates the Keezaru, which nonchalantly grooms itself, ignoring the intruders in the clearing.

The group stares in awe at it, frozen.

BEAT.

BRIAN
So...what do we do now?

GILROY

I don't know.

Brian goes up to Gilroy and grabs him by the shirt collar.

BRIAN

What do you mean, you don't know?
I thought you were supposed to be
the Portal Popperz expert.

Jennifer restrains Brian.

JENNIFER

Leave him alone! It's like he said
before, no one's ever captured one.

DAN

Yeah, this is virgin ground.

Gilroy glares at Dan for the double entendre.

GILROY

Oh very funny.

Rashida HISSES at them to be quiet.

RASHIDA

You idiots are going to scare it
off.

The group notices that the Keezaru is now staring at them.
Brian slowly, gently releases Gilroy.

Our heroes go still, staring across at the Keezaru which
stares back in turn.

BEAT.

The Keezaru goes back to grooming itself. The group
collectively releases a SIGH of relief.

DOTTIE

Maybe we should just all run in and
try to grab it?

RASHIDA

No, it's too likely to slip away in
the confusion.

BRIAN

How do we know it won't attack?

DOTTIE

What, that cute little thing?

BRIAN

That's not Ruprecht.

GILROY

Brian's right. It's not a
Seebu...we have no idea what it's
capable of.

DOTTIE

Well we can't just stand around
with our thumbs up our butts. We
need to try something.

BEAT as they all consider what to do.

Brian suddenly takes a step out from the trees, his fireplace
poker held behind his back.

DAN

(urgently)

What the fuck, Brian?

Brian waves Dan off. No one moves as Brian takes another
step towards the Keezaru. It looks up at him, but then
returns to grooming.

Brian addresses the Keezaru in a SOOTHING VOICE.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hey there little Keezaru. Who's a
good Keezaru? You'd like me to
capture you, wouldn't you? Then we
can all leave this fucking forest
and get back to our lives, wouldn't
that be nice?

As he speaks, Brian creeps ever closer to the log that the
Keezaru is perched on. He slowly pulls out the poker.

BRIAN

I'm just going to make you go to
sleep, then we can get rid of all
the Popperz.

Brian is about to swing on the Keezaru when suddenly THE
LISETTE HYBRID MONSTER APPEARS, GRABBING BRIAN!

JENNIFER

Oh fuck, it's Lisette!

DAN

That's Lisette?!?

The Lisette Hybrid RIPS BRIAN IN HALF, tossing aside his remains. But instead of attacking the rest of the group, it stays near the Keezaru.

DOTTIE

Brian!!

Dottie, crying, is about to run out, but Dan restrains her.

RASHIDA

Why doesn't she attack?

DAN

It looks like it's protecting the Keezaru.

GILROY

That makes sense. If we capture the Keezaru and banish all the Popperz, Lisette will go with them.

JENNIFER

It won't cure her instead?

GILROY

I don't think so. There doesn't seem to be any Lisette left in that...thing.

DAN

That thing's fucked up.

The sky is starting to grow lighter. Gilroy looks at his phone. There's only minutes left on the timer.

GILROY

Shit. We're almost out of time.

DAN

We need to distract Lisette so we can grab the Keezaru.

GILROY

And I need to set off the lure so that the other Popperz come.

JENNIFER

Don't set it off yet! We can't fight both Lisette and the Popperz at the same time. Wait until we get Lisette clear of the Keezaru.

GILROY

Right.

DAN

Circle around, so that Lisette can't see us all at the same time.

The group spreads out around the clearing. The Lisette Hybrid swivels its head back and forth, trying to watch all of them.

Rashida has used the distraction to try to grab the Keezaru, but it hops over to another log. Rashida quickly backs away as the Lisette Hybrid turns on her.

RASHIDA

Little fucker's not making it easy for us.

Gilroy swings his axe at the Lisette Hybrid, and Dan uses the opportunity to lunge for the Keezaru. Again, the Keezaru hops away.

The Lisette Hybrid swats the axe out of Gilroy's hands and turns on Dan. He quickly backs up, the Lisette Hybrid sticking close to the Keezaru.

Gilroy looks at his phone.

GILROY

I've got to activate the Popper Fly, or the Popperz won't have time to get here before we set off the Keezaru.

JENNIFER

That's if we can even capture it.

RASHIDA

Just do it!

Gilroy pulls up the Popper Fly Lure in his in-game inventory and is about to activate it when THE LISETTE HYBRID GRABS GILROY BY THE THROAT!

Gilroy drops the phone which goes SKIDDING ACROSS THE CLEARING towards Dottie.

Jennifer pulls at the Lisette Hybrid's arm, but it's like trying to move steel. Gilroy's face is turning beet red, and his eyes start to roll up into his head.

Rashida picks up the dropped axe and charges the Lisette Hybrid. She BURIES THE AXE between the monster's shoulder blades. The Lisette Hybrid ROARS and releases Gilroy, who falls GASPING to the ground tangled in a heap with Jennifer.

The Lisette Hybrid BACKHANDS RASHIDA, knocking her across the clearing into a tree. Rashida crumples, unconscious. Dan SMASHES THE LISETTE HYBRID with his hammer, but it just ineffectually bounces off the monster's head. However, the hybrid fixes an evil eye on Dan and stalks after him.

Dan scrambles away, backing into a large rock. He has no where to go. He holds up an arm to somehow stop the forthcoming fatal blow.

Suddenly, THE SEEBU leaps from the bushes onto The Lisette Hybrid's back, madly clawing at her. Ruprecht is scratched and bloody, but still strong. Dan scrambles to safety.

The Lisette Hybrid struggles with Ruprecht, but finally pulls him off and THROWS HIM AGAINST A LOG. Ruprecht crumples, barely alive. The Lisette Hybrid moves to deliver the fatal blow when...

DOTTIE (O.S.)

Get away from my Ruprecht, you bitch!

REVEAL DOTTIE, who has recovered Gilroy's cell phone. The Lisette Hybrid's eyes grow wide, and it lunges after Dottie, who doesn't move.

DOTTIE (CONT'D)

You can go suck it.

Dottie ACTIVATES THE POPPER FLY LURE on the phone. The Lisette Hybrid grabs Dottie in a fatal embrace. Dottie SMILES at Ruprecht as she is CRUSHED.

The bushes all around the clearing start to RUSTLE. The Popperz are being drawn by the lure!

Gilroy notices that there's a clear path to the Keezaru. But how to catch it?

With a burst of inspiration, he RIPS OFF JENNIFER'S SHIRT, leaving her in just a bra.

JENNIFER

What the fuck?!?

GILROY

Sorry! I'm sorry!

Gilroy TOSSES THE SHIRT OVER THE KEEZARU, trapping it! He quickly gathers up the ends of the shirt, and is soon holding a SQUIRMING BUNDLE.

Nothing happens. A couple of the PAINT-SPLATTERED POPPERZ appear in the clearing, drawn towards the cell phone. The Lisette Hybrid turns its attention to Gilroy, holding the Keezaru.

GILROY (CONT'D)

Fuck. We captured the Keezaru.
Why isn't it getting rid of Lisette
and the Popperz?

Jennifer grabs the bundle from Gilroy's hands.

JENNIFER

It probably works the same way as
banishing the Popperz in real life.

The Lisette Hybrid suddenly looks panicked, and lunges for Jennifer.

In a frenzy, Jennifer swings the bundle hard against the tree stump repeatedly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

You have! To fucking! Kill! It!

Orange goo drips from Jennifer's shirt.

Suddenly, a BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHT fills the woods. The paint-splattered Popperz SHRIEK, and dissolve into puddles of orange goo. We see multiple other puddles forming throughout the clearing.

The Lisette Hybrid SCREAMS a monstrous scream, and falls to the ground. She starts to transform! After a few moments, the naked form of Lisette is lying, unconscious, on the ground.

Gilroy and Jennifer step up to her.

GILROY

What do you know, the Keezaru did
cure her!

Suddenly Lisette's eyes BLINK OPEN! SHE SCREAMS AND CONTORTS
AS SHE DISSOLVES INTO A PUDDLE OF ORANGE GOO.

Jennifer buries her head in Gilroy's shoulder at the sight.

GILROY (CONT'D)

Um...I guess it didn't.

The sun has almost fully risen. Dan helps a groggy Rashida up
from where she had fallen, and he helps her over to join
Gilroy and Jennifer.

DAN

Is it over? Did we win?

Gilroy's phone is lying nearby among several puddles of
orange goo. He picks it up and looks at it.

ON THE SCREEN the countdown clock ticks out its final
seconds. Everyone holds their breath.

When the clock reaches zero, the screen flashes with, "ROUND
OVER."

Gilroy looks at Jennifer and grins.

GILROY

Yeah. Yeah, I think we did!

DAN

Fuckin' A.

Gilroy and Jennifer hug. Impulsively, Gilroy turns the hug
into a kiss!

Suddenly embarrassed, Gilroy stops the kiss.

GILROY

Sorry.

JENNIFER

You know, if you'd wanted to get me
out of my top, you could have just
asked.

A flustered Gilroy is speechless, so Jennifer pulls him into a kiss. Rashida and Dan smile as they watch.

The kiss is interrupted by an insistent ALARM TONE on Gilroy's phone. He looks at it.

ON THE PHONE SCREEN

Are the words, "ROUND TWO BEGINS IN:" and the numbers on the phone count down.

5...

4...

3...

2...

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END