

JRATW EP30 Candlewick

Found on a series of strange drawings by

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JRATW EP30 CANDLEWICK

Scene 1: EXT, The town of

Candlewick, 8:45pm

1 SOUND: QUIET, SLOW FOOTSTEPS AND USUAL WAGON CREAKING.

2 NARRATOR:

It has been days since the Wanderers have seen a friendly, less-squiddy face. And while there is no more rain, night is falling fast.

3 TANGO:

...We should probably stop and find a place for the night.

4 NICO:

Finally. It has been a long, loooonnggg trek from that horrible, HORRIBLE squid town.

5 JIM ROBBIE:

It sure has been a quiet one too.

6 NICO:

I thought that you were going to be the one chatting us all up on this journey.

7 JIM ROBBIE:

Sometimes I need time to think.

8 NICO:

What do you even think about?

9 JIM ROBBIE:

(TOP)

Lots of things! (Lower) ...plenty of things.

10 FREY:

Guys, the quiet is fine. I'm just glad we got all our stuff back and didn't end up back in squid jail squail.

11 TANGO:

Thanks for coming with us, Umm....You know you don't have to hang around with us if you don't want to, right?

12 FREY:

It's not that big of a deal, I haven't seen much of the world outside of Attle.

- 13 JIM ROBBIE:
Well, hopefully, you don't regret hanging with us.
- 14 FREY:
(SLIGHT, TENTATIVE, CONCERN)
Why would I?...
- 15 JIM ROBBIE:
We have a tendency to forge bad blood with whoever we meet.
- 16 NICO:
Maybe the word blood is a bit too on the nose Jim...
- 17 FREY:
Well you all seemed pretty helpful back in squid town.
It's not your fault the rest of the humans there didn't want any help.
- 18 NICO:
I think you just happened to catch us at our best...
Considering the only thing to get damaged was a jail cell, I think that WAS our best.
- 19 FREY:
Well, always grade on a curve I say.
- 20 SOUND: EXTENDED BEAT.
- 21 TANGO:
... Speaking of lookin' bad, there aren't many decent lookin' places around, are there?
- 22 NICO:
There's tons of houses though. We just have to pick one and ask whoever lives there to let us spend the night.
- 23 JIM ROBBIE:
If we can find anyone to ask anyways.
- 24 TANGO:
Like who?
- 25 JIM ROBBIE:
In case you haven't noticed, there's nobody around.
We're the only living people I've seen.
- 26 SOUND: EVERYONE STOPS WALKING.
- 27 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
(SARDONICALLY)
Maybe they just heard the creaking of our wagon wheels and fled for the hills. Or are hiding away in a bunker awaiting destruction... OR-!

28 FREY:

(TOP)

Oh come on! You guys need to stop thinking of yourselves as the underdogs and start appreciating yourselves like the world champions you are! You've managed to survive this long and that's pretty impressive for mortals! Keep your chins up and don't give up before you've been disqualified from the playoffs!

29 SOUND: NO ONE GETS THE JOKE.

30 TANGO:

What?

31 NICO:

Frey, I'm the most well read out of the three of us, and I don't understand half of what you just said.

32 JIM ROBBIE:

I did! I think she was talking about... determination?

33 FREY:

Never mind.

34 NICO:

Hey! How about that place over there?

35 TANGO:

What? That big, fancy, clean lookin' house over there? They'll never take us in.

36 FREY:

Since it's the nicest looking place in this town, that means somebody put lots of care into it, right? That's where the people are. Maybe they run the town and have guest rooms!

37 TANGO:

We still don't know if they'd take us.

38 NICO:

Well, maybe they'd be able to direct us somewhere else in town then. We're all tired, Tango.

39 TANGO:

Okay then. We'll ask. Let's go and see the people.

40 SOUND: WALKING RESUMES

Scene 2: EXT, Outside the front
door of the Fancy Big House, 9:00pm

- 41 TANGO:
 This is it.
- 42 JIM ROBBIE:
 Is that a rope hanging by the door? Do they have a
 literal door bell?
- 43 TANGO:
 There's one way to find out.
- 44 SOUND: BELL RINGS DISTANTLY AS TANGO PULLS THE ROPE.
EVERYBODY WAITS A BEAT.
- 45 FREY:
 Why not try it again? Maybe they didn't hear.
- 46 NICO:
 Or this place is just as empty as the rest of the town.
- 47 TANGO:
 I think I'll try knocking.
- 48 SOUND: KNOCK KNOCK. THE DOOR LOUDLY CREAKS OPEN.
- 49 JIM ROBBIE:
 Door's open!
- 50 FREY:
 What do we do?
- 51 NICO:
 Let's go in!
- 52 TANGO:
 We can't just go in! That's somebody's home!
- 53 NICO:
 Come on, we've walked into plenty of places before!
- 54 TANGO:
 Yeah, but I don't remember ever walking into someone's
 ACTUAL HOME uninvited!
- 55 JIM ROBBIE:
 If it's abandoned though, that means it's not
 somebody's actual home.
- 56 FREY:
 When do we learn that?

- 57 NICO:
The easiest way is to just go in. Even if we meet someone, we can just apologize to them.
- 58 TANGO:
Guys, I don't know -
- 59 SOUND: TANGO'S TUMMY GURGLES.
- 60 FREY:
Been a while since you've eaten well, huh? I know the feeling of starving to death. Well maybe not the death part but - the starving part
- 61 JIM ROBBIE:
Tango, it'll be okay.
- 62 TANGO:
(SIGHS)
Okay. Let's just be careful for once.
- 63 FREY:
It's just an old house! What could go wrong?
- 64 NICO:
(DEAD-PAN)
... Famous last words, but I'M going to pretend I heard nothing.
- 65 SOUND: THE GANG WALKS INSIDE
- Scene 3: INT, Kitchen, moments
- later
- 66 JIM ROBBIE:
Which way are we going?
- 67 TANGO:
I... I think I can smell food... It smells kind of old, but it's food!
- 68 SOUND: FASTER FOOTSTEPS
- 69 NICO:
See! Things are going our way already!
- 70 FREY:
Is there anything to drink? I'm kinda thirsty.
- 71 JIM ROBBIE:
There's a glass on the counter but that's - that doesn't look like any water I've ever seen.
- 72 SOUND: TANGO GIVES A DEEP SNIFF AND GAGS

- 73 TANGO:
(DISGUSTED)
Ugh! Never mind! It smells disgusting. (Another sniff.)
And a little bit like... chocolate?
- 74 NICO:
I'll check the faucets. Hopefully all the tubes aren't
full of that stuff.
- 75 SOUND: SQUEAKS AS A FAUCET IS TURNED ON. WATER RUSHES OUT.
- 76 FREY:
Yes! The water isn't completely gross! Someone must
have made a drink and forgot it on the table.
- 77 NICO:
Let's refill canteens while we have the chance. Who
knows when we're going to get good looking water like
this again?
- 78 SOUND: MORE WATER RUSHING IN THE BACKGROUND.
- 79 TANGO:
What else is there in this place? Where are the people?
- 80 JIM ROBBIE:
It looks like a dump.
- 81 FREY:
Doesn't look that bad, it's just a little dusty and
needs some care on the inside. The floor has definitely
seen better days though.
- 82 TANGO:
Hopefully there's food in the cupboards... Do you
think- um... You don't think the people here would mind
if I grabbed a bite to eat, right?
- 83 JIM ROBBIE:
The rule of food for you meat-bags is, "you snooze, you
lose." Go nuts.
- 84 SOUND: SOUNDS OF CUPBOARDS OPENING.
- 85 TANGO:
Score! I am eating all of these cookies. You guys can
have whatever's left.
- 86 SOUND: TANGO SHOVES THE FOOD INTO HER MOUTH.

- 87 FREY:
Careful Tango! What if they're like whatever's in the glass?
- 88 TANGO:
(THROUGH FULL MOUTH)
They're fine. A little stale, but good. (Swallows.) You know, I am so glad we came in here.
- 89 NICO:
Want me to refill your water while you're eating?
- 90 TANGO:
Yes please!
- 91 SOUND: TANGO WALKS AWAY AND OPENS MORE CUPBOARDS.
- 92 TANGO: (cont'd)
Mini-cakes, chips, candy, soda, fruit juice, more candy... oh my god, whoever lived here really liked their sweets.
- 93 FREY:
I don't suppose there's any real food in there?
- 94 JIM ROBBIE:
Well, all of it's real food.
- 95 TANGO:
I'll look for something else.
- 96 SOUND: STEPS ON A PIECE OF PAPER.
- 97 TANGO: (cont'd)
What the - ?
- 98 SOUND: PICKS IT UP, SMOOTHING OUT THE CRUMPLED PIECE OF PAPER.
- 99 TANGO: (cont'd)
Oh wow, local art! (Beat.) This looks like it was done by a beginner.
- 100 JIM ROBBIE:
Hey look, there's another one! On the wall! And another one right next to it. They are all really bad.
- 101 TANGO:
(SCOLDING)
Stop it Jim! Art's art. I'm sure somebody worked really hard on these.

- 102 FREY:
Why are there so many of them? That is some really bad decorating if you're going to shove all your art into a corner like that.
- 103 TANGO:
Look, it even goes into the next room. I wonder what else there is.
- 104 SOUND: RUNS OFF.
- 105 NICO:
Tango, wait up!
- 106 FREY:
(MAKES GENERAL NOISE OF THINKING)
HMMMMM.
- 107 SOUND: PICKS UP THE PIECE OF PAPER.
- 108 NICO:
What's wrong Frey?
- 109 FREY:
This paper doesn't look that old Nico. It's really stiff and still even sounds new.
- 110 SOUND: FREY VIOLENTLY SHAKES THE PAPER
- 111 FREY: (cont'd)
See?
- 112 NICO:
(NERVOUSLY)
So?
- 113 FREY:
So? So maybe it means something. You don't think any of this is weird at all?
- 114 NICO:
I've seen way, WAY, weirder. Let's just check out the rest of the house first. We should make sure of things first before we jump to conclusions.
- 115 SOUND: THEY WALK AWAY

Scene 4: INT, Living Room, Momentslater

- 116 TANGO:
Oh wow. Look at this place!
- 117 FREY:
Whoa, that's - that is...
- 118 NICO:
I wish I had that much paper, even my old car didn't have this much...
- 119 JIM ROBBIE:
That is definitely too many drawings. They're covering the entire wall!
- 120 NICO:
They even have the windows papered over.
- 121 FREY:
This definitely isn't the work of just one artist. There are many different styles, even if they all look kinda then same.
- 122 TANGO:
A lot of people must have lived here. (Stage whispering)...Still live here?
- 123 JIM ROBBIE:
Why are you whispering? We haven't seen anybody yet. And we haven't exactly been quiet.
- 124 FREY:
The rest of the room isn't exactly clean either. The couches look like they've been literally shredded.
- 125 TANGO:
And there are brown spots on the ceiling. And the rest of the furniture's been knocked over.
- 126 JIM ROBBIE:
What's with all the toys on the floor? This place is just a giant mess.
- 127 NICO:
Whoa, this doesn't look like a toy. It looks more like... crystal? Like... a pendant of some kind?
- 128 SOUND: NICO PICKS IT UP AND EXAMINES IT FURTHER WITH A HUM

- 129 JIM ROBBIE:
Hey! You can't take that!
- 130 NICO:
I just found it on the floor! Look, there's like are a ton of them scattered around... Does this one look different from the other ones to you guys?
- 131 TANGO:
What if the people who live here see you with it? I don't want to get on anyone's bad side right now.
- 132 NICO:
I'll give it back, **IF** we see them.
- 133 JIM ROBBIE:
But there are obviously people living here.
- 134 FREY:
Maybe they left in a hurry or something?
- 135 TANGO:
But why would they do that?
- (OH BOY, HERE COMES THE SLOW-BUILD PANIC)
- 136 NICO:
(SLOWLY PETERING OUT IN ENTHUSIASM AS HE PROGRESSES)
Maybe they had a - a - a termite problem or something? And it just got really bad, so that's why they left and the whole place is a mess?
- 137 TANGO:
Termites? What kind of termites are going to make a mess like this?
- 138 JIM ROBBIE:
It's gotta be something bigger... Some-THINGS bigger.
- 139 FREY:
But what else could it be? We haven't seen anybody else in the house.
- 140 TANGO:
But what if they're hiding in the rest of the house that we haven't looked at it? What if there's a huge group of bad guys just waiting for us to go in further and then they'll ambush us and - they'll knock us over, and they'll yell at us like a playground bully.
- 141 NICO:
You guys are blowing things out of proportion. This is an abandoned home and we haven't seen anyone.

- 142 FREY:
YET! I told you that the paper looked new. Whoever did live here was perfectly fine until recently...
- 143 TANGO:
Recently?! We can't stay here then, what if they were just out and think we're burglars?
- 144 NICO:
Now hold on -
- 145 JIM ROBBIE:
We should go slowly, so we don't alert the bad guys that we know of their plan.
- 146 TANGO:
(CALMER)
Okay... Okay. Good idea, Jim. Let's go... slowly.
- 147 SOUND: SLOW FOOTSTEPS FOR ABOUT A MINUTE, UNTIL ONE HORRENDOUSLY LOUD SQUEAK FROM A SQUEAKY TOY RABBIT THAT FREY STEPPED ON.
- 148 TANGO, JIM ROBBIE, NICO, AND FREY:
(SCREAMING)
AHHHHHHHHH!
- 149 SOUND: THEY CONTINUE SCREAMING, RUNNING WITH ONE DISTINCT SQUEAK FOOT MATCHING PERFECTLY IN TIME WITH ONE STEP. THEY KEEP RUNNING AND SLAM OPEN A DOOR, RUNNING OUT INTO THE YARD.
- Scene 5: EXT. Yard
- 150 SOUND: OUTSIDE A SWINGSET CREAKS IN TIME WITH THE PASSING WIND. CONTINUOUS THROUGH SCENE
- 151 NICO:
(YELLING THEN QUIETER)
WAIT! CALM DOWN! Calm down, it's just a squeaky toy!
- 152 SOUND: NICO SQUEEZES THE TOY ONCE. FREY LAUGHS, THOUGH MOSTLY EMBARRASSED AT HERSELF. NICO DROPS IT AFTER A MOMENT AND IT SQUEAKS AS IT HITS THE GROUND. NICO SIGHS, SHAKING HIS HEAD AND ASHAMED. FOILED BY A MENACING SQUEAKY TOY.
- 153 NICO: (cont'd)
What are we doing?
- 154 TANGO:
Getting out of here?

- 155 NICO:
No, WE are running around an OBVIOUSLY abandoned house and scaring ourselves when we SHOULD be looking for shelter.
- 156 JIM ROBBIE:
(MC-SNARK)
How are you sure these houses are "obviously" abandoned? We "SHOULD" be looking for a better option.
- 157 NICO:
Tell me when you see that better option.
- 158 FREY:
He... Might be right. The other houses look bad, like they're about to collapse. At least this one seems to at least be holding up, even if the inside looks beaten up.
- 159 SOUND: FREY WALKS AROUND, DRIED OUT GRASS CRUNCHING BENEATH HER FEET. SHE FINDS AN OLD, DEAD GARDEN. FREY TALKS AS SHE TOUCHES ONE OF THE PLANTS AND A TWIG SNAPS OFF THE MOMENT SHE TOUCHES IT.
- 160 FREY: (cont'd)
But everything outside is... Dead. I-... I've never seen so many plants dead. They're not supposed to be like this.
- 161 TANGO:
I guess no one's been taking care of it. Or this yard. The wood on that cute little mini-house looks like it's rotting... It's making me kind of sad.
- 162 FREY:
No people, no plants. It's too quiet and empty. (DEEP BREATH) I don't like it either.
- 163 SOUND: NICO HUMS TO HIMSELF AS HE WALKS AROUND THE YARD, AS HE TALKS HIS FOOT HITS A SMALL, CRYSTAL PENDANT THAT ROLLS IN THE DIRT. HE PICKS IT UP AND EXAMINES IT MID-SPEECH.
- 164 NICO:
Well, if the place is in such a state of disrepair, then I don't think the owners will mind if we-...
(BEAT) What... Another one of those crystals pendants? But... It's more fogged up.
- 165 TANGO:
Another one?

- 166 JIM ROBBIE:
If I didn't know any better, I'd think you're nursing a bit of a kleptomania streak.
- 167 NICO:
Your wagon carried a jar of pennies, a stuffed dinosaur, and you, waaayyyy before I started tagging along.
- 168 TANGO:
(STILL SAD BUT THAT WAS A SICK BURN)
He got you there, Jim.
- 169 SOUND: JIM GRUMBLES FOR A FEW MOMENTS. NICO POCKETS THE NECKLACE AND THEY ALL TURN BACK TO THE HOUSE THEY RAN OUT OF IN PARANOID FEAR.
- 170 JIM ROBBIE:
So... What? We stick around?
- 171 FREY:
I can't say this place is my first option of a place to stay. I.. I just feel like we're intruding, or that the house wouldn't welcome us... But-
- 172 TANGO:
But?
- 173 FREY:
(SIGHING, MELANCHOLIC WITH AN EDGE OF FRUSTRATION AT HER CURIOSITY)
We should at least see if anyone's still inside, or if they need help.
- 174 SOUND: THEY WALK UP TO THE BACK DOOR, CAREFULLY OPENING THE VERY, VERY CREAKY DOOR.

Scene 6: INT. House 2nd floor

- 175 NARRATOR:
(A LITTLE FREAKED OUT TOWARDS THE END)
So our wanderers brave the strange, abandoned house. But what of it's inhabitants? Who are they? Where has the town gone? ... Why do I feel like I'm being watched?
- 176 SOUND: THE STAIRS CREAK VERY LOUDLY AS THE WANDERERS CLIMB THEM SLOWLY, BUT AT THE FLOORBOARDS CREAK EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE THE CRYSTALS TIED TO THE RAILING CHIME LIKE GLASS OR A FEW ON THE STAIRS FALL.

- 177 TANGO:
(AMAZED)
I've never seen so many crystals, and they're tied like little decorations to the railing. OH! Do you think these people were rich? Or maybe they made all of them? Carving them into those points must have taken a lot of time.
- 178 JIM ROBBIE:
... You know, they could be worth some money to someone-
- 179 SOUND: NICO CLEARS HIS THROAT, SOMEWHAT HOITY OF HIMSELF
- 180 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
(AGITATED BUT HALF-HEARTEDLY)
-I mean, personal value, personal value, they could be worth something of **personal** value to someone... And we'll return them because we're **good** people.
- 181 NICO:
(MC-SNARK)
Mmm-hmm.
- 182 FREY:
Have any of you seen things like these before? Maybe in other towns or places?
- 183 SOUND: THE GROUP REACHES THE TOP OF THE STAIRS AND STOP IMMEDIATELY.
- 184 FREY: (cont'd)
... Are you sure you've seen weirder? There is a line between weird and downright creepy in this world, isn't there?
- 185 TANGO:
(NERVOUSLY)
Ummm. Uh. M-maybe they're... Family photos?
- 186 NICO:
(LOW-KEY FREAKED)
Family photos? Um, Tango? I don't think a healthy, functional family has **hundreds** of photos, taped to the walls, with the **EYES** scratched out.
- 187 TANGO:
(HOPEFUL BUT NOT BELIEVING HERSELF)
... Maybe the photos came out that way?
- 188 JIM ROBBIE:
Tango-

- 189 TANGO:
(A LITTLE LOUDER)
Yeah, OKAY! Yes, this is creepy. B-but what if someone else came through and scratched out the eyes?
- 190 NICO:
Why?
- 191 TANGO:
(LOUDER)
I DON'T KNOW!
- 192 JIM ROBBIE:
Tango, easy. Breathe. In and out... (BEAT/somewhat HOPEFUL but honest about being freaked out) Okay, yeah I reeeaaalllyyy don't like this place either, okay, but.. but it's not like we've found any other place with food, water, and shelter for your poor fleshy bodies. Right?
- 193 TANGO, NICO: (SIMULTANIOUSLY) RIGHT!
- 194 FREY:
(UNSURE)
OH! Yeah, right... Right... Um... We might want to check all the rooms up here?
- 195 NICO:
How would anyone not come looking for us with the racket we just made in their house?
- 196 FREY:
I would rather we be safe than sorry.
- 197 SOUND: FREY WALKS A FEW STEPS AND BEGINS OPENING THE DOOR
- 198 FREY: (cont'd)
Hello- (CUT OFF BY SCREAMING)
- 199 SOUND: EVERYONE STARTS SCREAMING AS A SWARM OF BUGS FLY INTO THEIR FACES
- 200 NICO:
(TERRIFIED)
GET OFF, GET OFF, AAAAAAA! COCKROACHES AND FLIES, OH NO. NO, I'M NOT GOING TO LOOK. IS THERE A BODY? TELL ME IF IT'S A ROTTING BODY INSIDE, I'M NOT LOOKING.
- 201 TANGO:
WHY IS IT ALWAYS SWARMS OF BUGS? WHY? CAN'T IT BE CUTE RABBITS OR A RACCOON?

- 202 JIM ROBBIE:
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM ME! DON'T LET THEM GET IN MY HEAD!
I'M STILL WORKING THROUGH SOME STUFF MISSING CHARLOTTE.
- 203 FREY:
NO, NO, KEEP AWAY FROM ME! NO! I AM NOT DEAD! I CAN'T
DIE, GET OFF, GET OFF OF MEEEEEEEEEE!
- 204 SOUND: AFTER A BIT MORE IMPROVISED YELLING THINGS QUIET
DOWN. NO, THERE ISN'T A BODY OR ROTTING MEAT... A FEW BUGS
LINGER AROUND A BUNCH OF CRUMBS THOUGH
- 205 FREY: (cont'd)
(RECOVERING FROM THAT HEART-ATTACK)
... Everyone okay?
- 206 NICO:
(STILL SHAKEN)
I'm still not opening my eyes until I know what's in
that room.
- 207 FREY:
... Huh. It's... just a bedroom.
- 208 SOUND: NICO SIGHS AND THEY WALK INTO THE ROOM, BITS OF
CRUMBS SCRAPING THE HARDWOOD.
- 209 JIM ROBBIE:
Someone doesn't know how to clean up a mess. You humans
have ENTIRE rooms dedicated to eating. But no, you
decide to eat where you sleep. ---- Wierdo.
- 210 TANGO:
It's no better than us. I mean, we don't have rooms
since we're outside most of the time, but- (GASP!) OH!
IS THAT A PILLOW FORT!
- 211 NICO:
(DEAD-PAN)
A pillow fort?
- 212 TANGO:
(MORE EXCITED)
It's like a tent for the inside! And it's HUGE!
- 213 SOUND: TANGO MESSES WITH THE BLANKETS HOLDING UP THE PILLOW
FORT, LAUGHING A BIT. ONE PILLOW REMOVED, AND THE WHOLE
THING COMES DOWN! WHOOPS.
- 214 JIM ROBBIE:
(MUFFLED)
HEY! TANGO! I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING BURIED ALIVE HERE!

- 215 FREY:
Tango! You okay?
- 216 SOUND: TANGO WRESTLES HER WAY OUT FROM PILLOW FORT PURGATORY
- 217 TANGO:
(A LITTLE FLUSTERED AND EMBARRASSED)
I-I'm okay! Perfectly fine... How about we go check out
the other rooms?
- 218 NICO:
(INSISTANT)
No one's come running yet.
- 219 TANGO:
Better safe than sorry, right?
- 220 FREY:
Right.
- 221 SOUND: THEY LEAVE THE ROOM, CLOSING THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.
THEY WALK A FEW PACES, AND OPEN THE NEXT DOOR.
- 222 NICO:
... Okay, can we leave, NOW?
- 223 TANGO:
... Maybe-
- 224 NICO:
No. No Tango. That's a bathroom. That's a pool of
stagnant water in the tub. And THAT is a broken mirror.
A mirror that looks like it was broken on PURPOSE.
(SIGHING) No one's home. But I don't think this place
is safe. I... I have a really bad feeling.
- 225 JIM ROBBIE:
Granted, every place we go has a pretty bad feeling.
That, or the bad feeling follows us.
- 226 FREY:
There's only a couple more rooms. If we investigate
them and still think it's not safe here, we can leave
after.
- 227 NICO:
You still think someone could be here?
- 228 FREY:
No, but... But it feels like someone is here? You guys
feel it too, right?
- 229 SOUND: NO ONE ANSWERS. THEY MOVE ONTO THE NEXT DOOR BUT
DON'T OPEN IT YET.

- 230 TANGO:
Is there something written on the door? It looks old,
but it looks like those things in letters.
- 231 FREY:
Wait, you can't read? It says, "BILLIE".
- 232 JIM ROBBIE:
Reading lessons later, opening doors and getting out of
here, now.
- 233 SOUND: THE DOOR CREAKS OPEN, NO ONE WALKS INSIDE. MORE
SPECIFICALLY, THERE IS NO ROOM TO WALK INSIDE.
- 234 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
Cozy.
- 235 FREY:
(A LITTLE UNSETTLED)
It's a *closet*. Someone *lived* in here. How could someone
live like this night after night? D-do you think they
were forced to live in this... tiny space?
- 236 TANGO:
But look, lots of toys, those clothes are way too small
for anyone our size. It's a kids room.
- 237 FREY:
Kids shouldn't live like this.
- 238 NICO:
Well, no one's living here now... (NICO FOUND A SHINY
THING) Huh.
- 239 SOUND: NICO PICKS UP ANOTHER CRYSTAL NECKLACE FROM THE
MATTRESS ON THE FLOOR.
- 240 TANGO:
Another one?
- 241 NICO:
Yeah, but it's... different. Look at the wiring. It
wraps around the crystal, but it's drilled into it too.
The chain's made of the same material.
- 242 JIM ROBBIE:
Woo, you found more creepy crystals. C'mon already.
- 243 SOUND: THEY CLOSE THE DOOR AND WALK A FEW STEPS. THE FINAL
DOOR LOOMS IN FRONT OF THEM.

- 244 NICO:
There's another name. "Marissa." Better penmanship too.
- 245 JIM ROBBIE:
You saw it, you open it.
- 246 NICO:
(NOPE)
Um.. A-haha, yeah, no. I've done my fair share of work dealing with this... (a little LOUDER) FREY, how about you take a stab at it?
- 247 FREY:
Uhh... TANGO, you tore right through that cage back at that town. You're just so strong. Why don't you open the door?
- 248 TANGO:
Me? Well- uhh... JIM-!
- 249 JIM ROBBIE:
(DEAD-PAN)
I can't open anything.
- 250 TANGO:
Oh YES YOU CAN!
- 251 JIM ROBBIE:
What- no I -HEY! HEY! LET GO OF MY ARM! TANGO! TANGO, YOU'RE STILL TECHNICALLY OPENING THE DOOR WITH MY USELESS FORK ARMS! TANGO, AT LEAST BE IN FRONT OF ME.
- 252 SOUND: TANGO USES JIM'S ARM TO OPEN THE DOOR, IT CREAKS OPEN WITH JIM'S PROTESTS MINGLING WITH THE SOUND

Scene 7: Marissa's Room

- 253 SOUND: THE DOOR IS OPENED. WIND RUSTLES THE CURTAIN NEAR AN OPEN WINDOW, AND FROM TIME TO TIME PAPERS ARE RUSTLED BY THE WIND. APART FROM THE SLIGHT MESS, THE ROOM IS MASSIVE, ALMOST GRAND.
- 254 JIM ROBBIE:
... You all can look, now. No one's here, but they left in a hurry.
- 255 SOUND: THEY WALK INTO THE ROOM. NICO GIVES A LOW WHISTLE AT THE BURNED PHOTOS AND THE CRYSTALS SCATTERED IN ONE CORNER.
- 256 NICO:
Yeah, they left in a hurry and tried to commit arson.

- 257 FREY:
But it was put out. If you want to burn down a building you don't start on the second floor. Why would someone start a fire and put it out?
- 258 NICO:
Not sure, but look at THIS.
- 259 SOUND: AS NICO PICKS UP A CRYSTAL NEAR THE BURN SIGHT TANGO WANDERS AROUND THE ROOM, TALKING TO HERSELF A BIT AND THINKING EVERYTHING THROUGH
- 260 NICO: (cont'd)
It's even more intricate than the last one. The crystal is perfectly clear, the wire doesn't even look like it was drilled in, almost as if it's was natural. There's something engraved too, but I can't read it.
- 261 SOUND: THERE'S A MOMENT OF QUIET BETWEEN ALL OF THEM, TANGO REACHES DOWN AND PICKS UP A BURNED PHOTO WITH ONE HAND.
- 262 TANGO:
(QUIETLY)
To hide things?
- 263 FREY:
Tango?
- 264 TANGO:
What if they burned these photos to hide something?
- 265 NICO:
Hide what?
- 266 JIM ROBBIE:
... You might not want to look, but you're going to look anyways.
- 267 SOUND: NICO TAKES THE PHOTO FROM TANGO AND LOOKS AT IT
- 268 NICO:
A picture of a family? Why are you showing me this?
- 269 FREY:
Nico... Look at who's burned out of the picture.
- 270 NICO:
... Oh... But the photos of the children-
- 271 JIM ROBBIE:
Look at the photo, look at the photos on the walls, and tell us when your brain starts working.

- 272 FREY:
But all of the photos on the walls are of children,
and... And...
- 273 NICO:
(STARTING TO GET IT)
The adults were burned out of every photo... The
drawings, the yard, the pillow fort-
- 274 FREY:
This isn't a town. It's a commune of *children*.
- 275 JIM ROBBIE:
Ding, ding, ding! There it is. But for the big million
coin question, where are they now?
- 276 SOUND: BEAT OF SILENCE TO A QUESTION NONE OF THEM HAVE AN
ANSWER TO, AND REALLY DON'T WANT TO ANSWER EITHER
- 277 JIM ROBBIE: (cont'd)
(BRIGHTLY)
SO! Who likes the idea of spending their night in a
LESS creepy house?
- 278 FREY:
Okay, yeah. No one's home, let's go... Tango?
- 279 TANGO:
Y-yeah... There were some other houses down the road.
Let's get out of here.
- 280 SOUND: THEY ALL LEAVE THE ROOM, SHUTTING THE DOOR BEHIND
THEM AND THEIR FOOTSTEPS ARE MUFFLED BY THE WALLS UNTIL THEY
FADE. ONE OF THE CRYSTALS MAKE AN ELECTRIC SPARK, LIGHTING A
PHOTO ON FIRE, CRACKLING FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN FADING.

END.