

"Six Years Under"

Pilot

Written By

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COLD OPEN

Footage of empty streets - towns, cities, parks - no one is outside. Bomb sirens wail over the footage.

REPORTER (V.O.)

It seems as if we are now a mere 3 hours away from anticipated impact. People around the world are preparing for the worst as the asteroid being referred to by many as "The Decimator" is hurtling its way into the earths atmosphere. While radiologists had previously stated that the world may return to normal six years after an extraterrestrial object of this size hits us, they now believe that-

**INT. BUNKER LIVING ROOM - DAY**

The television in the center of the room cuts out. A hand reaches out to hit it. The hand belongs to IDA MOSS (47). She is dressed in a fur coat and a party hat.

IDA

I don't think it's coming back on.

She is pushed out of the way by her daughter, LOU MOSS (21), also in a party hat.

LOU

What was he saying?!

IDA

Something about the scientists thinking. Big shocker there.

LOU

Turn it back on. We need to know what's going on up there.

Ida hits the TV again. Nothing happens.

LOU (CONT'D)

You're not doing it right. You have to hit it like this.

Lou smacks the TV. Still Nothing.

IDA

Just like that?

LOU

Bite me. I don't know why it's not working. It's always worked down here, every single time I've tested it.

IDA

Here, why don't you...

The two women both smack at the TV. It's embarrassing to watch. The sound of little feet are barely heard through all of the smacking. They belong to DENNY MOSS (5). He's wearing a party hat and a sash that say "Birthday Boy".

DENNY

What are you doing?

IDA

Oh, sweetheart, the TV stopped working, so Lulu and I are trying to get it to work again.

DENNY

Why are you hitting it?

IDA

Because sometimes that's the only thing that will help.

DENNY

You said that hitting is never the answer.

IDA

When did I say that?

Denny shrugs. Ida approaches him and crouches down to his level.

IDA (CONT'D)

See, now this is a problem called "putting words into mommy's mouth". That isn't something that we like to do, so if it happens again, we're going to-

LOU

Denny, do you want to have your cake now?!

Denny nods furiously and runs into the kitchen. Lou shoots her mother a look that screams "Who in their right mind ever let you near a child". Ida shrugs it off.

**INT. BUNKER KITCHEN - DAY**

Denny and Ida sit at the table - small with only three chairs. Lou holds a lighter, a single birthday candle, and a little cake.

LOU

Now before you have your cake big  
guy, is there anything you want to  
wish for?

Denny thinks for a moment while Lou sets up his cake. She and Ida both glance back towards the TV, just in case.

DENNY

I wish that we had an extra chair  
for Grivley.

Lou and Ida look at each other. Not this again.

DENNY (CONT'D)

But he said since it's my birthday  
and we're down here he doesn't mind  
sitting on the floor for now.

IDA

Denny, I don't know how many times  
that I have to tell you-

LOU

That it's very nice of Grivley to  
say that.

Ida rolls her eyes at this, but shoots Denny a wide smile.

IDA

Now who's ready for their birthday  
song?

Lou lights the candle that she's stuck into the cake. The two women sit around the boy.

LOU & IDA (CONT'D)

(singing)

Happy Birthday to-

The bunker begins to shake. Slowly at first, then violently. Lou grabs the table, Ida grabs Denny, Denny shuts his eyes. The lights shut off and the family is illuminated only by the small candle. The shaking begins to calm.

DENNY

That's what you get for hitting the  
TV.

Denny blows out his candle.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT I

**INT. BUNKER KITCHEN - 6 YEARS LATER**

Lou, Ida, and Denny sit around the table. They're in the same spots and in the same hats. There is a birthday Twinkie instead of a birthday cake. The hats have wear to them and the candle barely sticks out of the Twinkie. They've used these for every birthday in the last six years.

LOU

Eleven years old. I can't believe it. It feels like just yesterday mommy was going to the hospital to have you, and now look at you! You're almost as big as me!

Denny smiles sheepishly. Ida puts a hand on his back.

LOU (CONT'D)

And I know that I tell you all the time that you're the greatest little brother that I could have ever asked for, but I hope you know that I mean it. There's no one else I'd rather have been stuck down here with.

DENNY

What about Echo?

Ida glances at Lou. Lou wasn't expecting that.

LOU

Echo was my friend. A good buddy. So was Alex, if you remember him.

Lou struggles to find her words.

LOU (CONT'D)

And I loved them both. Very much. But at the end of the day, you and mommy were my family, and I'm very grateful that I got to survive down here with you two.

A beat.

LOU (CONT'D)

Now blow out your candle. We don't have another.

Denny blows out the candle. Ida cheers and Lou claps.

IDA

Oh, my baby boy isn't going to be my baby much longer. Eleven! Soon enough you'll be reading all of the law textbooks Lou brought down here like she does and-

DENNY

You guys don't have to be this nice to me. I know you want to go up today.

Ida is speechless. Lou stares at her trying to figure out what to say.

LOU

What do you-

DENNY

This place isn't very big and mom's not good at being quiet.

Lou silently agrees with him and Ida glares at her.

LOU

We should have told you. I'm sorry.

IDA

We just didn't want to ruin your special day!

DENNY

Every year my birthday is the anniversary of the apocalypse. You could both die right now and I've still had a worse birthday.

LOU

A bit morbid.

DENNY

But true.

LOU

I guess so. So, what do you say? Birthday trip up to the surface?

Denny stares in front of him and squints as if he's looking at something. He nods, then looks at his sister.

DENNY

Okay.

Lou smiles even bigger and hugs her little brother.

**INT. LADDER ROOM - DAY**

Lou, Ida, and Denny stand together at the base of the ladder. They're all wearing orange hazmat suits.

LOU

Alright, so everyone remembers the number one rule, right? If something seems wrong...

DENNY

Go back down the ladder.

IDA

(to herself)  
Stupid rule.

LOU

What was that?

IDA

Oh, sorry Lulu. I just have never been a fan of that rule.

LOU

Okay-

IDA

It's just that when I was on Broadway, we had a saying "the show must go on", and I just feel that fleeing at the first sight of danger is never something that I would do. Personally.

LOU

Well, if you forgot, Broadway was hit by an asteroid and simply does not exist anymore. So now the show must go down the ladder if something seems wrong.

Denny chuckles. Ida glares at her children.

IDA  
 You are both miserable little  
 people. I have no idea how you  
 turned into this.

LOU  
 But you love us.

Ida pinches her thumb and index fingers together "you're this close". Lou laughs her off. Denny looks upset

LOU (CONT'D)  
 (to Denny)  
 You know that no matter what's out  
 there, we stick together, right?

DENNY  
 Yeah.

LOU  
 (to Ida)  
 Right, mom?

IDA  
 Right.

Lou looks at her mother and brother for potentially the last time. She takes a deep breath and turns to climb the ladder. She begins to climb, then Denny and Ida follow.

Lou reaches the top faster than anticipated. She stills for a moment, then looks down at her family. She turns the valve to the hatch slowly, and then pushes. There's a lot of resistance. There's ripping, then the hatch pops right open.

Sun pools down onto their faces. The three of them shield their eyes.

LOU  
 Everyone okay?

Grunts of approval come from Ida and Denny. Lou begins to climb out. She's terrified and excited. She doesn't know what she's expecting in this new world, but she knows she can brave it.

#### **EXT. WOODS - DAY**

Lou crawls out of the hatch. It opened to the middle of the woods, the ripping sound on the hatch was moss that had covered the hatch. Lou is awe-struck in the fact that the world still looks so normal.



DENNY (O.S.)

Lou? Is it okay to come out?

Lou snaps out of her awe.

LOU

Yeah buddy, it's okay.

Lou helps Denny out of the hatch, and then her mother. They all stand and stare for a moment. Ida is the least impressed.

IDA

Wow. The woods. Nothing we didn't see six years ago.

LOU

What, were you hoping that we missed an alien invasion or something?

Ida considers this for a moment but her thought is cut off when she hears a rustling in the woods.

IDA

What was that?

LOU

What was what?

IDA

Don't play coy. You heard it too.

LOU

I did not.

Another rustle. Denny turns towards it.

DENNY

I hear it.

IDA

(to Lou)

See?! Not crazy. You're the dumb one.

LOU

I never said-

Suddenly, something jumps out of a bush from behind Lou. It has a hairy, tentacle like appendage that wraps itself around one of her ankles. She screams and stomps on it.

Ida screams too, but she grabs Denny and begins to run.

DENNY

What!?? Where are we-?

IDA

Getting out of here, baby!

DENNY

Lou said to go back down!

Lou catches up to them.

LOU

There are going to be more of them.  
We should have-

**EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - DAY**

Lou is cut off by their sudden escape from the woods. They've made it out, and they're looking down at a town. And it looks inhabited.

LOU

There are... people?

IDA

I don't think we've totally ruled  
an invasion out yet.

LOU

Oh my God. We've been under them...  
this whole time?

IDA

Looks that way.

LOU

Oh my God?

IDA

Aah, come on baby girl. Let's go  
see if these aliens have figured  
out how to make martinis yet.

Ida heads down towards the town, Lou mindlessly follows her.  
Denny stays by himself for a moment.

DENNY

No one ever asks what Denny wants  
to do.

Frustrated, he follows his family.

**EXT. TOWN - DAY**

Lou, Ida, and Denny walk slowly into the town. There are little houses - mostly made out of wood and stone. People stare at them as they walk in.

IDA  
 (under her breath)  
 Well no one told me that we'd have  
 an audience. I would have put on  
 something more flattering.

Ida offers a smile to a stranger, but they look away. Who are these people? A man in the crowd approaches them.

MAN  
 Hey, where are you guys-

Denny just screams. It's an "I'm a kid and I've lost my mom at the state fair" scream, but worse. He's absolutely freaked. The man backs off.

LOU  
 (to the man)  
 Sorry, he's not, uh, a people  
 person.

More people arrive to see whose shown up. Lou is also getting stressed out, but she doesn't scream at them.

LOU (CONT'D)  
 Are you all... How long have you...  
 How did you...

The crowd has no idea what Lou is trying to say.

IDA  
 Sorry, my children are a bit inept.  
 Would anyone like to let us know  
 what in the absolute hell is going  
 on out here?

A woman tries to approach them, but Denny just starts to scream again. Someone starts pushing through the crowd.

ECHO  
 Excuse me. Sorry. Just let me-  
 excuse me! Thanks, so sorry.

ECHO bursts through the line of people. She stares at the family. Denny starts to scream again, but Lou puts her hand on her shoulder, stopping him.

LOU  
 (softly)  
 Echo?

Echo smiles and approaches Lou. Lou, completely overwhelmed, runs to give her best friend a hug.

ECHO  
 Oh my God, Lou. We thought you were gone.

LOU  
 I thought we- I thought you-  
 Everyone was supposed to wait six years. How long have you all been out here?

ECHO  
 Oh, Lulu. We have a lot of catching up to do.

Lou breaks away from Echo and turns to her family. The crowd begins to falter. Denny takes Lou's hand, Ida put a hand on his back, and Echo leads them to safety.

END ACT I

ACT II

**EXT. TARAN'S BAR - DAY**

Lou, Ida, Denny, and Echo stand outside of the bar. It's a very familiar looking building. People stare at them as they walk past.

ECHO  
 None of the Pizza Hut's fell. From what we can tell, they're the only buildings that survived.

LOU  
 I wonder why that is.

ECHO  
 Something about the structures I think.

A woman stands behind them, looking up with them. She smiles.

MILDRED  
 I've always heard that it's because no one out pizzas the hut!

ECHO  
Can you fuck off Mildred?!

Mildred's smile drops into a frown and she walks away.

LOU  
Who was-

ECHO  
(indignantly)  
That was Mildred.

A beat.

ECHO (CONT'D)  
Let's go inside.

Confused, everyone follows Echo into the bar.

**INT. TARAN'S BAR - DAY**

They sit in a booth. Echo sits on the table, Lou sits with her head on the table, Ida sits next to her nursing a martini. Denny sits at the far end of the building, spinning in circles on a stool.

IDA  
So, just to let me get this  
straightened out. You were in the  
basement of the high school.

ECHO  
Yeah.

IDA  
With how many people?

ECHO  
Pretty much everyone who lives here  
now.

IDA  
For only two months?

ECHO  
Ten weeks, tops.

LOU  
The scientists said to wait six  
years. Why didn't you wait?

ECHO

Well they said six years. Then right before Deci- The Decimator-hit, they said that it was coming so fast that the radioactivity wasn't going to be as bad as they predicted.

LOU

(to Ida)

You should have fixed the TV.

Lou groans and puts her head back down on the table.

IDA

Oh, come on Lou, you told us before that there's no one you would have rather been stuck in the basement with.

Lou groans again.

IDA (CONT'D)

(to Echo)

So you've just been out here... surviving?

ECHO

Pretty much. From what we can tell, anyone who was in a five hundred mile radius of Toronto died on impact.

IDA

(to herself)

There goes Broadway.

ECHO

And anyone who was above ground for those first few weeks didn't make it. But everything settled really fast and once we heard it was okay to get out, we started to rebuild.

A beat.

ECHO (CONT'D)

But like, not everything is great out here. We still have to deal with the Crawlers.

Lou sits up. Denny stops spinning.

LOU  
Those things?!

ECHO  
You saw one?

DENNY  
I didn't.

LOU  
In the woods on our way over here.  
One of them grabbed me.

ECHO  
Oh, yeah. You don't need to worry  
about them.

LOU  
I feel like anything referred to as  
a "Crawler" with tentacles that can  
grab people is something that I  
need to worry about.

DENNY  
Tentacles?

ECHO  
I mean, yeah, they can like, kill  
you or whatever. But they won't.

Denny is suddenly very close to Lou. She jumps when he talks.

DENNY  
(to Echo)  
How do you know?

ECHO  
We've got it all figured out.

ALEX (27) and TARAN (54) enter the bar. They both have rifles strapped to their backs. Alex continues to speak to Taran as they walk in without even noticing that other people are there. Lou's eyes are the size of saucers when she sees him.

ALEX  
-and sure dude, you're the one who  
got it in the head, but who's the  
one who got it to you? I think that  
we should split the kill, each of  
us gets a point. Keeps it fair.  
(to Echo)  
Hey Echo.  
(to Lou)  
Hey Lou.

He stops dead in his tracks.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Lou?!

Lou stares at him and just stammers. She looks at Echo.

ECHO

Right! I knew I was forgetting something. Alex is Crawler hunting with Taran. They should be getting back soon.

Echo points at Lou.

ECHO (CONT'D)

(to Alex)

Lou's back! I mean, she wasn't really gone. Her family was in a hole in the woods. But they're here now!

Alex smiles and offers a thumbs up. Lou doesn't know how to process this at all, so she just gets up and walks to the hallway at the end of the bar.

TARAN

Bathroom's to the left.

Lou gives a thumbs up and enters the bathroom, slamming the door behind her. Ida, sighs, downs her drink, and gets up to follow her. Denny stands and stares at the strangers he's been left with.

DENNY

It's my birthday today.

The adults in the room look at each other. Surely they have to do something about that.

**INT. BAR BATHROOM - DAY**

Lou stands at the bathroom mirror and stares at herself. She splashes water on her face. She takes a few deep breaths. She doesn't know if she wants to laugh or cry or scream. Ida pushes the door open. Hard. Lou jumps.

LOU

Jesus, mom.

IDA

Sorry, did I scare you?



Ida smiles at her. Lou tries to ignore her mother.

LOU  
Can I not just have one, singular  
minute to myself?

IDA  
I just wanted to make sure that you  
were okay.

LOU  
I would be more okay if I wasn't  
sharing a bathroom with my mother.

IDA  
That can't be it.

A beat. It's awkward.

IDA (CONT'D)  
(knowingly)  
You're just upset that Alex and  
Echo-

LOU  
(cutting her off)  
Of course I'm upset that Alex and  
Echo are here! It's not every day  
that you crawl out of a bunker  
after six years to find out that  
the doomsday event that was  
supposed to wipe out all of human  
existence didn't do that, and you  
just spent the most influential  
years of your life in a hole in the  
ground with you mother and brother  
thinking that everyone you know is  
super dead even though they  
weren't, they were above you the  
whole time! I broke up with Alex to  
go to law school and change the  
world, but then I didn't because we  
were all supposed to die, and the  
world changed all on its own, and I  
was in a hole in the ground and he  
was up here fighting giant alien  
monsters with Echo and I didn't  
even know.

Lous words hang in the air. Ida looks like she needs to say  
something.

LOU (CONT'D)  
What?

IDA  
Oh, it's nothing.

LOU  
Say it.

IDA  
It's just... you called it a  
bunker-

LOU  
(interrupting)  
Oh my god...

IDA  
-and I know it's just a word, but I  
just wanted to remind you that-

LOU  
Yes. Your basement. My apologies.  
Your damp, cold, underground mall  
build out of metal in the middle of  
nowhere fit for the most famous of  
Tony Award losers that Barbra  
Streisand is most certainly jealous  
of.

IDA  
Louise Moss, I have told you  
countless times that if you ever  
invoked that woman's name in front  
of me again so help me God I will-

The door opens before the women can duke it out. It's Taran.  
He looks concerned.

TARAN  
Hi, ladies. Sorry to interrupt. I  
just wanted to let you know that  
your boy is, uh, gone.

LOU & IDA  
WHAT?!

LOU (CONT'D)  
You just let him leave?

TARAN  
Yeah I thought that he-

LOU  
He's eleven! You're just going to  
let a kid out there by himself and-

TARAN

Oh no, he left with Alex. Went for a little birthday walk.

IDA

Why the fuck didn't you say it like that?

Taran shrugs. Ida rolls her eyes and pushes Taran out of the way. Lou stares at herself in the mirror again, then turns to follow her mother.

**EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS**

Alex and Denny walk down the street together. Denny is still in his full hazmat suit - helmet and everything. Alex still has a few weapons with him, but he's missing his rifle. Denny kicks at rocks on the sidewalk as he walks.

ALEX

Man, I remember when you were this big.

Alex uses his hand to show how little Denny used to be.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And now look at you! You're like a whole little man now. That's crazy.

Denny continues to kick at the rocks. Alex tries a different approach.

ALEX (CONT'D)

So, how's it feel to come back to a world with like, monsters in it?

DENNY

I knew they'd be out here.

ALEX

What?

Denny doesn't look up as he speaks. He just kicks at rocks.

DENNY

(confidently)

I could hear 'em in the basement. They sounded like CREEEE EEE EEEE DUH DUH DUH DUH. Unless that was something else.

Alex stops dead in his tracks. Denny keeps walking.

ALEX  
No dude, that's exactly what they  
sound like.

DENNY  
(surprised)  
Really?

Denny looks up and realized that Alex isn't walking next to him anymore.

DENNY (CONT'D)  
Why'd you stop?

ALEX  
We didn't know they go underground.

Alex rushes up to Denny and grabs him by the shoulders, forcing Denny to look at him.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Do you know what this means?!

DENNY  
Nope.

ALEX  
We can find the hive. We can find  
where they live, and take them out  
once and for all.

DENNY  
Will I see one?

ALEX  
Little man, with the knowledge that  
you just bestowed upon me, your  
fresh eyes will never have to see a  
filthy Crawler for a second in your  
tiny, short life.

DENNY  
But I want to-

ALEX  
You *will* help people, Denny. Thanks  
to you, our little problem is  
almost over. Come on, we've got to  
go tell everyone.

Alex runs like a war horse back to the bar. He is so excited to be the hero. Denny realizes what he's just done, throws his head back, and lets out a groan. He walks in the direction Alex went.

**EXT. TARAN'S BAR - DAY**

Alex stops in front of the bar. He's breathing heavily. Echo takes a trash bin out through the front door.

ECHO  
Hey Alex! Where's Denny?

Alex just points behind him. Echo can see Denny's little orange silhouette approaching.

ECHO (CONT'D)  
Oh, I see him. Why'd you run back?

Alex tries to respond, but he can't. He points at Denny again. Echo squints to try to see him better.

ECHO (CONT'D)  
He looks fine to me.

Alex shakes his head and does an inch worm motion with his index finger.

ECHO (CONT'D)  
You saw a bug?!

Alex shakes his head again. Lou and Ida come out of the front door. Denny finally makes his way back.

ALEX  
CRAWLER!

ECHO  
Oohhh.

Echo repeats the inch worm move and nods her head.

LOU  
You guys saw a Crawler?! Jesus Christ, Denny are you okay?!

ALEX  
(breathing heavily)  
Didn't see any but Denny... Denny said that he... man, this place is a lot bigger than I thought it was.

Alex really takes a while to breathe normally.

IDA  
What the hell did you two see out there?!

ALEX

Oh, we didn't see anything.

The women all look at each other, and then back at Alex.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But Denny, he said he heard them in the bunker.

IDA

(under her breath)  
Basement.

LOU

Denny, are you serious?

Denny starts to speak but Alex speaks before he can say anything.

ALEX

He knows what they sound like. He's got their CREEEEE EEE EEEE DUH DUH DUH DUH down pat. No one could get that right unless they've heard it themselves.

LOU

Holy shit.  
(to Denny)  
Den, why didn't you ever say anything?

Everyone looks at Denny. They want to hear what he has to say.

DENNY

Uh-

ALEX

He was protecting the ladies he loves. Denny Moss, you are the most noble young man I've ever met.

Alex claps a hand onto Denny's shoulder. Denny looks for a rock to kick.

IDA

So why does it matter that these things were trying to get into our *basement*?

ALEX

We didn't know they burrowed.

A beat. That is big.

LOU

If you know that they burrow, that means you can find the source.

ALEX

And knock them out once and for all.

Lou and Alex look at each other for a moment. Lou is the one to break it .

LOU

You guys hunt them, right? Do they have some sort of pattern you can follow?

ALEX

For sure, out all day, gone by night.

LOU

So I'm sure if you go out later in the day, you can follow one to see where it goes...

Lou pauses to see if everyone thinks that her idea was brilliant or stupid. Echo and Alex realize how right she is.

ECHO

I'll go get Taran!

Echo runs into the Bar.

ALEX

Man, we missed you out here Lou. Can't believe you're gonna be the reason we finally blow these suckers into the sky.

LOU

Aren't we blowing them into the ground?

Alex thinks on this for a moment.

ALEX

The real ground, but the metaphorical sky. As in heaven. As in we'll kill them all.

Proud of this, Alex heads inside the bar. Lou heads over to Denny.

LOU  
 You didn't have to keep that secret  
 from us, Den.

DENNY  
 I didn't-

LOU  
 It's okay. We're out now, and we're  
 safe, and thanks to you, we're  
 going to save the world. I'm really  
 proud of you.

Lou hugs Denny and goes inside. Ida stares at her son. It's  
 an all knowing mom look.

DENNY  
 I just made up a sound.

Ida nods and motions for Denny to join her. She places a hand  
 on his shoulder and leads him inside.

END ACT II

ACT III

**EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - DUSK**

Taran, Alex, and Denny brace themselves to enter the woods.  
 Taran and Alex each have multiple guns, Denny is holding a  
 shovel.

Lou, Ida, and Echo stand behind them. They're not dressed to  
 follow them, just there for moral support. Each of them has  
 very different body language, but it all reads as "this is a  
 bad idea".

IDA  
 You know, maybe we can just wait a  
 little bit longer. We've only been  
 up here for a few hours, and sweet  
 Denny just-

ALEX  
 Ms. Moss, please don't mind me  
 speaking out here, but you don't  
 know what it's like out there.  
 These things... living with these  
 things has been hell. We finally  
 have a shot at fixing things,  
 making things right.



LOU

Mom, this is out chance to help.  
When have you ever cared about the  
wellbeing of your children like  
this?

IDA

I mean he's my baby, Lulu. The kid  
didn't remember grass until this  
morning, I just don't know if it's  
a good idea for him to-

TARAN

Sun'll be down in about an hour. We  
better get moving if we're done  
bickering.

Ida takes a deep breath and stares at Denny as she waits for  
a verdict.

ECHO

I mean, you guys could wait until  
tomorrow.

ALEX

Why would we do that if we can get  
it done tonight?

ECHO

I guess that's fair.

IDA

No, it's not.  
(to Denny)  
Den, do you want to do this?

Everyone turns to look at Denny, who is still in his full  
hazmat suit.

DENNY

I want to take my helmet off.

ALEX

Look kiddo, I already told you.  
It's safer for you to keep it on.  
Crawlers always go for the face, and  
that helmet gives your sweet little  
mug an extra barrier.

DENNY

Yeah, but if I keep it on I won't  
be able to...

Denny looks at Ida, who just shrugs at him.

DENNY (CONT'D)

Yeah, I want to do this I guess.

With this confirmation, the men share a final look with each other and head into the woods.

**INT. TARAN'S BAR - DUSK**

Lou paces. Echo looks over the plans that have been made, and Ida sits with her back to the bar.

IDA

(to herself)

The kids an idiot.

LOU

What was that?

IDA

Your brother. Not very bright.

LOU

You were the one who wanted him to stay here, If you wanted him here, why didn't you fight harder?

Ida shrugs.

IDA

It's just... I mean, everything he's done today. I don't know where I went wrong with him - he had so much potential.

ECHO

He was raised in a hole.

LOU

He's out there helping to get rid of the Crawlers. He's gonna be a hero mom, don't be an ass.

IDA

No, he won't.

LOU

Can you knock it off!?

IDA

He made it up.

Lou and Echo look at each other. Ida doesn't seem concerned with her revelation.

LOU  
What?

IDA  
He never heard anything in the basement. Don't you think that we would have heard something too?

LOU  
Oh my God.

IDA  
He's got to learn to deal with the consequences of his actions.

ECHO  
I have to call Taran.

Echo runs into to the back room.

LOU  
So to teach him a lesson you acted your way through caring for his safety?

IDA  
Well when you put it like that it makes me sound like a monster.

LOU  
I'm surprised it took you this long to see it like that.

Echo comes back with a walkie talkie.

ECHO  
(into the walkie talkie)  
Taran? Hey Taran, you there?

IDA  
(to Lou)  
You're a nasty daughter.

LOU  
I guess I'm just like the woman who raised me.

ECHO  
(into the walkie talkie)  
Echo to Taran, you read me?

IDA  
Please, anyone would be lucky to have been raised by me.

LOU  
Really, so you've just been acting  
the role of wicked mother for the  
last 27 years?

IDA  
And you said Broadway's gone.

The front door of the bar opens, and Mildred walks in.

MILDRED  
(to Echo)  
Hey girlie, I was just wondering if  
I could get a-

ECHO  
NOT FUCKING NOW, MILDRED!

Mildred scowls and exits. Echo stares at the door after her,  
It's like they have some sort of intense and evil physic  
connection.

ECHO (CONT'D)  
Don't mind her.

Suddenly, the walkie talkie buzzes, and Taran's voice is  
heard.

TARAN  
Yeah Echo, I'm here. What's up?

**EXT. WOODS - DUSK**

Taran, Alex, and Denny stand as Taran finishes up his  
conversation with Echo. Denny looks embarrassed. They are  
surrounded by holes dug up with the shovel.

TARAN  
(into the walkie talkie)  
Yeah. Thanks for letting us know.

Taran looks at Denny. Denny looks at the ground.

TARAN (CONT'D)  
Why'd you lie?

DENNY  
I didn't lie.

ALEX  
You told me you knew they'd be out  
here! And you knew exactly what  
they sounded like.

DENNY  
I just made that up.

TARAN  
That's lying.

DENNY  
No it wasn't.

TARAN  
What makes you not telling the  
truth any less of a lie?

DENNY  
I didn't think he'd believe me.

A beat.

ALEX  
His description was very  
exaggerated.

TARAN  
(to Alex)  
So you planned this entire  
operation on the exaggerated  
description of an eleven year old  
who hasn't talked to someone  
outside of his own family in the  
last six years?

ALEX  
He knew exactly what they sounded  
like dude. I don't know what else  
to tell you.

TARAN  
(to Denny)  
Hey kid, make a sound.

Denny makes a sound, this time it's more of a BRUUUUUUU COO  
COO CWAA. Taran looks at Alex.

ALEX  
Okay, sure. That sounded like one  
too. But don't put this on me.

DENNY  
Guys?

TARAN

Don't put it on you? You've risked all of our lives on your stupid plan, because you think everything sounds like a Crawler.

DENNY

Hey, guys?

ALEX

Oh, I'm sorry that my hearing isn't what it used to be. Sure, blame me for those kids who used to throw rocks at me too, why don't you.

DENNY

GUYS?!

ALEX & TARAN

WHAT DENNY?

Alex and Taran turn around and see Denny pointing at something in the woods.

DENNY

Is that what they look like?

Something moves in the woods. It gets closer. The same tentacle that grabbed Lou tries to grab Denny. Taran grabs Denny by the wrist and pulls him out of the way. They begin to run.

**EXT. TOWN - CONTINUOUS**

Lou, Echo, and Ida make their way towards the woods. They're in a hurry.

ECHO

I mean, maybe one in twenty times when Taran calls like that it's not a big deal. But he sounded bad. So I think there's a problem.

IDA

But what is there for us to do about it? They're the ones with the weapons.

Echo stops.

ECHO

That's a good point.

LOU  
 No, it's not. We're going to go  
 make sure that our friends and  
 (to Ida)  
 Your son are okay.

IDA  
 Denny's a good kid, I'm sure he's  
 having a great time out there.

LOU  
 "Good kid" doesn't mean he knows  
 what to do when he sees something  
 that'll kill him.

High pitched screaming is suddenly heard in the distance.  
 They turn to see Denny running out of the woods. Echo is the  
 first to run over to Denny, followed by Lou and then Ida.

**EXT. EDGE OF THE WOODS - NIGHT**

Denny doesn't notice the women at first, and he keeps  
 screaming until he runs head first into Lou.

LOU  
 Hey, hey. It's okay. Look, it's  
 just me. Hey, you're okay.

DENNY  
 It looked like Grivley.

Lou is shocked. Denny hasn't brought up Grivley in years.

LOU  
 Grivley? Your little...

DENNY  
 Friend.

LOU  
 Right. That's what he looked like?

DENNY  
 He's bigger in my head.

IDA  
 I've told you a hundred times,  
 Grivley isn't real.

ECHO  
 What's Grivley?

LOU  
This thing Denny used to have  
nightmares about.

DENNY  
He talked to me.

IDA  
Denny, that was just your mind  
running wild. Little boy things,  
remember?

DENNY  
But mom, it looked just like him.

Shots and screams come from the woods, and Taran and Alex  
exit, panting and covered in blue blood.

TARAN  
(to Ida)  
Your kid can talk to 'em.

Taran heads in the direction of the bar. No one follows him.

LOU  
What- what did he mean by that?

ALEX  
Denny was just making nosies again  
and like fifteen Crawlers came  
right at us.

IDA  
(to Denny)  
Is that right?

Denny looks up at Ida. He's been avoiding her gaze the whole  
time.

DENNY  
Yeah, I made the noise and they  
were all there. Just like Grivley  
told me would happen.

ALEX  
Who?

LOU  
Don't worry about it.



IDA

You went out there and dealt with a mistake you made, and learned something from it, is that what I'm hearing?

DENNY

I didn't make a mistake, I was just making nosies that Grivley wanted me to make. I did learn that I can talk to Crawlers, if that's what you want to hear.

IDA

And you proved that you can be very brave in the face of danger, didn't you?

DENNY

Not really. I was screaming.

Ida looks at Alex for conformation.

ALEX

Yeah, he was screaming.

DENNY

Knowing I can talk to the Crawlers means I can help take them out, though. Or make friends with them. They might be nice. You guys don't know because you can't talk to them, I guess.

The adults are shocked. He's right.

DENNY (CONT'D)

Can I follow Taran?

IDA

Of course, sweetie.

Denny heads in the direction Taran left in. Ida looks at Lou and curtseys. The end of her performance. Lou mockingly claps for her.

Ida turns to follow Denny. Lou rolls her eyes. Echo and Alex stand in silence with her for a while.

ECHO

How about that for a first day back?

LOU  
 (honestly)  
 This place is so fucked up.  
 (to Echo)  
 But I'm glad I have you to help me  
 figure it out.  
 (to Alex)  
 And you to help my little brother  
 figure out that he's some sort of  
 monster prophet.

ALEX  
 Little man's got a gift.

LOU  
 Of all the things that I was  
 expecting to happen when we left  
 the basement, this definitely  
 wasn't at the top of my list.

ECHO  
 What was?

LOU  
 At the top? Well I kind of imagined  
 that you both would have been dead,  
 the woods would just be gone, and  
 the sun and the moon would always  
 be in the sky at the same time.

ECHO  
 Sounds kind of nice.

ALEX  
 Sounds like you got hole madness.  
 From being in the hole.

LOU  
 Thank you, Alex.

ALEX  
 Sorry.

ECHO  
 Ready to head back?

LOU  
 And face my mother now that she has  
 an alien tongued, potentially  
 possessed son? Let's do it.

The three share a smile and head back in the direction of  
 town.

**EXT. TARANS BAR - NIGHT**

Denny sits by himself on the stoop. He finally takes his helmet off. He takes a deep breath and makes a few sounds to himself.

He looks to his left and a Crawler is sitting right next to him, absolutely still. Denny slowly sticks a finger out to poke it. Suddenly the Crawler wraps itself around Denny's finger. Denny screams, shakes his arm until the Crawler flies off, puts his helmet back on, and runs back inside.

END ACT III

END EPISODE