

ECHOES IN THE RIFT

Written by

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Based on Re-occurring Dreams



INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

NESTOR, 30's, turns over pulling the bed sheets. The phone alarm is trusted and revered.

MORPH

The phone alarm MORPHS into a digital alarm clock, a vintage alarm clock, and a rooster. In alarm and confusion, Nestor careens off the slick sheets, feathers sticking to his greasy face.

He dusts himself off in victory and inspects his clothing.

NESTOR  
(Bewildered)  
I could've sworn I had shorts on.

ELISE & PAULINA(O.S.)  
Daddy...

NESTOR  
...who in the world?

Nestor examines his surroundings and finds a few anomalies, he readies himself for the unexpected.

Twin girls burst forth from a dark spot, tackling Nestor.

ELISE, 7, is holding hands with PAULINA, 7, they skip along with ease and friendliness, Nestor's eyes widen as he steadies himself.

ELISE  
Dad, we haven't seen you in  
forever.

NESTOR  
...dad? Is this a dream?

PAULINA  
It's not a dream. We just woke up.

A lone feather perpetually floats and descends, repeating the cycle.

PAULINA (CONT'D)  
What's for breakfast?

KNOCK

Nestor hurries up to answer the door.

NESTOR  
Girls, play, I'll figure out our  
next move.

The twins creep back into the darkness as it envelopes them.

INT./EXT. HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

A solicitor with a clipboard awaits on the other side of the door. NYCKI, 30s, patiently awaiting.

NYCKI  
Greetings and salutations mere  
mortal. Gather around. I have a fix  
for every situation.

NESTOR  
I didn't even know there were any  
Door-to-door salesmen left.

NYCKI  
(Abruptly)  
There aren't!  
(Pause)  
It does seem like you have slipped  
into an alternate reality. Luckily,  
I have insurance for that.

NESTOR  
(Surprised)  
That seems oddly convenient.

NYCKI  
It would be wise to secure your  
future.

NESTOR  
I'm just trying to go home. I can't  
take care of kids.

NYCKI  
Then sign the contract. You can go  
home by 8:30.

Nestor engages the stop-hand gestures.

NESTOR  
Thank the Gods. I just needed to  
hear that out loud.

NYCKI

That's right. No monotheism in your reality.

NESTOR

What now?

NYCKI

There is a little caveat surrounding going home. If you don't go you'll be raising children. If you do go, this reality will be wiped.

NESTOR

(Concerned)

Well, I'm going to need some time to think this over.

NYCKI

All the time in the world.

Timepiece slides back into her pocket without the attention of anyone.

Nestor's shirt is being tugged in two places.

PAULINA

Please Dad. We're hungry.

ELISE

We have a doctor's appointment today. We can't do it without you.

NESTOR

What about your mom, can she take you?

ELISE

Dad, Mom's in heaven.

NESTOR

Oh shit.

PAULINA

Ooh, Dad said a bad word.

With an exhale Nestor relaxes his mind and his muscles.

NESTOR

I have an answer.

NYCKI  
I never did say how much time I  
would give you.

A picture frame disappears, along with various objects.

NYCKI (CONT'D)  
You ran out of time a while back.  
I'm going to have to wipe out both  
realities in response.

The ground shakes Nestor but not Nycki. The earthquake  
reverberates through the house and the sky lights up with  
ominous intent.

NYCKI (CONT'D)  
Echoes of the rift. The echoes of  
countless worlds.

NESTOR  
It's like a deal with the Devil  
without the damn deal.

NYCKI  
No hard feelings. I'm just  
following orders.

NESTOR  
I'll sign your damn contract. Is  
that what you wanted me to say?

NYCKI  
Hey, listen. You're free to do what  
you want to.

Nycki slinks into the darkness.