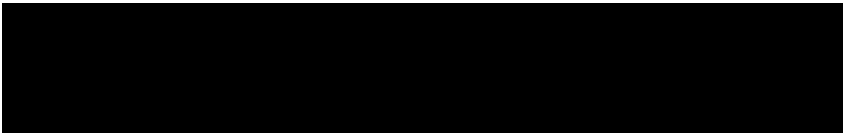


ECHOES IN THE RIFT

Written by

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Based on Re-occurring Dreams



INT. BEDROOM - DAY

NESTOR, 30s, turns over, pulling the silky smooth bed sheets.

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 stuck to his greasy face.

He dusts himself off in victory and inspects his clothes.

NESTOR

I could've sworn I had P.J.s on.

ELISE & PAULINA(O.S.)

Daddy...

NESTOR

...who in the world?

Nestor examines, finds a few anomalies, and prepares for the unexpected.

Twin girls burst forth from the darkness, tackling Nestor.

ELISE, 7, holds 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, the cycle repeats.

PAULINA (CONT'D)

What's for breakfast?

KNOCK 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 awaits.

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.

Nestor smiles at the salesman, revealing one missing tooth.

NYCKI
There aren't!

She toils with her hair.

NYCKI (CONT'D)
It does seem like you have slipped
into an alternate reality. Luckily,
I have insurance for that.

NESTOR
That seems oddly convenient.

NYCKI
It would be wise to secure your
future.

Nycki moves face to face, in close-range conversation. Nestor
shutters for a moment.

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

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 Nestor.

Nestor's shirt is being tugged in two places.

The Twins hold their stomachs and lock eyes with Nestor.

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 alarming Nestor.

NYCKI (CONT'D)

You ran out of time a while back. I 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 urges her to give him the contract.

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.

Nestor adds his John Hancock to the contract.

RING RING

He checks his phone, the notification reads,

"\$200,000,000 Balance."

NESTOR

That should more than makeup for things. This is going to work.

NYCKI

I suggest you donate at least \$1,000,000 to your favorite charity for tax purposes.

Nestor turns away, and when he turns back, Nycki is gone, leaving only a billow of smoke behind, with the sound of children's voices echoing in the house.

Nestor secures the day bag, ready for the Doctor's office.

PAULINA

Dad, we can go to the movies after.
"JAWS 25" is showing --

ELISE

With the cyborg of Roy Scheider's son-in-law.

The trio sluggishly heads towards the exit.

NESTOR

I think I made the right choice.

The biggest, brightest eyes bid for our love and approval.

PAULINA

Dad, being with us --

ELISE

-- is always the right choice.

Nestor feels the teeth with his tongue. Something makes
Nestor sit up straight. He reveals a new tooth as it glistens
in the sun.

NESTOR

I think I am right where I need to
be.

A lone feather gently lands on Nestor's shoulder.

DOOR SLAMS