

THE ILLUMINATI KID
(Sample)

by

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LOGLINE:

When a girl grieving after her mother's disappearance accidentally joins the Illuminati, she must battle an army of evil lizards disguised as humans in order to search for her mother and save the world.

TEASER

EXT. HUBBARD STREET, CHICAGO - SUNDAY NIGHT

Dark, wet. Torrential rain, everything glistens in monochromatic shades of gray. The dim glow of skyscraper windows barely visible in the fog.

And scurrying along --

CECELIA (SISSY) LOVETT (14), hopping from puddle to puddle. Bookish, wishes the world were better than she has learned that it is.

Sissy clutches her smartphone, eyes glued, trying to keep it from getting wet. She's failing.

TEXT FROM MOM: ***"No matter what happens, I love you."*** Dated **2 Years Ago.**

She shudders, rain pouring down her face... or is she crying?

Not watching where she's going, Sissy steps into a massive puddle, her foot slips out from under her and-

~SPLASH!~

Sissy falls onto her back and finds herself laid out flat.

She glares up at the moon. Glances down at the stone she slipped on -- a symbol etched into the rock. A circle inside of two triangles (one upside down, one right-side up).

She hauls herself to her feet and notices --

-- the warm glow of a bookshop, right there. *How did she miss that?*

Thunder and a flash of lightning. *Dun dun dun.*

INT. BOOKSHOP - FRONT ENTRANCE

The store is a jumble; mildew wafts everywhere. Part knick-knack shop, part occult bookstore, with heaps of comics and leather tomes and nothing that dates past 1980. Otherworldly.

Sissy - soaked - enters. The bell tinkles.

FLINT (67 going on 8) is minding the counter. He's delighted when he sees Sissy.

FLINT
 Hi! I'm so glad to finally meet you-
 (snatches a piece of
 paper, scans it)
 -Julia.

SISSY
 Oh, no, I'm sorry. I'm not Julia.

Flint looks at some paperwork.

FLINT
 Mark?

SISSY
 No.

FLINT
 No, you'd be two years early.

Flint looks through the papers again. Turns one upside down,
 folds it, unfolds it. Finally-

FLINT (CONT'D)
 Does your name start with a T?

SISSY
 No.

FLINT
 (guessing)
 A V?
 (Sissy shakes her head)
 An M?

LILLIAN (40s) peers out from the corner, her white cat
 VALENTINE draped over her shoulder. Both have a scar over
 their right eye. Neither looks delighted.

SISSY
 Sissy. I'm Sissy.

FLINT
 Hmm.

He considers this. Looks at his papers. Pages through.

FLINT (CONT'D)
 Are you sure?

SISSY
 ...yes?

FLINT
You don't sound sure.

SISSY
I'm not on the list because, um,
because you didn't know I was
coming.

FLINT
I didn't?

SISSY
Well no. Because I didn't know I
was coming.

FLINT
Really?

It's like Sissy told him it just started raining Spam.

FLINT (CONT'D)
Well then this is thrilling!

SISSY
...thank you?

FLINT
You're welcome. And also, *welcome*.

SISSY
Thank you.

FLINT
You're welcome. I'm so happy that
you're here!

And he truly means it - this man is overjoyed by the mere
existence of Sissy. Nobody has ever been as pleased that
Sissy exists as this strange little man is. And suddenly-

-Sissy starts *bawling*. Somebody sees her and actually cares.

SISSY
(through snot)
I'm sorry-

FLINT
Not at all, better out than in. I
completely understand.

And he really does.

INT. BOOKSHOP - BACK ROOM

Sissy sloshes through, browsing. Crystals. Pet rocks. Feral rocks. Oxygenated water. Oxygenated air.

A kit: "*So You Want To Be A Telekinetic?*" Sissy doesn't notice it. From the other room:

LILLIAN (O.S.)
Isn't it a little suspicious that
we didn't know she was coming?

FLINT (O.S.)
Lillian, not everything is a plot.

Sissy notices a poster: "THE GREAT GHONGH ARE COMING! MAKE WAY FOR THE GHONGH!"

She pokes a Marie Antoinette bobblehead. The plastic head detaches and rolls onto the ground. And-

-Crash! Valentine leaps onto her.

Sissy stumbles back, right into a case full of knickknacks.

She looks around at the damage she caused - she landed on the telekinesis kit, which is now soaked. That's embarrassing.

INT. BOOKSHOP - FRONT ENTRANCE

Flint rings up the kit, writing the purchase out by hand. Off to the side, Lillian and Valentine watch Sissy intently. Sissy shuffles through her wallet, hands him a twenty.

SISSY
Is this enough?

FLINT
(studying the dollar)
Oh, I always like this one! So nice
to see Balthazar.

SISSY
I think that's Andrew Jackson...

FLINT
No, not him, the eagle. Anyway,
thank you, but I have plenty of
green paper already. Do you have
anything more valuable?

Sissy just looks at him confused.

FLINT (CONT'D)

A token from someone you love, a trinket from an important moment in your life, a poem you wrote but never gave to someone you admire?

SISSY

I have a French quiz that I failed that I haven't showed my dad yet...

FLINT

Perfect!

Bewildered, Sissy digs around in her bag and hands it over.

FLINT (CONT'D)

I appreciate your business. Make sure you come back if you succeed. And don't show this to anyone.

SISSY

Why not?

FLINT

They could be a lizard in disguise.

Clearly she misheard.

SISSY

Sorry?

FLINT

Lizard. Lizard. Especially narcissists and sociopaths - those are almost always lizards. Cold-blooded.

SISSY

...okay. Thank you.

Sissy shoves the kit into her backpack, forcing the zipper closed around the bulky box. Shoulders her bag and leaves.

EXT. HUBBARD STREET - CONTINUOUS

Sissy walks out of the bookshop and down the street. A moment later, Valentine follows.

And behind her - the bookshop is gone. The two buildings on either side of it have smushed together.

END OF TEASER