HELLMOUTH

OR, HOW WILL THIS AFFECT TRAFFIC ON THE 405?

by Paige Alena

PAIGE ALENA

1. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

A convenience store a la 7/11. Racks of candy, chips, magazines, cigarettes. CASSIE (20s), perches on the counter and stares at her phone. TROY (20s), sniffs the milk cartons in the sparsely stocked dairy fridge. He is humming “Close to You” by The Carpenters. ELLEN (30s), stands at the door. Outside, storm winds are audible.

ELLEN

Got anything, Cassie?

CASSIE

Loading.

TROY

What’s that song?

ELLEN

I should have brought my charger, I never forget my charger.

TROY

Something about birds, I think.

ELLEN

Anything now?

CASSIE

Still loading.

ELLEN

Alex and I had an argument this morning, so when I was packing my bag, I forgot my charger. And my Chapstick.

TROY has moved to inspecting the meat fridge.

TROY

(Singing) “Something, something, birds appear...”

TROY pulls back the wrapper on a package of bologna and grimaces.

CASSIE

The WiFi in here sucks.

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ELLEN
I keep asking Mitch to fix it.

CASSIE
Mitch doesn't care if we live or die.

ELLEN
It's a miracle we haven't lost power.

TROY digs through the ice cream fridge and pulls out a freezer burnt carton. He tries to chip ice off of the lid.

TROY
(Singing) "I'm near...birds appear..."

ELLEN
Los Angeles doesn't get hurricanes.

CASSIE
Tropical storm.

ELLEN
What?

TROY
I've had it stuck in my head for three days, I can't remember what it's called.

CASSIE
They're calling it a tropical storm.

ELLEN
Does it matter what it's called?

TROY
It's just kind of annoying not knowing, is all.

TROY discards the ice cream. He's dumping all the spoiled food in a pile by his feet, not a trash can. Neither of the girls have noticed.

CASSIE
I don't know the difference between a hurricane or a tropical storm, but they're saying it's a tropical storm, not a hurricane.

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN

Try calling Mitch again.

CASSIE

You told me to check the gov site. It's still loading.

ELLEN

Well, let the site load, and then call Mitch again.

A rat crawls out from under the refrigerator to inspect the pile of spoiled food.

CASSIE

Mitch wouldn't care if the moon exploded and stars fell from the sky, he'd still expect us to work.

TROY

Yes! "Stars fall down from the sky...every time you..."

ELLEN

What are you talking about?

TROY

The song! The song I've had stuck in my head!

The rat is now nibbling on the spoiled cheese. TROY tries to shoo it away, but the rat is unbothered.

CASSIE

Yes!

ELLEN

What? What is it?

CASSIE

(Reading from her phone) "The Governor of California has declared a state of emergency for all citizens in the Los Angeles County region."

ELLEN

That's all it says?

CASSIE

That's all it says.

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
This storm came on so...all of a sudden.

CASSIE
I don't care where it came from, as long as it gets me the day off work.

CASSIE climbs behind the counter to retrieve her jacket and messenger bag. ELLEN begins closing procedures: turning off lights, locking the register, etc. The rat scurries under the fridge, a piece of cheese in hand.

TROY
It's killing me, it's really killing me.

ELLEN
Should we call Mitch?

CASSIE
I'll shoot him a text on the road. Hey, would either of you be able to give me a ride home? I don't want to bus in this.

ELLEN
You don't have a car?

CASSIE
My car got totaled last month. Stupid bird flew into my windshield.

ELLEN spots the pile of spoiled food. She sighs and kicks most of it under the refrigerator.

TROY
You killed a bird?

CASSIE
A bird almost killed me!

CASSIE grabs TROY's backpack and ELLEN's purse from behind the register. She hands them to their respective owners. TROY starts digging through his backpack.

ELLEN
Where do you need to go?

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE

I'm in Palms.

ELLEN

Yeah, I can give you a ride. I live pretty close to you.

TROY stops digging through his backpack.

TROY

THAT'S IT!

CASSIE

Jesus, what?

TROY

"Close to You," by The Carpenters! That's the song!

ELLEN

Well, thank goodness we figured that out.

CASSIE, ELLEN, and TROY put on their jackets and shoulder their bags, preparing to leave. They wait for ELLEN to set the alarm and lock the door.

CASSIE

How does that one go, again?

TROY

You know, (Singing) "Why do birds, suddenly appear?"

CASSIE

(Singing) "Every time you are near?"

ALL

"Just like me, they long to be, close to-"

ELLEN opens the door. A powerful wind knocks our heroes back, followed by a chorus of inhuman screams. The convenience store is flooded with glowing red light. ELLEN, with considerable effort, slams the door shut. Everything returns to normal. A beat.

CASSIE

Should we check again?

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
NO! We should not check again!

TROY
The fuck was that?

ELLEN
Not a fucking hurricane!

CASSIE
Tropical storm.

ELLEN
Not one of those either!

CASSIE
Should I check the gov site?

TROY
The fuck was that?

ELLEN
You think the government is involved?

TROY
The fuck was that?

ELLEN looks through the glass doors. At no point does the audience get a clear view of the outside world. CASSIE checks her phone.

ELLEN
It looks like the end of the world.

TROY
It looks like a scene from Hellraiser.

CASSIE
(Reading from her phone) “Hellmouth.”

ELLEN
What?

CASSIE
(Reading from her phone) “A Hellmouth has opened its forsaken maw and unleashed lakes of fire, rains of ash, and scores of the

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damned upon the greater Los Angeles County region. Residents advised to remain indoors and pray to a God of their choosing."

ELLEN
It says all that?

CASSIE
(Showing ELLEN her phone) In Helvetica Bold, fourteen point font.

TITLE SLAM: HELLMOUTH
SUBTITLE: Or, How Will This Affect Traffic on the 405?

TROY
You think the situation would call for at least eighteen point.

2. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

The same convenience store, about fifteen minutes later. Our trio has discarded their bags and jackets. CASSIE is sitting on the counter, fidgeting with a lighter. ELLEN is at the register, phone pressed to her ear. TROY is seated on the floor, leaning against the counter, picking through a bag of Chex Mix.

ELLEN
(Looking at the phone) Fuck!

CASSIE
Did it die?

ELLEN
No, I can't get through. Or, Alex isn't picking up. Maybe she's still mad from this morning.

CASSIE
The world is ending, she's probably busy.

TROY
So this is the end of the world?

CASSIE
Looks like the end of the world.

TROY
Should we, like, call the authorities or something?

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE
What would they do, Troy, arrest the demons?

ELLEN fiddles with the phone again.

ELLEN
Demons? There's demons?

CASSIE
Hellmouth implies demons, don't you think?

ELLEN
I just feel like "demons" is a jump.

TROY
What does the gov site say?

ELLEN
(On the phone) Alex! Thank Christ you picked up.

ELLEN wanders through the aisles while she talks.

CASSIE (to TROY)
Are you only eating the pretzels?

ELLEN
Are you okay? Are you at home?

TROY
I only like the pretzels.

ELLEN
Do you know what's going on?

CASSIE
Why not just buy a bag of pretzels, then?

ELLEN
No, I know, me neither.

TROY
They don't taste the same.

ELLEN
I'm still at work. No, I'm staying inside.

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE
Seems like a waste.

TROY
You want the rest?

CASSIE
No, I only like the pretzels.

ELLEN
I'll try, but I wanted to say- fuck!

CASSIE
What?

ELLEN
Call cut out. I lost service. Fuck!

CASSIE
At least you know she's safe.

ELLEN
I was going to apologize. I didn't get to apologize.

CASSIE
You can apologize to her later.

ELLEN
You don't know that there's going to be a "later."

TROY
Apologize for what?

ELLEN
I don't even know if she's safe at the apartment. I don't know if anywhere is safe.

TROY
Apologize for what?

ELLEN
It doesn't matter. It's the end of the world, isn't it?

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE

End of the world?

ELLLEN

The gov site said to pray to a God of our choosing, how much clearer could that be?

TROY

Oddly progressive for the government.

CASSIE

Maybe I should check it again. Maybe it's been updated.

TROY

The government isn't going to help. This is probably the government's fault, anyway.

TROY crosses to the refrigerated section. He drops the half empty bag of Chex Mix and the rat drags it under the refrigerator.

ELLEN

I don't want to hear one of your conspiracy theories.

TROY

It's a failed nuclear experiment, or something. Maybe the CIA accidentally dropped a bioweapon they were planning on using in Cuba, or whatever.

TROY pulls a can of beer out of the fridge and cracks it open.

TROY

Or, it's aliens.

CASSIE

It's not aliens.

TROY

You were talking demons, earlier, but aliens is out of the question?

ELLEN

It's not aliens. You shouldn't be drinking, by the way.

TROY

Why? If I'm going to be abducted by aliens, I want a buzz going.

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
What if you need your wits about you?

TROY
To do what? Outsmart the aliens? They have probes and lasers and shit. I'm a meat puppet no matter what I do.

CASSIE
A meat puppet?

TROY
Like how they do Kermit the Frog.

CASSIE
What are you talking about?

TROY
Well, when they shove the probes up my-

TROY makes a "fisting" motion.

ELLEN
Stop!

TROY
It's just facts.

CASSIE
Facts from who? Mulder and Scully?

TROY
Who?

ELLEN
There's someone outside.

TROY
Fuck, really?

Our trio gathers at the door. We see their faces illuminated by red light, but not what they're looking at.

TROY
Is it the CIA?

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
No, it’s just a person.

CASSIE
They’re hurt. Should we help them?

ELLEN
I’m not opening this door.

CASSIE
They look like they’ve been attacked by something.

TROY
Do they look like they’ve been probed?

CASSIE screams. ELLEN gasps in horror.

CASSIE
What the fuck is that?

ELLEN
I don’t know.

TROY
An alien?

ELLEN
It doesn’t look like an alien, it looks like a-

CASSIE
Demon. A fucking horror movie demon.

ELLEN
Oh, God, it’s going to-

CASSIE screams again and turns her face away. ELLEN also looks away. Only TROY continues watching through the window, frozen. Distantly, we hear the sound of screaming, crunching, rending, tearing, etc.

TROY
So, it is demons.

CASSIE
I’m going to be sick.

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
Maybe it’s not real.

CASSIE
It looks pretty fucking real to me!

TROY
Maybe it’s a hallucination. Maybe those black clouds are some kind of psychoactive drug.

ELLEN
Don’t you think we’d know if we were on psychedelics?

TROY
I don’t know, I don’t do drugs.

ELLEN
Really?

CASSIE
What do we do? We can’t just sit here!

TROY
We can’t go out there!

ELLEN
Barricade the door. We could barricade the door.

CASSIE
With what?

ELLEN
The snack racks are on wheels. We can push them in front of the door.

TROY
So the demon can help himself to corn nuts before he eats us?

CASSIE dry heaves.

3. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

The same convenience store, fifteen minutes later. A few snack racks have been pushed in front of the door. CASSIE has discarded her

PAIGE ALENA

flannel, leaving her in a tank top, and TROY is no longer wearing his signature slouchy beanie. CASSIE and TROY are seated on the floor, drinking beer. ELLEN is holding a beer but has not opened it.

CASSIE

This beer is shit.

TROY

It's some weird German brand Mitch is obsessed with. I'm not sure it's legal in the states.

ELLEN

Is this the rapture?

CASSIE

I thought the rapture meant everyone goes to heaven.

ELLEN

Only the good Christians. Everyone else gets left behind to be punished.

CASSIE

I've been to church a few times.

TROY

Not enough. The good Lord knows when you're just a Christmas and Easter church person.

CASSIE

Don't tell me you're religious.

TROY removes a cross necklace from under his shirt.

TROY

Every Sunday.

CASSIE

You go to church *and* you don't do drugs?

TROY

Why are you surprised?

CASSIE

Look at you. Look how you dress.

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
What, should I be wearing a robe and sandals?

CASSIE
Well, you're here, so either it's not the rapture, or you're not a good enough Christian.

TROY
I'm not planning on going to heaven anyway. I'm going to be reincarnated.

CASSIE
Is that a choice you get to make?

TROY
If it is, I'm coming back as a falcon.

CASSIE snorts while taking a sip of her beer. Beer dribbles down her chin and she scrambles to wipe it up.

TROY (cont.)
What's funny about that?

CASSIE
Sorry, it's just crazy that you said that. The bird I hit with my car was a falcon.

TROY
A falcon? You killed a falcon?

CASSIE
Turns out there's a falconeering class in Echo Park on Saturdays and one of them went rogue.

TROY
That's got to be bad karma.

CASSIE
Well, yeah, I swerved into a lamp post and totaled my car.

TROY
Did you have to pay for the falcon?

CASSIE
No, the trainer said it was sick and going to die soon, anyway.

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
Sorry to interrupt, but isn't anyone else freaking the fuck out?

TROY
What do you suggest we do?

ELLEN
I just feel like I'm the only one panicking right now.

CASSIE
The beer is helping, I think.

TROY
Yeah, it tastes like shit, but it's taking the edge off.

ELLEN
I can't drink.

CASSIE
Why not? It's not like we need a designated driver.

TROY
If there's one time to let loose, it's now.

ELLEN
I can't drink because I'm pregnant.

A beat.

TROY
Aren't you a lesbian?

ELLEN
Alex is a lesbian, I'm bisexual.

CASSIE
So you cheated on Alex?

ELLEN
No. We planned this. Sort of.

CASSIE
Sort of?

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
Well, we didn't know if it world work. We didn't go to a doctor. We used a turkey baster and our friend Hector's, um-

CASSIE
Cum.

TROY (simultaneously)
Jizz.

ELLEN
I was going to say sperm. I found out this morning.

CASSIE
Holy shit, Elle.

ELLEN
I told Alex and she…I don't know, she didn't seem as excited as me. Like she was getting cold feet after we went through this whole…so I called her out on it, and it turned into this whole blow up fight and…and we said some things we shouldn't have. I told her we'd talk again after work but now I don't know if I'm going to get that chance.

A beat. CASSIE puts a hand on ELLEN's shoulder.

CASSIE
We're going to get you back to Alex.

TROY
How?

CASSIE
Maybe we can make a run for her car.

TROY
You saw what happened to that guy earlier, we open those doors and we get eviscerated.

CASSIE
We wait until the coast is clear.

TROY
And drive through the lakes of fire and scores of the damned all the way to Culver City?

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE
You don't know what's out there.

TROY
Neither do you. We might as well stay here, where there's Corn Nuts and Chex Mix and (Reading the beer can label) "Gustav's Premium German Ale."

CASSIE
And die lying down?

TROY
Stand up, see what good it does you.

CASSIE
Fuck you, I'm trying to come up with solutions.

TROY
There is no solution. The world is ending. Either we die in here or we die out here, and I prefer in here.

CASSIE
Don't you have loved ones you care about?

TROY
They're probably dead, too! Or they will be, soon!

CASSIE
You don't know that! This is a new situation! If we're going to die no matter what, we might as well try not to!

TROY
What's the point of that?

CASSIE
I'd rather have a slim chance than none at all!

TROY
And I'd rather spend my last minutes drinking a beer and not being torn in two by Satan!

ELLEN
Stop it! Arguing won't help anyone!

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
Nothing will help anyone! We're doomed!

CASSIE
You don't know that we're doomed.

TROY
Of course we're doomed!

CASSIE
You can't tell a pregnant woman she's doomed!

TROY
It's the truth! And she's barely pregnant.

CASSIE
What does that mean?

An earthquake rocks the convenience store. Maybe it's a bomb? Our trio ducks for cover. The lights flicker and die.

4. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

An hour has passed. Maybe more? Our trio sits in the middle of the room under the glow of emergency flashlights and a pile of those cheap neon glow sticks. The muffled sounds of disaster outside: things are falling from the sky. Balls of fire? Meteors? Whatever it is, it's not good. TROY and CASSIE continue drinking and have now broken into a large pile of snacks. The rat from earlier gnaws through a Twinkie in the corner.

ELLEN
Maybe it's the antichrist.

CASSIE
What?

ELLEN
I can't stop thinking about it. I mean, I found out I'm pregnant this morning and now the world is ending. Maybe those demons are looking for me and my unborn child. Maybe they want to take him and raise him as the Prince of Demons, or whatever. Or Princess. Could be a girl.

TROY

PAIGE ALENA

You think this is all about you?

ELLEN
I don't know, I'm just thinking about things! What else am I supposed to think about right now?

CASSIE
If the demons were looking for you, specifically, they would have found you already.

TROY
Oh, but how would they have broken through our impenetrable fortress of Snickers bars and condoms?

CASSIE
Fuck off.

TROY
How would that work, anyway? You think your friend Hector was the devil in disguise or something?

ELLEN
He is kind of weird.

CASSIE
What do you mean, weird?

ELLEN
I mean, he's like a Pagan, he does witchcraft, I don't know. He's more Alex's friend than mine.

CASSIE
But you let him impregnate you?

ELLEN
I don't like that phrasing.

TROY
It's true.

ELLEN
He wasn't even in the same room. Alex was holding the turkey baster.

CASSIE

PAIGE ALENA

Why would you use Hector's sperm if you're not really friends with him?

ELLEN
We wanted the donor to be someone we knew, and we didn't have a lot of viable options.

TROY
You didn't ask me.

ELLEN
There is no universe where I would have asked you.

TROY
I'm just saying, it could have been my baby in there instead of Hector's weird demon baby.

CASSIE
Ellen is not carrying a demon baby!

TROY
If he's Alex's friend, why isn't she the pregnant one?

ELLEN
She's infertile. She always said she wanted kids, though, and now…I don't know, I'm not sure. I don't even know if we're meant for each other any more.

CASSIE
The argument was that bad?

ELLEN
It was pretty bad.

CASSIE
She's probably just nervous. I'm sure you two can talk things out.

ELLEN
If we don't die.

CASSIE
Yeah. If we don't die.

PAIGE ALENA

TROY passes ELLEN a Twinkie. She reluctantly accepts. CASSIE cracks open another weird beer and takes a sip. She makes a face.

CASSIE
I'd really prefer not to die at work.

TROY
I always thought I'd die doing something cool. Back flipping out of a helicopter, maybe.

CASSIE
I was hoping for old age, surrounded by loved ones.

TROY
Boring. How about you, Ellen?

ELLEN
I'd rather not talk about this.

TROY
You'd rather share our deepest, darkest secrets?

CASSIE
Not really.

TROY
Sometimes I jerk off in the broom closet on my break.

ELLEN
Pass me a Gustav.

CASSIE
You sure?

ELLEN
One beer won't kill my baby if a demon gets to it first.

CASSIE
Fair enough.

CASSIE hands ELLEN a beer. She takes a sip and nearly spits it out.

ELLEN
Why is it thick?

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
It gets better the more you drink it.

ELLEN takes another large gulp.

TROY
Attagirl.

ELLEN
Fuck, that's bad.

TROY
It's the only alcohol we have, Mitch never remembers to restock. Unless you want to break into that pickle flavored tequila.

ELLEN
Gustav it is, I guess.

CASSIE
How do you say "cheers" in German?

TROY
I only know Russian. *Nostrovia*.

CASSIE
Nostrovia.

Our trio cheers their beer cans and drinks.

5. INT. CONVENIENCE STORE, DAY

Thirty minutes later. Our trio is splayed across the store in various states of disarray, surrounded by empty cans of beer. Notably, ELLEN has only had the one can. The rat is lapping up beer from a puddle.

ELLEN
I wanted to go to Spain.

CASSIE
Spain?

ELLEN
Alex and I were gonna honeymoon there when we got married.

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
You're having a baby but you're not married?

ELLEN
Don't tell me that's a sin, or whatever, I'm not in the mood.

TROY
Are you trying to baby trap her or something?

ELLEN
What? No! Of course not! Why would you say that?

CASSIE
Are you waiting for her to ask?

ELLEN
We just have different priorities, I guess.

CASSIE
I've never left the country. I've never even left Los Angeles. I was born in Los Angeles, and I'm going to die in Los Angeles.

TROY
I'm going to die a virgin.

CASSIE
You're a virgin?

TROY
Why do you sound so shocked?

ELLEN
Are you saving yourself for marriage or something?

TROY
I just haven't found the right person yet.

CASSIE
That's kind of sweet.

TROY
I had a crush on you when I first started.

CASSIE
Really?

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
Yeah, and then I saw you pop a pimple in the parking lot before work one morning and it kind of ruined it for me.

CASSIE
Oh.

ELLEN
Maybe when you get reincarnated as a falcon you'll find your falcon soulmate.

TROY
Unless Cassie hits her with a car, first.

Another rumble. The rat squeals and runs for cover. ELLEN gasps in pain and clutches her stomach.

ELLEN
Fuck!

CASSIE
Shit, what is it?

ELLEN
I don't know.

TROY
Is it a contraction or something?

CASSIE
She couldn't be having contractions, she's barely pregnant.

TROY
Maybe it is the antichrist.

CASSIE
Don't say that!

ELLEN
Agh!

CASSIE
Do something!

PAIGE ALENA

TROY
What, perform an exorcism?

CASSIE
Maybe!

Another crash outside. ELLEN groans in pain again.

CASSIE
Lie down!

TROY shoves aside piles of trash and ELLEN lies down in the middle of the floor. CASSIE and TROY hover over her.

TROY
Uh, “lorem ipsum-”

CASSIE
That’s not an exorcism!

TROY
It’s the only Latin I know!

CASSIE
Do we have any sage or holy water?

TROY
Why the fuck would we have sage and holy water?

CASSIE
I don’t know!

TROY
Sometimes in movies salt works on demons, I could scrape the salt off some pretzels.

CASSIE
Are we exorcising the demon baby, or are we seasoning the demon baby?

TROY
You got any good ideas?

CASSIE
You’re Christian, pray over it!

PAIGE ALENA

TROY

Um, “Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...” I forget the rest.

CASSIE

You forget the rest?

TROY

I’m under a lot of pressure!

CASSIE

That’s, like, the most basic prayer. What kind of Christian are you?

TROY

How would you know? You only go to church on Christmas and Easter, you fucking heathen!

ELLEN vomits. She sits up and cleans her mouth with the back of her wrist.

TROY

Did I do it?

ELLEN

No, that stupid German beer made me sick.

TROY picks up a can and reads the ingredients.

TROY

What’s “fischblase?”

ELLEN

I can’t believe this is how we die. What a stupid place to die.

CASSIE

We’re not alone, though, right? That guy outside earlier died alone. We’ve got each other.

ELLEN

I guess that’s nice.

TROY

I’m sorry I called you a heathen.

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE
It’s okay. I’m sorry for the stuff I probably said about you. I kind of forgot. It’s been a bad day.

TROY
Hey, maybe in the next life we can be falcons together.

CASSIE
I’d like that, Troy.

ELLEN
Me, too.

The lights flicker on. The sounds of chaos outside halt. A long beat.

CASSIE
What happened?

ELLEN
Is it...done?

TROY
It was the end of the world. How could it be done and we’re still here?

ELLEN
Look outside.

ELLEN struggles to her feet, CASSIE supporting her. Our trio move a rack aside to look through the glass door. The red glow is gone.

ELLEN
It looks normal.

TROY
Aside from the burn marks.

CASSIE
And the blood.

ELLEN
Well, yes, it’s a disaster, but the demons are gone. The sky isn’t red anymore.

PAIGE ALENA

CASSIE
Should I...check the gov site?

ELLEN
I don't know what else to do.

TROY
Maybe we really did exorcise something?

ELLEN vomits again.

TROY
Gross.

CASSIE
(Checking her phone) It's over.

TROY
Is that the gov site?

CASSIE
It's a news alert. "Thanks to the heroic efforts of a trio of courageous individuals who shall remain anonymous, the great demon Baphomet was banished to his unholy realm, and with him his legion of the damned. The city extends its greatest thanks to these three brave individuals."

TROY
So, like, superheroes?

CASSIE
It looks more like a trio of monster hunters. Maybe just demon hunters? There are some blurry videos of the fight.

CASSIE shows TROY her phone. We don't see the video, but we hear an epic battle.

TROY
Huh. Didn't know we had demon hunters.

CASSIE
I guess that's nice to have, right?

ELLEN
I'd prefer a world with no demons at all.

PAIGE ALENA

TROY

So can we go home?

CASSIE

I guess.

TROY

Should we call Mitch?

ELLEN

Fuck Mitch. I hope a demon got him.

CASSIE

Can I still get a ride?

ELLEN

Sure.

Paralleling the opening, our trio gather their belongings and follow closing procedures. ELLEN ignores the mess on the floor but still locks the register and the safe. They shove racks of snacks away from the front door.

TROY

Hey, does this mean it's all real? Like, God and heaven and hell and everything?

CASSIE

You weren't sure before?

TROY

I can be a healthy skeptic.

ELLEN

I guess hell is real. No confirmation about the rest of it, though.

CASSIE

And a lot of religions have demons, so, anyone's guess.

TROY

Huh. I'm still hoping for reincarnation.

PAIGE ALENA

ELLEN
I think I'll be an octopus.

TROY
Good choice.

CASSIE
(Checking her phone) Shit.

ELLEN
What?

CASSIE
Hellmouth did a number on the 405, it's closed.

ELLEN
Damn, it's going to take forever to get home. You need a ride, Troy?

TROY
Nah, I live around the corner. I'll walk.

ELLEN
See you tomorrow.

TROY
See you tomorrow.

CASSIE
See you tomorrow.

Our trio exits, TROY humming "Close to You" by The Carpenters. We pan to the rat from earlier, feasting in the leftover pile of snacks. It turns to the camera and winks.

THE END.

PAIGE ALENA