

DREAM TEAM

"Pilot"

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EXT. SAMMY'S HOUSE - MORNING

Early morning light shines upon on a dewy, suburban two-story house. We push past a treehouse towards a second floor room, through the shiny red beaded curtains into...

INT. SAMMY'S ROOM - DAY

Sammy (14), an energetic tomboy is sitting crossed-legged on her bed with headphones and a laptop.

On her walls are a collection of adorable button-eyed stuffed animals, posters of her favorite video game series *Spirit of the Sword*, playbills from high school theatre productions and a smattering of 2nd Place Tetrathlon trophies.

Sammy sing-types out loud with both pointer fingers:

SAMMY

See-you-tonight-Aria-and-Max!

Sammy slams hard on the "return" key. A beat later we see her legs turn red under the sizzling heat of the laptop.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

Ow ow ow ow ow!

Sammy quickly slides the laptop off her lap which drags her headphones off her head, music still playing.

Is there something that she's forgetting? Sammy scans the room and lands on:

The door in the corner. Was it always there? The dark emerald hue of the wood makes stands out conspicuously.

Sammy carefully walks over to the door and pulls down on its ornate handle.

She's greeted with a wooshing darkness, and crooked stairs leading down to an unknowable chasm. Too dark to see, but Sammy's weirdly compelled to follow...

INT. DARK STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

SAMMY

Mom? Dad? Did we get a new
basement?

As she steps onto the landing the door behind her slams shut. Sammy starts to run, but the stairs that were leading down suddenly jerk up.

Now they're completely vertical, and Sammy has to carefully avoid splinters and rusty nails as she climbs upward.

A huge rumble like the roar of an enormous stomach is heard below. But just above her a faint blue-green light glows.

FRIENDLY VOICE

Sammy, don't be afraid.

A hand extends, but all at once the stairs collapse sending Sammy down into a shining red mouth--

SAMMY (V.O.)

And then it EATS ME! What a jerk!

INT. HARRISON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A middle-school party is taking place in a slightly ostentatious McMansion. The music is booming, the lights blinding and you can hear the splashing of a pool outside.

Sammy is sitting alongside ARIA (15), a talented pianist and MAX (14), a doodling daydreamer. Sammy is loudly regaling her best friends with the story of her wild dream.

SAMMY

Well, I don't know exactly what happens because that's where the dream ends.

ARIA

That's freaky...

Max is keenly drawing a picture and barely looks up.

MAX

You think it's possible for multiple people to have the same dream? Mathematically speaking?

ARIA

Max you're asking a musician, not a mathematician.

DEAN (14), a husky bespectacled classmate who was standing nearby turns around with a cup of soda in hand.

DEAN

You guys talking about math?

MAX

Yeah, just how bad Sammy is at it.

SAMMY

HEY!

As the conversation goes on, Sammy peers into the crowd. It looks like the BLUE-HAIRED BOY from her dream is there -- but that's impossible!

DEAN

Tell me about it! I can't sleep with the test coming up Monday.

ARIA

Aren't you like... really smart?

DEAN

(PUSHING UP GLASSES) They're non-prescription.

Sammy gets up suddenly.

SAMMY

I gotta pee.

She quickly pushes her way into the crowd to catch up to the blue-haired boy. But when she makes her way across the room all she sees is her own confused reflection in a HUGE MIRROR.

But in the corner of the mirror she sees the boy ducking outside. She follows in haste but a hand catches her.

It's HARRISON (15) the slightly greasy try-hard host of the party. He's put on a strained smile for the occasion.

HARRISON

Hey, you can't leave now; the band's still setting up!

A DAFT PUNK KNOCK-OFF BAND gives two thumbs-up to Harrison.

SAMMY

Yeah, well I got this brutal late-night breakfast craving and I really need my Frosted Marshy-ohs. Cya!

Sammy barely gets the words out as she tears away towards the exit. Aria & Max clock their friend and follow behind.

HARRISON

Hey, friendly advice: learn to ghost better if you want an invite back! (TO PARTIERS) O.K., who loves pineapple on their pizza?!

EXT. HARRISON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The party rages on inside. Aria and Max make it to the front steps and see Sammy a ways further down the sidewalk.

ARIA
Sammy wait up!

SAMMY
I can't! He's around here, I know it!

Sammy runs into an alleyway between two rows of houses.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Aria and Max catch up to Sammy and Max thrusts his sketchbook in front of her.

MAX
I don't mean to freak you out but do you recognize this?

Rendered in exact detail is the door from Sammy's dream.

SAMMY
What the heck? But how?

MAX
You're not the only one having that dream.

ARIA
Yah, I've had it too and--

Aria sees something that makes her blood run cold.

ARIA (CONT'D)
--WHAT IS THAT THING?

Aria points down the street to a fluttering SILHOUETTE in the near distance. It sounds like flapping paper and has a couple large punchholes where its face would be.

Sammy pulls out her phone as a flashlight to illuminate the PAPER MAN: a lanky cutout pencil scribbled idea of a person.

SAMMY
This is weird. Am I dreaming?

Aria pinches Max... HARD.

MAX

OW! No not me! Pinch Sammy!

Aria squeezes with her whole hand!

SAMMY

(RUBBING ARM) Ow ow ow this why is this happening?!

The Paper Man shuffles towards them. It slashes at a lamppost and it cuts diagonally as if it were paper, crashing to the ground.

The three friends hold each other, paralyzed with fear.

ARIA

Oh man what do we do what do we do?

The Paper Man is almost upon them, casting a looming shadow.

SAMMY

Guys, I'm scared!

Suddenly, a familiar blue light glows from Sammy. A single horn pops out of her head.

SAMMY (CONT'D)

(shouts)

And then two hands... and then a head... and then jumping entirely from Sammy's forehead and executing a perfect flip. We see him in full: a lanky boy, blue skinned with an athletic build -- and a unicorn's horn -- grinning with confidence. This is UNICORN BOY.

UNICORN BOY

Sammy, don't be afraid. We got this.

Red and green lights glows from Aria and Max respectively.

From Aria's ear flies out WITCH PUPPY, a diminutive wand-wielding sorceress. Like her namesake implies, she resembles like a dog on two legs floating slightly above the sidewalk.

And leaping from Max's mouth is TOONY, a classically cartoony looking cat dripping with ink. She licks her paw without taking her squinty eyes off the threat. Max coughs a bit.

The three strange creatures stand in front of Sammy, Aria and Max. After a beat, UB breaks the awkward silence.

UNICORN BOY (CONT'D)
 We're the good dreams. We are here
 to help and protect you and--

The Paper Man has caught up and is bringing a sharp arm down.

MAX
 WATCH OUT!

Everyone scatters out of the way of the Paper Man's swipes.
 The kids are safe, but they see the ground shatter where the
 blows connect!

UNICORN BOY
 Give us a command!

SAMMY
 I dunno, do you have any magic
 attacks?

WITCH PUPPY
 I do!

UNICORN BOY
 (TO WP) We're trying to have a
 conversation here. (YELLING) Be
 more specific!

The Paper Man lurches forward.

ARIA
 Ask if he has a beam attack.

SAMMY
 Unicorn thingy! Do you got beam
 attacks?

Unicorn Boy thinks about it. The Paper Man is dangerously
 close and is raising its arms...

UNICORN BOY
 Sure do!

UB concentrates all his energy into his horn, around which
 grows a giant pulsating spike made of rainbow energy.

It launches with incredible speed at the monster. The Paper
 Man is blasted back with a shimmering blast!

SAMMY
 YES!

The Paper Man looks down to see a large hole where its torso
 used to be. Oh he's angry now!

ARIA
(POINTING) Ok... you, doggy!

WITCH PUPPY
Moi?

ARIA
What can you do?

Toony shrugs.

WITCH PUPPY
Anything you can imagine!

ARIA
This thing is paper, right? Make it
rain!

With a theatrical flourish the scowling Witch Puppy produces a smiling raincloud from her magic wand.

ARIA (CONT'D)
Oh that is SO CUTE!

WITCH PUPPY
I know! It's so lame!

The smiling cloud thunders and bellows just above the Paper Monster pelting it a torrent of localized rain.

The monster roars in pain as the cloud dissipates. It looks soggy and on the ropes.

MAX
Ok, it's your turn! Take 'em out!

With a playful mew, Toony leaps with all fours onto the soggy Paper Monster and begins to... slurp it up like spaghetti?

MAX (CONT'D)
What is it doing?

SAMMY
I don't know, but it's awesome!

One final *slurp* and the monster is gone!

TOONY
(BELCHES)

The kids run out of breath over to their new friends.

UNICORN BOY
How did we do?

ARIA

I don't know what's going on, but
thank you for saving our lives.

WITCH PUPPY

Ha! It won't be the last time.

MAX

What was that thing? What are you?!

UNICORN BOY

That *was* someone's nightmare.

Toony pats her full belly.

UNICORN BOY (CONT'D)

But we're your dreams! The most
positive, powerful dreams each of
you have.

WITCH PUPPY

Well, most powerful anyway.

UNICORN BOY

I'm Unicorn Boy, this is Witch
Puppy and that's Toony.

ARIA

But did we choose you or... did you
choose us?

Note: Toony always talks in gestural mime with a voice that
resembles small chiming bells.

TOONY

(A little of "Column A.")

A crackling orange light emanates from Harrison's house. For
a moment you can hear screaming, then eerie silence.

WITCH PUPPY

I think we'll have more time to
talk shop when we're not all dead!

SAMMY

Let's go, our friends are in
trouble!

EXT. HARRISON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The team runs up to the entrance to what used to be a party
house. Now, its unnaturally silent and the windows are lit
with a hazy orange glow.

The front entrance is ajar but a strange grey fog makes it impossible to see what's happening inside.

Sammy reaches into the misty barrier and pulls back:

SAMMY

Gah! Slimy! What's in there?

UNICORN BOY

Someone's nightmare. If we can end the nightmare we'll free everyone.

WITCH PUPPY

But if we don't, the nightmare spreads.

ARIA

Guys, you ready?

MAX

Are we really doing this?

SAMMY

We're the only ones who can.
Besides, how scary can it be?

They carefully file into the house and disappear from view.

INT. NIGHTMARE CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Resembling a typical classroom but crooked and slightly oversized, the dusty room is lit by a full moon and silhouetted by sharp tree branches.

Worse still, everyone in the party occupies a seat, but they sit motionless and have a dead look in their eyes.

SAMMY

O-k-a-y this is kind of scary.

ARIA

I know where this is, this is...

Max snaps his fingers!

MAX

Math class! Dean said he couldn't sleep because of the test!

SAMMY

Then this must be his nightmare.
But where is he?

The teacher's chair turns around with a creak. In it sits a shadow with fingers folded, resembling a buttoned-down 1950's teacher -- beehive, pearls and several arms too many.

???

LATE FOR CLASS ARE WE?

It bellows so loudly that the team has to hold up their hands as not to fall over.

UNICORN BOY

Brace yourselves!

The shadow rears to its full, menacing height.

???

IF YOU FAIL THE MATH TEST, YOU'LL
BE DISCIPLINED BY ME: **SUBSTITUTE
CREATURE!**

The belly of the "Substitute Creature" lights up and we can see Dean trapped inside -- and asleep.

SAMMY

Oh jeepers he's in that thing!

MAX

What's our plan?

Substitute Creature glides above the desk towards the team.

SUBSTITUTE CREATURE

I HOPE YOU'VE STUDIED...

Her hands scratch on the walls as she glides producing a horrible nails-on-chalkboard effect.

SUBSTITUTE CREATURE (CONT'D)

BECAUSE THIS ONE'S A KILLER!

Math books flap around the kids like vampire bats. Toony claws a few away while Unicorn Boy backkicks another -- but more keep coming! It's overwhelming!

SAMMY

We gotta teach this creach a
lesson!

Sammy looks around the room and spots a FIRE ALARM. Aria sees it too.

ARIA

Witch Puppy, light it up!

WITCH PUPPY
Right on it!

Witch Puppy points a wand straight up and summons a green flame. In an instant FIRE SPRINKLERS go off exuding a toxic black sludge -- right on top of Substitute Creature!

The monster roars and starts wiping the muck from its face.

SUBSTITUTE CREATURE
ARGH! YOU'RE IN **DEEP** TROUBLE YOUNG
LADY!

SAMMY
We need to get Dean out without
hurting him.

MAX
I have an idea! Toony, tie 'em up!

Toony detaches her tail and swings it like a lasso around Substitute Creature, bringing it to its knees.

SUBSTITUTE CREATURE
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

SAMMY
Ending this nightmare. Unicorn Boy,
do your thing!

As before, Unicorn Boy lets off a colorful beam that opens a hole in the monster's chest. Andy slops out.

The dissolving creature lets out a dying cry:

SUBSTITUTE CREATURE
I BET YOU DIDN'T EVEN
SSTTUDDYYY...

And all at once a thick mist swirls around the classroom...

INT. HARRISON'S HOUSE - MORNING

The nightmare fades and the mist parts. All the other kids are stirring from the floor as if from a long night's sleep.

Just outside the sun is starting to rise.

UNICORN BOY
We did it! But we can't stick
around.

ARIA

Wait! Will we see you again?

WITCH PUPPY

As long as there's nightmare booty
to kick!

TOONY

(NODDING) Mmm-hmm!

UNICORN BOY

Remember, we're always with you!

The dreams suck back into the heads of the kids. A moment later Dean walks by rubbing his eyes. Sammy hugs him hard.

SAMMY

Dean! How are you feeling?

DEAN

It's weird but... a lot less
stressed.

The friends laugh with relief. Sure enough, they all do!

SAMMY

(YELLING) This party stinks. After-
party at my house!

With much hooting and hollering the partygoers (and band) follows Sammy et al. out the door. Harrison looks on bitterly, arms folded.

INT. HARRISON'S ROOM

Harrison storms into his room. He stands in front of an emerald-colored closet door with a crooked handle: just like the one from the dream!

HARRISON

Your plan failed, some weird kids
from my class got in the way.

The door flings open to reveal inky darkness. Two blood-red eyes flash in the dark.

SINISTER SAUCE

Thennnn we're going to need
sssstronger nightmaressss.

An eerie smile glows in the darkness.

END OF EPISODE