

IDOLS: ECHOES OF ETERNITY

PILOT

FIRST DRAFT

Written By
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FADE IN:

EXT. PALM DESERT CALIFORNIA - DUSK

An ominous wind blows through a deserted music festival. Dark grey, almost purple clouds hang on the sky above. A piercing alert plays over a loudspeaker as ELI (mid-twenties, raggedy but handsome) wanders through the abandoned festival grounds, his face lit only by the light of his phone screen.

INSERT: PHONE

A low battery warning that reads: "20%"

ELI

Shit.

The alert sound stops. Eli sighs with relief. He turns as he hears a siren in the distance. The alert begins again over the loud speaker. A sweet sounding but artificial female voice over the loudspeaker; the antithesis of what you would *think* an emergency broadcast system would sound like.

EMERGENCY BROADCAST (O.S.)

This is not a test. Seek shelter
immediately.

Eli continues through the festival grounds, now waving his phone above his head. He ducks suddenly when a jet WHOOSHES above him in the sky.

EMERGENCY BROADCAST (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Have no fear. Do not panic. Accept
the inevitable.

INSERT: PHONE

The service meter shows 1 bar.

Eli is overjoyed at the sight of internet service.

The piercing alert begins again. Eli groans loudly, but attempts to ignore it.

INSERT: PHONE

Eli clicks on an application icon with the Greek letter, Epsilon. A chaotic social media feed appears. Eli swipes to the right and presses the record button.

ELI

Hey guys, I'm back.

The female voice comes through the loud speaker again.

EMERGENCY BROADCAST (O.S.)
This is not a test. Seek shelter
immediately.

INSERT: PHONE

A viewer count ticks up in numbers.

"90, 123, 400."

ELI
It's looking like this may be my
last live.

EMERGENCY BROADCAST (O.S.)
Do not fear. Do not panic. Accept
the inevitable.

ELI
I just wanted to say thank you for
following my journey and I hope to
see you all in Paradise.

Eli squints at his phone.

INSERT: PHONE

Cartoonish icons appear on the screen along with comment
bubbles.

"You've received a Universe."

ELI (CONT'D)
Thanks for the universe George!

A banking app notification appears on screen.

"You're got money!"

ELI (CONT'D)
(mumbling)
Are you finally going to kill
yourself you ugly piece of shit,
die whore, you're so sexy daddy
please, God you guys are fucked up.

The once continuous emergency tone begins to STUTTER. The
rhythmic stutter begins to resemble a synth sound. A female
voice begins to sing. Eli looks up curiously from his phone
as the dark synth pop song continues. Eli looks back at his
phone, but it's just a blank screen. Dead.

Eli sits on the ground, defeated. He hangs his head, crying softly. The chorus of the pop song kicks in as Eli begins to hum along through silent sobs.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - DAY

TITLE: ONE YEAR AGO

The DING of a bell sounds as Eli enters a simple shop that looks like it doesn't often have patrons. A radio plays the same pop song from the earlier scene through static as a TEENAGER sits behind the counter scrolling on his phone. The teenager glances up from the phone briefly acknowledging Eli.

Eli paces around the store. He scans the drink shelves and chooses an energy drink. Upon closing the refrigerator door, a scent turns Eli's face sour. He whiffs the air. He smells his shirt. Rank. He walks around to the side of the store where a rack of souvenir T-Shirts at the side catches his eye.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Eli wears a pink child's size T-Shirt with the words, "Country Girl," on the front as he brings his items to the checkout counter. The kid is humming along to the radio. Eli sets his items carefully on the counter and the kid starts to scan.

ELI

Wait!

The kid looks at Eli as if his mere existence is a nuisance.

ELI (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Eli takes a tattered wallet out of his jeans pocket and pulls out a crumpled twenty-dollar bill from inside.

ELI (CONT'D)

How much for the wine?

The teenager apathetically scans the bottle. BEEP.

TEENAGER

Nine dollars.

Eli does the mental math.

ELI

Can I do eleven dollars on pump 3?

The teenager doesn't care. The song continues to play.

ELI (CONT'D)
(gesturing to the radio)
What is this?

The teen shrugs.

TEENAGER
It's all over Echo.

Eli feigns understanding.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
The app?

The teen rolls his eyes.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
(like a slur)
Millennial.

ELI
I'm Gen Z actually.

TEENAGER
Old as fuck is what you are.

ELI
Yeah and what are you...Generation
Asshole?

Eli is proud of that one. The teen rolls his eyes.

TEENAGER
And the shirt?

Eli's reflection in the darkened glass behind the checkout counter comes into focus. Shit. He pats his pockets.

ELI
I - uh - I have money in -

Eli slams the twenty on the counter, grabs the bottle of wine from the counter and dashes for the door in a rush. DING. The teenager moves to chase after him before immediately deciding to give up.

INT./EXT. ELI'S CAR - DAY

Eli SPEEDS out of the gas station lot in his SEDAN onto the two lane highway. An indie rock song plays through the speakers. Eli hums along.

He holds a cigarette in his mouth and attempts to light it while driving. Once he gets the cigarette lit, he grabs his phone from where it sits on the dashboard and begins to record. He drives with his knees.

INSERT: PHONE VIDEO

A vertical video of Eli taking a *certifiably very cool and definitely not fake* drag of the cigarette. Plains surround him.

He stops the video and exhales the cigarette smoke. He coughs. *Hard.*

A Virgin Mary bobblehead sits on the dash as Eli has a coughing fit.

TITLE: "IDOLS: ECHOES OF ETERNITY"

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Soft music plays as Eli pulls into the parking lot of a harshly lit diner with a few patrons inside. The diner is decorated on the outside with vibrant neon signs of every shape and size that snake their way around the diner. His phone BUZZES incessantly on the seat beside him.

INSERT: PHONE

"1-800-486-3234"

He presses a button on the side of his phone to silence it and puts the car in park.

INSERT: PHONE

"Voicemail"

Eli taps into the voicemail. The voicemail has the same sweet sounding female voice as the emergency broadcast system from the earlier scene.

VOICEMAIL (O.S.)

This is an automated message from,
"Melanie Reed Student Loan
Servicing, an Archon Company," in
an attempt to collect a debt.
According to our records, your
student loan payment is 34 days
past due. Please log on to make a
payment.

Eli hangs up the phone.

INSERT: PHONE

He swipes to his call log, taps on the 1-800 number and presses the "Block Caller," option.

INSERT: PHONE

Eli swipes to a photo sharing app (ala Instagram), posts a still from the video he took earlier. He types a caption into the text box.

"country vibes"

Eli's fingers hesitate over a banking app icon before clicking into it. He squeezes his eyes shut before opening them nervously to see that he has a negative account balance.

ELI

Shit.

He sighs before pocketing his phone, grabbing a DIGITAL CAMERA and a backpack from the passenger seat and exiting the car, locking his car door manually behind him.

EXT. SMALL TOWN USA - NIGHT

Eli lightly jogs across a quiet street and stands opposite from the diner. He looks through the viewfinder of the camera, carefully positioning the diner perfectly within the frame.

From inside the camera, Eli sees a family, an older man reading a newspaper, and a girl dressed in all black who sits in a corner booth.

Eli SNAPS a photo, repositions the frame and SNAPS another photo.

He zooms on the girl in the corner booth. SNAP. As if sensing that she's being watched, she looks directly down the lens of the camera. Startled, Eli pulls away from the viewfinder.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT

Eli sits with headphones on in a booth working on a laptop. A singular mug of bad coffee sits in front of him. The diner has a few patrons still scattered about. The girl in black still sits in the corner booth.

INSERT: COMPUTER

Eli drags one of the photos of the diner onto a BuzzFeed style listicle website page. The website is called, "POP MANIA." The title of the article reads, "The Last Great American Dinersty: Taylor Swifts Final Frontier"

LIZZIE (60s) approaches the table where Eli waits for the photo to upload. The girl in black walks by Eli's table. He watches her pass.

LIZZIE

Can I get you anything else hun?

Eli glances over and removes his headphones.

ELI

Sorry?

LIZZIE

Do you want to eat something?

ELI

Just the coffee, thanks.

He moves to put his earphones back in. Lizzie smiles at him.

LIZZIE

What brings you to town?

ELI

Work.

Lizzie is impressed albeit a little bit confused.

LIZZIE

Here?

Eli glances around the diner nervously before gesturing for her to come closer.

ELI

(hushed)

Did you know Taylor Swift is trying to buy this place?

Lizzies laughs.

LIZZIE

You must be a comedian then.

ELI

I'm serious. She's buying up restaurants all across the states.

Lizzie puts a hand on his shoulder softly.

LIZZIE
Well hun, it's still *my* name on the
sign.

Eli shrugs. She leaves him.

INSERT: COMPUTER

The photo finishes uploading. Eli clicks publish at the bottom of the web page. His phone CHIMES instantly.

INSERT: PHONE

A notification from a Revolut-esque app reads, "You've got money!"

ELI
(calling after her)
Actually, can I see a menu?

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - LATER

Eli scarfs down a heaping plate of greasy breakfast food. Eggs, bacon, pancakes etc. The picture of American health. As he eats, he watches a TV which plays the news on low volume.

Lizzie spies him watching and turns up the volume with a remote.

INSERT: NEWS PROGRAM

Images of a fiery car crash display on the screen. The black car from earlier is barely recognizable.

PRESENTER
... the self-driving vehicle had
only one passenger on board who has
been identified as Aurora Vox,
winner of the controversial reality
TV series, Eternity House.

An uncannily high-res headshot that *vaguely* resembles the girl sitting in the booth appears on the screen.

He opens up his laptop to a photo-scroll of the diner.

INSERT: COMPUTER

Eli clicks into the photo of the girl staring directly at the camera. He zooms in on her face. She's pretty and there's something almost hopeful in her expression.

Eli peers above the laptop screen over at the girl and then back at the photo and back at the TV.

PRESENTER (CONT'D)
Tributes are already pouring in
from Eternity fans around the world
online take a look.

A splash of vertical TikTok style videos display on the screen.

GIRL 1
(singing horribly)
And we'll keep dancing till the
sunrise...

BOY 1
(through sobs)
I'll...love you...forever, Rora.

A video appears on the screen with a group of six girls (18-20, mixed ethnic backgrounds) sitting in a greenroom. The girls all look sad, but there's something unsettling about the specific expression of sadness on their faces.

The girls speak in unison: "Hey Chosen Ones!"

FOX (jet black hair) sits in the middle of the group staring into the camera.

FOX
Today we mourn the loss of our
sister, Aurora.

LUNA (dark purple hair) begins to speak with a soothing cadence.

LUNA
We believe that Rory is finally
free in Paradise, where we hope to
meet you all someday.

FOX
Every ending is a new beginning. In
death we are reborn.

They bow their heads in unison. After a moment, PHOENIX, with pin-straight deep auburn hair jumps in.

PHOENIX
And don't forget to download the
new ECHO app to watch a very
special livestream of our memorial
concert tomorrow.

In unison: "Eternity, forever."

The Eternity girls wave as the news presenter comes back on the screen, wiping very obviously fake tears from her eyes.

Eli looks over to the corner booth, but the girl is gone.

A neatly dressed, well-groomed young man slides into the booth beside him. LIONEL (20s) wears black pants, a white shirt, skinny black tie, and a black and white name tag.

LIONEL
Crazy isn't it?

He nods at the TV. Eli looks at him.

LIONEL (CONT'D)
Look man, you're creeping out the customers.

ELI
What?

Lionel grabs a piece of bacon. CRUNCH.

LIONEL
I personally don't care, I take photos of strangers all the time look.

ELI
I don't know what you're talking about.

Lionel pulls his phone out and hands it to Eli.

INSERT: PHONE

An album of photos of Eli from many different angles. Some from outside the diner, some inside.

Eli tentatively hands the phone back to Lionel.

LIONEL
Do you wanna buy some flower?

Eli is shocked.

ELI
What?

Lionel doesn't seem to understand why he's confused.

LIONEL
Weed. Flower. Ganja.

ELI
I don't really smoke.

Lionel winks.

ELI (CONT'D)
What's someone like you doing
selling weed?

Lionel looks at Eli curiously. Realization on his face. He laughs.

LIONEL
Oh - no no - I'm not a *Mormon*.

He takes the name-tag off and hands it to Eli.

INSERT: NAME TAG

A marijuana leaf logo with the words, "Elder Smith, The Church of Mary Jane of Later-Day Rising"

LIONEL (CONT'D)

Lionel.

Lion extends his hand. Eli cautiously shakes it and hands the name tag back to him.

ELI
Eli.

LIONEL
But yeah I think Lizzie wants you
to leave.

Eli looks over to where Lizzie stands behind the bar. She smiles at him warmly.

ELI
Seriously?

Lionel shrugs.

Suddenly, the door to the diner SLAMS open. TWO MEN wearing black suits and sunglasses (even though it's night time), enter the building.

MAN 1
Where's the girl?

The men move towards the counter where Lizzie stands.

LIZZIE
Where's who?

The second man holds up a phone. Lizzie plays dumb.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Lotsa nameless faces come through
here.

She gestures around the diner, all of the other patrons have gone.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Doesn't seem to by any girl here.

Eli and Lionel look at each other.

Lizzie reaches for something and quickly pulls out a SHOTGUN.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Now I suggest you leave unless
you're gonna order something.

The men look at each other, put their hands up and slowly back out of the door.

Lionel jumps out of his seat and runs over to Lizzie with Eli following behind.

LIONEL
You okay Lizzie?

She nods but still holds the shotgun which is aimed at the door.

Eli runs over towards the door, exits the building into the parking lot.

EXT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT

Eli quickly makes his way down small set of stairs leading down the side entrance of the diner. As he walks through the parking lot, a BLACK SEDAN with dark tinted windows SCREECHES towards him.

Eli gets tackled to the ground with a THUD. The car speeds out of the parking lot and onto the main road. Lionel and Eli turn to watch the car go. Both men watch it leave. An, "A," logo on the trunk.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT - LATER

Eli and Lionel sit at the counter, both drinking coffee. Lionel looks around, pulls a tiny flask of liquor out of his pocket and pours some in. He gestures it towards Eli who accepts it. They sip. Eli sets the mug down and walks over to the table where the girl had been sitting earlier.

He inspects the table and feels around in the cushions. Crouching on the ground, he looks under the table to see a piece of paper taped underneath.

Lionel crouches beside him.

LIONEL
What is it?

Eli shrugs, unfolding the paper.

INSERT: NOTE

A number of indecipherable symbols from many different languages and religious traditions. In the center, written in pretty cursive: "Maybe it's heaven, maybe it's nirvana, maybe it's just love. Call it what you want - A"

EXT. HIGHWAY - EVENING

MADDY (19) stands on the side of a two-lane highway enveloped in corn on every side of her. Her face is illuminated by an orange glow. Across from her is a burning pile of scrap metal.

She breathes deeply, takes a phone out of her pocket and tosses it towards the fire where it lands with a CRACK. She hears a SIREN approaching from somewhere in the distance. Startled, she begins to run.

EXT. HIGHWAY - EVENING - LATER

Maddy's run has slowed to a walk as she makes her way down the side of the road with nothing but a backpack. Her face is darkened with soot from the flames and she bleeds from a cut on her cheek. The highway is desolate and very few cars pass her as she goes.

She sticks her hand out as a car passes. No luck. Another one. Nothing.

Finally, she sees a large truck approaching and decides to chance her luck one last time. She sticks her arm out and the truck slows to a stop.

The trucker rolls his window down.

TRUCKER
Where you headed?

Maddy hadn't considered this.

MADDY
Wherever you can take me.

INT. TRUCK - EVENING

Maddy sits in the passenger seat of the truck. A talk radio station plays on low. GARY (40) drives the vehicle. He glances over at her.

GARY
You're bleeding.

Maddy looks shell shocked and is confused by his comment.

MADDY
Huh? Oh.

She touches her cheek and her hand comes back red.

GARY
What happened to you out there?

MADDY
(flatly)
You shoulda seen the other guy.

Gary smiles.

MADDY (CONT'D)
Can I use your phone?

Gary nods, hands her a phone.

INSERT: PHONE

A background screen with a photo of Gary along with his arm around another man who holds a child.

MADDY (CONT'D)
Your family?

He nods.

Maddy unlocks the phone with a CLICK. She types a number into the phone and presses the call button. RING. RING.

MADDY (CONT'D)
Borealis. Sound the seven trumpets.

CLICK. The call hangs up. Maddy rolls the window down and tosses the phone out. Gary is fuming.

GARY
Hey! What the -

MADDY
You can drop me here.

She nods up ahead where the lights of Lizzie's Diner illuminate the surrounding area. The truck pulls to a stop. Maddy moves to open the door but Gary stops her.

MADDY (CONT'D)
You should be safe, but I would keep driving for as long as you can stay awake. Pay with cash. They might come looking.

Gary stares blankly at her. Maddy stares back. She sighs, takes a necklace with a medal on it from around her neck and hands it to him.

MADDY (CONT'D)
There's an internet cafe in town. Plug this in and send yourself the contents of the account.

Gary holds the necklace.

MADDY (CONT'D)
See you in Paradise, Gary.

She slams the door shut.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT

Maddy enters the diner. Pop music plays softly from hidden speakers. Lizzie stands behind the counter and eyes Maddy and she walks in.

LIZZIE
Just yourself this evening?

Maddy nods. Lizzie walks from behind the counter with a menu and ushers her towards a table.

MADDY
Not here.

Lizzie looks at her curiously. Maddy nods towards the corner booth.

MADDY (CONT'D)
Is that free?

Lizzie nods. They walk towards the booth. She sits.

LIZZIE
So we have a special tonight - the
meatloaf - old family recipe I -

MADDY
Do you have a pen?

Lizzie hands her the pen clipped to her shirt.

MADDY (CONT'D)
And paper.

Lizzie rolls her eyes, handing her a pad.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT - LATER

Maddy sits in the booth intently writing on a pad of paper. Lionel sits at the counter rolling a joint. He nods towards Maddy.

LIONEL
What's her deal?

Lizzie shrugs.

LIZZIE
She still hasn't ordered anything.

Lizzie swats his hand.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)
Not in the restaurant.

Lionel looks around. There's no one else there. They both look over towards the door as it opens. Eli walks through the door.

ELI
Could I just get a table for one
please?

Wide eyed, Lizzie mouths the words, "put it away," before smiling at Eli and showing him towards a booth across the restaurant from Maddy.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - LATER

Maddy finishes writing the ornately decorated paper. She glances over at Eli, who is talking with Lizzie. Lionel still sits at the counter.

MADDY

Hey, where's the bathroom.

Lionel points towards where Eli and Lizzie talk.

Maddy grabs her backpack, rises from her seat and walks past them into the bathroom.

INT. LIZZIE'S DINER - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Eli and Lizzie are still chatting as Maddy re-emerges from the bathroom with her hood up. She glances at Eli's computer screen on her way past as she walks back over to the booth where she had been sitting earlier.

The note sits face down on the table. She folds it, reaches into her backpack, rips a piece of duct tape and tapes the note carefully under the table.

Lizzie turns up the volume on the TV. Maddy grabs her backpack and smiles at Lizzie as she makes her way out the door.

EXT. MOTEL SMITH - NIGHT

Eli shuts his car door and stands in front of a drive-up motel room. There are no cars in the lot. The motel is old but not so old that it looks scary.

He approaches the door and notices a plastic bag taped to it. He removes the bag from the door and removes its contents: a Motel Smith room key and a weed vape pen.

Eli opens the motel room with the key and swings the door open.

A single lamp emits a warm light from the corner of the room. The TV is on with the volume low. A large heart shaped bed sits in the center of the room.

LIONEL (O.S.)

What you think?

Eli turns as Lionel approaches the room.

ELI
Looks a little -

Eli peers inside the room.

ELI (CONT'D)
Murder.

Lionel stands next to Eli.

LIONEL
Double murder-suicide actually. Not
pretty. Took them years to clean
the stains.

Eli looks at him blankly.

LIONEL (CONT'D)
Joking!

Eli sighs, relieved.

LIONEL (CONT'D)
That's upstairs.

INT. MOTEL SMITH - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Eli walks into the room as Lionel stands at the threshold.

LIONEL
So breakfast is from 7 to 7:13 and
there *is* a pool but you have to
fill it with water yourself.

Eli sets his bag down on the floor.

ELI
Thanks again, man.

Lionel looks pleased to help.

LIONEL
I know you said you didn't smoke
but I left a pen in there if you
can't sleep.

Eli reaches into the plastic bag and pulls out the vape pen.
He turns it in his hands.

ELI
Thanks.

Lionel shuts the door.

Eli pulls his phone out of his pocket.

INSERT: PHONE

He types into a search bar. "murder suicide scary motel true?"

Before the page can load, Eli turns his phone off and throws it onto the bed.

INT. MOTEL SMITH - NIGHT - LATER

The room is lit only by the light of the TV which plays on low volume. Eli lies on top of the bed but not under the sheets with his eyes wide open.

On the bedside table sits Eli's phone and the dab pen. Eli rolls onto his side, the idea of sleep tempting him via the dab pen.

ELI

Fine.

Eli grabs the weed pen and inspects it, turning it in his hands carefully. He can't figure out how to turn it on. He sniffs the mouth piece then brings it to his lips quickly and inhales for a *loooonggg* time.

He's holding his breath. Eventually, he releases a thick cloud of vapor into the air.

INT. MOTEL SMITH - NIGHT - LATER

Eli sits cross legged in the center of the heart shaped bed as if meditating. Illuminated only by the glow of the TV.

Eli is transfixed by the program on the television.

INSERT: TV

A too handsome TV presenter. MORGAN MITCHELL (30s) stands on a stage that resembles something out of American Idol. He talks to the camera.

MORGAN MITCHELL

In just 3 weeks, on *this* very stage, the biggest girl group in the world will make their debut, but who make the cut? Find out on this weeks episode of...Eternity House.

The camera cuts to the logo for the show and theme music begins to play. It's the same song from the gas station.

This piques Eli's interest. He unplugs his phone from beside the bed and holds a button on the side.

ELI
(softly)
What song is playing?

The virtual assistant takes a moment to register the song and as it's loading, Eli watches the introduction to the show.

The girls are shown one by one, each performing their own signature emote.

A girl appears on screen who looks like Maddy, but her features are more defined and more clear. She has perfectly clear skin and smiles devilishly at the camera. It's as if she's staring through the television at Eli.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANT (O.S.)
This is Soul by Eternity.

Eli screenshots the song title and stares back at the TV.

INT. MOTEL SMITH - MORNING

The room is in disarray. Fast food wrappers lay scattered around the room. Curtains drawn but light peaking through. The TV is still on. Eli's computer sits open on the bed.

INSERT: COMPUTER

An internet page called, "ETERNITY WIKI," displays a headshot and biography of Aurora.

The note from the diner lays on the bed.

BANGING on the door. Rustling from outside.

Eli lays on the heart shaped bed, unmoving.

Another BANG on the door.

Eli shoots up. A group of voices can be heard from outside the door.

Eli nervously makes his way over to the door and places an ear on it.

VOICE 1 (O.S.)
I know he's in there, I have his
phone's location.

VOICE 2 (O.S.)
I heard he's a prince.

VOICE 3 (O.S.)
No way Kenny, Rory's too down to
earth for a royal.

Eli looks confused and makes his way towards the curtains. He
moves them ever so slightly and sees a man staring in at him.

ELI
AHHH!

VOICE 1 (O.S.)
He's in there!

Eli's phone BUZZES on the bed.

INSERT: PHONE

"JAKEY"

Eli slides to answer it.

JAKY (O.S.)
So that's where you've been huh?
Sleeping with pop stars? I'm gonna
win that bet with Dad.

Eli walks into the bathroom and shuts the door behind him.

ELI
(hushed and urgent)
WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING?

JAKY (O.S.)
(yelling away from the
phone)
Dad you owe me \$20.
(normal)
Why didn't you tell us bro?

Eli stands and locks the bathroom door. He's pacing.

ELI
I don't know what you're talking
about.

JAKY (O.S.)
The letter? From that Eternity
chick. Wait hold on Dad wants to
talk to you.

A rustling on the other end of the line as the phone changes
hands.

DAD (O.S.)
Elijah! I'm so proud of you son.

ELI
FOR WHAT?

DAD (O.S.)
All these years we thought you were
gay and now -

He gets choked up.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I'm just so proud of you.

A CRASH from outside the bathroom. Voices getting closer to
the bathroom.

DAD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I mean I'm sorry that she's dead
and all but - you know - such is
life.

BANG on the door. Eli drops his phone. Another BANG. The door
is very weak and the lock doesn't hold. The door CRASHES open
to reveal a group of photographers snapping photos and
yelling at Eli. He is utterly shocked.

CUT TO BLACK.

IDOLS

EPISODE 1

"THE BALD AND THE BEAUTIFUL"

Written By

Owen Luebbbers

FADE IN:

EXT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

The empty parking lot of a diner that looks straight out of the 1950s. From nowhere: a white van SCREECHES to a stop in front.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY - SAME TIME

The place is desolate. DARREN (30s) stands behind the counter, a steaming bowl of diner clams in front of him. He checks his watch expectantly. He eats one of the clams. He puts two more in his mouth quickly, obviously stress eating.

EXT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

The side door of the van slides open quickly. In rapid succession, a two man crew, TY (20s) and JIN (20s) shuffle out of the van and into the front door of the diner in a single file line carrying various pieces of production equipment. Cameras, lights, pull up green screens etc.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

The door to the diner slams shut. Jin locks it behind him. The diner is small and there are no patrons inside, beside Darren, who they pay no attention to.

Darren is elbow deep in the clams but quickly cleans himself up, wiping his hands on a napkin.

The guys make quick work of the place. They pull all of the blinds down and replace them with green screens, place lights in various corners, and set up multiple cameras on tripods around the diner.

The diner has been transformed into an almost unrecognizable set.

As quickly as they came in, they depart, exiting the diner in the same orderly fashion that they entered in.

Darren is left with his mouth agape, the steaming bowl of diner clams still in front of him.

JESSI (20s), a production assistant, walks in immediately after the crew departs. She wears a headpiece and carries a tablet. She locks the door behind her.

Darren straightens up at the sight of her.

JESSI
Darren, right?

DARREN
Yes, ma'am.

She doesn't care about his good manners. She checks something off on the tablet.

JESSI
I just need your signature here.

She places the tablet down on the counter beside the diner clams. She turns her nose up at them.

DARREN
I thought we'd give Aurora a real taste of home, you know?

JESSI
Aurora doesn't eat seafood from landlocked states.

Jessi is growing impatient. Darren begins to scan the document.

DARREN
She used to - sorry, what am I signing here?

As soon as Darren finishes signing, Jessi pulls the tablet away and replaces it with a wad of cash.

JESSI
Thanks so much.

It doesn't really matter what Darren signed when there's *that* much cash sitting there. Darren pulls a phone out of his pocket.

DARREN
I was wondering if I could get a quick picture?

Jessi has gone back to work on her tablet. She doesn't look up.

JESSI
(matter of factly)
No.

Darren goes to open his mouth.

JESSI (CONT'D)
Don't speak again.

DARREN
I - was just gonna see if you
wanted the rest of these.

Jessi briefly glances up from her tablet. She sighs.

JESSI
Leave them there.

Satisfied, Darren walks through a door behind the counter and into the kitchen of the diner.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

Jessi watches as Darren leaves through a door at the back of the kitchen. Jessi speaks into her headpiece.

JESSI
Bring them in.

Jessi eyes the bowl of clams and moves towards it. She leans in to smell it. Actually not horrible. She tries one.

EXT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

The van door slides open again. A stilettoed foot emerges and hits the ground, but it's not *exactly* a normal foot. Well, it's a normal *foot* but it's covered in lime-green lycra material.

PAN UP TO:

In the same rapid succession as the production crew, seven bodies, all wearing different colored morph suits and high heels follow one another in a single file line into the front of the diner.

They are followed by an impeccably dressed man, MORGAN MITCHELL (40s, but has had so much plastic surgery that he looks 20).

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY

The door closes behind Morgan. He locks it behind him. He scans around the diner. The morph-suits sit in a booth in the corner, surrounded by lights and cameras. Jessi stands patiently at attention beside the morph suited bodies. Morgan sniffs the air. He is disgusted and holds his nose.

MORGAN
What's that smell?

JESSI
Diner clams, Mr. Mitchell.

MORGAN
From a landlocked state?

JESSI
Yes, sir.

He shakes his head.

MORGAN
Get rid of them.

JESSI
Right away.

Jessi moves fast to the counter. She the grabs the bowl, but before dumping it in the trash can, she takes one more bite, closing her eyes blissfully.

Morgan unplugs his nose and breathes out dramatically. He walks over to where the morph-suits are sitting quietly around a table.

The table is set with normal cutlery, however, the plates are covered in neon green material.

MORGAN
Right, girls.

He leans onto the table as the morph-suited bodies all turn to look at him eyelessly.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
This is Aurora's homecoming so,
lets keep things light, yeah?

They respond with silence.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Great. We're gonna start with the
coffee bit.
(calling after Jessi)
Are we rolling?

JESSI
We can be.
(talking into her headset)
Hey Ty, can we roll on Camera 1?

One of the cameras WHIRS to life and swivels to face Morgan. She begins a count down with her fingers. Three.

GREEN stands and walks behind the counter.

Two.

INT./EXT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY - SAME TIME

GRUMBLE. Darren slams on the breaks, nearly hitting the car in front of him. He looks down at his stomach in horror.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY - SAME TIME

Jessi clutches her stomach. She cues Morgan in painfully before immediately sprinting to a restroom in the corner of the diner.

INT. EDITING VAN - SAME TIME

A sophisticated on-the-go editing suite. Ty sits in front of a few monitors alongside Jin. They share a bag of gummy candy. The monitors display many different camera angles from inside the diner. They both wear headsets, through which the sound of Jessi throwing up violently can be heard.

TY

Jesus, what's happening in there.

Jin shrugs.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY - SAME TIME

The morph suit girls spring to life. They mime as if they are laughing, chatting and generally having a great time but make absolutely no noise.

A few of the girls pretend to eat off of the green plates.

MORGAN

Greetings to you all. We are here in Springfield, Pennsylvania for the first date of the Welcome to Eternity Tour and this just so happens to be the hometown of one our very favorite girls.

Morgan turns to the Green Girl who stands in front of an espresso machine.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Aurora, can I get that coffee I
ordered?

The camera pans over to the counter. Green morph suit girl turns to the relatively simple looking coffee machine and, after seeming confused for a moment, presses a button. The machine SPUTTERS.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Sorry, can we cut? Jessi?

He looks around the room as the camera resets to its first position. The girls stop miming and return to not moving.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
(to Aurora)
Do you even know how to work this
thing?

She shrugs. Morgan walks behind the counter as she steps aside to make space for him.

He looks at the coffee machine. He presses a few buttons aimlessly. Nothing.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
I knew we should've done this in
post.

He bangs on the side of the machine and it RATTLES loudly before spurting dark liquid all over Morgan's face and clothes.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
GODDAMNNIT! Stupid fucking -

The girls at the table seem to be laughing but are still not making any noise. He's seething. He closes his eyes, takes a DEEP breath, and removes a phone from his pocket. He dials a number. It rings.

INT. DARREN'S BATHROOM - DAY - SAME TIME

Darren looks like he's at the edge of death. He is a crumpled heap sitting in front of the toilet. His phone BUZZES. His hand scrambles for it. He answers.

MORGAN (V.O.)
We need a *working* coffee machine
for this shoot, yours is broken.

Darren attempts to sit up before realizing he has to throw up again. He wretches into the toilet.

DARREN
(barely audible)
Coffee. Yeah.

He hangs up. He dials another number.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY - SAME TIME

Morgan stares at his phone, somewhat horrified by what he just heard.

MORGAN
Where the *fuck* is Jessi? I need to
change. Nobody touch ANYTHING.

He's lost his composure. He walks angrily towards the door.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
(grumbling under his
breath)
Nobody hangs up on Morgan fucking
Mitchell, Morgan Mitchell is a
fucking *star*. *Morgan Mitchell is
the sun.*

He unlocks the door and exits the diner.

Aurora starts to laugh - audibly this time. The rest of the girls follow suit.

YELLOW
Nice one, Rora.

AURORA
God I can't breath in this thing.

Green morph suit girl unzips herself suit from the top and removes the suit from her head to reveal AURORA (20). She has striking facial features but is completely hairless, eyebrows and all.

EXT. SMALL TOWN DINER EMPLOYEE PARKING - DAY

ELI (mid-20s) sits in a car with the windows rolled up. The air is cloudy with smoke. He hits a joint while talking on the phone.

ELI
...but he gave me like a hundred
dollars to leave so I did.

He takes another hit.

ELI (CONT'D)
I don't know, he was being weird
about it.

His phone BUZZES. He takes it away from his ear to see who's
calling.

INSERT: PHONE

"Darren Manager"

ELI (CONT'D)
Wait, he's calling hold on.

He slides to answer.

ELI (CONT'D)
What's up boss man?

Coughing from the other end of the line.

DARREN (V.O.)
Coffee. Broken. Fix.

ELI
You good?

Darren screams in anguish. He is clearly struggling.

DARREN
Diner. Clams.

ELI
Dude, *why* are clams even on the
menu? We live in a landlocked
state.

Crying from the other end of the line.

DARREN
(through sobs)
Now. Coffee. Now.

The phone disconnects.

EXT. SMALL TOWN DINER PARKING LOT - DAY

Eli walks from his car to the back door of the diner. He takes one last gorgeous hit of the joint before unlocking the door.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Eli hears the chatter and laughing of the girls as he walks through the kitchen.

ELI

Hello?

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - DAY - CONTINUOUS

He swings the door open into the main dinning area to see the morph suited girls, who have all removed the suits from their heads. They are all hairless but beautiful. Aurora sits on the counter.

They don't seem to notice him come in. He knocks on the door. They turn to look at him curiously.

RED

Who's *this*?

YELLOW

(whispering)

So hot.

The other color morph suit girls nod in agreement.

Eli stops where he is to examine Aurora. He's trying to ignore it. So bald.

ELI

I'm - uh - here to fix the coffee machine.

Aurora looks confused. Eli looks at the other girls sitting at the table. All bald.

ELI (CONT'D)

Sorry, am I like *super* high?

Eli approaches the coffee machine behind Aurora. She swings her legs over towards him.

AURORA

It's not actually broken.

Eli inspects the coffee machine, presses a few buttons. It SPRINGS to life.

ELI
Yeah, I see that.

Aurora hops down off the counter. Eli turns to look at her. They are in very close proximity.

ELI (CONT'D)
Oh my god, Maddy? I didn't
recognize you with the -

He gestures to her outfit and lack of hair. Aurora looks simultaneously horrified and impressed.

ELI (CONT'D)
How have you been, I -

She looks back at the other girls, covers his mouth grabs him and pulls him into the kitchen.

AURORA
Shhhh.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - KITCHEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The door swings shut behind them. Aurora looks over her shoulder.

AURORA
They don't know me as *Maddy*.

Eli looks over her shoulder out at the girls who have gone back to their conversation.

ELI
The make-a-wishers?

Aurora rolls her eyes.

AURORA
You can't tell anybody you saw me.

Eli is confused.

ELI
But I did.

AURORA
I mean the *real* me. Maddy. You
can't tell anyone you saw *Maddy*.

Eli concedes.

ELI
I won't, I won't. I just haven't
seen you since -

She sighs.

AURORA
The service - yeah.

Aurora looks at him sympathetically.

ELI
I - never got to say thank you for
helping me with that article by the
way.

AURORA
I go by Aurora now.

ELI
Aurora.

AURORA
Do you still do freelance stuff for
that website?

ELI
Yeah actually, I just published
this really interesting article
about Taylor -

Behind them, there's a loud POUNDING sound at the door.

MORGAN (O.S.)
Girls? Girls! Open the goddamn -

Eli and Aurora turn to look towards the door.

AURORA
You need to leave. NOW!

She ushers him towards the back door.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Don't tell *anyone* about this.

Aurora opens the door and pushes him outside.

ELI
Is everything okay?

He turns and glimpses her one last time. Fear in her eyes. She shuts the door. He stands alone outside.

INT. SMALL TOWN DINER - KITCHEN - DAY

Aurora stands behind the door to the outside. She composes herself, walks towards the door to the main dining room, pulls the green morph suit back over her head and enters the dining room. The girls have all returned to their lifeless, morph suit covered state.

Morgan has changed into a clean shirt and an extremely pale Jessi now sits at the counter.

MORGAN
Is it fixed?

Aurora nods as she assumes her position behind the counter.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Let's try this again.

He fixes himself. Jessi speaks into her headset. She holds three fingers up. Two.

INSERT: TITLE CARD

"IDOLS"

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - DAY

A small gas station shop. MARTIN (18, stick thin) sits behind the checkout counter with headphones on, watching something on his phone. He wears a shirt with an infinity logo on it. A small TV plays a local news channel. The front door DINGS as Eli walks in. Martin looks up briefly from his phone.

Eli walks to the back of the store, scans the alcohol section, and chooses a cheap bottle of wine. On his way back to the counter, he grabs a bag of crisps. And also a bag of candy. And another bag of crisps. He brings his haul to the counter and sets it down.

ELI
Could I also get a pineapple ice
vape?

Martin removes one ear of his headphones.

MARTIN
Sorry?

ELI
Pineapple ice.

Martin nods towards a display of vapes behind Eli.

MARTIN
We've got all the good ones. Found
Mary, TrollBar, iVape2.

Eli looks at the display of vapes behind him. Alien technology.

ELI
Uhhh -

Martin walks out from behind the counter and opens the display with a key. He removes what looks like a box for an iPhone.

MARTIN
You can play games on this one.

ELI
Games?

MARTIN
Doodle Jump. Temple Run. All the classics.

Eli is paralyzed by the choice.

ELI
Do you have just like, a *regular*
vape?

Martin sighs. He walks back behind the counter and shuffles through some things.

MARTIN
(under his breath)
Millennials.

ELI
I'm Gen Z actually.

MARTIN
Whatever.

He shuffles through some more boxes.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I think we have some in the back.

Eli nods. Martin walks towards the back of the store. Eli looks at the TV.

INSERT: TV

A news program with a pretty, American looking anchor.

ANCHOR

...for the opening date of the
Welcome to Eternity Tour. Morgan
Mitchell caught up with Aurora and
all of the girls at Springfield
Diner today, take a look.

The news program transitions to a highly edited version of the inside of the diner. The morph suited bodies are now gorgeous women who are extremely well dressed. They're almost too gorgeous. They eat beautiful looking breakfast food. A far cry from diner clams.

MORGAN (O.S.)

Aurora, can I get that coffee I
ordered?

The camera pans over to the counter. Aurora, who is blonde, blue eyed, wears Korean streetwear style clothes. She laughs childishly. She hands him a cup of coffee. She sounds *nothing* like she did earlier.

AURORA

Of course, Morgan!

Eli laughs.

ELI

What the -

Martin returns carrying a dusty vape box. He scans it.

MARTIN

That'll be thirty-five fifty.

Eli looks shocked.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

It's vintage.

ELI

I'll just get a pack of cigarettes.

MARTIN

Suit yourself.

Martin grabs a box of cigarettes and begins scanning the items.

INSERT: TV

The program continues.

AURORA

...and I'm just so incredibly
jazzed to be starting our tour here
in my hometown.

ELI

(under his breath)
Jazzed?
(to Martin)
You know anything about them?

He gestures towards the TV. Martin looks at him with a perplexed expression. "Duh." He points to his shirt.

MARTIN

(bragging)
I'm probably the biggest Eternalite
in the tri-state area. Rora's my
bias.

He turns to face his phone screen towards Eli.

INSERT: PHONE

Martin's phone displays a cutesy, sparkly edit of Aurora as the background.

ELI

Well, Rora looks nothing like that.

MARTIN

You saw her?

ELI

What? No, I mean - she.

MARTIN

You totally saw her. What was she
like?

Eli scoffs.

ELI

I didn't see her, okay?

MARTIN
(resigned)
I will kill myself if you don't
tell me.

Eli looks shocked.

ELI
No - no need for that.

MARTIN
My dad keeps a gun in the back.

Martin walks out from behind the counter towards the back of the store. Eli roll his eyes and crosses his arms. Speechless. Martin enters back into the store carrying a pistol.

ELI
God, what the fu - fine, fine.

Martin sets the gun back inside the storeroom.

ELI (CONT'D)
Generation *asshole*.

MARTIN
So? What was she like?

Eli sighs.

ELI
She - she was. Normal.

He thinks for a moment.

ELI (CONT'D)
Except for the baldness, I guess.

Martin is hanging on every word.

MARTIN
Baldness?

ELI
Yeah, I went in to fix the coffee machine which wasn't even broken and they were *all* bald. I thought I was just stoned. They were wearing these morph suit things, I don't know. Weird vibe.

Martin wears a gleeful expression.

MARTIN

Oh man the subbreddit is gonna
slurp. This. Up.

ELI

You can't tell *anybody*. They'll -

He's formulating an idea. He looks over his shoulder and leans in towards the counter.

ELI (CONT'D)

(barely audible)

They'll *unalive* you.

Eli makes a throat cutting gesture. Martin looks shocked, but intrigued.

ELI (CONT'D)

That's all I can tell you.

Martin makes a "my lips are sealed" gesture. Martin finishes scanning.

MARTIN

That'll be 26.75. Or - actually, I
don't really care, pay me whatever.

Eli sets down a hundred dollar bill. Martin holds it as if he has never seen such a sight.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Cash?

ELI

Yeah, that okay?

Martin shrugs. He attempts to use the till, but doesn't really know how. After a while, he figures it out. He counts the change carefully. There's way too much of it.

ELI (CONT'D)

Uhhh -

He chooses to ignore it.

ELI (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Eli grabs his items off the counter and makes his way towards the door. He's about to leave.

MARTIN

Wait!

Martin comes jogging over. He hands him what looks like a key card.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
You dropped this.

ELI
Oh, I don't think -

Martin is silently insistent. Eli accepts the card. It's heavy in his hands.

INT. ELI'S CAR - DAY

Eli sits in his car in the gas station parking lot, the items from the shop on the seat beside him.

He inspects the card, heavy in his hands. There's something familiar about it.

INSERT: CARD

It's red with a black infinity symbol on it. There's a longitude and latitude in-scripted below the symbol.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. COOPER HOUSE BACKYARD - DAY - LATER

Eli holds the card in his hands, turning it over and over again. He's in somewhat of a daze. He sits in a circle of chairs around a lit fire pit. A typical American backyard barbecue. The sounds around him are muffled. Chattering voices and music plays, but he's not really listening to any of it.

All of a sudden, the noise SNAPS into focus. Eli remembers where he is and joins in laughing at a story being told from somewhere in the circle.

Eli places the card in his pocket and sips something from a plastic cup. He smiles softly and stands. AUNT JACKIE (50s) grabs his arm as he exits the circle.

AUNT JACKIE
Would you get me a refill?

He nods.

ELI
What do you want?

She looks suspiciously around the circle. Nobody's paying attention

AUNT JACKIE
(loudly)
Water, just water.
(whispering)
Vodka. Straight.

He raises his eyebrows.

ELI
I thought you were off the drink.

She rolls her eyes.

AUNT JACKIE
Not today.

She winks. He concedes and walks away from the circle towards a drink cooler. He opens up the cooler to see a selection of drinks. He chooses one and pours it in his cup. As he sips, a voice from behind him.

TRISH
Can I have some?

Eli turns to see TRISH (16) standing in front of him.

ELI
Trish. No.

She crosses her arms.

TRISH
Come *on*. I thought you were my cool cousin.

He rolls his eyes.

ELI
I *am* cool, just not *that* kind of cool.

TRISH
Whatever. I'm gonna tell everyone that you're gay.

He laughs.

ELI
I *am* gay.

TRISH
(sarcastically)
Really? I had no idea.

He hands her his cup. He looks over her shoulder.

ELI
Just don't let your mom see.

She sips and makes a disgusted face.

TRISH
God, this tastes like piss. What is this?

ELI
IPA.

TRISH
You sure you're gay?

He rolls his eyes again. Eli reaches back into the cooler, removes a bottle of vodka and pours it in another cup.

ELI
Hey, you're like, young, have you heard of Eternity?

She looks at him with a deadpan expression.

TRISH
Have you *not*?

He shakes his head.

TRISH (CONT'D)
Are you absolutely *positive* you're gay?

He nods.

TRISH (CONT'D)
They're like, pop royalty. Biggest group in the world right now.

Eli takes the infinity card out of his pocket.

ELI
Do you know anything about this?

Trish looks at him with wide eyes. She grabs the card. She squeals with excitement.

TRISH
How did you get this?

Eli shrugs.

ELI
Weird day.

Trish looks at him, suddenly sympathetic.

TRISH
With the anniversary? Yeah. I get it.

ELI
No actually - well, yeah, but no.

She hands the drink cup back to Eli. He sips it.

TRISH
You *have* to go.

ELI
Go where?

TRISH
Paradise.

Eli looks at her, confused.

TRISH (CONT'D)
It's an exclusive Eternity fan event. Invite only.

ELI
Okay? I've literally never even heard of them until today.

TRISH
They've obviously heard of you.

AUNT JACKIE (O.S.)
Trish?

Trish acknowledges her mom and begins to walk over.

ELI
Wait, can you give this to your mom?

He hands her the cup with vodka.

TRISH
I thought she was off the drink.

ELI
Apparently not.

She continues to walk over before turning around.

TRISH
Please go and tell me literally
everything.

ELI
Fine. Just for you.

Eli finishes his drink.

INT. ELI'S BEDROOM - EVENING

A bedroom that looks like a teenager's. Clothes strewn on the floor. Bunk beds in the corner. Indie band posters hang on the walls. A desk in the corner, which has photos of a teenage girl along with newspaper clippings hung up on the wall behind it.

INSERT: NEWSPAPER

A photo of KATIE (18) and a headline that reads, "Springfield Girl Missing"

There's also a laptop open.

INSERT: LAPTOP

A BuzzFeed style listicle article with the title, "The Last Great American Dinersty: The Best Taylor Swift Themed Restaurants in the USA Written by Eli Cooper"

Eli sits in front of an open window smoking. The sounds of people outside. A KNOCK on the door immediately followed by the sound of the door opening. Eli briefly scrambles to hide the cigarette before giving up.

DAD (O.S.)
Eli, we're gonna do a - since when
do you smoke?

DAD (60s) walks into the room. Eli sits at the window.

ELI
Since today I guess.

Dad attempts to tiptoe between piles of clothes but gives up and strides over towards Eli. He sits at the desk. He scans the wall.

DAD
How has it been two years?

Eli nods.

DAD (CONT'D)
Can I?

He reaches out towards Eli. He hands him the cigarette. Dad takes a drag.

DAD (CONT'D)
Don't tell Mom.

He waves the smoke away and hands the cigarette back to Eli.

DAD (CONT'D)
How was work?

Eli takes a drag.

ELI
Long story.

DAD
Tell me about long stories. Poppy has been talking for four hours without stopping.

ELI
Like, we get it - you were in Vietnam or whatever, big deal.

They laugh. Dad glances at the photos and newspaper clippings on the wall.

DAD
Do you think she's still out there?

Eli takes another drag of the cigarette.

ELI
I hope so.

Dad sighs.

DAD
Well we're gonna do a toast. If you want to join.

Eli ashes his cigarette on the windowsill.

EXT. COOPER HOUSE BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dad, Eli, Trish, Aunt Jackie, MOM (60s) and a few others stand around the fire pit holding plastic champagne glasses.

MOM

To -

AUNT JACKIE

(blubbering)

Come back to us! PLEASE, just -
come - back.

She breaks down into a flood of tears. Mom rubs her back.

DAD

To Katie!

EVERYONE

To Katie!

They raise their glasses as the ashes of the fire rise up into the sky.

INT./EXT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

Cords and wires extend from an abandoned factory-turned-nightclub, connecting to the editing van. Ty leans against the van while Jin sits in the door smoking a cigarette. The grinding sounds of industrial house music are muffled from the outside.

TY

Do you think this is gonna work?

Jin is lost in thought. Ty kicks him.

TY (CONT'D)

Yo.

Jin looks over at him with a lost expression on his face.

JIN

I'm too young to feel this old.

TY

You're not *that* young.

JIN

I'm 26.

TY

26 is like - basically middle age.

Jin waves his cigarette.

JIN
I don't know if the CPU can handle
running the neural network in real
time.

Ty scoffs.

TY
Yeah well it fuckin' better or
Mitchell is gonna make life hell
for us. For you, I mean.

JIN
What's that supposed to mean?

Ty paces.

TY
I mean - I work with physical
hardware. You know?

Jin watches him as he lights another cigarette.

TY (CONT'D)
Lights, cameras.

JIN
Action?

TY
You have to rely on this -

He waves his hands out in the air.

TY (CONT'D)
Fuckin' -

TY (CONT'D)
Ephemeral - thing.

JIN
Ephemeral? What are you,
Kant?

Ty stops pacing and grabs Jin's cigarette. He takes a drag.

TY (CONT'D)
I just wouldn't want to rely on
something I can't see, you know?

He hands the cigarette back to Jin.

JIN
It's called faith, man.

From behind them, a door opens and shuts. Morgan strides towards with purpose wearing a headset. They continue talking.

TY
I didn't know you were religious.

JIN
Yeah, Catholic.

TY
Were you molested?

JIN
What? Dude, no. Father Paul was a very devout man.

He pauses.

JIN (CONT'D)
He molested my brother though.

TY
Jesus. Kyle?

JIN
Yeah. He never really recovered.

Ty looks horrified.

JIN (CONT'D)
I'm joking, like - obviously I'm joking.

MORGAN (O.S.)
We're live in five boys!

They turn to look at him. He looks anxiously excited. Also kind of coked out. He's sweating. Profusely. Jin looks over his shoulder at the monitors.

TY
(to Morgan)
You good man?

INSERT: MONITOR

Displaying a "5:00," counting down.

JIN
Oh shit, yeah.

He flicks his cigarette and springs to action, lifting himself into the van and into the seat in front of the screens. He puts a headset on.

Ty reaches out to touch Morgan. He's wet.

TY
Why are you so sweaty?

Morgan slaps his hand away.

MORGAN
Nobody touches Morgan *FUCKING*
Mitchell. Morgan Mitchell is a GOD!

Ty looks shocked.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
Four minutes.

JIN
(yelling from inside the
van)
We'll be ready!

Morgan runs back to the entrance of the club. We follow him in.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Morgan enters the back of the club. You wouldn't know we're still in Pennsylvania. Berlin maybe. He moves through sweaty, pulsing bodies.

The main part of the club is circular. There's a DJ playing a set on a small, narrow stage with a large LED screen behind it displaying a countdown.

INSERT: SCREEN

"3:10"

INT. PARADISE GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

It's quieter in here. Almost zen. The girls are half in their morph suits. Faces and heads uncovered. They assume various stretching poses. BLUE peaks out through a glass panel in the door to the stage.

BLUE
So. Many. People.

Yellow walks over. She leans against the door in a calf stretch.

YELLOW

Yeah but like - you're not really there, you know?

BLUE

I mean, I kinda am. I still have to dance.

Aurora is doing a full split.

AURORA

Just wait till the tour. More people than you can even fathom.

This makes Blue even more nervous. She begins to pace. ORANGE does a hamstring stretch. She seems uncomfortable. Itchy.

ORANGE

God, I miss dancing in *normal* clothes. Like - baggy jeans. Sweatpants.

Collective agreements from the rest of the room.

The green room door opens. Morgan enters. The girls go quiet.

MORGAN

Communion in 2 minutes. You're on in 5. Anybody seen Jessi?

INDIGO is doing jumping jacks. She points to a couch in the corner of the room. Jessi is on her death bed.

JESSI

(pained)

You have to kill me.

MORGAN

Right. Diner clams. Okay.

(into his headset)

One of you needs to kill Jessi.

INT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

Ty and Jin look at each other. Ty covers the mic on his headset.

TY

He's not serious, right?

Jin shrugs. "Don't look at me."

EXT. PARADISE - NIGHT

A queue forms outside the abandoned factory. Eli stands in the line, which is inching its way very slowly towards an unmanned door. Eli turns to the FAN behind him.

ELI
Any idea what's taking so long?

The fan has a crazed expression on his face.

FAN
I would wait forever if I had to.

Eli looks mystified by this response.

FAN (CONT'D)
Just to get a glimpse of Luna. I
want to smell her. Taste her.

ELI
(cringing)
Yeah. Okay.

He turns around. After a few moments, Eli grows impatient and sighs. He gets out of line and walks to the front. Groans, "Hey!", "Asshole."

ELI (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Losers.

He gets to the front of the line, removes the infinity card from his pocket and scans it, the door clicks open.

INT. SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Eli enters a small, sterile room with bright white lighting. A single gruff looking SECURITY GUARD stands in front of another set of doors. He extends his hand.

SECURITY GUARD
Phone.

Eli sighs. He apathetically removes his phone from his pocket and hands it to the guard. The guard places it in a bin full of phones.

ELI
Aren't you gonna label it or
something?

The security guard steps forward and begins an *extremely*
thorough pat down.

ELI (CONT'D)
At least take me to dinner first.

The security guard finishes the pat down and removes a small
pill in a zip lock bag.

SECURITY GUARD
Take it when the countdown reaches
zero.

Eli begrudgingly accepts the pill.

ELI
What if I don't -

SECURITY GUARD
We'll know.

Eli's eyes widen.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
(suddenly chipper)
And don't forget to pre-save Heaven
on Spotify and Apple Music!

He smiles like the Cheshire Cat. The security guard opens the
double doors and ushers Eli into the club.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Eli stands on the other side of the doors, dumbfounded.
Sweaty bodies move around him.

He explores the space and eventually finds his way to the
main part of the club.

INSERT: SCREEN

The countdown now reads: "0:15"

The crowd cheers. The DJ deck has been removed from the
stage, which now sits empty.

Eli scans the room around him.

INSERT: SCREEN

The countdown reads, "0:07"

The crowd begins to count down as the lights in the room flicker off and on with the descending numbers.

EVERYONE

3. 2. 1.

The crowd raises their pills into the air and places them on their tongues almost in unison.

Eli is shocked by the sight.

MARTIN (O.S.)

You have to take it.

Eli turns to see Martin, who is wearing eye-liner, leather and clip on wings.

ELI

What is it?

Martin looks at him with a euphoric expression on his face.

MARTIN

Communion.

Martin grabs Eli's hand, which holds the pill bag. He removes the pill from the bag, places it in Eli's hand and brings his hand to his mouth. Eli resigns and opens his mouth, putting the pill on his tongue.

INT. PARADISE GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

The girls have zipped up their morph suits and have formed a single file, rainbow colored line behind the door to the stage. They all wear microphone headsets. Morgan stands at the front of the line, hyping himself up.

MORGAN

This is it, Morgan. Show 'em what
you're made of. Stardust. Morgan
Mitchell is made of fucking
stardust.

Morgan opens the door and sprints out onto the stage.

INT. PARADISE STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Morgan stands on the stage holding a microphone and is received with rapturous applause and cheering.

MORGAN
Thank you! Thank you!

The crowd goes quiet.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
I'm Morgan Mitchell, but I think
you know that already.

Eli stands towards the back of the crowd behind Martin.

MORGAN (CONT'D)
In a few short moments, we will
enter Paradise.

INT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

Jin and Ty watch a stream of the stage on the monitors.

JIN
Let's cut to camera two.

Ty clicks something. The screen cuts to a different angle of
the stage.

MORGAN (O.S.)
Without further adieu, I present
your guides for this evening.

Jin checks one of the monitors.

JIN
Neural network is up and running.
Animations in 5.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Eli stands at the back of the main room of the club. It's so
packed you can hardly breathe. His eyes are closed and he's
taking deep breaths. The sound of Morgan on stage is whirly.
Twisted.

He opens his eyes to see Martin, who's wings now look like
they are actually attached to his body and *moving*.

INT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

Jin and Ty are snacking.

INSERT: MONITOR

Two video feeds side by side display the same shot of the stage.

MORGAN (O.S.)
The effervescent, Luna!

INSERT: MONITOR

One of the video feeds shows Yellow running out on stage waving excitedly. The other shows LUNA (dark hair, wearing a crop top and baggy pants) in an identical motion.

TY
Have you ever tried communion?

Jin is licking cheeto dust off his fingers.

JIN
That shit scares me.

TY
Me too, man.

INT. PARADISE STAGE - NIGHT

Morgan is talking excitedly on stage. The LED screen displays a trippy high resolution animation of a cyberpunk jungle behind him.

MORGAN
Please welcome to the stage, our
homecoming queen... AURORA!

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Eli watches in a daze as Aurora runs out on stage. Martin turns to him.

MARTIN
You're telling me *she's* bald under
there?

Eli is stunned at the beautiful girls he sees before him. They look real. Too real.

MORGAN
Ladies and gentlemen, I present to
you: ETERNITY!

The crowd cheers loudly. The lights in the room go completely dark.

A crash of music and a synced spotlight illuminate the girls on stage.

The music kicks in to an uptempo beat. Aurora begins to sing.

AURORA
(singing)
Take me somewhere new.

Eli is transfixed.

LUNA
(singing)
There's nothing else to do.

HARVEST
(singing)
When the sun is shining bright.

CELESTIAN
(singing)
You make me feel so good.

Eli leans in to Martin.

ELI
(yelling over the music)
That didn't even rhyme.

Martin leans in.

MARTIN
It's not about the lyrics. Watch.

Eli returns his gaze to the stage where the girls have begun a complex dance routine.

INT. PARADISE STAGE - NIGHT

A rainbow of morph suits dance in unison. Arms waving. They shuffle around the stage.

INT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

Jin and Ty are playing a card game, not paying attention to the monitors at all. The music drones on quietly in the background.

TY
Go fish.

JIN
Bullshit.

TY
No, seriously.

Ty flips his cards towards Jin. Jin sighs.

INSERT: MONITOR

A warning message reads, "Automatic Updates Installing"

Neither of them notice.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Eli is now lost entirely in the performance. It's beautiful. The girls make incredible formations and carry themselves with a confidence like he's never seen before. The music slows as the song reaches the bridge.

AURORA
(singing)
In your garden all the roses are
blue.

LIGHT
(singing)
But none of your friends see me
when I'm with you.

Eli's spell is broken momentarily. He looks at the stage curiously. There's something off about the girl's movements.

INT. EDITING VAN - NIGHT

INSERT: MONITOR

"Updates Installing Now"

The monitors go DARK. Ty notices.

TY
Uh - Jin.

Jin looks over. Horror on his face.

JIN
Fuck.

INT. PARADISE STAGE - NIGHT

The morph suited girls are mid dance routine when all of a sudden: PITCH BLACK.

Groans from the crowd.

They continue dancing for a moment before slowly tapering off. Two of them bump into one another, falling to the ground.

MORGAN
(whispering loudly)
Get - GET OFF THE FUCKING STAGE.

He leaves the side of the stage, makes his way through the green room, and out into the club towards the backdoor.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Eli stares at the stage, but rather than seeing Aurora, he now sees KATIE. She wears a simple outfit of a jeans and a hoodie and carries a backpack. The hoodie is torn and she has a mixture of blood and dirt on her face.

INT. PARADISE STAGE - NIGHT

The morph suited girls scramble to leave the stage. Aurora looks out to the crowd and in the darkness sees Eli looking back at her.

EXT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Morgan slams the door as hard as he physically can behind him and makes his way towards the editing van at breakneck speed.

MORGAN
(screaming)
YOU FUCKING PATHETIC - LOSER -
NERDS -

Ty steps out in an attempt to calm him down.

TY
Tell us how you really feel.

Morgan reaches the van.

TY (CONT'D)
Hey! It wasn't our fault, the
neural -

MORGAN

I don't give a shit about the
neuron internet or whatever the
fuck.

TY

Neural network.

Morgan goes to punch him but Ty barely side steps and Morgan punches the van door instead. He's in pain. He starts to walk back towards the building.

MORGAN

(yelling)

FIX IT!

INT. PARADISE GREEN ROOM - NIGHT

Aurora paces the room, biting her fingernails. The girls have their morph suits uncovering their heads.

ORANGE

Do you think anybody saw?

VIOLET

It was too dark.

Luna stands and walks to where Aurora is pacing.

LUNA

You good Rora?

Aurora waves her off. A moment of clarity. She stops pacing.

AURORA

I'm leaving. Right now.

LUNA

He'll be back any second.

RED

You like can't leave.

INT. PARADISE - NIGHT

Eli is still staring at the now empty stage. The crowd has shuffled out past him. He's alone. Martin is about to exit the front door when he spies Eli and walks back to him.

MARTIN

You okay?

He doesn't hear Martin. Martin shakes him. He's still dazed.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I'll order you an Uber, where do
you live?

ELI
Uh - Stag Lane.

Martin grabs Eli's arm and begins ushering him towards the entrance. As they walk towards the door he hears yelling from behind him:

AURORA (O.S.)
Eli!

Aurora approaches him wearing only a bra and underwear.

Eli turns but sees Katie walking towards him. She's breathless.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Take me with you.

Eli looks at her lovingly. Martin has turned around and is completely speechless.

AURORA (CONT'D)
Now.

ELI
Where have you been?

Aurora looks at him confused.

AURORA
Please, Eli. I need your help.

ELI
Katie! Everything's gonna be okay,
just come home, yeah?

Luna runs over to Aurora, also only wearing a bra and underwear.

LUNA
He's coming.

Aurora looks at Eli, pleading. Her voice breaks.

AURORA
Please.

LUNA
We have to go.

Luna pulls Aurora back towards the stage. Eli watches her go. She turns around to look at him one last time before disappearing.

INT. ELI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A soft breeze blows through the open window. Eli lies on the bottom bunk. His eyes open. He groans and checks the time on his phone.

INSERT: PHONE

"12:03 PM"

Flashes of dreamlike memories from the night before. Katie.

He shoots up suddenly, but hits his head on the bunk above him.

ELI
God!

He gets out of bed with extreme effort, holding his head.

He slowly paces over towards the door, humming the song that was performed the night before.

He exits his room into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

All the doors are closed except for one immediately to his right. A light is on.

INT. KATIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

A girly bedroom. A blue ceiling painted with yellow stars. Boyband posters line the walls. A dusty guitar in the corner with some scattered notebooks and pens. It's clearly gone completely untouched.

Eli hesitantly steps into the room. He walks towards the music corner.

He sits on the bed and picks through a pile of notebooks. At the very bottom of the pile:

INSERT: NOTEBOOK

A notebook with an infinity symbol on the front. Eli flips through it.

MOM (O.S.)

You're up. Where's the car?

Eli looks up with the notebook still in his lap. He looks sad. Mom looks at him with love. He closes his eyes and begins to cry softly. Mom walks over and sits next to him, putting her arm around his shoulder.

MOM (CONT'D)

I know.

He cries harder. The soft whimpering turns into sobs. He's like a kid again. He leans into his Mom's embrace.

MOM (CONT'D)

Shhh. It's okay, it's okay.

Eli's tears fall on the notebook.

INSERT: NOTEBOOK

Song lyrics written in messy, but girl-ish handwriting.

"In your garden, all the roses are blue.

But none of your friends see me when I'm with you."

FADE OUT.

idols

series bible

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author's note

Idols is inspired by an experience I had while watching live performance videos of the K-Pop group, NewJeans after smoking a spliff with my dear friend Mel.

They were just too good at dancing, it simply HAD to be AI... (i'm actually still not totally convinced they're real)

(mom, if you're reading this, the smoking weed thing is not true i just liked the shock value)

While based on an experience I had while high, I do not, under any circumstances, condone the use of illegal mind-altering substances. Except if medically necessary of course. Or on a Tuesday evening after five. Or if the sun is shining on a summer's day.

THE WORLD OF IDOLS

After being thrust into a world of pop idols, a journalist sets out to uncover the truth about his sister's disappearance.

Idols is an absurdist dramatic comedy in the vein of **Search Party** and **Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency** while also acting as a satire on the pitfalls of modern-day technology like **Black Mirror**.

Idols is also a techy, road-trip mystery comedy. Also maybe a musical? Not like Glee or Crazy Ex Girlfriend or anything. Maybe I should just say that there will be music in the show. Pop music specifically. It's a show about a girl group full of pop idols after all.

Did I mention that yet? Throughout the series, we will get to know the members of **Eternity**, an experimental pop girl group. While based on K-Pop groups like Blackpink, NewJeans, and BTS, Eternity, are not entirely Korean. I thought it would be interesting to imagine what a K-Pop group would look like in America. I guess we had Fifth Harmony. Not exactly what I had envisioned.

We will explore themes of obsession, redemption, love, loss, technological salvationism (is that a thing?) the dangers of religious extremism (maybe?). I firmly believe that Idols could be a lot of things all at once and I am excited to explore them throughout the series.

CHARACTERS

Our main characters in Idols come from four unique factions from inside and outside the pop music world. Outsiders, artists, stans, and producers.

Eli Cooper is a twenty-something “journalist,” who lives at home with his parents somewhere in Pennsylvania. (Cost of living crisis you know?) I say “journalist,” in quotes because really he writes listicle style articles for a BuzzFeed-esque website. He also works at a diner, which is where we find him when our story begins. He smokes weed sometimes. I guess that’s not that important. Throughout the course of the series, Eli will go on a journey to redeem himself for the guilt he feels over his sister’s disappearance two years ago. He is insatiably curious about the world around him and all too often finds himself spiralling down conspiratorial rabbit holes. The one that he falls down this time just so happens to be true.

Aurora (aka Maddy Thompson) is a 20 year old mega pop star and member of ETERNITY. The shiny facade of the music world has long worn off for her. Unfortunately, because of a predatory contract, she is unable to leave the group without severe consequences. She was once a strong willed individual who’s spirit has been broken. Her spark will be reignited when she connects with Eli, a ghost from her past.

Martin is a chronically online ETERNITY stan. ETERNITY saved his life (or so he believes). He is apathetic about most things in life aside from the world’s biggest pop group. He sort of maybe has never gotten the love he needs from his parents.

Trish is Eli’s baby cousin. They grew up in a close-knit family, but she was made for more than this shitty town. (In her words) Her mother is an on-again, off-again alcoholic which has never really bothered her. Until now.

Morgan Mitchell is a fucking star. Simultaneously a manager, producer, on camera personality, handler... Morgan does it all. He’s a little bit insane which is mostly brushed off in the name of brilliance but turns out he’s actually not that brilliant and also maybe evil?

Ty & Jin are the production crew for the entire ETERNITY operation. They are sort of actual geniuses but also kind of stupid. They’re gonna be a lot of fun.

THE SHOW

An 8 episode first season will see Eli & Co. go on a cross country adventure to uncover the truth about ETERNITY and his sister's disappearance.

Episode 1

The pilot of Idols begins with a diner clam fiasco. Not good for anyone involved really. Eli is called into the diner where he works in order to fix a not-so-broken coffee machine. When he arrives, he is shocked to see a group of beautiful, but bald women amidst a sophisticated video production setup. They are also all wearing morph suits. Weird. Eli doesn't really care that they're beautiful because he's gay. Not important. While at the diner, he reconnects with who he thinks is Maddy Thompson, a friend of his sister's from high-school. She is actually Aurora, one of the lead members of Eternity, a pop super-group. She's also Maddy. It's complicated. While at a gas station shop, Eli watches a broadcast of Eternity, the members of which look suspiciously not bald. While at the gas station, Eli meets Martin, an 18 year old Eternity stan. On the way out of the store, Martin gives Eli a cryptic invitation to an event. Later that day, while at a family gathering for the two year anniversary of the disappearance of Eli's sister, his cousin, Trish, convinces him to go to the exclusive invite only fan event.

When Eli arrives at an abandoned warehouse-turned-nightclub, the vibes are already weird. These people love Eternity in a way he didn't know was possible. When he eventually gets into the club, he is forced to participate in something called, "communion," by taking a pill with Martin and the rest of the attendees of the event. Eli is transfixed when Eternity takes the stage. (Or maybe it was the drug who knows) After a production malfunction occurs, thrusting the club into darkness, Eli is paralyzed when he thinks he sees his sister, Katie on the stage covered in blood and dirt. Aurora (aka Maddy) approaches Eli, wearing nothing but a bra and underwear (nothing sexual about it, she just can't wear the morph suit in public). She asks him for help, before being pulled away by another member of Eternity.

The next day, while recovering from what he thinks is a hangover, Eli makes his way into his sister's room for the first time in a long time. Bad idea. Too many memories. He is still clearly dealing with a lot. After reading lyrics written in one of his sister's journals, he realises that they are the same lyrics from an Eternity song that was performed the previous night.

Episode 2

Eli decides to investigate Eternity for an article after suspecting that something sinister is happening. Aurora and the girls rehearse for the opening night of their tour while Ty and Jin attempt to fix bugs in the neural network that runs the Eternity operation. Upper-level management (they're the ones really running the show) put pressure on Morgan Mitchell to keep the Eternity girls compliant. At the concert, one of the musician's performing on stage with the girls messes up, which Eli notices. This musician is "taken care of." Eli witnesses this and begins to put together pieces of the puzzle, ultimately deciding to follow the girls on tour in order to figure out what's really happening. He brings Martin along while Trish sneaks into the car when they leave.

Episode 3

Eli immerses himself in the Eternalite fandom with the assistance of Martin and Trish. With Morgan under pressure to keep the girls obedient, he forces them into hours and hours of rehearsals under the threat of exposing secrets from their past. After one of the other members of the group passes out during a live dance practice video, Aurora fights back against Morgan and is punished for doing so. Before the concert. Martin and Trish sneak into the press room to discover that the entire event is completely manufactured. Eli called Darren (his boss from the diner), to find out about how Morgan contacted him to use their place of work and why specifically they wanted to use that diner. Also important note - one of the conceits of the Eternity live show, is that they supposedly perform a new song every night.

Episode 4

Eli & Co follow Eternity to another city. Eli attempts to identify one of the other members of the group, turning to the internet for help. Aurora and the girls begin to band together to make a plan to fight back against Morgan and upper-level management. Eli makes a discovery that the cities of the tour have something in common: they're all cities that Eli and his family had gone on trips to.

Episode 5

Aurora and the girls make a firm plan to escape. During the show that night, a malfunction in the neural network causes the song they are meant to perform comes out as complete gibberish. Of course this is praised by fans and critics as being experimental and pushing the boundaries of music. Eli and the gang snap a photo of one of the girls from the group, possibly exposing them as frauds. The girl's escape plan ends up failing. Eli realises that all of the Eternity songs contain hidden messages specifically for him.

Episode 6

Eli goes on a solo adventure to further look into what happened in the lead up to his sister's disappearance. The Eternity girls have to do a live, in person meet and greet in order to quell suspicion that they're not actually real. Martin acquires tickets to the event for him and Trish in order to contact Aurora, but they end up getting kidnapped by Ty and Jin.

Episode 7

Upper level management steps in after the meet and greet fiasco in order to gain total control of the girls. Martin befriends Ty and Jin while in captivity and becomes a little bit disillusioned with Eternity after seeing the inner workings of the operation. Management decides to cut the tour short with one last giant show. They also decide to "retire," one of the girls once there.

Episode 8

Eli begins to put the pieces together of the specific cities that Eternity are touring in. He comes to realise that the news of Eternity being in these towns for concerts overshadowed other events that were taking place in these cities. Jin & Ty assist Martin and Trish with sabotaging the Eternity concert. Aurora makes her escape during the concert and meets up with Eli. They come to the conclusion that conspiracies are way worse and also way bigger than they ever anticipated. They go on the run.

THE FUTURE

SEASON 2

Season 2 of Idols will see Eli and Aurora on the run from Archon, Eternity's management company, while also still trying to figure out how Katie disappeared. News of Aurora's "death," begins to spread across the world. Eternity continues as normal, upscaling the tour's production and taking it across the globe. Martin, Trish, Jin and Ty are taken to Archon's production headquarters being forced into labour as redemption for their antics. Towards the end of the season, Archon will introduce a new, better, version of Eternity to the world by way of a competing male pop group. Season 2 will end with the discovery that Katie, Eli's sister and Maddy's friend, has been alive the whole time and is actually the mastermind behind the entire Eternity operation. Aurora eventually gets captured by Archon, and is taken to the headquarters. There, the two pop groups are forced to compete in a reality show in order to decide who will be chosen to be part of one, mega super ultra pop group. Martin, Trish, Ty and Jin are forced to produce the show.

SEASON 3

Season 3 is where things get a little bit weird. I guess they were already pretty weird. We might do a *bit* genre shift. Okay maybe a big one. Episodes in Season 3 will take place in the Eternity House. Think a combination between American Idol, Big Brother, Dance Moms and a Mr. Beast video. In Season 3, our perspective will oscillate between the "reality," that is being broadcast to the world and the actual reality of what the warring pop groups are experiencing. More characters will be introduced such as choreographers and music producers. Throughout the season, variances in the constructed reality and what the cast members of the show are going through will be seen. We will also get episodes from the perspective of the editors and production staff of the show.

DISTRIBUTION

Idols is sort of a weird show, let's be honest. Not exactly your standard fare for a Thursday evening around 8 PM on NBC. That's not to say that Idols isn't universal, quite the opposite. The target audience for Idols is younger people, but the show will be intriguing enough that people of all ages will have to tune in. Tune in. Haha. That doesn't really mean anything anymore. They'll have to press play. On Netflix or HBO Max or Tubi or PeePaw or Mamaw or in 8 parts on TikTok with AI narration over top. Just kidding. That last part is probably illegal. (Terri, can we check on that?)

Anyway. Idols is better suited for the streaming environment because it is a weird story. Also, who really watched network TV anymore? My parents do. And probably a lot of people.

I'm getting distracted. Idols will do well on a streaming platform of some sort. Really anywhere. Doesn't matter to us, we just want people to see it because it's cool!