

1-01 THE RUNAWAY

0001

Reality's Backdoor

0002

Part 1, Episode 1

0003

The Runaway

0101

Lily lives with her parents [A, Lita Hong, Nu Hong] and brother [Ge Hong] in a duplex in Pennsylvania.

0102

Lily likes to daydream. She likes to light a candle, set it on the patio bricks and play a flute in the back yard.

0103

Though she never complains, her parents fight regularly and her brother bosses her around.

0201

One evening to escape the summer heat and the noise of her parents fighting, she sits out on the front stoop.

0202

A moving truck parks and an elderly couple [B] move in next door.

0203

The next day Lily and her mom go to the store. On their return a boy [B] Lily's age is standing outside the house the couple had moved into the night before.

0204

Lily feels him staring at her the whole time she passes him. She blushes so much, her face feels hot.

0301

In the bathroom Lily looks at herself in the mirror. She reaches for a flower and works it into her hair. **It starts to fall out and she pushes it back until it stays.** She studies how the flower has changed the way she looks. She reaches for another flower.

0302

Lily admires the flowers in her hair.

0303

When she steps out of the bathroom her whole family **who sit around the TV** starts laughing at her with genuine peals of laughter.

Lily stands mortified.

0304

She runs out of the house. She is sure she can still hear them laughing when she passes the lamp post on the corner.

0401

An old woman [B] boards a bus mumbling to herself the whole time.

0402

She squeezes past the seats **on her way down the aisle** and spots an empty seat next to Lily.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Mind if I sit here dearie?"

LILY SAYS

"Not at all, go ahead."

0403

Before the woman sits down Lily notices her strange smell. A smell like a mixture of sun baked snake carcass and fruit cake sweetened with cat urine. Though the smell is so strong that practically everyone on the bus reacts in some way, Lily does not outwardly react at all.

0404

The woman talks the entire time.

THE WOMAN

"I've been evicted for having too many cat friends stay with me but I can't help it, I adore them so much."

LILY SAYS

"Oh?"

THE WOMAN

"Henry is the oldest. I found him around some garbage by the train tunnel. He likes to hide behind furniture and sometimes I can't find him for days."

LILY

"Oh."

THE WOMAN

"Tweedy and Deedee are not really twins. You would swear, though I never swear, that they came from the same litter. I found Tweedy in the muddy field between Dearset and Maple Street. She always leans to the left when she walks and she has bad dandruff. Deedee was tied to a fence and awful skinny when I found her."

LILY

"Wow."

0405

The woman's eyes look so bloodshot that she almost seems alien. She is nice and a smile never leaves her lips but there is something very cold about her. Tiny gestures give away a calculating mind.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"So nice of you to talk to me."

LILY SAYS

"Yes mam."

THE WOMAN

"Toc Toc used to climb up on the shelf, fall asleep and roll off. He also used to meow at night before I found Muddy Feet in a neighbor's attic and brought her home. I don't know what Muddy Feet did but Toc Toc does not make a peep at night anymore."

LILY

"Oh."

The woman leans in close to Lily and whispers,

THE WOMAN

"Have you ever suspected that there is more to reality than has ever been put into words?"

LILY SAYS

"I don't know."

THE WOMAN

"That's okay dear. We are all just a bunch of silly people on a silly bus! So, Dotty was behind the dumpster of the inconvenient store on a snowy night. She was so cold she continued shivering for a whole year after I took her in. I can't get her to eat cat food, only raw meat, so either she belonged to a rich family or a butcher before I found her. You don't know any wealthy people do you?"

LILY

"Um, no, I don't think so."

THE WOMAN

"Just as well. So nice to meet someone who has the time to talk to me. You are a truly kind person, never stop being that."

LILY

"Oh yes, thank you."

0501

The bus stops and picks up a tall young man [W] holding a duffle bag in front of him. As he walks down the aisle he sways like a tree top in the wind. He stops when he sees the woman and stares blankly at her.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"And I was having such a nice afternoon."

TO THE MAN SHE SAYS

"You do realize you will run out of selves
someday, don't you?"

Stillness overcomes the woman. The bus starts moving and the man continues down the aisle.

0502

He sits in the back of the bus. He unzips his duffle bag.

0503

Inside, the explosives are all set up. All he needs do is place the end of a wire on a battery terminal.

0601 EXPLOSION AND WOMAN HEALS LILY

The explosion tears the bus open. **Two cars are thrown on their sides and a truck crashes into the front of a hair salon.** A wave of panic and confusion spreads out in the vicinity.

0602

Police block off roads. Emergency vehicles arrive. They place the injured, including Lily, on the pavement until ambulances are available to take them to the hospital. Many of the injured have already stopped breathing.

0603

The old woman waddles up and kneels over Lily. She says,

THE WOMAN

"Hold tight dearie. Don't go just yet. I'm just going to barrow some health from one of your other selves and get you fixed right up. I'm better at fixing cats than humans but I'll do what I can. There are so few truly nice people in the world."

She searches Lily and pulls out glass shards. It seems like the woman is placing something on Lily or making the motions of dressing Lily with something.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Oh, I meant to get around to ask you why you have these crazy flowers in your hair. I like them, bless your heart, they just seem like a fluke."

0604 TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

Lily wakes up when they place her on a stretcher and carry her to an ambulance. She tries to sit up. All visibles have name tags. Medic wears sign, "Hide my stuff."

LILY

"What's happening?"

THE MEDIC [W] SAYS

"Hold still, you should be dead it's our job to take you to emergency."

Lily looks over at the hole in the bus like the open jaws of a dead, sea monster. On the glass of a store front, hand painted, read the words, "Groups are defined by skin tone and ethnicity."

LILY

"I'm okay. I don't need to go."

MEDIC

"We've got a live one here. Just lie down and be still. We need to run tests to make sure you're all right. You'll probably die on the way."

0605

Of all the people on the bus Lily is the only one discharged from the hospital that afternoon. They tested her for fractures, internal bleeding, concussion, etc. She checked out fine. Lily insists on finding her own way to the exit when they try to arrange for a family member to come get her.

Sign on wall, "People will like you if you are better than them."

0701 LILY CHANGED

Expensive condos, apartments, hotels and store fronts surround her. Lily walks down the street with a look of perplexity.

Someone wearing sign, "I can solve your problems."

A man [B, Curtis Banks] with springs on his shoes bounds past, right in front of her. He is somehow able to move like he is leisurely walking but in fact his body is flying down the street in leaps and bounds. A woman [W, Abby Poole] sees him and holds out her arms. The man bounds right into her.

0702

The man lies on top of the woman.

THE MAN SAYS

"I just moved here. What do you taste like?"

The woman looks at him and says,

WOMAN

"I should let you know now that as soon as I get home, I take my clothes off."

Lily hurries on.

LILY THINKS

I can't believe he just fell right on top of her, and she let him. It must be some kind of street theater.

0801 CHASED BY MUSICIANS

Wedding dresses that cost as much as new cars, stand poised in windows. Then Lily passes a jewelry store, then a store selling fine three piece suits. A guard [B, Ario Banks] stands in front of an entrance to a large red carpeted lobby. In front of a hotel, a valet [A, Liao Shun] smirks at Lily. He wears a sign around his neck made of a piece of wood, rope and hand painted letters, "favor me over others."

She passes musicians [BM, Bobbie Mills] [HM, Luis Pomar] [WM, Trevor Hopper] playing on a corner a song that sounds like a bag of instruments tumbling down a hill.

0802

She keeps walking but the music is not getting any quieter, she looks back and realizes the musicians are following her, still playing. Sign, "You must be better than."

0803

She presses forward. They follow, playing energetically. Lily speeds up but they walk faster too. They play louder and even more chaotically. The music bounces off the buildings and sometimes it sounds like they are ahead of her.

0901 EMERGENCY ROOM

She runs into an office building. Store sign, "We Take Your Side."

0902

But instead of a lobby with elevators she enters the emergency room of the hospital she had come out of twenty minutes ago. She makes eye contact with the nurse [B, Santrell Boyd]. People sit in chairs along the wall. Medics wheel a gurney through. One person holds her head. Another holds his side.

THE NURSE TELLS LILY

"Please sign in."

Lily stares at her not knowing what to say.

THE NURSE SAYS

"Just give me the key to your secret box please." \7

Sign, "Try the afterlife fantasy."

0903

Lily backs up and exits. The sign over the doors she just came out of reads, "Emergency." Sign, "People will like you more when you're better than."

LILY THINKS

This is weird. At least the musicians are gone.

0904

She tries the next store... Store sign, "Bells and Whistles."

A construction worker [MA, Pham Viet] wears a sign, "I'm gay."

0905

...and the next. Store sign, "Hurry Me Up."

0906

Each time she walks right into the same emergency room. The same nurse looks up at her as if you say, "Oh, it's you again." Each time, Lily runs out, becoming more and more anxious.

0907 BREAKING CHARM

Outside of a record store a woman [W, Veronica Morin] in a terrible mood has a file cabinet tied to her back that spills papers. Wooden blocks on the soles of her shoes make her teeter back and forth.

Desperate, Lily takes the woman's hand.

LILY ASKS

"Are you going in that store?"

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Yes."

LILY

"I am too, can I hold your hand while we both go in?"

The woman refuses at first. Lily pleads. Maybe out of shock, the woman complies.

Sign on person, "Tell me what to do."

0908

They step into the record store.

LILY SAYS

"It's still a record store! Is it still a record store for you?"

A loud crack right by Lily's ear makes her jump. Pieces of plaster, wood and metal, fall off Lily and break into more pieces when they hit the floor. Lily is about to thank the woman but the woman has already disappeared down one of the aisles.

1001 IN BATHROOM

Lily picks a piece of plaster up and holds it out to two young women [B, Trissa Hines] [W, Connie Baird] staring at her from behind the counter.

LILY SAYS

"What is this?"

They say nothing.

1002

A boy [B, Calvin Parker] watches Lily. Lily picks up the broken pieces and puts them in a garbage can while the cashiers mutely watch. A boy asks his father,

BOY

"What is she doing?"

When Lily is done she asks the cashiers,

LILY

"Where is the restroom?"

Sign on someone, "Get excited."

1003

The cashiers point in unison.

1004

On her way to the back Lily sees a couple [H, Martín Guillén, Emma Barrueco] looking at records who are so tightly wrapped together in a sheet, sex stains, that it is difficult for them to move but they carry on a conversation as if nothing is abnormal.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"My roommate called to say that she couldn't go to her family dinner and asked me to go as her."

THE MAN SAYS

"She was you last year, right?"

1005

Lily washes her face and looks in the mirror.

LILY

"Oh! I forgot about these dumb flowers I put in my hair. No wonder everyone has been acting weird around me."

1006

She pulls out the flowers that look horrendously gaudy to her now, and tosses them in the waist bin. She tries to flatten her hair but it won't go down.

1007

A woman [B, Leslee Jordan] opens the door lugging a purse carved out of solid stone that is so heavy, the woman can hardly carry it. The effort makes her sweat and strain muscles but she seems to be pretending that she is not trying so hard to carry her purse. Her nametag reads, "Nettie McCoy."

NETTIE MCCOY ASKS

How much longer or do you plan to stay here until you die so that the mortician has to carry you out?

LILY SAYS

"Oh no, I mean, I'm almost done. Why are you carrying that, isn't it heavy?"

NETTIE

"I don't know what you mean."

Nettie shuts the door.

1101 NOTICING SIGNS

When Lily steps out of the restroom Nettie is nowhere to be seen. Sign, "Hurry up."

1102

Lily walks away from the record store. Outside, a woman [W, fat, Pat Leonard] wears a hand painted sign, hanging around her neck that reads, "Ignore me." The woman walks up to a high school couple [W, Alvin Case, Naomi Nielsen] at a bus stop and talks to them but they turn away.

LILY THINKS

Why does she wear that sign? It seems like an awful prank for her to play on herself.

1103

Lily passes a family [W] sitting on a bench, a mother and four children. Above them someone has painted a message. An illustration with words, on the side of a building above them, "Dripping wet pussies and fully erect penises."

LILY SHE THINKS

Of all places they could sit, why is the mother sitting right where her children can see that graffiti? I thought parents tried to keep their children from seeing certain things.

1104 NOTICES PATCHES

LILY THINKS

And why is everyone and I mean everyone wearing patches? I don't have a patch. Was there an announcement on the news and radio and I missed it?

Each patch is hand sewn, made with care and detail, and depicts a lot of individual character. They could not have been made by the same person, they differ too much from each other.

A woman [W] walks by whose patch reads, "Judy Mariner." Lily calls out,

LILY

"Hello Judy."

The woman stops and stares at her until Lily begins to fidget.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Do I know you?"

LILY SAYS

"No, I'm sorry I thought I knew you but I was wrong."

THE WOMAN

"How did you know my name?"

LILY

"Your name is July?"

THE WOMAN

"Oh, I miss heard, I thought you said 'Judy!'
Fine then, try wearing makeup sometime."

The woman walks away.

1105

Lily searches for someone who isn't wearing a name-patch. Everyone, even babies, have patches. Some are decoratively sewn, some meticulously sewn and some poorly sewn. One woman has a patch covering another one. Lily never finds anyone who does not wear at least one.

LILY SHE THINKS

*Should I have a patch? Will I get in trouble?
Maybe it's the law now. You would think there
would be a store that sells them but I haven't
seen any.*

1106

When she tries to ask people where they got their name-patch or what happens to people without patches, they act like they have no idea what she is talking about. And at the same time, it makes them upset.

1201 SITTING IN PARK

Lily finds a place to sit in a park. The calmer setting allows her to rest her nerves a little. A man [H, Emmanuel Cabal] with a megaphone harnessed to his mouth walks around trying to talk normally to people but his voice is so loud, he drives everyone away.

MAN

"How nice it would be to meet someone who appreciates quality of life. No one takes the time anymore to talk to each other. Everyone is in such a hurry these days."

A woman [A, Chen Fen] whose chest is enclosed in a cage, changes direction to avoid him.

1202

It dawns on her that everyone entering or leaving the park waits in line to walk through an entryway, near the sidewalk, even though the park has no fence around it. Many walk clear around the park just to walk through the gate.

LILY THINKS

Should I have entered that way?

She waits for someone to just walk into the park. She kind of makes a game of it, watching closely when it looks like someone will, but absolutely no one does. Even the children who are about as contained as popcorn popping, won't pass the edges of the park as if deflected by an invisible wall.

1203

She walks up to the gate for a better look. Koch Brothers is selling passage into the park for five dollars per person. Seems like a steep price to visit a park.

Lily is blinded for a moment by the flashes of light coming off a woman [B, Grecia Bridges] with mirrors tied to her, reflecting the sunlight. The mirrors are a collection of cheap hand mirrors tied on with some twine, unprofessionally. She tries walking out, not taking the gate and no one tries to stop her.

1301 MAN LOSES SIGN

She decides to follow a man [H, Alexis Abasto] wearing a sign that says, "I can free you" just to see how people interact with him.

1302

But she finds money on the ground and picks it up, one bill after another, fives and tens. No one in the area pay any attention to her which makes her laugh nervously. As she hurries to pick up one bill after another, she loses track of her surroundings.

LILY SHE THINKS

I now have enough money to check into a hotel room.

1303

Then she sees the man's sign on the sidewalk, almost steps on it, and jumps over it with a squeal. And keeps walking. Sign on man [A, Mi Jun], "You want me in bed."

1304

Sure enough, the man walking ahead no longer wears a sign but his arms are now taped to his sides. And he keeps walking, as upbeat as before.

LILY THINKS

I wasn't looking, who did that to him? I should have heard something.

Sign, "You're not good enough."

1305

Her money trail ends. The money she's collected must be a hundred dollars, maybe two. She folds it carefully and puts it in her right pocket. She already has two bucks and some change in her left pocket.

1401 FORTUNE COOKIES

Store sign, "Flavor Snacks Nice." She crosses the street and goes in a store... Masochation: Man [A, Yoshifumi Terao] with spring on butt.

1402

The magazines look familiar at first glance but she does not recognize any of them. Magazines, "Screw People Over," "Skinny Or Die," "7 Excuses The Super Rich Use," "Happy White Lifestyle."

1403

She picks out a quart of milk and a bag of fortune cookies.

1404

Behind the clerk, [AM] on the window glass, someone has hand painted another message, "Being honest will ruin your life." At the counter Lily carefully takes out one of the many bills she picked up off the ground and places it on the counter. The clerk's name patch reads, "Kyle Bao."

KYLE SAYS

"That's \$2.43, space cadet girl."

LILY SAYS

"What did you call me?"

KYLE

"\$2.43. The price."

LILY

"I put it there, on the counter."

KYLE

"What?"

LILY

"On the counter, a twenty."

KYLE

"Don't play games. Either pay or leave."

Lily holds out the rest of the bills and says,

LILY

"I have at least a hundred dollars here. Won't you take my money?"

KYLE

"Pay or leave, or I'll call the cops."

Lily puts the money back in her pocket. She takes the two dollars and change that she had with her before running away and puts it on the counter.

LILY SHE SAYS

"Can I pay with this?"

KYLE

"Well, you have enough to get either the milk or the cookies."

1405

She comes out holding the bag of fortune cookies. The city is much quieter than just an hour ago, only the occasional car or person passes by.

1406

In the train station she sits eating the whole bag, reading one fortune right after another. "You will meet someone special." "Plan for many pleasures ahead." "Something you lost will soon turn up." "You deserve a vacation." "You were born under a lucky star." "You will be part of a special ceremony." "True love is just around the corner."

She flattens each fortune out on the bench.

Three men in line [A, Cao Lin, W, Leroy Richards, B, Kione Steele], one has a sign hung around his neck that reads, "Kill time" in hand painted letters.

1407

Sitting she watches people read the timetable with no problem even though it's covered with hand painted messages that look nothing like the graffiti she is used to seeing. It seems like some outsider group painted messages all over the city overnight. Lily hasn't seen any efforts to have the messages removed, not even off the train station timetable. "Your future is killing you." "Make a bad decision tonight."

1408

She sees a poorly constructed, stand-alone sign. The sign, like a small bill board reads, "Your money is more important than you are." One person and then another bump into it. A man [W, Bobby Barnett] rushing along, hits the post and falls backwards. He gets up quickly and rushes off with a bleeding nose.

LILY THINKS

I don't know why these people can't see the sign. If no one sees it, who's going to read it? Isn't that the whole point?

1409 APPROACHED BY YOUNG MEN

Five young men [W, Philip Hale, Dale Rivers, Keith Thompson, Matthew Herring, Chad Hobbs] one wears sign, "Don't listen to minorities." walk up to her, grinning mischievously, like they share a private joke. They gather close around her.

THE ONE WEARING THE PHILIP HALE PATCH SAYS

"What school do you go to? Or do you even go to school?"

THE ONE WEARING THE CHAD HOBBS PATCH SAYS

"We have some beer, want some?"

LILY SAYS

"I really can't."

PHILIP SAYS

"We have a place you can stay tonight."

LILY

"I can't."

1410

She hurries away. Behind her they start laughing.

1501 WHERE TO SLEEP

As she walks she feels the air in front of her, carefully, wonderingly,

LILY SHE THINKS

*If he didn't know he hit the post, did it hurt?
He hit is so hard. It had to hurt. Maybe he'll
have aches and pains tomorrow and not know why.
Maybe he'll never know at all. What if he
crashes into it the same time tomorrow, and the
next day?*

A man [B, Henry Owens] has a harness over his suit, leather loops going over his shoulders and under his arms attach to a metal ring on his back that pulls a pole and cart. The cart is only big enough to hold two people.

Walking streets, dusk sets in. Lily becomes scared, not knowing where she can go. She walks in hopes of coming up with something.

1502

She climbs over a stone wall and steps through overgrown bushes and vines. A trailer lies overturned, covered with vines.

LILY THINKS

I hope no one sees me going in here.

Sign, "You are being watched 24/7."

1503

She tries to see underneath an overturned trailer then she crawls under it.

1504

Underneath, plants don't grow on the hard, dry dirt.

LILY THINKS

*What if a snake crawls under here? I heard they
like to slither up next to a warm body. What if
a bug crawls in my ear while I sleep?*

1505

Lily sleeps fretfully, waking several times in the night.

1601 MORNING

A couple [WM, Darren Powell, BF, Larriel Berry] argue outside the trailer Lily sleeps under.

THE MAN SAYS

"You ruined my life!"

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Me and everybody else!"

MAN

"No, just you. You are the only one!"

WOMAN

"What about your boss finding out you have a gambling problem and putting a slot machine in the break room?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about every club you join loses members until it no longer exists?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about your twin brother committing suicide?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about when you were a child your parents forgetting to bring you with them when they moved out of state?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

1602

Lily wakes.

WOMAN

"What about when your therapist put out a no contact order against you?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

WOMAN

"What about your children calling a family meeting to ask you to forget you ever had them?"

MAN

"Doesn't count!"

Lily checks her pulse. She waits for them to finish or go away but they stay there arguing. After a few minutes..

1603

...she crawls out from under the trailer. The dawn light has not yet woken the city. Only one car drives down the road. Sparrows jump around and chirp in the branches.

Lily brushes the dirt and dead leaves off her clothes.

THE WOMAN SAYS

"Oh my god Darren, look at her!"

THE MAN SAYS

"Poor thing."

Noticing that the man's name tag does in fact say "Daren," and frightened by the flesh colored tubes sticking out of his face, Lily walks toward the busier streets.

1604

She touches her hair. The flowers are back. She finds them all in her hair. They've all grown back! A father, mother and three children [A] walk by. A father's left arm is mangled and each of the children's left arms are mangled in very much the same way.