The summaries and recaps of all the Stranger Things episodes were downloaded from http://www.tv.com and http://www.netflix.com and http://www.tvtropes.org and http://strangerthings.fandom.com and processed through a perl program to transform them in a \LaTeX\ file, for pretty printing. So, do not blame me for errors in the text 😞.
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Season One
Chapter One: The Vanishing of Will Byers

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

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<th>Originally aired:</th>
<th>Friday July 15, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writer:</td>
<td>The Duffer Brothers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show Stars:</td>
<td>Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane 'Eleven' Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner), Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Deputy Powell), Ross Partridge (Lonnie Byers (voice)), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Mark Steger (The Monster), Chris Sullivan (Benny Hammond), Andrew Benator (Elevator Scientist), Stefanie Butler (Cynthia (voice)), David Dwyer (Earl), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Salem Murphy (High School Principal), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Hugh B. Holub (Scientist), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Cade Jones (James), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Anthony Reynolds (Agent), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Tony Vaughn (Principal Coleman), Peyton Wich (Troy), Brenda Wood (Local Newswoman), Anastasia Bastien (Middle School Student), Owen Beam (Middle School Student), Jonah Bowling (Student), Camden Brown (Middle School Girl), Stephen Conroy (Agent #2), Gordon Dillard Jr. (Agent #3), Rio Donnally (80's Townfolk), Mikayla Fields (Middle School Student), Isabel Chanel Freeman (Middle School Kid), Shelby Christine Freeman (Middle School Kid), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student), Stephen M. LaBar Jr. (Agent), John Archer Lundgren (Search Party), Richard Molina (Scientist), Ryder Morlong (Middle School Student), Ryan Newton (High School Student), Bobby Pizer (High School Student)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Stars:</td>
<td>Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Deputy Powell), Ross Partridge (Lonnie Byers (voice)), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Mark Steger (The Monster), Chris Sullivan (Benny Hammond), Andrew Benator (Elevator Scientist), Stefanie Butler (Cynthia (voice)), David Dwyer (Earl), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Salem Murphy (High School Principal), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Hugh B. Holub (Scientist), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Cade Jones (James), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Anthony Reynolds (Agent), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Tony Vaughn (Principal Coleman), Peyton Wich (Troy), Brenda Wood (Local Newswoman), Anastasia Bastien (Middle School Student), Owen Beam (Middle School Student), Jonah Bowling (Student), Camden Brown (Middle School Girl), Stephen Conroy (Agent #2), Gordon Dillard Jr. (Agent #3), Rio Donnally (80's Townfolk), Mikayla Fields (Middle School Student), Isabel Chanel Freeman (Middle School Kid), Shelby Christine Freeman (Middle School Kid), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student), Stephen M. LaBar Jr. (Agent), John Archer Lundgren (Search Party), Richard Molina (Scientist), Ryder Morlong (Middle School Student), Ryan Newton (High School Student), Bobby Pizer (High School Student)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary:</td>
<td>Young Will sees something terrifying leaving a friend’s house. Nearby, a menacing secret comes to light in a government lab.</td>
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It’s November 6, 1983 in Hawkins, a small Indiana town.

In the Hawkins National Laboratory, run by the Department of Energy, an alarm sounds and a scientist runs desperately down an ominous hallway with flickering lights while casting glances over his shoulder. He rushes to the elevator, and the doors close just as an unseen force pulls him upward and out of sight.

Meanwhile, a group of four pre-teen friends are playing Dungeons & Dragons. They are Mike Wheeler, Lucas Sinclair, Dustin Henderson, and Will Byers. During a nerve-wracking encounter with a Demogorgon on the board, Will makes a decisive saving throw, but the dice tumbles out of sight. Mike’s mother
Karen cuts the game short, while Dustin, Lucas and Will find the dice. Dustin and Lucas decide to lie about the outcome of the dice for next time, but as they leave, Will confesses to Mike the real outcome of the dice: the Demogorgon got him.

The boys bike home; Lucas splits off from the others while Will and Dustin decide to have a race. Will cycles on ahead, but the sudden appearance of a vaguely humanoid figure sends him veering off-road. He abandons his bike and runs home, which is empty save for his dog. Will tries to phone the police, but is answered only by harsh static. Meanwhile, the figure from the road stalks Will from outside, trying to get into the house. Seeing the lock on the door being undone before his eyes, Will runs to the shed and frantically grabs a rifle. As he nervously watches the shed door with the rifle pointed at it, he suddenly notices something moving behind him and turns around to face it. The lightbulb overhead burns brightly and flickers out briefly before turning back on, revealing that Will has disappeared.

In the morning, Will’s permanently frazzled mother Joyce and brooding brother Jonathan realize that Will is missing. After a quick check-in with the usual places, a panicked Joyce goes to report his disappearance to the police. At the middle school, the boys make note of Will’s absence but are distracted by the regular set of bullies, Troy and his stooge James. At the high school, Mike’s sister Nancy chats with her friend Barb about her blossoming relationship with local heart-throb Steve Harrington. Considering that they’re next seen making out in the bathroom, the relationship is presumably going well.

The taciturn and lantern-jawed Chief Jim Hopper awakens in his poorly-kept bachelor pad, fighting a hangover. He self-medicates and goes to work, where his secretary Flo rattles off a list of typical crimes in Hawkins (i.e. wanton thievery of garden gnomes) and tells him that Mike Byers is missing and Joyce really wants to talk to him. Hopper says he will deal with it later, but when he reaches his office, Joyce is already there. Hopper isn’t interested in Joyce’s frantic report, telling her that Nothing Exciting Ever Happens Here, her ex-husband Lonnie is probably behind it, and Will is in all probability in no real danger. Joyce, however, insists that something worse has happened.

Meanwhile, the pervasively calm and collected Dr. Martin Brenner leads a team of hazmat-suited men into the quarantined area of Hawkins Laboratory. They discover a thick, pulsating mass growing on the wall and wonder aloud about an escaped girl. That very girl is wandering through the woods, coming upon a small diner. With shaved hair, a hospital gown and a wide-eyed uncertainty, she doesn’t look overly at ease. She tries stealing food from the diner, but is caught by the owner, Benny Hammond.

At school, the kids speak with their science teacher and mentor Scott Clarke. They all share nerdy excitement over the arrival of a new Ham Radio, but their happiness is dampened when Hopper turns up to question them fruitlessly about Will’s disappearance. The Chief also makes sure to expressly tell them to stay home and let the authorities deal with it. Back at the Byers residence, Joyce flashes back to happier times, as she passes by the tree fort Will has built in the forest. But now the fort stands empty as her and Jonathan search the area, calling for Will.

At the diner, Benny feeds the seemingly mute little girl. He manages to get her to talk but she only answers in stilted, monosyllabic words. When he asks her for her name, she indicates a tattoo on her forearm: 011. Benny decides to call Social Services, believing the girl to be a victim of abuse. While Benny is on the phone, Eleven is annoyed by a squeaking fan; she glares intensely at it for a brief moment and it turns off.

Hopper finds Will’s abandoned bike and questions Joyce briefly before deciding to call a search party. During the search, it’s revealed that Hopper is divorced and that his daughter died several years earlier. At the Wheeler house, Mike talks to Lucas via a walkie-talkie and they decide to search for Will. Nancy is forbidden from going to Barb’s to study, but Steve sneaks into her bedroom for a session. Of studying, that is.

Back at Benny’s diner, a woman arrives and introduces herself as Connie from Social Services. The second Benny’s back is turned, she shoots him in the head. Witnessing this, Eleven is annoyed by a squeaking fan; she glares intensely at it for a brief moment and it turns off.

Hopper finds Will’s abandoned bike and questions Joyce briefly before deciding to call a search party. During the search, it’s revealed that Hopper is divorced and that his daughter died several years earlier. At the Wheeler house, Mike talks to Lucas via a walkie-talkie and they decide to search for Will. Nancy is forbidden from going to Barb’s to study, but Steve sneaks into her bedroom for a session. Of studying, that is.

Back at Benny’s diner, a woman arrives and introduces herself as Connie from Social Services. The second Benny’s back is turned, she shoots him in the head. Witnessing this, Eleven heads for the backdoor, but she is accosted by two of Brenner’s men pointing guns at her. Meanwhile, Connie and Brenner, accompanied by more agents, hears noises from the back room and hurries to investigate, but they only find the two men unconscious on the floor with Eleven nowhere in sight.

Joyce and Jonathan are going through photos of Will to use for a missing person’s poster when the phone rings. When Joyce answers, she hears breathing that she recognizes as Will’s,
followed by static and vague noises that could be a voice, a snarl, or both. She shouts at the caller, demanding to know what they have done to her son. The phone short-circuits and she’s knocked to the ground.

Mike, Lucas and Dustin ride their bikes through the area where Will disappeared, which they long-ago nicknamed "Mirkwood". As the rain begins to pour, they stumble right into the path of a soaked and traumatized Eleven.
Chapter Two: The Weirdo on Maple Street

Season 1
Episode Number: 2
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: The Duffer Brothers
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane 'Eleven' Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Ross Partridge (Lonnie Byers), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Mark Steger (The Monster), Chris Sullivan (Benny Hammond), Stefanie Butler (Cynthia), David Dwyer (Earl), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Charles Lawlor (Mr. Melvald), Bethany Anne Lind (Sandra), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Chelsea Talmadge (Carol), Robert Walker Branchaud (Agent Repairman), Stephen Dean (Hawkins Police Officer), Owen Beam (Middle School Student), Isabel Chanel Freeman (Middle School Kid), Shelby Christine Freeman (Middle School Kid), Jim Heard (Towsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student)

Summary: Lucas, Mike and Dustin talk to a girl they found in the woods and Hopper asks Joyce about an unnerving phone call.

Back in Mike's basement, the boys question Eleven about who she is and why she was in the woods, but she remains silent. Mike gives her clean clothes, but Eleven, apparently oblivious about social conventions, is about to change in front of the boys, much to their shock. Mike convinces her that she should step into the nearby bathroom to change. But as Mike moves to close the door to give her some privacy, Elven grows very uneasy and asks him to keep the door a bit ajar. While she changes, the boys theorize about what could explain her strange behavior; Dustin and Lucas think Eleven might be an escapee from the nearby psychiatric hospital and suggest telling Mike's mom about her, but Mike points out that if they do that, they'll get in trouble for sneaking out and lose their chance to look for Will. They agree to have Eleven spend the night in Mike's basement and sneak out in the morning.

After Lucas and Dustin leave, Mike asks Eleven for her name, and she shows him her "011" tattoo. He nicknames her "El".

At the Byers' house, Joyce frantically makes plans to make missing person posters while Jonathan tries to keep her calm. Hopper arrives and tells them the search party turns up nothing. He speaks with Joyce about the phone call she received and questions if it was really Will, but Joyce says that she knows her own son's breathing—after all, surely Hopper would know his
daughter’s. Hopper says that he’s going to go investigate Lonnie, but Jonathan asks if he can go instead, explaining to Hopper that Lonnie is very likely to flee if he sees someone from the police, which Hopper refuses.

At the Wheelers’, Mike sneaks Eleven an Eggo waffle for breakfast. He tells her his plan to sneak her out of the house so Karen can get her help, but Eleven refuses. Mike asks her if she’s in trouble, and she communicates that the people she’s in trouble with—the “bad men”—will kill them if anyone knows she’s there.

At the high school, Steve, along with his friends Tommy and Carol, invite Nancy to a party that night at his house. The group observes Jonathan putting up a missing persons poster for Will, and although Steve, Tommy, and Carol comment on how creepy he is, Nancy goes over to tell him that everyone’s keeping him in mind, and he sheepishly thanks her. When the bell rings, Jonathan leaves the school instead of going to class.

At the middle school, Lucas and Dustin notice that Mike is absent and worry that he got caught sneaking Eleven out. However, Mike is actually skipping school to show Eleven his house. Eleven sees photos of his family and remarks that Nancy is pretty. As they spend time together, Eleven slowly starts to relax.

Jonathan, ignoring Hopper’s orders to stay away, drives to Indianapolis to confront Lonnie. On the way, “Should I Stay or Should I Go?” by The Clash begins to play on the radio, and Jonathan has a flashback to playing that song for Will on his stereo, he telling him that it is a part of the mix-tape he has made for him and he believes it will change his life. In the flashback, they are interrupted as they hear Joyce yelling at Lonnie over the phone for failing to show up to take Will to a baseball game. Jonathan asks Will if Lonnie has ever taken him to do things he actually likes, and Will admits that he hasn’t.

Joyce drives to the general store where she works, buys a new phone, and asks for two weeks’ advance on her pay. While she’s gone, men in biohazard suits arrive at the Byers house in an electrical repair van with mysterious apparatuses in their hands. One of the men is Dr. Brenner. Using the apparatus, Brenner follows a signal to the shed in the backyard, he steps inside and finds a mysterious fluid leaking down one wall of the shed.

While Mike is showing Eleven his room, she notices a photo of Will and recognizes him. Before Mike can learn more, Karen arrives home, and Mike quickly hides Eleven in his closet, and despite her obvious misgivings he closes the door. In the dark of the closet, Eleven flashes back to being locked in a small, dark room in Hawkins Lab. In the flashback, she cries and yells for Dr. Brenner, who she calls “Papa”, but Brenner only watches coldly as she is dragged away by orderlies. In the present, Karen does not punish Mike for skipping school, telling him that she understands that he is upset about his friend’s disappearance and that he can talk to her about anything. Mike goes back upstairs and finds Eleven sitting crying inside the closet in a fetal position, but she promises him that she’s okay.

The search party reaches the local quarry. Hopper and Callahan discuss the possibility of surviving a fall from the top of the quarry into the water bellow, which Hopper states would be deadly. Flo radios Hopper and tells him to report to Benny’s diner, where Benny has been found dead of an apparent suicide.

Jonathan reaches Lonnie’s house and searches for Will, ignoring Lonnie and his girlfriend Cynthia. Lonnie tells him that Will was never there and says that this is all happening because Joyce is an incompetent parent.

Lucas and Dustin come to Mike’s house, and he tells them that Eleven knows Will. Lucas asks her if she knows where Will is. When she doesn’t answer, he tries to tell Karen about Eleven, even though Mike tells him they’ll be in danger if he does. He is stopped by Eleven, who psychically slams and locks the door of Mike’s room.

Hopper interviews Earl, one of Benny’s customers and friends, about Benny’s state prior to his death. Earl tells him about a kid with a shaved head stealing food from Benny’s kitchen at lunch the day before, and Hopper asks if it could be Will. Earl says he’s not sure, but it’s possible. That night, the search party finds a pipe with a torn piece of fabric inside. Hopper discovers that the pipe leads under the fence surrounding Hawkins Lab.

As the Wheelers and Mike’s friends sit down for dinner, Karen notices that Dustin and Lucas aren’t eating much; they both claim they had a large lunch so they are not very hungry. Nancy, meanwhile, makes up a cover story for going to Steve’s party, claiming she is intending to go to a assembly later that evening at the school regarding Will’s disappearance, and that Barbara will
there too. Karen agrees to let her go, as long as she is back before ten, Nancy promises that she will.

Barb and Nancy head to Steve’s party in Barb’s car. Barb is reluctant to go and says that Steve is just trying to get in Nancy’s pants, but agrees to attend in order to look after Nancy.

In the Wheelers’ basement, the boys bring Eleven their leftovers from dinner and continue to ask her what she knows about Will, expressing amazement at her abilities as they do. Eleven goes to the boys’ Dungeons and Dragons board and identifies the wizard figurine as Will’s. Mike asks if she knows where Will is; in response, she turns the game board over and places Will’s figurine on the flipped board. She says that Will is hiding, but not from the "bad men" who are after her; instead, she indicates the Demogorgon figurine.

Jonathan, back in Hawkins, drives to the woods with his camera to take some pictures. Hearing screaming, he runs to find the source, but it’s only Carol at Steve’s party. Steve and Nancy shotgun beers, but when Nancy convinces Barb to try as well, Barb accidentally slices her hand open. Tommy, Carol, Nancy, and Steve jump in the pool with their clothes on, while Jonathan secretly photographs them.

Joyce receives another mysterious phone call, this time hearing Will call out for her before the phone short circuits once again. She notices the house lights blinking in a pattern leading to Will’s room, where his stereo begins playing "Should I Stay or Should I Go?". The lights and music abruptly cut out, and Joyce sees a monster coming out of the wall. She runs out to her car, but the song and lights come back on in the house, and she realizes she needs to go back inside to help Will.

At Steve’s house, the teens pair off to have sex. Barb catches Nancy on her way up the stairs and tells her that this isn't like her, but Nancy says that she's fine and tells her to go home. Jonathan continues photographing them; he can see Nancy take her shirt off through the window of Steve’s room, as well as Barb sitting dejected on the diving board of the pool. Barb's blood drips into the water, the lights flicker, and she notices something looming behind her. Jonathan's camera jams, and when he fixes it and looks up again, Barb has vanished.
Chapter Three: Holly, Jolly

Season 1
Episode Number: 3
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Jessica Mecklenburg
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane ‘Eleven’ Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Mark Steger (The Monster), Glennellen Anderson (Nicole), Cynthia Barrett (Mrs. Holland), Pete Burris (Hawkins Head of Security), Hugh B. Holub (Scientist), Cade Jones (James), Charles Lawlor (Mr. Melvald), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), Miles Mussenden (M.P. Officer Patrick), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Ron Rogge (State Trooper O’Bannon), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Chelsea Talmadge (Carol), Sierra Vemeyer (Ally), Christi Waldon (Marissa), Peyton Wich (Troy), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student), Anthony Porrey (High School Student), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Julaine Tackett (High School Student)

Summary: Nancy searches for Barb and discovers what Jonathan has been up to. Elsewhere: Joyce believes Will is trying to speak to her.

Barb wakes up in a dark, empty, and filthy version of Steve's pool. She quickly realizes that she is not alone in the pool, spotting a mysterious monster lurking at the far end. Trying to escape, Barb makes a run for the ladder, but is grabbed by the creature before she can climb out. As the monster drags her down, she screams for Nancy. Meanwhile, Nancy and Steve have sex for the first time, unaware of Barb’s plight. Afterwards, Nancy sneaks back home and is confronted by Karen for getting home late, but lies about her whereabouts claiming that she just hung out with some friends after the assembly. Karen, however, senses that something is off and tells Nancy that she can talk to her about anything, but Nancy insists that nothing happened that night.

The next morning, Jonathan wakes up to find Joyce speaking to the lights in Will’s room. Jonathan tells her that Will is just lost and asks her to keep it together for him.

In the Wheelers’ basement, Eleven plays with the supercom radio while the boys make plans to search for Will with her after school. Lucas brings tools and weapons, including his “wrist rocket” slingshot. Dustin says that they don’t need weapons because of Eleven’s powers. Mike gives Eleven his watch and tells her to meet them behind his house at 3:15, then leaves for school with Lucas and Dustin.
At the high school, Nancy worries that everyone knows about the party and her sleeping with Steve, but Steve assures her that they didn’t tell anyone and had a good time. In class, Nancy notices that Barb is absent.

Eleven explores the Wheelers’ house by herself. When she plays with the television, she comes across a Coca-Cola commercial and flashes back to an experiment she underwent in Hawkins Lab where she crushed a Coke can with her mind. Alarmed, she shuts the TV off.

At the Byers’ house, Joyce strings up a set of Christmas lights, but realizes the cord isn’t long enough. She goes to the general store and buys dozens of boxes of Christmas lights, as well as another new phone.

Hopper, Powell, and Callahan visit Hawkins Lab and are shown a security tape supposedly of the yard on the night of November 6th and 7th, which reveals nothing out of the ordinary; however, Hopper notices that there was no rain on the security tape and realizes the lab is hiding something.

Eleven explores Nancy’s room and sadly realizes how different Nancy’s normal life and childhood are from her own.

At lunch, Nancy asks Tommy and Carol if they saw Barbara last night, but they say she was gone when they left. Steve says she’s probably just skipping school, but Nancy is still concerned.

At their own school, Mike, Lucas, and Dustin search for rocks for Lucas’ wrist rocket and discuss Eleven’s powers. Lucas teases Mike and accuses him of having a crush on Eleven, which Mike denies. Bullies Troy and James pick on the group again, saying that Will is probably dead and pushing Mike to the ground so he scrapes his chin on a rock.

Jonathan develops his photos of the party, but is seen by Nicole, another student using the darkroom.

Joyce strings as many Christmas lights as she can around her house. She is visited by Karen and baby Holly, who have brought her a casserole. While Joyce and Karen chat, Holly notices the lights blinking in a pattern towards Will’s room and goes inside to find all the lights rapidly flashing out of sync with each other. She sees a hand coming of the the same wall that Joyce saw move, but when Joyce and Karen find her, the hand disappears. Joyce asks her if she saw something, then asks Karen to leave.

Hopper and Powell visit the library, and after an awkward encounter with the librarian Marissa, who had a one-night stand with Hopper, they research Hawkins Lab on the library’s microfiche. They come across articles detailing the history of the facility’s head scientist, Dr. Martin Brenner, and his involvement with an abusive chapter of the CIA’s MKUltra experiments. One of the test subjects, Terry Ives, sued Brenner for allegedly taking her daughter from her.

Nancy calls Barb’s mother after school and finds out that Barb hasn’t come home since last night. Preparing to head home, Nancy witnesses Steve, Tommy, Carol, and Nicole confront Jonathan on the school parking lot about the photos he took of the party. Nancy joins the group, but is sympathetic to Jonathan when Steve destroys his camera and photos. Unsure of what to do, she looks hesitantly at Jonathan as he tries to collect the pierces, before she suddenly notices something amongst the torn photos: the picture of Barb sitting on the diving board. She quickly picks up the pieces of the photo before leaving. Afterwards, she bails on plans with the rest of the group.

Eleven waits for the boys near Mike’s house and sees a cat, causing her to flash back to another experiment, one where she was forced to psychically inflict pain on a cat. In the flashback, her empathy wins out and she refuses to hurt the cat any further, causing her to be punished by once again being dragged to the small, dark room at the end of the hall. This time, however, she psychically kills the two orderlies as they try to shut the door on her, slamming one into the wall and breaking the other’s neck, before she collapses exhausted and crying onto the floor. Dr. Brenner, having witnessed the incident, expresses pride and amazement towards her as he gently picks her up into his arms in an almost fatherly fashion.

While searching for Will in the woods, Eleven asks Mike about the scrape on his chin. After some prodding, he admits that he was tripped by a bully at school. He is concerned by how this will affect Eleven’s perception of him, but she tells him that she understands.

Nancy finds Barb’s car still where she parked it before the party. While searching for her in the woods behind Steve’s house, she sees some kind of strange, large creature running past in the distance. Frightened, she flees.
At the Byers’, a single string of lights is blinking, leading Joyce to a secluded cabinet in the living room. Sitting in the cabinet with a tangle of extra lights, Joyce asks Will to answer her questions by blinking the lights once for yes and twice for no. She learns that he is alive, but not safe. Realizing that she needs a better way of communicating, she paints letters on the wall above the sofa, each letter corresponding to one bulb.

Nancy goes to Karen and confesses that she thinks something bad has happened to Barb.

In the library, Powell doubts his and Hopper’s findings, pointing out that Terry Ives’ claim was thrown out of court and that nothing they found suggests a connection to Will. Hopper argues that the scrap of fabric they found in the pipe resembles a hospital gown like the ones Brenner’s MKUltra subjects wore. Callahan radios them, and the two rush out of the library, though we don’t hear why.

Eleven leads the boys to Will’s house and repeats that he’s hiding. The boys are frustrated, not understanding why she brought them there, then see police cars and ambulances race down the road nearby.

Joyce uses her alphabet-and-lights setup to talk to Will. She asks where he is, and the lights spell out “right here”. She tries to ask more questions, but Will tells her to run, and all the lights start blinking at once as the monster once again emerges from the wall.

The kids follow the vehicles to the quarry, where they see Will’s body being dragged out of the water. Mike shouts at Eleven and accuses her of lying to them about Will being alive. Eleven is unable to respond, and Mike leaves her, Lucas, and Dustin behind as he races home, crying into Karen’s arms.

Jonathan finds Joyce as she runs out of the house, and holds her.
Chapter Four: The Body

Season 1
Episode Number: 4
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Justin Doble
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane ‘Eleven’ Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Ross Partridge (Lonnie Byers), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Danny Boushebel (English Teacher), Jason Davis (Test Subject), Arthur Lee Dozier (Greg McCorkle), Ron Fallica (State Trooper), Marianne Fraulo (Patty), Adam Gagan (Ground Controller), Salem Murphy (High School Principal), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Cade Jones (James), Jon Kohler (Funeral Director), Shawn Levy (Morgue Worker), Christopher Cody Robinson (Test Pilot Shepard), Ron Rogge (State Trooper O’Bannon), Paul Ryden (Field Reporter), Tony Vaughn (Principal Coleman), Peyton Wich (Troy), Mark Withers (Gary), Camden Brown (Middle School Student), Mikey Evgen (Teen in Lunchroom), Mikayla Fields (Middle School Student), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), Julaine Tackett (High School Student), Terry Thomas (Person in Town)

Summary: Joyce refuses to believe Will has died and tries to connect with him. Also: the boys give Eleven a makeover and Nancy and Jonathan form a surprising alliance.

The episode opens with Sheriff Hopper explaining to Joyce the police’s discovery of Will’s body in the quarry and their working theory as to his cause of death, saying how Will may have crashed his bike and then fallen into the quarry before drowning. Joyce remains in denial and tries to explain how she had managed to communicate with Will through the lights before, but neither Hopper nor Jonathan believe her.

Hopper tries to comfort Joyce by explaining his own experiences following his daughter Sarah’s death, saying how he had seen her and heard her even after her death, but that they were hallucinations. Joyce doesn’t listen and proceeds to retrieve an axe, waiting in case the monster from the wall came again.

The scene changes to the Wheeler family watching a report on the discovery of the body while Michael sadly looks through Will’s old drawings. Frustrated by Eleven playing around with the radio, Mike berates her for allowing him and his friends to think that Will was still alive until she manages to tap into Will singing Should I Stay or Should I Go via the supercom.
While waiting in the morgue, Hopper learns that the local pathologist, Gary, was sent home and that the state conducted the autopsy, while the Byers go to see Will's dead body. Jonathan is unable to watch, but Joyce asks to see Will's birth mark to confirm if it really is him. In the waiting room, Hopper and Jonathan discuss the future after the funeral and Joyce's mental state, but they're interrupted by Joyce and the coroner storming into the room, arguing. Joyce states that the body is not Will's and storms out of the building.

Meanwhile, Nancy and Steve discuss her sighting of a monster outside of his house and its possible relation with Barb's disappearance, but Steve begins talking about how bad this would be for him for having a party with alcohol while his parents were out and tells Nancy to not mention it when they're inevitably questioned by the cops. She leaves in disgust.

Joyce is chased down by Jonathan, who tries to convince her to start preparing for the funeral, but Joyce refuses. A crowd is drawn as the two begin arguing over Joyce's refusal to believe Will is dead. Jonathan tells her that they're having a funeral for Will whether she likes it or not.

Mike, Lucas, Dustin, and Eleven try to find Will's voice again through the supercom, but Eleven is unable to find a clear signal and the three can only hear faint whimpering and static. They decide to bring Eleven to Mr. Clarke's Heathkit ham shack, but realize that they'd need to bring Eleven to school, a difficult feat considering her ragged appearance and near-baldness. They disguise her with Nancy's old clothes, makeup, and costume wig. After the makeover, Mike comments that Eleven looks pretty—er, good. Pretty good.

At the Department of Energy complex, the government prepares to explore the land beyond the rift, sending a man named Shepard through to explore.

Nancy is questioned by the police over her involvement with Steve's party and tries to explain her experience with the monster, but the police explains how both Barb's car and the monster were nowhere to be found. The police hypothesize that Barb ran away, against Nancy's protests.

Mike, Lucas, Dustin, and Eleven make it to school, but they're found by Mr. Clarke as they try to enter the Heathkit room. They're forced to quickly cover for Eleven's communication issues, describing her as Mike's second cousin Eleanor from Sweden, to Mr. Clarke's confusion, and the group proceeds to the assembly. They walk in in the middle of a speech, attracting the attention of all, and take a seat.

At the Wheeler's house, Mrs. Wheeler is furious at Nancy for lying to the police about having sex with Steve, but Nancy retaliates by saying it has nothing to do with Barb's disappearance and that something terrible has likely happened to her. Mrs. Wheeler immediately realizes her mistake, but Nancy storms off to her room anyway. She takes out the pieces of Jonathan's photo she had picked up before and puts it back together, seeing visual confirmation of the monster's presence.

In the government complex, Dr. Brenner and his team tries to communicate with Shepard, who manages to make contact and begins describing the other world. He encounters the monster and Dr. Brenner gives the order to reel him back in. Sounds of a struggle ensue as contact is lost. The line is pulled back in to reveal only a blood-covered piece of the harness.

At the assembly, a local pastor delivers a speech while Troy and James mock the proceedings, laughing about the event. Mike confronts them after the assembly, and when Troy continues to make rude and homophobic jokes about Will's death, Mike shoves him to the ground. Troy tries to attack Mike, but Eleven uses her powers to make Troy freeze in place and wet his pants in front of the entire class, humiliating him.

Elsewhere, Jonathan is picking out a coffin for Will when Nancy comes, asking him about the monster in the photo, which he confirms was not the result of image distortion. Jonathan realizes that the monster Nancy described was the same as the one his mother saw and begins to realize his mother's telling the truth.

Hopper chats with O'Bannon, the officer who found Will's body, at a local bar, but bluffs him, claiming that the quarry was state property and prompting agreement from the officer. Hopper tells the officer that actually, the quarry is privately owned, meaning that a state trooper would have no reason to be there unless he was told to, and he asks O'Bannon why he is lying to him. O'Bannon gets quite irate about this assertion and angrily tells Hopper to mind his own business. With diplomacy having failed, Hopper instead beats O'Bannon for information behind the bar. O'Bannon confesses him that he doesn't know who told him to go to the quarry, only that he was told to call it in and not let anyone get too close to the body. As Hopper demands to know who he is working for, he notices that O'Bannon looks nervously to something behind him.
and turns around to see a black car watching them. Panicked, O’Bannon tells Hopper that he is going to get them both killed. Hopper draws his gun and runs towards the car, but gives up the chase as it quickly drives away. He turns around to see that O’Bannon has used the opportunity to quietly flee from the scene.

Joyce tries to re-establish communication with Will through the radio and the lights, while the kids try to re-establish communication through the Heathkit ham shack. Eleven has a flashback to one of Dr. Brenner’s experiments, where she tried to listen in on a man in a different room, channelling his voice through the speakers. In the present, all parties are able to hear Will’s voice calling for his mom, while clanging sounds approach.

Joyce tears a hole in her wallpaper to reveal a translucent membrane, where she’s able to see Will on the other side but not reach through to him. The kids listen in on Will’s side of the conversation through the ham shack, but are unable to communicate with him. Will says that the place he’s trapped in is like home, but dark, empty, and cold. The monster draws closer to Will, and Joyce tells him to run and hide just before the rift closes and the ham shack breaks, setting off the school fire alarm. Joyce smashes her wall with an axe to try and reach Will, but instead finds only the outside of her house, while Eleven falls unconscious and the kids are forced to wheel her out amidst the chaos.

Hopper travels to the morgue to try and reach Will’s body, but fails to bluff the officer on duty and is forced to knock him unconscious. He finds Will’s body and cuts into it, revealing it to be a convincing fake.

Lonnie returns in the dead of night to a distraught Joyce, who is still awake, clutching the axe in her hand, while Hopper leaves for the Hawkins Lab, preparing to break in to find the truth.
Chapter Five: The Flea and the Acrobat

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Alison Tatlock
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane 'Eleven' Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Ross Partridge (Lonnie Byers), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Mark Steger (The Monster), Andrew Benator (Elevator Scientist), Pete Burris (Hawkins Head of Security), Bill Eudaly (Pastor Charles), Kaylee Glover (Jennifer Hayes), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Hugh B. Holub (Scientist), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Charles Lawlor (Mr. Melvald), Andre Pushkin (Russian Man), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Jerri Tubbs (Diane Hopper (voice)), Tony Vaughn (Principal Coleman), Robert Walker Brancard (Agent Repairman), Camden Brown (Middle School Girl), Bradford Haynes (Mr. Sinclair), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Hali Jones (Middle School Student), Blake Kerzie (Middle School Student), Tabitha Kilgore (Mrs. Henderson)

Summary: Hopper breaks into the lab and Nancy and Jon face the entity that took Will. Also: the boys ask Mr. Clarke about traveling to a different dimension.

In the lab, Hopper breaks into the quarantined zone. He comes across a small, mostly bare room containing a security camera, a child's bed, a toy lion, and a simplistic drawing of two stick figures labeled "Papa" and "11".

Lonnie covers the hole in the wall with a tarp and pours Joyce a drink. He suggests that Joyce is hallucinating and that she should talk to a therapist, but Joyce continues to insist that the things she's seeing are real.

The boys try to figure out what Will meant by describing his location as "like home". Eleven says that it's "upside-down", and Mike realizes she's referring to how she flipped the game board upside down to show where Will is—dark and empty. The group realizes that Eleven took them to Will's house because he was there, but in a dark alternate dimension, like the Vale of Shadows from Dungeons and Dragons. They ask Eleven if she knows how to get to the Upside-Down, but she claims not to know.

In the lab, Hopper runs from guards and finds the portal Shepard disappeared into, then is captured and chloroformed by hazmat-suited men.

Jonathan arrives home and asks Joyce if the monster she saw came back. Lonnie tells him that Joyce is sick and Jonathan is going to push her over the edge by encouraging her.

The next morning, everyone attends Will's funeral. Joyce flashes back to a conversation she had with Will about a drawing of his Dungeons and Dragons character; in the flashback, she
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asks why "Will the Wise" needs fireball magic if he can just outsmart the bad guys, and he tells her that sometimes the bad guys are smart too.

Hopper wakes up on his couch, drenched in sweat and surrounded by pills and empty cans, as though the previous night was just a bad dream. Unconvinced, he tears the place apart and finds a microphone hidden in his overhead light.

Jonathan and Nancy map out the known locations of the monster and plan to track it down and kill it. Jonathan steals a revolver and a pack of ammo from the glove compartment of one of the cars at the funeral.

At Hawkins Lab, Dr. Brenner listens to a wiretap recording of Will’s voice on the Heathkit radio and says that it means Eleven was there. One of the lab employees, disguised as an electrician, goes to the middle school to inspect the Heathkit.

At the funeral reception, Mike, Lucas, and Dustin ask Mr. Clarke about alternate dimensions. He tells them that theoretically, our dimension is like an acrobat on a tightrope: we can only move forwards or backwards. If there was a flea on that tightrope, though it could move along the side of the rope or underneath it completely, rather than just back and forth along the top. The boys ask if there’s any way for the acrobat to get to the Upside-Down, and he tells them that it would require some sort of tear in time and space, like a gate. However, he cautions them that such a gate would require more energy than humans are currently capable of creating, and that if one existed, they would notice because it would cause electromagnetic and environmental disturbances.

Powell and Callahan go to Hopper’s place and are a bit taken back when a jittery Hopper opens the door with his gun in his hand. They tell him that two local hunters disappeared near the area that Will vanished, and that Barb Holland’s car was found at a bus station by state troopers, indicating that she ran away. Hopper tells them to go back to the station and that he will personally look into the missing hunters. Both a bit puzzled by Hopper’s strange behavior, Callahan wonders if he is off his medicine again while Powell theorizes that he must have spend too much time with Joyce.

Lonnie repairs the hole in the wall and takes down the Christmas lights. He tells Joyce that the quarry owners should be held accountable for Will’s death, as there are no safety precautions around the quarry.

Mike, Lucas, and Dustin tell Eleven about Mr. Clarke’s gate idea and ask her if she knows where it is. She says she doesn’t, and Lucas asks her how she knows about the Upside-Down if that’s true. Before she can answer, Dustin notices that all of their compasses are pointing in the wrong direction, meaning they can follow the compasses to the electromagnetic disturbance created by the gate.

Joyce finds a flyer for a law office specializing in accidental death lawsuits in Lonnie’s wallet. She accuses him of only being there to cash in on Will’s death and pay off his debts. Lonnie protests that he would use the money to pay for Jonathan to go to college, but Joyce catches him in the lie by forcing him to admit that he doesn’t know where Jonathan wants to go to school, even though he’s wanted to go to NYU since he was six years old. He says that Will’s death is her fault, and she vows to never give up looking for Will before throwing Lonnie out of the house.

Nancy practices swinging a baseball bat in preparation for the monster. Steve goes to the Wheelers’ house and apologizes to Nancy for his behavior during the investigation into Barb’s disappearance. He asks her to go to the movies with him, but she refuses, ostensibly because of the hardship Will’s funeral has brought her family, but actually because she has monster-hunting plans with Jonathan.

Nancy joins Jonathan as he practices shooting the gun. He’s a terrible shot and admits that he hasn’t shot a gun since he was ten and Lonnie took him hunting, something which he shutters to remember as Lonnie forced him to kill a bunny during the trip. Nancy admits that she thinks her parents married out of convenience more than love. She tries the gun and realizes she’s a much better shot than Jonathan.

Hopper calls his ex-wife and tells her that he doesn’t regret any part of the seven years he had with her and Sarah. However, he hears her new baby crying on the other end of the line and hangs up with a lie about being drunk and a request for her to take care of herself.

The kids walk along a train track, following the compasses. Lucas comments that Eleven is acting weird. Eleven flashes back to being immersed in "the bath", a sensory deprivation tank,
in order to seek out a Russian spy. Distressed by the memory, she asks Mike to turn back, but he tells her to keep walking. She agrees, but as she does so, her nose begins to bleed.

Nancy asks Jonathan about the picture he took of her, and he says that he felt like she was trying to be someone else, but in that moment, it was like she was alone and a completely different person. Nancy tells him that that's bullshit and she's not trying to be someone else by dating Steve. She adds that Steve's actually a good guy and the incident with the camera was uncharacteristic. They get into an argument that culminates with Jonathan telling Nancy that she may think she's rebellious, but she behaves just like every other suburban girl and will inevitably end up in a life just like that of her parents.

Reaching a junkyard full of rusted-out cars, Dustin notices that they've looped back around, and Lucas realizes that Eleven has been screwing up the compasses to mislead them, pointing out the fresh blood on her sleeve. Mike defends her, but Eleven tearfully tells them that she did it because the gate is unsafe.

Hopper visits Joyce, checks her house for bugs, and tells her about what he's uncovered, including Will's fake body.

Lucas says that Eleven is a traitor and a monster who's using them for her own purposes, and that Mike is blinded by his feelings for Eleven. Dustin tries to calm them both down, but the two of them get in a fight. Panicked, Eleven begs them to stop, then uses her powers to throw Lucas against a nearby piece of sheet metal, temporarily knocking him unconscious. Mike is furious at her overreaction and shouts, "What's wrong with you?!"

Eleven again flashes back to "the bath". She comes too standing in an empty black void with a wet floor. She spots the Russian spy in the distance and walks over to him, but as she comes close, it is obvious that the man is not on the same plane of existence as her, as he is clearly in a conversation with someone unseen and doesn’t notice Eleven as she curiously walks in a circle around him and studies him, as she channels his voice into the lab’s speakers. Suddenly, Eleven hears a snarl in the void. The Russian man fades away, as Eleven looks spooked around and for the source of the sound. On the outside, Dr. Brenner and his team hear strange sounds being broadcaster over the lab’s speakers; Brenner notices that he has no idea what it is. A scared Eleven finally spots the source of the sounds, and she starts running frantically, before waking up in the tank, screaming and pounding on the glass in a panic.

In the present, Lucas wakes up and furiously heads home alone; Eleven takes advantage of the distraction to disappear into the woods in tears.

Nancy and Jonathan find an injured deer, which is abruptly dragged into some bushes by an unseen creature. They follow the trail of blood and find a tree with an organic-looking portal like the one at the lab in its base. Nancy crawls through the portal and finds a slightly altered version of the woods on the other side: the air is filled with strange motes, her flashlight flickers on and off, and the ground and trees are covered in meaty-looking vines and cobwebs. She sees the monster feeding on the deer, and it chases her. Jonathan hears her scream and calls for her, unaware of the portal in the tree, which has started to close.
Chapter Six: The Monster

Season 1
Episode Number: 6
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Jessie Nickson-Lopez
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane ‘Eleven’ Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Mark Steger (The Monster), Amy Seimetz (Becky Ives), Gllenellen Anderson (Nicole), Andrew Benator (Elevator Scientist), Adam Boyer (Hunting Store Owner), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Hugh B. Holub (Scientist), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Cade Jones (James), Linda Kang (Female Clerk), Kevin Patrick Murphy (Grocery Store Manager), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Chase Stokes (Reed), Chelsea Tal madge (Carol), Robert Walker Branchaud (Agent Repairman), Peyton Wich (Troy), Stephen Dean (Hawkins Police Officer), Marshall Choka (Scientist), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Blake Kerzie (Middle School Student), John Archer Lundgren (Winky’s Patron), Rachel Marie Wilson (Grocery Store Patron)

Summary: Jonathan goes in search for Nancy while Steve does the same and Hopper and Joyce unearth the truth behind the lab’s experiments.

Being stalked by the monster in the dark world, Nancy calls out for Jonathan, but in the normal world Jonathan can only hear a echo of her voice. Jonathan tries calling out for her, but the effect is the same for Nancy: she only hears him as a faint echo. Nancy is able still able to guide Jonathan to the portal she enter the dark world through, and manages to sneak past the monster. Jonathan notices the portal in the tree and pulls her back through it just before it closes.

Steve, Tommy, and Carol drive out to the Wheelers’ house while Tommy and Carol tease Steve for being worried about Nancy’s odd behavior. Steve climbs up to Nancy’s bedroom window and, seeing Jonathan comforting a shaken Nancy, assumes Nancy is cheating on him.

Hopper tells Joyce about what he saw in the lab, including the child’s bedroom with the drawing. Joyce asks if the drawing was good. Hopper tells her it was a childish stick figure drawing, and Joyce shows him the detailed, talented picture Will drew of his D&D party, proving that a different child must be involved in the conspiracy at Hawkins Lab. Hopper realizes this is likely Terry Ives’ missing daughter, and probably also the child seen at Benny’s restaurant.
Nancy, quite traumatized by her brief stay in the dark world, showers and tells Jonathan she doesn't want to be alone. He tries to sleep on the floor, but she asks him to sleep on her bed instead. As he lies next to her he tries to reassure her, telling her the monster can't get them in here, but she points out that they don't know if that's actually true. A bit rattled by this, Jonathan takes a nervous look around the room.

Jonathan wakes up and finds that Nancy has stayed up all night theorizing about the monster. She thinks that the monster lives in the place on the other side of the portal, and that if it was feeding on the deer, it likely did the same to Will and Barbara. Jonathan points out that Joyce talked to Will, which means Barb may also be alive. Nancy tells him that means Barb is trapped, and they need to find it again. She believes that the monster is like a shark—a solitary predator drawn to the smell of blood, like the injured deer and Barb's cut finger.

Connie from Hawkins Lab stops by Mr. Clarke's house, this time posing as a representative of a statewide AV club. Mr. Clarke buys her story hook, line, and sinker and invites her inside. She asks him if he knows any local children who would be interested in receiving some material about the club and he answers that he sure does.

Dustin goes to the Wheelers' house. Mike feels guilty for yelling at Eleven and worries about her disappearance. Dustin tells him that he, Lucas, and Eleven were all out of line in the fight, and Mike needs to apologize first since he pushed first.

Eleven wakes up in the woods, dirty and dishevelled. She walks to a nearby pond and tries to put her partially-destroyed wig back on, but can't undo the damage she's caused. She screams with frustration, and a massive ripple breaks her reflection.

Karen goes to check on Nancy and finds her room empty and window open. Mike and Dustin go to Lucas' house so Mike can apologize, but when Lucas says he'll only accept on the condition that they forget about Eleven and go straight to the gate, they begin to argue again. Dustin tries to get them to overcome their pride and stick together, but Lucas and Mike still can't agree on Eleven's presence, and Lucas vows to look for Will alone.

Eleven goes to a supermarket. As her dirty and ragged appearance causes the costumers and employees to shoot her many strange looks, she flashes back to being put in the "bath" to make contact with the monster on Dr. Brenner's orders. In the present, Eleven walks up to the cooler and starts stocking up on Eggo waffles. A concerned employee tries asking her if her parents are around, but she coldly dismisses him. As she starts walking out of the store with her hoard, the employee tries to stop her, but she uses her powers to violently slam the sliding doors in his face and gets away.

Lucas goes to search for the gate and sees a man get out of a Hawkins Power and Light van across the street from his house. He casually waves to the man who waves back.

Dustin and Mike discuss Lucas' dislike of Eleven. Dustin says that it's jealousy—Lucas and Mike have been best friends their whole lives, and now all Mike wants to do is hang out with Eleven. Mike accepts this explanation, but insists that Dustin and Will are his best friends, too. They come across the chaos at the supermarket and realize Eleven must have been there.

Joyce and Hopper track down Terry Ives and find that she is catatonic, cared for by her sister. Terry's sister tells them that Terry's involvement in MKUltra consisted of being given psychedelics and put in an isolation tank, and that Terry didn't know she was pregnant at the time of the experiments. Joyce asks if they have any pictures of Jane, but Terry's sister tells her that Jane isn't real—Terry miscarried in the third trimester. However, Terry still keeps a nursery for Jane, believing that she's going to come home one day and that she was taken to become a weapon because she was born with psychic abilities. All of the abilities Jane allegedly had match those demonstrated by Eleven.

Lucas searches for the gate, but is stopped by the fence of Hawkins Lab. As he rounds the corner of the fence, his compass needle changes direction, and he realizes the gate is in the lab. He climbs a tree and spies on the facility with binoculars. He sees men in black suits and military personal milling about outside the place, but to his puzzlement he also spots several Hawkins Power and Light vans parked outside amongst military trucks.

Nancy and Jonathan buy monster-hunting supplies, including ammunition, gasoline, and a bear trap. Outside, Nancy sees graffiti on the marquee of the local movie theater calling her a slut. In an alley nearby, Steve, Tommy, Carol, and Nicole are painting more graffiti calling Jonathan a pervert. Nancy confronts them and realizes that Steve saw Jonathan in her room the previous night, but is unable to explain why he was there without telling them about the
monster. Jonathan tells Nancy to leave, but Steve taunts him by saying that it’s a good thing Will’s dead because their whole family is an embarrassment to the town. Jonathan and Steve get into a fistfight, which is broken up by Powell and Callahan; in the process, Jonathan accidentally elbows Callahan in the face, resulting in his arrest for assaulting an officer. Nancy goes to the police station with him while the other teens run away.

Eleven sits in the woods eating her Eggos and hears Dustin and Mike calling for her. The boys hear a noise and think it’s her, but it’s actually Troy and James, who confront them about the incident at the assembly. Mike and Dustin tells them to go away, but when Troy draws a switch-blade the duo decides to flee and is chased by the bullies, who follow them as they run to the quarry. Troy catches Dustin and threatens to cut out his teeth unless Mike jumps off the cliff into the water at the bottom of the quarry, something which shocks James who tells Troy that he is going too far with all of this. Troy, however, refuses to back down and repeats his threat. Despite Dustin begging him not to do it, Mike walks over to the edge and jumps, but is caught mid-air and levitated back to safety by Eleven, who knocks James to the ground, breaks Troy’s arm, and tells them both to leave. As Troy and James run away in fear, Dustin proudly tells the bullies that she’s his and Mike’s friend, and if they come back, she’ll kill them.

Eleven collapses from the strain of using her powers and flashes back to searching for the monster while in “the bath”. She finds it eating something, and when she disturbs it, it roars at her and breaks into our dimension, creating the portal in the lab. In the present, Eleven tearfully admits that she opened the gate and says that she’s the monster, but Mike assures her that she’s not the monster and that she saved him. Mike, Eleven, and Dustin engage in a group hug and head back to the Wheelers’ house. As they travel, they are observed by the fake electrician, who alerts the lab to their position.

Lucas sees a fleet of Hawkins Power and Light vans leave the lab and realizes that his friends are in danger.
Chapter Seven: The Bathtub

Season 1
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Justin Doble
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane 'Eleven' Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Shae Britt (Mary Mack Girl #2), Jackie Dallas (Jen), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Charles Green (Movie Theatre Manager), Randall P. Havens (Mr. Clarke), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Amy Parrish (Troy’s Mom), Anniston Price (Holly Wheeler), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Chelsea Talmadge (Carol), Robert Walker Branchaud (Agent Repairman), Abigail Whitlock (Mary Mack Girl #1), Peyton Wich (Troy), Stephen Dean (Hawkins Police Officer), Marisol Correa (Townspeople), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Daniel Jarvie (Special Agent), Stephen M. LaBar Jr. (Special Agent), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland)

Summary: Eleven has trouble reaching Will; Lucas issues an ominous warning; and Nancy and Jonathan show the police footage from Jonathan’s camera.

Mike helps Eleven clean the dirt off her face after their adventures in the woods. Eleven looks at her reflection in the mirror and touches her shaved head, but Mike tells her she doesn’t need the wig. Eleven asks, “Still pretty?”, which Mike confirms that she is—really pretty, in fact. They agree that they’re both glad Eleven is home and almost kiss, but are interrupted by Dustin, who says that Lucas is on the radio and is in trouble. Lucas tells them that the bad men are coming and know about Eleven.

Seeing the Power and Light vans pulling up outside the house, Dustin, Mike, and Eleven escape with Eleven riding on the back of Mike’s bicycle. Lucas meets up with them, and the four kids are chased through the neighborhood by three of the vans. A fourth van drives at them head-on, attempting to block them in, but Eleven uses her mind to flip the van over their bikes, simultaneously clearing the road in front of them and blocking the vans behind them. The kids take refuge in the junkyard. Lucas, Eleven, and Mike all apologize to each other for their earlier fight.

Joyce and Hopper arrive at the police station and tell Callahan to uncuff Jonathan. Powell shows them the alarming weapons Jonathan and Nancy bought at the hunting store. Jonathan says they’ll never believe the explanation, but Hopper says to try him.

Karen goes down to the basement and finds a strand of Eleven’s wig on one of the pillows. Upstairs, Connie and other employees of the lab, including Dr. Brenner, arrive at the door, search
the house for signs of Eleven’s whereabouts and question Ted and Karen about her. Karen is upset that Connie will not tell her anything about why they’re looking for the girl or what kind of danger Mike might be in. Dr. Brenner soothes her and asks if she has any idea where Mike could be.

Lucas tells Mike, Dustin, and Eleven about what he saw at the lab. Mike says that his dad told him the lab is owned by the military and that they develop weapons there; the kids all realize that Eleven must be one of those weapons. Seeing a helicopter, they hide their bikes and take refuge in an abandoned bus.

In Hopper’s office, Jonathan and Nancy show him and Joyce the photo of the monster and tell them about their theory that it’s attracted by blood. Joyce tells Jonathan he shouldn’t have tried to investigate this without telling her and that he doesn’t have to do things alone. In the main room of the station, Troy’s mother shouts at Callahan and Powell for dismissing her report about Troy’s broken arm as trivial. Hopper tells them to be quiet, but upon hearing Troy say that the girl had a shaved head, he questions Troy closer. Troy tells him that the girl could make people fly and that she always hangs out with “those losers”.

Steve, Tommy, and Carol go to a convenience store to lick their wounds. Tommy and Carol continue to make rude, tasteless comments about Jonathan and Nancy, and Steve snaps, telling them that they’re both assholes and shouldn’t have graffitied the marquee and the alley. They argue, and Steve storms off in his car.

Hopper, Nancy, Joyce, and Jonathan drive to the Wheelers’ house, but see that Brenner and his goons have already gotten there. Jonathan suggests that they use Will’s supercom radio to try to talk to Mike and find him. Nancy radios Mike, but the kids don’t answer, fearing that she may be working for the men from the lab. Hopper gets on the radio and tells the kids that they know about Eleven and that they know they’re in trouble; after a moment, Mike radios them back.

Steve goes to the theater and offers to help clean up the graffiti.

In the bus, Dustin paces, worrying that they’ve been set up. Several “bad men” arrive, and the kids hide out of view of the windows. One man notices their bikes and opens the door to the bus, but is taken out by Hopper, who takes the kids back to the Byers’ house.

The group unites and pools their knowledge about Hawkins Lab, the monster, the Upside-Down, and the gate. Eleven tries to use the supercom to find Will and Barb, but fails. The boys explain that using her powers is draining, and she is currently weakened from flipping the van earlier. Eleven says that she can find Will and Barb in “the bath”. Dustin calls Mr. Clarke and asks how to build a sensory deprivation tank. He learns that they need Joyce’s kiddie pool and 1500 pounds of salt.

They set up the tank in the gym of the middle school, using the school’s de-icing salt. While bringing hoses to the gym from an equipment shed, Nancy and Mike talk about the events of the past week and agree to be honest with each other from now on. Mike asks Nancy if she likes Jonathan, which she denies; she asks him if he likes Eleven, which he also denies. Joyce duct-tapes over a set of chemistry splash goggles to keep Eleven’s vision dark in the tank, and thanks her for her bravery in helping find Will.

Setting up the supercom outside the tank so Eleven can channel Will’s voice, Eleven steps into the tank and returns to the void where she found the Demogorgon. She sees Barbara, who is dead and has a large slug-like creature coming out of her mouth. She begins to panic and screams that Barb is gone, but Joyce comforts her, and she presses onward. She sees Will’s fort, Castle Byers, and finds him inside, barely conscious. She tells him his mom is coming, and Will asks her to hurry. The fort disappears and Eleven, terrified, comes out of the vision and is comforted by Joyce.

Hopper and Joyce go to the lab to find Will, leaving Nancy and Jonathan to look after the kids. Nancy, however, is grief-stricken and furious over Barb’s death, and tells Jonathan that they need to kill the Demogorgon or else it will kill Joyce and Hopper. They take their supplies back from the police station. At the lab, Hopper and Joyce are surrounded and apprehended.

In the Upside-Down, Will hears the Demogorgon prowling outside his fort, and the walls explode inward as it pounces.
Chapter Eight: The Upside Down

Season 1
Episode Number: 8
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Friday July 15, 2016
Writer: Paul Dichter, The Duffer Brothers
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Bobby Brown (Jane 'Eleven' Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner)
Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Mark Steger (The Monster), Lucius Baston (Technician), Pete Burris (Hawkins Head of Security), Catherine Dyer (Agent Connie Frazier), Elle Graham (Sara Hopper), Tobias Jelinek (Lead Agent), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Jerry Tubbs (Diane Hopper), Ward Andrew (Military), Stephen Dean (Deputy), Rory Healy (Agent), Jim Heard (Townsperson), Daniel Jarvie (Special Agent), Stephen M. LaBar Jr. (Agent), Lourenz Oviedo (Officer)

Summary: Joyce and Hopper are taken in for questioning. Nancy and Jonathan prepare to fight the monster and save Will.

Brenner interrogates Joyce, asking when and how she made contact with Will. He tells her that the monster has taken six people in the past week, and that while they don't understand it, they know that it eats, and therefore will take more people unless Joyce helps them. Joyce, however, calls him out for leaving Will to die and faking his death, and tells him that he can go to Hell. Hopper is also interrogated, and tells them that he knows everything they've done. They threaten to kill him and make it look like an accidental overdose unless he gives up Eleven's location and stops looking into the lab's activities. He agrees on the conditions that he and Joyce be allowed to rescue Will, that they will face no repercussions for their investigation of the lab, and that no one will ever find out about his betrayal.

Mike realizes that Nancy and Jonathan have left, and Eleven says that they've gone to fight the Demogorgon. Nancy and Jonathan rig the Byers' house with traps.

After Hopper confesses Eleven's location, he and Joyce are brought to the gate and put in hazmat suits. Connie warns Brenner that this is a mistake, but he confidently assures her that they'll never find Will. Joyce and Hopper step through the gate to search for Will. Hopper flashes back to playing with his daughter at a park. Sarah sees something that frightens her, and he tells her to breathe slowly.

Mike says they should go after Jonathan and Nancy, but Lucas and Dustin argue that they should stay at the school. The kids go to the cafeteria to get food.

Jonathan and Nancy cut their hands to draw the monster to them. Nancy is jumpy, but Jonathan tells her that Joyce says the lights blink when the monster comes. They dress their wounds, but are interrupted by Steve, who has come to the house to apologize to Jonathan.
Nancy answers the door, and he forces his way inside when he notices Nancy’s injured hand. He is confused and horrified by the traps inside, and Nancy tries to make him leave, but before he can, the lights start flashing and the monster bursts through the ceiling, much to Steve’s shock and confusion. They hide in Will’s room, but the house goes silent, and they come out to find the monster has disappeared.

In the Upside-Down, Hopper finds something that looks like an enormous hatched egg. Joyce comes across the ruins of Castle Byers, and Hopper sees a stuffed animal in the wreckage that causes him to flash back to him reading to Sarah in the hospital as she undergoes chemotherapy.

Meanwhile, Jonathan and Nancy prepare for another shot at trapping the Demogorgon. Nancy finally convinces Steve, who is extremely freaked out by what has just happened, that he should leave the house for his own safety. Steve steps outside and determinately heads for his car, but pauses when he sees the lights flashing inside and hears gunshots from the house. Making a quick decision, he goes back to help Nancy and Jonathan. Jonathan is tackled by the monster, and although Nancy shoots it, it is undeterred. Steve grabs the bat and beats the monster with it, forcing it into the bear trap, and Jonathan lights it on fire. The Demogorgon disappears back to the Upside-Down.

Joyce and Hopper reach the Upside-Down version of the Byers’ house, causing the Christmas lights to blink with their movements back in our world. Jonathan realizes that these lights are not the monster.

Dustin and Lucas raid the school fridge while Mike and Eleven sit out in the cafeteria, talking about plans for their future. Mike tells her that when this is all over, she can live with his family, and the two of them can go to the school dance, the Snow Ball, together. Eleven questions him about this, and, struggling to explain his feelings, Mike gives up and kisses her instead. They both smile nervously after wards, but the moment is interrupted by a car pulling up outside. Mike goes out to greet it, assuming it’s Nancy and Jonathan, but instead finds an army of Hawkins Lab employees. The kids are pursued and cornered by the agents, including Connie, but Eleven uses her powers to crush their brains inside their skulls, causing blood to leak out of their eyes and ears before they die. She passes out, and Dr. Brenner arrives. The boys defiantly try to protect Eleven, but are grabbed by more agents. Brenner wakes Eleven up and comforts her, saying that he’s her “papa” and he’s going to help her, but Eleven rejects him, telling him that he is bad and calling for Mike instead. Mike realizes the blood from the dead agents will attract the Demogorgon. It appears right on cue and attacks the nearest lab employees as well as Dr. Brenner, and the kids escape in the chaos, Dustin carrying Eleven.

Joyce and Hopper follow the Demogorgon’s blood trail to the library, where they find Barb’s decaying body, a bare skeleton, and Will unconscious and glued to a wall with some sort of tendril down his throat. Hopper pulls the tendril out, but Will doesn’t regain consciousness.

The kids take shelter in the science classroom. Mike tells Eleven that the bad man is gone, and promises her that she’ll be okay—she’ll get her own bed and as many Eggos as she wants, and they can go to the Snow Ball together. The Demogorgon bursts into the room, and Lucas tries to fight it off with the wrist rocket, but it continues to advance towards them. Suddenly, it is flung against the blackboard, and Eleven steps forward, using her powers to restrain it, her nose, ears, and even her eyes beginning to bleed from the overload. Mike tries to stop her, but she throws him back. She advances towards the Demogorgon, takes one last look back at the boys, and tells Mike goodbye. Turning towards the monster again, she says, “No more,” and screams as she disintegrates the Demogorgon. When the ashes clear, both Eleven and the monster are gone.

In the Upside-Down, Joyce panics because Will isn’t breathing. Hopper performs CPR on him and flashes back to Sarah’s death. Will regains consciousness, and Hopper and Joyce give him an oxygen mask.

Karen races to the middle school, having been called there by EM Ts, and finds Mike unharmed but grief-stricken.

Will wakes up in the hospital and is joyously reunited with his mother, brother, and friends. Mike, Lucas, and Dustin excitedly fill him in on everything that happened while he was gone, although they are temporarily sobered when Will coughs violently and Mike tells him about Eleven and her Heroic Sacrifice. Hopper walks out of the hospital for a smoke, only to discover a black car driving up behind him. A pair of men in black step out and stare silently at him, one of them holding the car door open. With a resigned expression, Hopper steps into the car and is
driven away by the agents.

One month later, the boys are again playing Dungeons and Dragons in Mike’s basement. They are confronted by a Thessalhydra, which Will defeats with a fireball; afterwards, however, Will, Lucas, and Dustin complain that Mike’s ten-hour campaign was too short, citing dropped plot points such as the "lost knight," the "proud princess", and the "weird flowers in the cave". Jonathan arrives to pick Will up. As the other boys head out, Mike looks melancholically at Eleven’s rebuilt but empty blanket fort. Mike’s supercom radio sits inside, indicating that Mike still holds out hope that Eleven is alive somewhere. Upstairs, Nancy stops Jonathan and Will to give Jonathan a Christmas present, and kisses him on the cheek. In the car, Will unwraps it: it’s a camera to replace the one that Steve broke. Inside the house, it’s revealed that it was a joint present from Steve and Nancy, who are still dating.

At the police station’s Christmas party, Hopper fills a Tupperware container with food and leaves. He drives out to the forest and leaves the container in a dead drop box, along with a saran-wrapped stack of Eggo waffles.

At the Byers’ house, Joyce, Jonathan, and Will prepare for dinner, but Will leaves the table with the excuse that he forgot to wash his hands. In the bathroom, he coughs up a smaller version of the slug creature that came out of Barbara’s corpse’s mouth, and sees a brief flash of the Upside-Down. He stares briefly at the worm creature as it disappears down the drain, and then returns to the dinner table, pretending like nothing is wrong.
Season Two
Chapter Nine: Madmax

Season 2
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Director: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Recurring Role: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Catherine Curtin (Claudia Henderson), Randy Havens (Mr. Scott Clarke), Rob Morgan (Deputy Powell), John Paul Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Chelsea Talmadge (Carol), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Susan Larkin (Florence)

Guest Stars: Linnea Berthelsen (Roman), Brett Gelman (Murray Bauman), Kai Greene (Funshine), James Landry Hébert (Axel), Anna Jacoby-Heron (Dottie), Gabrielle Maiden (Mick), Glennellen Anderson (Nicole), Cynthia Barrett (Marsha Holland), Alan Boell (Adams), Gilbert Glenn Brown (Cop 4), Matthew Cardarople (Keith), Madelyn Cline (Tina), Abigail F. Cowen (Vicki), Brian F. Durkin (Cop 1), Joe Davison (Nerdy Tech), Lauren Halperin (Dr. Owen’s Assistant), Christopher Johnson (II) (Cop 2), Fenton Lawless (Merril), Charles Lawlor (Mr. Melvad), Dave MacDonald (Flamethrower Soldier), Aaron Munoz (Mr. Holland), Tony Vaughn (Principal Coleman), Ricardo Miguel Young (Reporter)

Summary: A year after he disappeared and returned, Will is dealing with the trauma of the Upside Down. Meanwhile, the government maintains an interest in him, and Jim pays a visit to the cabin in the woods.

In Pittsburgh, a group of masked figures run out of a building and get into their getaway van. As they drive off, a police car gives chase. One of the robbers tells the driver to pull into an alley going the wrong way. They narrowly avoid the oncoming cars and get clear, only for more police cars to come after them. The robbers tell one of the women, Kali, to do something, and she tells the driver to head into a tunnel. As the police follow them, Kali concentrates and the police officer in the lead car, Adams, hallucinates the tunnel collapsing in front of them. They brake to a halt, slamming into each other, he staggers out sick, and discovers that the tunnel is intact.

Kali and the others drive out the other side, and Kali wipes the blood from her nose. On her wrist is a bar code: 008.

In Hawkins, people are preparing for Halloween. At home, Dustin is looking around his house. He finally finds the quarters he needs and calls Lucas on the radio. He then calls Mike, who hasn’t gotten any quarters. Mike sneaks into Nancy’s room and takes her quarters, and when she comes in tells her that he’ll pay her back. He runs out and rides off on his bike before she can stop him.
The friends meet at the arcade, and Joyce drops off Will. She tells him to be careful and to have fun, and Will joins his friends.

Dustin plays Dragon's Lair but gets killed. When he says that he's tops on the other games, Keith corrects him. Dustin runs over and discovers that a new player, MADMAX, has topped him. They ask Keith who MADMAX is, and he says that he'll tell them if Mike sets up a date for him with Nancy.

As they argue, Will looks outside and sees a storm gathering. He turns and discovers that everyone in the arcade is gone. The arcade turns into an overgrown ruin from the Upside Down and Will goes outside. Mike calls to him, and everything snaps back to normal.

They go back inside to play.

The next day, Jim arrives at the police station and investigative reporter Murray Bauman is waiting for him. Murray says that they need to talk, but Jim doesn't want to hear it. The deputies laugh as Murray says there's a Russian spy presence in Hawkins, and there have been reports of a girl with psionic abilities. Jim gives him five minutes, and Murray says that there have been rumors of a girl with a shaved head seen around town. He figures that it's tied into Barb's disappearance, but Jim is less than impressed.

He's interrupted when he gets a call from the local pumpkin patch owner, Merril, that his pumpkins have been contaminated by his vengeful neighbor. Jim tells Murray that he has to tend to business and leaves.

Steve and Nancy are parked outside of the school, and Nancy goes over his essay for early application to college. He asks her to help him that night at his house, and Nancy reminds him that he was going to come to dinner. Steve figures that he might be better off working for his dad in insurance, and he'd be there for Nancy's senior years. They kiss just as new kid Billy pulls up in his hot rod. He and his sister Max get out and the local girls check out Steve's ass.

Will goes to his locker and discovers that some has left an article of him with the words "Zombie Boy" written on his photo. He goes to class where Mr. Clarke talks about the human brains. The principal brings in Max, and the boys figure that she's MADMAX.

Joyce is working at the general store when Bob Newby comes in. He asks if they have pumpkins in any other colors go into the back, and kiss. Joyce finally says that she has to get back to work, and says that she'll see that night at the house for movie night Jim drives out to the pumpkin patch, which is filled with rotting pumpkins. Merril says that his neighbor Eugene is responsible, and figures that Eugene sent one of his field hands out. Jim notices something moving in the nearby field and goes to investigate. A crow flies up but there's no one there.

Tina is handing out invitations to her Halloween bash, and Nancy gives one to Jonathan and tells him that he's going. He refuses but Nancy says that he can't sit alone home on Halloween. Jonathan says that he's going trick-or-treating with Will, but Nancy figures that he'll be home by 8 by himself. As they arrive at Nancy's locker, Steve grabs her and they kiss. Jonathan walks away and Nancy notices him going.

Dustin and the others watch Max skateboarding. She drops something and goes inside, and the boys run over. Dustin digs in the garbage and finds a note telling them to stop spying on her. Principal Coleman comes over and tells Will that Joyce is there.

Everyone looks at Will as Coleman takes him outside to where Joyce is waiting. Mike and the others watch, and figure that Will is always quiet when he has to go in.

Joyce drives Will out of town and asks if he's feeling any better. After a moment, a distracted Will says that he is. Joyce tells him to tell them what he felt and saw, and she'll be there with him so it will be okay. They pull up to where Jim is waiting outside of the government facility. They go inside and put Will through medical tests. Dr. Sam Owens comes in and chats with Will, and asks about the episode he had. Agents monitor Will as he describes his vision at the arcade. Owens pushes him for details, and Will's EKG readings go up as he says that he sensed evil and it wanted to kill everyone else.

After the session, Owens tells Joyce and Jim that it's going to get worse before it gets better. He explains that it's the anniversary of the event so Will will have more episodes and personality changes. Owens tells Joyce to treat Will normally and let him lead the way. He assures her that the former government people are gone, and he assures Joyce that he's on her side. Outside, Joyce complains to Jim and Jim says that post-traumatic stress is real. He asks about Bob and Joyce says that they're good. Jim rather unconvincingly says that he's happy for her and tells Joyce to call him if things get worse. As Joyce drives away with Will, Jim looks up and Owens
waves to him As Jim goes, an assistant tells Owens that they’re ready for him and he goes to 
an underground lab where a soldier with a flamethrower dons a protective suit and enters an 
airlock. He enters the next chamber and approaches the Upside Down portal, and uses the flame 
thrower on the organism in front of it.

Dustin and Lucas watch the arcade and Billy drops Max off. Brother and sister argue and 
Billy drives off as Max gives him the finger. She goes inside and plays DigDug, and Dustin and 
Lucas keep watching her.

That night, Karen tells Mike to pick out his toys for the yard sale. Mike says that they already 
took away his Atari, and Karen points out that he’s been acting up recently. Ted vaguely joins in.

Steve and Nancy go to the Holland house and have KFC with Barb’s parents. Nancy asks 
about the for sale sign in their yard, and Mrs.

Holland says that they hired Murray to look into Barb’s disappearance. Mr. Holland says that 
Murray is going to do what Jim hasn’t been capable of doing, and finding Barb. They hope that 
they’ll find Barb, and they’re selling the house to pay for him. Mrs.

Holland says that for the first time, they’re hopeful. Nancy excuses herself and goes to the 
bathroom, upset. There’s a picture of Barb on the counter, and Nancy turns it down and cries.

In the basement, Mike picks his toys for the yard sale and keeps his favorites. He looks over 
at the nest where El stayed, picks up his radio, and calls to El. Mike says that he’s still there 
and asks her to say something if she’s still out there. He gets no response and puts down the 
radio. Dustin calls in and asks what he’s doing on the channel, and says that Max is MADMAX. 
Mike irritably shuts down the radio, and Dustin tells Lucas that they stick with the plan. Lucas 
worries that Mike might not agree but Dustin doesn’t care. He rides to his house and hears 
something digging in the garbage. Dustin figures that it’s the cat and goes inside, and something 
shakes in the garbage can.

Bob takes video of Joyce, saying that it’s the future. Will is drawing a picture of himself as 
Zombie Boy when Jonathan comes in and tells him to pick what video they watch. He sees the 
sketch and Will tells his brother that he’s Zombie Boy. Will insists that everyone treats him like 
he’s going to break, and says that it just makes him feel like more of a freak. Jonathan insists 
that he isn’t, but Will says that he is. After a moment, his brother tells him that he is a freak but 
says that being a freak is the best and he’s the same. Jonathan tells Will that he always hangs 
out with him because they’re best friends. Bob comes by and looks at the videos, picks one, and 
goes.

As Bob and the Byers watch the movie, Jonathan and Will are bored while Bob and Joyce 
laugh. The phone rings and Joyce jumps, and Bob tells her to let it go.

At the facility, a technician is at his console when the alarms go off.

Will goes to the bathroom. Afterward, he hears something rumbling and hears the storm 
outside. The front door opens, revealing the Upside Down, and Will goes outside. Something vast 
and tentacles appears in the sky.

Jim drives out to the forest and avoids the tripwire that he set. He knocks at the door of a 
cabin, and El unlocks the doors. Jim goes to the refrigerator and gets a beer, and discovers she’s 
set out TV dinners. El complains that he didn’t signal because she’s late, and he tells her that he 
won’t be again.
Chapter Ten: The Boy Who Came Back to Life

Season 2
Episode Number: 10
Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Director: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Catherine Curtin (Claudia Henderson), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), Shannon Purser (Barbara Holland), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Chelsea Talmadge (Carol), Sam Ashby (Werewolf), Lynne Ashe (Happy Homeowner), Tonya Bludsworth (Government Agent #1), Danny Boyd Jr. (Grandkid), Karen Ceesay (Mrs. Sinclair), Madelyn Cline (Tina), Jim E Chandler (Government Agent #2), Joe Davison (Nerdy Tech), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair), Sheah Jones (Samantha), John Paul Marston (Government Agent #4), Shannon Mayers (Government Agent #3), Al Mitchell (Eugene), Cameron Newton (Jason Vorhees), Desmond Phillips (Government Agent #6), Cody Pressley (Drunk Teen #1), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), Drew Scheid (Drunk Teen #2), Alex Van (Hunter), Andrew Wilson Williams (Scary Clown), Trey McGriff (Hawkins PD)

Summary: After Will sees something terrible on trick-or-treat night, Mike wonders whether Eleven’s still out there. Nancy wrestles with the truth about Barb.

Eleven, after destroying the Demogorgon, appears in the middle of the school’s Upside Down equivalent. Naturally scared, she runs around the place, calling for Mike, until she finds the hole the Demogorgon went through to come to the real world. Waiting until she can tell there is no one at the other side, she makes a bigger hole with her powers, getting back to the real world. She walks to Mike’s home, but she finds it surrounded by policemen: they are there to warn the family she may be a danger to the family and to warn them if she ever comes around. Two of the agents interrogate Mike, but he tells them he does not know where Eleven is, and even if he did know, he would not be telling them. The agents tell Mike of the danger Eleven represents, and Eleven, who is listening in, runs away, but not before Mike notices she is there: Eleven hides in the forest from the agents.

In the present, Eleven gets dressed as a ghost and asks Hopper to allow her to go trick-or-treating, arguing that no one is going to recognize her with that disguise, but Hopper tells her it is a risk they cannot take, lest she get found and taken away again. Hopper promises to return earlier with candy and then they can watch scary movies.
At the Byers’, Joyce has a small scare when she does not see Will in his bed — he is at the bathroom — and sees a disturbing drawing Will has made of the monster he saw the previous night, but Will lies to her, saying it’s for a story he is writing. But problems are forgotten for a while: it is Halloween, and Dustin, Lucas, Mike and Will are going to school disguised as the Ghostbusters. Mike and Lucas get in a bit of discussion because they are both going as Venkman, but Dustin stops them when he points out no one else is disguised, making them the target of others’ mockery. Dustin and Lucas see Max passing by, and resolve to speak with her later.

Joyce shows Hopper Will’s drawing, noting it matches the sight from her home’s front yard and pointing out that, when Will describes what he sees, it feels to him as if they are real: Hopper says it may actually be Will having flashbacks to his time in the Upside Down. The two reminisce on old times before Hopper leaves.

At the Energy Lab, a technician goes through the gate to the Upside Down to repair the sensors that got fried the previous night. Dr. Owens, though, is not as optimistic as the others, going through his interview with Will while working with a stress ball.

Nancy and Steve are at the high school library, and Nancy has a flashback to her last talk with Barbara when she sees someone that looks like her friend from the back. Steve and her talk, and Nancy tells him she is tired of having to hide the truth from Barb’s parents, but Steve reminds her that they could be sent to prison if they reveal what happened, and suggests they go to that night’s party.

After classes, Dustin and Lucas talk with Max, who appears to be thoroughly unimpressed with their disguises, and they invite her to join them for trick-or-treating, but she does not give them an answer.

At her cabin, Eleven channel-surfs using her powers to change channels, when she hears something outside: a squirrel chattering. Eleven has a flashback to her killing a squirrel to eat, but while she was roasting it she was found by a man wearing heavy winter clothes: using the squirrel as a projectile, she knocked the man out and stole his jacket and cap, running away in the cold.

Hopper arrives to the police station to find a truck full of more rotting pumpkins: the same farmer that was accused in the previous episode of poisoning pumpkins is now accusing the other man of doing the same with his harvest, revealing that all the families selling pumpkins have suffered the same problem.

Max meets with her stepbrother Billy to go home. Billy clearly hates Hawkins, calling it a shithole. The two argue aloud, blaming each other for their being stuck at Hawkins. Angrily, Billy decides to gun his car for Dustin, Lucas and Mike, who are riding their bikes back home, much to Max’s horror, and she forces him to swerve the car just before the boys get hit.

Hopper investigates one of the pumpkin farms and realizes the problem may be a lot bigger than he thought, because there are signs that the rotting may be a sign of something worse.

At the Byers’ home, Bob (who is getting dressed as Dracula) shows Jonathan how to use his video camera so he can film Will’s trick-or-treating. Will says he thinks having Jonathan go with him is lame, and Jonathan tells him he can go with his friends, as long as he returns to Mike’s on time: he decides he might as well go to the Halloween party. At said party, Nancy decides to get shit-faced with a bowl of punch, under Steve’s worried gaze.

At her home, Bob puts on some music and draws Joyce in for a dance. Joyce tells her boyfriend she still worries every time Will goes out of her sight, and Bob puts in that maybe they could take Jonathan and Will and leave for Maine, even implying they could be a normal family but Joyce is reluctant in spite of all the bad memories. The doorbell rings: it’s trick-or-treaters.

The boys are trick-or-treating as well, when they are jumped in by Max, disguised as a killer, who suggests the group to join her and go to Loch Nora, the rich people’s neighborhood. Dustin and Lucas are obviously enthusiastic about joining the new girl, but Mike’s mood heavily sours.

Night falling, Hopper is still marking the rotting plants when he realizes he is late for his ‘date’ with Eleven, buying a kid’s candy so he can at least fulfill that part of his promise. Eleven is waiting for Hopper, watching Frankenstein, when she receives a Morse signal from Hopper, telling her he is going to be late: she flashbacks to last winter, to herself walking through the forest, when she finds the dead drop Hopper made for her back then. Angry, she turns off the radio.
At Loch Nora, the group is getting a lot luckier with their candy, but Mike is not exactly as enthusiastic about Max as Dustin and Lucas are. Will stops for a second while the others get ahead, but when he follows them three elder boys scare him and he falls to the ground, instantly starting to see the Upside Down. Will gets frightened as he sees a huge tentacled shadow creature going after him, and he hides behind a wall, with Mike shaking him from his vision. Mike decides to cut the party short and takes Will home, while Max asks what is going on.

Jonathan arrives to the party, where he talks with a girl disguised as someone from KISS. She flirts with him briefly, but he is not too good at reciprocating. Meanwhile, Nancy is getting drunker by the moment and Steve tries to stop her, but in their struggle he accidentally pours a punch glass over Nancy’s clothes. The two go to the bathroom, and Nancy tells Steve she is fed up with having to pretend everything is alright and being in love. Steve is clearly hurt by this revelation, leaving in a huff, and Jonathan is left worried.

Mike and Will make it back to the former’s home, and Will explains what is happening to him, asking his friend not to tell the others, thinking they would not understand. Mike mentions that Eleven would understand, and that he sometimes feels like she is around. The two share an uneasy smile. Meanwhile, Jonathan brings a drunk Nancy back home, getting her in bed before leaving.

At Eleven’s cabin, Hopper arrives and apologizes for being late, but Eleven gets herself closed in her room with the television, obviously angry because Hopper did not keep his promise. Channel-surfing again, she decides to turn on a point full of static and puts on a bandanna over her ears, inducing herself to go into the void. In here, she sees and hears Mike talking to her through his walkie-talkie, and she makes to touch him, but, while Mike appears to notice she is "close", Eleven fails to make proper contact with him, making her break down in anguish.

Dustin arrives home, and notices the trashcan is shaking again: when he opens it, and peeks in, he sees something he obviously was not expecting for.
Chapter Eleven: The Pollywog

Season 2
Episode Number: 11
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Justin Doble
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Catherine Curtin (Claudia Henderson), Randy Havens (Mr. Clarke), Rob Morgan (Officer Powell), John Reynolds (Officer Callahan), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), Sam Ashby (Werewolf), Lynne Ashe (Happy Homeowner), Cynthia Barrett (Marsha Holland), Harper Cavanaugh (Young Girl), Abigail F. Cowen (Vicki), Bethany DeZelle (Mother), Cameron Newton (Jason Vorhees), Suzanne Jordan Roush (Doris), Drew Scheid (Sweaty Teen Boy), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Christi Waldon (Marissa), Andrew Wilson Williams (Scary Clown), Donna Wright (Elderly Math Teacher), Sage Mayer (Middle School Student), Blake Sewell (Basketball Player), Anna Swiney (Middle School Child)

Summary: Dustin adopts a strange new pet, and Eleven grows increasingly impatient. A well-meaning Bob urges Will to stand up to his fears.

Upon finding the creature inside his garbage, Dustin decides to look after it and names it D’Artagnan, or Dart for short. He decides to show it to his friends, but they’re not totally receptive to this new creature.
Chapter Twelve: Will the Wise

Season 2
Episode Number: 12
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Paul Dichter
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Catherine Curtin (Claudia Henderson), Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Randy Havens (Mr. Clarke), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), Chester Rushing (Tommy H.), James DuMont (Middle-Aged Man), Drew Scheid (Sweaty Teen Boy), Susan Shalhoub Larkin (Florence), Tinsley Price (Holly Wheeler), David A MacDonald (Flame Thrower Soldier)

Summary: An ailing Will opens up to Joyce – with disturbing results. While Hopper digs for the truth, Eleven unearths a surprising discovery.

Dustin, Mike, Lucas, and Max run into Joyce while searching for Will, only to find him catatonic in the field, locked in a standoff with the Mind Flayer. Joyce manages to get through to him just as the Flayer forces some of its tendrils down his throat, and he wakes up. Reluctantly he tells her what happened.

El returns to find Hopper understandably pissed about her little adventure. He tells her that she’s grounded, which means "no more eggos". This escalates into an argument that ends with El letting out a Sonic Scream that shatters all the windows in the house.

Jonathan and Nancy go to see Barb’s parents while Joyce cares for a steadily deteriorating Will. When she takes his temperature and finds it abnormally low, she suggests trying to warm him up, but Will violently refuses, saying that "he likes it cold". Meanwhile, Barb’s parents fail to show up and Nancy and Jonathan are cornered in the park by a group of plain-clothes agents.

Hopper comes to Joyce’s house to find Will sitting in the cold. Will confesses that whatever the Flayer did to him left some part of it behind, allowing him to "know things" that he didn’t before. Joyce sees an old drawing of Will’s D&D character and suggests that, since he can’t articulate exactly what it is the Flayer did to him, he should draw it instead.

Meanwhile, El cleans the house with her increasingly stable powers while the boys (minus Max, to her obvious distress) try to figure out how they can help Will. While cleaning, El discovers a basement with a box labeled "Hawkins Lab".

Dr. Owens explains to Jonathan and Nancy why he had them detained, and shows them the remains of the gate. He tells them that they can’t destroy it, but can beat it back, like pulling weeds. Will continues drawing a series of what look like incomprehensible scribbles, but Joyce figures out that they’re parts of a larger puzzle and begins piecing them together. Assembling
them reveals what looks like a connected series of tunnels or tentacles that Hopper quickly figures out are actually vines. He heads to the pumpkin patch while Max and Lucas argue, and Max’s brother warns her to stay away from him. El finds Terry Ives’s file and attempts to contact her.

Jonathan and Nancy leave the lab and it’s revealed that they’d been planning (or at least prepared) for capture: Nancy taped their conversation with Dr. Owens, recording proof of Barb’s death. She reaffirms that she wants to go through with telling Barb’s mother the truth.

Dustin comes home to find Dart’s tank shattered and a trail of black slime leading to his closet, where he discovers Dart—now clearly an adolescent Demogorgon—devouring his mother’s beloved cat. Hopper’s dig opens up a massive tunnel underneath the pumpkin field that leads into the Upside-Down.
Chapter Thirteen: Dig Dug

Season 2
Episode Number: 13
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Jessie Nickson-Lopez
Director: Andrew Stanton (I)
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner), Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Catherine Curtin (Claudia Henderson), Brett Gelman (Murray Bauman), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), Pruitt Taylor Vince (Ray), Amy Seimetz (Becky Ives), Kerry Cahill (Staff Nurse Caitlin), Matty Cardarople (Keith), Karen Ceessay (Mrs. Sinclair), Cory Chapman (Lab Technician), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair), Paul Vincent Freeman (Security Guard), Virginia Kirby (Motel Owner), Arnell Powell (Mr. Sinclair), Ben Taylor (Friendly Trucker), Alicia Shenreice (Student)

Summary: Nancy and Jonathan swap conspiracy theories with a new ally as Eleven searches for someone from her past. "Bob the Brain" tackles a difficult problem.

Mike comforts Will while Joyce finishes piecing together Will’s drawings. In the Upside-Down, Hopper comes across some sort of growth shaped like the mouth of a Demogorgon. It shoots spores at him and he passes out, while above him the entrance he dug is sealed over with vines. Later, Will wakes from a nightmare to tell Joyce that he thinks Hopper’s in danger. Hopper wakes up, vomiting black sludge, and tries to escape, but realizes he’s been trapped. Unbeknownst to him, thick tentacles follow as he searches for a way out.

Lucas tries to figure out how to apologize to Max, and Dustin tries to catch the immature Demogorgon now living in his closet. El hitchhikes a ride to Terry Ives's house, but can’t get her to respond. Jonathan and Nancy meet up with conspiracy theorist Murray and Nancy corrects his wall of connections about Barb’s fate. Lucas corners Max and starts to tell her the truth about what happened to Will.

Bob arrives at the Byers house while Joyce and Mike try to use Will’s “map” to locate Hopper. Joyce starts to chase him away, but calls him back when she sees that he’s brought some puzzles for Will, realizing he might be able to help them. After some initial confusion, Bob quickly recognizes that Will’s scribblings are actually a map of Hawkins and leads them to Hopper’s location.

In the Upside-Down, Hopper has realized that the Meat Moss surrounding him recoils from fire and uses his cigarette lighter and scraps of his jacket to fashion a torch, which he uses to
clear a small window. Dustin buries his mother’s cat and tries to get rid of all the evidence of his mistake, all the while trying to get in contact with his various friends.

Becky tries to get to know Eleven a little better, and shows her the room Terry kept for her. She offers to let El stay, and just as El cautiously accepts, the lights start to flicker. El follows them through the house to Terry, where she finds her mother still in a trance with blood running from her nose.

Will, Mike, Bob and Joyce try to triangulate Hopper’s location. Joyce and the boys rush off, with a confused Bob hurriedly following behind. At Mike’s house, Dustin fails to find any of his friends, but does manage to press-gang a very bewildered Steve into joining him. An exhausted Hopper collapses and is immediately swarmed and bound by tentacles.

Max doesn’t believe Lucas’s story and rushes off, but Murray believes Jonathan and Nancy’s, and the three work together to try and figure out how to get their evidence public without it immediately being discounted. At the lab, Dr. Owens and his team discover that the dirt from the infected pumpkin patches has some strange Hive Mind like qualities, while at Terry’s house, El continues to try and contact her mother. She doesn’t get through to Terry, but sees memories of her birth and of what Papa did to make her forget.

Joyce and Bob head into the tunnels to rescue Hopper, leaving Will and Mike on the surface. While the adults search, a fleet of Hawkins Electric vans arrive and surround Joyce and Hopper’s cars. Bob and Joyce find Hopper and cut him free, but are surrounded by tentacles. They turn around to find one of the Hawkins Lab scientists armed with a flamethrower. He covers their retreat and starts burning back the attacking vines, which causes Will to collapse, seizing violently and screeching in a way that’s not entirely human. Smash cut to credits.
Chapter Fourteen: The Spy

Season 2
Episode Number: 14
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Kate Trefry
Director: Andrew Stanton (I)
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)
Guest Stars: Brett Gelman (Murray Bauman), Helen Abell (Radar Tech), Brian Brightman (MP Guard #1), Kristopher Charles (MP Guard #2), Joe Davison (Nerdy Tech), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair), Sheena Kharazmi (Exam Room Nurse), Mary Kraft (E.R. Doctor), Brian Lafontaine (Doctor #2), Wendel A. Matthews (Lead Rift Soldier), Brandon O'Dell (Neurologist), Vince Pisani (Doctor #1), Michael Shenefelt (Rift Soldier #2), James Michael Smith (Flame Thrower)

Summary: Will’s connection to a shadowy evil grows stronger but no one’s quite sure how to stop it. Elsewhere, Dustin and Steve forge an unlikely bond.

Will is rushed to the hospital, burning up from the inside. Steve and Dustin take the bat from season one to try and deal with Dart, but discover that he’s grown again and tunneled his way free of the basement. At the hospital, Joyce argues with the doctors, who can’t tell her exactly what’s wrong with Will, while Jonathan, Nancy and Murray make copies of the recording of Dr. Owen. As it’s getting late, Murray says they can spend the night, and after some back-and-forth Nancy and Jonathan kiss and go to bed together.

Hopper is still sick from his time in the Upside-Down, but Dr. Owen arrives with a hazmat suit, saying there’s something Hopper should see. They take an elevator down and we see that the gate Eleven created is now the size of a skyscraper, leading down to a huge network of tunnels that Dr. Owen says is continuing to spread. When Hopper asks why the scientists haven’t burned it back, Dr. Owen says there’s a "complication".

While Will sleeps, Joyce brings Bob up to speed. He takes it pretty well in stride, saying he thought stuff like this only happened in science fiction, and brings up moving to Maine again. Before Joyce, who is obviously still torn, can respond, Will wakes and calls out to her. Bob calls for a doctor, and when he returns, Will asks who he is, completely unable to remember him.

Murray very smugly makes Jonathan and Nancy breakfast, sends them on their way with a bottle of vodka, tells them not to contact him again, and slams the door in their faces.

Lucas sneaks Max out past his abusive stepbrother with an offer of proof about his story. In the hospital, Dr. Owen determines that Will remembers Mike and Joyce, but not him, Bob, or Hopper. He does remember the soldiers “hurting him,” which inspires Dr. Owen to bring in
a severed piece of tentacle. When the tentacle is burned, Will cries out in pain. Dr. Owen tells Joyce he thinks it’s some kind of hive-minded virus that’s connecting all the hosts, but promises that it can be cured.

Steve and Dustin have a heart-to-heart while laying bait for Dart, unwittingly crossing over the line of corruption marked by Hopper and his men. Hopper apologizes to Eleven over the radio, unaware that she’s still with her aunt and mother. In the office above, the doctors discuss how Will’s brain is being altered by the Mind Flayer at an alarming rate. They insist that they can’t keep putting off burning back the expanding corruption, even if it kills Will, but Dr. Owens refuses. While Joyce demands to know what’s going on upstairs, Will tells Mike he thinks he knows how to stop the monster.

Steve and Dustin continue laying their meat-crumbs trail to the abandoned yard where Hopper and the kids once hid from the helicopters, where they’re caught up by Lucas and Max. Jonathan and Nancy arrive at the Byers house to find it empty and covered in drawings. While investigating, Jonathan finds a Polaroid case and realizes that someone else has been there.

Using the polaroids the agents took, Will searches his map and finds a place the Mind Flayer doesn’t want him to see, saying he doesn’t know what’s there but that it must be important. While Dustin and co prepare for Dart’s arrival, soldiers descend into the tunnels, following Will’s instructions.

Night falls and Lucas and Max talk on the roof of the bus, which they’ve converted into a makeshift fort, but are interrupted by Dart’s arrival. The young Demogorgon seems reluctant to take the bait, though, so Steve takes the bat and goes out to meet him. However, Dart’s got company: three other adolescent Demogorgons have Steve surrounded. They chase him inside the bus and batter their way in, but at the last minute something seems to distract them, and they vanish into the night.

In the Upside-Down, the soldiers reach the junction Will mentioned. Hopper recognizes it as the place he was entombed just as an Ominous Fog of Doom rolls in. Will tearfully apologizes, saying that the Mind Flayer made him send the soldiers into a trap and repeating that they shouldn’t have upset him. Demogorgons descend on the group of soldiers, while the scientists watch helplessly from the control room. On the radar, dozens of red dots leave the junction and swarm down a single tunnel. Will tells Joyce to run, right as the first hand emerges from the scientists’ shaft.
Chapter Fifteen: The Lost Sister

Season 2

Episode Number: 15
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Justin Doble
Director: Rebecca Thomas
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Matthew Modine (Dr. Martin Brenner), Linnea Berthelsen (Kali), Kai Greene (Funshine), James Landry Hébert (Axel), Anna Jacoby-Heron (Dottie), Gabrielle Maiden (Mick), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), Pruitt Taylor Vince (Ray), Amy Seimetz (Becky Ives), Avis-Marie Barnes (Elderly Woman), Alan Boell (Adams), Keith Brooks (Gas Station Clerk), Paul Vincent Freeman (Security Guard), Jarrett Michael Collins (Swat Member #1), Vanathi Parthiban (Young Kali), Thomas Tull (Man on Street), Wes Kidd (Swat Member #2), Pj McDonnell (Mentally Ill Man), Juan Gaspard (Homeless person), John Kaler (Chicago Pd Officer Provazoli), John Archer Lundgren (Homeless bum), Matthew Excel Simmons (Hip Hop member)

Summary: Psychic visions draw Eleven to a band of violent outcasts and an angry girl with a shadowy past.

Picking up from the previous episode, Eleven’s psychic conversation with Terry reveals that Eleven wasn’t always alone in the Hawkins lab — there was another little girl like her. Becky gives Eleven the files that Terry kept on missing children cases that were potentially linked to Eleven’s, and Eleven recognizes the face of an Indian girl in a newspaper clipping. Eleven tries to use her powers to find the girl, but is unable to do so except in flashes, and that night she wakes up to hear Becky on the phone with Florence (the Hawkins Police Department receptionist), trying to get ahold of Hopper.

Eleven steals money from Becky’s purse and buys a bus ticket to Chicago.

Eleven reaches Chicago and visual clues from her psychic flashes lead her to a rundown industrial neighborhood, where she finds the gang of thieves from the first episode. Their leader is Kali — the girl from the newspaper clipping, who has 008 tattooed on her wrist. Kali introduces Eleven to her Ragtag Band of Misfits and makes a display of her own abilities, which include creating powerful illusions and visual hallucinations. After instructing Eleven on how to channel her powers with rage, she invites Eleven to go on a mission with her gang.

The mission consists of tracking down one of the employees of Hawkins lab, a man who tormented Kali as a child and played a part in erasing Terry Ives’ mind. Eleven uses her powers
to track him to an apartment complex in a nearby town. The man does not recognize them until Kali uses her powers to make him see them as little girls. He begs for mercy, claiming that he was only following Dr. Brenner’s orders and that he can tell the girls where Dr. Brenner is, confusing Eleven, who believed Brenner to be dead. Kali encourages Eleven to kill the man, but Eleven can’t go through with it after finding out that the man’s children are in the next room over. Kali then decides to kill the man herself, but Eleven tears the gun out of her hand. Axel finds out the man’s children have already called the police, who arrive and force Kali’s gang to flee to their hideout. In the van, Kali angrily tells Eleven that if she doesn’t want to kill someone from the Lab, that’s her choice; but not to interfere with Kali doing the same.

Back in Chicago, Kali torments Eleven with a vision of Dr. Brenner, telling her to find the resolve to avenge her mother or to leave. Eleven has a vision of Mike and Hopper at the lab as the demodogs spring their trap. Police arrive at the hideout, and the gang has to try and make a break for it. Kali holds off the police with a massive illusion, but when Eleven refuses to escape with them Kali’s powers begin to falter. Eleven and the gang go their separate ways, with Eleven returning to Hawkins to save her friends.
Chapter Sixteen: The Mind Flayer

Season 2
Episode Number: 16
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Director: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)
Guest Stars: Helen Abell (Radar Tech), Linnea Berthelsen (Roman), Brian Brightman (M.P. Guard #1), Kristopher Charles (MP Guard #2), Will Chase (Neil Mayfield), Joe Davison (Nerdy Tech), Jennifer Marshall (Susan Hargrove)
Summary: An unlikely hero steps forward when a deadly development puts the Hawkins lab on lockdown, trapping Will and several others inside.

An army of Demodogs erupt out of the tunnels and begin breaking through into the rest of the Hawkins Lab. Mike realizes that the creatures are homing in on Will, and Joyce sedates him to throw them off. The power to the lab fails, and the resultant computer crash leads to all the Lab’s exterior doors locking automatically and the group being trapped in a security office on the upper floors, with the circuit breakers and computer system needed to escape of course being in the basement. But with the creatures having free run of the facility, heading down there is a risky move; Hopper volunteers, but Bob points out that Hopper knows nothing about computers and that he has to be the one to go instead.

At Billy and Max’s house, his dad and her mom return as Billy is preparing to go out on a date; Max’s mom finds out she’s gone, and Billy’s dad angrily confronts his son about not watching her. Billy protests that they’ve been gone for days and that she’s probably just at the arcade, but his father slams him into the wall and slaps him, then orders him to go find her.

Meanwhile, Steve, Dustin, Lucas, and Max track Dart and the other Demogorgons to the Lab, where they meet Nancy and Jonathan who have arrived looking for Jonathan’s family. With the power off, the gate is locked; those outside have no hope of helping those in the lab until the power comes back on.

Bob manages to reset the breakers and restore power to the lab, then accesses the computer to unlock the doors. Owens stays in the security room to watch the monitors and guide Bob out, while Hopper, Joyce, Mike and Will are able to take a more direct route to escape. Just after they make it outside, Bob is nearly caught by a Demodog, but manages to make it to the lobby — only to be attacked and killed by another one as Hopper runs back in and grabs Joyce.

At the main entrance, the gate has finally opened, and Jonathan drives up the road to rescue his family, Hopper and Mike. They tear out of the Lab, with Hopper stopping to pick up the other kids in his truck, and head for the Byers house.
At the house, Hopper is frustrated by his telephone conversation with a government official, warning whoever it is that most of the Hawkins Lab staff are dead. Mike comes up with the idea of using Will to tell them how to kill the shadow monster, pointing out that he can’t tell it where the others are if he doesn’t know. Hopper tosses all the stuff out of Joyce’s storage shed, while everyone else uses blankets, curtains and cardboard to cover the walls so that Will won’t recognize it. They wake Will up and try to question him, but he is too deep in the monster’s grip to respond...verbally, at least. Hopper notices Will’s hand tapping against a chair leg, and realizes it’s Morse Code: the message spells out “HERE”; Will is trying to communicate.

They go back out and talk to Will about the past, and he is able to signal the way to defeat the monsters: the gate to the Upside-Down has to be closed somehow. The ringing of the Byers phone clues the monster in to where they are, and it sends the Demodogs. Joyce sedates Will again and the group gather in the house, with Hopper, Nancy, Lucas and Steve holding their weapons at the ready. They hear the Demodogs approach, then one yelps in pain before it comes crashing through the front window. Hopper hesitantly checks to make sure it’s dead, then everyone immediately focuses on the creaking porch. The deadbolt turns, the chain undoes itself, and the door opens as Eleven walks in, having returned to Hawkins.
Chapter Seventeen: The Gate

Season 2
Episode Number: 17
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Friday October 27, 2017
Writer: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Director: Ross Duffer, Matt Duffer
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Sean Astin (Bob Newby), Paul Reiser (Dr. Sam Owens)

Guest Stars: Avis-Marie Barnes (Elderly Woman), Linnea Berthelsen (Roman), Evan Brinkman (Middle School Boy), Kara Brooke (Middle School Student), Camden Ella Brown (Middle School Girl), Sydney Bullock (Stacey), Joe Chrest (Ted Wheeler), Erin Bradley Dangar (Chaperone / Teacher), Emma Dempster (Dancer), Emma Faith (Middle School Student (2017)), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair), Mikayla Fields (Middle School Student), Brett Gelman (Murray Bauman), Randy Havens (Mr. Clarke), Lindsey Heilman (Middle School Dancer), Audrey Hope (Middle School Student), Gage Lawson (Middle School Student), Marcelle LeBlanc (Cute Girl), Aimee Mullins (Terry Ives), Warren Quandt (Middle School Boy), Kassidy Slaughter (Dancer (2017)), Diamond Wilson (Townsperson)

Summary: Eleven makes plans to finish what she started while the survivors turn up the heat on the monstrous force that’s holding Will hostage.

Three hundred and fifty-three days after the fight against the Demogorgon, Mike and Eleven finally hug amidst Tears of Joy. Mike says he never stopped trying to contact her, and Eleven says that she knows; she heard every one of his attempts. Mike is confused as to why she didn’t respond, but Hopper reveals he was the one who kept her from doing so. Mike begins to yell at Hopper, but Hopper pulls him into Will’s bedroom so they can talk in private. Hopper tells Mike not to blame Eleven for her silence, and Mike angrily retorts that he doesn’t blame Eleven; he blames Hopper, which Hopper says is fine. Mike shouts at Hopper and punches him for keeping Eleven away and saying nothing to him or his friends, before breaking down and being embraced by the older man. Out the living room, Eleven is welcomed by the rest of the group - though she spurns Max — and then she sees Will’s message, "CLOSE GATE". Knowing that it is their only chance to put an end to all the supernatural troubles in Hawkins, Eleven convinces Hopper to let her go to the lab so she can close the gate. However, the group theorizes that, when the gate is closed, all the Mind Flayer’s servants in the real dimension would die, and Will, being possessed by the extradimensional being, could end up dying as well. Joyce remembers how Will said “he” doesn’t like warmth, with Nancy and Jonathan suggesting they can force the Mind Flayer out of Will’s body by warming him up.
The group divides in three: Hopper and Eleven (who has an Almost Kiss with Mike interrupted by Hopper) go to the Lab to close the gate, while Jonathan, Joyce and Nancy (at Steve’s suggestion) take Will to Hopper’s cabin (improving on the storage shed plan from last episode; Will really doesn’t know where the cabin is, and so can’t clue the Flayer in) while Steve stays at the Byers with the other kids. On the way to the Lab, Hopper asks Eleven where she went, saying he isn’t mad at her, he only wants to know. Eleven tells him she went to see Terry (but leaves out her trip to Chicago), and Hopper apologizes for his lies, saying he was only trying to keep her safe. While talking he mentions his daughter Sara, who Eleven never knew about, and admits that he was mainly afraid of losing Eleven the way he did her. Hopper and Eleven apologize for their previous actions and admit they both acted stupid, with Hopper snarking that means they each broke the rule. Hopper then agrees that Eleven’s new look is “bitchin”.

Dustin convinces Steve to preserve the dead demo-dog for scientific study, but Steve counters that Dustin is going to be the one explaining to Joyce why it’s in her fridge. Mike paces in agitation despite Lucas’ insistence that he relax; Mike is worried about Eleven’s chances for survival against the dozens of demo-dogs he saw in the lab. He then hits on the idea of going to the place Hopper found and burning it down: this should attract the attention of the Mind Flayer and the demo-dogs, thus freeing the way for Eleven and Hopper. However, Steve is taking his task of protecting the kids very seriously, and vetoes the idea.

Unknown to them, trouble approaches in the form of Billy, who has managed to sweet-talk Mrs. Wheeler into telling him where Max could be. Steve tries to make Billy believe Max is not there, but he sees her looking through the window and pushes his way in, deciding to threaten Lucas so he will stop trying to be friends with Max. Lucas answers with a Groin Attack, and Steve steps in, punching the daylight out of Billy. The fight initially seems to go in Steve’s favor, but then Billy smashes a dish on Steve’s head and turns the tables, threatening to kill him. Before he can make good on his threat, Max jumps in and stabs her brother with a syringe full of sedative, leaving him groggy: she then threatens him with Steve’s nail bat if he won’t leave her and her friends alone, burying it in the floor just below his crotch to make her point; Billy agrees to do so just before he passes out.

At Eleven’s cabin, Jonathan, Joyce and Nancy build a fire in the fireplace and turn on all the heating units, pointing them at Will, who begins to scream as the Mind Flayer in him reacts to the heat.

Meanwhile, at the Energy Lab, Eleven and Hopper find a surprisingly still-living Dr. Owens. Hopper makes a tourniquet to stop his bleeding from the leg, and introduces him and Eleven to each other, while snarkily asking the doctor if he could do something good for the girl, since she is going to be closing the gate.

Steve awakens from unconsciousness in pain and in Billy’s car, which is being driven by Max towards the hole in the ground at Merril’s pumpkin farm. A few close calls notwithstanding, she gets the group safely to their objective, and, under Steve’s strenuous objections, they all go down the hole with several cans of gasoline, protective glasses and face coverings to filter the tunnel’s air. Steve joins them and takes charge of the group, deciding he might as well follow the kids’ plan, but that since it’s his ass on the line if any of them get hurt, he might as well be the one in front. The group reaches the hub and begins to spread gasoline all over the place, and Steve ignites it up with his lighter, burning the place down and causing great damage and pain to the Mind Flayer.

At the cabin, Jonathan, disturbed by the fact the plan does not seem to work, tries to untie his brother, but Joyce stops him. Nancy points at Will’s neck: something black is moving up Will’s body, covering part of his face and neck: the Mind Flayer empowers Will so he can break the rope tying one of his hands and tries to unknot the other, but when Joyce stops him the Mind Flayer begins to strangle her, with Jonathan unable to break Will’s grip. Nancy stops the Mind Flayer by burning Will with a red-hot poker, and finally the parasitic presence is driven out of Will’s body.

Steve and the kids begin to run for the way out of the tunnels, but they meet a Demo-dog on the way: Dustin sees the yellow markings on his hindquarters and recognizes that it’s Dart. Dustin manages to keep the creature from attacking them by showing his face and offering him several Three Musketeers bars. Dart lets them pass, and Dustin says goodbye.

At the Lab, Eleven and Hopper have reached the place where she accidentally opened the gate, which is now big enough that it extends hundreds of feet down from the surface. When Jonathan calls Hopper to tell him of their successful exorcism, the two take the elevator and descend into
the shaft. Hopper stops it halfway down and Eleven begins to draw on her powers to force the gate closed.

The kids run through the tunnels, followed by the sound of the Demo-dogs. Steve manages to get Max, Lucas and Mike out of the hole, but there is not enough time for Dustin and Steve to follow, so Steve stands in front of Dustin, ready to protect him with his own life. Much to their surprise, the Demo-dogs ignore them, running through the tunnels around the duo, and Mike realizes that they must be going after Eleven.

While Eleven continues to push her powers, she and Hopper notice a shadow moving on the other side of the gate, obviously wanting to keep it open. A Demo-dog then jumps on the elevator, but Hopper manages to drive it and several others off with his assault rifle and his shotgun. Eleven uses the lessons Kali gave her to go further than she ever has, and the gate begins to visibly close down. The Mind Flayer attempts a last-ditch attack aimed at possessing Eleven, but she uses her power to shield herself and begins to float. The headlights of Billy's car and Hopper's cabin begin to shine brighter, and finally Eleven forces the gate closed. All the Demo-dogs die, as does everything the Mind Flayer left in our world, and Hopper holds an exhausted Eleven close.

One month later, the tape Nancy and Jonathan got has gone public, causing a scandal that forced the Army to close down the Hawkins Lab, and Barbara's parents finally get closure over their daughter's disappearance. Hopper meets with Dr. Owens (now mostly recovered from his injuries) at a diner, and Owens gives him a present: he has forged a number of papers as evidence that Hopper is Eleven's father (her legal name now being Jane Hopper), but advises him to keep her close for at least another year. Hopper asks him if an exception can be made for one night. That night is the Snow Ball. The Party gets well dressed for the occasion, with Will (who has made a drawing of "Bob Newby, superhero", to commemorate his mother's boyfriend's sacrifice) learning how to dance from Joyce, Mike once more embarrassed by his mother's insistence of taking photos of him, Lucas training his 'wanna dance' come-ons and Dustin styling his hair with some of the hairspray Steve recommended. Steve drives Dustin to the Ball and gives him some late advice before he goes in. Steve looks at Nancy — who is chaperoning the event — with longing before departing.

Dustin arrives to find Lucas, Max, Mike and Will, all of whom comment on his '80s Hair, before the DJ begins playing Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time". Lucas awkwardly tries to ask Max to dance before she interrupts saying yes, and another girl decides to ask Will to dance with her. Dustin tries to approach two other girls to ask for a dance, but the first laughs at him and the second just ignores him. Nancy sees him sitting on the bleachers and decides to dance with him, claiming he is her favorite out of Mike's friends, and that the middle-school girls might be ignoring him now, but by high school they'll change their minds. Outside, the understandably still-overprotective Joyce is giving Will some space by staying in the parking lot, where she is joined by Hopper. They share one of Hopper's cigarettes and he asks how she is dealing with Bob's death. Joyce admits that she's making progress, and Hopper consoles her by saying that each day it will be a little easier, then he pulls her in for a comforting embrace.

Meanwhile, Mike is sitting alone when Eleven comes in, wearing a dress and makeup, and smiling when she sees Mike. The two of them hug, and Mike tells her she is beautiful before asking her to dance. Eleven admits she does not know how, and Mike says he doesn't either, suggesting they learn together. As they all dance, Lucas and Max share their First Kiss, Mike and Eleven share a short but heartfelt kiss, and everyone enjoys the night.

But, at the Upside Down's version of Hawkins Middle School, the Mind Flayer waits, ready to claim revenge...
Season Three
Chapter One: Suzie, Do You Copy?

Season 3
Episode Number: 18
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: The Duffer Brothers
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair),

Guest Stars: Caroline Arapoglou (Winnie), Jake Busey (Bruce), Catherine Clifton (Neighbor), Jaleal Clifton (Neighbor), Linzy Clifton (Core Town’s Person), Erika Coleman (Anna Jacobi), Emma Crockett (Pool Goer), Cary Elwes (Mayor Larry Kline), Jeffery Firment (Newsman), Abby Glover (New Cute Girl), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Dakota James Alden Lane (Lifeguard / Mall Goer), Olan Montgomery (Newsman #1), Andy Morales (Mall Shopper / Car Driver), Anniston Price (Holly), Francesca Reale (Heather), Todd Layne Thompson (Myron Janitor / Sweeper), Benjamin Weaver (Ground Round Employee), Conrad Carpenter (HAZMAT Scientist), Charles Casey (Newman), Jack Kidd (Hawkins Resident), Shawn South (Core Hawkins Resident)

Summary: Summer brings new jobs and budding romance. But the mood shifts when Dustin’s radio picks up a Russian broadcast, and Will senses something is wrong.

In 1984, several Soviet scientists attempt to create a Gate to the Upside Down. Although a small portal is successfully created, the ray opening the portal begins to fail, closing the gate before exploding, killing many nearby scientists. A Soviet general, disappointed with the progress, has one of the scientists killed for failure while giving the remaining scientist only one year to finish, before heading out of the facility in a helicopter.

Fast forwarding to 1985, El and Mike Wheeler are seen passionately kissing in Hopper’s cabin while Hopper himself watches TV. He notices them kissing and objects about a “three-inch minimum” before El closes the door telekinetically long enough for them to separate and get into position reading some comic books. Mike then departs and promises to see El tomorrow.

Arriving at the Starcourt Mall to meet an impatient Lucas, along with Max Mayfield and Will Byers, they head in to see a movie while Lucas complains about Mike ignoring his friends to “make out”. They arrive at an ice cream shop where Steve Harrington is working, and he ushers them in through back hallways to sneak into the movie theater for free, specifically to see a film called Day of the Dead.
Before the movie truly begins however, the projector wears out. The entirety of the mall also loses power, followed by seemingly the entire city of Hawkins, power grids failing across the town one by one. Over at Brimborn Steel Works, an amorphous mass very similar to the Mind Flayer’s form in the Upside Down is slowly coalescing, right before the power is restored.

As Day of the Dead rumbles back to play, Will starts having flashbacks of his possession by the Mind Flayer, until Mike snaps him out of it. Back at the Byers house, Nancy and Jonathan are just waking up, their clocks having been reset during the power outage. Nancy flees out the window while Jonathan prepares for work, and together they drive to drop Nancy off at her Hawkins Post job while Jonathan heads to his.

Meanwhile Dustin Henderson returns home after being away a month, none of his old friends responding to his radio calls. Sitting in his room, Dustin remarks how his turtle is the only one happy he is home, just before all of his toys spontaneously come to life and start moving out of his room in a procession, seemingly of their own volition but actually under the control of El. Dustin grabs hair spray and follows them, ready to attack and telling himself that it’s all a dream, before they suddenly stop moving. As Dustin investigates, El, Max, Lucas, Mike, and Will come out from behind a wall with a large “welcome home” poster and surprise him, causing Dustin to freak out and spray Lucas in the face with hair spray.

At the Hawkins Community Pool, Billy Hargrove now has a new job as a life guard, where several moms including Karen Wheeler ogle him. Meanwhile in downtown, local businesses are struggling to compete with the Starcourt Mall, and Jim Hopper enters Melvald’s General Store where Joyce Byers works. Hopper complains about how Mike Wheeler is “corrupting” El, and that they should break up because their kissing is “constant”, although Joyce tells him to calm down. She suggests that he have a “heart to heart” with them rather than ordering them about, and tutors him in what to say.

Nancy meanwhile arrives at her job for The Hawkins Post, bringing food to them. Nancy tries to get them to take up a story about local businesses closing, but the journalists merely laugh at her because she didn’t put mustard on one of their hamburgers. Back at Henderson house, Dustin is building a new, powerful radio to be able to talk to his new girlfriend, Suzie, all around the world. This intrigues Mike, El, and the others, all rushing to meet his new girlfriend.

At Scoops Ahoy, Steve is flirting with customers, dropping change and stumbling. Then he asks to hang out and they say no, so his co-worker tallies another point on the ‘You Suck’ side of the ‘Do You Suck?’ tally. He blames it on the hat that he is obligated to wear, and when the next girls walk in, he says, “Screw company policy,” and throws the hat away to talk to them and tries to hard to make a good impression. They laugh at him and his co-worker tallies another negative point.

Hopper tries unsuccessfully to get Joyce Byers to go on a date while the Party heads to the top of a hill to construct Dustin’s powerful radio. Mike and El excuse themselves, citing “curfew” even at 4 PM, while the rest of the gang heads on. Will however, is still uneasy, and rats walk past his feet. All around the city rats are congregating at Brimborn Steel Works, where they explode gruesomely.

Back at the Hawkins Community Pool, Billy continues to hit on Karen Wheeler, and he offers to teach her “swimming lessons” in private, at the Motel 6 pool where it is “very quiet”. Although initially hesitant, Karen eventually accepts. Once more on the hill with Dustin however, the party successfully completes Dustin’s advanced radio to call out to Suzie, but Suzie does not answer.

At the Byers house, Joyce Byers eats alone, watching TV, remembering the shows she used to watch with Bob Newby, before he heroically died the previous year. Mysteriously, all the magnets in the house begin to fail at the same time before cutting away to Nancy Wheeler, as she cleans up in The Hawkins Post. Nancy receives a tip about diseased rats, and seizes upon this as an opportunity to become a true journalist. Hopper however, has a long talk with Mike about “boundaries” in order for him to continue dating El.

Just after the rest of the Party leaves Dustin behind, Dustin picks up Russian encoded communications on his radio. The Soviet scientists have once again rebuilt their ray, and they are using it to open another Gate to the Upside Down. Worse, as Karen and Billy head toward the Motel, Billy hits some kind of Upside Down creature on the road and crashes his car just outside Brimborn Steel Works. He is then dragged inside by some vines, to where the rats had been congregating.
Billy Hargrove phones for help, but ends up in the Upside Down. Billy manages to seemingly "escape" from Brimborn Steel Works, fleeing in terror to his car to then get away. Arriving at a payphone, Billy dials 911 but then has flashbacks of being taken by the creatures in the Steel Works. The power in the phone booth appears to fail, and Billy finds himself in the Upside Down, approached by a shadowy group of people. He asks what they want, until he sees a complete reflection of himself approach.

In Hopper’s cabin, El calls Mike to ask why he hasn’t come over. Mike hurriedly lies about his nana taking a turn for the worse despite the original false alarm, requiring him not to see El that day, and Hopper is pleased to see that there is now some distance between the pair. Ecstatic, he celebrates with Joyce Byers at Melvald’s General Store and pressures her into going to dinner with him before being called away to deal with a mob protesting the Starcourt Mall. Joyce however, is still confused by all the magnets no longer working.

At The Hawkins Post, Nancy manages to get off work to chase down a lead about diseased rats, taking Jonathan. Concurrently, Dustin meets up with Steve Harrington at Scoops Ahoy,
relaying that he has found secret Russian communications, and that they can be heroes for reporting it if only Steve helps translate.

Also at the same time, El finds Max to talk about "boyfriend" issues, and despite El's belief that "friends don't lie", Max assures her that boyfriends lie all the time. Mike himself knows that El sees through the deception, but is too scared of Hopper to change course. Lucas tells Mike that he handled it very poorly, and indeed Max tells El to stop calling Mike and to ignore his calls, to "treat him like garbage" until he explains himself, and if he doesn't, to dump him. Meanwhile, Mike continues to agonize over his mishandling, but Lucas reassures him that he can make up for his mistake, just as El and Max head out to "have some fun".

At the Hawkins Community Pool, Karen leaves Jill behind to ask after Billy, as she had not come that night and did not realize that Billy also didn't come due to his crash. Billy, drenched in sweat, vividly imagines cracking Karen's head open on the side of the storage racks, but controls himself and turns to face her, telling her to "stay away from me Karen". He heads out into the sunlight, but the light and heat blind and hurt him, and he becomes disoriented, every sound stabbing at his ears.

Back at Scoops Ahoy, Dustin and Steve have only just managed to create a Cyrillic-to-Latin analogue for the differences in alphabets between English and Russian. Frustrated by Erica, Robin asks to help translate because she's bored out of her mind, being fluent in four languages and having been in band for twelve years. She has Steve take over the store while she helps with the project.

Arriving at Mrs. Driscoll's house, Nancy and Jonathan to inquire after her report of diseased rats. Driscoll tells of how she likes the quiet since her husband past, "or at least I did", before showing the pair her basement. All her fertilizer bags are full of holes, ripped open by rats, all of the fertilizer within eaten. Although Nancy is skeptical of the situation, Driscoll says she assumed the rats had rabies and that people should be made aware of the hazard. A loud bang interrupts them, and Driscoll takes them to a cage; she caught one of the rats.

The protests on city hall continue, protesters chanting "[Mayor] Kline's a swine". Larry Kline calls Hopper in to talk with him, saying that the Starcourt Mall has brought in new stores that Hawkins loves, causing them to shop there instead of at mom and pop stores, what he terms "good old fashioned American capitalism", to which Hopper fires back that they're just exercising their "good old fashioned American right to protest". Kline says he agrees, if they had a permit, which they do not, and so orders Hopper to disperse the crowd. Hopper objects that it would be bad for his re-election campaign, but Kline is unconcerned, saying that the party he intends to throw on Independence Day is all that the voters will remember.

Max and El arrive at the Starcourt Mall to go shopping, while Mike also happens to arrive at the Mall looking for something "pretty and shiny" that says "I'm sorry". Concurrently, Joyce heads to meet Scott Clarke several books in hand, while Jonathan spends time photographing the hyperactive rat captured in Mrs. Driscoll's basement. Above, Nancy finally finds a lead just as the rat goes into convulsions, pulling him away to depart just before the power flickers and the rat explodes. The exploded rat flesh then begins to slide out of the cage of its own volition, slowly coalescing into a new creature.

Still at the pool, Billy has flashbacks to his time in the Upside Down, where the "other" Billy told him to "build", to build "what you see here", which Billy does not understand. Snapping back awake, Billy realizes that the flesh he exposed to sunlight is literally burning, and he leaves his lifeguard post to take a shower. He notices then that dark veins are appearing on his arm, growing, and painful disjointed voices begin whispering into his head. He screams, and the other lifeguard comes to him, appearing to say "take me to him" until yet another hallucination wears off and she asks if he's hurt and needs an ambulance, but rather than answer, he attacks her.

Back at the mall, El and Max are going on a shopping spree while Mike struggles to find an affordable "I'm sorry" gift for El. They finally bump into each other outside the Mall, with El demanding to why Mike "treated her like garbage", but Mike says nothing in order to be safe from Hopper, so El dumps him. Hopper on the other hand, makes his way to his dinner with Joyce and orders an assortment of expensive drinks, but Joyce doesn't show.

Joyce is still with Scott Clarke, who tutors her on electromagnetic fields. Learning that an unstable field can stop magnets from functioning, Joyce asks how this could be happening at her her house and Melvald's General Store. Clarke suggests "apophenia", coincidence, but says that theoretically it could take a massively powerful, high-voltage, and expensive machine to
create a similarly unstable field large enough to spread throughout the area.

At the Starcourt Mall, Robin finishes translating the Russian message: "The week is long, the silver cat feeds, when blue meets yellow in the West". Together with Dustin they determine that it is encoded, but Steve figures out the exact same song on the radio came from a toy ride in the Mall itself. Since the toy ride was the "Indiana Flyer", Steve thinks the recording was not from Russia, but rather from within that very mall.

Hopper angrily leaves the fancy restaurant while Billy drives back to Brimborn Steel Works, the lifeguard he attacked tied up and gagged in the trunk of his car. He takes her unconscious form into the steel mill, where a fleshy monster awaits.
Chapter Three: The Case of the Missing Lifeguard

Season 3
Episode Number: 20
Season Episode: 3

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: William Bridges
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair),

Guest Stars: Jake Busey (Bruce), Caroline Arapoglou (Winnie), Warren Quandt (Pool Boy), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Olan Montgomery (Newsman #1), Erika Coleman (Anna Jacoby), Dakota James Alden Lane (Lifeguard), Chris Jablon (Pool Goer), Mark Randle (Protesters)

Summary: With El and Max looking for Billy, Will declares a day without girls. Steve and Dustin go on a stakeout, and Joyce and Hopper return to Hawkins Lab.

Max and El eavesdrop on Mike Wheeler and Lucas Sinclair using El’s powers, discovering them belching and passing gas, before Hopper arrives drunk. Pleasantly surprised to see Max instead of Mike, Hopper leaves to watch TV while Max and El play "spin the bottle" to figure out who to spy on. They land on Max’s step-brother Billy Hargrove. Spying on him, El notices him talking to Heather, just before the monster attacks her. As she screams however, Billy notices El spying on him, and turns to face her before she vanishes.

While El is distraught by what she’s seen, Will Byers however is in a much more festive mood at the Wheeler house, declaring a "day without girls" to just play Dungeons & Dragons. Meanwhile Hopper sobers up in the shower until Joyce Byers shows up trying to explain what is happening with electromagnetic fields, and for the third time in the series Hopper initially disbelieves her. Angry because Joyce didn’t go out with him, he continuously rants until he discovers that Joyce has left and intends to head there on her own, and although he tries to stop her he has no choice but to follow.

Concerned about Billy, El and Max head to Billy’s house to check out his room. There they discover that his tub is filled with ice to keep cold, just as Will Byers wanted to keep cold when he was possessed by the Mind Flayer. They also find a bloody lifeguard’s whistle in his bathroom.

At the Starcourt Mall, Robin is still translating the Russian message, rejecting Erica Sinclair’s request for more "samples". Her coworker Steve is not on duty, instead sneaking around the mall with Dustin using a pair of binoculars. Steve gets distracted by mall passersby, so Dustin takes the binoculars and searches himself, but they get distracted again over Robin as a potential girlfriend for Steve.
Back at the Wheeler house, Will is still playing a game of Dungeons & Dragons with Mike and Lucas, although the latter two aren’t nearly so enthused about the game as Will. They quickly take the opportunity to escape the game when the phone rings, and get to talking about El, but although Will insists upon returning to the game, Mike dryly acts out the rest of the game so that they can be finished early, which angers Will. Although Mike and Lucas try to calm him down with assurances that they’ll finish properly, Will tells them to just forget about it and angrily walks out of the room, heading toward home. Mike stops Will in the driveway, saying that he just wasn’t in the mood, and Will accuses Mike of never being in the mood and destroying the Party, not caring about Dustin or where he is, only girls. Mike asks if Will just expected to stay home and play games indefinitely rather than growing up, and Will says that yes, he did, before biking out into the rain.

El and Max go to the pool to look for who owns the lifeguard’s whistle and kit they found in Billy’s room, but although the lifeguard on duty says it belongs to Heather, Heather has not been in. El takes an image of Heather and uses the Void to locate her in a tub of ice. Heather emerges, asking El to help, before being drawn back down into the Void and lost to El’s sight.

At the Hawkins National Laboratory, Joyce and Hopper have now arrived. Entering the building, Joyce has flashbacks from where Bob Newby died, but they eventually move on and are spotted by a camera. Concurrently in the Starcourt Mall, Dustin finally spots what appears to be an “Evil Russian”, but after following him they realize that he’s just a Jazzercise instructor.

Still in the mall, Robin translates more of the Russian message: “The week is long, the silver cat feeds, when blue meets yellow in the West. A trip to China sounds nice, if you tread lightly.” She is interrupted however by a delivery man, wearing a “LYNX Transportation” outfit with a symbol of a silver cat on it. Robin then begins to unpuzzle the encoded message, realizing that the message is referring to stores in the mall; a Chinese restaurant standing for “a trip to China” and a shoe store standing for “if you tread lightly”. She notices a clock with blue and yellow arms to the West of her, “when blue meets yellow in the West”, finally figuring out the message.

After being pranked by her superiors at The Hawkins Post, Nancy sets out with Jonathan to find the rat from Mrs. Driscoll’s basement. Joyce and Hopper also continue through the Hawkins Lab, with Joyce reminiscing about taking her son Will out of the Upside Down in 1983, and exorcizing the Mind Flayer from him in 1984. Hopper relates how he is often afraid that one of the denizens of the Upside Down is coming after him, that he is constantly on the lookout so that people can feel safe, feel like Hawkins can be Joyce’s home, and reveals that he knows Joyce is planning to sell her house and leave Hawkins. However, they are interrupted by a noise in another part of the lab.

Mike and Lucas bike over to the Byers house to find Will, but he isn’t there, instead out at Castle Byers. Will reads comic books and remembers old times playing Dungeons & Dragons with the Party, dressing up as Ghostbusters, and generally having fun with his old friends. He begins to cry, saying “stupid”, ripping up his photos, and eventually attacking Castle Byers with a baseball bat, before collapsing and sobbing in the downpour. Around this time, Nancy and Jonathan also arrive at Mrs. Driscoll’s house only to see her rapidly eating the fertilizer in the basement, stunning everyone present.

Once more at the Starcourt Mall, Robin, Steve, and Dustin watch the Lynx Transportation company for Chinese food and shoe packages when the two hands of the clock are overlaid on top of each other. They notice a whistling man in a yellow suit with these items who the other men seem to be following, several men sporting military-grade weaponry. The loading doors open up to reveal numerous boxes, but when Steve tries to take the binoculars to take a look himself, Dustin resists and ends up banging the side of the building they were spying from, drawing the attention of the guards. While they duck down, Robin instinctually grabs hold of Steve’s hand, but then they quickly evacuate the roof as the Russian-speaking guards search it for them.

In the Hawkins Lab, Hopper is still searching for the noise he heard, gun at the ready. However, he is attacked from behind and knocked out, the mysterious attacker making good his escape on a motorcycle. Meanwhile, El and Max arrive at Heather’s house only to discover that Billy is there with her parents, Tom and Janet Holloway, talking genially with them. Billy introduces Max, far more friendly than he normally is, but El demands to know where Heather is. Billy acts confused until Heather walks in, seemingly in perfect health despite her ordeal. Billy smoothly covers it up by saying that she merely wasn’t feeling good the other day, and that all is now well. As the two girls leave, Billy recognizes El as the girl who closed the Gate in 1984,
through the Mind Flayer’s memories.

In the woods by Castle Byers, Will once again senses that the Mind Flayer has returned, and when Lucas and Mike finally catch up to him, Will tells them so. In Heather’s house, Heather’s mother Janet collapses and passes out, and Heather herself clubs her father on the head when he goes to help Janet. Writhing on the ground, Janet begins to suffocate him, repeating Billy’s words that "it’ll all be over soon".
Chapter Four: The Sauna Test

Season 3
Episode Number: 21
Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: Kate Trefey
Director: Shawn Levy
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair).

Guest Stars: Cary Elwes (Mayor Larry Kline), Jake Busey (Bruce), Caroline Arapoglou (Winnie), Allysia Brooke (Candice / Mayor Kline’s Secretary), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Olan Montgomery (Newsman #1), Jack Kidd (Hawkins Resident), Joseph Velez (Government Agent #7)

Summary: A code red brings the gang back together to face a frighteningly familiar evil. Karen urges Nancy to keep digging, and Robin finds a useful map.

El is lying in bed with Max, worrying over Heather and Billy. Max convinces El to calm down marginally, and then they read comic books. At the same time, Mrs. Driscoll has been restrained by police and is being taken out of her home on a stretcher. With fertilizer all over her face, she hysterically screams "I have to go back!" repeatedly as she is placed in an ambulance and rushed to the hospital. While this happens, Tom and Janet Holloway wake up, bound, inside Brimborn Steel Works. Their daughter Heather approaches and takes off Tom’s gag, and Tom pleads to Heather that "you don’t have to do this, you can stop this". Heather responds that "there is no stopping it", before she and Billy depart. The Mind Flayer then arrives and launches one vine apiece onto the couple’s faces, each one pulsating, implanting them and turning them into the Flayed.

Hopper wakes up from his injuries from the night before, retching and then getting up only to find that he didn’t have any clothes on, much to Joyce’s consternation, having been taken care of him. They try to identify who attacked Hopper, and Joyce notes that they didn’t drive a car, which Hopper picks up on.

In Hargrove house, Lucas tries to reach Max via radio, but she tells him to shut up and turns off her radio. Mike then calls, and tells her that there’s a serious situation and to come to his house immediately. There, the rest of the Party tries unsuccessfully to reach Dustin. Dustin however, is with Steve and Robin scoping out the Russians’ base of operations, trying to get inside. Steve suggests sneaking and taking out the armed guard for his pass key, but then him and Dustin get to arguing before Robin rushes off on her own plan, telling them to stay put.

At The Hawkins Post, Tom Holloway, the lead journalist, angrily interrogates Nancy and Jonathan for following up on the rat lead as he had ordered Nancy not to. He berates them for trespassing on her home, for taking a “paranoid schizophrenic” seriously, and for falsely identifying themselves as reporters. Due to the threat of lawsuit, he fires them both.
Back at Wheeler house, Will explains how he has been sensing the Mind Flayer. El objects that she closed the Gate to the Upside Down, but Will indicates that the piece of the Mind Flayer that was within him may not have returned to the Upside Down. They determine that he must have sought out a new host.

Arriving at city hall, Hopper asks Mayor Kline if he saw the man who attacked him, having seen him go into Kline's office a few days ago. Kline claims not to remember, thinking him a maintenance plumber, but Hopper responds with his knowledge of Larry passed out on coke and cheating on his wife in the past, as a threat. Larry fires back with his own threats and knowledge of Hopper's, saying that "one call to Tom at the Post and you're done, buddy". Larry goes to escort Hopper out, but Hopper then assaults him, demanding the information, and although Larry's secretary tries to call the police, Joyce unplugs her phone. With Larry uncooperative, Hopper repeatedly threatens to cut off Larry's finger, and Larry eventually admits that he was bribed by that person (who works for Starcourt Mall) in order to help them expand into East Hawkins. Hopper demands to see records of the purchases, and takes Larry hostage to find them.

On the way home, Nancy shares her suspicions with Jonathan that there was something fishy about their firing, but Jonathan chuckles, saying that she always manages to convince herself that she's in the right, that she is living in a bubble because she doesn't have to deal with college payments or mortgages. Nancy fires back that he doesn't understand how humiliating her internship job was, but Jonathan maintains that she doesn't understand, so she acknowledges that they simply don't get each other anymore, and she returns home crying.

Returning to Scoops Ahoy, Robin reveals that she bought Starcourt Mall blueprints and that air ducts lead to the restricted rooms they're trying to get into, and so they try to shove Dustin inside but are unable to do so. At the Hawkins Community Pool, the Party is spying on Billy, who is oddly wearing a shirt in the open sun because the Mind Flayer likes it cold and dark. Max is confused why he seems so normal, so Will explains that the Mind Flayer is trying to "hide", that Billy is "dormant" until the Mind Flayer needs him. Mike then forms a plan to get Billy into the Sauna in order to force the Mind Flayer to react to the heat.

Again at Scoops Ahoy, Erica is recruited to go into the air ducts in exchange for a smorgasbord of ice cream and free ice cream for life. Meanwhile, Hopper and Joyce arrive with Larry Kline at his mansion, going to grab the land deeds from a safe within Larry's bedroom; not for blackmail, but for protection, due to how "scary" his bribers are. Joyce and Hopper figure out that there is likely a powerful machine on one of the properties, and Hopper prevents Larry from escaping out the window.

Nancy confides in her mom at the Wheeler house, and Karen tells Nancy that she's proud of her for standing up for herself, that she should finish her story. At the pool however, the Party are preparing to trap Billy. Mike tries to apologize to El, but El surprisingly says that Hopper might be right, that they were spending too much time together and that she didn't get to see the world. Max meanwhile, desperately hopes that Billy isn't a host for the Mind Flayer.

Winnie Kline, Larry's wife, arrives at his mansion to find him handcuffed to his bed. He demands a phone to get vengeance against Hopper, while Hopper himself is out with Joyce investigating the properties from earlier. Concurrently at the Starcourt Mall, Erica makes her way through the air ducts to open the loading bay doors from the other side, allowing Robin, Dustin, and Steve inside.

Once more at the pool, Mike lures Billy into the Sauna, and El locks him inside. Billy calls out to Max, but she orders the Party to turn up the heat anyway. Nancy on the other hand arrives at the hospital to see Mrs. Driscoll, lying that she is "Nancy Driscoll" so that she can visit her, looking through her records. At the mall, Steve opens up one of the Chinese shipment boxes only to find some form of radioactive material inside. The room begins to shake, so Dustin and Steve frantically press buttons in order to reopen the doors and leave, by they accidentally activate an elevator of sorts that sends the room plummeting into the earth. Again in Mrs. Driscoll's hospital room, Nancy is furiously taking notes while Driscoll's heart rate continues to increase.

At the pool, Billy begins to break down sobbing, saying to Max that "he made me do it", describing "he" as a "giant shadow", the Mind Flayer. Continually sobbing, Billy says he tried to stop it, that it isn't his fault, but Will senses the Mind Flayer at work, realizing that Billy is "activated". Mike orders Max to get away from the door, just in time for Billy to smash through the sauna window where her head was. Billy tries to unlatch the door, but Lucas hits him in the
face with a slingshot, sending him back into the sauna where he begins convulsing as the lights flicker.

In both Mrs. Driscoll’s hospital room and the pool, lights continue flickering as both Mrs. Driscoll and Billy become enveloped in black veins. They both scream, and Billy begins attacking the door, slowly breaking it down. Billy eventually smashes through, and although El uses telekinesis to restrain him, he breaks free and begins to choke her until Mike hits him in the back of the head with weight equipment, saving her. Billy then goes to attack Mike until El levitates him up with telekinesis, and throws him completely through the concrete wall of the pool house. Mike comforts the wounded El, and Billy stagers away.

At the Brimborn Steel Works, Heather tends to Billy. Billy says El could have killed him, which Heather responds: “yes, but not us”, as the entire basement full of hosts comes into view.
Chapter Five: The Flayed

Season 3
Episode Number: 22
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: Paul Dichter
Director: Uta Briesewitz
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Elena Sinclair), Jake Busey (Bruce), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Cailyn Peddle (Carnival Kid), Alexander Babara (Worker #2), Serge Levin (Mechanic), Max Stewart (Gas Station Patron), Joseph Velez (Government Agent #7)

Summary: Strange surprises lurk inside an old farmhouse and deep beneath the Starcourt Mall. Meanwhile, the Mind Flayer is gathering strength.

Swiftly descending into the earth, Steve, Robin, Dustin, and Erica are seemingly trapped in an elevator until they manage to escape out of a ventilation shaft on top, only to realize the surface is too far away to climb out that way. Hopper and Joyce continue to search illicitly-obtained properties in East Hawkins until they discover one with a pulsing sound coming from below and a hidden staircase leading further down. Descending, they find and bind two Russian scientists before Grigori, another Russian agent, arrives. Hopper pulls a gun on him, but he escapes and the two grapple and disarm each other. Joyce throws the gun back to Hopper, but it passes him and lands near Grigori, forcing Joyce and Hopper to flee. They take one of the Russian scientists, Alexei, hostage and then leave the area after closing the hidden staircase on Grigori. Grigori breaks through, and fires after their car as they drive away.

Nancy calls Jonathan early in the morning with news about Mrs. Driscoll, wanting to know where Will is. Nancy believes Driscoll is connected to the Upside Down somehow, but Will is not home, and Nancy believes he may be in Danger, much to Jonathan's concern.

On the road, Hopper's car breaks down due to bullet holes through the engine. Joyce tries to communicate with Alexei while Hopper tries to fix the car, but as it starts the smoke Alexei yells "stop!" prior to the engine exploding. They then walk through the forest, unsure what to do, as El eavesdrops on them via the Void at Mike's house. She says they're headed to "ill-annoy", Illinois, and then heads to the bathroom. Mike fumes over what to do about the Mind Flayer, also noting that El and Max are probably "conspiring" against him, before Nancy and Jonathan arrive for Will.

Beneath the Starcourt Mall, Dustin and company are still trapped in an elevator shaft after having been there for eight hours, Steve and Robin staying up trying to figure out a way to open
the door. They are interrupted by the arrival of several Russian agents, who open the door. They
collect packages and leave, but just as the door closes, Steve slips a container between the door
and the ground to keep it open, allowing them to escape the elevator just before the door crushes
the container, releasing a green, corrosive, seemingly radioactive acid that burns through the
concrete floor. They then set out down the long tunnel passageway away from the elevator.

Back at the Wheeler house, Nancy and Mike figure out that Mrs. Driscoll, Tom Holloway, and
Heather Holloway are also flayed, meaning they are possessed by the Mind Flayer like Billy, so
they head out to act. At the same time, Grigori finds their broken down car and begins to follow
their tracks. While Hopper and Joyce argue, Alexei locates a gas station and there Hopper buys
them drinks and a Slurpee for Alexei. They then commandeer a car and head out.

Again beneath the Starcourt Mall, Steve and Dustin conjecture that the Russians are in
Hawkins rather than some more important place because they knew about the previous sus-
picious events in the area. Nancy and company however have arrived at Heather’s house. Inside
it is excessively cold, as the Mind Flayer likes. They also smell cleaning chemicals, and find nu-
umerous empty cans of such chemicals where the inhabitants had consumed them. They also find
the bloody wine bottle where Heather had struck her father, Tom. Walking through the house,
they determine that the Holloways were tied up and taken somewhere else where the flaying was
happening, and that they could use Mrs. Driscoll to lead them there.

Grigori interrogates the gas station clerk while Hopper takes Alexei to Murray Bauman, who
speaks Russian. Murray comes out of the door with a shotgun pointed at Alexei, who responds in
Russian “Get that out of my face you bald American pig”, to which Murray replies in Russian, “I
may be bald, but you’re the one in handcuffs, Soviet scum.” Murray then begins scanning Alexei,
but Joyce harangues him until he stops.

Now well within the underground Russian base surrounded by enemies, Steve, Dustin, Erica,
and Robin are sneaking around when they stumble upon a massive room filled with Russian
operatives, Erica referencing Red Dawn. They proceed stealthily through the room toward what
they believe is the comm room, but stumble upon a Russian soldier who spots them. He goes for
his belt before Robin starts speaking Russian to him, parroting snippets of the encoded phrase
she translated, which distracts him long enough for Steve to attack and knock him out. Dustin
grabs his card key so they can escape back the way they came, but Robin goes ahead and brings
the rest to a room where a large ray is powering up, creating a Gate to the Upside Down.

Nancy arrives with the Party at the hospital to get to Mrs. Driscoll, but a clerk stops them and
only allows two visitors at a time; Nancy and Jonathan. On the way up the elevator, they make
up for their earlier fight, while Mike and Lucas get food from a vending machine (with El’s help).
Lucas says her helping is “the olive branch”, but Mike is confused and Lucas has to explain that
he’ll distract Max while Mike talks to El to try and make up. Nancy and Jonathan however, arrive
to find Driscoll gone from her room, and Tom is there saying “we hoped you might come back”.
He advances until Jonathan breaks a pot over his head, allowing them to leave until they run
into Bruce, who has been flayed.

Mike compliments El’s dress while Nancy and Jonathan race through the hospital, Bruce
sedately following them past dead doctors. They hide in a room to call for help, but the clerk is
too busy gossiping to pick up, so Bruce reaches them and brutally beats Jonathan until Nancy
stabs him in the back and retreats, Bruce again following Nancy while Tom comes for Jonathan,
continuing to beat him until Jonathan lies prone on the floor. Tom raises a pair of scissors to kill
Jonathan until Nancy slams Bruce in the face with a fire extinguisher, and Tom feels the pain of
the blow through their hive mind, dropping the scissors. Nancy hits Bruce again, causing Tom
to fall back in phantom pain. As Bruce also falls to his knees, Nancy screams “go to Hell!” before
smashing Bruce’s face in with one final blow, at the same time that Jonathan stabs Tom in the
neck with his scissors, resulting in them both dying.

Not yet done, the lights in the hospital begin to flicker constantly as the two corpses begin
to spasm and disintegrate into piles of fleshy goo, which then begin to move toward each other
in the hospital. Once they connect, they begin to reconstitute into a larger creature just as the
lights go out, shrieking in alien rage.
Chapter Six: E Pluribus Unum

Season 3
Episode Number: 23
Season Episode: 6

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: Curtis Gwinn
Director: Uta Briesewitz

Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair).

Guest Stars: Cary Elwes (Mayor Larry Kline), Will Chase (Neil Hargrove), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Cailyn Peddle (Carnival Kid), Healy Lange (Suburban Wife), Dinarte de Freitas (Fair Worker), Ryan Clay (Hawkins Resident), Andrei Lapionak (Soldier), Jack Kidd (Hawkins Resident), Joseph Velez (Government Agent #7)

Summary: Dr. Alexei reveals what the Russians have been building, and Eleven sees where Billy has been. Dustin and Erica stage a daring rescue.

Picking up with Steve, Robin, Dustin, and Erica in the underground Russian base, Steve and Dustin recognize the portal the Russians are creating as a Gate to the Upside Down, describing it to Robin as "bad", "end-of-the-human-race-as-we-know-it kind of bad". They realize that the officer they incapacitated earlier is now gone, and an alarm begins to blare, so they retreat back the way they came as several Russian soldiers spot them. They race past the Russians’ electrical ray and then barricade the door to another area, Robin and Steve holding it fast while Dustin and Erica escape. Dustin screams "I won’t forget you!" before closing a grate over himself, just as the Russian soldiers break through the door and capture Steve and Robin.

At the hospital with Max, Lucas, Mike, and El, Will senses that the Mind Flayer is there, while a fleshy monstrosity several floors above screams again. It comes after Nancy Wheeler, who flees and barricades herself in a room. Although it cannot enter normally, it begins disintegrating into a viscous pile of flesh that proceeds to ooze under the door, reforming into a discrete entity. Although Jonathan Byers tries to come in after her, the creature attacks Nancy and is about to take her when El arrives, blasts the door off of its hinges with telekinesis, and effortlessly tosses the creature from wall, to wall, to ceiling, and back to the floor again, crushing each surface it lands on with the force of impact. The creature however, begins getting back up again as if being tossed around like a rag doll had been just a love tap. Seemingly unharmed, it lunges at El until she launches it backward through the window and out of the hospital to splatter onto the ground several floors below, where it once again begins to disintegrate into a viscous liquid that drains away into the sewers. From there it flows back to the basement of Brimborn Steel Works with Billy Hargrove and Heather Holloway, where it rejoins the greater mass of flesh that is the Mind Flayer. Billy then says, "it’s time".
The next day, the Fun Fair is being livened up for Mayor Kline’s Independence Day festival. Kline yells at a food stall worker to get out of the "main thoroughfare" before he notices the Russian agent who bribes him, and they go inside a playground ride to talk. The agent is insistent that Kline find Jim Hopper within the day, and chokes Kline to make his point. Hopper however is still with Murray Bauman, Joyce Byers, and Alexei, the latter being interrogated. Alexei demands a cherry Slurpee instead of strawberry or he won't talk, so Hopper drags him and throws him out the door with the keys to his cuffs and the car on the assumption that Alexei is more scared of his Russian comrades than of Hopper, that he'll return. Alexei does indeed uncuff himself, start the car, and begin to drive away, but then he stops and brings the car back, throwing the keys to Hopper and saying he likes strawberry, too.

Meanwhile Dustin and Erica have been stuck in air ducts for roughly ten hours trying to make it back to the elevator to the surface, but are blocked from moving on by a fan. Dustin tells Erica about the Upside Down and Eleven and asserts that she is a nerd before finally disabling the fan, much to her chagrin. Their companions however are in much more dire straits, with Steve being tortured in an interrogation room. A Russian officer queries Steve about who he "works for", but Steve insists that he works for Scoops Ahoy, being in his work clothes at the time, so the officer changes tactics and asks how he managed to get into the facility. Steve reiterates a lie that he lost his shipment and came for it when the loading bay turned into an elevator and he happened to be taken below. He assures them that no one else knows about the facility and then goes on a tangent about ice cream, which causes the officer to burst out laughing, saying "I like this guy", before again demanding to know who Steve works for and having his torture resume.

Later Steve is dragged, unconscious, into another room with Robin. Although seemingly unharmed, she is slapped when she questions what they did to Steve, and they are tied to a chair together back-to-back. An officer approaches her, mockingly saying that Steve needs a doctor, and that they have "the very best" before Robin spits in his face. He then says that "you're going to regret that" before departing.

El is then seen walking the Void, trying to use her powers to locate any of the Flayed. She has been completely unsuccessful, despite trying for a considerable amount of time, and Mike becomes worried that she'll hurt herself if she continues. Max begins to argue with Mike, implying that Mike is trying to control El and that he doesn't treat her like a person. Inflamed on by Nancy, everyone starts to agree with Max until Mike demonstrates Max's "irresponsible" use of El's powers, and elaborates that he is only concerned because he loves her and doesn't want to lose her again, shocking everyone into silence. El then comes in and reports that she has found someone.

At Murray’s Warehouse, with Murray himself translating, Alexei explains that the ray the Russians were using to open a Gate into the Upside Down, "a doorway between worlds", is called the Key, which emits large amounts of energy. It consequently requires a large quantity of energy to function as well, and so Russians have purchased properties all around East Hawkins that were near transformers, using them to siphon off energy from the town’s power grid.

Hopper asks Alexei why the Key was built in Hawkins rather than in Russia, assuming that they're trying to simply destroy America by opening a Gate in Hawkins. Alexei says that there were many such "Keys" all around Russia before, but that they had all "turned out wrong". To demonstrate, Alexei shoves a straw, the "Key", at a packet of fries, causing the straw to bend rather than penetrate through, flashing back to several failures and accidents using the Key. Alexei explains that the Key was only half of the equation, that location is the other half, and since "this door had been opened once" in Hawkins before, that because it was still "healing", the Key could work there. He then has Joyce hold up a burger wrapper, and easily punches the straw through to the other side. When Joyce asks if the "door" is open now, Alexei says that it is "opening", and Joyce realizes that the opening of the Gate allowed the Mind Flayer to reconnect with other pieces of himself in the real world and bring them back to life.

Realizing the danger, Joyce heads out to assure that the kids are safe, while Hopper and Murray share a few glasses of vodka when they realize how dire the situation is. Hopper asks Alexei if they can turn off the Key, and although he says yes, he says that he is compromised and no longer has access. Hopper assures Alexei that he can bring him to his Key, but Alexei just laughs at him, because the Key is housed in a fortress built by the "greatest Russian minds, guarded by their greatest warriors", that breaking in is "impossible".

Ironically, Dustin and Erica are at that very moment sneaking around the fortress they broke
into. They commandeered a cart and an industrial taser and intend to head for the exit as Robin screams for help, Steve finally awoken by her yelling. Steve and Robin try to hop over to a table with scissors on it to free themselves, but they instead fall over, and Robin starts laughing hysterically. She finds it too "trippy" that she's going to die in a secret Russian base next to Steve "The Hair" Harrington, and relates how she always noticed him in class in the past, two days a week for a year. She says that although they tried to ignore it, they all wanted to be popular like Steve was, accepted, normal, and that she was obsessed with him. Steve regrets not talking to her in class, saying that had he done so, maybe he would've passed and gone to college instead of working at Scoops Ahoy, and that he and Robin wouldn't be in this terrible situation. They say their time working together was "fun while it lasted", and then the Russian officer comes in. Bringing in Dr. Zharkov, the officer tells Steve to speak the truth so that his "visit with Dr. Zharkov will be less painful", and the doctor injects him with a debilitating injection.

Back at the Wheeler house, El finally locates Billy, staying in his room on the Fourth of July. They realize it's a trap, that the Mind Flayer wants them to find Billy, but Lucas insists that since they know it's a trap they can be ready for it and defeat them all the same. El instead tries to see where Billy had been, as she had done with her own mother. Mike objects, but El asks Mike to trust her and goes forward anyway. She finds Billy and grabs his arm, but he latches onto her, and as El falls back, she suddenly finds herself on a beach, seeing Billy as a small child. Walking through his memories, El sees a large cloud formation at the end of the beach, the source, and heads toward it.

Again at Murray's Garage, Hopper sends out a distress signal. Together with Joyce, Alexei, Murray they then head back to Hawkins to recover their children, who are close to the Gate and in danger. In the base however, Steve and Robin have been given some kind of euphoric drug as the doctor comes back in. They again ask Steve how he managed to get inside, and he repeats his lie, so the doctor begins to rip out one of his nails before Robin blurts out that "it was a code". She relates everything to him, and that now everyone knows about the base because they broadcasted the signal all over town. The officer asks who knows specifically, and Steve says that Dustin Henderson knows, and that he's long gone. At that moment however, the alarm begins blaring and the officer rushes out to find a hole eaten through the floor by more of the acid from earlier. While Steve and Robin are less guarded, Dustin and Erica rush in and tase Dr. Zharkov, freeing them.

As El continues into Billy's memories, she sees a younger Billy abused by his father Neil Hargrove. She sees Neil abusing Billy's mother as Billy is helpless to defend her, as she is forced to leave Billy behind in a divorce. Billy, growing, is shown bullying other kids, calling them "pussy" just like his father did, and El also witnesses Billy meeting his new stepsister Max, refusing to shake her hand. Walking toward the screams, El finally reaches the point where Billy was captured and Flayed at Brimborn Steel Works; the eye of the memory storm.

Locating him, El tries to return from the Void, but she can't find Mike or anyone else at the house. Billy, however, arrives, and the Mind Flayer appears to speak through him in a much deeper voice than Billy's usual. He says that now that she's looked for him, he can see her, that "we can all see you", and throughout the conversation the Flayed all throughout town are approaching the Brimborn Steel Works. Referencing the day El first opened the Gate to the Upside Down by making contact with a Demogorgon in the Void, Billy continues:

You let us in. And now, you are going to have to let us stay. Don't you see? All this time, we've been building it. We've been building it... for you. All that work, all that pain... all of it... for you. And now it's time. Time to end it. And we are going to end you. And when you are gone, we are going to end your friends. And then we are going to end... everyone.

El, in a rage, uses telekinesis to launch Billy away, finally awakening from the Void and sobbing with her friends. It's not over yet however, because as the Flayed arrive at Brimborn Steel Works, they each melt down into flesh to be absorbed by the Mind Flayer's main form. The Mind Flayer grows larger and larger as he absorbs dozens of flayed men, women, and children, including Heather, Janet, and Mrs. Driscoll. Eventually, the Mind Flayer grows large enough to burst free of the steelworks, and then shrieks in challenge.
Chapter Seven: The Bite

Season 3
Episode Number: 24
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: The Duffer Brothers
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair), Cary Elwes (Mayor Larry Kline), Tinsley Price (Holly), Anniston Price (Holly), Nicholas Cirillo (Teenager), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), David Michael-Smith (U.S. Marshall), Aaron Matthews (Goon), Yevgeniy Kartashov (Officer), Jennifer A. Martin (Gravitron Operator), Vladislav Beasley (Pool boy), Sean McCracken (Balloon Carney), Chayse Porter (Marching Band Member), Mikaela Pavin (Tuba Player), Chris Jablon (Carnival Goer), Daniele Quinn (Baton Twirler), Alex Zeleinka (Soldier)

Summary: With time running out — and an assassin close behind — Hopper’s crew races back to Hawkins, where El and the kids are preparing for war.

The residents of Hawkins are enjoying the 4th of July Fun Fair as they run around riding rides and playing carnival games. The Hawkins High School band performs as Larry Kline comes up onto the stage to give a speech. As Kline gives his speech, Ted, Karen, and Holly are boarding a ferris wheel. The ride starts up as Ted nervously looks around. Kline finishes his speech just as the ferris wheel stops at the top to give the Wheelers a good view of the fireworks as they start. Holly notices that the trees have unusually began to shake. Karen tells her to ignore them and enjoy the fireworks but Holly remains concerned about it.

As the fireworks continue to go off in the distance, the Party, along with Jonathan and Nancy discuss the visions that Eleven has just seen in Hopper’s cabin. Eleven tells the group that the Mind Flayer had told her that he was "building something". The group concludes that the Mind Flayer is after Eleven since she was the one that closed the gate in 1984. With her out of the way the Mind Flayer would become unstoppable. Nancy then hears the trees outside the cabin shake and Will senses the Mind Flayer’s presence. The group attempts to flee the cabin, but are stopped in their tracks once they see the Mind Flayer approaching them.

Meanwhile, beneath the Starcourt Mall, Dustin drives a golf cart as he and Erica continue to help Steve and Robin escape from the Russian guards. The group boards the elevator to return to the mall as Steve and Robin, who are still high from the truth serum, laugh and mess around.
with the cart on the elevator. They eventually make it back to ground level, but turn around and go back inside when they are spotted by two security guards. Back at the cabin, Eleven’s group prepares for a battle with the Mind Flayer as Nancy and Jonathan arm themselves with a shotgun and axe respectively while the others use furniture and other large objects to barricade the room. They wait for the Mind Flayer in anticipation as various objects around the room begin to shake.

Eventually, the Mind Flayer breaks into the cabin and begins attacking them. Jonathan tries to sever one of its limbs with the axe but it throws him against the wall. Nancy also tries to shoot it with the shotgun but runs out of bullets. It then tries to attack Nancy but is stopped by El’s telekinesis. El then severs the arm as two other arms attempt to attack El but she stops them and severs them like the previous arm. Suddenly, the Mind Flayer breaks through the roof of the cabin. It manages to grab El by her left ankle in an attempt to take her, but Mike, Jonathan, Max, and Will grab her to prevent her from being taken. Nancy reloads the shotgun and shoots the Mind Flayer in rapid succession, but to no avail. Lucas then severs the arm with the axe and frees El, causing them all to fall to the floor. Mike then pulls the remaining flesh off of El’s leg, causing her to scream in pain.

El eventually stands up and severs the head of the Mind Flayer, and then falls backwards into Mike’s arms, her left leg bleeding profusely. The group then flees into Nancy’s car and drives away, with Max and Mike helping to get El out of the cabin and to the car safely. Back at the Mall, Dustin’s group manages to escape from the security guards that are chasing them and they end up in a theater that is showing Back to the Future. Steve and Robin are seated in the front row by Dustin and Erica and told not to move while they sit on the opposite side of the row and discuss what to do with Steve and Robin. Dustin then leaves the theater in an attempt to find a way out without alerting the guards.

Meanwhile, Joyce, Hopper, Murray, and Alexei are driving to the Fun Fair in an attempt to find the kids. Alexei continues to explain to Murray how they will able to destroy the machine that is attempting to open The Gate. He tells them that only way to retrieve the two keys is to enter Planck’s Constant into a vault located beneath Starcourt. Hopper and Joyce then get into argument about the military’s role in their plan. Murray then breaks up their fight by encouraging them to explore their true feelings for one another. When Alexei asks what he had just said, Murray tells him that they had not had sex, and the two laugh hysterically as the group crosses the state line into Indiana.

Eleven’s group eventually reaches a hardware store, breaking the windows of the store in order to find treatment for El’s badly wounded leg. Max instructs Nancy and Jonathan to go find water and soap, and for Lucas and Will to go find a washcloth and a bowl. Nancy and Jonathan discuss the Flayed and the consequences of killing the Mind Flayer, while Lucas and Will find fireworks that could potentially help them defeat the Mind Flayer later on. Mike apologizes to El for being selfish, before being interrupted by Dustin attempting to communicate with them via radio. Dustin apologizes to Mike for being MIA and tells him that the Russians have infiltrated Hawkins, before his radio dies due to being out of battery. Dustin returns to Erica and asks if she has any batteries, but Erica says she does not. The two then realize that Steve and Robin have left the theater.

Steve and Robin stand outside in the hallway with Steve drinking from a water fountain. Robin pushes Steve away and Steve becomes dizzy after staring at the ceiling for too long. Steve calls Robin over and she also becomes dizzy from staring at the ceiling. The two then run into the bathroom and throw up. At the Fun Fair, Joyce and Hopper go to check it out, while Hopper instructs Murray and Alexei to remain in the car. Joyce and Hopper are spotted by Kline, who alerts the Russians that they are there.

Back at the hardware store, El attempts to find where Dustin is, but is distracted by Mike and Lucas arguing about New Coke. She determines that Dustin is at the movies and the group leaves to go to Starcourt Mall. Steve and Robin talk in the bathroom, and Steve admits that he has feelings for her. However, Robin admits to Steve that she is a lesbian before Dustin and Erica find them in the bathroom.

At the hardware store, Billy finds Eleven’s blood on the floor, and determines that they have gone to the mall. At the Fun Fair, Alexei asks Murray how to become a U.S. citizen, and Murray tells him he doesn’t have to be a citizen to join in the fun. They go into the fair, and Murray buys Alexei fifteen tickets to go play a game and then goes to get food for them. Joyce spots Karen
going into one of the rides, and she and Hopper go to ask her where the kids are. At the theater, the showing of Back to the Future concludes and the crowd exits. Dustin’s group attempts to blend in with the crowd but are spotted by the Russians and forced to flee.

At the fair, Alexei wins the game and gets a giant stuffed Woody Woodpecker as a prize. As Alexei is walking back to Murray, Grigori shows up and fatally shoots Alexei in the chest. Murray goes to warn Hopper and Joyce, and they are forced to flee. Hopper tells Joyce to go get Murray and bring the car to the back, while he goes to the Big Top attraction and evacuates it before going inside. Hopper then beats up one of the Russians while Joyce and Murray discover that Alexei has succumbed to his injuries. Grigori then enters the ride Hopper is hiding in and finds the unconscious Russian on the floor. As Joyce and Murray leave, Joyce finds Kline and punches and kicks him for revealing their location. Hopper shoots Grigori and flees. Grigori was wearing a bulletproof vest so he survived. They learn that the Russians are after the kids via a radio that Hopper stole from the Russian he knocked unconscious.

At the mall, Dustin’s group attempts to hide from the Russians, but they are discovered. Suddenly, the car on display nearby begins to honk, distracting the guards long enough so that El can fling the car towards them, knocking them all out. Dustin’s group is initially confused, until they look up and see that Eleven’s group has arrived just in time to save them. The two groups reunite and discuss what has happened, before Eleven collapses to the floor, her wound pulsating with a strange growth inside her leg causing her to scream in pain.
Chapter Eight: The Battle of Starcourt

Season 3
Episode Number: 25
Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday July 04, 2019
Writer: The Duffer Brothers
Director: The Duffer Brothers
Show Stars: Winona Ryder (Joyce Byers), David Harbour (Police Chief Jim Hopper), Finn Wolfhard (Mike Wheeler), Millie Brown (Jane "Eleven" Ives), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin Henderson), Sadie Sink (Max), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas Sinclair), Noah Schnapp (Will Byers), Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Joe Keery (Steve Harrington), Dacre Montgomery (Billy), Cara Buono (Karen Wheeler), Maya Hawke (Robin), Priah Ferguson (Erica Sinclair),

Guest Stars: Natalia Dyer (Nancy Wheeler), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan Byers), Nikita Bogolyubov (Guard), Timothy Carr (Paratrooper), Warren Quandt (Carnival Kid), Skyler Knight (Pool goer / carnival goer), Ryan L. Price (Paratrooper), David Michael-Smith (Carnival Father), Trey McGriff (Hawkins PD), Yevgeniy Kartashov (Officer), Christopher Mullis (Paratrooper), Hunter Romanillos (Carnival Patron), Patrick Seda (Hazmat Scientist), Lauren Brumbelow (Carnival Patron), Kevin Kedgley (Soldier), Kristof Reinharz (Prison Guard), David Turner (Paratrooper), Chayse Porter (Marching Band Member), Edward L. Oliver (Soldier), Kanye Huff (Carnival Goer), Campbell Cox (News Cameraman), Shawn Fortune (Amusement Park Attendee), Tommy Campbell (Carnival Foreman), Jeremy Connell (Scientist), Brandon Marski (Hazmat Soldier), Daniele Quinn (Baton Twirler), Alex Zelenka (Soldier)

Summary: Terror reigns in the food court when the Mind Flayer comes to collect.
But down below, in the dark, the future of the world is at stake.

The Mind Flayer’s strange growth continues to pulsate from Eleven’s left leg, making El scream in severe pain. While Mike and Dustin keep her still, Jonathan attempts to cut out her wound. As he cuts open the skin, Eleven intervenes and takes over, using her powers to fling out the creature. The creature attempts to escape but is crushed by Hopper who arrives at Starcourt with Joyce and Murray. S03E08-Eleven and Hopper share one last hug. The group discusses a way to stop and kill the monster. Hopper and Joyce plans to infiltrate the Russian base under the mall in order to destroy the key to open the Gate, while Dustin and Erica will offer navigational assistance using his radio transmitter from atop Weathertop. Eleven offers to help Hopper but he asserts that he needs her safe, since the Mind Flayer is after her. The two then share an embrace, before the group departs to take Eleven to Murray’s warehouse.

Hopper, Joyce, and Murray descend into the Russian base while Steve and Robin take Dustin and Erica to the transmitter. Meanwhile, as the group was leaving with El, they find their car’s ignition cable lost and Billy blocking the road with his car. The group resorts back to the mall.
Mike attempts to raise Dustin via the radio transmitter but to no avail. When the group tries to take out the ignition cable from the car Eleven wrecked earlier, Eleven finds herself too weakened to evoke her powers. Moments later, Mike, Max and El witness the Mind Flayer looming atop the mall’s roof. Mike warns Nancy before he and Max help El to hide. Just then the Mind Flayer crashes through the mall’s roof and searches for them.

After figuring out that the group is trapped, Steve and Robin hurry back. At the mall, Lucas uses his slingshot to distract the Mind Flayer from attacking El, Mike and Max, long enough to get both the group out of the mall.

As Jonathan, Nancy, Will and Lucas attempt to flee, Billy rushes to ram their vehicle only to be slammed by Steve’s car. Billy chases Max, Mike and El while the Mind Flayer pursue Steve and the group.

At the underground, Murray disables the power to the gateway machine, letting Hopper and Joyce in to open the lock to the disabling keys. However, the code which is derived from Planck constant doesn’t work. Dustin reaches out to Suzie in Utah using his transmitter and using the number she provided, Hopper and Joyce opens the lock and retrieves the key. The two then prepare to stop the machines but before they can, Grigori intervenes and begins fighting Hopper.

At the mall, despite Mike and Max’s efforts, Billy knocks them out and seizes Eleven, taking her to the Mind Flayer. As the Mind Flayer approaches El, Steve and the group arrive in time and throw firework explosives, preventing it from attacking her. Eleven recalls the memories she saw of Billy’s childhood and reaches out to him which breaks him out of the Mind Flayer’s control. Billy then confronts the Mind Flayer and sacrifices himself to stop it from taking Eleven.

At the same time, Joyce endeavors to turn both the keys herself as Hopper outmaneuvers Grigori and throws him into the machine, killing him but creating an electrical barrier to block his path. Finding no other alternative to escape, Hopper looks to Joyce and nods to trigger it. She activates the key which destroys the machine and closes the Gate to the Upside Down, unleashing a shock-wave which presumably disintegrates Hopper. It also results in the Mind Flayer’s death. The group reunits together. Billy apologizes to Max before he succumbs to death. Joyce and Murray escape the facility while Dr. Owens arrives with several armed military at Starcourt to seize control of the Russian base. Regrouping outside the mall, Eleven learns of Hopper’s death and becomes devastated.

Three months later, Hawkins becomes the focal point of several conspiracy theories due to recent events going viral. Mayor Kline is arrested following the disaster of the Starcourt Mall. Joyce, Will, and Jonathan prepare to move out of Hawkins with Eleven going with them. Nancy and Jonathan reconcile and share a kiss. Although El is still unable to use her powers, Mike is hopeful that they will come back. El recalls how Mike expressed his feelings for her at the cabin and kisses him, telling him she loves him too. Joyce finds Hopper’s “heart to heart” speech which he wrote to say to Eleven and Mike. She gives it to Eleven to read. In the letter, Hopper admits how he felt delighted raising her. He also acknowledges his discomfort knowing that she was growing older and distant from him. He nevertheless encourages her to continue moving forward. Eleven, Will and Jonathan bid a tearful farewell to their friends Mike, Dustin, Lucas, Max and Nancy before they head out.

In a mid-credit scene, at a Russian base in Kamchatka, the prison guards feed a prisoner to a captive Demogorgon.
# Actor Appearances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actor Name</th>
<th>Character(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Abell</td>
<td>2006 (Radar Tech); 2008 (Radar Tech)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glennellen Anderson</td>
<td>0103 (Nicole); 0106 (Nicole); 2001 (Nicole)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward Andrew</td>
<td>0108 (Military)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Arapoglou</td>
<td>0301 (Winnie); 0302 (Winnie); 0303 (Winnie); 0304 (Winnie)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Ashby</td>
<td>0202 (Werewolf); 0203 (Werewolf)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Ashe</td>
<td>0202 (Happy Homeowner); 0203 (Happy Homeowner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Babara</td>
<td>0305 (Worker #2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avis-Marie Barnes</td>
<td>0207 (Elderly Woman); 0209 (Elderly Woman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Barrett</td>
<td>0103 (Mrs. Holland); 2001 (Marsha Holland); 0203 (Marsha Holland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anastasia Bastien</td>
<td>0101 (Middle School Student)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucius Baston</td>
<td>0108 (Technician)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owen Beam</td>
<td>0101 (Middle School Student); 0102 (Middle School Student)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vladislav Beasley</td>
<td>0307 (Pool boy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Benator</td>
<td>0101 (Elevator Scientist); 0105 (Elevator Scientist); 0106 (Elevator Scientist)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linnea Berthelsen</td>
<td>0201 (Roman); 0207 (Kali); 0208 (Roman); 0209 (Roman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonya Bludsworth</td>
<td>0202 (Government Agent #1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Boell</td>
<td>0201 (Adams); 0207 (Adams)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nikita Bogolyubov</td>
<td>0308 (Guard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Boushebel</td>
<td>0104 (English Teacher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonah Bowling</td>
<td>0101 (Student)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Boyd Jr.</td>
<td>0202 (Grandkid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam Boyer</td>
<td>0106 (Hunting Store Owner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Walker Brancaud</td>
<td>0102 (Agent Repairman); 0105 (Agent Repairman); 0106 (Agent Repairman); 0107 (Agent Repairman)</td>
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0208 (Neil Mayfield); 0306 (Neil Hargrove)
Marshall Choka ........................................ 1
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Joe Chrest ............................................... 12
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Ryan Clay ................................................ 1
0306 (Hawkins Resident)
Catherine Clifton .................................... 2
0301 (Neighbor); 0302 (Neighbor)
Jaleal Clifton .......................................... 2
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0301 (Anna Jacob); 0303 (Anna Jacob)
Jarrett Michael Collins .............................. 1
0207 (Swat Member #1)
Jeremy Connell ....................................... 1
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Marisol Correa ........................................ 1
0107 (Town people)
Abigail F. Cowen .................................... 2
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Campbell Cox .......................................... 1
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Erin Bradley Dangar ................................. 1
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Jason Davis .......................................... 1
0104 (Test Subject)
Joe Davison .......................................... 4
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Emma Dempster ...................................... 1
0209 (Dancer)
Gordon Dillard Jr. .................................... 1
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Luke Dingess ........................................... 1
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Rio Donnelly .......................................... 1
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Arthur Lee Dozier ................................. 1
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0105 (Pastor Charles)
Mikey Evgen ......................................... 1
0104 (Teen in Lunchroom)
Matthew Ezell ....................................... 1
0302 (Jonathan The Protester)

Emma Faith .......................................... 1
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Ron Fallica ........................................... 1
0104 (State Trooper)
Priah Ferguson ....................................... 4
0202 (Erica Sinclair); 0205 (Erica Sinclair); 0206 (Erica Sinclair); 0209 (Erica Sinclair)
Mikayla Fields ....................................... 3
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Jeffery Firment ..................................... 1
0301 (Newspaperman)
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0308 (Amusement Park Attendee)
Marianne Fauulo ................................. 1
0104 (Patty)
Isabel Chanel Freeman ............................... 2
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Shelby Christine Freeman .......................... 2
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Dinarte de Freitas ................................... 1
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Almendra Fuentes ................................. 1
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Adam Gagan .......................................... 1
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Juan Gaspard ....................................... 1
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0201 (Dr. Owen’s Assistant)
Randall P. Havens ............................................. 6
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0201 (Axel)

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0106 (Lead Agent); 0107 (Lead Agent); 0108 (Lead Agent)
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0201 (Cop 2)
Joshua Johnson ................................................... 1
0302 (Milkshake Guy)
Cade Jones .......................................................... 4
0101 (James); 0103 (James); 0104 (James); 0106 (James)
Hali Jones ............................................................ 5
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0103 (Middle School Student); 0104 (Middle School Student);
0105 (Middle School Student)
Sheah Jones ........................................................ 1
0202 (Samantha)

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John Kaler .......................................................... 1
0207 (Chicago Pd Officer Provazoli)
Linda Kang .......................................................... 1
0106 (Female Clerk)
Yevgeniy Kartashov ............................................. 2
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Kevin Redgley ..................................................... 1
0303 (Soldier)
Joe Keery ............................................................ 8
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0103 (Steve Harrington); 0104 (Steve Harrington);
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0107 (Steve Harrington); 0108 (Steve Harrington)
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0302 (Student)
Blake Kerzie ......................................................... 2
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Sheena Kharazmi ................................................ 1
0206 (Exam Room Nurse)
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0304 (Hawkins Resident); 0306 (Hawkins Resident)
Wes Kidd ............................................................ 1
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Tabitha Kilgore .................................................... 1
0105 (Mrs. Henderson)
Virginia Kirby ..................................................... 1
0205 (Motel Owner)
Skyler Knight ..................................................... 8
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carnival goer); 0303 (Pool goer / carnival goer);
0304 (Pool goer / carnival goer); 0305 (Pool goer /
carnival goer); 0306 (Pool goer / carnival goer);
0308 (Pool goer / carnival goer)
Jon Kohler ........................................................... 1
0104 (Funeral Director)
Mary Kraft .......................................................... 1
0206 (E.R. Doctor)

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Stephen M. LaBar Jr. ............................................. 3
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Brian Lafontaine .................................................. 1
0206 (Doctor #2)
Dakota James Alden Lane ...................................... 3
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Corn dog); 0303 (Lifeguard)
Healy Lange ........................................................ 1
0306 (Suburban Wife)
Andrei Lapionak .................................................. 1
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Susan Shallhoub Larkin ......................................... 8
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0106 (Florence); 0107 (Florence); 0108 (Florence);
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Charles Lawlor ..................................................... 4
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Serge Levin ................................................. 1
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Shawn Levy .................................................. 1
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Bethany Anne Lind ........................................ 1
  0102 (Sandra)
John Archer Lundgren .................................... 3
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Dave MacDonald ........................................... 1
  0201 (Flamethrower Soldier)
David A MacDonald ........................................ 1
  0204 (Flame Thrower Soldier)
Gabrielle Maiden .......................................... 2
  0201 (Mick); 0207 (Mick)
Jennifer Marshall ......................................... 1
  0208 (Susan Hargrove)
Brandon Marski ............................................ 1
  0308 (Hazard Soldier)
John Paul Marston ........................................ 1
  0202 (Government Agent #4)
Jennifer A. Martin ....................................... 1
  0307 (Gravitron Operator)
Aaron Matthews .......................................... 1
  0307 (Go east)
Wendel A. Matthews ...................................... 1
  0206 (Lead Rift Soldier)
Sage Mayer .................................................. 1
  0203 (Middle School Student)
Shannon Mays .............................................. 1
  0202 (Government Agent #3)
Sean McCracken .......................................... 1
  0307 (Balloon Carney)
Pj McDonnell ................................................ 1
  0207 (Mentally Ill Man)
Trey McGriff .............................................. 3
  0202 (Hawkins PD); 0302 (Hawkins PD); 0308 (Hawkins PD)
David Michael-Smith ...................................... 2
  0307 (U.S. Marshall); 0308 (Carnival Father)
Perla Middleton .......................................... 1
  0302 (Starcourt Mall Shopper)
Al Mitchell .................................................. 1
  0202 (Eugene)
Matthew Modine .......................................... 2
  0205 (Dr. Martin Brenner); 0207 (Dr. Martin Brenner)
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  0101 (Scientist)
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  0301 (Newsmen #1); 0302 (Newsmen #1); 0303 (Newsmen #1)
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Aimee Mullins ............................................. 6
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Aaron Munoz .............................................. 1
  0201 (Mr. Holland)
Kevin Patrick Murphy .................................. 1
  0106 (Grocery Store Manager)
Salem Murphy ............................................. 2
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  0103 (M.P. Officer Patrick)

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  0308 (Soldier)
Lourenz Oviedo .......................................... 1
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Vince Pisani ............................................. 1
  0206 (Doctor #1)
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  0205 (Mr. Sinclair)
Cody Pressley .......................................... 1
  0202 (Drunk Teen #1)
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  0302 (Ice Cream Goer)
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Alicia Shenreice ................................. 1
0205 (Student)
David Silverman ................................. 1
0302 (Angry Protestor)
Matthew Excel Simmons .................. 1
0207 (Hip Hop member)
Kassidy Slaughter .............................. 1
0209 (Dance #2017)
James Michael Smith .......................... 1
0206 (Flame Thrower)
Shawn South ............................... 2
0301 (Core Hawkins Resident); 0302 (Core Hawkins Resident)
Mark Steger ................................. 6
0101 (The Monster); 0102 (The Monster); 0103 (The Monster); 0105 (The Monster); 0106 (The Monster); 0108 (The Monster)
Max Stewart .................................... 1
0305 (Gas Station Patron)
Chase Stokes ................................ 1
0106 (Reed)
Chris Sullivan ................................. 2
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Julaine Tackett ................................ 2
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0205 (Friendly Trucker)
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David Turner .................................. 1
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Alex Van ...................................... 1
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Joseph Velez .................................. 3
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Sierra Vemeyer ................................. 1
0103 (Ally)
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Christi Waldon ................................. 2
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0301 (Ground Round Employee)
Abigail Whitlock ........................................... 1
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Andrew Wilson Williams ................................. 2
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Diamond Wilson ........................................... 1
0209 (Townsperson)

Rachel Marie Wilson ..................................... 1
0106 (Grocery Store Patron)
Mark Withers .............................................. 1
0104 (Gary)
Brenda Wood ............................................... 1
0101 (Local Newswoman)

Donna Wright ............................................. 1
0203 (Elderly Math Teacher)

Y

Ricardo Miguel Young ................................. 1
0201 (Reporter)

Z

Zac Zedalis .................................................. 1
0302 (Russian Guard)

Alex Zelenka .............................................. 2
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