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HYPERSENSITIVITIES, IRL

A 50s Monster Movie, with apologies to Roger Corman

By: Queen City Flash & the JMU Theatre Dept.

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Cast
(1m/3f)

Dr. LENORE Jacobs*	(40 years old) A Dr. in astrophysics, new to town.
DENNIS Cafferty	(35 years old) Neighbor, Community organizer, busy-body, suffering from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity
LENA	(12 years old) Dennis's daughter. Impressionable. A Telekinetic.
SERENA	(14 years old) Lenore's daughter. A technology junkie.

*caps denote character identification in script

TIME: Late one beautiful spring day, that night, a war-torn morning

SETTING: (Green Bank, WV, deep within the US National Radio Quiet Zone. A house, community center and eventually, the city itself, in Godzilla-like perspective.)

Part 1. New Neighbors

(A living room in a small town. A stack of cardboard boxes, marked: “kitchen,” “living room,” “garage,” etc. DENNIS knocks on the front door, pushing his way inside. He carries a manila folder.)

DENNIS

Neighbor? Anyone home?

LENORE

Can I help you?

DENNIS

Dennis Cafferty, from next door.

LENORE

Oh, hi –

DENNIS

Just saw the moving van out the window. We don’t get a lot of that.

LENORE

If it’s blocking the street I can –

DENNIS

No, it’s fine. We’re friendly here. Just not a scene you see everyday. In a town of 143, seeing a moving van – it’s like the circus coming to town.

LENORE

I can imagine.

DENNIS

And we’re a small town, so of course pretty soon we’ll all be asking, “what are they like,” “where’d they come from,” “what are they doing here?”

(a healthy, awkward silence.)

LENORE

Oh, I’m sorry, are you asking?

DENNIS

We take a keen interest in new-comers. That might be a foreign idea to your kind.

LENORE

My kind?

DENNIS

I don't mean anything sinister... it's just. Well, we have core values that are very important to us. Green Bank isn't like other towns.

LENORE

Because of the National Radio Quiet Zone. I'm aware of it. I'm starting work for the telescope.

DENNIS

A scientist?

LENORE

A doctor. Astrophysics.

DENNIS

Well then you know – we live a simple life here, with simple, wholesome values.

LENORE

Well I can assure you. We're normal people.

DENNIS

We?

LENORE

I have a fourteen-year-old daughter.

DENNIS

Me too. Twelve.

(Meanwhile, out in the backyard, Serena sits absorbed with her iPad, playing some app. LENA approaches her, carrying a kickball.)

LENA

Hi.

SERENA

Oh. Hi.

LENA

You're new here.

SERENA

[dripping in teen-sarcasm:] You noticed. I'm Serena.

LENA

Lena. I live next door. What's that?

SERENA

What's what?

(LENA points to the tablet.)

My iPad. Just playing a game.

(LENA laughs.)

LENA

Just sitting there? How?

SERENA

I don't know... I swipe?

(LENA doesn't understand.)

You know...

(SERENA draws her finger across the air.)

Swipe.

LENA

I like games.

(she hands her ball out, inviting.)

SERENA

Not that kind of game. You can play it if you want.

LENA

Dad wouldn't like that.

SERENA

Okay. So, what games do you play with the ball? By yourself...

LENA

... I kick it. You know...

(pretending to kick her ball.)

kick.

SERENA

Got it. [making an attempt:] Is that all?

LENA

No... well, yeah. Mostly I kick the ball. There's a stream at the bottom of our backyard. Sometimes I kick the ball down there, into the water. Then back up the hill again.

SERENA

Sounds like fun, I guess. What else do you like... what movies are you into? Books?

LENA

Oh...

(back inside:)

DENNIS

You know, when people hear what we're like: no mobile phones, no satellite TV, no radio, no AOL – people act like we're freaks, but we're normal everyday people with –

LENORE

Values. I gathered.

DENNIS

Exactly. We live life the way it's meant to be lived. I mean, look at the way the rest of the country lives – it's... well, it's barbaric.

(LENORE scoffs. DENNIS doesn't notice.)

I'm not being ugly. I mean, take dinner, for instance. Here in Pocahontas County, if you want to eat with someone, you invite them over face to face and you cook together and sit down to a communal meal. Where you're from – by the time you're done snap-talking about where to eat and instagrotting your meal, well, the food's cold and you probably haven't even looked up from your screen to notice who you're eating with.

It ain't the way we live here in Green Bank.

LENORE

I can assure you, Dennis, that we eat meals just like everybody else. We enjoy our neighbors and their lifestyles and their... privacy. We're not here to change anything.

DENNIS

You must think I'm some crazy busy-body. But, it is a relief to hear you talk like that.

LENORE

So, do you work for the telescope too?

DENNIS

I'm a Radio Frequency Technician with the NRAO. It's really more like a sheriff to tell the truth. It's my job to keep the peace, as it were, for the airwaves and make sure Green Bank stays the way it's meant to be. You wouldn't know it, but even something as small as a microwave or Bluetooth speakers can wreak havoc on the telescope.

(opening the manila folder:)

I actually have a waiver I need you to sign...

(outside:)

LENA

What makes it hairy?

SERENA

What makes what hairy?

LENA

The pot.

SERENA

It's not a hairy pot, it's... it's a book. It's like the most popular series of books ever written. You mean to tell me you've never read –

(LENA nods her head.)

Jesus, you're one in a million, you know that?

LENA

That's what my Dad says. But we don't talk about it.

SERENA

Well, you would love it. He's a wizard. You know what a wizard is...

(But SERENA has a sense that she doesn't. LENA nods her head again.)

Well you should definitely look it up. You can pirate the movies easy enough... somewhere?

LENA

Dad says there's nothing on the internet worth looking at.

(SERENA just stares.)

He says people like you are addicted to it. It would be a bad influence for me.

SERENA

I'll loan you the books – you're really missing out.

LENA

I don't think so. Thanks tho. [picking up her ball:] I should probably go.

SERENA

No, don't. Lena... we don't have to talk about it. We could talk about something else.

(LENA sits back down.)

LENA

What do you want to talk about?

(Awkward silence. Inside, DENNIS has the waiver:)

DENNIS

It just outlines our policies and confirms that you understand the social code we have for living here.

LENORE

I can assure you, I understand the importance of preserving what makes this town so important.

DENNIS

We do require it. Your daughter should sign it as well.

LENORE

I'm not comfortable with that, if it's all the same. It's not like she could have access to anything if she wanted to.

DENNIS

Maybe if I spoke to her. The adjustment to Green Bank is hardest on the young ones.

LENORE

I'll take care of it.

(signing, handing back the waiver:)

Here.

DENNIS

You'll see. Once the two of you get used to how we live. The freedom is better than being tethered to tiny screens. Pretty soon, she won't even know what she's missing.

LENORE

And she won't be going without access to the larger world. My sister lives close to here, just outside the Quiet Zone. We'll be spending most of our weekends with her.

DENNIS

We always advise going cold turkey, if you don't mind me saying.

LENORE

If I tried to keep her from season six of Game of Thrones, she'd revolt. And besides, disconnecting her from the rest of the world? It doesn't exactly set her up to succeed. I'd be happy to take the girls to the movies if your daughter ever wants a sleepover.

DENNIS

That's not possible. You don't understand how hard I've worked to keep her from those... influences. So your sister wants to live on the border of the Quiet Zone?

LENORE

Not exactly an abundance of houses to rent in a town of 143 people is there? The border is about as close as she could get.

DENNIS

Is she a hypersensitive?

LENORE

Excuse me?

DENNIS

That's why we moved here. I suffer from Electromagnetic Hypersensitivities. The electromagnetic fields – they give me headaches and a ringing in my ear, burning rashes. I moved here to get away from all that. And Lena... she has special needs.

There are lots of hypersensitives that live on the border, but you can imagine, we're a little weary of letting them move in. The more people who move in, the harder it gets to monitor what they might bring with them.

(outside:)

LENA

[re: the iPad:] Is it just a game then?

SERENA

This? No – it has everything. Books, movies, games. It has everything from youtube to a calculator.

LENA

We have a calculator!

SERENA

... awesome. You sure you don't want to try it?

LENA

Maybe I'll watch you.

SERENA

You're gonna love it. This game, it's called *Global Rampage*. You play as a Kaiju.

(LENA doesn't get it.)

A Kaiju... it's like a fifty-foot tall monster and you earn points by destroying cities. You're supposed to play against others online, but now I just play solo missions. Here [holding out the iPad:] swipe here.

(DENNIS and LENORE enter the backyard.)

DENNIS

Lena. Put that down. Come here.

(LENA stands and walks to DENNIS, her head hanging low.)

[to LENORE:] this is exactly what I was talking about.

(DENNIS leads LENA off, past LENORE.)

SERENA

He seems mean. Did I get her in trouble?

LENORE

No. You didn't.

Don't say that. They're just used to a different type of life. It feels foreign, but they're really no different than us. You'll see that the longer we're here.

SERENA

I don't know why we have to live here. It's just a telescope.

LENORE

The world's largest fully-movable radio telescope and it allows us to see our world and our universe in unheard of ways.

SERENA

We're living like the Flintstones. They probably have an elephant instead of a vacuum.

LENORE

The people in Green Bank live like they did sixty years ago: news comes in a paper, gossip comes from a diner counter, not facebook. But in some ways, this town without technology is more advanced than others. These people agree to live without wifi and microwaves, but the benefit is a greater understanding of where we came from: we found sugar in space, the largest neutron star ever detected. And the two go hand in hand.

We thank them for their sacrifice, we don't vilify them. Living here, you'll discover that they're no different from us. And the discoveries that come from here, they help us understand the universe. They unite us.

You'll see.

Part 2. The Refugees.

(That night, across town. A Community Meeting Hall. Commotion, bordering on riot. DENNIS, standing at a podium, commands silence.)

DENNIS

Friends! Friends! Please – if we’re going to address this seriously we have to get organized. I’ve heard the rumors, same as you. But I don’t buy into rumors.

I’ve been to the border. I’ve seen the hoards.

(A CHORUS of concerned citizens – shouting out:

“What do they want?”

“Why won’t they go away?”

JUDITH stands, addressing the crowd.)

JUDITH

We should just let them in, if they want to be here. I’m a hypersensitive. I remember the nausea, the dizziness. If it weren’t for this town, I would still be living under that oppression.

(Dissent. Another cry:

“How do we know we can trust them?”)

DENNIS

Please, can we have order? Judith, we will open the floor to comments in a moment.

Outside of the ten mile perimeter – which was set up to protect this town and what it stands for – are countless people, some women and children and others, men of military age – who clearly aren’t leaving and who want to come in here. We need to be united in our message to them.

(more cries:

“Some of them are our family!”

“Not all of them. How can we let in some and not all?”)

Please – PLEASE – one at a time.

(DENNIS points of an AUDIENCE MEMBER.)

DENNIS (cont.)

Debra Jean – you wanted to say something?

(An AUDIENCE MEMBER is asked to stand and read from a card. A COMPANY member stands next to them with a corresponding name placard.)

| When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending the people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.

| We have people coming into our country that are looking to do tremendous harm. Look at Paris.

- *Donald Trump, American Businessman*

(Shouts from the crowd:

“Yes, look at Paris!”)

DENNIS

Thank you Debra, very well said. [pointing:] Yes, Trevor –

(Another AUDIENCE MEMBER, another notecard:)

| We oughta be able to figure out where they are and politely ask them to leave.

- *Jeb Bush, Former Governor of Florida*

(Scattered APPLAUSE)

DENNIS

Of course. Uh, yes – Rebecca.

(Another AUDIENCE MEMBER:)

| President Obama and Hillary Clinton's idea that we should bring tens of thousands of Syrian Muslim refugees to America – it is nothing less than lunacy. On the other hand, Christians who are being targeted for genocide, for persecution, Christians who are being beheaded or crucified, we should be providing safe haven to them.

- *Ted Cruz, Junior Senator from Texas*

(A shout:

“What about the other Hypersensitives?”)

DENNIS

I have to insist on civility. If we're gonna adjourn by midnight, we really must speak one at a time, alright? Now – who else would like to speak?

(MEANWHILE, back at DENNIS'S house LENA is asleep in her bed. Outside her window, SERENA appears, peering in:)

SERENA

Lena. [knocking on the window:] Lena.

(LENA stirs.)

LENA

Serena – what are you doing here?

SERENA

What do you think, you goob? We're sneaking out.

LENA

My dad wouldn't like that.

SERENA

Your dad is across town at a town meeting all night. Come on – open the window!

LENA

Are we playing your game? The... kaiju?

SERENA

Better. Have you ever seen the internet? My aunt lives ten miles from here. Mom and I have bikes, we can be there in an hour.

LENA

I don't know. I'm not supposed to –

SERENA

Of course you're not. Haven't you ever wondered why? What you're missing?

LENA

Dad picked this place to keep me away from that stuff.

SERENA

Look out here, what do you see?

LENA

Grass?

SERENA

You've lived here so long, you don't even notice it anymore.

LENA

The telescope?

SERENA

Exactly. We all have to go without so that the telescope can discover new things. Don't you think it's time you discovered something new?

(LENA, conflicted, thinks, dancing in place with the weight of the decision.)

LENA

Show me.

(LENA climbs out the window. Back at the Community Meeting Hall. Another AUDIENCE MEMBER.)

| If there is a rabid dog running around your neighborhood, you're probably not going to assume something good about that dog.

| The statue of liberty says bring us your tired and your weary. It didn't say, bring us your terrorists.

- Ben Carson, Neurosurgeon (retired)

(Hoots and Hollering!)

DENNIS

Thank you, Esther, well spoken. Anyone else – Wilford?

(Rinse and Repeat.)

| Our nation has always been welcoming but we cannot let terrorists take advantage of our compassion.

| This is a moment where it is better to be safe than to be sorry, so we think the prudent, the responsible thing is to take a pause in this particular aspect of this refugee program in order to verify that terrorists are not looking to infiltrate the refugee program.

- Paul Ryan, Speaker of the US House of Representatives

(“Enough talking – what are we going to do about it!”)

(“Let ‘em go somewhere else.”)

DENNIS

Neighbors – we’ve talked about it for year, I think it might be time to pull the trigger on the fence.

(Chanting, hysteric: “The Fence! Build the Fence!” DENNIS continues, standing under another placard:)

They will not be having open borders. And the greatest builder is me and I would build the greatest wall you have ever seen, the greatest. And just to finish, you know who is going to pay for the wall? Mexico—with all of the money that they have taken from us, they are going to be paying for that wall.

- *Donald Trump. American Businessman*

(WILD APPLAUSE.)

Alright Darryl, I can see your hand, say what you want:

(AUDIENCE MEMBER:)

We have got to come to grips with the fact that this is not going away, and the millions of people who are fleeing--need safe places to be. But the conflict needs to be brought under control.

- *Hillary Clinton, Former United States Secretary of State*

(Boos and scowls, shouts of “sit down!” ANOTHER AUDIENCE MEMBER stands without being recognized.)

“We would be bringing people in who lived in the desert their entire lives, and they would be completely disrupted. Can you imagine bringing in a bunch of Syrian refugees who’ve lived in the desert their whole lives that are suddenly thrown into an English-speaking community? I mean just I don’t understand what we possibly can be thinking.”

- *Mike Huckabee, Former Governor of Arkansas*

(Whistles. “Amen!”)

(Outside the Quiet Zone, two girls find themselves in front of a electric beast, humming in electric anticipation:)

LENA

Now what happens?

SERENA

Whatever you want. What do you want to look up?

LENA

I don't know.

SERENA

What are your interests?

LENA

I don't know.

SERENA

Well, you gotta pick something. You can choose anything, any place in the world and zoom! Shoot right to it.

LENA

Uh... Okay, okay okay. I got it. If you could only show me one thing that perfectly encapsulates the internet, what would it be?

SERENA

One thing?

(The Meeting Hall. An AUDIENCE MEMBER, a final plea:)

We are not well served when we descend into fear and panic. We don't make good decisions if it's based on hysteria or an exaggeration of risks.

And I would add, these are the same folks who suggested they're so tough that just 'talk to Putin' or staring down Isil... but they are scared of widows and orphans coming into the United States of America as part of our tradition of compassion.

-Barack Obama, 44th US President

(ONE LAST PERSON rushes to their feet:)

| And may I please remind you it does not say RSVP on the statue of liberty!

Alicia Silverstone, Clueless

DENNIS

Okay – We've heard what everyone has to say – I think it's time for a vote. All in favor of the fence –

(But DENNIS finishes that thought. There's a noise outside the Meeting Hall, growing to a fever pitch: "Beep-a-dee-ba-deep-a-deep-doe.")

A TOWNSPERSON

What is that?

TOWNSPERSON 2

Jesus, Herschel, look out the window!

(And there they are, larger than life. COMPANY MEMBERS arrange themselves in a chorus line of that 1996 internet stalwart, HamsterDance.com)

(Dancing. Music. Anarchy.)

Part 3. Kaiju

(Split scene: on one side, LENA stares into the angry eye of a computer screen. Elsewhere, in the near future, SERENA sits, being interrogated by the town SHERIFF:)

SHERIFF

Let's go back to the beginning Ms. Jacobs.

SERENA

I've told you what I know. I can't explain it any better. We were there – staring at the screen and it was like something took over her body. Like she was possessed by some sort of demon.

(LENA'S eyes roll back in her head and her body lurches from within, as if some spirit is trying to lift her lifeless body into the air. When she snaps to, the demon speaks:)

LENA

Chocolate Rain!

(Another possessed spasm and then:)

Let's get some shoes.

SERENA

She was ravenous, like a wild animal. She couldn't take in enough of it. It started so simply: a little History of Dance, Bane Cat, but it just kept coming.

LENA

Kittens, Inspired by Kittens!

SHERIFF

She was browsing the internet without a safe search filter.

SERENA

(hysterical:)

She was devouring it! She gobbled up an entire season of Crash Course in an instant. She was Linda Blair from the Exorcist, only instead of a spinning head of vomit, she covered my Aunt's living room in Diet Coke and Mentos.

SHERIFF

Let's try and stay calm.

LENA

Chuck Norris's tears cure cancer!

SERENA

You aren't getting it! Trogdor wasn't a man, he was a scared little girl and he burninated everything in sight!

SHERIFF

What you're saying is impossible.

SERENA

You weren't there!

(cut to, a FIELD REPORTER and WANDA, a witness:)

REPORTER

Please sir, what can you tell us about the recent meme outbreak?

WANDA

I'm not sure I understand what you're saying? Weren't none of those French people who don't talk.

REPORTER

Those are mimes, I am talking about the internet memes.

WANDA

Oh, we don't use the internet here. I'm a hypersensitive. Gives me the squirts.

REPORTER

What can you tell us about the herd of unicorns spotted nearby?

WANDA

Oh sure, Charlie came by the house, looking for our support for his bid for de-facto chief of the picture-box creatures. I respect his stance on states rights.

REPORTER

More on this story as it unfolds.

(cut to a different news segment, elsewhere:)

DAMIEN

Well, I was sitting on the porch, eating a corndog when I saw this thing cresting the hill. Scared me so bad I dropped my corndog. Now I'm not one to let a corndog go to waste so I stooped down to grab it up. When I looked, it was gone.

REPORTER 2

What did you do then?

DAMIEN

Well folks here is divided, but I'm a mustard man myself. Damn good corndog.

REPORTER 2

Can you tell us what you saw?

DAMIEN

Coulda been anything: shark on a flying saucer, cat on a plate, I dunno.

(Cut to: a WOMAN running down the street, being pursued by Shark-Cat on a Rhoomba.)

WOMAN

Hide your kids. Hide your wife!

(Back at LENORE'S house, DENNIS paces nervously. LENORE enters:)

LENORE

She's not in her room.

DENNIS

I could have told you that – I want to know where my daughter is.

LENORE

How would I know that?

DENNIS

Your daughter has taken her somewhere.

LENORE

Don't blame my daughter because you can't find your kid.

DENNIS

Your sister – where exactly does she live?

LENORE

I don't know what that could have to do with it.

DENNIS

Lena isn't like other children.

LENORE

With you as her father I can see why –

DENNIS

No – I mean. She’s different. Ever since she was a baby, she has these powers. She can make things happen – things she can’t control.

LENORE

You expect me to believe that?

DENNIS

Have you not been outside – look outside your window, lady.

(LENORE turns to her window. NYAN CAT soars by.)

LENORE

What is that?

DENNIS

That’s Lena. Wherever she is, whatever your daughter is showing her – that’s what’s happening.

LENORE

Let me get my keys.

(Cut to: another interview on the streets.)

REPORTER 3

Excuse me, Mayor. Mayor! What are you doing to address the meme crisis that’s entering from outside the Quiet Zone?

MAYOR

Well, it’s a very nuanced ordeal. The first thing we have to suss out before we go diving headlong into this mess is figure out, are these “memes” voters? Are they registered to vote? How are we doing with their poll ratings?

REPORTER 3

Um, I believe that they have no intention of voting, sir. What are doing specifically to address the rampage currently happening downtown?

MAYOR

Downtown? Oh, you must mean the Marathon station. Well, if they aren’t registered voters, then they must be stopped. You know what would have stopped a situation like this from occurring? The electric fence. You can clearly see what comes of politicians politicizing a common sense solution now, can’t you? What is needed now, more than ever is the fency. A nice fence, a great, great fence. But I’m looking into it. I am going to get the best guys to build the fence. The best guys that you don’t even know about. The

MAYOR (cont.)

best guys that I don't even know about. And we'll get those guys and we'll build our fence to keep out the internet.

REPORTER 3

And who do you propose, Mayor, would pay for this fence?

MAYOR

Well it certainly won't be us. Google, maybe.

(Cut to: RAWLENE in the streets, being interviewed.)

RAWLENE

I'll be honest with you, I don't really mind it. High School football team's on a losing streak, Green Bank First Baptist has suspended Bingo night, this town needs a little excitement. And I'll be honest with you, ever since that little Hobbit started yelling at my husband to "Do it..." you won't believe how clean the garage is.

The only thing that really worries me is...

(RAWLENE is distracted by some unseen terror in the distance.)

Ermahgerd.

(LENORE and DENNIS are riding in her car, towards the border of the Quiet Zone.)

DENNIS

I thought I could keep her safe, ya know. Bring her to the one place where she wouldn't be tempted or beguiled. A just wanted a world where she wouldn't have to worry about all the terrible things that are out there.

LENORE

That place doesn't exist, Dennis – no matter how much you want it to.

DENNIS

It did. Until tonight.

LENORE

If it wasn't tonight, it would have been some other night. You can't pretend the rest of the world doesn't exist. The world won't accept that.

DENNIS

We always have here in Pocahontas County. And it always worked. Until you showed up.

LENORE

[scoffs:] There's an irony there. Pocahontas County. If memory serves, she was kind to foreigners.

DENNIS

It's those damn refugees at the border, that's who's to blame.

(DENNIS slams a fist on the dashboard. "Numa Numa" starts playing.)

LENORE

Huh. That's weird. The radio's working.

DENNIS

I don't think that's your radio.

(Suddenly, LENORE sees a large looming creature in the road ahead:)

LENORE

Oh my goodness!

DENNIS

They going Ham!

(LENORE spins the steering wheel wildly as we cut to:

A SCREAMING GOAT, standing in the road. The GOAT scares itself and FAINTS.)

[swearing to himself:] Ghetto grocery bag.

LENORE

What?

DENNIS

Just something my father used to say whenever he was upset.

The road's blocked – we'll never make it to the border now.

(LENORE thinks to herself when EUREKA! it all comes together.)

LENORE

We don't have to. I was stupid not to think of it before.

DENNIS

We have to make it to the border. My daughter –

LENORE

Is fine – don't you see? As long as these manifestations roam the streets, she's sitting at my sister's absorbing the internet. She's safe. I have a plan.

DENNIS

What is it?

LENORE

It's simple. All we have to do is –

(Rickroll. DENNIS stares in annoyance as LENORE sings along. After a moment, she stops.)

DENNIS

Well, that was obnoxious.

LENORE

Sorry. Come on, I know what to do.

(LENORE spins the wheel and turns back, away from the border.)

(cut to:)

REPORTER

Alex, we're still covering the commotion in Green Bank, West Virginia tonight where citizen reactions range from decrying the end of world to claims of utter cuteness. I'm here now with local resident, Donna Lawrence. Donna, can you explain what you saw?

DONNA

I walked into the Stop & Shop for a few items, it's Pigs-in-a-Blanket night at our house when all of a sudden the whole store started shaking. Scared me so bad I just dropped the Pigs-in-a-Blanket right there in the middle of aisle four.

REPORTER

What was it?

DONNA

Oh, just like little corndogs in a metal tin. Well, then I walked outside and there she was – fifty foot high and in our town – Kim Kar-Kut-a-Rug in the flesh. Pieces of brick started comin' down from the buildings, windows shattering. They say the camera adds ten pounds, honey I don't if that's possible.

(The REPORTER is shaken to the core by a new sight, just out of camera view.
To the cameraman:)

Jonny, over there. Tell me you're getting this.

(Adele’s “Hello” begins playing as a 50 ft. tall Adele turns the corner walking towards the middle of town. She is followed closely by an equally large SHIA LABEOUF. ADELE raises a foot and stomps out a building. SHIA joins her, squashing another building. A HELICOPTER flies overhead, trying to ward off ADELE. ADELE swats it out of the sky, exploding the HELICOPTER. Debris falls to the ground.

ADELE rears her head back and lets out a roar. It’s the Dial-Up Modem Tone.

Cut to THE TELESCOPE:)

DENNIS

Lenore, we’re wasting time – what are we doing here?

LENORE

Don’t you get it – the Telescope is the answer. It always has been.

DENNIS

It can’t help us – it’s nothing but –

LENORE

The World’s Largest Moveable Radio Telescope. We’ve been looking at this the wrong way, trying to minimize wife signals to preserve the telescope.

DENNIS

I don’t follow you.

LENORE

We use the telescope to drown out the wifi signals along the border. We reverse the polarity!

DENNIS

Is that even possible?

LENORE

It’s worth a try.

(The ground shakes. DENNIS peers out towards the town.)

DENNIS

We better hurry. I think Shia LaBeouf is coming back.

LENORE

Oh, I don’t really know if he’s having a comeback.

DENNIS

No – look!

(Split: LENORE and DENNIS stare out as SHIA LABEOUF approaches the telescope.)

He’s gaining on us!

(Next to them is a large lever. Hanging below is a sign: “Convenient Polarity Lever DO NOT TOUCH. LENORE reaches up a hand to the lever. DENNIS stops her.)

DENNIS

Are you sure this will work?

LENORE

Don’t worry, this is how bacon is supposed to be.

(LENORE pulls the lever as SHIA reaches the Telescope. A wrenching-tearing noise shatters the night air, pulsing into SHIA, who is blown back.

Silence weighs down the night air.)

DENNIS

Is it over?

Part 4. The Wall

(The REPORTER, surveying the aftermath:)

REPORTER

Thank you, Tina. Several young women caught trying to smuggle cats out of the Quiet Zone tonight. Authorities are refusing to release information as to whether they were of the LOL or Grumpy variety. All three women are spending the night in County lockup where I'm told in the morning, they will be arraigned for copyright infringement.

As of now it is still unclear what will happen to the approximately thirty memes that are grazing in Hank Howard's cow pasture.

(cut to: A Charity Commercial. TONY RAE WILLIAMS walks towards the AUDIENCE, past the rubble of the previous night's battle. A sad Sarah McLachlan song plays:)

TONY

Hi. I'm Tony Rae Williams. Behind me is a small American town in shambles.

And even tho you see these pictures and know that it's happening, most of you won't do anything to help. We can't imagine what it's like to live like this, but I'm here and the picture only conveys part of the devastation.

For less than a dollar a day, you can sponsor someone like this Willy Wonka meme. Like our Facebook feed, these memes has hopes and dreams for the future. We've been helping memes like this for over fifteen years. And when you sponsor someone like this Honey Badger, you give them views, a share button and most importantly, a future.

Troll face didn't have a choice, but you do. Please, call.

(The TOWNSPEOPLE of GREEN BANK assemble, looking out at the AUDIENCE.)

DENNIS

Neighbors. We had a close call last night. I wouldn't call us lucky, but looked after. And we need to decide what we're gonna do – where we're going to go from here.

(COMPANY MEMBERS call out opinions as a large wall cuts the AUDIENCE in half, dividing them:)

| “My wife is Mexican and she wants a wall on Mexican border.”

- *Jeb Bush, Former Governor of Florida*

| “To bring them here under these circumstances is a suspension of intellect.”

- *Ben Carson, Neurosurgeon (retired)*

| “Walls on borders work; just ask Israel.”

- *Donald Trump, American Businessman*

| “Those who are fleeing persecution should be resettled in the Middle East in majority Muslim countries. Now on the other hand, Christians who are being targeted for genocide should be provided safe haven in the United States.”

- *Ted Cruz, Junior Senator from Texas*

| “I said we should go to 65” — meaning 65,000 refugees — “but only if we have as careful a screening and vetting process as we can imagine.”

- *Hillary Clinton, Former United States Secretary of State*

DENNIS

Alright, you’ve all had your say. Let’s put it to a vote. All those in favor building the wall, please say –

(Rickroll.)

(endit.)

*note:

(The Church World Service, Harrisonburg)

(Multi-cultural student services, JMU)