

# **STRANGER THINGS**

Episode #301

"Chapter 1"

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1     **INT. HALLWAY**

Eleven stands in a long hallway with full bookshelves on both sides, like a library, but the hall appears to go on forever into the distance. Confused, she starts walking, then running. The more she runs, the longer the hallway seems. She stops and turns around, sees someone off camera. A gentle, yet powerful voice speaks:

                  MAN'S VOICE:  
Jane, find my book. I want you to show them.

2     **INT. ELEVEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Eleven's eyes open. It was a dream. She gets out of bed and looks for every book in Hopper's house, finding the dictionary, a magazine, etc. She briefly looks at each book and drops them. Nothing stands out as special.

3     **INT. MIKE'S BASEMENT - MORNING**

Mike opens the exterior door. Eleven walks in quickly before he can greet her.

                  ELEVEN:  
I need a book.

                  MIKE:  
A book? Any book?

                  ELEVEN:  
THE book.

                  MIKE:  
What do you mean THE book?

                  ELEVEN:  
I'll find it. Just show me books.

A few minutes have passed. Mike drops miscellaneous books on the basement table.

                  MIKE:  
That's every book I could find in the house.

Eleven briefly picks up the books and looks at them.

ELEVEN:  
It's not here.

4     **EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY**

We see the "PUBLIC LIBRARY" sign as Mike and Eleven enter the library.

5     **INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY**

MIKE:  
There's thousands of books here. Do you know what you're looking for?

ELEVEN:  
No.

As Mike follows her, Eleven steadily walks through every aisle, looking around at the books, arms outstretched at times, letting her fingertips touch the books as she walks. The librarian gives suspicious glances at Mike and Eleven. Eleven reaches a dead-end in the corner at the back of the library. She turns around to leave, takes two steps, then pauses, as if she senses something behind her. She abruptly turns her head and her eyes fix on a certain book on the bottom shelf. She approaches the shelf and pulls out a large black book and holds it up in front of her face.

ELEVEN:  
It's this one.

Mike looks at the cover and sees the text "HOLY BIBLE".

MIKE:  
The BIBLE? You were looking for a *BIBLE*?

Eleven opens the book and turns a few pages, stops, and reads somewhat slowly:

ELEVEN:  
"Genesis... In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."  
[*She turns her face toward Mike.*]  
Who is... God?

MIKE:  
Uh...

**MAIN TITLES**

6     **EXT. HOPPER'S PORCH - DAY**

Mike gives a secret knock on the front door. Eleven lets Mike in and closes the door.

7     **INT. HOPPER'S LIVING ROOM**

Eleven is sitting and staring at the Bible on the coffee table. Mike sits down nearby.

MIKE:  
Did you read it?

ELEVEN:  
*It read me.*

MIKE:  
What?

ELEVEN:  
This book is alive.

MIKE:  
Alive?

ELEVEN:  
Give me your hand.  
*[She puts Mike's hand palm-down on the Bible's cover.]*  
Do you feel that?

MIKE:  
Feel what?

ELEVEN:  
Power.

Mike waits about 8 seconds, feeling awkward.

MIKE:  
It just feels like a book.

Mike takes his hand off.

ELEVEN:

It wants to tell us something. Can you bring the others here?

8     **EXT. STREET - DAY**

Mike, Lucas, Will, and Dustin are riding their bikes toward Eleven/Hopper's house.

DUSTIN:

Of all the books in the library, you let her check out a BIBLE?

MIKE:

"Let her"? She was *drawn* to it. What was I supposed to say?

DUSTIN:

How about "*Pick another book*"?

MIKE:

What are you afraid of?

DUSTIN:

Mike, do you not remember anything we learned in Science class? The Bible is just a bunch of stories that somebody made up.

MIKE:

Then why is it talking to Eleven?

DUSTIN:

She SAYS it's talking to her. That doesn't mean it's talking to her.

MIKE:

You calling her a liar?

DUSTIN:

No, I'm just saying... Religion makes people crazy.

MIKE:

Who said anything about religion?

DUSTIN:

What?

MIKE:

She's reading a *book*, Dustin. She's not joining a convent.

LUCAS:

Not yet.

9     **INT. HOPPER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY**

They sit down around Eleven and the Bible on the coffee table. Eleven is closest to the front door. Mike sits closest to Eleven, on her right side. Dustin is on her left. Lucas and Will are straight ahead, Will sitting the farthest. Eleven opens the Bible to somewhere near the middle. She lays her hands down on the pages and closes her eyes.

ELEVEN:

We're here.

A few seconds pass. She hasn't moved.

LUCAS:

What is she doing?

Eleven, eyes still closed, slowly lifts her hands up a few inches above the Bible and keeps them there. *The pages turn themselves* toward the beginning of the book.

ELEVEN:

Do you see it?

MIKE:

See what?

ELEVEN:

The earth... He's making it... It's beautiful...  
Trees... Animals... He made a man... a woman...  
They're happy...

*[Eleven's smile fades away.]*

Something's wrong...

*[Mildly ominous background music starts. Some pages turn.]*

More people... They don't want Him.

Many pages turn. Very ominous music starts. Eleven gasps in fear. Her hands start to tremble. She breathes heavier and heavier until she screams in terror, backs away from the Bible, opens her eyes (now shedding tears) and stares at the Bible as

if she's now afraid of it. Mike rushes to her side and holds her hand.

MIKE:

El, what's wrong? What happened?

ELEVEN:

Hell... *HELL!*

Eleven is sobbing, tears streaming.

LUCAS:

You saw hell?

WILL:

Worse than the Upside-Down?

ELEVEN:

Fire... They're burning... and screaming.

Mike leans toward the Bible and shouts at it:

MIKE:

Why did you show her that?!

DUSTIN:

Mike, you're talking to a *book*. This is all in her head.

Eleven looks angrily at Dustin, then grows confident. She wipes her tears and defiantly puts her hands over the Bible again. Eyes closed.

ELEVEN:

Show me more.

Scary music speeds up. The Bible rapidly turns itself back and forth to many seemingly random pages. Eleven's face shows guilt... then fear.

ELEVEN:

No... No... NOOOOOOOO!!!!

*[She jumps back from the Bible and clings to Mike's arm, crying on his shoulder. She's trembling.]*

Mike, we're gonna burn. We're all gonna burn!

Dustin is subtly shaking his head in disapproval. Lucas looks somewhere between angry and scared. Will looks terrified and has a tear coming down his cheek.

MIKE:

No. Why would we go to hell?

ELEVEN:

We're bad. We're like the bad people. We're the same.

MIKE:

No. That's not true.

ELEVEN:

Inside. We're dirty inside. It's sin, Mike. SIN!  
*[She reaches out her left hand over the Bible. It turns to a certain page. She quickly with her right hand points to a verse on the page, and turns her face toward Mike.]*

Pride!

*[She does the same thing on another page.]*

Lying!

*[Another page.]*

Stealing!

*[Another page.]*

Killing! You need more?! WE'RE proud! WE lied!

WE stole! I killed.

Music fades away as Eleven covers her face with her hands, feeling ashamed. She quietly sobs. A tear runs down Mike's cheek.

MIKE:

What, are you saying it's too late? There's nothing we can do?

*[He gently pulls her hands off of her face and cups them in his own hands. He looks her in the eyes.]*

El, it's talking to you for a reason. The answer is in there. You've got to find it.

Eleven takes a deep breath, puts her hands over the Bible, and closes her eyes. Pages turn.

ELEVEN:



He came down here... He has a name... Jesus... He helped them... They hate Him... They're hurting him...

*[Eleven is getting choked up, trying not to cry.]*

Nails...

*[Eleven gasps, sheds a tear.]*

They're killing Him... He's letting them do it.

Blood runs out of Eleven's nose (more than usual). Slightly startled, she opens her eyes. With her left hand, she wipes blood off her face and looks at the blood on her hand.

ELEVEN:

It's the blood.

Quiet music starts - sounds like there is hope.

MIKE:

Blood?

ELEVEN:

*His* blood. It can clean us. It can clean us inside.

MIKE:

How?

Eleven wipes her bloody hand on her sleeve and rushes back to the Bible to put her hands over it and closes her eyes. It turns to a page. Eleven pulls her hands away, and without looking, she points to a verse [Ephesians 1:7] and leaves her finger there with her eyes still closed.

ELEVEN:

Mike, what does it say?

Mike eagerly leans in so his face is inches above the page.

MIKE:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace..."

Eyes still closed, Eleven moves her finger and points to a verse on the next page [Ephesians 2:8].

ELEVEN:

Read it.

MIKE:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

ELEVEN:

Gift.

Eleven lifts up both hands over the Bible. The pages turn back to Romans 10. She points to verse 9. Mike leans in.

MIKE:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Eleven opens her eyes, leans over, bracing herself on the table, and looks at the verse Mike just read. She sits up, looks up toward the ceiling, as if sensing that someone is far above it looking down at them. She closes her eyes, hugs herself as if she feels cold, bows her head slightly, and sheds a tear.

ELEVEN:

Lord Jesus, please clean me inside.

Music stops. Eleven opens her eyes and stares blankly ahead for a few seconds.

ELEVEN:

He did it.

Music starts, even more hopeful. Eleven smiles, and sheds another tear, only this time, a tear of joy. The others are staring at her and at a loss for words. Eleven looks at Mike, and loses her smile, appears scared for his sake. She grabs his head with both hands and leans in close, face to face.

ELEVEN:

Mike, *don't go to hell*. Come with me. He can hear you. He's waiting.

Tears run down Mike's cheeks. He closes his eyes.

MIKE:

Lord Jesus, please clean me like you cleaned Eleven.

Mike opens his eyes to see Eleven smile and cry tears of joy. She hugs him and doesn't let go. Dustin and Lucas turn their heads toward Will when they hear him whispering with his eyes closed:

WILL:

Lord Jesus, please clean my soul.

Lucas jumps to a standing position, looks up at the ceiling and shouts:

LUCAS:

Lord Jesus, I'm here! Clean me too!

Lucas falls to his knees and catches his breath. Dustin nervously looks at Will and Lucas, turns his head and looks at Mike and Eleven, looks back at Lucas, looks up at the ceiling, looks down, then grabs his head and closes his eyes like he's wincing in pain from an internal struggle.

DUSTIN:

Alright, alright! I'm sorry! Jesus- LORD Jesus, I believe you! Clean ME!

Dustin opens his eyes, and is breathing heavily with his mouth open. Mike and Eleven finally let go of each other and are now looking at the others. The Bible moves to another page without Eleven doing anything. She closes her eyes and points to a verse [John 10:28]. Mike leans in to read it.

MIKE:

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

They all look at each other and smile. Eleven looks up toward the ceiling.

ELEVEN:

Thank you.

10     **EXT. LARGE CHURCH BUILDING IN ANOTHER STATE - DAY**

Young man named Ben (late 20s or early 30s) with a beard and mustache bursts out of the door of the church building, angrily walking towards his car. An older man in a suit and tie named Julian comes out the same door, following him.

JULIAN:  
Boy, I'm not done talking to you!

BEN:  
Well I'm done listening!

JULIAN:  
This is MY church! Don't you ever question me again!  
You think you know the Bible? You haven't been to  
seminary. You don't know any Greek.

BEN:  
And you don't know God! Keep starving your flock.  
I'll see you at the judgment seat.

Ben gets in his car and starts the engine.

JULIAN:  
Where are you going?

BEN:  
Anywhere but here.

11    **EXT. ROAD - DAY**

We see Ben's car driving passed a sign that reads "Welcome to  
Hawkins, Indiana."

12    **INT. HOPPER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY**

DUSTIN:  
Eleven... I'm sorry. You're not crazy.

Eleven looks at him and grins.

ELEVEN:  
I know.

WILL:  
So... What do we do now?

DUSTIN:  
Um, celebrate?

WILL:  
Can we get more Bibles? So we can each have one?

DUSTIN:  
Where's the closest bookstore?

LUCAS:  
Not close.

MIKE:  
Where's the closest church?

13    **EXT. PARKING LOT OF SMALL CHURCH BUILDING - DAY**

Mike, Eleven, Dustin, Lucas, and Will stand outside a rear/side door. Mike knocks on the door. An elderly man wearing overalls and reading glasses opens the door from inside. He looks very surprised to see five teenagers standing there.

MIKE:  
Are you... the preacher?

OLD PREACHER:  
Yeah. You need one?

MIKE:  
We need Bibles.

OLD PREACHER:  
Oh.

MIKE:  
Do you have some that we can buy?

OLD PREACHER:  
Buy? If you're actually gonna read 'em, just take 'em. God knows I can't get my congregation to read 'em. Come on in to my office here.

14    **INT. SMALL OFFICE WITH DESK**

The old preacher grabs a book off of a shelf and hands it to Mike.

OLD PREACHER:  
There's one. I got more in the closet. Hold on.

While the old preacher enters a storage closet, Mike looks at the book's cover and sees "New International Version". He hands

it to Eleven. She holds it with both hands for a moment, opens it, flips through a few pages, closes it, and holds her hand flat on the cover for a moment.

ELEVEN:

It's not the same. It's... dead.

The old preacher emerges from the closet and sets two more books on the desk. He starts to turn back toward the closet, but Mike quickly opens his backpack and pulls out the Bible from the library, which draws the preacher's attention.

MIKE:

Do you have any Bibles like this one?

The old preacher moves closer, straitens his glasses, and strains to read the Bible's spine.

OLD PREACHER:

Oh, King James? You like that OLD English, do ya?

DUSTIN:

Old?

OLD PREACHER:

Yeah, you know - like Shakespeare. You read Shakespeare in school?

LUCAS:

Yeah.

The old preacher goes into the closet and comes out with two King James Bibles and sets them on the desk. Eleven examines them as the old preacher gets three more.

OLD PREACHER:

That's five. Is that enough?

Eleven arranges the King James Bibles in a row on the desk, closes her eyes, and puts her hands down flat on each of the covers for a couple seconds. The old preacher has a slightly confused look on his face. Eleven opens her eyes, turns to Mike, and gives him an affirmative nod.

MIKE:

We'll take these. Thank you.

Mike quickly grabs the King James Bibles, passes them out to the others, and keeps one for himself.

OLD PREACHER:  
You're welcome.

Mike leads them out the door.

OLD PREACHER:  
If you don't have a church, you're welcome to come back here Sunday. We got plenty of empty pews for ya.

MIKE:  
Uh, maybe. We'll see.

15    **INT. HOPPER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and Will sit and open their Bibles and look at the opening pages, looking excited.

ELEVEN:  
Mike, what is a church for?

MIKE:  
It's uh, it's a place where people go on Sundays. And they... sing songs about God, and they listen to a preacher talk about the Bible and stuff.

ELEVEN:  
Should WE go?

MIKE:  
Uh, I guess. I think we're supposed to.

DUSTIN:  
Which one?

LUCAS:  
Yeah, there's like a hundred different kinds of churches. How do we know which one we're supposed to go to?

MIKE:  
El, can you ask the Bible?

Eleven opens her Bible on the coffee table, puts her hands over it, and closes her eyes. She waits about 15 seconds, and feels

nothing. She opens her eyes, pulls her hands away, and looks down at the Bible with a confused look on her face.

ELEVEN:

It won't tell me.

The boys look around at each other with worried looks on their faces. Then they are startled when the pages start to turn themselves. The pages stop. Eleven's finger points to a verse [2 Timothy 2:15] on the page. Mike leans in to read it.

MIKE:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

WILL:

"Study..."

ELEVEN:

I think He wants us to... read it.

LUCAS:

You mean, the hard way.

DUSTIN:

Reading is hard, now?

MIKE:

No more shortcuts.

DUSTIN:

Well, wasn't that the plan? I mean, we didn't get our own Bibles so Eleven could teach us the whole thing by osmosis.

LUCAS:

What is it, a thousand pages?

MIKE:

A thousand pages from God. Let's not be lazy.

LUCAS:

I'm just saying, it could take a YEAR to read it all.

DUSTIN:

Once.



MIKE:

Then the sooner we start, the better. Let's just read the whole thing from cover to cover. And in the meantime, let's go to every kind of church there is. We'll go to a different church each week and try to figure out what the difference is.

DUSTIN:

Yikes.

LUCAS:

This is about to get nuts.