

# Portal Runner

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**INT. WELDON HOUSE - DAY**

All's quiet in this mid-century home.

In **THE KITCHEN**, the tap drips.

In **NOLAN'S ROOM**, a breeze blows the curtains.

In **THE DINING ROOM**, an unseen clock TICKS.

**INT. DEN - DAY**

A **LARGE MIRROR** and several **PHOTOS** rest on the mantel.

The largest is a family portrait: *CHRISTMAS GREETINGS 1999!*

We see a grimace-smiling boy (**NOLAN**, 14), a woman hugging him (**KLARA**, 40's), and a hairy, bespectacled man (**BOON**, 50's). Each holds a large block letter of their first initial.

In the mirror, we see a **SAD CHRISTMAS TREE**.

Someone tried to decorate the runt with globes and tchotchkes.

The ornaments sway in a sudden breeze.

A **RADIO** hums on.

We catch the reflection of **LIGHTNING** in one red globe. A **FLASH** of crackling blue light brightens the room.

Someone tumbles to the ground in front of the mantel.

He lies for a moment, groaning, before finally, painfully, making his way to his feet.

It's Nolan, much worse for wear.

Dusting himself off, Nolan looks around the room. He picks up a **WICKER CHAIR**, hefts it, and swings it at the mirror.

It **SHATTERS**.

Nolan moves to the mantel. Steps on the family photo. Ignores it.

Inspects a large shard of the mirror.

**INT. KLARA'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Nolan drags an ancient STEAMER CHEST from his mom's closet.

**INT. DEN - DAY**

Carefully, Nolan grabs the unshattered part of the mirror and--

**INT. TOP OF STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS**

--shoves it inside the trunk.

Nolan glances around, evaluating.

**MONTAGE - AROUND THE HOUSE**

Nolan grabs a MEDICINE CABINET MIRROR,

His mom's MAKEUP VANITY,

The HALL-TREE MIRROR,

And finally, carefully, a BATHROOM MIRROR--

**INT. TOP OF STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS**

All end up in the trunk.

Nolan pulls and pushes until the chest precariously overhangs the top stair.

**INT. KLARA'S BEDROOM - LATER**

Nolan takes a HACKSAW to the hinges of his mom's TRIFOLD WARDROBE MIRROR.

With a pull, he removes it from its frame.

**INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS**

Nolan carefully sets the mirror in a corner of the room.

He looks up at the ceiling, then at the mirror, trying to gauge distance.

**INT. BASEMENT - DAY**

Near the washer, Nolan grabs a PUSH BROOM and several WIRE HANGERS.

**INT. SHOP - DAY**

Nolan grabs a MAKITA, DUCT TAPE, a CINDERBLOCK, and ROPE.

**INT. DEN - DAY**

Nolan dumps the jumble of stuff next to the mirror. He pulls a DOILY from the end table, and--

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

--Dumps STEAK KNIVES onto it.

He then upends the contents of the BUTCHER'S BLOCK on the doily.

He picks up the butcher's knife. Too big? Nah, just right.

Nolan pauses. First time he's taken a moment that we've seen. He sees and grabs an apple, which he devours.

Nolan throws open several cupboards until he finds the JIF.

He opens the fridge and grabs the WONDERBREAD.

Nolan dumps out the whole loaf and unscrews the jar when he notices something on the bread.

MOLD. GREEN and BROWN and WHITE FUZZ.

Nolan reacts in terror.

**EXT. CARPORT - DAY**

Nolan dumps the bread on the concrete.

Douses it with BLEACH.

**IN THE SHOP**, finds a RED CAN--

Douses the bread--

**IN THE KITCHEN**, a box of Strike Anywheres--

Lights a MATCH.

The bread goes up in blue flame.

Nolan watches it burn.

**INT. DEN - LATER**

Nolan twists several HANGERS into closed C shapes, which he screws into the ceiling to use as brackets.

Some ways back, he drills in another wire C bracket.

He puts a straightened wire through a hole drilled in the top of the broom, and suspends it between the brackets in the ceiling. Like a pendulum.

Gently, Nolan tests the swing of the broom head. It bumps into the center of the mirror. Nolan takes off the broom head, and duct tapes the KNIVES and CINDERBLOCK to it.

Nolan ties a rope to the pendulum and pulls the rope up through several C brackets, back through

**THE HALLWAY**, to the

**BASE OF THE STAIRS**, where he ties it around the bottom railing.

Nolan heads up past the

**TOP OF THE STAIRS** and into--

**INT. NOLAN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

--a typical boy's bedroom. ACTION FIGURES on bookshelves, an old FAMILY PHOTO, even a huge POSTER of the latest kid's fad, *PokeMancer*.

Nolan drags his bookshelf next to the door, heedless of the toys that clatter off the shelf.

With extreme effort, Nolan manages to get the bed vertically flopped next to the shelf.

That done, Nolan peers between the slats of the bed frame. He spies a small door previously hidden by the bed.

Opening it, Nolan grabs a BLACK PLASTIC BAG.

**INT. DEN - DAY**

Nolan dumps out the contents of the bag. PokeMancer TRADING CARDS, STINK BOMBS, and SPARKLERS. Lots of sparklers.

Nolan gathers the fireworks into a fist-sized bundle.

Pulling a long strand of ELECTRICAL TAPE, he sets to work, wrapping the sparklers tightly together into a cylinder of tightly packed gunpowder.

**EXT. WELDON HOUSE - LATER**

The sun has almost set.

**INT. DEN - SAME**

Nolan snaps off the tape. He admires his creation: a black, squat SPARKLER BOMB.

Nolan looks up. A breeze is blowing. Nolan glances at the mirror, which is MISTING OVER.

He scrambles out of the room and around the corner to the

**BASE OF THE STAIRS**

where he grabs a butcher's knife. Thus armed, Nolan peeks around the corner, back into the

**DEN**

where ARC LIGHTNING plays across the mirror.

The radio SHRIEKS like tortured metal.

An ARM reaches OUT OF THE MIRROR--

Nolan grimaces--

A SPINDLY LEG steps out--

A man's CACKLING LAUGHTER mixes into the unholy racket--

Nolan turns back to

**The BASE OF THE STAIRS**, where he raises the knife--

In **THE DEN**, a face begins to emerge, but at

**THE BASE OF THE STAIRS**, Nolan severs the ROPE,  
which HISSES past him, into

**THE DEN**

Along the ceiling,  
Releasing the pendulum trap--  
It SLICES down--

**INT./EXT. CARPORT/MINIVAN - FEELS DIFFERENT**

*Klara shuts off the minivan. She turns to a girl (MAE, 17) beside her.*

KLARA

*Well.*

**INT. DEN - CONTINUOUS**

MIRROR SHARDS rain down onto the carpet.  
The broom rebounds off the mirror.

**INT. BASE OF THE STAIRS - SAME**

Nolan peeks into

**THE DEN**, where RANDALL pulls a knife from his chest. He's a festering nightmare of a man: moldering, tattered overcoat, splitting, moldering gloves, and a face we never quite see.

It clatters to the floor, blade DEEPLY TARNISHED.

RANDALL (O.C.)

How rude.

**At the BASE OF THE STAIRS**, Nolan lights and hucks the bomb into --

**THE DEN**

where it sails through the air.

Randall catches it.