

SLEEP PARALYSIS! FOR KIDS.

EPISODE 1: PILOT

by Marin Lepore

Additional information:

"Sleep Paralysis! For Kids" is a concept for a 30 minute animated comedy series; this script is half of the pilot episode. The series follows twelve year old Kira as she experiences the weird hallucinations that come with sleep paralysis each night, as she's brought into the strange new world of monsters and adventures. Although sleep paralysis in reality is a scary experience that many kids - including myself - have struggled with, this is a comedy and a love story. Through the monster world and her newfound friends, Kira learns how to be brave, be kinder, and love stronger.

INT. KIRA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A blue and green LAVA LAMP tints the dark. KIRA(12, Chinese), small and angry but braver than she thinks, sleeps in her bed.

Her wall is covered in a COLLAGE OF ART, and a couple PHOTOS between Kira and her best friend, EMILY(12, Black).

Suddenly, Kira begins to **sink into her bed**, the sides of her mattress SWALLOWING her. She SNAPS awake, PANICS and SCREAMS--

HARD CUT TO:

Completely silent, Kira lays on her back-to-normal bed. Her eyes look around, but her body and mouth can't move.

KIRA (V.O.)
Why can't I-- Oh. Oh no.

Kira sees a **dark figure** in the corner of her room. A SMALL STUMPY ANIMAL, walking on all fours, slowly comes into view. It GROWLS.

KIRA (V.O.)
No, this is NOT happening to me again. UGH, wake up! WAKE UP!

Kira aggressively shuts her eyes then opens them in an attempt to snap out of it, but she's physically paralyzed.

The ANIMAL JUMPS onto her bed, the mattress sinks down with its weight. She winces as she feels it step over her leg.

KIRA (V.O.)
Calm down, you got this. Just remember what you read from Wikipedia and WebMD and SleepEducation.org backslash parasomnias backlash--

DEMON DAN
Holy guacamole, is that a spider?!

DEMON DAN(voice: m, 30) shoots up and hurries back to the edge of the bed, staring at the wall cautiously. He's a couple feet tall.

KIRA (V.O.)
OHMYGOD WHAT since when does the gargoye talk? This wasn't on the How-To video!

Dan looks at Kira, and sits up on his back two feet.

DEMON DAN

Whoa whoa, hey! I'm a demon, not a gargoye. Wait. You thought I was a gargoye this entire time? Ew, that's literally so rude. I don't come in here calling you ugly, and you look like you're going through early tween puberty, which, like, no one wants to see that, girl.

KIRA (V.O.)

IT CAN HEAR ME? Oh, God, okay. Deep breathing, Kira, just... don't think, don't think any thoughts...

DEMON DAN

Kid, I am your thoughts. Welcome back to sleep paralysis, my friend!

Dan SHOOTs a CONFETTI POPPER in the air. FANFARE BLARES~ until, Dan looks at the wall, jumps up, and YELPS.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

It WAS a spider! Nah, girl, nuh-uh, since when do you have spiders in your room? This isn't Australia! Wait. If you're the Australian kid, then the American kid must be really confused by the voice I've been using--

KIRA (V.O.)

WILL YOU STOP TALKING! I can't meditate and get rid of you if you're over here complaining about your weird fear of spiders!

DEMON DAN

I don't have a fear of spiders! Just the webs.

Suddenly, the CLOSET DOOR POPS OPEN, and GUITAR GUS(voice: m, 20) and TRUMPET TINA(voice: f, 20) walk out, playing MARIACHI MUSIC. They're jaguar-type creatures that walk on their hind legs like humans. Honestly? They're just happy to be here.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

Whoa whoa, whoa. I thought Alice was supposed to work tonight. What are you clowns doing here?

GUITAR GUS

Hey, we are not clowns anymore! We chose this because it's way cooler and takes way more skill.

TRUMPET TINA

Yeah, and we worked really hard to get promoted to mariachi, which, considering how male-dominated this industry is, it's actually really revolutionary for me as a--

DEMON DAN

But mariachi players aren't scary?

GUITAR GUS

People on the subway think so! Or... maybe they're just racist.

TRUMPET TINA

Eh, it was mostly the guy in the red hat. Point is, though, last night we scared a kid so bad he became a bed wetter!

DEMON DAN

That was YOU?! I had to sit in that for an hour!

Another VOICE comes into the room. LITTLE LISA(voice: f, 6), sweet in every single way, starts pacing the floor in her nightgown.

LITTLE LISA (O.S.)

Mom? Mom, where are you... Mom!

DEMON DAN

What is she doing here?

(to Kira)

Lisa is so annoying. She just shows up and cries. And she only has one line! Like, spice it up a bit, ya boring! At least I put effort into sitting on people's chests.

LITTLE LISA

I want my mom.... I'm scared.

Dan crawls off the bed and approaches Lisa.

DEMON DAN

Girl, I'm about to drop kick you out the window.

LITTLE LISA
 (suddenly not crying)
 Sorry I'm trying to do my job, Dan!
 What are you even doing here? You
 weren't scheduled tonight!

Now all four of them (Dan, Lisa, Gus and Tina) are all in the center of Kira's carpet. Kira, still unable to do anything with her frozen body, just stares at them.

DEMON DAN
 So? Ya snooze, ya lose! Or, in this case, Kira snoozes and you lose?

TRUMPET TINA
 You can't just take someone else's shift. Dibs is dibs, Dan!

DEMON DAN
 Aw, I forgot the legally binding laws of nose-goes. Boo hoo...

TRUMPET TINA
 Nose-goes IS legally binding. And it's us three against you.

GUITAR GUS
 Besides, if you're caught in here by Remi, you're gonna get us ALL in trouble...

SUPERIMPOSE: Image of REMI(40), security-guard looking blob dude.

LITTLE LISA
 True. And we all know what he's like.

KIRA (V.O.)
 HELLOOOO?!

Everyone looks at Kira. Tina primps her outfit and steps up.

TRUMPET TINA
 Ah, shoot, yeah, hi. Uh... This is the first time I've actually had to introduce myself? Um, I'm Tina! And this is Gus.

LITTLE LISA
 I'm Lisa.

KIRA (V.O.)
 I didn't ask for your weird names,
 weirdos! You can't just come in
 here with your instruments and
 noises like you own the place--

LITTLE LISA
 Whoa, relax, kid. We're not trying
 to hurt you. Here.

Lisa brings her fingers up and SNAP-- Kira GASPS awake in her
 body, sitting upright. **The LIGHTS also turn on.**

DEMON DAN
 No, no, put her back!

Dan SNAPS obnoxiously in front of Kira's face.

KIRA
 Ew, why do you have clammy fingers?

DEMON DAN
 Why isn't this working?!

TRUMPET TINA
 You weren't assigned to Kira
 tonight, dummy.

DEMON DAN
 Shove it up your trumpet, Tina!
 Someone make her go back. Alice
 won't come if Kira's not fully
 paralyzed. She gets anxious when
 the kids move.

LITTLE LISA
 Ooh. You came to see Alice...

TRUMPET TINA
 You and Alice are a thing?

LITTLE LISA
 (to Tina)
 I actually wouldn't ask him about--

GUITAR GUS
 (laughing)
 Aren't angels WAY out of your
 league?

DEMON DAN
 Shut your mouth, Mr. Fake Mustache!

GUITAR GUS

Not everyone can grow facial hair.
It's a chronic condition, you know
this!

DEMON DAN

Fake stache! Fake stache!

GUITAR GUS

Naked rat! Naked rat! Naked rat!

Dan LAUNCHES himself onto Gus. They both SHOUT and GROAN.

Tina tries to pull them apart but the three of them topple over and all start to wrestle on the ground. INSTRUMENTS WAIL. Lisa just SIGHS. Kira watches them from behind a pillow, then stands on her bed.

KIRA

Stop it! You're gonna wake up my
dad, and I am NOT taking the blame
for that!

LITTLE LISA

Your dad can't hear us, Kira.

Dan, now winning, pushes Gus and Tina towards the CLOSET.

KIRA

...Can he hear me right now?

Lisa shakes her head. A beat on Kira. Kira then jumps down onto the floor, wielding her pillow like a weapon.

KIRA (CONT'D)

That's it! YOU ALL NEED TO GET OUT!

Dan faces Kira, but before he can say anything... The closet door pops open again, and THREE PENGUINS waddle out.

DEMON DAN

Are you KIDDING me? Even the
penguins get scheduled with Alice?!
The penguins. Stupid Remi.

Dan finally pushes Gus and Tina in the closet, and closes it.

TRUMPET TINA (O.S.)

HEY!

The penguins settle themselves down on the carpet in a circle, and WHISPER to each other in PENGUIN SOUNDS.

KIRA

What the-- Why are there so many of you this time?

LITTLE LISA

I actually don't think the penguins are supposed to be here. Dan, what did you do?

DEMON DAN

Me? Why are you looking at me?

LITTLE LISA

You're the one crashing other kid's paralysis episodes! You should go check.

DEMON DAN

But... what if I miss Alice when she comes? :(

LITTLE LISA

...Fine. I'll go.
 (to Kira)
 Kira, I'll be right back.
 (pointing to Dan)
 Don't do anything stupid!

Lisa walks into a dark corner of the room, then VANISHES.

DEMON DAN

OI. Do you have to sit in the middle of the floor? Make a pathway, penguins! Coming through!

Dan tries to shove past the penguins, but one of them, PAM(voice: f, 40), gives him a harsh SHUSH like a librarian:

PENGUIN PAM

SHH!

DEMON DAN

Dear lord... C'mon.

Dan takes the pillow from Kira, then hops onto Kira's bed to make himself comfortable. Kira awkwardly sits on the end.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

How old are you, Kira? Like, six?

KIRA

Twelve. How old are you, eighty?

DEMON DAN

Oi! Listen, if you ever see Alice, let me know. She's like yay tall, floats above your head, wears all yellow.

PENGUIN PAM

I said SHH, Daniel!

DEMON DAN

SHH yourself! I'm tryna' have a conversation over here! And everyone knows Dan is short for Danjal. Learn some Jewish Mythology, would ya?

KIRA

Didn't you scare me enough at my mom's house?

DEMON DAN

Aw, cute, you remember me! Look at us, both glowing up! And I take back what I said about you looking hormonal earlier, you're fine.

Dan gives Kira a friendly shoulder shove.

KIRA

I'm sorry I yelled at you to leave. I haven't had a dream like this since, well, my mom's house.

DEMON DAN

Sleep Paralysis is not a dream! And frankly, the Lucid Dreaming department is giving us a bad rep.

KIRA

Oh! I read about Lucid Dreaming! Can I control stuff here, too?

DEMON DAN

HA, no. That would make this whole thing chows, literal chows.

SUPERIMPOSED: Typography of the word "CHAOS"

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

Though, now that you bring it up... I think I can help you low-key control stuff? You wanna get all these losers out of here, right?

They look at the PENGUINS. One of them PENGUIN WHISPERS something, and the other hits it across the head.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

Me too. Alice probably isn't here yet because she hates crowds. BUT! If we figure out why everyone else got scheduled here, we'll know how to get rid of them. Then, bada bing, bada boom, it's just you, me, and Alice, baby!

KIRA

What? I don't wanna third-wheel some date with you and your weird girlfriend! Or whatever she is.

DEMON DAN

HEY! Alice is NOT weird! She is smart and funny and way too pretty to constantly be scheduled with that annoying little turd, *Emily*. God, I visited one time and she was all--

SUPERIMPOSED EMILY'S character (Kira's friend in the photos on her wall):

EMILY (V.O.)

"Once I get some melatonin and a normal REM cycle, it's over for you!"

KIRA

Wait, wait, you know Emily?!

DEMON DAN

You know her? Ha! She sucks, right?

KIRA

SHE DOES NOT! And she's not annoying! That's my-- I'm the one who told her about the melatonin. I can't believe she remembered...

DEMON DAN

Hate to break it to you two nerds, but that's not how it works. No amount of melatonin will stop Remi from ruining our lives.

KIRA

Who?

DEMON DAN

This short guard who's against
dream-hopping and basically
everything fun. Big loser. Anyway.

Dan pulls out a JOURNAL, and flips open to a random page.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)

(reading)

"Sometimes I think I might
accidentally swallow my retainer
and choke. I'm scared of choking,
drowning, suffocating, being
strangled--"

KIRA

Hey, where did you find that?!

DEMON DAN

Can't solve your problems if we
don't talk about them, kiddo. Don't
you wanna sleep better?

KIRA

I was sleeping fine for a while.

DEMON DAN

And I was an angel for a while! We
don't question why stuff happens to
us, kid, but we can try to fix it.

Dan hops off the bed and starts pacing around the penguins.
Kira follows him and reaches for the journal.

KIRA

That's personal!

DEMON DAN

Chill. I'm literally in your head.
I already know this stuff!

As Dan reads, Kira's VOICE OVER plays:

KIRA (V.O.)

"Sometimes I get scared I'll
accidentally hit someone with my
car, and it just so happens the
person is someone I go to school
with, and someone I don't like, so
then the next thing you know BOOM
I'm in court being charged for
first degree murder.

(MORE)

KIRA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I don't have money for a good lawyer, and our legal justice system is a mess, also I don't even DRIVE, but that's something I'll have to explain from my prison cell, and--"

DEMON DAN
 (slaps journal closed)
 Oof, I did not know that. You know what? Never mind. You keep this stuff to yourself, girl.

Dan chucks the book at Kira and she catches it.

KIRA
 You're kind of mean.

DEMON DAN
 And you're kind of bad at sleeping! So whose fault is that.

Suddenly, they hear FOOTSTEPS coming from the hallway. A **shadow** moves underneath Kira's bedroom door, getting closer.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)
 Is that Alice? Oh my God. SHE'S FINALLY HERE! EVERYONE BE QUIET! Kira! Lay down and look frozen like those microwave dinners you eat!

KIRA
 That doesn't even make sense!

DEMON DAN
 Shush! But also look cute while you do it. I CANNOT have you ruin this for me!

KIRA
 How would me being ugly ruin it?

DEMON DAN
 Dadatsskkt what did I just say?!

Kira awkwardly follows Dan's order and lays back in her bed.

DEMON DAN (CONT'D)
 OI! Alice is coming! MOVE!

Dan hurriedly starts pushing the three penguins towards the closet. They SQUEAK like toys as they bounce off each other.