

Lexipiel
Samples

THE RUNNER

FADE IN:

EXT. EMPTY CITY STREET - NIGHT

A MAN (30s) RUNS through a deserted city.

His breath is sharp. Uneven.

Footsteps echo louder than they should. Streetlights flicker as he passes under them.

He glances back.

Nothing there.

He runs anyway.

EXT. INTERSECTION - NIGHT

The Man slows to a stop in the middle of the road.

Silence.

Across the street, under a single streetlight, stands THE OTHER.

Same face. Same clothes.

Completely still. A beat. Its head tilts slightly, not quite human.

The Man's breathing quickens.

He turns and runs.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

The Man darts into a narrow alley.

Dead end.

He skids to a stop, breathing hard.

At the alley's entrance, the Other stands.

Not advancing. Not retreating.

Waiting.

The Man spots a side door glowing faintly with an EXIT sign.

He pushes through it.

INT. SUBWAY BATHROOM - NIGHT

Dim. Flickering fluorescent light.

The Man grips a sink and splashes water on his face.

He looks up at the mirror.

Normal.

He exhales.

Then the reflection LAGS behind his movement.

Half a second.

The reflection smiles. The Man doesn't.

For a split-second, the reflection's eyes flicker with something else. Recognition. Like it knows something he doesn't.

He steps back. The reflection steps forward, late.

The Man turns sharply and rushes out.

INT. UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR - NIGHT

A long, narrow passageway.

The Man runs toward camera, panicked.

Far behind him, the Other walks.

Unrushed.

Effortless.

The distance closes, not steadily, but suddenly. Like the space between them is collapsing.

The Man looks back, confused now, not just afraid.

He runs harder.

It doesn't help.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

A concrete spiral stairwell.

The Man runs upward.

Reaches a landing.

The Other is already there.

The lighting shifts. Warmer. Then colder. Then dim again. The space no longer feels consistent.

Same position. Unmoving.

The Man freezes.

Turns and runs down instead.

Another landing.

The Other is there again.

The space feels wrong. Repeating.

The Man clutches his head, dazed.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

A long hallway lined with identical doors.

The Man emerges and stops.

Nowhere left to go.

At the far end stands the Other.

They face each other.

Their breathing slowly syncs.

The hallway subtly distorts at the edges.

The Man raises his fists, preparing to fight.

The Other doesn't react.

The Man hesitates.

Lowers his hands.

His shoulders drop.

He takes one steady breath.

Then another.

He turns his back on the Other.

Nothing happens.

The Other still stands there.

The Man keeps walking.

Then the Other flickers, and dissolves into shadow.

Gone.

EXT. CITY STREET - PRE-DAWN

The Man steps outside into early morning light.

The city is still empty, but calm.

He stands for a moment.

Then walks forward.

Not running.

EXT. STOREFRONT WINDOW - SUNRISE

Warm light spills across glass.

The Man passes a storefront and glances at his reflection.

Perfectly synced.

For a brief moment, it almost lags. Then corrects instantly.

He continues walking as the light grows brighter.

FADE OUT.

END.