The Whispering Door Pitch

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Genres: Dark Fairytale – Fantasy – Adventure – Horror.

Page Count: 18

Synopsis:

A lonely girl discovers a hidden world behind a locked door in her new home, where reality bends and shadows whisper, forcing her to confront her deepest fears to find her way back.

Logline:

In a haunting twist on similar stories such as 'Coraline' and 'The lion the witch and the wardrobe', a girl must navigate a world where her imagination becomes her greatest threat and ally.

Themes:

- The power of imagination and its double-edged nature.
- Confronting and overcoming one's inner fears.
- The blurred line between reality and fantasy.
- The challenges of finding ones true self — and that what's inside matters more than what's outside.

Characters:

Lila (MC)

- 12-year-old girl, recently moved to a decrepit Victorian old house.
- Generally quiet and introspective, with a vivid imagination. But also has a layer of snarky energy and a sense for adventure.
- Struggles with anxiety from new found problems, but has a hidden reservoir of courage and resourcefulness.

The Shifting One (Cat):

- In the real world: A mysterious black cat with an unsettling wide eye stare.
- In the other world: An ever-changing creature, part shadow, part light. Primarily taking the form of a lion like creature [without truly resembling any real animal], with large white void like eyes. They have a somewhat cute and majestic look, while still feeling just subtly off and unnerving.
- Speaks in indirect sentiments and seems to know more than it lets on.
- Its true nature and motivations remain ambiguous.

The Whispers

- Formless entities that inhabit the other world.
- They feed on fears and doubts, growing stronger as Lila's anxiety increases.
- Can manifest as twisted versions of real-world objects or people.

Parents (supporting characters)

- Unaware of Lila's struggles, not fully shown in the story.

Outline:

Page 1:

Parent's talking about the move and how it is effecting MC, and hoping she finds something that captures her attention here, layered over her hearing something coming from the door and heading through it.

Page 2:

Reveal of the world. She is outside of her house in a surreal forest.

Page 3:

She encounters the Shifting One, who offers cryptic advice.

Page 4:

The world that's a warped reflection of her home. Colors are vivid but "wrong", familiar objects slightly off. As Lila explores, shadows begin to move.

Page 5:

The Whispers emerge, feeding on her growing unease.

Page 6:

Objects transform in unsettling ways, mirroring Lila's anxieties.

Page 7:

Lila tries to return home but finds herself in an endless hallway of doors.

Page 8:

Each door leads to a different, increasingly nightmarish scenario.

Page 9:

The Shifting One appears sporadically, its form changing each time.

Page 10:

Lila realizes the world is responding to her emotions and understands her imagination can also affect them positively.

Page 11:

She faces manifestations of her deepest fears, as the Whispers grow stronger, threatening to overwhelm her.

Page 12:

She begins to reshape the world around her, pushing back the Whispers.

Page 13:
Resolution and The Shifting One return.

Page 14:
It almost appears more like a guardian or guide for this realm now, and helps Lila return to the hallways.

Page 15:

Shifting One explains each door leads to someplace else. Only one leads to her home. Lila now confident chooses the right door and returns home, after saying goodbye to the shifting one.

Page 16:

Transition forward. Lila seems far more confident and determined. And like she understands herself better. She grabs an item from her now regular closet. To add the final touch to her room which now is far more personalized, vibrant, and represents her.

Page 17:

She catches a glimpse of something outside her window. It is a regular black cat with a wide eye stare. [Obviously trying to invoke the shifting one].

Page 18:

She turns back away from the window and stares back at her closet door. Her hands steadily reaching to open it again.