UNCANNY VALLEY

Episode 1.05

"There's Always Tomorrow"

Written by

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30. Audrey and Izzy in a car in the past. Izzy's driving. They're teenagers.

IZZY

Ugh, come on, Audrey. Everyone goes to after prom. It's after prom!

AUDREY

Exactly. After prom. Which implies a prom.

IZZY

Not an implication. Just a suggestion.

AUDREY

It's in the name, Izzy.

IZZY

But I went to prom!

AUDREY

Yes. So by definition, you are now eligible for after prom. Me, on the other hand...

IZZY

(angry buzzer sound)
The judges do not accept your answer.
You were asked to prom. That counts.

AUDREY

Which time?

IZZY

You are not sitting here in my car, on the way to after prom, using multiple potential dates as your excuse to not attend after prom.

AUDREY

We're going to Springfield Cliff, Izzy. Everyone will be there.

IZZY

Yes. They will. That's the point.

I feel like we should just establish the definition of after prom. For clarity.

AUDREY

But you know Rick will be there. With Kate.

IZZY

Yes. Because they went to prom together. Let's circle back to the whole definition thing.

AUDREY

But he asked me first.

IZZY

And you turned him down. So he asked Kate. Who, while clearly an inferior choice, is a perfectly acceptable backup Audrey.

AUDREY

But it'll be so awkward! She knows I turned him down. The whole school does.

IZZY

Who gives a shit?

AUDREY

They think I'm gay and that's why I turned him down.

IZZY

Bullshit. No one thinks that.

AUDREY

Someone wrote it on the door in the broken stall.

IZZY

What? Why would you use the broken stall?!

AUDREY

Not really the point here.

Well, fuck them. Who cares what they think?

AUDREY

I mean, I kinda do. I need to survive another year there.

IZZY

Whatever. I have your back. We'll be side by side until graduation.

AUDREY

I don't think that will help with rumors about my sexual orientation.

IZZY

You're impossible to console, do you know--

AUDREY

Izzy, look out!

Brakes slam. Tires squeal. Car skids.

IZZY

That's right, asshole! Just pull right out in front of me!

Car starts going again.

AUDREY

Uh, Izzy, that was a stop sign.

IZZY

Damn right it was.

AUDREY

I mean on your side. You went right through it.

IZZY

Oh. Sorry. I was distracted by your drama. You know, for someone who doesn't want to date anybody, you sure have a lot of drama.

It might help if you didn't drive like a maniac. You realize the numbers on the speed limit sign aren't minimums, right?

IZZY

Hush. What's the worst that could happen?

AUDREY

Um, we both die in a fiery car crash?

IZZY

Ooo, then we could roam the Earth, seeking out other mediums to communicate with!

AUDREY

I've never met another person that can do it.

IZZY

That you know of! You can't be the only one, Audrey. There must be other mediums. Mediums? Media? What about that chick from Long Island?

AUDREY

I guess. Don't think I want to die to find out, though.

IZZY

Doesn't matter. We're here. We survived my risky teenage driving choices.

AUDREY

Parking lot's full. Guess we can't go.

IZZY

Not so fast, party pooper. I'll just park on the shoulder.

AUDREY

That's a terrible idea. You see how people fly down this road. Someone will hit your car.

Um, have you seen my car? Think of what I could do with the insurance money! Reese's cups! Silly Bandz! Nothing is off limits!

Izzy parks the car onto the rough gravel of the shoulder.

IZZY

Look, Audrey. I know you don't want to do this. But sometimes my best friend job entails pulling you out of your comfort zone. So this is me pulling. You don't need to dive. Just hang out with me.

AUDREY

(sigh)

Okay. I'm here, anyway. Might as well pretend to enjoy it.

IZZY

There you go.

Izzy unsnaps her seat belt.

IZZY (CONT'D)

I promise all the pretend fun you can pretend to have.

Izzy opens her car door and climbs out.

IZZY (CONT'D)

And if we see Rick and Kate, we can just--

Truck horn blares as the truck rockets past Izzy, inches from her.

AUDREY

Izzy!

Audrey unsnaps her seat belt and scrambles out of the car.

AUDREY

Izzy!

Whoa! Did you see that? I was almost that dude's hood ornament.

AUDREY

Are you okay?

IZZY

Of course. There was a whole inch of room between us.

AUDREY

Oh my god. Are you sure you want to go cliff diving after that?

IZZY

Are you kidding?! Clearly, I'm invincible. Witness my power, Audrey. Witness it. I'm making you witness it.

AUDREY

(deadpan)

I bow in supplication, oh mighty one.

IZZY

Come on.

They walk into the grass and onto a wooded path. Partying voices from ahead grow ever louder. The occasional distant splash.

AUDREY

There are so many people here.

IZZY

Ignore them.

AUDREY

Who am I supposed to talk to while you're jumping off the cliff and then climbing back up?

IZZY

Um, maybe there are some ghosts around?

Shhh!

IZZY

Hey, Rick. Hey, Kate.

(beat)

Don't act like you didn't hear me. I know you did! Hope you had fun at prom.

CLASSMATE

Izzy! Jump on in. The water's fine!
 (having fun scream)

Classmate jumps and hits the water far below.

CLASSMATE (

(distant)

Woo!

AUDREY

Go on. I know you want to.

IZZY

We could go together. Hand in hand?

AUDREY

(beat, thinking)

I don't know. Maybe next time.

IZZY

All right, then. There's always tomorrow.

(having fun scream)

Izzy jumps and hits the water far below. The chatter fades.

AUDREY

(calling out)

Izzy? Izzy!

PAST TO PRESENT TRANSITION

31. Audrey's cabin, present day. Audrey's phone rings.

AUDREY

Izzy? Izzy!

Whaaat?

AUDREY

It's Nora. We have to talk business, so
don't pester me. Okay?

IZZY

Did you seriously just bug me to tell me not to bug you?

AUDREY

(beat)

Yes. So zip it.

IZZY

Like I'm some annoying child who picks on you constantly.

AUDREY

(answers)

Hi, Nora.

IZZY

(mocking)

Hi, Nora.

NORA

(through phone--whole scene)
Audrey! How are you doing? Everything
okay up there?

AUDREY

Everything's fine.

IZZY

(mocking)

Everything's fine.

AUDREY

Just enjoying the quiet, getting a lot of work done.

NORA

The Havisham piece?

That's the one. I know they didn't specify it, but I might have added another layer of complexity to the coil.

NORA

Audrey. You realize that if you didn't have to overcomplicate every piece, you'd finish them a lot faster.

AUDREY

But I have to enjoy doing it, or it's like work.

NORA

You're not the one who has to look at it, though.

AUDREY

Oh, trust me, it will be even better to look at. There's this great propeller action that fans out from the original coil--

NORA

I'm sure it's beautiful.

IZZY

I hope she's telling you that you're nerding out too hard.

NORA

You may need to step it up. I might have a lead on something big.

AUDREY

A big commission?

NORA

Oh, yeah. A new hospital is breaking ground outside Phoenix. The lead developer just happened to stay at a certain boutique hotel in Salt Lake City, and he liked the décor.

A hospital? Would it be a big lobby fixture? Maybe something with a soothing tick to settle visitors. Or I could probably--

NORA

Maybe we wait for the details before you start buying materials.

AUDREY

Okay, yes. You're right. But this is exciting.

IZZY

What's exciting?

NORA

I'll keep you updated. Everything else going well? Winning friends and influencing people?

IZZY

Seriously. Tell me what's exciting.

AUDREY

I'm not much of an influencer, but I have made a friend.

IZZY

Damn it. Nothing up here is ever exciting. Spill it!

NORA

That's wonderful. I'm so glad you have someone up there to look out for you.

(beat)

It's not the old realtor man, is it?

AUDREY

No. I haven't seen him since my first night here. Her name's Dahlia. She's a pilot.

IZZY

Audrey! Talk to me! (beat)

Oh, don't you dare lock me in.

(beat)

Fine. Shutting up. Jerk.

AUDREY

We get along pretty well.

NORA

A pilot? Like commercial or like a little plane with floaties that lands on the water?

AUDREY

She doesn't work for Alaskan Airlines. I think closer to the floaty kind.

NORA

Well, she sounds lovely. Just don't fly around in something like that. Every time you hear about a plane crash, it's one of those little ones hitting a goose or whatever.

AUDREY

A goose?

NORA

I don't know. Just be careful.

AUDREY

I will. I don't plan on flying around with her. She's the one who brings in my materials and flies out the pieces.

NORA

Sounds like a good person to be friends with, then.

AUDREY

Her grandmother gives me vegetables.

NORA

This conversation keeps getting stranger. Mostly from your end.

Some of the people up here are a little...off. But Dahlia and her grandmother are nice.

NORA

Like I said, you need to--

Line goes dead.

AUDREY

Nora? Nora?

(beat)

No bars. Stupid phone.

IZZY

Dropped call? Does that mean I can talk now?

AUDREY

No. I'm calling her back.

(beat)

Or not. Maybe some clouds are blocking the signal.

IZZY

Oh, oh, or maybe it's that you moved us to the middle of a desolate frozen wasteland! Or clouds. Which do you think is more likely?

AUDREY

Whatever. The signal will come back. It always does.

IZZY

Serves you right for living out here. Maybe now you'll finally be happy with no one to see or talk to.

AUDREY

Like I've ever been alone since we were seventeen.

Some silence.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I'm going to work on the Havisham piece.

IZZY

Yeah.

TRANSITION

32. Audrey's cabin. She's working with power tools on her sculpture.

IZZY

Okay.

Audrey stops working. A book page turns. Audrey resumes working.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Okay.

Audrey stops working. A book page turns. Audrey resumes working.

IZZY (CONT'D)

Okay.

Audrey stops working.

AUDREY

Izzy! How am I supposed to get any work done if I have to turn the page for you every minute?

IZZY

What else am I supposed to do? And it's not like I can turn them myself.

AUDREY

So watch TV.

IZZY

Of course! Let's see...what's on the Bumblefuck Nowhere Network? Oh. Right. Nothing! Nothing is on because there's no signal in Bumblefuck, Nowhere.

So watch a DVD.

IZZY

I've seen them all.

AUDREY

You've read that book twice!

IZZY

I still like it. You could read it along with me.

AUDREY

I've also read it twice!

IZZY

So buy more books.

AUDREY

That doesn't solve the issue when I have to work. Can't you just stick your face in the book or something?

IZZY

I don't have x-ray vision. You try reading a book when it's pressed against your face.

AUDREY

This is stupid. I have work to do. Work. Something that adults do. You wouldn't understand.

IZZY

Nope. I'll just be a young hottie forever.

AUDREY

No one can see you!

IZZY

Just think about that when things start getting saggy.

AUDREY

You are impossible.

Impossibly hot.

AUDREY

Like you even know what you look like.

IZZY

You're only as hot as you feel, Audrey. And guess how I feel.

AUDREY

(sigh)

Hot?

IZZY

I feel hot.

AUDREY

I can't keep doing this with you. I have things to do.

IZZY

Oh? Like trying to use the wrong bit on the drill? Because the other one broke? You think I didn't notice?

AUDREY

This one works, too.

IZZY

You know what would work better? The right one. But oh, you can't just get a diamond-tipped bit over at Mama Hick's Hickville Emporium, huh? At least the nearest Lowe's is only eight hours away.

AUDREY

Her name is Roxanne. Don't be ignorant.

IZZY

Right. Roxanne. The fine, cultured proprietor of a store called Nail It. It's a shame that Get Hammered was already trademarked.

You're being really rude right now.

IZZY

Yep. Nice deflection from your broken drill bit.

AUDREY

What?! What do you want me to say?! That moving to Alaska was stupid? That being completely isolated from every comfort of society was a terrible fucking idea? Fine. Izzy, you were right. It was a dumb idea to move here. I'm an idiot. I miss consistent internet and my car and Door Dash and this goddamn diamond-tipped drill bit! Are you happy?!

IZZY

Not really, but it's a start.

Tentative knock at the front door.

AUDREY

Shit.

33. Audrey walks to the front door.

DAHLIA

(through door)

Audrey? You okay? It's Dahlia.

(beat)

From Alaska.

Audrey opens the door.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

I heard yelling.

AUDREY

Yeah. I was talking to myself. It's part of my process.

DAHLIA

Oh. Edgy. With the metalworking stuff?

Yeah. They're kinetic sculptures.

DAHLIA

You sounded pretty ticked. Something about a drill bit. Do you need a drill bit? Unless that's part of the process, too. Sometimes my plane flies smoother when I verbally abuse it.

AUDREY

No. I mean, yeah. I do need one. A specific one. Mine broke. Normally I would just order one and have it delivered the next day, but...

DAHLIA

Yeah, same day shipping isn't really a thing out here. Unless you're a really cool pilot. Or have a friend who's a really cool pilot. Wait...

AUDREY

I couldn't ask you to do that.

DAHLIA

Ah, but I'm offering. And next time you need anything, just let me know. I'm no expert on drill bits, but I'll grab one on my next trip. Just give me the details.

AUDREY

I'd feel awkward putting you out.

DAHLIA

Well, one might consider repaying such a generous pilot in advance by letting her come in out of the cold.

AUDREY

Oh. Of course. Obviously. Sorry.

Dahlia enters. The cabin door shuts.

AUDREY

What brings you out here?

Nosiness?

DAHLIA

Just checking in on you.

AUDREY

You know that I'm a big girl. I lived on my own in the city for years. It was plenty dangerous.

IZZY

On your own. Ha.

DAHLIA

I know, City Girl Audrey. But it's just...different out here. Different dangers.

AUDREY

I do keep hearing about the bears.

DAHLIA

Yeah. Bears. And other stuff.

AUDREY

This may be the first time you've been cryptic with me, so something has to be up.

DAHLIA

I mean, look...I'm sure Rett glossed right on over the details to sell you this place but...yeah, nobody really lives here very long.

AUDREY

You've been here your whole life.

DAHLIA

No, no...I mean this literal place. Like this cabin.

IZZY

Excuse me?

What do you mean? Is something wrong with it?

DAHLIA

Certainly not, what with the rustic exposed beams and maple hardwood floors.

(beat)

I'm kidding. It's...people that live here just...move on. They tend to leave abruptly.

IZZY

That's fucking ominous.

AUDREY

Like they go missing?

DAHLIA

I doubt it. I mean, yeah, \underline{I} never see them again, but that doesn't mean they go missing. They just, y'know. Leave.

IZZY

She means they get murdered.

DAHLIA

Sometimes they leave some of their stuff, too.

IZZY

Because they get murdered.

AUDREY

That's a little creepy.

IZZY

A little?!

DAHLIA

Okay, it sounds way more ominous when I put it like that. It's probably just the isolation. You live further from town than anyone. Pretty sure my grandma crosses herself every time I come out here.

Where it's easy to murder people!

AUDREY

I'm not worried.

IZZY

I am!

DAHLIA

Oh, believe me. I know you can handle the solitude. You're a badass. Like Da Vinci, but with a gun.

IZZY

Ha! Yeah. "Badass."

AUDREY

Sometimes I actually like being completely alone.

DAHLIA

Oop. Hint for me to leave?

AUDREY

No. I didn't mean you.

TZZY

Oh, don't you dare.

DAHLIA

Well, I'm flattered. That's a pretty locket. Whose picture?

AUDREY

A friend from back home. Izzy.

DAHLIA

Do you always wear it open? That's cool. Very avant-garde of you.

AUDREY

Sometimes I close it.

IZZY

Don't you dare, Audrey. Don't you fucking dare lock me in. Don't--

Audrey snaps the locket shut.

DAHLIA

Cute either way. I've been thinking of getting one for Sage with my mug in it. I think she'd get a laugh out of that.

(beat)

Hey, maybe I should get out of your hair.

AUDREY

No, stay. I need the company right now. I can't really work on my sculpture without the drill bit, anyway.

DAHLIA

Why not? Gotta cram all our shindigs in before winter makes hermits of us all. (beat)

I, uh...yeesh, this is bad Alaskan of me. But I happened to hear the rest of your yelling, too. About how moving here was stupid.

AUDREY

Oh.

DAHLIA

Which is totally valid. Legitimate argument. I've flown hundreds of miles for a box of freaking baking soda. It wears on you. But if you wanted to talk about it...you know, with someone stupid enough to live here a long time...

AUDREY

Oh, Dahlia, I didn't mean--

DAHLIA

Chill, girl. Not what I meant. I mean that I understand.

AUDREY

Oh. Right. Yeah, I don't always pick up on meanings. Social cues. Acting like a person.

DAHLIA

Who really does? And for what it's worth, I get feeling cut off more than a lot of people around here because I'm the one who ventures into civilization on the regular. Lot of them don't even remember what they're missing. Pretty sure Sage thought Grubhub was an STD first time I told her about it.

AUDREY

I guess you would get it. I didn't think about that.

DAHLIA

It has its appeal; don't get me wrong. Starbucks, am I right?

AUDREY

(omg)

Starbucks!

DAHLIA

Fucking Starbucks. Pumpkin Spice my entire life, please.

AUDREY

Hot grande vanilla almond milk latte. That was me every day for the last decade.

DAHLIA

Every day? I don't think my soul could handle that much elation.

AUDREY

Eh. You get used to it after a while. And then you only miss it when you move to the wilderness.

DAHLIA

Well, I'll bring you back a latte with the drill bit. But write that order down, too, because no way I'm going to remember oat milk or whatever. I might seem cool and hip here, but out in the real world, I'm, like, a ninety-yearold.

AUDREY

Almond milk. And I will. Thanks, Dahlia.

DAHLIA

Oh, you're buying both of our drinks, so don't thank me too quickly.

AUDREY

Deal.

DAHLIA

And seriously, I know I said it before, but you didn't make a mistake by leaving a bad situation. Even if you ended up here. What with the nice floors and total solitude and all.

AUDREY

No, I know that. I don't disagree. I just...I keep thinking maybe I didn't need to leave all the way to Alaska, you know?

DAHLIA

Hence the solitude.

AUDREY

I like it in theory.

DAHLIA

Bit of a different beast in practice, isn't it?

AUDREY

A little.

DAHLIA

Hey, you're welcome to tag along on my next trip if you'd like. Get back to civilization for a few hours, chicken soup that city girl soul.

AUDREY

Nora would kill me if she found out I went in your plane.

DAHLIA

Nora's your mom? Oh, no, you said you were an orphan, too. Sorry.

AUDREY

No worries. Nora's my manager.

DAHLIA

I thought you did art as your job.

AUDREY

Not manager like shift supervisor. Manager like agent. She finds the work for me. I'm not so much good at that part. The talking part.

DAHLIA

You're better at the pounding metal like a blacksmith part. See? Badass.

AUDREY

There's a little of that, yeah. But it's actually a lot of engineering to make all the parts work together.

DAHLIA

So you, like, do math for your artwork?

AUDREY

Kinda.

DAHLIA

Confusing. But cool. I never thought of art that way.

AUDREY

I get that a lot. My brother was more of a traditional artist. Pencils and paints and stuff. People understood him.

DAHLIA

Ugh, I'm sorry. Didn't mean to dredge up more personal tragedy. Really.

AUDREY

Don't worry. I think about him a lot up here. That's why I even thought of coming to Alaska. He really wanted me to go with him on his trip, and I didn't want to go. I think I was too afraid to leave the city. Coming here was kind of like facing my fear of that, even though I was also running away from other fears.

DAHLIA

Maybe not "even though." Maybe because.

AUDREY

Do you charge by the hour, doctor?

DAHLIA

You've already got this all figured out, Audrey. And maybe I don't need to worry about you up here at all. You've got power tools and a rifle...pretty sure you can handle whatever's out there.

AUDREY

Kinda hoping it won't come to that. But yeah, I'll do what I have to do.

DAHLIA

Just...my grandmother would want me to tell you to beware of more than just the kind of things you shoot.

AUDREY

Like don't eat the wrong mushrooms?

DAHLIA

No, like...look, I know this is gonna sound ridiculous, but superstitions run deep around here, so I should probably tell you. Otherwise you'll get the slurrish half-comprehensible version at the Scraper one night. Not ideal.

AUDREY

Is this about Bigfoot? I watched a documentary about Bigfoot. Not a big believer.

DAHLIA

No, Bigfoot is bullshit. Though don't let Gareth hear you say it.

AUDREY

I remember.

DAHLIA

Just like...okay, y'know what? I'll just say it. If you ever hear someone in the woods call your name, or if you see someone you know trying to call you deeper into the woods...don't go.

AUDREY

Into the woods?

DAHLIA

Yeah. Woods woods. Like, your woods.

AUDREY

Why? What is it?

DAHLIA

Pick your poison. Skinwalkers, demons, evil spirits? Everybody has their own version.

AUDREY

Spirits aren't really evil. Unless the person was evil.

DAHLIA

Hey, definitely not the leading authority on ghosts over here. I just know that you don't follow someone into the woods. Ever. Especially these kinds of woods.

AUDREY

You've seen people you know trying to lure you into the woods?

DAHLIA

I haven't, but grandma has stories.
I've heard the woods call me, though.
Sometimes I thought it sounded like
someone I knew. But it was probably the
wind, and I probably just interpreted
it as a familiar voice. Probably.

AUDREY

That's still creepy.

DAHLIA

Didn't say it wasn't. The old-timers swear up and down that kind of stuff doesn't venture on into town from the woods. But like I said, everyone's got their own versions, so...

(beat)

Look. I know it's dumb. I don't really believe in it. But like...

AUDREY

Like maybe there are things out there we don't fully understand. So they seem silly. I get it. I've, uh...I've seen weird things, too. Things I couldn't understand.

DAHLIA

Not like a monster in the woods that sounds like your friend, though, I hope.

AUDREY

Uh, no. Thankfully. Though I would need friends for that to happen.

DAHLIA

Well, I solemnly swear that I will never beckon you from the edge of the woods. If you see me doing that, it ain't me.

AUDREY

Ah, yes. Thank you for the nightmare fuel.

DAHLIA

Then my work here is done. Unless you have something to drink.

AUDREY

I just might.

TRANSITION

34. Later from the open door of Audrey's cabin. Snow machine starts up and drives away.

AUDREY

(calling out)

Bye, Dahlia.

Audrey goes inside and closes the door. After a beat, she unsnaps the locket.

IZZY

That was shitty. When are we?

AUDREY

Dahlia just left. It's been about two hours. You were being really rude interrupting our conversation.

IZZY

I'm not some pet you can just toss in the crate when you don't want to deal with me.

AUDREY

Well, I wouldn't need to if you didn't bark out the window every two seconds. To use your analogy.

Fuck you, Audrey. You don't know what it's like.

AUDREY

Being stuck together all the time? I have some idea.

IZZY

Being stuck only with you. You get to talk to Dahlia. I get you. You get to flirt with men. Well, they flirt with you, anyway. I get you. You get to read books and watch TV and talk on the phone. I get you. So I'm sorry if I don't just shut the fuck up when you don't want me around, but I'm a person. Metaphorically speaking.

AUDREY

Well, when you refuse to ever compromise, sometimes all I can do is lock you in.

IZZY

Yeah. You do that. Bitch. I'd rather be somewhere else right now, anyway. Maybe you'll calm down so we can be friends again.

(beat)

Who knows? There's always tomorrow.

AUDREY

(gut punched)

Wha...Izzy! How could you say that to me?

(breaking down)

How dare you? Izzy! Isolabella! Goddamn it! Say something!

Audrey slams her hand on the table.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

(through tears)

Izzy!

(beat)

Izzy.

(beat)

I'm sorry, Izzy. Please.

(beat)

Please?

(crying)

Izzy?

TRANSITION

35. Boutique hotel lobby in Salt Lake City. A kinetic sculpture ticks/whirs. Cody admires it then walks away from it toward the attendant.

ATTENDANT

Hello, sir. Are you checking in?

CODY

I am, actually. Just for the night.

ATTENDANT

That's not a problem. We have three vacancies.

(typing and clicking)

Traveling for business or pleasure?

CODY

Pleasure. Visiting my girlfriend.

ATTENDANT

That sounds lovely. Here in Utah?

CODY

Somewhere around here. She recently moved, and I can never remember the name of the town.

ATTENDANT

Well, if you have any time while you're passing through, make sure to see the sights. It's a beautiful state.

Speaking of beautiful, I love that kinetic sculpture you've got over there. I'm a bit of an enthusiast.

ATTENDANT

I know, right? The noise is so soothing. But I have to warn you: if you stare at the part that fans out, you might be mesmerized for an hour.

CODY

Oh, I believe it. It's exquisite. (beat)

Hey, you don't happen to know who the sculptor is, do you? I'd love to commission one for my office.

ATTENDANT

Um, I don't. But my manager might. I could ask him for you and call your room.

CODY

I'd love it if you asked him now, if it isn't too much trouble. I'm just dying to know where I can find her.

THE END