

**UNCANNY VALLEY**

Episode 1.01

"Ma'am, This is Alaska"

Written by

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1. Car driving down a snowy wooded road with Sandy and Tom.

SANDY

Why are you doing this? You always do this.

TOM

I do not "always" do anything.

SANDY

Okay fine. You do this frequently.

TOM

All I said was stop criticizing every little thing I do.

SANDY

I am not criticizing you. I was just suggesting.

TOM

Pointing out everything I do wrong is criticizing.

SANDY

I did not do that! I just said you should have taken the other road.

TOM

You never said "should."

SANDY

I think I know what I said.

TOM

You do? You'd forget your ass if you weren't sitting on it.

SANDY

Don't be a dick.

TOM

Oh, so now we're name calling. Very mature.

SANDY

Fuck you. Fucking Asshole. Stop the car.

TOM

What?

SANDY

Stop the car! I'm getting out.

TOM

We're miles from home. It's cold.

SANDY

I'm getting out. I can't be near you right now.

TOM

Fine. You want to be a child? Fine.

Car stops. Car door opens. Woman gets out. Car door slams. Window rolls down.

TOM (CONT'D)

You're seriously just getting out.

Woman keeps walking.

TOM (CONT'D)

Oh. Nice. Just flip me off. Enjoy freezing to death.

Car drives off. Woman keeps walking.

Wind shows passage of time.

Woman walking through snow.

SANDY

Okay. So maybe not my smartest moment. Why does it have to be so freezing out here.

WIND

Sandra...

SANDY

He's such a jerk. But he wouldn't just leave me here.

WIND

Sandra...

Keeps walking. Branch snaps behind her. She stops walking.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Tom?

Man approaches in the snow.

TOM

Hello. Sandy.

SANDY

Oh, thank god. I knew you wouldn't leave me out here.

TOM

Of course I would not.

SANDY

Look, I'm sorry. I was just...I just don't like when you accuse me of being controlling.

TOM

I know. I have something to show you. Come here.

SANDY

What?

TOM

It is just over this way. Come here.

SANDY

I just want you to show me the car. I'm frozen.

TOM

Yes. It is just over this way.

SANDY

The car?

TOM

Come here. We are very close.

SANDY

Okay, creepo. Quit being strange. Just take me back to the car.

She walks toward him.

TOM

Yes. Good. We are almost there.

SANDY

We haven't even gone anywhere yet.

TOM

Come here. We are very close.

She stops walking.

SANDY

Tom? What's...why are you acting so--

TOM

(snarl that is half human)

SANDY

(screams)

Man pounces, snarling, gnashing teeth, and tearing flesh.

2. Audrey and Everett ride a snow machine in the snowy woods.

EVERETT

(shouting over engine)

Almost there!

AUDREY

(shouting over engine)

What?

EVERETT

(shouting over engine)  
We're almost there!

AUDREY  
(shouting over engine)  
Okay!

EVERETT  
(shouting over engine)  
Just up the hill!

They drive a little further then stop. Engine cuts.

EVERETT  
And we're here. Like magic. Well, the  
magic of a combustion engine, anyway.  
Your Alaskan paradise.

AUDREY  
It's really remote.

EVERETT  
Yep. Five miles from town. And even in  
town is remote.  
(best)  
You, uh...you did say you wanted  
remote.

AUDREY  
I did, yeah.

EVERETT  
Right. So, uh...

AUDREY  
It's great.

EVERETT  
I mean, I was just trying to get you  
what you asked for. And you had said  
remote, so--

AUDREY  
Really. It's perfect. I love it.

EVERETT  
Well, all right, then.

(beat)  
Here, let me show you around.

AUDREY  
Thanks, Everett.

EVERETT  
Rett is fine. Everett's just on the paperwork.

AUDREY  
Okay. I'm still Audrey.

EVERETT  
Not Auddie?

AUDREY  
Please, no.

EVERETT  
Duly noted.

(beat)  
So these are your grounds. Obviously the cabin, but your land is twelve acres. Cabin's not quite in the center, but the woods behind the cabin, the woods on the side of the cabin, and the woods on the other side of the cabin are yours.

AUDREY  
What about the woods down the hill?

EVERETT  
Also yours. Nearest neighbor is three miles away or so. Back the way we came. We passed his property.

AUDREY  
The one with all the signs?

EVERETT  
Yup. You'd think being in the most remote place in the world would be enough of a No Trespassing sign, but not for Marcus Pinker.

AUDREY

It's okay. I wasn't planning on trespassing very often anyway.

EVERETT

(chuckles)

That's good. You catch Marcus in the Ice Scraper, and he'll buy you a beer. But he catches you on his property? I don't like your odds, I'm afraid.

AUDREY

The Ice Scraper?

EVERETT

Town bar. And restaurant. You'll see when you visit that it's only a few buildings, so they have to serve multiple functions.

AUDREY

Oh, yeah. That makes sense.

EVERETT

Cold out here, so let's go inside. I'll continue the grand tour.

They walk to the cabin. Cabin door opens.

AUDREY

There's no lock?

EVERETT

Sure there is. But no reason to lock it when no one's living here.

AUDREY

But you knew I was moving in today.

EVERETT

Miss Audrey, the only soul that's set foot on these grounds in the last year is me, excepting just now. You won't need to lock your doors around here.

AUDREY



I appreciate that. But I'd like the key all the same. And I'll be keeping it locked.

EVERETT

No judgment, no judgment. The key's on the table.

AUDREY

And you'll show me the whole cabin?

EVERETT

Well, there isn't a whole lot to see.

AUDREY

But you won't leave until we've gone through it all?

EVERETT

(realizing)

No, ma'am. I'll show you the whole place. Top to bottom. Won't leave till you want me to.

AUDREY

Okay.

They step in and close the door.

EVERETT

As you can see, other than the bedroom, bathroom, and the other small room that you can use however you like, it's all right here. Kitchen. Living space. Made that dining table myself. And the rocking chair in the corner.

AUDREY

They're beautiful.

EVERETT

Seeing as you're a professional artist, I'll file that compliment away to smile about later.

AUDREY

You said my things already came in?

EVERETT

Dahlia flew them in earlier this week, and I brought them over. Put them in the spare room. All still in boxes, but I can help you unload, if you like.

AUDREY

No, thank you. I can manage on my own.

EVERETT

As you will. I stocked the groceries. Mostly nonperishables.

AUDREY

I really appreciate it.

EVERETT

You paid for fully furnished, and I'm not about to change the definition of fully.

AUDREY

Even still, the groceries are above and beyond. Thank you.

EVERETT

Ma'am.

(beat)

Over there's the radio. Cell won't always work out here, especially if the weather acts up, so you can use the radio to call your neighbors if you get into trouble.

(beat)

This here's your wood-burning stove. Supplements the propane heater. Which reminds me...I need to check your propane level. Forgot to do that when I was getting the place ready.

AUDREY

And the manuals for all the appliances and whatnot are on the table?

EVERETT

All the originals I could find. For the ones I couldn't, I printed them from

the internet. Also printed you some basics on chopping wood and using your rifle. Those don't have traditional manuals.

AUDREY

I'm not planning on using the rifle.

EVERETT

Ma'am, this is Alaska. You always keep that rifle within sight when you're home. I've seen bears walk right into people's houses before.

AUDREY

Like...through the front door?

EVERETT

If it isn't latched. You need me to show you how to use the rifle?

AUDREY

I can read the guide.

EVERETT

You're not regretting the move here yet, are you?

AUDREY

Trust me, worse things than bears could walk through the front door where I'm coming from.

EVERETT

Fair enough. Rifle's by the door. It's loaded. Extra ammunition's in the pantry.

AUDREY

The pantry.

EVERETT

A shelf up from the canned soup. Next to the cereal.

AUDREY

Naturally.

EVERETT

I'm gonna go check the propane. I have a feeling it's low.

AUDREY

Before you go, could you...

EVERETT

Oh, right. Of course.

Everett crosses the room. He walks to and opens three doors.

EVERETT

Bed's made. New toothbrush in the top drawer of the vanity. Nobody else here.

AUDREY

Thank you. I'm sorry that I'm--

EVERETT

Ma'am, I just told you a story about bears coming in through the front door. Makes sense to check all the rooms.

AUDREY

I appreciate it.

EVERETT

Let me check the propane and get some papers from my snow machine.

AUDREY

Oh, that's right. My snow mobile.

EVERETT

Snow machine unless you want dirty looks. Yours is under a tarp on the south side of the house. Keep it covered when you're not using it. It's fully gassed up. Manual's with the others.

AUDREY

You're a godsend.

EVERETT

I'm just a realtor.

AUDREY

Rett, sometime I will tell you about what that word means in the lower forty-eight. Because it's a lot less than all this.

EVERETT

Thank you, Miss Audrey. I'll be back in a jiffy.

Everett crosses the room, opens the door, exits, and closes the door behind him. Some silence.

3.

IZZY

So when I said we should move...

AUDREY

Har har, Izzy.

IZZY

Audrey. Babe. Have you seen this place?

AUDREY

It's quaint. Homey. I like it.

IZZY

Oh, the cabin is cute in a rustic, back-country, gonna-feel-like-a-horror-movie-at-night kinda way. More of a visit than a live, but it could grow on me. But, um, the nowhere-ness of it all?

AUDREY

What about it?

IZZY

What about it?!

AUDREY

This place is the fresh start.

IZZY

I was thinking more like Albuquerque or Vegas for a fresh start.

AUDREY

Far away from everything I needed to get away from.

IZZY

Y'know, Albuquerque and Vegas? Also far away.

AUDREY

Nobody can find us up here unless we want them to.

IZZY

Uh, yeah, but also no one can hear you scream up here.

(screams)

AUDREY

Izzy. No one can ever hear you scream. Also: ow.

IZZY

But the mall, Audrey. The mall! Think of all the poor clothes that will go unpurchased! And believe me, your wardrobe is already a crime against fashion.

AUDREY

Your sense of style is fourteen years out of date, so maybe you don't have the most valid opinion on this.

IZZY

But the maaaalll!

AUDREY

I'm sure there's one in Anchorage. That's only like a seven-hour drive.

IZZY

And you have to drive a "snow machine" an hour to the train station just to get your car!

AUDREY

Also, nobody goes to malls anymore.  
Amazon is the new mall.

IZZY

That's ridiculous.

AUDREY

I haven't been to a mall that didn't  
have multiple empty storefronts in over  
a year.

IZZY

Because you only go to the old folks'  
mall now.

AUDREY

I don't even know how to respond to  
that.

IZZY

Because it's such a scathing and  
accurate retort! Scoreboard! Izzy: one,  
Audrey: negative eleventy billion.

AUDREY

That would have been way more clever if  
you had left me at zero and just raised  
your own score.

IZZY

Negative eleventy billion and one.

AUDREY

Walls learn faster from conversations  
than you do.

IZZY

Look. Alls I'm saying is that  
Nowheresville is not where I want to  
live.

AUDREY

Well, it's where I want to live. I  
could have left you back in the city.

IZZY  
Don't be mean.

AUDREY  
Sorry.

IZZY  
You know I don't think that's funny.

AUDREY  
I'm sorry, Izzy. You're right. That's  
not funny.

IZZY  
No. It's not. But you know what is  
funny?

AUDREY  
Dear lord.

IZZY  
Knock knock.

AUDREY  
(long beat)  
Who's there?

IZZY  
Non sequitur.

AUDREY  
Non sequitur who?

IZZY  
What does a vegan zombie eat?

AUDREY  
What?

IZZY  
"Grrraaiins!"

AUDREY  
Oh my god.



IZZY

Two jokes in one, Audrey. Two jokes in one!

AUDREY

Why do I put up with this?

IZZY

Go, Izzy! It's your birthday.

AUDREY

Your slang is as modern as your fashion sense.

IZZY

People still say that.

AUDREY

(beat)

Are you really unhappy here? I'm sorry if I made you feel like you don't get a say in where we live.

IZZY

(heh)

Where we live.

AUDREY

I'm just saying that--

4. Door opens. Everett enters.

EVERETT

Like I thought. Propane's low.

(beat)

Were you saying something?

AUDREY

Oh. No. Just talking to myself.

EVERETT

Oh. Okay. I was gonna say: I hope you haven't been talking to me this whole time. Cuz I couldn't hear you out there.

AUDREY

Nope. Just myself. Awkward habit.

EVERETT

Well, here are those papers. Spots to sign have little arrow stickers. I'm going to head over to town and get you some propane. I'll haul some back and refill it for you.

AUDREY

That's amazing. Thank you so much, Rett. You're making this all so easy.

EVERETT

Just being your realtor.

AUDREY

We've already established this, but I don't think you know what that word means.

EVERETT

Well, all right. You can tell me over a beer sometime.

AUDREY

Deal.

EVERETT

I'm going to go check your outhouse, then head to town.

AUDREY

Outhouse?

EVERETT

Can't always rely on the septic. But with those bears...I wouldn't feel right if I didn't check it again. I'll be back later.

Everett leaves, closing the door.

IZZY

Gross.

AUDREY  
What's gross?

IZZY  
He was hitting on you.

AUDREY  
He was not. Plus, he's like seventy.

IZZY  
And we have circled back to the gross.

AUDREY  
He's just a nice man.

IZZY  
(gagging sounds)

AUDREY  
Izzy, he was just being polite.

IZZY  
(vomiting sounds)

AUDREY  
You've only ever lived in cities.  
People in smaller communities are much  
nicer.

IZZY  
Whatever a place the size of Ohio but  
with a population of fifty is called,  
it's not a "community."

AUDREY  
This town is not the size of Ohio.

IZZY  
Not called a "town," either.

AUDREY  
Call it whatever you want.

IZZY  
(long beat)  
He wanted to "check out your outhouse."

AUDREY

Good lord.

TRANSITION

5. Everett walks through the snow toward the outhouse. The wind picks up.

WIND

Everett...

He freezes.

EVERETT

Is somebody out there?

WIND

Everett...

Footsteps in the snow behind him. Everett turns.

EVERETT

Hello?

(beat)

Marcus? Is that you? What are you doing up here?

MARCUS

Hello. Everett. Come here. I have something to show you.

MUSICAL TRANSITION

6. Audrey on the phone in her cabin.

AUDREY

And there's like this CB radio for when my phone doesn't work.

NORA

(through phone--whole scene)

A CB radio? Who do you call? Long haul truckers?

AUDREY

No, really. It's very nice up here.

NORA

And by "nice," you mean "cold," right?

AUDREY

Stop it. You sound like Izzy.

NORA

Ah, the infamous best friend. Izzy. You do realize I need to meet her someday for as much as you talk about her.

AUDREY

Nora, you and I have only been in a room together twice.

NORA

All the best artists are introverts.

AUDREY

Right. My introversion is why we don't get together. Certainly not that you live across the country.

NORA

And behold, you move across the country and yet are still across the country from me. How's that work?

AUDREY

What can I say? I'm an introvert.

NORA

All I'm saying is that I want to have a drink with Izzy sometime.

AUDREY

Yeah, I don't know. She's, well...sure. You'll need to meet her someday.

NORA

Sometimes I'm not sure she really exists.

AUDREY

Oh, she exists. Trust me.

IZZY

She thinks I don't exist? What a bitch.

(beat)

Hey! Don't swat at me like I'm your annoying dog or whatever.

AUDREY

Sometimes she's so real that it's like having an annoying dog.

IZZY

Ugh. Go talk to your stupid manager then. You two deserve each other.

(beat)

That's code for "I hate you."

NORA

All your stuff made it up there?

AUDREY

I've been opening boxes all afternoon.

NORA

Audrey, it's ten here, so it's not afternoon anymore.

AUDREY

Really? It gets dark so early that I didn't even realize.

NORA

You haven't eaten yet?

AUDREY

I was waiting for Rett to get back.

NORA

Rett? You've been there less than a day and already made a friend?

AUDREY

What? No. Everett. He's the realtor who sold me the house.

NORA

And you're having dinner with him? Should I be concerned?

AUDREY

I'm not having dinner with him. I was just going to wait to eat until after he swung by to pick up his paperwork.

NORA

Oh. And he didn't come back?

AUDREY

Not yet.

NORA

Did he say when he was coming back?

AUDREY

He just said "later."

NORA

I see. Not sure I like a man coming by at night when you're so isolated. Are you okay with it?

AUDREY

It's fine. He's a nice old man. Emphasis on the old. Also, he gave me a gun.

NORA

A gun?

AUDREY

For the bears.

NORA

And we're sure this move was a good idea?

AUDREY

You know it was.

NORA

All right. Yes. It was necessary for you to get out of the city. But Alaska?

AUDREY

It's so quiet up here. Like, the nearest neighbor is some recluse who lives miles away.

NORA

There are cons to that, too, you know.

AUDREY

Sure. The heating could go out, and I would need to chop my own wood to survive while I wait out the brutal Alaskan winter.

NORA

I'm serious. I'm sure there are other dangers.

AUDREY

I could fall and break my hip in fifty years.

NORA

You did mention bears. And they have wolves and pumas and whatnot.

AUDREY

I think they're called mountain lions up here. Or cougars. Aren't they all the same animal?

NORA

See? Dangerous.

AUDREY

I think they're more scared of me than I am of them.

NORA

I bet they write that on the headstones of a lot of hikers.

AUDREY

I'm not scared of animals. I can handle animals.



NORA

I'm sure you can. Just be careful.

AUDREY

I will be. I'm looking forward to just spending some time alone and focusing on my sculptures. I probably won't ever have a visitor unless I make friends.

IZZY

Unless you make friends.  
(laughing exaggeratedly)

NORA

Maybe you will. Maybe this is the fresh start you needed. A good reset. You can meet some nice new people and make new friends.

AUDREY

I just might.

IZZY

Are you talking to me or her? Because if you're talking to me...  
(laughs)

NORA

You know he'll never be able to find you up there.

AUDREY

I know.

NORA

I'm the only person who knows your address. There are three layers of people between an order coming in and it even reaching me. Nothing can be traced to me.

AUDREY

I know.

NORA

Which means nothing can be traced to you.

AUDREY

I know. I am safe here.

NORA

Except for the bears.

AUDREY

Except for the bears. But I do have the gun.

NORA

And if some creep ever comes to your house, that will work on him just as well as on the bears.

AUDREY

Damn straight it will.

NORA

Enjoy your alone time. Enjoy having literally no other humans around.

AUDREY

I don't know what that's like after living in the city for most of my life.

NORA

So let your hair down. Walk around braless. Look at the stars.

AUDREY

The stars?

NORA

Oh, you poor city girl.

AUDREY

I know what stars are, Nora.

NORA

Have you ever looked at them outside the city, though?

AUDREY

No. Who cares?

NORA  
Go out now. Go look.

AUDREY  
Nora.

NORA  
I'm serious. Go. And keep me on. I want to hear.

AUDREY  
You want to hear the stars?

NORA  
I want to hear you.

Audrey gets up and crosses the room. She opens the door and steps outside.

AUDREY  
Oh, wow.

NORA  
Holy shit, right?

AUDREY  
Yeah. Holy shit. They're so bright. And it's so dark.

IZZY  
(from inside)  
What's so bright?  
(beat)  
Holy shit.

AUDREY  
Right?

IZZY  
There are way more stars in Alaska!

NORA  
(static crackles)  
I love getting out into the country and looking at the stars. It's always--

AUDREY

Nora?

NORA

(static)

--and peaceful to just look--

AUDREY

Nora? Nora, you're breaking up. Everett said the cell signal up here was spotty. If you can hear me, I'm going to walk around and see if the signal comes back.

Audrey walks in the snow.

IZZY

Damn, girl! That's what stars are supposed to look like!

AUDREY

Nora? Can you hear me?

WIND

Audrey...

Audrey stops walking.

AUDREY

Huh?

WIND

Audrey...

IZZY

We are one with nature out here!

AUDREY

Shhh!

IZZY

Don't you "shhh" me.

WIND

Audrey...

AUDREY  
Izzy, did you hear that?

IZZY  
Hear what?

AUDREY  
It sounded like someone was calling my name.

IZZY  
Uh, no. No one's out here but us. For miles. Remember? Your intricate plan of becoming a hermit?

AUDREY  
Maybe Rett came back.

IZZY  
I didn't hear his snow mobile.

AUDREY  
Snow machine.

IZZY  
Whatever.

WIND  
Audrey...

AUDREY  
Shhh. There it was again.

IZZY  
I am hearing...nothing.

Footsteps in the snow.

IZZY (CONT'D)  
Okay, I heard that.

AUDREY  
Someone's coming.

IZZY  
I'm sure it's the old guy.  
(beat)

Maybe get the gun.

AUDREY

I didn't read the manual.

IZZY

It's a gun. You've watched movies.  
You'll manage.

AUDREY

It has to be Rett.

EVERETT

Hello. Audrey.

AUDREY

Rett? Sorry, it's really dark out here.  
I can hardly see you.

EVERETT

I am sorry. It is very dark.

AUDREY

Yeah. I was expecting you earlier, but  
it's fine. Just call next time you're  
coming so late.

EVERETT

I am sorry. I should have called.

AUDREY

It's fine. Your papers are inside. Did  
you bring the propane?

EVERETT

Come here. I have to show you.

AUDREY

The propane?

EVERETT

It is just over this way.

AUDREY

Oh. Okay. Do you need my help to carry  
it?

EVERETT

Yes. It is just over here.

Audrey begins walking.

AUDREY

Hope it's not too heavy. I haven't been to the gym in a while.

EVERETT

Come here. We are very close.

IZZY

Audrey?

(beat)

Audrey!

AUDREY

(to Izzy)

What?

IZZY

Something isn't right.

AUDREY

(to Izzy)

It will be fine. He's a harmless old man.

EVERETT

Just over here. Almost there.

IZZY

Audrey, seriously. Stop. Something's wrong.

AUDREY

Just chill--

IZZY

You know that survival instinct that is screaming in your head right now? The one you're ignoring so you can be polite? Fuck this propane, and fuck politeness.

Audrey stops walking.

EVERETT

We are almost there. Come here. Just this way.

AUDREY

(to Rett)

Uh, Rett? It's dark. And late. Why don't you leave the propane, and I can get it tomorrow?

EVERETT

No. We are nearly there. Just over here.

Audrey backs up.

AUDREY

I don't think so.

EVERETT

Wait. Do not leave.

Audrey backs up faster.

AUDREY

Come back tomorrow. In the daytime.

IZZY

Get out of here, Audrey.

EVERETT

Wait.

AUDREY

No. You stay there.

Audrey backs up to the cabin. She enters, closes the door, and locks it.

IZZY

What. The. Fuck.

AUDREY

That was weird.

IZZY



Understated but true. And also: what.  
The. Fuck.

AUDREY

I don't know. He was acting a little weird.

IZZY

A little?

AUDREY

Something was off. Something just...you were right about my instincts. My gut said to run.

IZZY

Like I said. Survival instincts.

AUDREY

I just...I've never felt something like that before. Like this weird...fear? I don't know. I didn't get anything like that from him earlier.

IZZY

Maybe because it's dark. Or maybe because he was being weird as fuck.

AUDREY

I don't know. It wasn't like an adrenaline situation. Just...I just wanted away from him.

(beat)

Do you think he's gone?

IZZY

Hold on. I'll look.

(long beat)

Yeah, he's gone. I don't see him anywhere.

AUDREY

Are you sure?

IZZY

I'm sure.

AUDREY

Okay.

(beat)

Maybe we, uh...maybe we read the manual  
for the gun.

IZZY

Uh huh.

THE END