

UNCANNY VALLEY

Episode 1.09

"The Trauma You Inflict"

Written by

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62. Audrey and Lucas in Audrey's city apartment. Lucas sketches with pencil on paper. Late at night.

AUDREY

I'm tired, Lucas.

LUCAS

Shhh. Quit shifting around.

AUDREY

I told you that I don't want you to draw me.

LUCAS

I'm not drawing you. I'm drawing the negative space around you.

AUDREY

That doesn't make any sense.

LUCAS

To an artist, it makes sense. To anyone who knows you, it makes even more sense.

AUDREY

Shut up.

LUCAS

It's practically a double entendre.

AUDREY

You're mean.

LUCAS

Yes. Perfect. Keep the frown. It's your signature look, and I want to capture it.

AUDREY

(chuckling)

Ass.

LUCAS

Nooo. Be annoyed. Quit smiling.

AUDREY

You realize that you're always begging me to laugh more.

LUCAS

You're right. Keep smiling. The frown is burned into my memory, anyway.

He sketches in silence.

AUDREY

This trip is a bad idea.

LUCAS

There she is.

AUDREY

I'm just saying.

LUCAS

I know you think that. But you're comfortable here in the city.

AUDREY

Ha.

LUCAS

I'm not. Not anymore, anyway. Not after mom and dad...

(beat)

And I'm sorry I haven't been around more. I promise that I'm not avoiding you.

AUDREY

Never said you were.

LUCAS

You know I took it hard.

AUDREY

We both did.

LUCAS

And we handled it in our own ways. Are handling it.

(beat)

No, move your hand back how it was.

AUDREY

My hand is where I want it.

LUCAS

Not if you don't want three hands in this picture.

AUDREY

Could be useful. I would definitely take up piano.

LUCAS

(beat)

When I'm back, I'll visit more.

AUDREY

I don't think Mike will like that.

LUCAS

I mean it. Mike will be fine with it. This Alaska trip is the beginning of our fresh start. But it's not the end of it. We can make these Friday nights a regular thing.

AUDREY

Wherein we order takeout and you draw me until the wee hours while all I want to do is sleep?

LUCAS

Am I supposed to argue with that?

AUDREY

Awfully presumptuous to assume that I'll always have my Fridays open for you.

LUCAS

Hey, I'd like to introduce you to my sister: Audrey.

AUDREY

Touché.

LUCAS

Seriously. Friday nights. The two of us reconnecting over takeout. We'll make it fun.

AUDREY

How is takeout fun?

LUCAS

We order down the alphabet. First night: arepas. Second night: burgers.

AUDREY

Sounds good until Q, probably.

LUCAS

Quesadillas.

AUDREY

Then X.

LUCAS

(beat)

Give me some time on that one.

AUDREY

Yeah. Think about it on your trip, during all the times you and Mike aren't just struggling to survive. All five minutes of free time.

LUCAS

I will. They will be a productive five minutes.

AUDREY

(beat)

Lucas--

LUCAS

Nope. We haven't reached the point where you're begging me not to go.

AUDREY

Yeah.

LUCAS

I just gotta do this, Audrey. And you have a quest, too.

AUDREY

Oh? Slay the dragon?

LUCAS

Before I get back, you need to make a friend.

AUDREY

I have friends. Friend. A friend.

LUCAS

Oh yeah?

AUDREY

Yeah. Someone from back in school.

LUCAS

You know that Facebook friends aren't real friends, right?

(beat)

Seriously. Make a friend.

AUDREY

I'm good.

LUCAS

Maybe start with a dog. They have to love you.

AUDREY

Getting a pet is just buying heartbreak on layaway.

LUCAS

Yep, you're making it really easy to capture the essence of Audrey right now.

AUDREY

Can you give me horns or laser eyes?

LUCAS

They'd go great with the scowl.

AUDREY

Then maybe gross men will quit talking to me on the subway.

LUCAS

Pretty sure that horns would just be a turn-on for creeps.

AUDREY

Yeah, you're probably right. I just need a way to--

63. Hard cut to outside Audrey's cabin, continuous with end of 108. Gunfire from Dahlia and Cody. Cody's semiautomatic firing faster than her rifle as she tries to quickly fire and work the bolt.

Gunfire abruptly stops as they both run out of ammo in their guns. The last shots echo in the whipping wind of the storm.

DAHLIA

(breathing heavy, wincing)

Dahlia drags herself through the snow to better cover behind her snow machine.

CODY

You fucking bitch! You shot me!

She reaches up to the snow machine and tries to get more bullets. The box tips, and the bullets clatter down the snow machine and fall into the snow.

Cody limps from the cabin into the snow.

CODY (CONT'D)

Oops. Dropped your bullets.

Dahlia fumbles with the bullets, trying to load the rifle.

CODY (CONT'D)

Not as easy to reload as mine.

Cody ejects his magazine and loads another. He works the slide and fires into the snow machine.

CODY (CONT'D)

You're fucking dead!

He fires three more times into the snow machine.

CODY (CONT'D)

I will kill you and skull fuck you, you dumb bitch.

He fires again into the snow machine.

DAHLIA

Run, Audrey!

CODY

Wha--?

Dahlia fires and hits Cody.

CODY (CONT'D)

(cry of pain)

DAHLIA

Gotcha.

Cody falls but fires back repeatedly. He mostly hits the snow machine and air, but one bullet hits Dahlia.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

(cry of pain)

64. Inside the cabin. Audrey searching for the rifle.

IZZY

Oh, god.

AUDREY

What?

IZZY

She got him to look away, and she shot him again. But he shot her, too.

(beat)

Audrey, it looks bad. She dropped her rifle. She's just lying there.

AUDREY

Fuck.

(beat)

I looked everywhere. The gun isn't here.

(beat)

He wouldn't let me use it against him.

IZZY

So we run.

AUDREY

Where? Where do we run to? Dahlia needs me!

IZZY

Yes! Dahlia needs you. To live. If you run, you have a chance to escape and

get help. If you stay, then you both die for sure.

AUDREY

Izzy...

IZZY

Audrey! You have to run. You have to run!

Audrey runs for the door.

65. Outside the cabin. Dahlia's POV. Her breathing is ragged.

Audrey sprints from the cabin into the snow and away.

CODY

(shouting)

Shit. Audrey! Where the hell are you going? That's the fucking forest! You'll freeze to death!

(beat, to himself)

Unbelievable.

(shouting)

I'll find you in a minute. After I deal with this.

Cody slowly stands and limps over to Dahlia. He kicks away her rifle.

CODY (CONT'D)

Goddammit. You just had to come over today, didn't you? What the fuck is going on between you two? Huh?

DAHLIA

(hurt)

What?

CODY

I know you bought her that coffee, you fucking dyke!

DAHLIA

It was...just some...Starbucks. Pencil
dick.

Cody ejects his empty magazine.

CODY

Always carry a backup magazine and a
backup for the backup.

He loads a new magazine.

CODY (CONT'D)

I have a date I'm late to.

He works the slide.

WIND

Cody...

CODY

Huh?

WIND

Cody...

CODY

What the hell?

DAHLIA

Oh god.

CODY

Who's out there?

WIND

Cody...

CODY

Come out!

(beat)

Whoever's out there, come out!

(beat)

I'm not fucking around!

DAHLIA

Oh god. Oh god.

WIND

Cody...

CODY

I'm serious!

Cody walks through the snow, away from Dahlia.

CODY

Snow or not. Trees or not. I will find you. So just come out and save us the time!

WIND

Cody...

CODY

Do you know who I am? Huh? I think not, asshole. Because if you really knew me, you wouldn't be out here fucking with me. I am gonna--

A bestial roar as the creature launches itself from the woods at Cody.

CODY (CONT'D)

(screams)

Cody fires repeatedly. Gnashing teeth. Tearing flesh. The gunfire stops as each half of Cody falls to the ground.

TRANSITION

66. Audrey running through the forest. There's no path. Tearing through brush, trudging through snow. She's freezing.

AUDREY

(freezing, running)

After a bit of running.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Is he following us?

IZZY

I don't see him, but I have to move with you, so I can't scout very far.

AUDREY

I heard gunshots.

IZZY

I know.

AUDREY

Do you think...

IZZY

Don't worry about that. Keep running.

Audrey stops running.

AUDREY

I just...need a second. Catch my breath.

IZZY

You're really shaking.

AUDREY

It's so cold, Izzy. I've never been so cold.

IZZY

So you need to keep moving. Keep the blood pumping.

AUDREY

I can't see anything in this storm. And my legs are aching from wading through snow.

IZZY

You are not allowed to give up here,
Audrey. Not here. We are not spending
eternity in the middle of nowhere. You
need to die in a movie theater. In like
sixty years.

AUDREY

Just...I know...just give me a minute.
Can you keep watch?

IZZY

Okay. I'll be back. One minute.

Audrey's breathing calms a bit as we wait in the storm.
Before a minute has even passed:

IZZY (CONT'D)

(distant)

Audrey!

AUDREY

Oh, shit.

IZZY

(closer)

Audrey! Follow my voice!

AUDREY

Is he coming?

IZZY

No. I mean, I don't know. But I found
something! Come on!

Audrey trudges through the snow again.

AUDREY

What is it?

IZZY

I don't know! But someone else has been
there!

AUDREY

What?

IZZY

Just come on!

(beat)

Look!

AUDREY

Oh my god. Tracks in the snow. Someone trudged through here recently.

IZZY

Exactly! Headed toward your house. But they had to come from somewhere. Let's follow it!

AUDREY

We have no idea where this goes.

IZZY

A person didn't materialize out of thin air. They had to come from somewhere! Maybe someone was driving by and heard shots, so they went on foot to investigate. Their snow machine could be right up here!

AUDREY

Okay, okay.

Audrey goes further.

IZZY

(distant)

Audrey! It's a cave! Shelter!

Audrey hurries. She reaches the cave.

AUDREY

Oh, wow. This is not a small cave.

IZZY

Come on! Come inside! At least you won't have the wind and snow. Maybe you can build a fire or something.

AUDREY

It's really dark. Hang on. I still have my phone.

Audrey fishes out her phone and slowly walks deeper into the cave.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Keep watch by the entrance. If you see him coming, warn me. I can turn off my light, try to hide.

IZZY

I got this!

Audrey continues into the cave.

AUDREY

This cave is deep.

She pauses, shivering.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

I need to warm up somehow.

EVERETT

Wish I could help you with that, ma'am.

TRANSITION

67. Back to Dahlia. The creature growls and stomps nearby.

DAHLIA

(whispering)

Shit. Don't look over here, whatever you are. Just leave. Please leave.

The creature transforms. Flesh reknits. Bones crack and snap back into place. Its monstery breathing becomes more human.

CODY (CREATURE)

Audrey.

DAHLIA

Oh, fuck.

CODY (CREATURE)

(calling out)

Audrey. Come here. You must see this.

DAHLIA

No. No. No. God. No. No.

CODY (CREATURE)

(calling out)

Audrey. I need to see you.

Cody (creature) walks into the forest.

DAHLIA

Oh, no. Audrey.

TRANSITION

68. Audrey in the cave.

AUDREY

What?

EVERETT

I said I wish I could help you. With the being cold. I don't really feel it now, but I've been in storms like this. Ain't pleasant.

AUDREY

Who the...Everett?

EVERETT

Yup. It's me.

AUDREY

But...oh, no. You're dead.

EVERETT

Afraid so.

AUDREY

That's why nobody could find you. When did this happen?

EVERETT

The day you moved in. Near your place.

AUDREY

Near my place? But how did...why are you here, then? In a cave.

ROXANNE

It's where it brings all of us.

AUDREY

Who is that?

ROXANNE

It's Roxanne.

AUDREY

Roxanne?! You, too? You're dead?!

ROXANNE

It got a bunch of us.

GARETH

Me, too.

AUDREY

Gareth?!

EVERETT

We're not all here anymore, though.

AUDREY

What got you?

ROXANNE

Well, Everett was the one who got me.

EVERETT

Marcus Pinker got me. Well, it just looked like Marcus Pinker.

AUDREY

I don't understand.

GARETH

It was wearing Rox's face when it got me. I could tell something was off, but it was too late.

AUDREY

I'm so confused.

IZZY

(approaching)

Audrey, I haven't seen him yet. Maybe he won't find--

(beat)

What the fuck.

ROXANNE

Who's this?

EVERETT

Seems like Audrey has more dead friends than just us.

IZZY

You're all dead? Holy shit. Cody killed almost everyone in town!

GARETH

Who's Cody?

AUDREY

I don't think Cody did this.

IZZY

Why are you all anchored to this weird cave?

ROXANNE

Anchored?

AUDREY

Every ghost is stuck to something. Anchored. Sometimes it's a place. Sometimes an object.

GARETH

Maybe cuz our damn bodies are in here. What's left of them, anyway. Must be why we can't leave.

IZZY

What happened to you?

EVERETT

Something lives out here. Something that's not altogether a person. But it pretends to be.

GARETH

Wears people's faces after it kills them.

AUDREY

Oh my god.

ROXANNE

Don't think god has anything to do with it. Some kinda monster.

GARETH

Who was right about the cryptids, hmmm?

EVERETT

Probably why no one ever stays at your cabin very long. It lives nearby.

AUDREY

And it...eats people?

EVERETT

Not in the strictest sense. It chews us up, sure, but it also eats your essence.

IZZY

It eats ghosts?

ROXANNE

Guess you could say that. We keep fading more and more as it eats. Marcus disappeared...I don't rightly know when it was, but he disappeared some time ago.

AUDREY

It eats your body and your essence...and it looks like people it killed?

GARETH

She's getting it.

AUDREY

So when I saw you that night, Everett...when you were being all creepy...

EVERETT

Sorry it scared you, ma'am. That wasn't me at all. I'm glad you escaped it.

IZZY

Holy shit! I knew something was up with him!

AUDREY

I had no idea.

ROXANNE

Of what? Of a shapeshifting monster eating your neighbors? Yeah, not really something I'd expect you'd guess.

GARETH

She may not know it, but it definitely knows her.

AUDREY

What.

EVERETT

We can't always understand it, and it can't see or hear us. But when it's done up like a person, it talks. It talks about you.

AUDREY

Me?

EVERETT

You're pretty much all it talks about. It's watched you. Says you're special.

AUDREY

Why me?

ROXANNE

Don't rightly know.

IZZY

I do.

AUDREY

What?

IZZY

Uh, there's a pretty big reason why you're special, Audrey. Same reason we're all having this conversation right now.

(long beat)

She can hear us, you guys. She talks to dead people. Well, anyone can talk to dead people. But we can talk to her.

EVERETT

Oh.

GARETH

So that's not something everyone can do? We can't talk to anybody?

IZZY

Did you ever talk to ghosts when you were alive? Audrey's the only person I've ever met that can hear us.

AUDREY

Why would that matter to a monster?

IZZY

How the fuck am I supposed to know that? What I do know is that, while this is a nice shelter, we are in the literal den of a monster right now. So while it's been fun catching up with everybody, we should haul ass before it comes back.

AUDREY

Yeah.

ROXANNE

Hang on, now. We haven't talked to anyone in a long time.

GARETH

Yeah! You can't just leave us here. Take us with you!

AUDREY

It doesn't work that way.

GARETH

It does for her!

IZZY
Back off, Garth.

GARETH
It's Gareth!

AUDREY
Stop yelling. You three know this forest. How can we get to shelter? And a radio?

EVERETT
Your house is the only place for miles.

AUDREY
Shit.

IZZY
Audrey. We need to go. We have a psycho stalker and a monster after us.

MIKE
(hazy)
Audrey? Is that you?

TRANSITION

69. Cody (creature) wading through the forest. Storm intensifying.

CODY (CREATURE)
Audrey. Where are you? Audrey.

WIND
Audrey...

CODY (CREATURE)
Audrey. Come here. I must speak with you.

WIND
Audrey...

TRANSITION

70. Back in the cave.

MIKE

(hazy)

Audrey?

AUDREY

Who is that? I recognize your voice.

MIKE

Audrey? Are you there?

AUDREY

Who are you?

IZZY

I see him. He's all fuzzy. Kinda flickering.

EVERETT

He's almost all used up. Been here longer than all of us.

MIKE

Is Lucas with you?

AUDREY

Lucas?

(beat)

Mike? Is that you?

IZZY

No way. It's Mike!

MIKE

I don't see Lucas.

AUDREY

Lucas isn't here, Mike. He died with you, on your trip.

MIKE

No. Not Lucas.

AUDREY

He did, Mike.

(beat)

But if you're here...is Lucas here,
too?

MIKE

Did you bring him with you?

EVERETT

He's always like this. Never knows
what's going on. Always telling Lucas
to run away and get help.

AUDREY

What?

IZZY

Um, Audrey...when Cody was talking to
Dahlia, he was pretending to be Lucas.
He said that your cop stalker forged
Lucas's death certificate. I thought it
was just part of the lie, but maybe...

AUDREY

Mike, did Lucas survive the thing that
killed you?

MIKE

So much blood. They want it.

(beat, frantic)

This isn't the hiker! Lucas, get help!
Run!

EVERETT

Told you.

AUDREY

Oh my god.

MIKE

(fading)

Audrey? Is that you? Have you seen
Lucas?

AUDREY

Mike! Listen to me: what happened to
Lucas? Did he get away?

MIKE

(fading)

Lucas?

AUDREY

Mike! Stay here! What happened to
Lucas?

Footsteps back at the mouth of the cave.

CODY (CREATURE)

(from behind)

Audrey. Come here.

IZZY

Oh, shit!

EVERETT

It's back. I'm sorry, Audrey.

GARETH

You'll be joining us soon.

AUDREY

Mike! Tell me!

IZZY

Audrey! Cody's here! We need to hide!

ROXANNE

That ain't Cody, girl.

AUDREY

Come on, Mike. Please. I need to know before I die. I just need to know he's alive.

MIKE

(barely audible)

Lucas...

Cody (creature) approaches.

CODY (CREATURE)

Audrey. There you are. Come here. I need you.

AUDREY

Fuck you, Cody. Just kill me if you're going to kill me. I'm done being scared of you.

IZZY

It's not Cody. It's the monster thing!

CODY (CREATURE)

I'm alone. Audrey. Alone. So long.

AUDREY

Oh, no.

CODY (CREATURE)

I need you. Audrey. So alone.

AUDREY

I don't think I can help keep you company. Not if you kill me.

CODY (CREATURE)

The last one. Alone. Audrey. I need you.

IZZY

Last one? Like the last monster shapeshifter?

AUDREY

There were others. Like you. But they're gone now?

CODY (CREATURE)

The last. So alone. So long. I need you. Audrey.

AUDREY

I can't help you. I'm sorry you're the last one, but I can't help you with that.

CODY (CREATURE)

You can. Audrey. I need to show you something.

IZZY

You guys said this thing, like, absorbs your essence?

EVERETT

It does.

IZZY

Audrey! It wants to find the others like it. The dead ones! It wants your powers!

AUDREY

Oh, no. No.

CODY (CREATURE)

Audrey. Come here. I want to hear the others again.

Cody (creature) shifts into creature form and lunges.

AUDREY / IZZY

(screams)

Creature bites Audrey.

AUDREY
(cry of pain)

IZZY
No! Get your filthy monster teeth off
her!

Distant at first and then rapidly approaching,
unintelligible monster voices appear. They slowly merge
into something we can understand. As they near, the
creature ceases its attack.

CREATURES
You. The last. Long we have watched.
Long we have waited. For you. The last.

IZZY
Audrey! Are you okay?

AUDREY
Shhh.

IZZY
What?!

AUDREY
Can't you hear them?

IZZY
Hear what?!

CREATURES
We watch. We wait. For the last. Join
us. In between. We move on.

Creature makes a growly noise.

AUDREY
(hurt)
You can hear them now, can't you? Now
that you bit me. They're waiting for
you.

Creature growls.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

(hurt)

All this time, they're just waiting.
They're tormented in limbo because you
keep hunting. They want to move on.
With you. But your sadness, your
isolation, the trauma you
inflict...it's keeping them there.
Trauma is a web. Even if you didn't
realize it, your trauma is keeping them
from peace. And keeping you from peace.
You need to let them go.

IZZY

Or, y'know, go join them. Whatever
works.

CREATURES

We wait. Would go on. We feel. The
last.

Creature whimpers.

AUDREY

(getting weaker)

If you stop torturing yourself, stop
causing trauma, you can cut your strand
from the web. You can release the whole
thing.

Creature whimpers then howls. It changes form again.

MIKE (CREATURE)

Audrey. I am sorry.

AUDREY

(even weaker)

Mike?

MIKE (CREATURE)

Audrey.
(beat)
Goodbye.

Mike (creature) shifts back to full creature. It bounds away, howling, from the cave and into the storm. Its howls are swallowed up.

IZZY

Audrey! Are you okay?

AUDREY

(barely there)
Izzy?

Izzy slowly fades out into musical transition.

IZZY

Oh, no. Audrey! Shit, that's a lot of blood. Audrey!

(beat)

No, stay awake! You can't die here! Dahlia's out there bleeding, too. Do you think she would quit? Hell no. You can't quit, Audrey!

(beat)

Dammit! Stay awake! Listen to me, Audrey. Dahlia needs you. I need you. Audrey!

(beat)

Audrey?

TRANSITION

71. Hospital room. Beeping/humming of machines. Playing cards are tossed onto a table.

DAHLIA

Ha. You're the old maid again.

AUDREY

Looks like.

DAHLIA

You know that you really suck at this game, right?

AUDREY

Or maybe I'm just letting you win because I feel sorry for you nursing a gunshot wound in the hospital.

DAHLIA

I was shot because of you.

AUDREY

Yes. Hence the sorry feeling.

DAHLIA

Could it also be that you suck at this game?

AUDREY

It's purely a game of chance.

DAHLIA

So you're just really unlucky?

IZZY

That's her real superpower.

AUDREY

It's my superpower.

IZZY

Oh, sure. Just take all my best lines.

DAHLIA

Grandma's coming back soon to have dinner with me. You can go. I'll be fine alone for an hour.

AUDREY

I don't have to.

DAHLIA

But you do. I can see that it's killing you every second you're sitting here playing cards with me.

AUDREY

It's not.

DAHLIA

Bullshit. Cody told you that your brother's still out there. You need to find him.

AUDREY

I can wait a little longer. You need me, too.

DAHLIA

I am doing just fine here. I got this IV, this gallon-sized cup of water, and this strawberry banana Jell-O leftover from lunch. What more could I need?

AUDREY

Starbucks?

DAHLIA

Fuck, Audrey. Why did you need to bring that up?

AUDREY

I can go get you some.

DAHLIA

No. I'll bring you some. After I heal up and come find you to help look for your brother.

AUDREY

Are you sure?

DAHLIA

Go. Shoo. Git.

AUDREY

Okay, okay. Get better.

Audrey leaves the room, and heads through the hospital toward the exit.

IZZY

We have a mission now? The hunt for Lucas?

AUDREY

Don't say hunt. But yeah. If he's out there, he needs our help.

IZZY

How do you know that?

AUDREY

Because if he were fine, he would've contacted me.

IZZY

Oh. Yeah, I suppose that's true.

(beat)

You do know that could mean...

AUDREY

I know. And honestly, he probably is. Gone. But if he survived the thing that killed Mike...maybe?

IZZY

You have to check.

AUDREY

I have to check.

IZZY

Alaskan winter doesn't seem like the best time to search for him.

AUDREY

Alaska's a big place. It will take a lot longer than one season to search it all.

Audrey exits the hospital into the outdoors.

IZZY

And you're still hearing...things?

AUDREY

Yeah. Not just dead people. Dead things. And some things that I think are dead but still alive.

IZZY

Well, okay. That's creepy as fuck. Weirdo.

AUDREY

(chuckling)

Come on. We have—

Massive, monstrous roar.

IZZY

Audrey? You okay?

AUDREY

(shaken)

Did you not hear that?

Another roar. Even closer.

IZZY

Hear what?

AUDREY

(afraid)

Something's coming.

WIND

Audrey...

(beat)

Audrey...

(beat)

Come...

(beat)

Hel awaits...

THE END

END SEASON ONE