

UNCANNY VALLEY

Episode 1.07

"Escalation"

Written by

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45. Audrey is back in the busy coffee shop, sitting and flipping her book. Cody approaches.

CODY

Audrey! What's going on? No art book today?

AUDREY

Not today.

CODY

So what is on the "Audrey's brain is in overdrive" menu for today?

AUDREY

(beat)

Huh?

CODY

What are you reading?

AUDREY

Wuthering Heights.

CODY

So you are feeling particularly cerebral today. That's a dark one, isn't it?

AUDREY

It's dramatic.

CODY

Right. You know, I don't think they really gave that Heathcliff guy a fair shot.

AUDREY

You can't misrepresent a fictional character.

CODY

Sure, but it can add to stereotypes that hurt us real people, right?

AUDREY

Sure. I'm certain you've been heavily impacted by the perils of misrepresentation.

CODY

More than you know. Besides, he just wanted to show how devoted he was to his woman, right?

AUDREY

(barely paying attention)

Uh huh.

CODY

And it was really the way he was treated that caused him to act the way he did.

AUDREY

He was a villain, not a victim. He was looking for revenge.

CODY

I suppose so. But I think it was warranted. That Catherine girl really led him on, you know? She got his hopes up, then went and married someone else.

AUDREY

I'm actually reading this book, so I don't really need your Spark Notes.

CODY

(laughs)

You know, when you order your coffee "for here," they don't give you the little sticker on the side that says what you ordered. Makes it hard for a guy to find out.

AUDREY

Yeah, I'm starting to think I should have gotten it to-go.

Audrey stands up from her seat, and begins packing her things.

CODY

You have to go so soon?

AUDREY

Yeah, I have a thing.

CODY

Okay. No hug?

PAST TO PRESENT TRANSITION

46. Audrey sits in the Ice Scraper across from Dahlia.

AUDREY

You have to quit staring at it.

DAHLIA

What?

AUDREY

The harvest basket. You've been staring at it since we've been sitting here. Everything she grows isn't poisoned.

DAHLIA

Oh, my bad. I'm just having a little trouble coping with the fact that the woman who's supplied most of my food for almost thirty years also uses it to kill people. Silly me.

AUDREY

Uh, yeah, maybe we take a step back. Kill people? Try a person. Your grandmother isn't some serial killer. She had her reasons. And after what she told us, I'm thinking maybe it was justified.

DAHLIA

Her reasons? Justified? Audrey, this was murder.

IZZY

Ugh, can we just chill about all this

murder stuff? Doyle is literally fine. He faded into the sunset. Happily ever after.

AUDREY

Okay, regardless of what happened, I don't think she's leaving veggies in the restaurant so she can play Russian roulette with the town drunks.

IZZY

Yeah, you can't feed snakeroot to a cabbage, anyway. The produce is fine.

AUDREY

Look, I know this is hard for you. I can't imagine how much you have to process. And I can't pretend I have all the answers or even really know what to say. But I figured you could use a friend, even if she's a subpar social recluse, so I appreciate you meeting me here.

DAHLIA

(sighs)

Thanks, Audrey. I didn't mean to snap. It's just...well...god knows I needed this drink. And you are not a subpar social recluse. You're my friend.

AUDREY

Just, you know, let me know if there's anything I can do for you aside from supplying alcohol.

DAHLIA

I'll keep brainstorming on that one.

The two sit in awkward silence.

LONNIE

You ladies doing all right? Can I get you anything else?

IZZY

Something a ghost can drink? I miss filling the emotional void with iced coffee.

DAHLIA

Wow, Lonnie. Look who finally emerged from behind the bar. I was beginning to think your feet were fused to the ground.

LONNIE

Yeah, yeah, real funny. We're short-staffed. Too many people are out trying to prepare for tonight's storm. Which reminds me, we'll be closed starting tomorrow until I can dig myself out of the snow and show up here again.

DAHLIA

Short-staffed? You have one employee.

LONNIE

And Bess is a very essential part of our staff who is currently having her cabin re-insulated.

DAHLIA

She's cutting it close, that's for sure. But we should probably follow her example and get things squared away.

Dahlia chugs the rest of her drink.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

Let's head out, Audrey. We can catch up in a few days.

LONNIE

Take care, ladies. Stay safe out there.

DAHLIA

Back atcha, Lon.

AUDREY

Hey, did you want to maybe come over and wait out the storm at my place? You

know, if you're not feeling up to being alone with everything going on?

DAHLIA

I appreciate the offer. But Alaska isn't exactly slumber party central. Not sure how long it will take for the storm to pass, and your place might be too far out there even for me. Gotta get home and secure my property. And I may not know how I feel about her right now, but I should still check on Sage and make sure she has what she needs.

AUDREY

Yikes. It gets that bad out here?

DAHLIA

Yes. This is Alaska.

AUDREY

So I've been told.

DAHLIA

Maybe we make one stop first to make sure you have what you need.

AUDREY

Has Roxanne been back to open the store?

DAHLIA

Not that I know of. Thought I saw her the other night, but it was dark. But we can still get what we need.

PRESENT TO PAST TRANSITION

47. Audrey and Izzy in Audrey's city apartment, conversing casually.

AUDREY

I think I've checked everywhere except the fire escape.

IZZY

Well, where did you last have it?

AUDREY

If I knew that, don't you think I'd have found it by now?

IZZY

Just trying to help. You know I didn't take it. LOL.

AUDREY

Did you just LOL at me out loud?

IZZY

I miss texting, okay? Maybe if you embraced technology a little more, you wouldn't need to use this stupid sketchbook you lost.

AUDREY

It's not stupid. It has all of my sculpture ideas.

IZZY

I'm sorry. It's not stupid. Just keep looking. It's always in the last place you look.

AUDREY

No shit, sherlock. Why would I keep looking in other places if I found it?

IZZY

Huh. Never thought about it like that.

AUDREY

I think what you meant was it's always in the last place you'd think to look.

A crash sounds from the next-door apartment.

IZZY

I can tell you, the last place I would want to look is Unit 19. What are they doing over there? Construction?

AUDREY

Sounded like it came from the other side. Where Mrs. Smith lives.

IZZY

Huh. I didn't peg Mrs. Smith as being handy.

AUDREY

Maybe more handsy than handy. I think she's practicing her...aerobics routine.

IZZY

Aerob--? Ew! Audrey!

AUDREY

Just saying. That's apartment life for you. No secrets.

IZZY

But she's like...old.

AUDREY

Old people have sex, Izzy.

Izzy makes exaggerated "ew," "blugh," "yuck" noises. A knock sounds at the door.

IZZY

Oh my GOD they want us to join in!

AUDREY

You are ridiculous.

Audrey opens the front door.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

Uh? Hello?

(beat)

Nobody's here.

IZZY

Look! On the doormat!

AUDREY

Coffee?

IZZY

A hot grande vanilla almond milk latte,
according to the sticker! Look, there's
a note.

AUDREY

"Finally figured it out." Winky face.
There's a winky face.

IZZY

You don't think this is from...

AUDREY

Who else would it be?

IZZY

Didn't he ask about your order the
other day?

AUDREY

My stomach hurts.

PAST TO PRESENT TRANSITION

48. A bell sounds as Dahlia and Audrey enter the store.

DAHLIA

Looks like Roxanne ducked out early.

AUDREY

Or still hasn't been back. Should we
worry?

DAHLIA

Nah. I'd wager she's just prepping
whatever properties she's still got for
the storm. Welp, might as well get
anything you need now. Won't be getting
any deliveries for a while.

AUDREY

Because the mail is so speedy when the
weather isn't bad.

DAHLIA

Hey! I do the best I can. This--

AUDREY

--is Alaska. Yeah, yeah.

DAHLIA

Funny. We'll see who's laughing when I suddenly get the inclination to do thirty-seven loop-de-loops in the air with all your precious art tools in the back.

(beat)

Oh, dammit, Rox. She didn't even come in to sort the mail.

Dahlia leafs through a stack of mail.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

Credit card offer, credit card offer, warning that I haven't claimed the warranty on the car I don't own, god forbid, credit card offer. Two coupons for a buy-one-get-one free family dinner from some Italian place that can't be closer than four hours away.

Dahlia chucks the mail in the trash.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

All junk. Got anything interesting?

AUDREY

Nah, just a letter.

DAHLIA

How vague. How mysterious. From a secret admirer, perhaps?

AUDREY

Probably a generic client thank-you note forwarded by my manager or something. That's all I ever get in the mail. You know my life isn't that exciting.

DAHLIA

I'd say you're working on making it pretty eventful as of late.

AUDREY

With a big move across the country,
sure. But I'm definitely not
complaining when I find pockets of
monotony throughout my days.

IZZY

Well, I sure am.

DAHLIA

I get ya. Sometimes the ordinary is
comforting. I've learned that these
past few days.

AUDREY

Right. I'm sorry, Dahlia.

DAHLIA

No sweat. C'est la vie. But we'd better
go hunker down before this storm makes
both of our lives more interesting than
we'd like. I can give you any supplies
you're missing that Rox doesn't have.

The two girls and one ghost exit the shipping station.

DAHLIA (CONT'D)

Let me take care of a few things and
I'll head over real quick with some
supplies before it gets too late. Meet
you at your place?

AUDREY

Cool. See ya, Dahlia.

DAHLIA

Later, 'gator.

Audrey continues walking to her snow machine, but notices
Gareth standing nearby.

GARETH (CREATURE)

Hello, Audrey.

AUDREY

Hi, Gareth.

GARETH (CREATURE)
I am glad that you are here.

AUDREY
Oh. Thanks?

IZZY
This guy seems noticeably less drunk
and somehow much more weird.

GARETH (CREATURE)
I have to show you.

AUDREY
Um. The storm is coming, Gareth. I need
to get home.

GARETH (CREATURE)
Come this way. I have to show you.

AUDREY
You should go home.

GARETH (CREATURE)
It is right this way.

IZZY
Big nope. Let's go, Audrey.

AUDREY
Yup.

GARETH (CREATURE)
Audrey. Come here.

The snow machine revs on, and Audrey drives away.

AUDREY
(over snow machine)
That was so weird.

IZZY
(over snow machine)
Huh?

AUDREY
(over snow machine)
That was so weird.

IZZY
(over snow machine)
I can't drink beer!

AUDREY
(over snow machine)
Ugh. Nevermind.

PRESENT TO PAST TRANSITION

49. Audrey is in the car, driving, and her phone rings.

AUDREY
Hey, Nora, what's up?

NORA
(through phone)
Just wanted to verify you're still on
your way. I know you're not a fan of
face-to-face meetings with clients, but
if I can fly all the way in for it, you
can make a short drive.

AUDREY
Sorry, I just hopped in the car. I'll
be there soon. Got sidetracked
finishing the latest piece.

NORA
(through phone)
Well, glad to hear you're working. This
will be an even bigger deal, I think.

AUDREY
Cool. See ya soon.

Audrey hangs up the phone.

IZZY
Why didn't you tell Nora?

AUDREY
Tell Nora what?

IZZY

Oh, you know, what you had for breakfast, maybe the color of your underwear.

AUDREY

You're weird.

IZZY

You're asking dumb questions. Why didn't you tell Nora we just left the police station?

AUDREY

Well, she'd probably have questions about who "we" is.

IZZY

Audrey, you're being as annoying as I am. Quit being evasive.

AUDREY

It's just that...I can't believe that cop suggested I move. I have to pick up my whole life and take it elsewhere to not be harassed? This is ridiculous.

IZZY

I wouldn't complain about a relocation to Paris.

(beat)

But yeah. I'm sorry, Audrey. I'm sure there's a way around it. Something else you can do...I can't believe that this idiot Cody is a cop, too.

AUDREY

I can.

A popping noise, then a shrill scraping. Audrey swerves the car and pulls over.

AUDREY (CONT'D)

(panicked)

What the hell just happened?

IZZY

I'm literally so annoyed that I can fear for my life still. My nonexistent heart just beat out of my chest.

AUDREY

Did I just lose a tire?

IZZY

Uh, I think you lost the whole wheel. Or it lost you. It's still barreling down the street.

AUDREY

Great. Fantastic.

IZZY

Audrey--

AUDREY

Give me a second, Iz. I'm trying to figure out how to handle this.

Audrey gets out of the car.

IZZY

Audrey! Behind you!

CODY

That can't be my friend Audrey.

IZZY

You're right. You don't have a friend Audrey.

AUDREY

How did you...were you following me?

CODY

Right place, right time. What happened here? Looks like you lost a wheel.

IZZY

Genius observation, dipshit.

AUDREY

Uh, yeah. Just my luck.

CODY

I'll call a tow, but it will be a while. Where were you headed? Why don't you let me give you a ride?

AUDREY

I'd rather wait.

CODY

Could be dangerous. You're kind of in the middle of the street.

AUDREY

Well, thankfully, you pulled up directly behind me. So I guess they'd hit you first.

CODY

(laughs)

Just trying to protect you, Auddie. You feeling okay? You look a little pale. Did that experience shake you up a bit?

IZZY

Nah, skidding down the street on three tires is our definition of serenity.

AUDREY

I'm fine.

CODY

Maybe we should get you to the hospital.

AUDREY

Get your hands off of me.

CODY

You could be hurt, Audrey. I'm a trained first responder. Let me make sure you're okay.

AUDREY

I will be okay when you quit touching me.

CODY

Come here. You don't have to play all shy. Let me give you a ride.

AUDREY

If I need to go to the hospital, I'll wait for an ambulance.

CODY

(laughs)

Okay, money bags. Surely you'd like to skip that bill.

IZZY

She'd like to skip this whole interaction, you fucking creep.

AUDREY

Someone is going to see you with your hands on me.

CODY

These rubbernecks only want to know if this is a crash. They're not looking at me.

AUDREY

I'll scream.

CODY

And what, someone will call the cops?
(in Audrey's ear)
Because going to the cops worked out so well for you earlier. Besides, my fellow officer is in his cruiser at the end of the street. I can't be doing anything wrong if I'm doing it in front of him, can I?

AUDREY

Fuck you.

CODY

(laughs)

If you really want to, sure. But I'd settle for a kiss.

AUDREY
You're disgusting.

CODY
Why won't you kiss me, Audrey? I'm a good guy. You know I'd never do anything you're not comfortable with.

IZZY
The way I wish I could kick you in the nuts right now.

AUDREY
Leave me alone.

CODY
Aw, don't be like that, doll.

A call comes through Cody's radio.

CODY (CONT'D)
Ah, saved by the bell. You'll have to wait for the tow truck.

AUDREY
Oh, darn.

CODY
Hey, there's no reason for the attitude. We'll meet again soon. Remember what you said about the guy from your book when he couldn't have the woman he wanted? He was looking for revenge? Your car has other wheels.
(directly in her ear)
And I am very patient.

PAST TO PRESENT TRANSITION

50. Audrey and Izzy are in their cabin, preparing for the storm.

IZZY
So I think we should watch all of the Bring It On movies, since we'll have time. But we'll get through the classics first: Mean Girls is a must.

Anything with Amanda Bynes, Hillary Duff, or Lindsay Lohan. How do you say her last name? Low-en? Low-han?

AUDREY

Izzy!

IZZY

What? You said we had to get ready to be snowed in.

AUDREY

Yeah, I have to get us ready. Like making sure we have enough wood in case we need to use the wood-burning stove. You know, for heat. If the power goes out. And we can't complete your teen girl movie marathon.

IZZY

(gasps)

Do you think the power is going to go out?

AUDREY

I don't know, but I have to make sure I know where the extra candles and flashlights are.

IZZY

I guess I should have a readathon prepared too, just in case. I'll scan your bookshelf and make a mental list.

AUDREY

Quietly.

IZZY

Fine. But you'll have to pull the books for me when you're done.

(beat)

Hey, Audrey!

AUDREY

(exasperated)

What?

IZZY

You never opened your letter.

AUDREY

Not yet.

IZZY

Are you going to open your letter?

AUDREY

Eventually.

(beat)

Oh, you meant am I going to open the letter so you can read it and be nosy.

IZZY

I have so little in this afterlife, Audrey.

AUDREY

(sighs)

Fine.

Audrey tears open the letter

AUDREY (CONT'D)

It's a photo of my sculpture. From that boutique hotel Nora just worked to get me in.

IZZY

Ooo, it looks so good!

AUDREY

I guess she just wanted me to see how it looked installed.

IZZY

What's on the back, though?

AUDREY

"Figured it out." Winky face.

IZZY

Uhhh...holy.

AUDREY

Shit.

IZZY

Audrey...

AUDREY

The fucker found me.

PRESENT TO PAST TRANSITION

51. Audrey and Izzy are back in the apartment.

IZZY

That toddler upstairs never stops running.

AUDREY

I thought it was a french bulldog.

IZZY

Whatever it is, it's annoying.

AUDREY

Why don't you put your ghosty-ness to good use and poke through the ceiling and look?

IZZY

(long beat)

You were almost right. Boston terrier.

(beat)

What's up?

AUDREY

Huh?

IZZY

You have your worried face on.

AUDREY

Oh, sorry. I'm just trying to find my wood glue. I swear it was right here.

(beat)

Actually, nothing is really in the right spot.

IZZY

Again, wasn't me. You must be losing it.

AUDREY

(realizing)

He's been here.

IZZY

What? Who?

AUDREY

Cody. He's been here.

IZZY

You're assuming that from some misplaced tools?

AUDREY

That and the fact that my sketchbook is here on my desk again. With a little heart drawn on the cover.

IZZY

Shit. I wish I could say that was me.

Audrey's phone rings.

IZZY (CONT'D)

You gonna get that?

AUDREY

Huh? Uh, yeah.

(beat)

Hello?

CODY

(through phone)

Hello, Audrey.

AUDREY

What the hell? Cody? What are you doing?

CODY

I can't give my lovely friend a call?

IZZY
(whispers)
Put it on speaker! Wait, why am I
whispering?
(normal voice)
Put it on speaker!

Audrey clicks the phone to speaker.

CODY
Hellooo?

AUDREY
Cody, I mean it. Leave me alone.

CODY
What? Come on, Audrey. You're breaking
my heart here.

IZZY
I'd break your face if I could.

AUDREY
I mean it, Cody. This isn't funny.
Leave. Me. Alone.

CODY
Well of course it's not funny. My
feelings for you are very serious.

AUDREY
(more upset)
I said I mean it.

CODY
What are you going to do? Call the
police? Newsflash: You tried that. It
didn't work.

AUDREY
Argh!

Audrey throws her sketchbook at the wall. It also comes
through the phone call.

IZZY

Oh, no. Did you hear that?

AUDREY
(whispers, away from the phone)
What?

IZZY
Your sketchbook hitting the wall.

AUDREY
Yes. I threw it.

IZZY
No, I mean...I heard it in two places?

AUDREY
What are you talking about?

CODY
Audrey?

IZZY
It's definitely not fucking aerobics.
Hah, get it, fu--okay, not the time,
Izzy.
(long beat, distant)
Audrey! Oh my god! He's in here!

Audrey hangs up the phone.

AUDREY
Wh--what?

IZZY
(back in the room)
Mrs. Smith is gone. The unit next door
is empty. Well, it was. But he's in
there. Cody. It's just him and a
mattress and he's in there!

AUDREY
This isn't happening.

IZZY
This is so creepy.

AUDREY

He could be listening in. Watching me.
Everyday. And he comes in.

(beat)

The break-ins, the following, the
moving in next door...

IZZY

What are we going to do?

AUDREY

We have to leave.

PAST TO PRESENT TRANSITION

52. Back at Audrey's cabin.

IZZY

Okay, he figured out where your
sculpture is. That doesn't mean he
knows where you are. He's just...
stalking your work?

AUDREY

(losing it a bit)

But he knows about Nora.

IZZY

How would he know about Nora? And how
would you know that he knows?

AUDREY

(really starting to lose it)

Izzy. I got this letter.

IZZY

Correct.

AUDREY

I got this letter here. Which means it
made its way to Nora, and she forwarded
it up here.

IZZY

Oh. Shit.

AUDREY

Yeah. Shit.

IZZY

Well, just because he got something to Nora doesn't mean that he can find you. And she lives across the country from him.

AUDREY

But he's close. Maybe not physically close, but...I can feel him again. He's everywhere.

(full-blown panic)

I can't do this. I can't do this.

IZZY

Audrey, breathe. This is a panic attack. You're safe.

AUDREY

I feel like I'm dying, Izzy.

IZZY

Remember you've been here before, and you've gotten through it.

AUDREY

Yes, right, I know.

IZZY

Why don't you take a shower? That calms you down.

AUDREY

Yeah, okay.

(beat)

Um, I'm going to put you away then.

IZZY

Sure you'll be okay? I won't look.

AUDREY

I have to preserve some semblance of privacy in my life. Even when I'm freaked out.

IZZY

I get it. But don't take too long.

Audrey closes Izzy in her locket. She turns the shower water on. A knock at the door. Audrey yelps, startled.

AUDREY
(to herself)
Oh, thank god, Dahlia.

Audrey opens the door, and the wind howls.

AUDREY (CONT'D)
Thank god you're he--

CODY
Hello, Audrey. Yes. Thank God I'm here.

AUDREY
This isn't happening.

CODY
You don't mind if I come in, do you?
The storm's getting rather bad. And
look. Flowers. Just like I promised.

THE END