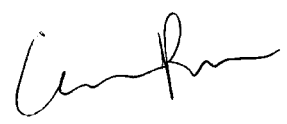


CRUSHING

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Shooting Script (Last updated on Feb 22, 2024)



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IRIS (17), quiet and shy, sits at her desk playing a video game (Minecraft) on her laptop. She's calling her best friend LUNA (17) outgoing and confident, on discord while they game together. Iris clicks her mouse aggressively.

LUNA (O.S.)

GAAAAH THERE'S ANOTHER ONE HERE.  
IRISSS WHERE ARE YOU!! I NEED HELP!  
WAAA! PLEASE! I'M ABOUT TO DIE!!

IRIS

No.

LUNA (O.S.)

WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO- AHHHHHH.

Iris lets out a laugh. Luna dies in game.

LUNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I give you all my love and this is what I get in return? Fuck you.

IRIS

Love you too.

LUNA (O.S.)

Oh my lord...how are you even so good at the game?

IRIS

Um, I mean... I play everyday so...

LUNA (O.S.)

And you still get top grades in school?

IRIS

...yes?

LUNA (O.S.)

Man, give me some of your braincells, why are you so good at everything?

IRIS

(shrugs)

You're not that bad yourself.

LUNA (O.S.)

You do not understand, I have been procrastinating this whole summer for everything! Literally!

IRIS

I'm sure you did at least one thing...you seemed pretty productive in all the pictures you sent to me for the past few weeks.

LUNA (O.S.)

YEAH, BUSY AVOIDING HOMEWORK! And it took me ages to finish packing my stuff!

IRIS

What stuff?

LUNA (O.S.)

Oops.

IRIS

(jokingly cautious)  
...What did you do?

LUNA (O.S.)

Nnoothh-ing

IRIS

Luna, come on now.

LUNA (O.S.)

Okay, this is gonna sound crazy, but I'm in Hong Kong.

IRIS

Huh?

LUNA (O.S.)

I mean, you asked, so. Mmaaayyybe I should've said this earlier but I didn't really know how to announce this in like, a good, completely sensible, totally not awkward way you know?

Iris runs her hand through her hair, a smile forming.

IRIS

(shock)  
Wow- I- how did you even...how did this even...

LUNA (O.S.)

Well, my parents got transferred here for work recently so. I'm not complaining though since I get to meet you now.

IRIS

(soften)

It'll be our first time in four years...

LUNA (O.S.)

Yeah...how does this Saturday sound?

IRIS

Mmmh, I'll have to check.

LUNA (O.S.)

Ooo let's hope so! God you don't understand how excited I am for this like- okay this is kinda random but I just think you're really fucking cool-

Iris goes stiff.

LUNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

you're always doing your own thing and, I feel like, it's gonna be awesome. These days of just you and me, doing shit, having fun, making memories you know?

Iris is silent.

LUNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Iris? Hellowoooo?

IRIS

Oh- sorry um, that's nice to know...I guess? I don't really...

LUNA (O.S.)

Oh come on now, just take the compliment!

IRIS

I...okay, sure. Uh, my mom just came back so I- I'lltextyoulaterokaybye-

Iris shuts her computer in panic, takes a deep breath, and chugs down her water.

IRIS (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Why do you think that I'm-

She deletes the text.

IRIS (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Are you sure about this?

(MORE)

IRIS (TEXT) (CONT'D)  
 I mean you only just moved here  
 don't you need time to-

She deletes the text again.

IRIS (TEXT) (CONT'D)  
 Sorry. I'll get back to you. Mom's  
 being annoying.

2 INT. IRIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

2

LONG SHOT ON A CLOCK, TICKING SOUND ECHOING FAR AWAY.

Iris digging through clothes in her closet. Occasionally, she fits pieces against her figure before throwing it aside.

LATER

With no outfit being satisfactory, wearing cropped clothing, Iris slams her closet door and sits down on her bed. She rummages through all the clothes once again, speed increasing by each second with more force, until she gives up and sweeps all of them off the bed.

Breathing heavily, Iris lies down on her bed, exhausted. She raises her hands and stares, wondering why she can never look the way she wants.

CUT TO:

3 INT. IRIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

3

MEDIUM SHOT ON A CLOCK, TICKING SOUND DISTANT, BUT LOUDER THAN BEFORE.

Iris scrolls through a Pinterest page of clothes while a podcast titled "Stepping out of your comfort zone" plays on her phone. The sound of a rapid mouse scrolling echoes.

Iris slants and twists in her seat, looking upwards.

PODCAST  
 -just doesn't matter. It doesn't matter whether others think you of you, you know? Sometimes you meet the right people, sometimes you just- don't. I mean, let me put it this way. The next time you look in the mirror and wonder if you're enough, ask yourself: are you happy? If you-

Iris pauses the podcast and massages her temples. The laptop screen turns black, and she is met with her own reflection.

Tentatively, she reached up to touch her own face, tracing it, immersed. She halts after a while, hands shying away, forming into a fist. Beat.

Iris slams her laptop shut and lays her forehead against her hand. Her other hand taps on the table incessantly.

IRIS  
(mumbling)  
I don't know anymore...

Sighing dejectedly, she turns around to look at the mess in her room. She slowly stumbles towards the hoodie on the floor, and holds it up with a fist.

LOW ANGLE. M. IRIS HOLDING THE HOODIE CLOSE.

EYE LEVEL. CU. IRIS'S EYES, EMOTIONLESS.

WIDE ANGLE. L. IRIS IN THE MIDST OF HER ROOM, ALONE.

CUT TO:

4 INT. IRIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

4

MEDIUM CLOSE SHOT ON A CLOCK, CLOSE, LOUDER THAN BEFORE.

Iris paces around the room with heavy footsteps and stops in front of a mirror, hesitates, then takes a deep breath.

IRIS  
Hi.

Iris waves. The room is silent.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
(stammering)  
H-how are you? How do you find Hong Kong? I hope you're getting a hang of working your way around the city so far. Have you done anything special-  
(snorts)  
SPECIAL. Have you done anything special. Okay  
Hi. How are you? How do you find Hong Kong? I hope you're getting a hang of working your way around here. Have you done anything SPECIAL lately? Um, visited anything? I don't know. Hm.

Iris grabs the notebook besides her, biting her nail.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Uh, hi. How are you? How do you find Hong Kong? I hope you're getting a hang working your way around here. Have you done anything special lately? Visited anything? Tried any new food? Actually, what school are you transferring to? Why did you-

(beat)

Oh my fucking god I sound like an interrogator.

Iris sighs and puts down her notebook.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Talk about yourself...what is there to even talk about.

Hi. How are you? How do you find Hong Kong? Have you done any-  
The missed a line.

(louder)

HI, HOW ARE YOU? How do you find Hong Kong? I hope you're getting a hang working your way around here. I, uh, have you done anything special lately? Visited anything? I recommend Ocean Park, don't think there's one back in Engua- fleh. Fla. Pleh. I CAN'T SPEAK.

Iris lays her head against the mirror, looks up, then abruptly covers her own eyes.

IRIS (CONT'D)

Stupid.

Iris's voice cracks.

IRIS (CONT'D)

(louder)

Stupid. Stupid. STUPID

Iris hurls her notebook away, shoves her clothes back into her closet and drops her phone into the drawer, slamming it shut.

She stands still, heaving, and starts crying.

5 INT. IRIS'S BEDROOM - DAY

5

Iris is playing Minecraft on her laptop alone. A text notification pops up and Iris clicks onto it:

"See you in an hour!

:DDD

You have no idea how excited I am for this."

Iris stares at the text, then removes the window and goes back to her game.

CLOSE UP SHOT ON A CLOCK, TICKING SOUND DISTURBINGLY LOUD.

Iris dies in game. Exasperated, she closes her laptop and spaces out. Her gaze lands on a picture of her own self, smiling brightly on the table. Iris holds it closer, bites her finger, then leaves the room.

6

INT. IRIS'S WASHROOM - DAY

6

FRAMED SHOT OF IRIS LOOKING AT HERSELF IN THE MIRROR

QUICK CUTS:

- Iris splashes water at her face
- Iris wears a hoodie
- Iris ties up her hair
- Iris looks into the mirror

Her hands reach up to tug at the edge of her lip, trying to form a smile. She repeats this multiple times.

IRIS  
(whispering)  
Everything will be okay.

Iris takes her hand off her face, smile disappearing along.

IRIS (CONT'D)  
It has to be.

She looks down to her hands, a beat, and walks out of the washroom.

7

EXT. PARK - DAY

7

Iris is walking around the park, searching for Luna. She sits down at a bench and checks her watch. Iris stares out in the distance, hands restless.

LATER

Iris checks her phone, puts it asides and sighs. Iris begins biting her nail, occasionally reaching for her phone to check. Leg bouncing.

LATER

Iris is now standing up, staring at her phone. Luna is not here nor online. Iris texts Luna: "Hey, so we are meeting at the park right?"

Biting her lip, she sends the message. Her hand reaches up to play with her collar, clutching it tightly. Her shoulders tighten.

LATER

Iris is now defeated she is ready to leave, she takes her bag and looks up to spot Luna. They lock eyes. Iris halts and slowly puts her bag back down. She glances at her phone, the screen showing a photo of Luna to make sure this is really happening.

They do not talk when Luna reaches in front of her. Blinking, they look away to their surroundings. Luna touches the back of her neck while Iris fixes her hair.

Pause

Luna's gaze land back on Iris.

LUNA

Um.

Iris snaps back towards Luna and blinks.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Hi.

IRIS

Hi.

They continue staring each other. Luna is still touching her neck and Iris is holding her own arm, both in a protective stance.

LUNA

I-

IRIS (CONT'D)

You-

Beat.

LUNA (CONT'D)

You can-

IRIS (CONT'D)

You can-

Another beat.

IRIS (CONT'D)

It's okay, you go first.

Luna breaths in.

LUNA

(rushed)

I'm really sorry for being late. I don't know why I did that actually it's just that I was about to head out and then randomly started chickening out like oh my god is my hair messy? Do I look okay? I was scared of tripping myself over and it's so embarrassing so I didn't know if I-

Luna cuts herself off and sighs. She bites her lip in thought, then, hesitantly takes a step towards Iris. Iris doesn't move away.

Luna takes that as a sign and hugs Iris. She goes rigid, hands slowly yet awkwardly reach up to hug back Luna. Luna tries to hide her face from view in embarrassment.

LUNA (CONT'D)

(guilty)

Sorry I think that I was just... acting stupid.

(beat)

I made you worry, didn't I?

Iris shakes her head and holds Luna closer. The other giggles airily.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Don't lie, knowing you you probably did. Were you wait for me this whole time?

Iris nods. Luna breaks their hug, still of close distance. They go back to staring.

LUNA (CONT'D)

Thank you- for...giving me a chance.

IRIS

...it's the least I can do.

Iris looks lovestruck, and unknowingly forms a wholesome smile. Luna softens and smiles back.

Iris, now over her original anxiety of Luna not showing up, returns to fearing about not meeting the Luna's expectations. She takes a step back and turns her head away, playing with her hands.

LUNA

Hey-

Iris turns her head further way.

LUNA (CONT'D)  
-It's okay. I'm nervous too.

Iris looks at Luna, eyes wide in shock. Luna gives a crooked, knowing grin.

LUNA (CONT'D)  
We're in this together, okay?

IRIS  
Okay.

The wind blows as the pair stand in silence.

LUNA  
Shall we get going? There's still  
some time left before it gets dark.

Iris hesitantly nods and Luna leads the way.

8 INT. IRIS'S ROOM - DAY

8

Iris laying their head on Luna's shoulder as they play an online game.

ZOOM IN ON A PICTURE OF THE TWO EMBRACING EACH OTHER AND LAUGHING SITS ON THE TABLE, NEXT TO THAT, THE PICTURE OF IRIS SMILING BRIGHTLY ALONE.

THE END.