

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

OCTOBER 2008
ONE WEEK CHALLENGE

FADE IN:

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - DAY

KEVIN (17) and ELROY (15) sit inside the car with the radio barely audible.

KEVIN

Fine, it's a commercial break. Tell me what's bugging you?

ELROY

It's what happened last night. We were sitting there...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - PREVIOUS DAY

Elroy and TINA (15,) are seated awkwardly on a sofa at opposite ends. The two refuse to make eye contact and Elroy is noticeably shaking.

TINA

I had a really great time at the bowling alley, Elroy.

ELROY

Thanks Tina, I'm glad to hear it was a strike.

Elroy stops, petrified by what he has just said when Tina breaks the silence with a fake giggle.

TINA

Your house is a little cold; how shall we warm ourselves up?

ELROY

I'll get you a blanket.

Elroy gets up and walks across the room to grab a blanket. Tina's eyes follow him and focus on the movement of his butt. She doesn't notice a green bug that scurries across the carpet, up her leg and bites down on her flesh.

Reacting to the bite, she brushes it away without looking down. Elroy returns with a blanket.

TINA

Thanks Elroy, though I was kind of hoping you'd sit closer to me instead.

Elroy's face lights up at the invitation and he sits down beside her, though still leaving a little bit of space between them.

ELROY (V.O.)

I wonder if she knows I like her.

TINA

I like you too.

He is too relieved to wonder how she heard that, and scoots closer to her. Elroy raises his arm and casually stretches it until his hand is resting on Tina's far shoulder. Tina doesn't reject the advance and again Elroy beams.

ELROY (V.O.)

I'm about to lose my virginity!

TINA

What kind of girl do you think I am?

ELROY

What?

TINA

I don't put out on the first date, you perv.

ELROY (V.O.)

I didn't really say that, did I?

TINA

Yes, you did.

Elroy puts his hand on his mouth.

ELROY (V.O.)

Bagel bites.

TINA

Don't try to change the subject.

ELROY

Are you reading my mind?

Tina SCREAMS and points at Elroy's arm, which contains three green bugs resembling the one that bit Tina. One bites down, and Elroy SHRIEKS in response before brushing the bugs off.

TINA (V.O.)

He's about to rape me AND he has a cockroach problem! How do I get out of here?

ELROY

I'm not gonna rape you.

TINA

How did you hear that?

The two look down and the floor is covered with green bugs. Tina SCREAMS once again and runs out of the house. Elroy follows her out, yelping HIGH PITCHED SCREAMS as he leaves.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Tina stands beside an open locker with STACY (15,) who is wearing a cheerleading uniform. A few construction paper cut-outs of pumpkins and ghosts adorn the various closed lockers.

TINA

He just wanted to have sex with me...
and there were bugs everywhere!

STACY (V.O.)

I told her not to go out with that
nerd.

TINA

Be nice... I still think he's kind of
cute.

STACY

Don't look at me, I didn't say anything.

Two younger boys walk past and Tina makes eye contact with BOY 1.

BOY 1 (V.O.)

Stacy's wearing her cheerleading uniform! I totally jerked off to her last night.

TINA

What's going on?

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONT'D

KEVIN (17) and Elroy, who looks like he didn't get any sleep, are seated in a car parked outside the school building. The faint sound of EERIE MUSIC plays in the background.

ELROY

I've never been more embarrassed.

KEVIN

Don't worry little bro, it just means you'll be a virgin forever.

ELROY

I don't think I can show my face in school again. I just-

Kevin turns up the radio.

KEVIN

Shut up, it's back on.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

The bugs surged like a biblical plague; their menacing, green exterior shielded the marble floor from view.

KEVIN

They've been doing a little bit of the story each day, and today's the grand finale.

ELROY

Just because it's Halloween?

KEVIN

Of course because it's Halloween;
use your brain dumb shit.

ELROY

It seems a little random. Why a
radio broadcast?

KEVIN

Ever hear of War of the Worlds?

Elroy nods his head side to side; he hasn't.

KEVIN

You fucking idiot. It's this radio
broadcast they did in the fifties
about a fake alien invasion and
people took it seriously.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONT'D

Tina and Stacy are sharing a set of ear buds, each of them
wearing one end, connected to a miniature radio.

TINA

What do you mean "took it
seriously?"

STACY

People were jumping out of windows.
They really thought an alien
invasion was taking place.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

A single bite from one of these bugs
would give the victim the ability to
hear other peoples' thoughts.

TINA

Are you sure this is fake? Last
night--

STACY
(interrupting)
Don't be so paranoid.

A slightly older, flat-chested girl, GIRL 1, walks by.

GIRL 1 (V.O.)
Why did Stacy get such big pom-poms?

Tina sees the girl look down at her chest as she walks away.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONT'D

ELROY
Fine, maybe I am being paranoid. It just sounds so much like what happened last night.

KEVIN
Of course, all those pent-up hormones are messing with your head. Get that cheerleader's friend back over so you can release them!

KEVIN (V.O.)
And tell the cheerleader to stop by my room.

ELROY
You're two years older than her!

KEVIN
What are you talking about?

KEVIN (V.O.)
I didn't say that out loud, did I?

ELROY
That bug... Tina!

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONT'D

Tina and Stacy are still listening to the radio outside the open locker. Elroy approaches out of breath.

ELROY
Tina, we need to talk.

STACY (V.O.)
Sounds like you *need* to get more
exercise.

Elroy starts shaking and Tina glares at Stacy, who looks back perplexed.

TINA
Sure Elroy, let's go.

Tina grabs Elroy's hand and the two look each other in the eyes for a second before turning away blushing.

Tina takes the ear bud out of her ear and returns it to Stacy, then leaves.

Stacy watches the two teens walk away and leans against her opened locker door, unaware of the green bug perched on the door an inch above her head.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONT'D

Elroy and Tina are seated at a small table against the wall. Hundreds of pre-pubescent students occupy tables around them.

ELROY
I think that thing on the radio's
true.

TINA
I think you're right, I keep hearing
random thoughts.

Two teenagers, BOY 2 and GIRL 2, walk by and glance at the table.

BOY 2 (V.O.)
A whole table for two people; don't
they have any other friends?

GIRL 2 (V.O.)
They're finally dating? They've been
on and off forever.

Elroy and Tina both blush and look away from one another.

ELROY

I know, I tried to convince my
brother but he didn't believe me.

TINA

I believe you, Elroy.

Tina reaches over and puts her hand on top of Elroy's. The two finally make eye contact when the moment is interrupted by a girl's SCREAM.

A sea of green bugs surrounds the table. The other students in the cafeteria all head for the doors, trying to avoid the bugs, but Tina and Elroy are trapped.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONT'D

Stacy is still at her locker, applying make-up onto her face using a small mirror hanging inside her locker.

KEVIN (O.S.)

Stacy?

Stacy turns around to see Kevin standing beside her locker, cool, confident, shoulders back and chest puffed up. Stacy smiles at him; she's interested and ready for his next move.

KEVIN

Do you know Elroy?

STACY

Oh... yeah.

KEVIN

Well I'm his older brother and he
left his nerd book in the car. I was
hoping you could pass it on to him.

Kevin hands her a Calculus textbook, which she looks down at before looking back at him.

STACY

Calculus? I didn't know they let
freshmen take that.

KEVIN

I lied, it's mine. I just wanted an excuse to talk to you.

Kevin takes the book back and Stacy GIGGLES flirtatiously. After an awkward silence:

STACY

You play linebacker, right?

A green bug becomes visible on Stacy's shoulder.

KEVIN

Yeah, *starting* linebacker.

Kevin smiles, but then notices the bug on Stacy's shoulder.

KEVIN

You've got something on your shoulder, mind if I get it off?

STACY

(misinterpreting his intentions)
Do whatever you need to *get it off*.

Kevin reaches his arm around Stacy's neck, brushes the bug off, and then rests his hand there. She smiles suggestively back at him.

Breaking the silence, the two hear the sound of a thousand tiny legs scratching on metal, and then watch as an army of green bugs erupts out of Stacy's locker.

Kevin jumps back and runs towards his car, leaving Stacy to fend for herself.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONT'D

Tina and Elroy are standing on top of their chairs while the bugs on the ground descend closer to the frightened teenagers. Elroy's whole body shakes and Tina's face has lost its color.

TINA

What do we do?

Tina leans over and wraps her body around Elroy. One-by-one the bugs start to crawl up the legs of the table and chairs. The sounds of the bugs' brittle legs crawling closer pierce the air.

TINA (V.O.)
Save me Elroy!

Elroy stops shaking and steps onto the table, pulling Tina up to join him. As the bugs reach the table top, Elroy crushes each bug he sees with his foot.

TINA (V.O.)
(aroused)
He's saving me!

Elroy stomps his foot harder and faster; all fear and doubt is gone. Tina surveys the floors.

TINA
There's too many of them.

ELROY
I've got this.

Elroy mashes his foot onto a bug but the impact causes the table legs to snap. The other table legs follow suit and the teens collapse with the table into the pile of bugs.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONT'D

Stacy nervously glances back and forth between the exit door and the other end of the hallway.

Finally she decides on the exit door and tip-toes across the hall, trying not to step on any bugs along the way.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONT'D

Elroy and Tina sit huddled on the floor, frozen and surrounded by bugs, however the bugs are perfectly still.

TINA
They're not moving.

ELROY
Maybe they don't know what to do next.

TINA

I think they just need to take the next step.

Elroy turns to Tina excitedly.

ELROY

The next step?

Tina leans over and kisses Elroy on the cheek, and he immediately starts blushing.

The bugs surge towards the teens and start to climb on top of them.

Elroy returns the kiss from Tina and leans over to kiss her on the lips. The two embrace and begin licking each others' lips as they attempt to make-out.

The bugs continue to climb on the teens as they kiss until each is completely covered in bugs.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONT'D

Kevin is sitting in his car listening to a commercial on the radio when he notices Stacy run out of the school and look around the parking lot. Kevin honks his HORN.

Stacy runs over and bangs on the window until Kevin unlocks the door and she gets in.

STACY

Have you seen any out here?

KEVIN

No, I've just been listening to the radio, trying to figure out what these things are.

STACY

So we're safe?

KEVIN

For now.

The two sit in silence, listening for bugs but only hearing the FAROFF SCREAMS from students inside the building.

Stacy turns her attention towards the building, staring blankly, and Kevin takes the chance to check out Stacy.

His eyes linger lasciviously on her exposed tan legs, perfectly sculpted from the years of cheerleading.

Stacy's legs start to shake and Kevin looks up at her face, and then follows her gaze to the windshield, which is now swarming with green bugs.

Kevin turns on the windshield wipers and the bugs are brushed aside. The two wait a few seconds and no more bugs appear on the windshield, and so they each breathe a SIGH of relief.

After a few seconds of waiting, Kevin returns his gaze to Tina's legs. Again they start to shake and he turns toward the windshield to see more bugs.

As he stares at the bugs, a thought clicks in Kevin's head and he closes his eyes.

KEVIN (V.O.)

Think about something else..
football... waffles... gravity..

Kevin opens his eyes and the bugs have vanished.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

And we're back...

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONT'D

Elroy and Tina are still wrapped around one another making out. Every inch of them is covered in bugs.

As the two get more intimate, the bugs start to dissolve as if made by sand. Their dusty remains blow away so that the only thing that remains in the cafeteria is the two teenagers making out.

They unwrap for a moment and look each other in the eyes, each of them smiling.

ELROY (V.O.)

I love you.

TINA (V.O.)

I love you too.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The mind of a teenager is not too difficult to read. One can usually guess what another is saying simply by paying attention to body language, though they must be careful not to let their paranoia and insecurities get in the way of these interpretations.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - CONT'D

STACY

They're gone.

KEVIN

Don't worry; I don't think they'll be back.

The two lock eyes and smile.

KEVIN

Want to skip class and go grab some burgers?

STACY

Sure.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

In the end, there was no big secret; they had the power to defeat the invaders all along. The teens just had to overcome their insecurities and stop living in fear of these new feelings; these bodily invaders.

FADE OUT