

001 - Crystal

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BLACK SCREEN

The text messages from a group thread appear on screen.

[LIZ] Need us to bring anything?

[CRYSTAL] We can always use more candy.

[JOE] No Reese's Pieces.

[LIZ] You got it.

[CRYSTAL] Everyone have their costumes?

[LIZ] Yep.

[SIMON] Oh yeah.

[CHARLEY] :)

[LIZ] Charley, what are you going as?

[CHARLEY] I'll never tell.

[CRYSTAL] I can't wait to see you all!!!

[SIMON] HALLELUJAH!

The texts fade out as the sounds of a party in full swing fade in.

INT. KITCHEN- 8:25PM

This whole sequence is a long tracking shot.

CLOSE UP on the microwave clock, showing the time on the screen. The shot pulls out to reveal the kitchen counter with a small TV, next to the sink. The TV is off and next to it we see Crystal's phone is plugged in and sitting on the counter. We see a text bubble appear above the screen:

[DAD]

Hey Crystal, your mother and I made it to Gettysburg. It's a real GHOST TOWN around here. Be safe. -- Deaddy and Mummy

The television turns on showing a weather report. The tickertape at the bottom reports thefts of patients' personal items from a local hospital and hospital staff are being questioned. On screen is REPORTER. The weather looks ominous.

In the background we hear the sounds of a party.

REPORTER

It looks like even the weather is getting in on the Halloween mischief this year. As you can see, the winds are definitely picking up. We have some conflicting reports at the moment, but the worst estimates say we're in for a storm that's going to trick or treat its way through the tri-state area. Keep your phones close and check for updates. This may turn into a tornado before morning.

The camera pulls back to reveal a modest kitchen where JOE MORTON stands, leaning on the counter, eating the white & yellow parts of candy corn. He is dressed in a toga with a laurel crown. He looks bored.

Out of no where, CRYSTAL HART appears. Joe is startled. She is dressed as Cleopatra and is clearly unhappy with Joe.

CRYSTAL

Come on, Liz wants a group picture.

Crystal turns off the T.V. and pulls Joe out of the kitchen towards the family room. Joe has to reach back to grab his crown. The camera follows them into the...

INT. FAMILY ROOM-CONTINUOUS

The room is crowded with guests in costume. We follow Crystal and Joe to a spot in the room where four girls are listening to a joke being told by SIMON PIERCE who is dressed as a priest.

CRYSTAL

Hey, your sister wants a group picture.

SIMON

Ok, one second.

Crystal and Joe exit the frame. Simon turns back to the girls and finishes his joke.

SIMON

Anyway, the Rabbi says, "So, that's why the sausage isn't Kosher."

The girls all laugh and the camera follows Simon moving away into...

INT. KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

Simon passes through the kitchen on the way to the living room. As he walks, his phone buzzes/text tone. He takes it out of his pocket and a text bubble appears on the screen.

TEXT: I'm bored. Distract me ;)

He begins to text back and he ducks off camera to the right as Crystal and Joe, re-enter the shot, moving into...

INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

This room is the loudest and most crowded as Crystal and Joe try to find Liz. Joe hasn't put his crown on yet.

JOE
Where was she?

CRYSTAL
(pointing)
In here with Charley.

They exit the frame as we move to see LIZ PIERCE (dressed as Rosie the Riveter) in the corner with CHARLEY BANKS (dressed as a mime). They are standing by the bathroom. As we approach them, Liz says something we don't hear to Charley who is clearly shocked and mimes pulling himself away from the situation using invisible rope.

We follow Charley away from Liz. While he's moving through the party, everyone's phones go off. People pull them out to check. Most ignore the message. As Charley reads it, a text bubble appears on screen:

TEXT: UPDATE: A high wind alert is in effect for your area from 8pm to 9am. Possible wind speeds up to 85mph. For more information visit www.weather.gov/obhistory/KVAY.html

Charley puts his phone back in his pocket and continues through the party until he finds Simon headed towards the bathroom. Charley grabs Simon's arm pulling him towards the kitchen where they find Crystal organizing the photo with Joe and Liz. Once Simon and Charley join them, Crystal ushers the whole group into...

INT. KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

Liz gets everyone in position by the windows. She hands off her phone to PARTY GUEST. The camera settles over Party Guest's shoulder. Crystal gets herself and Joe to the center. Simon and Charley each take a side. Liz is going to stand with Charley, but changes her mind and moves over to Simon. Charley notices this. Crystal puts Joe's crown on his head.

PARTY GUEST

Ready?

Everyone nods.

PARTY GUEST

3. 2. 1.

The phone's shutter sound cuts us to...

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

The scene could not be more different than it was at the start. The music and guests are gone. The room is a mess. Crystal, wig off and make-up smeared, sits on a chair by herself. Liz is sitting on the couch. Simon sits on the floor with his back on the couch. He wears his blazer. Joe, in a t-shirt and boxers, paces in the background. NORA SHEPPARD sits alone in a chair. She is tied up with Joe's toga and a length of rope. She is also gagged.

No one is talking.

TITLE CARD

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

As Before. Everyone is silent and avoiding eye contact.

LIZ

What do you guys remember?

Silence.

LIZ

Simon?

Simon shakes his head.

LIZ

Joe?

JOE

Um, I showed up at 7 to help
Crystal set up.

CRYSTAL

7:05.

JOE

Fine, you tell it!

CRYSTAL

Fine. At 7, I was setting up in the
kitchen, waiting for Joseph to
arrive.

INT. KITCHEN-7:00

Crystal, already in make-up and costume, is having trouble
opening a bag of candy corn.

JOE (O.S.)

Does the Queen of Egypt need a
hand?

Crystal looks up and sees Joe, in street clothes, standing
in the doorway.

CRYSTAL

Alright, sexy. You do it.

Joe walks around behind her, wraps his arms around her and
opens the bag in her hands.

JOE

Do I get a reward?

She spins around in his arms and hands Joe a gross, bloody
toe with a plastic rocket ship through it.

JOE

Oh, what I've always wanted: a
gross, bloody, toe with a rocket
ship on it?

CRYSTAL

It's a missile-toe!

Joe thinks for a minute.

JOE
So, if I were to hold this over my
head..?

CRYSTAL
You're cute.

JOE
Yeah?

CRYSTAL
Mm-hmm.

Crystal plants a kiss on Joe.

She hands him a bag.

CRYSTAL
You'd look a lot cuter in this.

He takes a moment to look disappointed before taking the
bag.

CRYSTAL
Oh, and can you hang that in the
doorway?

Crystal points towards the bathroom. Joe heads off to
change. Crystal looks into camera

CRYSTAL- NARRATION
Liz arrived right at 7:30.

INT. LIVING ROOM-7:30

Crystal opens the door to let Liz in. She's carrying bags of
snacks. In the background, Joe (now dressed in his toga) is
hanging decorations. Liz and Crystal hug before Liz sees
Joe.

LIZ
Hey! You look congenial!

CRYSTAL
Word of the day calendar?

Liz nods and smiles.

LIZ
Where do you want this stuff?

CRYSTAL
Just in the kitchen's fine.

Liz passes Crystal and sees Joe.

LIZ
Julius Caesar. Exceptional!

JOE
Yea--

CRYSTAL
(to Liz, cutting him off)
No, Mark Antony. Remember, I told
you?

LIZ
Oh right.

Liz exits to the kitchen as Crystal turns back to the
camera.

CRYSTAL- NARRATION
I remember people started arriving
around 8:00.

INT. LIVING ROOM-8:00

Crystal is holding the door open for other guests.

CRYSTAL- NARRATION
Charley was one of the first.

She looks out to the porch to see if anyone else is coming
inside. At that moment, Charley comes up behind her. He
throws a handful of Halloween confetti over her. She spins
around, surprised.

CRYSTAL
Hey!

Charley gives an over-exaggerated happy gesture and they
hug. Liz has joined them from the kitchen.

LIZ
I thought you were coming with
Simon?

Charley shakes his head and mimes riding his bike.

CRYSTAL

Oh, Simon is riding his bike.

Charley shakes his head again, points to himself and does the bike motion again. Joe walks up.

JOE

Charley! You rode your bike in this weather?

Charley gives a big smile.

CRYSTAL

You're crazy! You put it in the garage, right?

Charley nods then notices Joe's costume. He acts out stabbing Joe and an over-dramatic Julius Caesar death. Crystal and Joe look confused.

LIZ

(about Charley)
He's Julius Caesar

CRYSTAL

(about Joe)
Actually, he's Mark Antony.

Charley mimes "oh". Liz gives Charley a hug and they all head into the party.

INT. FAMILY ROOM-8:10

Crystal and Joe are mingling with guests. Joe looks unhappy.

Simon enters.

SIMON

Now, who needs to confess their sins?

Crystal greets Simon with a hug. Simon's phone buzzes/makes a funny notification noise.

CRYSTAL

Oo, is that LadyNightingale? Have you seen a picture yet?

Crystal snatches his phone. Simon snatches it back.

SIMON

None that I can show you.

CRYSTAL

I can't believe you don't even know what she looks like.

SIMON

That's the whole point of the app. No pictures. You have to get to know each other.

JOE

Wait, what's her name?

CRYSTAL

He doesn't know yet.

SIMON

Nah, we're keeping it mysterious.

CRYSTAL

Yeah, they're keeping it "mysterious."

SIMON

Julius, where's the sacramental wine?

Joe and Simon wander towards the kitchen. Crystal calls after them.

CRYSTAL

He's Mark Antony!

INT. LIVING ROOM-9:00

CRYSTAL- NARRATION

Except for Joe's bad mood, my party was going perfectly. And then the weather came in and wrecked it all.

Guests take out their phones and look at weather alert. The text appears on the screen.

TEXT: UPDATE: Tornado warning is in effect in your area from 9pm to 12am. Expected wind speeds up to 100mph. The city has issued a State of emergency. Exercise extreme caution.

The party music suddenly stops. The guests all turn to look at each other, confused. Crystal watches as Joe steps away from the speakers and towards the center of the living rooms.

JOE

Alright people, it's pretty bad
outside already and it's only going
to get worse. We think it's
probably best if everyone leaves.

Crystal watches as the mood in the room immediately shifts. People begin grabbing their things, saying goodbyes, and heading for the door. Crystal stares at Joe in disbelief.

INT. KITCHEN-9:30

After seeing the last of her guests leave, Crystal walks back into the kitchen. She is upset. Joe and Simon are standing in the center of the kitchen. Liz is sitting at the table (close to the family room). Charley is standing by the front window, opening the blinds.

CRYSTAL

You guys are still staying, right?

LIZ

Yeah, of course!

SIMON

(taking off his blazer)
It'll be an adventure. Plus,
Charley is still awake.

Everyone laughs. Charley barely smiles and looks at the window ominously. Simon hangs his blazer on a chair.

JOE

Well, I'll get out of costume.

CRYSTAL

I bet you couldn't wait.

JOE

What?

CRYSTAL

You could've at least pretended you
were having a good time tonight.

JOE

Look, everyone else left. The party
is over. What difference does it
make? No one else is coming!

Doorbell. Joe answers the door.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

As Before

Crystal points at Nora.

CRYSTAL

And that's when she walked in.

INT. KITCHEN-9:30

Crystal is still standing there waiting for Joe to come back.

JOE (O.S.)

Please, come in.

Joe enters with Nora. She is dressed in very tight, bloody scrubs and looks tired and lost. She is wearing a lot of make-up and a significant push-up bra. Crystal tenses up at the sight of Nora's outfit. She backs away from Nora towards the front windows by Charley.

NORA

Thanks so much!

JOE

No problem at all.

NORA

(to the whole group)

Um...hi. I'm really sorry to interrupt but my car broke down and I saw the lights on.

SIMON

Bless you, my child. Praise be to the lord for guiding you safely here.

Liz smacks him across the back of the head. She crosses over around the table to walk over and shake Nora's hand.

LIZ

Ignore him. Hey, I'm Liz.

NORA

Nora.

LIZ

This is my brother, Simon.

SIMON
Father Simon.

LIZ
Shut up.

Charley waves somewhat glumly.

LIZ
And that's Charley. And Crystal.

Crystal waves tersely.

LIZ
And, you've already met Joe.

Joe smiles.

CRYSTAL- NARRATION
And right then I knew the night was
about to get much worse.

SIMON
How's the storm?

NORA
It's pretty bad.

Joe ushers Nora to a seat at the table and she carefully
sits down.

SIMON
Charley! Show our new disciple some
of your mime-ery.

Charley smiles.

INT. KITCHEN-9:55

Charley is now at the head of the table (center of the
kitchen). He is doing mime tricks badly: "Trapped in a box",
"Leaning on nothing", making a small flower appear from
nowhere. Joe and Nora sit in the chairs closest to the front
door. Liz and Crystal sit in the two chairs against the
wall. Simon is hovering by the counter. Charley is starting
to look like this is getting old.

LIZ
(to Crystal)
Hey, I have a question for you.

She leads Crystal over by the windows away from the group.

CRYSTAL'S POV: Pan and rack from Liz in the foreground, to Charley miming to Joe & Nora sitting at the table. She is most focused on Nora & Joe. The sounds of Liz and the group fade in and out.

Charley pulls a flower from nowhere and throws it to Joe. He turns and hands it to Nora. She smiles and then hands it back to Charley.

In the background, Charley is still performing. Joe is sitting at the table next to Nora. Simon is sitting by the counter.

LIZ

So, there was a guy at the party
that I think I really like.

CRYSTAL

Oh, that's so awesome.

LIZ

Yeah, and I'm not sure what to do
about it. I started talking to him
and I thought it was going well,
but then I think I made a false
assumption and said the wrong thing
and then he sort of walked away.

Awkward silence. During this, Nora asks Joe something. He smiles and gets up to lead her out of the room. He points her around the corner toward the bathroom. After a moment, he follows her out of sight.

Charley stops performing, pulls out his phone and walks to the far kitchen window to check the weather. Simon takes out his phone too and surreptitiously starts texting.

LIZ

So do you think I should try to
talk to him again? Or should I just
forget about it?

CRYSTAL

Where'd Joe go?

Crystal walks around Liz and heads for the bathroom. When she rounds the corner, she sees Joe pinning Nora to the wall passionately kissing her under the "missile-toe".

CRYSTAL

What are you doing?!

Joe and Nora split apart. Simon and Liz come running. There's a few moments of confusion. Crystal is speechless.

CRYSTAL

I--How could--what--I--I can't--

Crystal starts running towards her bedroom.

JOE

Crys!

Door slams.

INT. CRYSTAL'S BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

Crystal slams her door and pulls off her wig. She paces. There's a knock at her door.

LIZ (OS)

Crystal? Can I come in?

Liz enters Crystal's room and closes the door behind her. Crystal continues pacing.

LIZ

Oh my God, Crys. I can't believe he'd do that! I am incredulous.

Crystal is silent.

LIZ

Are you okay? Talk to me.

CRYSTAL

Where's her stethoscope?!

LIZ

Her what?

Crystal digs in her closet and produces a neatly wrapped box. She hands it to Liz.

LIZ

What's in the box?

Crystal motions for Liz to open the box. Liz reveals a sexy nurse costume.

LIZ

What is this?

CRYSTAL

Joe has a nurse fetish.

Crystal dissolves into hysterics and sits on the bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

As before. Everyone is silently taking in what Crystal just said. Nora looks shocked. Joe looks embarrassed. Simon is putting it together.

SIMON
Oh.

CRYSTAL
So then...

INT. CRYSTAL'S BEDROOM- 10:20

Liz is sitting on the bed. Crystal is still pacing.

CRYSTAL
...and we always have to do what he wants to do. And he's constantly teasing me about my poetry. And he won't eat anything orange!

CRYSTAL- NARRATION
Seriously, that's weird right?

There's a knock at the door.

CRYSTAL
No!

SIMON (O.S.)
Uh...Liz, are you in there?

LIZ
What's up, Simon?

SIMON (O.S.)
Crystal, can I come in?

CRYSTAL
(grudgingly)
Ok.

Simon opens the door cautiously. He seems really nervous.

SIMON
Sorry to interrupt. Liz, I can't find my phone. Can I borrow yours?

LIZ
Oh, sure.

Liz hands Simon her phone.

SIMON

Thanks. By the way, you two haven't seen Charley have you?

CRYSTAL

No.

LIZ

No, We've been in here the whole time.

SIMON

Ok, he's probably trapped in a box somewhere. Thanks for the phone, Sis. Crystal...remember, God always gives us what we need in time.

Crystal cracks an exasperated smile. Liz gets up and pushes Simon out of the room.

CRYSTAL- NARRATION

And the next thing I remember...

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

As before.

CRYSTAL

...was Simon coming back to tell us he couldn't find Charley anywhere.

JOE

Didn't someone try to call him?

SIMON

Yeah, I did.

INT. LIVING ROOM-10:30

Everyone is gathered in the living room. Crystal is sitting by herself. Liz is sitting nearby. Joe and Nora are standing in opposite corners. Simon is in the middle with Liz's phone to his ear.

JOE

Anything?

SIMON

It's ringing.

LIZ
Where was he when we were in
Crystal's room?

Simon & Joe look at each other.

NORA
He was here when I came in.

CRYSTAL
Yeah! We know that already. Thanks!

Simon puts the phone down.

SIMON
Voicemail.

LIZ
He can't have left. Let's search
the house.

JOE
Simon and I already did.

CRYSTAL
Right, so now, we'll do it for
real.

Before Joe can respond. Crystal gets up.

CRYSTAL
Liz, you do the kitchen. Simon, the
spare room. I'll do the family room
and bedrooms. Someone do the
bathrooms.

LIZ
Meet back here when you're done.

Everyone heads off in different directions. Nora is left
alone with Joe.

INT. CRYSTAL'S BEDROOM - 10:40

Crystal is searching the room when Simon pokes his head
through the door. Simon is surprised to see her.

SIMON
Hey...uh...anything?

CRYSTAL
No, you?

SIMON
Nothing.

Simon leans against the wall.

SIMON
You doing ok?

CRYSTAL
(sighs)
Yeah, it's just hard.

SIMON
Want a hug?

CRYSTAL
Yeah.

Crystal goes to Simon and they hug. They keep hugging. Crystal tries to pull away, but Simon pulls her back in. Simon pats her hips.

CRYSTAL
Ok.

They finally break apart.

SIMON
Ok.

Simon quickly leaves the room.

Crystal looks confused before resuming her search.

INT. LIVING ROOM - 10:45

Crystal passes Nora in the living room on her way to the family room. Nora is on the phone.

NORA
Pick up pick up pick up.

Crystal gives Nora a suspicious look.

INT. FAMILY ROOM -10:50

Joe exits the family room into the kitchen. Crystal angrily slams down a chair when Nora enters.

Without saying a word, Crystal steps back into the kitchen and closes the door behind her.

INT. LIVING ROOM-MIDNIGHT

Everyone is sitting in silence. No one really wants to look at each other.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - 11:15

Joe is pacing. Crystal sits on the couch. Liz stands guard by the door. Both sliding doors are closed. Nora and Simon are noticeably absent.

LIZ

Guys, wait, what about Charley? Did we find anything when we searched?

Liz looks at Crystal.

CRYSTAL

Nothing.

JOE

Same.

CRYSTAL

Could he have gone outside?

JOE

We looked there earlier. He wouldn't have gone out in this.

LIZ

The storm has only gotten worse.

CRYSTAL

Wait, is his bike still here?

JOE

I don't know. I didn't check the garage. Did anyone?

LIZ

No.

CRYSTAL

I didn't--

Nora enters from the garage with Charley's hat.

NORA

I found this in the garage. It
looks like the hat your friend was
wearing.

Everyone stares at Nora.

NORA

Why are you all looking at me like
that?

CUT TO BLACK