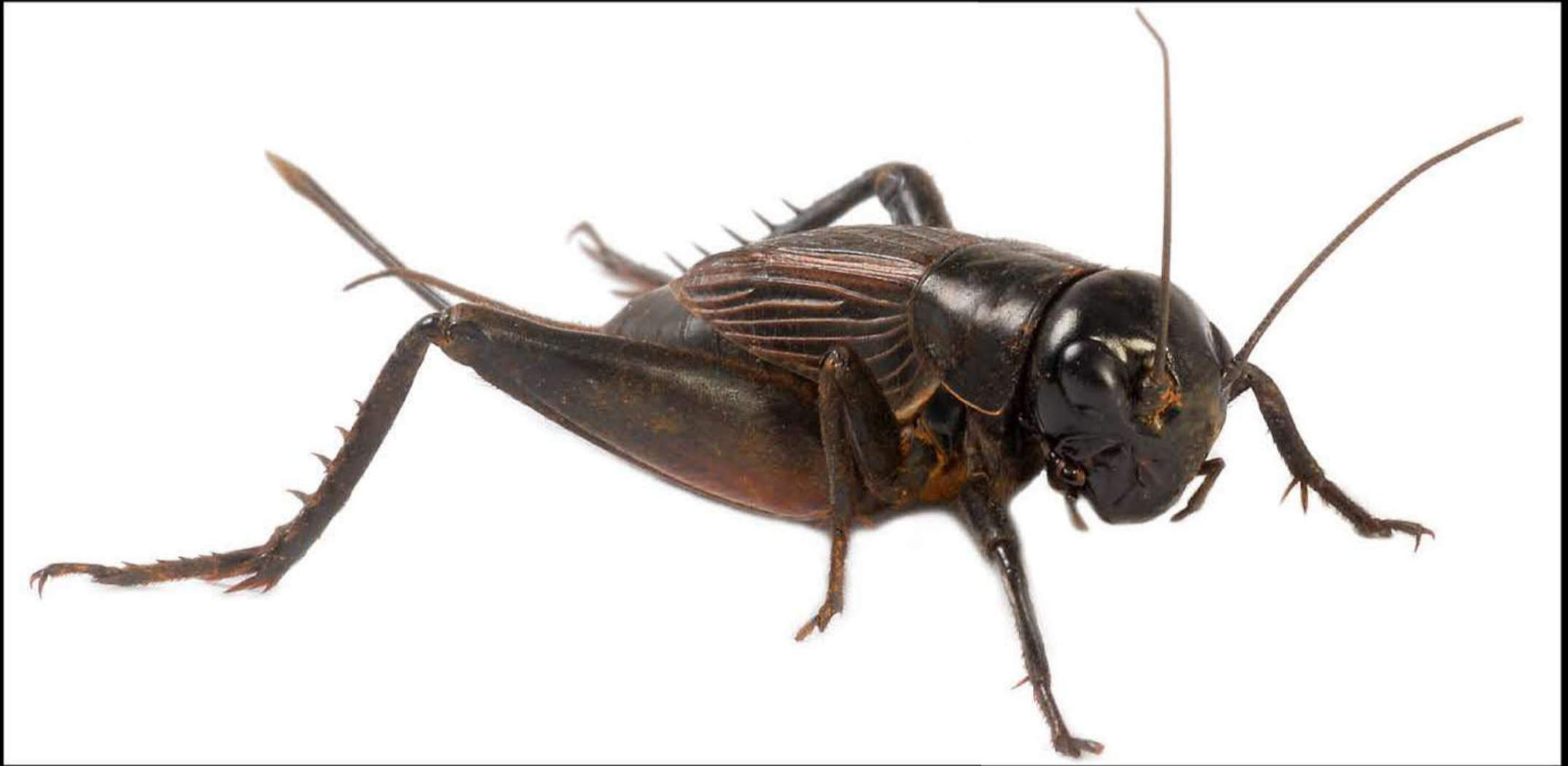


Chirping in the Shadows



A Shortfilm about
Crickets
and those they hunt.

Chirping in the Shadows

written by

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INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Two young men, GARRETT and MICHAEL, are sitting on the couch playing a video game.

GARRETT listens once and acts on what he thinks he's heard.

MICHAEL is a foreign-exchange student from Wales with a lisp on top of that.

GARRETT Hey, did you get that job?

MICHAEL Yeah, I'm working with autistic children.

GARRETT Oh, do they paint or something?

MICHAEL I mean.... they can.

GARRETT All right. Did you order that pizza yet?

MICHAEL Yeah, anchovies on, right?

GARRETT No, I texted you saying, "anchovies no."

MICHAEL Oh well, I guess I thought it was a spelling error.

A toilet flushes from behind a door and out comes the third roommate, JOSH. He looks nervous, not moving from the threshold.

JOSH You guys wanna hear something strange? I went to the bathroom earlier today and there was a cricket on the sink, but when I was in there a minute ago it wasn't there anymore. I don't understand where it could have gone.

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Michael looks very concerned.

MICHAEL (urgently) How long has it been since you last saw the cricket?

JOSH What, why?

MICHAEL (slaps Josh)

Answer the question!

JOSH I-I don't know, maybe four or five hours?

MICHAEL Oh no... That means he's had time to

prepare.

Michael dashes to his room.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Michael is scanning his room, rummaging through his closet. He opens up a glass case of weapons, the door's been unlocked.

MICHAEL Garrett, WHY did you leave the
armament shelf unlocked?!

GARRETT I haven't gone in there since last
Wednesday!

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

JOSH Wha-

Josh is interrupted by the lights going off, a slice noise is heard and when the lights come on again Michael has a katana stabbed through his chest and he is bleeding profusely.

MICHAEL

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

!!!

The lights go off again and when they come back on Michael is gone.

GARRETT Oh my god!?!?! Where did he go??

JOSH I don't know!!

GARRETT There's a
note.

Garrett pulls up a small note that was left in Michael's place. It reads:

GARRETT (O.S.) "The next time you see me will be
the last time you see anything - The Cricket." What
does that mean?

JOSH I don't want to find out.

Tense music swells as this turns into something from a Hitchcock film. Tense, sweaty close ups on eyes as we hear cricket noises and scurrying around the room. Finally, a phone call comes from the kitchen, it's Josh's. The contact picture is a cricket, and the contact name is "The Cricket." Josh very tensely walks to the phone and picks it up. It's heavy breathing and a cricket chirping noise.

JOSH "What do you want from us?"

Just then, the doorbell rings and the door flings open almost by a gust of wind. The pizza boy is standing there, pie in hand.

PIZZA BOY Hey I got a large pizza, "anchovies
no," it'll be \$12.-

A Shuriken flies into his eye as he screams and shoots blood everywhere. Everyone screams and then a puff of smoke appears, when it settles there is no man, just a note stabbed onto the pizza box that reads:

JOSH (O.S.) "Order up - The
Cricket."

JOSH (cont'd) Why is he doing
this?!

GARRETT Josh...

Garrett points. Josh slowly turns around to see what Garrett is looking at, it is a small cricket in a black tunic. A sword is heard unsheathing, the lights turn off, the boys scream.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

With the boys now killed off, the Cricket munches on the forgotten za laying on the ground. Anchovies, bits of cheese, and crust fly out of the box as our chirping villain voraciously digs his way through.

THE END.