

Chirping in the Shadows



**A short film 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
Hey, did you get that job?

MICHAEL
Yeah, I'll be working with
Autistic children.

GARRETT
(misheard it as
"artistic")
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 this
cricket on the sink. But, when I
was in there just a minute ago it
wasn't there anymore. I don't
understand where it could have
gone.

Michael looks very concerned.

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

JOSH
 What, why?

Michael slaps Josh

MICHAEL
 ANSWER THE QUESTION!

JOSH
 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 scans his room, rummaging through his closet. He approaches a glass case of weapons holding a key. As he grabs the handle to the case door, it swings idly open - unlocked.

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

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

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

JOSH
 Wha-

Josh is interrupted by the lights going off.

Sword Slice SFX

The lights come back on, Michael is standing in the center of the room now with a katana stabbed through his chest. He's bleeding profusely.

MICHAEL
 AAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

The lights go off again, 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 (CONT'D)

"The next time you see me will be the last time you see anything. Signed, The Cricket" What does that mean?

JOSH

I don't want to find out.

Tense music swells. Sweaty close ups on their eyes as we hear a fade in of cricket noises and scurrying around the room. They're both on edge, anything could happen within the next few seconds...

Shrill Phone Ring SFX

Josh's phone rings, the contact picture is a cricket and the contact name is "The Cricket."

Josh slowly, cautiously approaches the phone. He picks it up and puts it to his ear.

Heavy Breathing and Cricket SFX

JOSH (CONT'D)

What do you want from us?

Doorbell Ring SFX

As the doorbell rings, the front door flings open as if by a gust of wind.

A pizza delivery man stands in front of the open door, pie in hand.

PIZZA MAN

Hey I've got a large pizza, anchovies no. It'll be Twelve dol-

A shuriken flies across the room at blinding speeds, it sinks into the left eye of the pizza man. He begins screaming, shooting blood everywhere.

Everyone in the room begins screaming as a puff of smoke appears, immediately enveloping the pizza man. The smoke dissipates and the man is gone.

All that's left in his place is the pizza box, which was a note stabbed into the top. Josh looks at the note and reads:

JOSH

"Order up. Signed, The Cricket."
Why is he doing this!?"

GARRETT

Josh...

Garrett points past Josh's shoulder, behind him. Josh slowly turns around as they both face a small cricket in a black tunic.

Sword Unsheathe SFX

The lights turn off.

Garrett and Josh both scream for half a second.

Lights come back on, the boys are lying still on the ground. The pizza box lid flies open as The Cricket begins munching on the za. Anchovies, bits of cheese and crust fly out of the box as our chirping villain voraciously digs in.

THE END.