

Smiley (Proof of Concept)

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1

INT. MARY'S CAR

1

FROM THE BACK SEAT, SLOW ZOOM OUT FROM THE RADIO TO THE BACK OF THEIR HEADS (SLIGHTLY SHAKEY FROM DRIVING)

The road is filled with traffic and horns honking as MARY (45) drives her daughter, MICHELLE (16), to school. Michelle has a backpack laid across her lap. The radio sounds mostly of static and mixes with music as Mary switches stations until it clears up on TERRY'S (40) station.

TERRY (V.O.)

Yo it's ya boy Terry here on 106.6 the only station with the best hits. We've got a lot of y'all texting in about this whole Smiley dude issue. And if ya'll don't know, some fool is goin' around snatching up people and breaking into houses all over Florida.

Mary and Michelle exchange looks

TERRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So ya'll better get some cameras and keep safe... next up let's hear...

(trails off)

FADE TO BLACK

2

INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM

2

Metal clanking fills your ears over a black screen until a little red recording dot pops up and static is heard. From the POV of a poor quality security camera, we see Mary secure the camera onto the wall and look at it from a distance, proud of her work.

(slow zoom in on Mary)

DIP TO BLACK:

3

INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

3

(Around Midnight (Reprise)
by Brit starts to play)

TRACKING MARY AS SHE WALKS FROM HER ROOM... STOP, THEN, SLOWLY DOLLY TOWARDS THE TV

Mary walks past the TV with two big duffel bags as it plays a news segment:

4

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

4

Outside of a house with police crime scene tape on it, MICHAEL (30) wearing a suit reports about the recent Smiley incidents.

MICHAEL

...I'm here in Sarasota county with a few angry citizens, they're not too happy with the recent situation. Their neighborhood was struck last night. The missing person count has gone up to 15 in the last 72 hours.

Michael walks to a bystander, ANASTASIA (20) wearing a silk night outfit, and the camera man shakily follows.

(the news segment switches to full screen)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Ma'am, do you have a way of staying safe tonight?

ANASTASIA

Yeah, well I bought my security cameras like the rest of y'all after the first case. And I guess that's supposed to keep me safe. Lord knows these cops ain't doin' a darn thing.

Anastasia gets closer to the camera and starts pointing at it. Michael follows her, shoving the mic closer to her mouth, looking concerned.

ANASTASIA (CONT'D)

All I know is if that mother-

Michael pulls the mic towards himself quickly, cutting off Anastasia. They start to fight over the mic.

CUT TO:

5

INT. NEWS STATION

5

The segment glitches to WENDY (25), the news reporter in the station staring at the camera in shock. She gathers herself, not letting the distraction stop her and begins her stand up.

WENDY

Uhm, okay. For those of you that have just joined us, there's a suspicious character now known as 'Smiley' on the loose tagging security cameras and can quite possibly be involved in the recent missing persons cases.

Wendy points to the smiley face sticker above her shoulder.

STOP DOLLY, ABRUPTLY

6

INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM

6

Mary stops in front of the TV with one bag in her hand.

WENDY

If you have any information please contact your local authorities.

MICHELLE (O.C.)

You're *seriously* going?

Wendy's voice fades out as Mary switches her attention. She turns to look at Michelle for a beat and continues to bring her luggage to the front door. Michelle follows.

MARY

Yes, my flight leaves in 2 hours.
(sternly)

MICHELLE

Mom... mom!

MARY

What Michelle?! Are you asking if I'm going to pass up an opportunity to get more money to feed us, clothe us and keep a roof over our head?

Mary grabs all of her bags and slams the door shut behind her.

(The music immediately stops)

Michelle stares blankly for a moment and walks towards her room.

CUT TO BLACK.