

CREEPY CRAWLIES AND A SHRIEK

A 10 Minute Comedy

by

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Cast of Characters

Suze: Female. Dressed casually.

Ben: Male. Wearing grubby
tee-shirt and boxers.

Sam: Male. Police Officer.

SETTING: Evening. Living room. Includes a chair, small table with a bottle of Jim Beam, a couple of glasses, a few books and a cell phone.

AT RISE: BEN is wearing a grubby tee-shirt and boxers. He's sitting in a chair talking on his phone.

BEN

Perfect. Yeah. Right. Hey, gotta go.

BEN ends the call, pours himself a glass of bourbon and begins playing a video game on his tablet. A few seconds later a loud shriek is heard offstage. A *frantic SUZE enters carrying a shopping bag.*

SUZE

Oh my God! Oh my God! Ben!

BEN

You're home kinda late.

SUZE

I just stepped on something squishy. Alive and squishy.

BEN

You get my shirt? Size large?

SUZE

It moved! I swear it moved.

BEN

My shirt moved?

SUZE

What? No! Are you deaf? I stepped on something. Coming in. By the front door. It was alive. I'm sure of it.

BEN

Huh.

SUZE

Ben, please. Put down your game and go see what it was. Is. See if I killed it.

BEN stands, takes a sip of his drink.

BEN

Me? Why me? You're the one who stepped on it.

SUZE

I can't. Please. Just go. See if it's still there.

BEN

You want me, to go outside, like this, and look for something soft and squishy, you stepped on, that might be dead or really pissed off.

SUZE

Yes! Wait!

SUZE runs off stage and comes back with a large hammer.

SUZE

Here. Take this.

BEN takes the hammer from Suze.

BEN

A hammer? You want me to go outside like this, with a hammer, after the whole neighborhood just heard your bloodcurdling scream?

SUZE

Yes. *(she shoves him)* Go!

BEN

No.

SUZE takes the hammer from him and hands him a book from the table.

SUZE

Fine. Here. take this.

BEN

My new Grisham novel? Hell no.

He sets the book back down.

SUZE

Well, you need something. To kill it.

BEN

I'm not going outside and I'm not killing anything.

BEN pours SUZE a drink.

Have a glass of bourbon and forget about it.

SUZE

What? No! I can't! I can't forget about it.

BEN

Good lord, woman. You have no problem whacking a chicken apart before roasting it in a 400 degree oven.

SUZE

That's different. It's already dead. And faceless.

BEN

You saw the squishy-thing's face?

SUZE

What? No. Please Ben. Just go. See if it's still there.

BEN sits back down and takes a sip of his drink.

BEN

Look, if you killed it, some rodent will enjoy it for a midnight snack. If you maimed it, it'll limp or slither away.

SUZE

You don't understand. I won't be able to sleep tonight knowing that thing might be out there. Injured. Suffering. Please, go look. For me?

SUZE walks over and begins to caress him.

I'll do that thing you always want me to do, that I hate doing.

BEN

Really?

SUZE

Uh huh.

BEN

When?

SUZE

Uh, tomorrow night.

BEN

Okay. So, how big was it?

SUZE

I don't know. It was dark. All I know is that I stepped on something soft and squishy and it kind of rolled over. And twitched. I'm pretty sure it twitched.

BEN

In the dark, you saw it twitch?

SUZE
Yes.

BEN
Impressive.

SUZE
Just go. Please baby?

BEN resumes playing his video game.

BEN
Fine. Just let me finish this level. I'm almost done.

SUZE begins pacing about.

SUZE
I didn't mean to hurt it. You know I'd never hurt a fly.

BEN
Uh huh. Oh, got-'ya sneaky bastard.

SUZE
I feel terrible.

BEN
Three more levels to defeat the Dark Queen.

SUZE
Our neighbors must think I'm crazy. Screaming like that.

BEN
Or, they think I bludgeoned you.

The doorbell rings.

SUZE
You expecting someone?

BEN
Nope. You?

SUZE
No. Will you get it, please.

BEN strands up.

BEN
Like this?

SUZE
Fine. I'll get it. For God sakes, go put on some pants.

BEN
But, I just leveled up.

SUZE

And someone's at our front door.

BEN

Fine.

BEN exits, puts on a pair of wild looking shorts, and comes back in to continue his game.

SUZE

I just hope that thing is gone.

SUZE goes offstage. BEN continues to drink and play his game. A few seconds later SUZE enters with OFFICER SAM.

SUZE

You see, officer, I'm fine. We're both fine.

SAM

Sam. You can call me Sam, ma'am.

SUZE

Ben. Ben!

BEN hops up.

This is Officer Sam.

BEN

Oh. Uh. Hello officer. Is there, a problem?

SAM

You tell me, sir. Dispatch called with a possible 10-16.

BEN

10-16?

SAM

Yes, sir. 10-16. Residential disturbance. It seems several of your neighbors heard a woman scream. Said it sounded like it came from your house.

SUZE

Oh, I can explain. That was me. I was coming home from shopping. Got a great deal on a shirt for Ben, 30% off. Look.

SUZE grabs her shopping bag and holds up a shirt.

SAM

Yes Ma'am.

SUZE

When I got home, and to the front door, I stepped on something.

SAM

You stepped on something?

BEN

Squishy. She said it was squishy.

SAM

And?

SUZE

Right. Well, like I said, I got to the door and stepped on something soft and squishy. And, I screamed. That's all. As you can see, I'm fine.

BEN

Yep, she's fine. Just a bit of a screamer, if you know what I mean.

SUZE

Ben!

SAM

I see. So, this "squishy" thing you stepped on.

SUZE

Yes?

SAM

Was it a creepy crawly?

BEN

Excuse me?

SAM

A creepy crawly. Was it a creepy crawly?

SUZE

I, I don't know. It was dark.

SAM

Cuz, we've been getting calls about creepy crawlies in this area all week.

SUZE

All week?

SAM

Yes ma'am.

SUZE

See. I told you I stepped on something.

BEN

What, like snakes?

SAM

Snakes. Spiders. Bullfrogs. Seems to be a variety of slimy, squirmy creatures circulating in your area.

SUZE

Oh God. Snakes? I hate snakes!

SAM

Yes Ma'am. Most people do.

BEN

Well, as you can see, Officer, we're both fine. My wife was clearly startled by something she stepped on coming into the house, and she shrieked.

SAM

Shrieked?

SUZE

You know, like-

SUZE lets out a pathetic shriek.

SAM

That's not much of a shriek.

SUZE

Well, I'm not stepping on anything right now.

BEN

In any case, she's fine.

SUZE

Yes, fine.

SAM

Sir, I'll need you to step outside with me for a moment.

SUZE

What? Why? I'm the one who shrieked.

SAM

Standard procedure Ma'am. I just need to talk to your husband alone for a few minutes. These days, when we get a call about a woman shrieking, well, we can't be too careful now, can we?

BEN

You're joking. Right?

SAM

No sir. I never joke.

BEN

I've been sitting here playing Battle Toads for the last four hours.

SAM

Yes sir. Any witnesses?

BEN

It's a single player game.

SAM

I see. Let's just step outside, shall we?

SAM and BEN exit. SUZE paces nervously about.

SUZE

This is crazy. Crazy. All I did was squeal a bit. Okay, maybe it was more of a shriek than a squeal. But, still.

Offstage you can hear BEN and SAM mumbling and scuffling. As they enter SAM has BEN's arms held behind his back.

BEN

Better call a lawyer, Suze. He's taking me in.

SUZE

What? Why? No! I told you, I'm fine. Ben wouldn't hurt a flea, or a fly. I'm the one who shrieked.

SAM

Yes Ma'am. You did.

SAM shoves BEN around until he's right in front of SUZE.

SAM

Tell me ma'am. What you stepped on, by your front door, did it look anything like, this?

BEN holds up and shakes two rubber snakes, one in each hand.

SUZE

What?!

SAM and BEN are laughing hysterically.

BEN

Suze, meet my old friend, Officer Sam, or as I like to call him, Sammy. He'll be staying with us for a few days.

SAM

Sorry Suze. He put me up to it.

SUZE

Sammy? Sammy, the snitcher, from LA?

SAM

You got it.

BEN

Come on babe, you've got to admit, the snakes are pretty damn funny.

SAM

You should have seen the look on your face when I took Ben outside.

SUZE

Wait. So, no one called the police?

BEN

Nope.

SUZE

It was all a set up?

SAM

Priceless! Your expression was -

SUZE

You idiots! You freaking idiots! Rubber snakes! Give me those!

SUZE grabs the rubber snakes and chases them around and finally off the stage.

Lights out.

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