

MAGIC IN THE SHADOWS

Written by

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ELESTIAL PRODUCTIONS

FADE IN.

EXT. WARNER BROTHERS STUDIOS LOT - TOUR LINE - LATE AFTERNOON

Three YOUTHS are waiting for the Warner Brothers Studio Tour. One of them is actually in line; MARILEE, 20, bright, engaging with a biting sense of humor. RILEY, 21, calm, nerdy, wearing a New York Film Academy T-shirt is using his iPhone to catch the act of MARCUS, 20, wearing a "Marshmello" T-shirt, as he puts on an impromptu "puppet show" using BUGS and DAFFY stuffed animals complete with the voices.

TOURISTS are either laughing along or frowning upon his immature antics.

MARCUS

Duck season! Rabbit season! Duck  
Season! Rabbit Season!

(pausing)

Did you get it?

RILEY

Got it. And posting it.

Marcus and Riley return to the line and sandwich Marilee.

MARILEE

Entertaining all twenty-five of  
your "Riley TV" followers?

RILEY

Try twenty-five hundred. My yearly  
Birthday video montage.

MARCUS

My peeps would think I was a dork,  
choosing this tour for my twenty-  
first birthday! Am I right Marilee?

Riley turns the camera to Marcus.

RILEY

Really Marcus? You do this and I'm  
the dork?

A GRUMPY DUDE, early 30's but could be 50's, listens in on the conversation from in front of them. Riley notices the Grumpy Dude is wearing a "Dirty Harry" T-shirt.

RILEY (CONT'D)

Hey, maybe we'll get to see Clint!  
You know his production company is  
on this lot.

MARCUS

Yaaaasssss!

The Grumpy Dude turns and interjects. He is carrying a binder.

GRUMPY DUDE

Malpaso Productions isn't part of today's tour.

MARCUS

Why not?

GRUMPY DUDE

Clint's working, so the tour won't take us that way... a "security issue".

Marilee jerks her thumb at Marcus.

MARILEE

You want to see a "security issue"? Check out this mug!

MARCUS

What's in the binder? Headshots?

GRUMPY DUDE

(authoritatively)

Headshots? Pha! These are celebrity trading cards.

The Grumpy Dude opens the binder, populated with pages of celebrity trading cards.

MARILEE

Is it like collecting baseball cards?

GRUMPY DUDE

Hardly.

RILEY

There's Clint!

GRUMPY DUDE

This is from the 1960's; very rare. This one is from Rawhide. I'm going to get it signed.

He removes the card and inspects it in the light, then slides it back in hurriedly, not all the way in.

MARILEE

How are you gonna to do that? You said security was too tight.

GRUMPY DUDE

(enigmatically)  
I know what I said.

The Grumpy Dude closes his binder and turns forward. Marilee gives Riley a glance as if to say, "What's with this guy?"

RILEY

Would you consider Clint a method actor?

MARCUS

Oh yeah! He plays "Clint Eastwood" in every movie he's in. That's his method.

MARILEE

He's a great director too. I loved Million Dollar Baby!  
(punches the air)

RILEY

He's not really my style... not my favorite anyway.

This brings a derisive snort from the Grumpy Dude.

MARCUS

(sarcastically)  
Yeah, he's great. Always casts himself! That must be an easy audition. I could play him!

MARILEE

(Hillary Swank voice)  
Okay, let's see what you got, kid.

MARCUS

(growly Clint voice)  
You mean right now?

MARILEE

When you're ready, of course.

MARCUS

I told you. I. Don't. Train. Girls.

MARILEE

That was perfect, Boss!

Riley claps Marcus on the back.

RILEY  
You got the part! We should have  
recorded that!

The other people in line for the tour give a small clap.

GRUMPY DUDE  
Only in L.A... Everyone's an actor.

Riley turns to Grumpy who is facing forward still.

RILEY  
And a Director! Hey, if you did get  
to meet Clint, are you even sure  
he'd sign your card?

GRUMPY DUDE  
Of course. I'm in his Facebook Fan  
Club.

EXT. WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR - LATE AFTERNOON

The call comes for the Studio Tour to begin. Marcus makes a  
break towards an empty trolley.

MARCUS  
Get the back seats!

They are beaten to it by the Grumpy Dude. He just smiles. The  
trolley begins to move as the TOUR GUIDE begins the tour.

MONTAGE OF TOUR TROLLEY MOVING THROUGH STUDIO LOT

INT. WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR - CENTRAL PERK - LATE AFTERNOON

Marcus, Riley and Marilee are sitting on the sofa pretending  
to have coffee, taking selfies. Grumpy is milling around to  
their left.

TOUR GUIDE  
Welcome to a restful stop at The  
Central Perk, the home away from  
home for the cast of "Friends",  
Chandler, Monica, Joey...

MARILEE  
(frowning)  
Did my parents watch "Friends"?

RILEY  
I know mine did.

There is the sound of a loud CRASH to their right, behind the bar. Everyone stands and turns to see what happened. Marilee turns back to see Grumpy slipping out a side door and pokes Marcus.

MARILEE  
Marcus! Our friend is splitting.

Marilee and Marcus pull Riley out the door. Grumpy hustles down the alley and takes a right, out of sight.

MARILEE (CONT'D)  
There he goes!

MARCUS  
He's probably going to get his card signed!

MARILEE  
He lied to keep Clint all to himself! I knew he was up to something.

MARCUS  
Let's go!

RILEY  
They told us we have to stay with the group!

MARILEE  
(playfully)  
Duuude, don't be such a dork...

The Youths stealthily follow Grumpy. Music playing- "Third Man Theme" by THE BAND.

They stop to regroup at the ASSIGNED LOCATION AND TIME TO SHOOT THE WARNER BROS. STUDIO AT+T SCENE.

RILEY  
Wait up! My shoe.

MARCUS  
Man, that guy is slippery.

Marilee trots into a small alleyway and bends down to retrieve something that has caught her eye. The boys catch up to see the Clint Eastwood trading card in her hand!

MARILEE

I'm no detective but...

They run down the alley and right into a dead end. Marcus gestures at the wall.

MARCUS

It's not like he's Batman!

RILEY

Is he hiding in Batman's lair...

They peek into the Batman exhibit and quickly exit to avoid the security guard.

MARCUS

He could have stolen a jet pack or something.

They run past the cafe where La-La Land was filmed. Riley and Marilee do a quick dance step as Marilee sings.

MARILEE

City of stars...

RILEY

Just call me Riley Gosling!

They run to the Stage Door of the ELLEN SHOW and as the door opens a thunderous mix of music and applause pours out.

ALL THREE

Whoa! Ellen!!

They duck around the next corner to avoid being seen. A scowling Grumpy Dude is being escorted away by security.

MARILEE

Looks like he didn't make it.

RILEY

I think we'd better get back to the tour.

MARCUS

Yea, before we end up in the same cell with that guy.

EXT. WARNER BROS. LOT - LATER AFTERNOON

Tired, worn, not able to locate the Tour Trolley, they come to a grassy area that has a SET PIECE, a tree wall, along one side. They collapse on the grass in the shade.

Marcus jumps up, inspecting the wall. It moves on wheels.

MARCUS

This is fake!

RILEY

Yeah, it's a working lot, smart guy. I am sure we would have heard all about it and other cools stuff if we had stayed on the tour.

MARILEE

Cheer up Riles. At least we got this card out of the deal!

RILEY

(looking at the card)

Yeah, I suppose...

Marcus stands facing the others, holding his iPhone like a gun.

MARCUS

"I know what you're thinkin' punk. Did he fire six shots or only five?" Well, to tell you the truth, in all this excitement I kind of lost track myself. But being as this is a .44 Magnum, the most powerful handgun in the world, and would blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: "Do I feel lucky?"

Marcus bows, expecting applause, but instead gets only silence from the other two who are acting like they've seen a ghost. A tall figure blocks out the sun and casts a shadow that seems ten feet long.

From behind Marcus hears, in a low growl...

CLINT'S VOICE

Well, do ya, punk?

EXT. WARNER BROS. LOT - PARKING

The Youths are walking through the parking lot, on cloud nine from their experience. Marcus is filming with Riley's iPhone and narrating.

MARCUS

(sports broadcaster voice)  
An amazing day here at Warner  
Brothers Studios, (sponsored by  
AT+T, "where magic happens"), What  
do you have to say Riley, before  
your battery's toast?

Riley flashes the autographed card to his camera.

RILEY

I can't believe he signed it!

MARILEE

And he was so nice about it!  
(grabs iPhone)  
Who's your favorite director now?

RILEY

Let me watch Gran Torino again.  
What a cool dude!

MARILEE

Hope it "made your day!" Ha!

Marcus puts his arm around Riley. Marilee follows suit.

MARCUS

Yeah, Happy Birthday, punk!

FADE OUT

The End