

FADE IN:

INT.KITCHEN - MORNING

A neat, modern kitchen. RITA(32) medium height, pretty, stands at the bench waiting for coffee to brew. The clock on the oven behind her reads '0655'.

SUPER - MASTIC LONG ISLAND NEW YORK

A bedroom door near the kitchen opens. Out comes LUCY(7) all sleepy and blonde hair. She wears a Mets onesie and fluffy slippers. Rita hugs her.

RITA

Hey, you. Sleep well?

LUCY

Yeah, Mom. Why you up so early on a Saturday? Is Dad...

She trails off as her eyes spot a brightly wrapped package on the kitchen table.

RITA

Yes, your father is snoring away happily. He's had a big week at work so...

She sneaks a look at her daughter who is an inch away from the package now, just staring at it.

LUCY

Who is the present for?

RITA

Why, it's for you, honey! An early birthday gift.

LUCY

I...oh, Mom, you're the best.

She frowns, a momentary cloud on her now oh so sunny day.

LUCY

I can open it now, can't I? I don't have to wait till Tuesday? Because I don't think I could wait till then.

RITA

Of course you can open it now.
Why else would it be out here for
you to see, silly?

Lucy hugs her again, then rips into the paper. A box
inside becomes visible.

LUCY

Wow! Oh, Mom, I don't believe
it...an Xbox three sixty?

She spies a game amongst the paper and SQUEALS with
delight. As she holds it up, a brief flicker of green
seems to run from the game case to her fingers.

No one notices it amid the little girl's joy. She puts
the game down, hurries to her mom.

LUCY

Minecraft! Best birthday EVER!

RITA

Well, honey, you've been such a
good girl lately. Your reading
has improved so much and your
room has never been kept cleaner.
You're a big girl now. You
deserve it.

They hug for a third time, Lucy's eyes never leave the
console.

LUCY

Can we wake Daddy to help set it
up? Please, Mom, please?

MAX(O.S.)

Daddy is already awake thanks to
a couple of noisy girls.

MAX(30) tall, bearded, steps in to the kitchen. He YAWNS,
stretches his arms which turns into a good old family
hug.

RITA

Sorry, darling. We tried to keep
quiet.

MAX

Yeah, right.

He rolls his eyes, grins. Lucy breaks from the huddle, drags him to the table.

LUCY
Dad, Dad, look at my new Xbox.
Lets get it going!

MAX
Hey sweet! Now I can get the
entire Halo collection!

He winks at Rita as he picks up the package. They follow their daughter into the family room. The Minecraft game is left on the table for now. It again flickers with a green glow amongst the wrapping.

RITA(O.S.)
Now, Lucy, I know it's your
present but you aren't to spend
all your time on the Xbox, ok?

LUCY(O.S.)
I promise, Mom. I promise to be
sensible about it.

MAX(O.S.)
Good girl. That will give Daddy
more time to play his games!

LAUGHTER all around and the sounds of the box opening...

INT.FAMILY ROOM - LATER

Lucy sits in front of a huge plasma TV on an entertainment unit. The Xbox is snug in a compartment.

Onscreen, the Minecraft world in all it's blockiness and color... Rita comes in from the kitchen.

RITA
Honey, I think its time for a
rest.

LUCY
But Mom, I stopped playing at
lunch! And my village is getting
so cool.

RITA

I'm sure it is. However, lunch was a good two hours ago. Your father has mowed both lawns AND trimmed the hedge.

She walks closer. Lucy's gaze is fixed on the screen as she works the controller.

RITA

Lucy? Turn it off please. Your eyes need a rest.

She crouches next to the girl.

RITA

Honey? Are you listening?

She moves to touch her daughter's arm. Lucy reacts...her face breaks into a mask of pure malice for a split second. The flash of green in her eyes and its gone.

Rita recoils in shock. She blinks, looks again. Her beautiful little girl pleads.

LUCY

Ten minutes more, Mom? Please? I have to strengthen my village walls or the zombies, skeletons and...creepers will get in.

RITA

Well...ok. Then it goes off and we do something else.

LUCY

Thanks Mom. You're the greatest.

She turns back to the game, tongue clenched in concentration.

INT.KITCHEN - LATER

Rita and Lucy sit at the table playing Monopoly. Max comes in from outside, hot and sweaty from the gardening.

MAX

Man, I need a shower. I smell so bad. Anyone up for a hug?

RITA/LUCY

NO!!

MAX

Didn't think so. Hey, the old board games. Can't beat 'em.

LUCY

Yeah, Monopoly is cool, Dad. But I love my birthday present and I could just play Minecraft forever and forever.

She turns her head to look at the walls, as if trying to 'see' the Xbox in the next room. Her parents exchange a glance that says 'hmm, this could become a problem'.

MAX

Guess what...Harry next door? His son has Mets tickets but can't get to the game tonight. He said we were more than welcome to them. How about that?

Lucy rolls the dice, moves her marker.

RITA

Honey, you're going the wrong way.

LUCY

Hmm? Oh, sorry...Dad, what were you saying about the Mets?

MAX

Free tickets to the game tonight. You and me, girly.

RITA

Oh, you are so lucky.

Lucy stares at the Monopoly board blankly. Shakes her head.

LUCY

No, I'll pass on it, thanks Daddy.

(beat)

I'd really like to play Minecraft again. Maybe for awhile after dinner, Mom?

RITA

I...we'll see.

LUCY

But Mom, its Saturday night and I normally do stay up later anyway. Plus its school holidays and plus its my birthday Tuesday, so...

MAX

Whoa now, sweetie, hold on a second.

He kneels on one leg next to her chair.

MAX

Now, Lucy, I think we better establish some...rules about when and for how long you can play on the xbox, ok?

RITA

That's right, honey. You can't let it become the most important thing in your life all of a sudden.

Lucy muses on this, looks up at them.

LUCY

But my friends at school play it all the time. Its not a bad game. Its not full of bad things.

MAX

No? What about...Endermen and Ender Dragons and creepies?

Rita LAUGHS, more to ease the tension than in humor.

RITA

Daddy, the ol' Minecraft expert, right Lucy?

MAX

Some of the younger guys at work play it. I got my info.

He stands, adopts a 'cool' pose, fingers splayed in the hip fashion. Lucy GIGGLES briefly before frowning in thought.. She nods to herself.

LUCY

Ok, if I leave it off tonight,
can I play it in the morning?

Her parents look at each for a moment, nod slowly.

MAX

That seems fair. Your mom and I
are ok with it.

(beat)

Now, I better get and have a
shower. I feel like a creepie
stinky old Enderman myself.

He heads off to the bathroom.

LUCY

Its a CREEPER, Daddy, not
creepie.

(whispers)

Creeper...

Again the green glow in her eyes. And again Rita doesn't
see it as she rolls the dice.

RITA

Another half hour of this, Lucy,
then we can start dinner.

Lucy nods, smiles. But she's off with the fairies.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - PRE DAWN

A bedroom door opens quietly, a muted light from within.
Max emerges yawning. He heads down the hallway towards
the bathroom. As he passes the family room door, he
pauses. Notices a glow from underneath.

MAX

Odd. I don't remember leaving...

He opens the door carefully, to see...

INT. FAMILY ROOM - PRE DAWN

Lucy, two feet from the plasma, plays Minecraft. Eyes
glazed, she's totally locked in.

MAX

(loud)
What the...

He closes the door, hurries over to his daughter.

MAX
Lucy! This is ridiculous. It's
four in the morning.

She doesn't answer, no respond at all.

MAX
Right...if you don't put that
controller down, you're in big
trouble. I mean it.

The door opens again. Rita comes in, tying her robe.

RITA
Max? What's going...Lucy? Why...

MAX
That damn Xbox! She sneaked out
here god knows when and starts
playing.

Lucy finally reacts, speaks like a robot.

LUCY
You said I could play this
morning if I stopped playing
yesterday. So I am.

RITA
Don't be silly, Lucy. Enough is
enough. Turn it off and get back
to bed. Any more lip and you'll
be punished.

No response from Lucy. She works the buttons.

MAX
Right. That's it.

He grabs her arm. Lucy is startled, drops the controller.
She looks up, confused.

LUCY
Mom...Dad?

MAX

Get to bed now.

LUCY
But how did I...

RITA
You heard your father.

They loom over her. She stands up, shuffles off to her bedroom without looking back.

RITA
Unplug the Xbox, dear. We'll hide it for a few days. She'll learn.

MAX
I can't believe she snuck out.
The whole thing is so unlike her.

RITA
They grow up faster now...her friends influence her.

She sighs, moves to the kitchen. Max bends down to disconnect the console. He glances at the screen, frowns. Lucy's Minecraft village is finished. It's impressive.

MAX
What the hell is that?

He sits on the floor, picks up the controller. He works the button so the view moves. A building nearby has writing on the side of it. Max moves Lucy's character closer.

MAX
Oh, that girl is gonna be grounded for weeks.

On the wall, the words 'Lucy's dad is an asshole' is scrawled. He stares at it in fury.

MAX
Damn games...teaching kids this shit. In game graffiti. Jesus...

He prepares to exit then has a thought.

MAX

No...no. A simple unplugging
isn't enough.

(beat)

I'm destroying this village NOW!

He examines the interface for a moment, nods.

MAX

I'm going to enjoy this. Asshole,
am I? Silly game.

He gets to work on the buttons. Rita comes back in.

RITA

She's asleep. Crashed right out.

(beat)

What are you doing?

MAX

Wiping out her village. I've
completely smashed down the walls
around it, now for the rest.

RITA

Honey, I know she was naughty but
she's still...

She touches her husband's arm. And all hell breaks loose.

The controller vibrates loudly in Max's hands. He tries
to let go but it's stuck to him. Green rays of light
shoot from the console and screen.

MAX

Hey, this is...

The green beams run up his arm to Rita's hand, writhing
and pulsing. The couple's eyes roll back in their heads
and...they vanish.

The controller drops to the floor. On the plasma screen,
Rita and Max suddenly appear. In the Minecraft world.

EXT. MINECRAFT VILLAGE

The terrified couple stand in the blocky village. Rita
starts to SCREAM, her sense of reality blown. Max stares
around in disbelief.

MAX

How is this...oh christ what is happening. Rita? I don't...

He trails off as he sees something in the distance. Near the shattered walls...hundreds of block shapes flooding into the village over the rubble of the walls.

All the Minecraft nasties - zombies, skeletons, creepers and the creme de la creme of evil...the Endermen.

MAX

Oh sweet Jesus Rita... run. RUN!

But his wife has slumped to the 'ground', SCREAMING with all the confused force of an infant. Arrows from skeleton bows fall around them. Max is torn between fleeing and staying with his wife. It doesn't make any difference.

The horde of creatures swarm over them with hideous speed. Max tries to kick and lurch but creepers begin to explode and zombies bite and chew...

INT. FAMILY ROOM - PRE DAWN

The screams of Max and Rita are muffled on this side of the screen. As they disappear beneath the roil of death, blood spray the inside of the plasma glass. It SIZZLES...

INT. FAMILY ROOM - LATER

The sun is up, the first light appearing through the windows. Lucy comes in from the kitchen, walks towards the TV, yawns. She looks at the screen, puzzled. The game is frozen showing a tableau of the creatures huddled together.

Lucy heads to the family room door, disappears into the hallway. A moment later she's back.

LUCY

Mom? Dad?

She walks back to the TV, sits on the floor. Picks up the controller. Instantly she's in the familiar catatonic

state. The green glow flickers across her face and eyes and speaks in the flat voice.

LUCY

You let them in. You brought down
the walls and let them in.

The screen dissolves to a flashing message:

'URGENT WARNING TO ALL MINECRAFT USERS - DUE TO A MAJOR
GLITCH WITHIN OUR SYSTEMS, IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR
ATTENTION THAT ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE COULD CREATE
SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS TO PLAYERS. PLEASE EXIT THE GAME
IMMEDIATELY AND DO NOT TRY TO PLAY IT UNTIL FURTHER
NOTIFICATION. WE APOLOGISE FOR THIS INCONVENIENCE'.

LUCY

Too late now.
(beat)
Too late for the world.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END

