

Video Call

written by Claire Louise Huder

Cinder Pictures, LLC
cinderpictures@gmail.com
www.clairelouisehuder.com/cinder-pictures

February 4, 2024
Shooting Draft

Made in Highland

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

RINGING. A YOUNG MAN (20s) is sitting at his COMPUTER, receiving a ZOOM CALL. The COMPUTER SCREEN shows the handle of his friend, CIERA WILLIAMS. He answers the ZOOM CALL. A window immediately pops up on his LAPTOP showing a smiling YOUNG WOMAN (20s).

CIERA WILLIAMS
Sup, Spence?

SPENCER YOUNG smiles.

SPENCER YOUNG
Long time, no see Cici!

CIERA WILLIAMS
What you talking about, we talked just last week!

SPENCER YOUNG
Damn, really? Feels longer than that...

CIERA WILLIAMS
Your sense of time has always been whack. Always needed me to remind you of what day it is.

SPENCER YOUNG
Alright, alright, you win. To what do I owe this pleasure?

CIERA WILLIAMS
Just in the mood to chat it up with my BFF, do I need another reason?

SPENCER YOUNG
Never. Just the same-old story over here, work-class-sleep-repeat. I'd go crazy if it weren't for (pet's name).

SPENCER YOUNG holds up a (cat or small dog).

CIERA WILLIAMS
Hi (pet's name)!

CIERA WILLIAMS makes KISSING NOISES at (pet's name). SPENCER YOUNG puts (pet's name) back down. Looking back at CIERA WILLIAMS, he notices her SMILE falter.

SPENCER YOUNG
What is it? Spill.

Made in Highland

CIERA WILLIAMS
It's nothing. Just the usual deal.

A MAN'S VOICE is heard yelling from another room but it is indistinct and muffled.

SPENCER YOUNG
Uhuh. Doesn't sound like nothing.
Do you need me to come over? I can call Kate, too.

CIERA WILLIAMS
No, it's okay, he's just in one of his moods. It will pass. The bar let him go last night.

SPENCER YOUNG scoffs.

SPENCER YOUNG
He should've seen that coming.
Everyone called it--he's too much of a loose cannon. It's not good for business. How are you doing?

CIERA WILLIAMS
Ok. Just trying to stay out of it.
Things are going to be a little tighter for a while but I'll figure it out. I always do.

CIERA WILLIAMS smiles brightly to cover up the pain she feels in her heart.

SPENCER YOUNG
I don't know how you can stay positive around him. All he does is use you--he's dragging you down with him, can't you see? You can't fix him, Cici. You can't fix someone who doesn't want to change.

BOTH are silent for a moment. The MAN'S VOICE is still heard yelling from another room.

CIERA WILLIAMS
I can't just leave him like this.
I know you guys keep telling me I need to put myself first, but what if I leave and he does something drastic? I'd never be able to forgive myself...

SPENCER YOUNG

Cici. He's already done something drastic. Remember last month when he trapped you in the apartment and wouldn't let you leave? It took both Kate and I coming over and threatening to call the cops for him to let you out. And all over what--dinner plans with Kate that you forgot to tell him about?

CIERA WILLIAMS

Technically I did tell him, it was just while he was playing his game so he forgot. I should've known not to bring it up while he was distracted--

SPENCER YOUNG

That's just it. He ignores you, blames you for his shortcomings, and then takes it out on you. He's controlling your life!

CIERA WILLIAMS is silent as she holds back tears. No more yelling can be heard from the other room.

SPENCER YOUNG

Cici, you know I'd do anything for you. Which is why I'd never lie to you about something like this. It's time. You can do it, you're so close.

CIERA WILLIAMS wipes her eyes.

CIERA WILLIAMS

I know. Thank you. You've always been there for me, you truly are my best friend Spence.

BANGING on the DOOR. CIERA WILLIAMS jumps.

MAN (O.S.)

Ciera!

CIERA WILLIAMS

I better go.

SPENCER YOUNG

You can do this. Stay strong, Cici.

SPENCER YOUNG does a FIST BUMP to HIS WEBCAM. CIERA WILLIAMS does the same.

HARDER BANGING on the DOOR.

MAN (O.S.)
Ciera! Get out here, it's almost
time for dinner!

CIERA WILLIAMS speaks quietly.

CIERA WILLIAMS
Last time. I got this.

CIERA WILLIAMS shoots a soft-yet-confident SMILE towards
SPENCER YOUNG and holds up a PEACE SIGN.

CIERA WILLIAMS
See you soon. Love ya.

SPENCER YOUNG holds up a PEACE SIGN back.

SPENCER YOUNG
Love ya, Cici.

CALL DISCONNECTS. SPENCER YOUNG continues to look at a DARK
SCREEN. After a moment, he turns to look at a FRAMED PHOTO on
his desk.

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF: CIERA WILLIAMS"

RINGING. A YOUNG MAN (20s) is sitting at his COMPUTER,
receiving a ZOOM CALL. The COMPUTER SCREEN shows the handle of
his friend, CIERA WILLIAMS. He answers the ZOOM CALL. A window
immediately pops up on his LAPTOP showing a smiling YOUNG WOMAN
(20s).

CIERA WILLIAMS
Sup, Spence?

SPENCER YOUNG smiles.

END.