

## Ten Second Hero: Amy Hutton

Crystal couldn't believe she was there. She couldn't believe she was doing it. She couldn't believe she was about to meet her favourite actor, say hello to him, touch him, hopefully hug him. Her stomach fluttered so hard it was as if a flock of butterflies had made it their home.

'Are you okay?' the girl beside her asked, her brow furrowing in concern. 'You're a bit pale. Do you need to sit?'

Crystal smiled, clenching her fists at her sides. 'Oh. No. I'm fine.' She wasn't. 'Absolutely fine.' She absolutely wasn't.

Going to a fan convention had been on her wish list forever. But until that day, she'd never worked up the nerve to attend one. Now she was waiting in line to take a photo with a guy she'd been in love with since she was twelve. A long twenty years. She wiped her sweaty palms down the front of her dress and shuffled towards her destiny.

Three people in front of her.

She moved forward.

Two people.

Another step.

One.

Then there he was, the man whose face had once adorned her walls, looking more beautiful than anyone had a right to.

Panic seized Crystal. What if she was unable to speak to him? Or worse, what if she fainted? *Please don't let that be how it ends.* With her in a pile on the floor. She squeezed her eyes closed and sucked in a steadying breath.

'Hi.' A deep voice said.

Her lids sprang open.

'Oh. Hi,' she half breathed, half croaked as she gazed up into a pair of brilliant green eyes.

'What are we doing today?' he asked.

'Could we. Um. Hug?' The last word came out in a squeak.

He leaned in closer, one perfect eyebrow arched. 'I missed that. Could we...?'

'Hug,' she blurted.

And this time the word had so much force he laughed. His head back and throat extended. His entire being shining so bright it was like looking into the sun. Crystal almost swooned.

'You got it,' he said. And gently guided her into his arms.

She bravely rested her head against his shoulder.

There was a flash, a tender back rub, a deep growly 'thanks' and it was over.

As Crystal floated from the photo room, every part of her tingled. She'd done it. And it was the greatest ten seconds of her life.