

KILL

Written by

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MONDO

That might just be the stupidest
thing I've ever heard.

INT. MONDO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mondo is a young woman in her early 20s. She's dressed very casually black sweatpants and a white t-shirt. She stands in the middle of the room while talking to-

JUNE

We can't be afraid to take risks if
we ever want to write something
worthwhile.

June, early 20s, has on a hoodie and jeans. He's seated in the middle of the living room couch. He looks much more relaxed than Mondo.

Mondo's apartment is quite small. With bare walls and a few pieces of furniture, it only takes a quick glance to notice that she's only recently moved in.

MONDO

That's not taking a risk June
that's throwing away the whole
story. It'll all be meaningless.

JUNE

That's not true. It'll just give
our story a different meaning.
(beat)
A better one.

Mondo, still hysterical, looks unconvinced.

MONDO

First you wanted him to become some
sort of villain then you wanted to
add time traveling and now this!
Why can't we just write a realistic
story?

JUNE

Yeah maybe those other ideas
weren't the best but at least I'm
trying to be creative. The way you
want to write is so limiting.

MONDO

How is my way limiting? You're the
one who wants to take the lazy way
out.

Mondo sit's on the couch next to June.

MONDO (CONT'D)

If we end the story like this then
Lin's story is no different than
any other.

JUNE

If you really think one scene will
make that much of a difference then
we never had a story to begin with.

MONDO

Yes or no if we bring him right
back to where he started then the
whole story is for nothing?

JUNE

Him dying doesn't bring him back to
where he started Mondo. Just
because he makes the same decision
doesn't mean he hasn't grown as a
character. He's a completely
different person now.

Mondo leans back and sighs.

MONDO

You always want to do shit like
this June.

JUNE

If we write the same way that
everyone else does and come up with
happy endings the SAME way everyone
else does; then we're no better
writers than everyone else.

MONDO

Having a suicidal character realize
how much he has to live for and
then killing himself anyways
doesn't make any sense!

JUNE

We're not trying to make sense
we're trying to make art!

Pause.

A grin grows on Mondo's face.

MONDO

You did not just say that.

June holds his face in his hands.

JUNE

I regretted it the second it came
out of my mouth.

Mondo stands up.

MONDO

I'm going to get a drink.

Mondo opens the fridge and pulls out a questionable looking
carton of orange juice.

MONDO (CONT'D)

Do you want some?

Mondo looks back at June who is now glued to his computer
screen with a determined look on his face.

MONDO (CONT'D)

June.

June looks up from his computer.

JUNE

What's up?

MONDO

You want some orange juice?

June tries his best to hide his disgust while looking at the
yellowing carton of orange juice in Mondo's hand.

JUNE

Nah I'm good. Thanks.

Mondo shrugs then grabs a cup from a cabinet and pours the
orange juice to the top of the glass.

She places the carton back in the fridge and attempts to
carefully walk back to the living room. A task she quickly
realizes is harder than she thought as each step causes a few
more drops of orange juice to spill out.

Mondo sits back down next to June.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Okay I found it.

June clears his throat.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Page 84. Amanda says, Link you're as much a part of our family as anyone else here. The love and compassion you emulate for everyone around you isn't even one of your best qualities. We have and always will cherish everything you've done for us.

Mondo takes a sip of his orange juice and winces; immediately putting the cup back down onto the coffee table.

Mondo seems a lot calmer now.

MONDO

Okay so what does that prove?

JUNE

Link doesn't need to be alive at the end of the story for his life to have meaning. Amanda and Mat-

MONDO

A few people remembering him doesn't make his life automatically mean something.

JUNE

Now you're just being stubborn.

Mondo takes her laptop from June's lap and scrolls through the script herself.

MONDO

How?

JUNE

Having a lasting affect on other people's lives does mean something. You can't just write it off-

MONDO

Right here.

Mondo turns the screen so June can see what she's found.

MONDO (CONT'D)

Link didn't say a word while her head rested on his shoulder. This was the first time he truly wanted something. He never put much thought into what the world had to offer him until that moment.

June takes the laptop back analyzing what Mondo just read aloud.

MONDO (CONT'D)

He hasn't had the opportunity to live yet. What about the boat he was building? What about the world he wanted to see? What about Laura? He never got to tell her how he-

JUNE

That's not how life works Mondo.

MONDO

There's no rule that says that.

JUNE

Not everyone gets to accomplish all of their life goals before they die. And if we're being honest almost nobody actually does. People will always leave this world wishing they had done something different.

MONDO

Almost not all. We have the opportunity to let Link accomplish the goals he set for himself. The only thing between him and a happy life is... you.

JUNE

It's not realistic. You want to ignore logic just so he can have a happy ending?

(beat)

Let's be honest. Link has lived a very intense life; so much so that the story starts off with him trying to kill himself. The chances of him fully recovering from what he went through and becoming a functioning member of society again were very slim to begin with.

MONDO

I know that but slim isn't impossible. We have an obligation to create a story that both moves people and means something. Killing him won't accomplish either.

JUNE

And keeping him alive will?

Mondo stays silent.

Pause.

JUNE (CONT'D)

What meaning are we achieving by keeping him alive? That people dealing with depression can recover with the right help? Those stories already exist. We can create what so many are too scared to do.

MONDO

What kill the main character? Yeah because that's definitely never been done before.

JUNE

Yes writing about how not everyone survives depression has been done many times over but we can shift the focus to the people in Link's life. We can write about the affect his death and more importantly his life had on them. That's a story that creates discussion; that's a story that deals with a topic people are too scared to think about; that's a story worth reading.

MONDO

Nobody is going to want to buy that.

JUNE

So money is the only thing that matters now?

MONDO

I never said that- It's just that we have to find a middle ground and my way accomplishes that way more than yours.

June looks disappointed.

JUNE

Find... a middle ground? You want to compromise our story just to make money? Are you even listening to yourself right n-

MONDO

I CAN'T LET HIM DIE!

JUNE

Why?! Why is it so important to you that he doesn't die?

Mondo looks distressed.

MONDO

Because killing him is like killing me. I put so much of myself into Link and you're sitting here telling me he has nothing to live for? Well that's just not true. My life has turned out pretty great since that day.

Long pause.

JUNE

Mondo you are not Link.

MONDO

I know but-

JUNE

We've put hours into this project; using our experiences, environments, and ideals to create great characters and a great story. But that's all it is. A story. Having him die doesn't make your life worth any less. It's just the way one story happens to end.

The room falls silent. Neither one of them wants to speak first.

Moments later the two hear the sound of jingling keys followed by the front door of the apartment creaking open.

SAZE, early 20s, enters the room full of energy. She walks over to Mondo and places a hand on her shoulder.

Mondo places a hand on top of Saze's.

SAZE
(to Mondo)
Hey baby.
(to June)
Hey June.

Hey. MONDO Hey. JUNE

SAZE notices the somber looks on their faces on her way to Hang up her jacket in the coat closet.

SAZE (CONT'D)
Who died in here?

Awkward pause.

MONDO
We don't know yet.

A beat. Saze has a moment of realization.

SAZE
This again?!

Saze leaves the two and walks into the bedroom. We can hear her moving items around in search of something.

SAZE (O.S.)
I know there are some in here.

Saze continues searching for an unknown object until-

SAZE (O.S.)
Here we go.

Saze walks out of the room again standing in front of June and Mondo. She holds out her hand revealing a quarter in her palm.

SAZE (CONT'D)
I'm sick and tired of this back and forth between you two. You guys have been stuck on this ending forever; arguing about how there's only one right answer. I don't know who's right. Maybe you both are.

June and Mondo look embarrassed.

SAZE (CONT'D)

But I do know that you two are
incredible writers who can make
either ending work so at the end of
the day it doesn't really matter
which version you choose. Which is
why we're going to decide this by
flipping a coin-

MONDO

Hold on babe this isn't something a
coin flip is going to solve.

JUNE

Yeah Saze that would be crazy.

Saze flips the coin.

SAZE

Call it in the air.

June and Mondo, still in shock, look at each other then back
at the flying coin as it begins it's descent towards the
floor.

CUT TO: BLACK

MONDO

Heads!

JUNE

Heads!

End.