

HEADSHOTS

Written by

Eva Ye

410-948-6167

FADE IN:

1 INT. AUDITION HALLWAY - DAY 1

Audition hallway, gorgeous young women sit in a straight row against the wall.

Low angle on their perfectly toned legs and high heels. We don't see their faces, just their legs, perfect, identical, gorgeous legs.

A pair of not-so-perfect legs come into the frame and catch up with the camera as we move along. We start to track with them instead. The person is rocking a pair of jeans and sneakers. She passes through all the legs, almost getting tripped by one of them at one point, and proceeds to the end of the line.

She sits down at the last empty seat. And we pan up and see it's KATE (32). Her childlike facial features indicate that she has down syndrome. She holds a thin stack of HEADSHOTS in hand. She appears nervous.

Some of the perfect-legs check her out in judgmental glances, which make Kate even more nervous and feel out-of-place.

She starts to hear subdued conversations around her. It's not easy to make out exactly what they are saying, but she knows they are talking about her.

The volume of the conversation grows louder and louder in her head. She lets out a frustrating groan and covers her ears. But when she looks up, everyone seems to be minding their own business.

She moves up along the seats as the audition carries on. She watches all the pretty girls walking by her confidently after they exit the audition room, feeling inadequate.

CASTING DIRECTOR (O.S.)

NEXT!

It's Kate's turn.

She walks up and enters the open door.

2 INT. AUDITION ROOM - DAY 2

CLOSE UP on Kate, who looks intimidated.

MEDIUM on three casting people sitting on the other side of the table, who appear neutral with a hint of disbelief upon seeing Kate.

CASTING ASSISTANT I

Do you have a headshot?

Kate scrambles to pull one out of the stack, but accidentally drops the entire stack on the floor. Headshots scatter around in front of her, she reaches down to pick them up one by one. It's awkward.

She finally hands one over to CASTING ASSISTANT I, who scans both sides really quick.

CASTING ASSISTANT I (CONT'D)

What do you wanna show us tod...

She gets interrupted by CASTING ASSISTANT II, who cups next to her ear and whispers something to her.

CASTING ASSISTANT I appears a little embarrassed and stutters the piercing words to Kate.

CASTING ASSISTANT I (CONT'D)

Thank... thank you for your... your time. I think we can... can work with this one...

He waves the headshot and nods awkwardly to Kate. *

CLOSE UP on Kate, disappointed, defeated and embarrassed.

3

INT. AUDITION HALLWAY - DAY

3

Kate steps out of the room, CLOSE ON her sneakers. The door shuts behind her decisively.

CASTING ASSISTANT III (O.S.)

NEXT!

MONTAGE BEGINS

- KATE gets up from her seat at another audition hallway

- Quick cuts of Kate getting in and out of the different doors, while hearing "NEXT!" being yelled out O.S. by different casting assistants

- Kate's headshots being passed around, dropped on the floor, flipped over on top of a pile that's labeled "PASS"

MONTAGE ENDS

Kate steps out of the room, CLOSE ON her sneakers. The door shuts behind her, again, decisively. We see her hold the last copy of her headshot.

We pan up to her face, it's evident that nothing has gone well so far. She decisively walks away, defeated and disappointed.

She tears the headshot in million pieces as she walks away.

4 EXT. PRINT AND COPY CENTER - NIGHT 4

Outside of a 24hr Print & Copy Center situated next to a not-so-busy street, no one walks by. It's late.

Kate walks up to the store and enters.

5 INT. PRINT AND COPY CENTER - NIGHT 5

There are zero customer inside. Store clerk ADRIAN (28) is holding down the place. We don't see his face yet but he notices Kate when she walks in. *

Kate goes to a printing machine. After a long day of defeats, she looks tired and upset. *

She presses a few buttons on the machine and inserts a USB drive into the port. And then, colorful picture of her headshot starts to emerge from the printer. It's the same picture we saw in the earlier montage.

The contrast between the Kate with a big smile in the picture verses the Kate in reality is evident.

Printer stops.

With only a half of her picture printed.

She looks around and does not see anyone. But Adrian notices her problem.

Kate starts trouble-shooting the printer herself, as we follow behind Adrian as he approaches Kate's station. *

ADRIAN *

Hi, do you need help?

In the midst of frustration, Kate impatiently looks up, but she does a double-take as soon as she sees Adrian. We see her expression changes.

CLOSE ON: Adrian, a handsome young man, smiling brightly at KATE. He has a little badge pinned to his chest pocket under his name tag **ADRIAN** that says - HI, I'M DEAF (SMILEY FACE).

KATE

Hi, I...

Adrian hands over a yellow notepad and a pen to Kate. Kate takes it and writes -

IT'S STUCK.

She points at the half printed headshot snaking out of the printer tray.

Adrian nods and proceeds to check for the problem.

Within a few quiet seconds, he figures out the problem and removed the stuck paper from the machine. And the paper resumes feeding.

He smiles at Kate, who's a little shy and self-conscious in front of him.

He tips his head quite gentleman like and is about to excuse himself. Kate takes out the yellow notepad again and writes -

I'M STUCK.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm stuck.

She puts the notepad on the printer without showing Adrian, but Adrian easily gets what she's saying. He reads Kate for a moment and then gestures her to follow him.

MUSIC CUES

NOTE: The following segment is carried by music and distinctive practical tempo, such as footsteps, taps, knocks, etc.

Kate hesitantly inches forward, Adrian grabs her hand and lead her behind the counter to the shipping bay where many unshipped packages lay.

He shows Kate the way he sorts packages.

INSERTS OF: Finger pointing and sliding across the address line. Quick typing. A decisive tap on "Enter".

Kate looks overwhelmed but excited.

Adrian holds his hand out, palm facing up, all fingers folding inward twice to gesture "come on".

KATE (CONT'D)

What?

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KATE (CONT'D)

HEADSHOTS.

Kate reaches for her USB and puts it in Adrian's hand.

Adrian goes to a bigger printing station in the back and insert the USB.

INSERT OF: Finger deftly moving across many buttons, hand adjusting the tray size, and a decisive press of "PRINT".

Silence, and a very confused Kate. **MUSIC PAUSES.**

But within seconds, we hear the joyful sound of paper feeding, and Kate's colorful headshots quickly lands on the finished tray one after another. It's a much faster machine apparently. **MUSIC RESUMES.**

Before Kate understands what is all happening, Adrian picks up her hand again and leads her to a passport photo booth.

Adrian guides Kate to the seat and turns on the camera.

INSERT OF: Camera clicks, A nervous Kate inside of an adjusting camera frame, a few more clicks, Adrian making faces, Kate with the big smile, and SNAP!

They are having fun.

MUSIC ENDS GRADUALLY.

6 INT. PRINT AND COPY CENTER - EARLY MORNING

6

Kate is napping on a makeshift chair bed, a neatly printed thin stack of headshots are placed next to her. She had stayed the whole night.

*
*
*

She wakes up and finds herself an embarrassment. She sees Adrian working at the station, facing away from her. She gathers her stuff and all the scattered headshots and walks up to him.

She taps his shoulder. Adrian turns to her, smiling.

KATE

Thank you.

She holds up the thin stack of headshots.

ADRIAN

Oh, wait.

He takes out an envelop from under the counter and puts the headshots in it and hands it back to her.


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Kate takes it, thanks him with a smile and walks towards the entrance.

7

INT. AUDITION HALLWAY - DAY

7

Kate enters ANOTHER audition hallway, another long day ahead.

She walks down the empty part of the hallway, looking tired and spent. She holds the envelop close to her chest, we can see there is a yellow post-it note pasted on the front, she just notices it's there.

She stops, flips the envelop over, and reads the message on the post-it note.

It's about what you CAN do. (smiley face)

A big smile on her face.

LOW ANGLE on another row of perfect toned legs. Again, ordinarily dressed Kate enters the frame with the same jeans and sneakers. And we track with her.

She sits down, we pan up to her CONFIDENT, READY-TO-RUMBLE face. As the camera reveals the equally gossipy room full of secretive glances and whispers, Kate is UNDISTURBED.

CLOSE ON: A confident, bright, fierce, gorgeous girl, KATE.

CASTING ASSISTANT IV (O.S.)

NEXT!

CUT TO BLACK.