

(Printed with an unregistered version of Fade In)

KEELEY, VERSION 2

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is spacious and austere, reminiscent of a five-star hotel suite. The scene starts off focusing on a pair of feet tiptoeing across the marble floor.

The camera zooms out to show the slender legs of a WOMAN, walking towards the silhouette of a MAN sitting on a couch. Behind him is a view overlooking large buildings on a waterfront, the signature skyline of Shanghai.

The camera slowly zooms out further to show she's wearing nothing but a men's dress shirt, her hair a careless sun-kissed blonde. She walks over to the man, crawling into his lap.

The camera cuts to her face, and she looks both fragile and sultry. But once her head rests on his shoulders, her expression is one of resigned despondency. She gazes out the window, past the buildings.

MAN (O.S.)
How did I get so lucky...?

FADE TO:

INT. CAFE - DAY - FLASHBACK

The cafe is bustling with customers coming in and out. Most are dressed business professional.

KEELEY, 21, is a bare-faced natural beauty. With hazel eyes and hair that illuminates her face, she doesn't need much but a smile to catch the eyes of strangers.

ANNA, 32, hair in a tight bun and wearing a starched kitchen apron, hands Keeley her new apron.

ANNA
Your uniform is a white shirt and black pants. Leave the apron before you leave. You already read the new employee manual?

KEELEY
(confidently, in charming Australian accent)
...Yes! I did.

ANA
In that case, why is your hair down?

KEELEY

I, uh... oh! I was going to head to the restroom first to make sure I get a neat ponytail.

Anna looks Keeley up and down, gauging Keeley's merits.

ANNA

You get a 10-minute break when Jojo takes over.

Keeley gives a thumbs up, and turns back too abruptly, knocking two lattes out of a waiter's tray. Coffee sprays all over her and her new coworker.

Keeley is stunned at the mess. So is her coworker.

KEELEY

I'm so sorry! I'll get this cleaned up!

Keeley rushes to the nearest mop, only to slip on the spilled coffee. She lets out a yelp and everyone in the cafe goes silent to look at her.

Anna looms over Keeley, who is on the ground.

ANNA

Clean yourself up, and head to the cash register.

KEELEY

Yes... sorry!

Keeley picks up her apron, and briskly makes her way to the bathroom, her face red with embarrassment. She looks in the mirror, and sees her white shirt is soaked through with coffee. Her face starts puckering into a sob.

Before tears come, she wipes her face clean and pulls her hair tight into a ponytail. She loosens a few strands of hair to look more casual, and gently blots on some red lipstick.

She heads to the cash register, as if nothing has happened.

KEELEY (cont'd)

Hello, what can I get for you?

MARKUS VAN DIJK, 42, stands calmly behind the glass showcase in a deliciously expensive Faconnable button-up shirt. Though he has a slight bucktooth, he still carries a certain charisma.

MARKUS

An espresso, and croissant. To go,
please.

Keeley has difficulty ringing up the order, and the coworker working the adjacent register punches it in for her without missing a beat.

KEELEY

...That will be 124, please!

Markus eyes her stained shirt, and glances at the other barista still mopping up the previous spill.

MARKUS

(winking)
First day?

KEELEY

Tell me about it.

Markus hands her a credit card, his hand boasting a wedding ring.

He digs in his wallet, and musters out his business card, which reads his name and title: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.

MARKUS

In case you want your first day to
also be your last.

Keeley graciously accepts the card, but hesitantly slips it into her pocket.

FADE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Markus and Keeley sit intimately at a bar facing each other. They're already halfway through their red wine.

He places his hand on Keeley's knee, his wedding ring conspicuously missing from his finger.

MARKUS

So how did a pretty girl like you end
up in Shanghai?

CUT TO:

INT. KEELEY'S HOME IN AUSTRALIA - FLASHBACK

Keeley is cowered against a wall, the living room lit up with the dim blue glow of a television.

A bottle is flung from out of screen aimed at Keeley. She ducks, and it almost hits her face before shattering all over the ground.

END OF FLASHBACK.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. RESTAURANT

KEELEY
(happily, betraying
nothing of her
actual reason)
Adventure.

FADE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MONTHS LATER

Keeley, in a slinky black dress, is in the bedroom putting on jewelry. Though undeniably elegant, her attire comes across more like a costume than an outfit she would wear.

While dabbing on lipstick in front of her vanity stand, she speaks to Markus.

KEELEY
After the dinner party, do you think
we can go to a bar?

MARKUS (O.S.)
I planned for us to head home right
after.

KEELEY
Alright... dinner ends early, at 8.

MARKUS (O.S.)
Yes, that's right.

Markus walks to Keeley and hugs her shoulders from behind. He kisses her on the nape of her neck.

We see their reflection, and Markus lovingly admires Keeley from the mirror.

MARKUS

Beautiful.
(beat)
Ready, darling?

He walks out to get the elevator. Keeley opens her mouth, but does not let herself say anything.

CUT TO:

INT. VENUE SPACE - MOMENTS LATER

Keeley drinks a martini, eyeing the crowd. Markus is next to her, in deep conversation with his colleagues.

MARKUS

...and that is why China has grown to be such a world super power. With the president's One Belt, One Road initiative, it may propel them even further.

COLLEAGUE #1

And Miss Keeley, what do you think?
Of One Belt, One Road?

Keeley is caught off guard, too busy people watching.

KEELEY

Oh! Well, I... I guess my main question is why aren't there more belts?

Markus and his colleagues are silent before he breaks out into a convincing laugh.

MARKUS

This one! She's a real jokester.

His colleagues also start laughing, and Keeley smiles to hide her embarrassment.

INT. TAXI - AN HOUR LATER

Keeley is looking out the window as Markus scrolls through his emails on the phone. The taxi ride is silent save for the sound of cars driving by.

MARKUS

Sometimes I wonder why can't you be more like Miriam? She always knew what to say.

KEELEY

You chose to leave her...

Markus turns to look at her.

MARKUS

What did you say?

Keeley turns to look back at Markus.

KEELEY

Nothing.

Keeley looks back at the window, and her hand heads to Markus's knee. His leg tenses in response, but relaxes.

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Markus looks exhausted with bags under his eyes. Keeley, with a spring still to her step, stretches her arms up.

KEELEY

Are you sure you don't want to visit a bar?

Markus heads to the bedroom and jumps face down into the bed.

MARKUS

Yes. I'm positive.

Keeley walks to the bedroom. Once she is within arm's reach, Markus gently pulls her by the wrist, signaling to get in bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY IN AUSTRALIA - FLASHBACK

Keeley is walking briskly down an alleyway, arms crossed, trying to get farther from a MAN yelling down the other end.

ALLEY MAN

(drunken slur)

You get back here! Where do you think you're going?

His arm immediately grabs Keeley's wrist, his hand much larger and stronger than her slender arm.

KEELEY
You're hurting me!

After a couple of attempts to free herself, Keeley bites down on the man's arm, and she yanks her arm away. She runs onto the main road, aimlessly, not looking back.

END OF FLASHBACK.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Keeley almost pulls away at Markus's grasp, but softens, and climbs into the other side of the bed, facing the other way. The camera, focused on Keeley, shows Markus's arm wrap around her waist.

FADE TO:

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

Markus drinks coffee at the table, reading the newspaper. Keeley heads out of the bedroom, purse in hand.

KEELEY
I'm going to head out, I'll see you later!

MARKUS
Where to?

KEELEY
The mall.

MARKUS
Which one?

KEELEY
IFC.

MARKUS
How are you getting there? Are you meeting anyone?

KEELEY
Taxi? And I don't plan on it.

Markus puts down his coffee cup at her smart remark.

MARKUS
Be back before lunch?

She sighs. A beat passes.

KEELEY
Yes.

Before she hits the elevator door, she heads back into the bedroom.

MARKUS (O.S.)
Forget something?

KEELEY
My keys!

Keeley reaches for her jewelry box at her vanity table, pulling out the little drawers of the box, until she finds the diamond earrings and choker she wore to Markus's work gathering from the scene prior.

She quietly closes the drawers, and heads out to kiss Markus goodbye.

KEELEY (cont'd)
(dangling the
keychains)
Found 'em!

She walks out to ring the elevator, and looks back to see Markus quietly drinking his coffee.

She gets inside the elevator door. When the doors almost close, she throws the keys out. They jangle as they hit the marble floor.

CUT TO BLACK.