

FATE OF FORTUNE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BEACH - DAY

Seagulls and Sandpipers scour the sand as waves roll in.

CHILDREN play. Their beach ball rolls away from them into a relaxing sunbather, BETA, 16, long hair, sunglasses, bikini.

She tosses the ball back to the kids. Rihanna's *Diamonds* blares from her cell.

On cell screen a text message.

KAYLEE (TEXT MESSAGE)

In the mood for MSG? :-)

BETA (TEXT MESSAGE)

So much for my diet!

KAYLEE (TEXT MESSAGE)

Ill B there in 30, K :-)

BETA (TEXT MESSAGE)

K CU there!

Beta packs up her beach stuff.

EXT. CHAN'S CHINESE - DAY

A yellow neon blinks: Chan's Chinese.

INT. CHAN'S CHINESE - CONTINUOUS

Fake jade decorations. Cheap tables and chairs. A pale yellowish Koi swims a fish tank.

At a booth in the back, Beta and Kaylee work chopsticks over teenage conversation. Both plates near empty.

KAYLEE

I'm about to pop.

BETA

It's the noodles. Makes me feel like a blowfish.

CHAN (O.S.)

What about noodle? You not like?

Beta turns to see CHAN, Chinese server, eavesdropping.

BETA

Oh no, Mr. Chan, the food was great as usual. Just that it's very filling, is all.

Chan nods with a smile, drops two FORTUNE COOKIES on the table along with the bill.

It's a rat race as Beta and Kaylee grab for the cookies which take a tumble from the table. Beta scoops them up, holds them out. Kaylee is suddenly uninterested.

BETA (CONT'D)

What if we got 'em mixed up?

Kaylee looks at Beta 'so what'.

BETA (CONT'D)

Like if you got my fortune and I got yours? It could change everything.

KAYLEE

Tell me you're not seriously taking some generic mass marketed fortune cookie as prophecy.

Beta pulls her cookie out of the wrapper.

BETA

To be honest, reading my fortune is my favorite thing about this place. Come on, just for fun. Open it up.

She hands the other cookie over to Kaylee who rolls her eyes but can't resist the temptation.

Beta breaks her cookie, pulls out the fortune. Kaylee does the same.

BETA (CONT'D)

You first.

KAYLEE

(reading the fortune)

A vacation by the beach is in store for you. Hmm sounds nice. Now if only it would come true.

She rolls her eyes. Motions Beta 'your turn'.

BETA

Mine says 'your secret admirer will soon appear'.

She smiles.

KAYLEE

I think you got mine. And I got yours. You're the sun worshipper and I'm always looking for love, in all the wrong places I might add.

Chan stops sweeping, pipes in.

CHAN

The fortune belongs to whomever pull it from the cookie.

He smiles, goes back to cleaning. The girls stand to leave.

KAYLEE

Enjoy your new love. I'll go pack bags for my vacation by the sea.

She laughs sarcastically. Chan watches the girls exit.

INT. KAYLEE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kaylee sits in her bed with her laptop. She scrolls FACEBOOK.

Then she googles: Beach Vacations. ON SCREEN: photos of pristine beaches, crystal clear water, hot bodies.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - DAY

No recession in this shopping center. Cars litter the lot.

Beta walks out of the Mall. Shopping bags in her grip. But her phone is more important as she fingers the touch screen while walking through the parking lot.

She weaves around an SUV, runs smack into STEVE, 20, dark glasses, well built. Her phone falls to the pavement.

He's quick to retrieve it. When he comes up with the phone, he also produces a single red rose.

BETA

I'm so sorry.

She holds up her phone. Smiles.

STEVE

Texting. Dangerous habit.

He chuckles. Extends the rose. Beta blushes through sunburned cheeks as she takes the flower.

BETA
Thanks. You didn't have to...

STEVE
You look familiar.

BETA
Name's Beta. Trinity High School maybe?

STEVE
I'm Steve. And no, not at school, maybe it was on the beach?

BETA
(blushing)
Oh, probably so. I go a lot.

STEVE
It's better at night. No sunburn. Why don't you join me for a walk tonight?

BETA
I've never been at night. Mom says it isn't safe.

STEVE
Oh, you'll be safe as long as you're with me. Come on. East Beach, nine thirty, by the boardwalk. Don't stand me up.

BETA
Ah, ok. You twisted my arm. See you tonight.

She heads for her car. A new spring in her step.

BETA (CONT'D)
(over her shoulder)
And thanks for the rose.

EXT. POOL - AFTERNOON

A crystal blue pool awaits. Kaylee walks out to the lounge chairs. She takes a seat, pulls out a *Twilight* book.

She gets a BEEP -- A text message on her cell.

BETA (TEXT MESSAGE)
OMG my fortune comes true!

KAYLEE (TEXT MESSAGE)
YAY :-) Guess mine did 2 Im at my
sea vacation. The POOL! UGH!

BETA (TEXT MESSAGE)
Text you tonight after my date! So
nervous!

KAYLEE (TEXT MESSAGE)
HAVE FUN! YAY! Be careful! JEALOUS!
:-)

INT. BETA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beta looks herself over in the full length mirror. She's dressed up, her hair is perfect.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

A full moon hangs over the boardwalk beach entrance. The sound of crashing waves.

Beta rides up on her bicycle. No cars are in the parking lot. She pulls out her cell, fingers the touch screen.

BETA (TEXT MESSAGE)
(to Kaylee)
At the beach. Think I've been stood
up! So much for fortunes! :-)

Headlights appear. A white van pulls up and parks close by. Out steps Steve.

Beta pockets her phone, steps off her bike. Twirls her hair. She stops fidgeting as Steve reaches her.

His gloved hand extends a red rose. She takes it smiling.

BETA (CONT'D)
Two in one day. Impressed.

Her phone blares a hip hop ring tone. She pulls it out. Hits DISMISS call.

STEVE
What's impressive is that moon up
there.

He points at the moon. She looks up, mesmerized. He slips an arm around the back of her waist. Uncomfortable with his advance, she tries to step away but his grip is strong.

BETA

I'm don't think we should...

His other hand slaps down against her lips. He wraps around her like a boa constrictor.

She struggles. Her eyes wide open, her pleas muffled by his gloved hand.

As he drags her kicking and struggling, the rose and her cell phone fall to the wooden boardwalk.

He manages the van door open. She's pushed inside. She SCREAMS, claws at him as the door shuts in her petrified tear soaked face.

The cell phone blares hip hop ring tone as it vibrates on the wooden boardwalk - KAYLEE CALLING.

The van tail lights diminish as it disappears in the night.

FADE TO BLACK.