Sushi

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. A SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

People from several backgrounds are enjoy meals.
A child points at a plate that on the conveyor.
A man picks a maki from his wife’s plate.
There’s hardly an empty seat in the restaurant.

EXT. A BUSY HIGH STREET - DAY

Kate (21) is walking through the crowds.
Her PHONE rings. A standard tone.

KATE
Hello?.. I’m actually just going on my lunch.. Sushi. Sure, hold on.

Kate stops at a bench and pulls a pen from her bag, followed by a small pad of paper.

She begins to write still holding the phone.

KATE (CONT’D)
Anything else?.. Diet?.. Does Kyle want anything?. Who doesn’t eat sushi these days.

She puts the pen and pad back in the bag and resumes her walk through the crowds.

KATE (CONT’D)
I’m going to eat mine here so I’ll be about half an hour. Is that okay?.. Okay. See ya then.

She smiles hangs up and enters the sushi restaurant.

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

Kate takes a seat. She pulls some chopsticks and snaps them apart. Scanning the belt for some food.

Next to her Andrew (24) is reading a book. He’s wearing a suit with a couple of buttons undone at the collar of his shirt, revealing writing tattooed across the top of his chest.

Kate takes a quick glance at him. She notices just one empty plate in front of him. Then returns her attention to the food on the conveyor.
Andrew turns his attention away from the belt. To take a quick look at Kate. He places the book face down to avoid losing his page.

He too looks at the conveyor.

Kate again glances at him. More obvious this time.

Andrew notices and smirks.

ANDREW
That wasn’t quite as subtle.

KATE
Excuse me?

ANDREW
At least the first time I was reading a book.

KATE
I’m not sure I follow.

ANDREW
It says Per Aspera Ad Astra.

KATE
What does?

ANDREW
My tattoo. You were trying to look at it. It’s okay. You’d be surprised how many people ask me what it means.

KATE
Actually. I was looking at your book. Wuthering Heights? You don’t look like the type.

Andrew looks down at his book then at Kate. Kate smiles smugly.

ANDREW
Neither do you.

He points down at her bag. A Nintendo Gameboy is visible.

Kate picks her bag up from the floor and conceals the Gameboy. She then pulls the pad from the bag and returns the bag to the floor.

She flips open the pad to the page she was writing on.

As a waiter passes she gently touches him on the arm.
KATE
Excuse me. Could I order these to go please? They’re for a work colleague. I’ll take them after I’ve finished.

She shows him the list on the pad.

WAITER
No problem. Anything else?

KATE
Oh, and a Diet Coke too. Thanks.

The waiter takes the order then walks away.

ANDREW
That’s nice of you. To pick up your colleagues lunch.

KATE
Yeh, she was late so she’s working through her lunch break. What about you? You on lunch?

ANDREW
Actually. No. I was waiting for someone.

KATE
Oh, did she stand you up?

Andrew smiles as he pulls a plate of Sashimi from the conveyor.

ANDREW
Not exactly.

They pause. Kate grabs a plate of sushi.

ANDREW (CONT’D)
I’m Andrew. By the way.

Kate with a mouthful of food covers her hand over her mouth.

KATE
(Muffled)
Hm... Kate.

She extends her other hand which Andrew gladly shakes.

ANDREW
Nice to meet you, Kate. Can I ask you something.

Kate swallows her food.
KATE
Go for it.

ANDREW
What’s your job?

KATE
I sell insurance.
(beat)
It’s only temporary. What do you do?

Andrew pauses and looks at pokes at his food.

ANDREW
I work for a very rich internet site. It’s very lucrative. And very boring.

Kate giggles.

KATE
So you’re probably rich?

ANDREW
Not this month. I bought a new dog.

KATE
And that’s taken all your wages?

ANDREW
From China.

KATE
Wow. You must be rich.

ANDREW
(Slightly amused.)
Must be. Or stupid.

Andrew finishes the last of his sashimi and gets up to leave.

KATE
That’s all you’re eating.

ANDREW
Unfortunately. Busy day. Dog’s need to walk. It was nice talking you though. Don’t work too hard.

KATE
It was nice talking to you.

ANDREW
You too.

Andrew smiles and leaves. Kate’s eyes follow him as he leaves. WONDERING.
KATE
(Under her breath.)
Here's my number. Give me a call sometime.
(Sigh.)
Way to go Katherine.

Kate turns back to her plate noticing that Andrew had left his book. She quickly picks it up and turns toward the till area. Andrew has already left.

As she loosens her grip on the book a folded piece of paper falls out and drops to the floor. She notices, picks it up and opens it and begins to read.

ANDREW (V.O.)
So. Today, Friday 27th of April, I'm going to go to the Sushi restaurant for lunch. I will reserve the seat next to me. The girl with the Gameboy that fills that seat will most likely be reading this now. If you are. I'd very much like to take you out to dinner tonight. 8 o'clock. Here. So don't eat anymore than what you have already. Maybe buy a sandwich instead. Andrew.
(beat)
P.S. I've re-written this note like 20 times.

Kate smiles looking at the note.

She looks up.

KATE
Bill, please.

FADE OUT.