

**STRANGERS**

**Written by Bob Slaymaker**

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INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 1

BOB, a young white guy, and CAROLYN, a young black woman, wait with other OFFICE WORKERS for the elevator to take them to their jobs.

Carolyn, her clothes a bit worn, has a pleasant, cool-as-a-cucumber demeanor.

But Bob is shy and nervous.

He steals an indirect glance at Carolyn. Receptive, she eyes him directly.

He avoids her gaze, walks around a bit, lightly kicking the wall, not saying anything.

The elevator comes and everyone gets on.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Nobody speaks or looks at anyone.

At the third floor, Carolyn gets off, heads toward the office where she works.

Bob stays on till the fifth floor. He exits, walks to the company he works for.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 2

Bob walks to his usual spot, waits for the elevator.

He looks around, but doesn't see Carolyn.

He frowns almost imperceptibly, kicks the wall.

The elevator arrives. He looks around once more for Carolyn, but she's nowhere in sight.

He enters the elevator. Its doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 3

Carolyn joins the usual group waiting for the elevator to take them to their jobs.

Bob's not in the group.

Carolyn seems disappointed. When the elevator comes, she does a quick but thorough check for him, then reluctantly gets on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 4

Carolyn and Bob wait for the elevator. A MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR also waits. The elevator arrives and Bob and Carolyn each hold one side of the door, so the Man in the Wheelchair can wheel himself in.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Carolyn and Bob stand on either side of the Man in the Wheelchair. Bob and Carolyn exchange glances, but neither speaks. Carolyn gets off at the third floor. Bob stays on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 5

As Bob and Carolyn wait for the elevator, Bob finally finds the courage to talk to her.

BOB  
(nervous)  
Do you know what time it is?

Cool as a cucumber, Carolyn points matter-of-factly at the phone he holds. He looks at it, sees the time, embarrassed at his pathetic attempt to start a conversation. He resolves not to make a fool of himself again.

The elevator arrives and they get in.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

As usual no one, including Bob and Carolyn, looks at or talks to anyone else.

Carolyn gets off on the third floor, and Bob continues upward.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - MORNING 6

Bob walks to his usual spot in front of the elevator, waiting for it to come. He looks around, but Carolyn's not there. He wonders if he'll ever run into her again. He absently frowns, lightly kicks the wall. The elevator arrives. He looks around once more for Carolyn, who's not shown up, then enters the elevator. The doors close and the elevator ascends.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 7

Carolyn walks to her usual spot before the elevator, waiting for it come. She looks around, but Bob's not there. She looks disappointed. She wonders if she'll ever see him again. When the elevator arrives, she looks around once more for Bob. He's not there, so she gets on the elevator.

The doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 8

Carolyn waits in front of the elevator, with Bob nowhere in sight.

She sees the elevator descending fast.

When the elevator doors open, she holds them, checks the building's entrance for Bob.

She spots him entering the building.

He realizes she's holding the elevator for him.

With her free hand, she waves and smiles.

He hurries and they enter together. The doors close, and the elevator starts its ascent.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

A bit winded, Bob looks anxiously at Carolyn.

BOB

(low)

Thanks.

CAROLYN

(matching his low  
volume)

You're welcome. I'm Carolyn.

BOB

I'm B-b-b-ob.

Carolyn smiles warmly.

CAROLYN

B-b-b-ob?

BOB

(low)

I'm nervous.

CAROLYN

Don't be nervous. I don't bite.

Carolyn's warm receptiveness helps Bob manage a smile.

She feigns a playful bite in his direction. She laughs. He smiles.

They rejoin the silence of their fellow passengers.

The elevator stops at the third floor.

CAROLYN  
This is my stop.

BOB  
(anxious)  
Can I walk you to your office?

CAROLYN  
(encouragingly)  
Sure.

They exit together.

INT. THIRD-FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bob and Carolyn walk silently toward the company where she works.

They stop outside the double doors.

We gradually pull back beyond earshot as Bob nervously takes out his phone, asks for her number, which she gives him.

He heads back to catch the next elevator.

Glancing behind him, he sees her watching him.

She smiles.

He smiles. Presses the elevator button.

THE END