

STRANGERS

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INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 1

The start of a workday. Several OFFICE WORKERS wait for the elevator to take them to their jobs. Among them stand JOHN, a young white guy, and KEISHA, a young black woman.

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

But John's shy and nervous.

He steals an indirect glance at Keisha. Receptive, she looks at him directly.

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

The elevator comes and everyone gets on.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Nobody looks at anyone else.

Keisha gets off on the third floor. She heads to the double doors of her day job.

John exits on the fifth floor, walks toward the entrance of his day job.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 2

John walks to his accustomed spot, waits for the elevator with the familiar strangers.

Keisha's not among them.

He frowns imperceptibly, kicks the wall.

The elevator arrives. He looks around for Keisha, doesn't see her.

Disheartened, John enters the elevator, and the doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 3

Keisha joins the others, minus John, awaiting the elevator.

When the elevator doors open, she holds them, quickly looks at the building's entrance. She doesn't see John, so reluctantly she gets on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 4

The normal crowd, including Keisha and John, waits for the elevator. Also waiting this morning is a MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR. The elevator arrives, Keisha and John hold the opposing doors, and the Man in the Wheelchair wheels himself in.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Keisha and John stand on either side of the Man in the Wheelchair. They exchange glances--John's furtive, Keisha's straightforward--but neither speaks. Keisha departs at the third floor. John stays on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 5

As Keisha and John wait for the elevator, John finds the courage to talk to her.

JOHN
(very nervous,
awkward)
Do you know what time it is?

Always cool as a cucumber, Keisha points matter-of-factly at the phone he's holding, which clearly displays the time. John, embarrassed by his pathetic attempt to start a conversation, resolves to never try talking to her again.

The elevator's here. They step in.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

No one, including Keisha and John, looks at or speaks to anyone else.

Keisha steps out on the third floor. John continues upward.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - MORNING 6

John walks to his customary spot and waits for the elevator. All the regulars are there except Keisha. He's concerned he missed his chance to talk to her. Frowning, he lightly kicks the wall. The elevator doors open. He scans the lobby for Keisha, but to no avail. Then he joins the others inside. The doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 7

Keisha and several others await the elevator. John's absent. She worries she'll never see him again. As the elevator arrives, she eyes the building's entrance, but no John. Frustrated, she gets on, and the doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 8

Keisha waits with the others for the elevator. John's not there.

The elevator reaches the ground floor, and the doors open.

To the annoyance of those trying to get to work on time, Keisha holds the doors. She spots John entering the building.

He sees she's holding the elevator for him.

With her free hand, she waves and smiles.

He hurries and they join the others inside. The doors close. The elevator starts its ascent.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

John looks nervously at Keisha.

JOHN
(whispering)
Thanks.

Knowing he's very shy and self-conscious, Keisha whispers back.

KEISHA
You're welcome. I'm Keisha.

JOHN
J-J-J-ohn.

Keisha smiles.

KEISHA
(gentle, warm)
J-J-J-ohn?

JOHN
I'm nervous.

KEISHA
Don't be. I won't bite.

She feigns a playful bite in his direction.

Keisha's affectionate lightheartedness help John manage a smile.

They rejoin the silence of their fellow passengers.

The elevator stops at the third floor.

KEISHA
(hinting)
This is my stop.

JOHN
(extremely anxious)
Can I walk you to your office?

Keisha smiles.

KEISHA
Sure.

They exit together.

INT. THIRD-FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Keisha and John walk to the double doors of her day job.

We slowly pull back, beyond earshot, as John nervously takes out his phone.

He asks for her number, which she gives him, then heads back to catch the next elevator.

He glances behind him, sees her watching.

She smiles at him.

He presses the elevator button, beaming brightly.

THE END