

Always Keisha and John (when mentioned together)

STRANGERS

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INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 1

It's the start of a workday. Some OFFICE WORKERS wait for the elevator. Among them are 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 look at Keisha. 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.

Keisha exits at the third floor. She heads to the double doors where she works.

John gets off on the fifth floor, walks toward the entrance of the company he works for.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 2

John walks to his usual spot, waits for the elevator with others.

Keisha .

He frowns imperceptibly, kicks the wall.

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

Disappointed, he enters the elevator, and the doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 3

Keisha joins the other familiar strangers waiting for the elevator.

John's not there.

Keisha's disappointed. When the elevator comes, she quickly looks around, doesn't see him, then reluctantly gets on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 4

Waiting for the elevator are the usual suspects, including Keisha and John. Today a MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR also waits. The elevator arrives, John and Keisha hold opposite sides of the door, 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. John and Keisha exchange glances--John's subtle, Keisha's not so subtle--but neither speaks. Keisha gets off at the third floor. John stays on.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 5

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

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

Cool as a cucumber, Keisha points matter-of-factly at the phone he holds. He looks at the phone, which displays the time. Embarrassed by 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 John and Keisha, looks at or speaks to anyone else.

Keisha gets off on the third floor. John continues upward.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - MORNING 6

John walks to his usual spot to wait for the elevator. Keisha's not among the others also waiting. He worries he'll never see her again. He frowns, lightly kicks the wall. The elevator doors open. He looks around for Keisha, then joins the others inside. The doors close.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - GROUND FLOOR - MORNING 7

Keisha joins the others waiting for the elevator. John's not there. She worries she'll never see him again. As the [elevator] doors open, she quickly looks around, but John's nowhere in sight. 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 among them.

The floor indicator shows the elevator arriving.

When the doors open, she holds them, quickly looks at the building's front doors.

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 join the others inside. The doors close, and the elevator begins its climb.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

A bit winded, John looks anxiously at Keisha.

JOHN

(low)

Thanks.

KEISHA

(matching his low  
volume)

You're welcome. I'm Keisha.

JOHN

J-J-J-ohn.

Keisha smiles warmly.

KEISHA

J-J-J-ohn?

JOHN

(low)

I'm nervous.

KEISHA

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

Keisha's warmth and playfulness helps John 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.

KEISHA  
(coaxing/hinting/suggestive/prompting/  
coaching him)  
This is my stop.

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

KEISHA  
(encouragingly)  
Sure.

They get off together.

INT. THIRD-FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

John and Keisha walk silently.

They stop outside the double doors of the company where she works.

We gradually pull back, beyond earshot, as John 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, smiling.

He smiles, presses the elevator button.

THE END

Doesn't see her

Nowhere in sight

Not there

Absent

Usual crowd

Group of familiar strangers

On their way

Heading

Going

Headed

Walking

In front of

Before

Awaiting

Waiting for

Arrives

Comes

Doors open

Floor indicator