

VOICE

Original Draft
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30/11/2019

FADE IN

ESTABLISHING SHOT

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

We see a bus stop on a quiet road, engulfed in darkness save for a nearby lamppost that sheds light upon the road. A few snowflakes fall gently from the sky.

We see a young man wearing a duffle coat and scarf, PETER, sitting on the bench waiting for a bus to arrive. His face is of subtle melancholy as he waits patiently. In the b.g, a passerby walks along with a small dog on a lease.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - DOG

The little dog suddenly barks as the owner hushes it and they continue on.

CUT TO:

REACTION SHOT - PETER

In response to the dog's barking, a high-pitched sound fills the air. Peter reacts in pain and quickly pulls something out of his right ear.

CLOSE UP - HEARING AID

In Peter's hands, we see a small model of a hearing aid, which explains what caused the feedback sound.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter sighs in frustration as he fiddles with the device and puts it back in his ear and realizes it's not working properly. He rolls his eyes in disbelief and then closes them as he lets out another sigh of exasperation.

A soft clicking and the sound of footsteps slowly grow louder. Peter opens his and turns his head towards the noise.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE SHOT - FEET

We see a pair of brown winter boots stepping cautiously towards us as a long white stick right in front of them sways from side to side. It's a long white cane.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter blinks and moves his head slightly to one angle as he looks on as the sound of footsteps ceases.

PAN SHOT - PETER'S POV

The camera slowly moves upwards from the pair of feet to the head. We see a navy blue winter coat. A white-gloved hand holds the white cane and then we see the face of a young pretty woman with shoulder length blond hair, PENNY.

CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter continues to look at Penny with awe, giving a small smile. He is obviously developing an attraction towards her.

CLOSE UP - PENNY

Penny's head is tilted slightly downwards and then turns towards the camera. We can slightly see that her eyes are ice blue behind milky corneas: she is blind.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter notices Penny's condition and sighs, turning his face to look away. In the b.g, Penny tilts her head slightly in Peter's direction as if responding to his sighing. She thinks nothing of it though and continues waiting.

LONG SHOT - BUS STOP

A pair of headlights comes into view and we see that a bus, half full, has arrived at the stop. The doors slowly open.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PENNY

Penny gets on the bus first, tapping her bus pass as she goes. Peter gets on after her.

ANGLE ON: BUS

The bus's doors close and it drives on up the road out of view.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

TWO SHOT - PETER AND PENNY

Peter and Penny are actually standing opposite each other in the disabled section of the bus. They sway slightly in response to the bus's rapid movements. Penny is holding onto a bar while Peter is holding onto a pulley above him. Peter occasionally looks sideways at Penny. Penny then rummages in her bag, feeling around for something.

EXT. ROAD CORNER - NIGHT

We briefly cut to the bus suddenly turning a sharp corner as it goes through a small roundabout.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BUS - NIGHT

In response to the sudden turn, Penny is thrown forward, almost about to fall. She gasps as she reacts.

Peter notices, then quickly and instinctively grabs Penny and holds her upright before she falls completely on the floor.

TWO SHOT

Peter and Penny stand there on the spot for a brief awkward pause, still swaying slightly due to the bus's motion. Peter suddenly lets go of Penny and backs off a little.

Penny then smiles awkwardly. Peter looks at her.

PETER'S POV

We see Penny's face from Peter's perspective, Penny continues to smile in embarrassment and mouths the words, "Thank you for catching me." Of course, we can't hear her, sharing Peter's lack of hearing.

OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT

Peter does not quite understand what Penny just said. He tries to get a word out but he can't, implying that he is also mute. He then sees Penny react to something.

BUS P.A (speaker)
"Warrington Town Square."

TWO SHOT

Penny responds to the announcement and searches around for the "stop" button. Peter quickly catches and presses one for her. A BELL RING indicates that the bus will be stopping.

CUT TO:

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

The bus comes to a halt right outside another bus stop. The exit doors open up.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PENNY

Penny steps out of the bus and continues to walk along, waving her white cane in front as she goes. Peter in the b.g watches as the doors close and the bus continues on.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter leans against the wall of the bus and lets out a sigh before looking down at his feet. His eyes then shift slightly as he notices something offscreen.

PETER'S POV

From what Peter is seeing, we can now see some kind of card lying on the floor.

LOW ANGLE SHOT

Peter then bends down to pick up the card to have a closer look.

CUT BACK TO:

CLOSE UP - PETER'S POV

We now see that what Peter is holding is Penny's bus pass. Of course, Peter's gloved thumb is obstructing most of Penny's full name and details so we can only see her photograph on the left side of the card.

REACTION SHOT

Peter realises that it was left behind by mistake and panics. The camera quickly pans to a stop button as his hand presses it frantically. Of course, the bus does not stop for a short while.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

The bus gradually slows down as it pulls up next to another stop. Before the doors can fully open, Peter is trying to get off, he finally steps out onto the sidewalk and takes off like a shot back down the road.

EXT. LONG STRETCH OF ROAD - NIGHT

LONG SHOT

We see Peter running back down the bus route towards the previous stop, breathing in the cold air rapidly as he goes.

EXT. PREVIOUS BUS STOP - NIGHT

Peter arrives at the last bus stop. He catches his breath and looks out down the road further but he finds that Penny has gone, looking around in different directions.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PETER

Peter shakes his head and then turns his head to the right. The camera focuses on some lights in the distance, lighting up a small town. Peter then heads toward it.

EXT. CHRISTMAS FETE - NIGHT

In the town, we see that there is a Christmas light show event occurring; there is a huge decorated tree, wooden stalls selling hot food and drinks and some kid are riding a Ferris wheel in the distance.

MEDIUM LONG SHOT - PETER

Coming into the scene, Peter looks around at the festive scenery, looking out for Penny as he goes. He accidentally bumps into a few people walking past as he cannot hear them and is quite distracted by the environment. He continues to look in all directions as he walks through the fete.

Then he spots something.

LONG SHOT - PETER'S POV

We see Penny sitting on a bench nearer a quieter part of the fete; a group of carol singers are not too far away. She just sits there, listening to the beautiful singing.

MEDIUM CLOSE UP - PETER

The camera slowly zooms in as we see Peter let out a sigh of relief as he has found her. As he begins to walk over, he stops realising something. He then pulls out his phone and starts searching on it.

CLOSE UP - PETER'S PHONE

We see Peter tapping away on his phone before the words "Text-To-Speech" pops up.

CUT TO:

TWO SHOT - PETER & PENNY

Peter comes into view and sits down besides Penny. Penny opens her eyelids to reveal her milky eyes and anxiously turns her head in Peter's direction. Peter holds his phone up close to Penny and taps it.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
*'Hello. I'm the guy who caught you
on the bus a few minutes ago. You
dropped your bus pass back there.'*

OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT - PENNY

Penny listens as the voice message finishes playing, reacts to what it means and slowly holds out her hand.

CLOSE UP

Peter's hand comes into view as he slowly and carefully places the bus pass in Penny's outstretched hand. She then closes her hand around the pass and draws it out of view.

OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT - PENNY

Penny places the bus pass in her bag and turns her head back towards Peter before giving a warm thankful smile. As she is about to say something, Peter holds up his phone and plays another message.

REVERSE OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT - PETER

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
*'I'm sorry but I'm afraid I cannot
understand as I am hard of hearing
and I also cannot speak.'*

Peter's expression is of subtle sadness and uncertainty.

OTS SHOT - PENNY

Upon hearing the message, Penny tilts her head up and opens her mouth as in like a "Oh, I see" expression and then lifts her hands up in front of Peter, using British Sign Language as she mouths the words.

PENNY:
(signing)
*Thank you for bringing back my bus
pass.*

REVERSE OTS SHOT - PETER

Peter gives a surprised smile upon seeing Penny signing, visibly impressed. He then taps and holds out his phone to play another message.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
'You're welcome. I didn't know that you could sign very well.'

OTS SHOT - PENNY

Penny smiles again and continues communicating with Peter.

PENNY:
(signing)
I was taught to sign for years since I was born blind.

REVERSE OTS SHOT - PETER

Peter taps another message.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
'That's very impressive.'

OTS SHOT - PENNY

PENNY:
(signing)
Thank you. What is your name?

TWO SHOT - PETER AND PENNY

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
'My name is Peter. What is your name?'

PENNY:
(signing)
My name is Penny.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)

'Penny?'

Penny nods her head in response.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(CONT'D)

'That's a lovely name.'

Penny puts her hand to her chin and brings it forward towards Peter, mouthing the words 'Thank you' before smiling warmly.

OTS SHOT - PETER

Peter thinks for a moment and then taps another message on his phone.

AUTOMATED VOICE:
(phone speaker V.O.)
*'Would you perhaps like to join me
for a hot drink?'*

REVERSE OTS SHOT - PENNY

Penny smiles more at this offering.

PENNY:
(signing)
I would love to.

OTS SHOT - PETER

Peter gives a bigger, happy smile.

LONG SHOT

Both Peter and Penny slowly get up from the bench as CAROL SINGING continues in the background. Peter moves alongside Penny and they gently lock arms before heading off together towards a café in the distance. Penny habitually swings her cane from side to side as they go.

TITLE: *Kindness is a language that the deaf can hear and
the blind can see... - Mark Twain.*

FADE OUT

THE END