

Graduation Day

by

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BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. ANTEROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

A mass of cap and gown students, CHITTER-CHATTER abundant. Forming their own island, LUX (18) balances 4 academic caps on her head while SIGI (18) convinces others to lend more.

The gymnasium doors open. GARBLED MUSIC floats through and students begin to shuffle out.

Lux follows suit and manages to balance the caps to the door. Sigi finds one more and places it on top.

SIGI  
Looks like you're a winner, Lux!

Lux turns and attempts to give an exaggerated double thumbs up but topples the stack. Sigi CACKLES and grabs a cap. Other students scramble to recover theirs.

Lux readjusts her remaining cap.

LUX  
Still counts.

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Stands packed, parents SCREAM the names of their favored graduate - often their own child. Students fill rows of metal chairs. Sigi reads the program upside down.

The head librarian MR. KIBBLER (56) steps onto the stage.

LUX  
\$100 fine my ass it's Mr. Kibbler.

Sigi scoffs.

KIBBLER  
Plagiarism, the library and you. A primer for college -

Lux rolls her eyes and then perks up.

LUX  
Wait. Sigi. Let's pay Kibbles back -- all summer long.

SIGI  
I'm all ears.

MONTAGE

A crazed VALEDICTORIAN fumbles with the microphone.  
Lux whispers to Sigi. They plot an imaginary map on his cap.  
A DISABLED STUDENT rolls across the stage to CHEERING.  
Graduation caps fly through the air.

END MONTAGE

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Families and their graduates stream out a set of doors. Some take pictures and others spend their time hugging. Sigi and Lux speed-walk away, caps in hand.

Lux wears a set of prescription SUNGLASSES.

SIGI  
Cinnamon toast crunch or fruit loops?

LUX  
Toast for the most!

SIGI  
Blackberries or Raspberries?

LUX  
Pbbfftt. Blueberries.

Sigi grins.

SIGI  
2:30 or 2:40?

LUX  
I won't be long.

She winks.

LUX (cont'd)  
We've gotta jet before Kibbles gets back anyway. I don't want summer detention.

Sigi checks his phone for good measure. Lux pulls hers out.

LUX  
Would you kindly?

She hands her phone to him and he stashes it. They stop.

In front of them, a dainty old building filled with even older occupants: the Library.

Lux straightens up and gives it a good once over. Sigi taps his cap against his head in empty thought.

She turns to him and dons her cap. He does likewise.

LUX  
2:25.

He nods. She tips her cap and they walk in.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Desolate. Books fill the walls. Students in distant corners hide behind stacks of material. A single volunteer librarian AMALA (28) holds down the checkout counter. Behind her, a wall filled with rare books and curios.

Sigi and Lux stride in. Lux stops to put her sunglasses inside her gown. Sigi splits and meanders near the entrance.

Lux locks eyes with Amala. Amala, disenchanted, stares back.

Sigi waves, taps his wrist and indicates four minutes.

Lux acknowledges and glides away. Amala resumes her work.

Sigi finds a library catalog computer and clicks through a number of 'suggested' titles.

Lux books it to the bathroom. She pauses outside, takes a deep breath and enters.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Stalls graffiti'd and tile yellowed. Two sinks, one drips and the other out of order. A couple makes out - too occupied to hide their passion.

Lux ignores them and takes a stall.

She tosses her gown onto the stall wall. Mood ruined, the couple leaves.

Lux hops onto the toilet. Her head peeks above the stall and she hides her cap and gown above ceiling tiles.

She plops down and steps out, nude but for her shades.

INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

Sigi searches for books by authors with his name.

2:24. He lolls his head to face the bathroom.

LUX (O.S.)  
YEEEEEE-HAW

Amala whips her head to the noise and steps out from the counter. Sigi smiles and closes the browser.

Lux zig-zags through the stacks, arms flailing - careful not to hit any shelves. Amala catches a glimpse and blushes.

AMALA  
H-hey! W-what are you doing?

Lux stops, bows and bolts. Amala gives chase.

Sigi strides to the counter and hurdles it.

He searches the rare book wall and crouches to grab a ROLLED-UP DOCUMENT noting its heft.

He takes off his cap and peers inside the roll.

EXT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

Kibbler, outside the doors, hears the COMMOTION.

INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

Kibbler slings the doors wide. His mouth drops.

KIBBLER  
What the --

He spots Amala, winded. He twists to see the checkout counter complete with Sigi sliding over it leaving the CAP.

KIBBLER  
SIEGFRIED.

Sigi, horrified, face-plants. He gets up, makes it across the room and trips again.

Kibbler tramps over. He bends, grasps Sigi's ear and lifts.

KIBBLER  
You little shit.

Lux bounds by. Sigi points to the counter. Kibbler glances up but shies away just as fast.

Lux reaches the counter and throws the cap on. She WHOOPS and flies out the exit.

Through incredible pain, Sigi smiles.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

A single light illuminates a table that holds Sigi's cap. Lux, now clothed, lounges in a large upholstered chair.

The door opens. Light floods in silhouetting Sigi. He steps in, closes the door and shuffles over.

LUX  
I'm glad you made it out alive.

Sigi points to his bruised and bulbous ear. She winces.

SIGI  
It was a great show though.

Lux grabs the cap and pulls out the document.

LUX  
I had a great audience.

They unroll it and smooth it out. Lux WHISTLES.

Laid out, a BLUEPRINT -

SIGI  
It's beautiful.

LUX  
Oh the mischief we'll have.

- of the library.

FADE OUT

CREDITS