

DISPARITY

Screenplay by
Bryan H. Bell

Fourth Draft
October 04, 2004
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NOTE: The specific dialog and action in each scene should be improvised by the cast.

FADE IN:

1 INT. THEATER STAGE - NIGHT - FRIDAY

KATE JAYNIS, thirty, stands alone centerstage. A single spotlight shines on her. Kate is wearing black jeans and a black sleeveless top that shows off her sleekly muscled arms. She is reading from a piece of paper.

KATE

[monologue to be written near the end of film's production]

The spotlight on Kate fades, leaving us in black. We HEAR the audience applaud wildly.

FADE IN:

2 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY - SATURDAY

Kate sits in a sunny spot at the counter waiting for her coffee. She is wearing sunglasses and the same clothes as the previous scene. PAUL MENDER enters and waves to Kate, who doesn't see him at first, but then looks up and smiles when he waves a second time. Paul is plain-vanilla forty, slightly overweight. He wears a clean white button-down Oxford shirt and pressed khaki pants. He sits down next to Kate at the counter.

PAUL'S OBJECTIVE: Paul has asked Kate to meet him at the coffee shop so that he can finally admit that he has had a crush on her since they met a month ago.

KATE'S OBJECTIVE: Kate works as a temp at the insurance office where Paul works as a claims adjuster. There have been rumors of layoffs and she is afraid she may lose her job.

BACKSTORY: The previous night, Paul attended the play in which Kate performed. Paul met Kate backstage to congratulate her. He told her he had something important

and private to tell her and suggested they meet for coffee the next day.

BEAT 1: Paul inarticulately gushes about Kate's performance in last night's play.

BEAT 2: Kate asks Paul about the rumors at work. Paul knows nothing.

BEAT 3: Kate asks Paul what he wanted tell her. Paul makes his admission.

BEAT 4: Kate diplomatically explains that she is not attracted to Paul. She thinks he's sweet and doesn't want to hurt him.

BEAT 5: Paul offers Kate a letter sealed in a blue envelope. She refuses the letter.

BEAT 6: Kate says she has an appointment. She gives Paul a hug just before they go their separate ways.

CUT TO:

3 INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY

Paul enters. His wife, ANNE MENDER, jumps up from the sofa and throws her arms around him. Anne is thirty-one and dresses demurely in a forest-green cotton shirt and tan slacks. She wears small wire-frame glasses. Paul extricates himself from Anne's embrace and collapses onto the sofa, face in hands.

PAUL'S OBJECTIVE: Paul wants to be left alone to brood over his meeting with Kate. He does not want Anne to know about it.

ANNE'S OBJECTIVE: Anne wants to hold on to her marriage with Paul.

BACKSTORY: Paul numbly drove home from the coffee shop. Anne spent the morning reading. She also made plans to for a romantic stay at a bed and breakfast inn with her husband. Paul and Anne have been married for three years.

BEAT 1: Anne tells Paul about the bed and breakfast inn. Paul is uninterested.

BEAT 2: Anne asks Paul what's bothering him. He denies that anything is wrong, but she presses him.

BEAT 3: Paul reveals he's got a crush on another woman. He shows Anne the blue envelope he intended to give to Kate.

BEAT 4: Anne reminds Paul that over the past three years he's fallen for several other women.

BEAT 5: Paul admits that he may have never truly loved Anne.

BEAT 6: Paul leaves. Anne picks up the blue envelope, but doesn't open it.

CUT TO:

4 INT. SOFTWARE FIRM OFFICE – DAY – MONDAY

Anne sits at her desk and tries her best to concentrate on her computer display. Her eyes are red. She blows her nose. She picks up the still sealed blue envelope and regards it. COLIN BEGRIDGE enters with a printout. Colin is a twenty-two-year-old intern. He's a tall and muscular guy, with close-cropped hair and a boyish face.

ANNE'S OBJECTIVE: Anne desperately wants to talk to someone about her problems with Paul.

COLIN'S OBJECTIVE: Colin is attracted to Anne and is looking for excuses to spend time with her at work.

BACKSTORY: Over the weekend, Anne tried on several occasions to talk to Paul further, but in each case he made excuses and left. In between, Anne tried unsuccessfully to reach both her mother and her best friend on the phone. Colin is a straight-A computer science major in his last year at college. He is also a drama minor and has directed several college plays. He began the internship a week ago.

NOTE: Anne should not mention Kate by name.

BEAT 1: Colin explains that he found a problem in the software code for Anne's project. Her program was providing data to another program, but the other program wasn't responding with an equal level of data.

BEAT 2: Colin asks Anne about the blue envelope. Anne spills out her problems with Paul to Colin. She asks Colin to keep the envelope to prevent her from reading it.

BEAT 3: Colin attempts to console Anne and ends up kissing her. Anne pushes him away.

BEAT 4: Colin admits he's been attracted to her.

BEAT 5: Anne accuses Colin of being just like Paul. She guesses that Colin is married or has a girlfriend. Colin admits he does have a girlfriend.

BEAT 6: Anne advises him not to do the same thing to his girlfriend that Paul has done to her. Colin leaves.

CUT TO:

5 INT. APARTMENT – NIGHT

Colin enters. He removes his jacket, which has the blue envelope sticking out of one pocket. His girlfriend Kate rushes over to show him an article in the local paper.

COLIN'S OBJECTIVE: Colin wants to end his relationship with Kate.

KATE'S OBJECTIVE: It is very important for Kate to know Colin's opinion of her performance in the play, but he hasn't yet attended. Kate wants Colin to attend this weekend's performance.

BACKSTORY: Colin stopped at a bar after work. He ordered a beer and sat alone, thinking. Over the weekend, Kate appeared in two more performances. Kate and Colin have been dating for a year.

NOTE: Colin should not mention Paul by name.

BEAT 1: Kate tells Colin about a favorable review of her performance in the local paper.

BEAT 2: Kate asks Colin if he'll be able to see her perform this weekend. He makes an excuse.

BEAT 3: Colin tells Kate about Anne and her husband. He tells her he's afraid he's behaving like Anne's husband.

BEAT 4: Colin tells Kate he's attracted to Anne and doesn't want to treat Kate like Anne's husband treats her, so he wants to break things off with Kate.

BEAT 5: Colin leaves, forgetting his jacket. Kate finds the blue envelope sticking out of a pocket.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

6 INT. THEATER STAGE - NIGHT - FRIDAY

As before, Kate stands alone centerstage with a single spotlight shining on her. She is holding a blue envelope. She opens it and begins to read the letter inside.

KATE

[monologue to be written near the end of film's production - this monologue ends with the same text Kate read in the first scene]

The spotlight on Kate fades, leaving us in black.

THE END