

EXTRACT

torn

a play

by

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Cast

SUSAN

GERRY

CADE

AYESHAH

Setting

A city.

Time

Now.

SCENE ONE

Recording Studio. Night.

GERRY is alone. He speaks into a microphone.

GERRY

Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of -

We hear a VOICE over a loudspeaker.

VOICE

No.

BEAT.

GERRY

Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of -

VOICE

No.

BEAT.

GERRY

Crispier, crunchier, creamier -

VOICE

No.

GERRY
(LOOKING UP)

Is it possible to get a little more than 'no'?

VOICE

It's in the brief.

Gerry holds up a couple of sheets of paper.

GERRY

Okay, so can you tell me exactly what I'm missing - (READS) "the raw enthusiasm" or "the hint of delicious abandon."

BEAT.

VOICE

I'm coming down.

PAUSE. GERRY alone. CADE, the owner of the voice, enters.

How you doing? CADE

Good thanks. And you? GERRY

Okay. So what's up? CADE

Just trying to get this down. GERRY

And ? CADE

And ... GERRY

GERRY gestures vaguely. BEAT.

What's the problem? CADE

You don't seem to like what I'm doing. GERRY

Clearly neither do you. CADE

Really? GERRY

You're missing you're usual *pop*. You sound ... CADE

What? GERRY

I don't know. CADE

Say it. GERRY

BEAT.

CADE

Sad. (BEAT) You sound sad. Hard to make that crunch tastic *crunch tastic* when you're ...

BEAT.

GERRY

I'm not sad.

CADE

You don't sound happy.

GERRY

I'm not sad.

CADE

Something's going on. You miss out on a part?

GERRY

I don't really do anything these days where I'm required to be seen on camera.

CADE

You okay with that?

GERRY

Sure.

BEAT. CADE looks at GERRY.

GERRY (CONT'D)

Not really. But that's the way it panned out.

CADE

Kids?

GERRY

Are you asking ...

CADE

Do you have any?

GERRY

No.

CADE

I always thought you -

GERRY

No.

Wife? CADE

I'm not married. GERRY

Strange. You always struck me as a ... CADE

What? GERRY

Family type of guy. CADE

BEAT. GERRY half smiles.

One day. GERRY

But? CADE

BEAT. GERRY is silent.

And I think we found the sad. CADE (CONT'D)

I'm not sad. (BEAT) She's restless. GERRY

Bored? CADE

Restless. GERRY

You think so? CADE

She wants more. GERRY

You can give her more. CADE

Not that kind of more. GERRY

CADE
She's said something?

GERRY
No. But I can ...

CADE
Sure you're not imagining it?

GERRY
No.

CADE
And you're scared you can't deliver.

GERRY
I know I can't deliver.

BEAT.

CADE
Maybe you're underestimating yourself.

GERRY
I'm a voice over artist. I do shitty ads for Coco Rocks.

CADE
Coco *Chox*. And it's not shitty. I wrote it. Well I didn't write it. Someone in Creative did. But they spent a lot of time over it.

GERRY
You know what I mean.

CADE
The *Chox* is kind of important.

GERRY
Not from where I'm sitting right at the moment.

BEAT.

CADE
Look ...

GERRY
Gerry.

CADE
Sorry. I should've remembered that.

GERRY

It's okay. I've forgotten your name too. (He hasn't.)

CADE

Anyway, I hate to break up the male-bonding session and I don't want to sound unfeeling but I kind of need you to get this right. We've only got the studio for another half an hour, so I need you to shelve the *sad* and give me the *pop*. Otherwise we have to find someone else and you don't get paid. (BEAT) You good with that?

BEAT. GERRY nods. CADE starts to exit.

GERRY

What would you do?

CADE

I don't know her.

GERRY

You know women like her.

BEAT.

CADE

Plenty more fish in the sea.

GERRY

Not like this one.

BEAT.

CADE

There must have been something. At the start, something that drew her to you.

GERRY

I hounded her till she relented.

CADE

But there was something that made her say yes. Remember that. Use it.

GERRY

I don't think I've got 'it' anymore.

CADE

You'll figure it out. Now, clock's ticking. We gonna "*pop*"?

GERRY

Crunchtastic.

BEAT. CADE exits. GERRY tries to psyche himself up.

GERRY (CONT'D)

Crunch tastic ... crunch tastic ... crunch tastic! Coco Chox are Crunch tastic ...

CADE
(VOICE OVER)

Ready?

GERRY

Ready.

CADE

Recording. And three two one.

GERRY
(BEAT)

Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of Coco Chox!

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWO

Bar. Later.

CADE and SUSAN sit at a table.

SUSAN

Canada.

CADE

Canada? Okay. Why?

SUSAN

You didn't say I had to give a reason.

CADE

Sure you do. A nation's pride is at stake.

SUSAN

You didn't say-

CADE

Well I am now.

SUSAN
(BEAT)

I don't know.

CADE

Yes you do. / do.

SUSAN

You do it then?

CADE

It's your country.

SUSAN

They're so ... I can't.

CADE

Sure you can. They're so ...

BEAT.

SUSAN

I can't.

CADE

Boring.

SUSAN

What?

CADE

Boring.

SUSAN

Did you just call me -

CADE

You're *being* boring. It's a game. Play the game.

SUSAN

It's a very nasty game.

CADE

Nasty?

SUSAN

Yes. Nasty.

CADE

And we love a bit of *nasty*. (BEAT) Come on. You'll like it. Try.

BEAT.

SUSAN

They're so ... serious.

CADE

Now she's getting it.

SUSAN

So earnest.

CADE

That's the one.

SUSAN

Everything is so *important*.

CADE

So important.

SUSAN

And said in these very *important* voices.

CADE

Hate it.

SUSAN

Hate it.

CADE

So much. (BEAT. SUDDENLY SERIOUS) My uncle is from Canada.

SUSAN

You never told me that.

CADE

Saskatchewan.

SUSAN

Is that a real place? I thought that was -

CADE

Yes it's a real place. It's a real province. A prairie province. And my Uncle comes from there.

It's your game. SUSAN

You were playing it. CADE

Only cause you made me. SUSAN

You insulted my Uncle. My own flesh and blood. He'll roll in his grave. CADE

He's dead? SUSAN

No. But when he hears what you said about him he will be. (BEAT, SUDDENLY) Got you. CADE

No you didn't. SUSAN

Yes I did. "*It's your game.*" Got you, completely. CADE

You don't have an Uncle? SUSAN

I did, but he's dead. At least he would be. If I had one. And he lived in Canada, which he'd hate. Hate so much that he'd die, of boredom. But he didn't. Because I don't have one. And even if I did have one he wouldn't live, in Canada. CADE

BEAT.

So much. SUSAN

So much. CADE

BEAT.

I don't like this game. SUSAN

Yes you do. CADE