

FINDING KAYLA

Written by

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INT. WATSON HALL - DAY

PENELOPE, 18, sits at the front desk wearing a skirt and a sweater. She switches off between staring at her computer and her WATCH. The gum in her mouth may be the only thing that entertains her.

PATRICK, 19, in a button-down shirt and khakis, walks up the steps to the residence hall, Watson Hall.

Patrick holds an IDENTIFICATION CARD (ID) in his hand.

Penelope sees Patrick through the window and lights up. She fixes her hair and tidies her desk space.

Patrick walks through the front door and makes eye contact with Penelope. She smiles and his face reddens. Patrick turns to leave.

PENELOPE  
(yells after Patrick)  
Patrick, hi!

PATRICK  
Oh! Hi Penelope. Didn't see ya there.

PENELOPE  
Did you need help with something?

PATRICK  
Actually, I think I'm good. I was just going to head out.

PENELOPE  
But you just walked in...

PATRICK  
Yeah, I remembered that I forgot something though. See ya.

PENELOPE  
Wait, what's that in your hand?

PATRICK  
(flashes the ID at Penelope)  
This? An ID.

PENELOPE  
Ours are blue though. Why is it green? Here, I can take it if it needs to be returned to someone. That's no problem at all.

PATRICK  
Um, I can return it to her. Thanks  
though.

PENELOPE  
Her?

PATRICK  
(under his breath)  
Shit.  
(To Penelope)  
Yeah. Just a friend of mine.

PENELOPE  
Maybe I know her. Here, let me see.

PATRICK  
It's really okay.

PENELOPE  
Patrick. Come on.

Patrick hesitates, then hands the ID to Penelope.

PENELOPE  
Kayla McKenny? Why - why do you  
need to find her? And why do you  
have her ID in the first place?

PATRICK  
And this is exactly why I didn't  
want to show it to you. It's  
nothing to worry about, okay?

Penelope holds on to the ID and just stares at Patrick.

PENELOPE  
It's funny. So many guys are always  
looking for her. It never works out  
with any of them though. Anyhow, I  
know she's seeing someone right  
now. It's pretty serious too. I  
can't seem to get her to -

PATRICK  
(cuts her off)  
Give it back Penelope.

PENELOPE  
As I was saying, I can't get her to  
tell me who it is! That girl always  
has to have secrets.

PATRICK

I actually have somewhere I need be right now. Can I please have the ID back?

PENELOPE

This is my job though. Let me help you find her.

PATRICK

No.

PENELOPE

No ID then. I guess I'll just have to give it back to her myself.

Patrick stands there and stares.

PATRICK

Fine. Fine. Let's go.

Penelope perks up.

PENELOPE

Okay! Let me just wrap up here first!

PATRICK

You perked up real fast.

EXT. UNIVERSITY PLACE AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - DAY

It's a cloudy fall day walking down University Place towards the shops and restaurants that line Marshall Street.

PENELOPE

Do you mind if we stop at Starbucks? I need a little energy boost before we get on with our adventure.

PATRICK

Really? I think we should just go find Kayla.

PENELOPE

It will only take a second, I promise!

PATRICK

Okay, make it fast. I don't have all day.

PENELOPE

Don't worry. Anyway, what have you been up to lately? I haven't heard from you in weeks.

PATRICK

Sorry, things have been really busy.

PENELOPE

You couldn't just text me back maybe?

PATRICK

I forgot.

PENELOPE

You just didn't want to.

Patrick looks away.

PATRICK

I'm sorry.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Patrick sits at a table and Penelope picks up the drinks. She carries two in her hand. Penelope puts one in front of Patrick.

PATRICK

I told you I didn't want anything.

PENELOPE

I don't even get a thank you?

PATRICK

What is it?

PENELOPE

Tall iced coffee, little ice, no cream, 3 packets of sugar.

PATRICK

Wow.

PENELOPE

So drink it.

PATRICK

I think we should go.

PENELOPE

We haven't even had our coffees yet.

PATRICK

Penelope.

PENELOPE

You know I can't walk and drink coffee at the same time.

PATRICK

You have a lid.

Penelope takes the lid off and drops it on the ground.

PENELOPE

Oopsies! Silly me! Now I don't.

PATRICK

I'll get you another one then.

PENELOPE

I don't want another one. I'm sure they ran out of lids by now. Just sit. Please. So what's been going on in your life? How's your mom holding up?

Patrick stares at Penelope in shock.

PATRICK

You remember?

PENELOPE

You can't really forget something like that.

PATRICK

She's doing a lot better actually. Thank you.

PENELOPE

Good to hear. And -

(beat)

And you've talked to Kayla I assume? I haven't seen her in like a week. How is she?

Patrick looks down at his coffee.

PATRICK

We should go.

PENELOPE  
 Is Kayla's name poison to you now?  
 You keep getting that weird look on  
 your face whenever I mention her.

Patrick gets up from his chair and walks to the door.

PENELOPE  
 WAIT! Come back! I didn't mean it  
 like that.

Patrick turns around to face Penelope, but talks from where  
 he stands.

PATRICK  
 Are you going to leave with me this  
 time?

PENELOPE  
 Fine. Would that make you happy?

PATRICK  
 Very.

Penelope stands as Patrick walks out the door of Starbucks.  
 Penelope grabs a new lid to her coffee and follows.

EXT. PATH BETWEEN SCHINE STUDENT CENTER AND THE NEWHOUSE  
 SCHOOL AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - DAY

PATRICK  
 I see you found a lid.

PENELOPE  
 They just got in a new shipment.

PATRICK  
 How convenient. Where to? You know  
 her schedule, right?

PENELOPE  
 Unfortunately.

PATRICK  
 So where to?

PENELOPE  
 Hall of Languages.

PATRICK  
 Great! She gets out at 5:15 right?

PENELOPE  
How do you know that?

PATRICK  
Lucky guess.

Patrick's eyes go down from Penelope's face to her shirt. He laughs.

PENELOPE  
What's so funny?

PATRICK  
You've got a little stain on your shirt.

PENELOPE  
Gosh darnit! I told you I'd spill on myself!  
(checks watch)  
We have a little time. Can you come with me to go change?

PATRICK  
We don't have time for that. You look fine.

PENELOPE  
(smirks)  
You think I look fine? As in smokin' fine?

Patrick rolls his eyes and ignores Penelope's comment.

PATRICK  
Maybe we should sit down somewhere close to where she gets out of class. Let you finish your coffee so you don't make any more of a mess.

PENELOPE  
I have the perfect spot!

PATRICK  
And where's that?

PENELOPE  
Right here!

Penelope makes the Vanna White pose from Wheel of Fortune in front of the KISSING BENCH - a stone bench that looks to be out of the 1800's and is large enough to fit two people.



PATRICK

Penelope.

PENELOPE

(patting the bench next to  
her)

Come on, sit down.

PATRICK

No.

PENELOPE

It's really comfy.

Penelope makes herself look comfortable. She scoots around, puts her feet up and her hands behind her head and acts relaxed.

PENELOPE

Especially if you're sitting next  
to me.

PATRICK

That's not just a bench. You know  
that's the kissing bench. For  
couples. Once you sit down together  
you're bound to be together.

Penelope perks up to a sitting position.

PENELOPE

First off, so not true. Second, I'm  
not proposing marriage to you or  
anything. It's just a bench for  
goodness sake.

PATRICK

I'll do just fine from over here.  
My legs need a little stretch  
anyway. We sat at Starbucks a lot  
longer than I intended.

PENELOPE

You can't do anything for me, can  
you?

PATRICK

I just can't sit on that bench with  
you!

PENELOPE

What happened to you? I used to know this amazing guy named Patrick but I can't seem to find him anywhere. Do you know where he may be?

Patrick sticks his hands in his pockets and looks down at his shoes.

PENELOPE

Great. Now you can't even look at me. Why am I even helping you?

PATRICK

Because you're you.

PENELOPE

What's that supposed to mean?

PATRICK

Let's just go.

PENELOPE

Perfect. That seems to be your excuse for everything.

Penelope checks her watch.

PENELOPE

It's 5:20. I don't think she's coming. Want to go to Marshall? Grab a bite at Calio's?

PATRICK

Don't do that to me. You know how much I love that place.

PENELOPE

That's why I asked!

PATRICK

Let's just go down to Marshall and window shop. Maybe we missed her or something.

PENELOPE

Her. Right. Kayla. What you're doing is stupid, I hope you know that.

PATRICK

You can go if you want. You volunteered to come with me, remember?

PENELOPE

You came into Watson looking for help! Anyway, it's fine. You may need a shoulder to cry on once you see her with this other guy.

EXT. CHIPOTLE - DUSK

Penelope and Patrick stroll down Marshall Street side by side.

KAYLA, 18 is sitting at a table in jeans and sweater with -  
A GUY, 21, eating Chipotle and laughing.

Patrick and Penelope spot them while walking down Marshall Street. Patrick and Penelope stare into Chipotle through the glass storefront.

PATRICK

So there she is.

PENELOPE

I told you she had a boy.

Patrick continues to stare into the window. Penelope, flustered, reaches for his hand.

PATRICK

(pulls back his hand)  
What are you doing?

PENELOPE

Sorry. I just don't think we should stand here.

PATRICK

I'm going in.

PENELOPE

No you're not.

PATRICK

Don't tell me what to do.

PENELOPE

Patrick. Please. C'mon. What if it is her boyfriend?

PATRICK  
I can't do this with you.

PENELOPE  
Do what?

PATRICK  
This argument! It's none of your  
business anymore.

PENELOPE  
Yes it is! I can't see you get  
hurt!  
(beat)  
I care about you. A lot.

PATRICK  
I have to go.

PENELOPE  
That's all you're going to say?

PATRICK  
Let's be friends.

Patrick turns his back to Penelope and walks to the door of  
Chipotle.

PENELOPE  
You're a fucking asshole, you know  
that? You can't be nice to me for  
one second, can you? We had  
something really good going too and  
you decide to throw it all away!

Patrick opens the door to Chipotle.

PENELOPE  
(choked up)  
One day you're going to look back  
on this and regret it.

Patrick walks into Chipotle leaving Penelope standing outside  
crying.

Penelope watches Kayla flash Patrick a huge smile.

The boy sitting at the table with Kayla gets up, says goodbye  
to Kayla, shakes Patrick's hand, and exits Chipotle.

Patrick sits down. Kayla looks quizzically at Patrick.

Kayla looks out the window at Penelope with the same  
quizzical face that she just gave to Patrick.

Patrick shrugs.

Kayla's face reddens in madness. She gets up from her chair and runs out the door of Chipotle to the still crying Penelope and hugs her instantly.

After a couple of seconds Kayla lets go.

KAYLA

I'm so so sorry.

Penelope cries harder. Kayla hugs her again, squeezing her tighter this time, a just right tight.

KAYLA

(repeating in Penelope's  
ear during the hug)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,  
I'm sorry.

FADE TO BLACK