

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Sex Change

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FADE IN:

1 MONTAGE - VARIOUS, AROUND BRUNSWICK - DAY

1

A) EXT. MAINE STREET BRUNSWICK, Cars putter about and people walk from shop to shop.

B) EXT. OUTSIDE BOWDOIN COLLEGE, The statue of Joshua Chamberlain stands higher up on Maine Street. It guards the entrance to Bowdoin college.

C) EXT. BOWDOIN COLLEGE QUAD, We see another war memorial, this one dedicated to the "Son's of Bowdoin college."

D) EXT. CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, The building has a pair of beautiful old wooden doors and the words "Curtis Memorial Library" etched in the stone above.

E) INT. CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, A metal bust of Mr. Curtis sits at the top of the main staircase in the library. A female figure prances up the stairs in front of it.

That same figure hurries back down the stairs carrying a yellow book.

END MONTAGE

2 INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - DAY

2

Melissa, a 17 year-old high school senior, is bent over her desk, her nose burried in a book. She wears glasses and her neck is crooked from being bent over her desk so often.

Also on her desk are her laptop, open to an entirely over-booked Google Calendar, an open can of Redbull, some textbooks, and a calculator. From the calendar, we see it's Saturday.

She turns a page.

On a shelf behind her we see a K'Nex roller coaster with a poster of Space Mountain at Disney World on the wall behind it. The toy motor HUMS and the car ZIPS around on the track every 30 seconds or so.

On her bed sit some dirty clothes including an MIT sweater.

She turns another page.

Also on the shelf behind her sit a plethora of science toys: hand boilers, a Newton's cradle, an infinite spinning top, and a few 3D puzzles.

The toy roller coaster car gets stuck on the track. The motor starts making pained CLICKING noises.

Melissa looks up and turns to the toy.

She closes her book, which we see is "Job Interviews for Dummies."

She walks to the roller coaster and sets the car right. She gives it a tap and it scuttles off down the track.

She looks at the car as it rolls to a stop at the chain that will take it to the top of the coaster yet again.

She goes back to her desk chair and plops down. She looks at her calendar. On Friday, there is only one event: **Imagineer Internship Interview 3:00.**

She takes a deep breath, then gets back to work.

3 INT. JACK'S ROOM - NIGHT

3

Inside, Jack, a 17 year-old high school senior and obviously a singer, is standing in front of a full-length mirror belting out a rendition of "Bring Him Home" from Les Miserables.

All around him are pieces of show memorabilia on the walls: some playbills, a poster from Wicked and one from Hamilton, plus some posters that are clearly from local and school productions.

Jack is wearing khakis, a collared shirt, and a sweater. Very preppy.

He has a decent voice, but as he gets to the climax of the song, we hear his voice start to break.

When he goes for the big high note, his voice cracks.

JACK  
God dammit!

He whips out his phone and hits the pause button. The music dies.

Jack flops down on his bed, face up.

On the wall beside him is a calendar. On it, circled in lots of red ink, is Friday, 6 days away, and the word **Auditions**.

Still holding his phone, Jack opens his messages app. He clicks on "Melissa <3."

A chyron appears at the bottom of the screen: ellipses showing Jack typing, then a message:

JACK (TEXT)  
*Wanna go for a drive?*

The screen splits: on the left is Jack lying in bed, and on the right is Melissa at her desk.

RIGHT The notification DINGS on Melissa's open laptop. She looks at it and sighs.

She types:

MELISSA (TEXT)  
*Can't. Working.*

LEFT Jack looks at his phone and rolls his eyes. He types.

JACK (TEXT)  
*For me? (w/ pleading face emoji)*

RIGHT Melissa smiles and shakes her head slightly.

MELISSA (TEXT)  
*Fine. You're too cute for your own good.*

LEFT Jack grins broadly.

JACK (TEXT)  
*I know ;) See u soon.*

4 EXT. SIMPSON'S POINT - DAY

4

Melissa's car is parked at the top of the hill that slopes down to Simpson's Point, a little piece of land that juts out into the beautiful blue Casco Bay.

Melissa and Jack walk down that same hill.

They walk around on the rocky beach, holding hands when they aren't using them to keep their balance.

They reach a big rock. Good for sitting.

JACK  
Sit with me?

He gestures toward the rock and Melissa nods. They sit and look out over the bay.

Jack takes a deep breath.

JACK (cont'd)  
I'm a talentless hack and I'm going nowhere in life.

Melissa scoffs.

MELISSA  
You're such a theater boy.

JACK  
(Mock-affronted)  
Hey!...yeah.

Melissa looks up at him with kind eyes.

MELISSA  
What's wrong?

JACK  
I can't sing the part I want.

MELISSA  
Why?

JACK  
It's too high and I can't hit the notes.

MELISSA  
Audition for another part.

JACK  
Melissa I would kill a man for this part.

MELISSA  
You're so dramatic.

JACK  
It matters! Auditions start next month and it would be really nice to have a role like Jean Valjean on my resume.

She looks at him sympathetically, but offers no solution.

JACK (cont'd)

(Moping)

It used to be so easy. Now there's competition, and I can't dance for shit, and, well, I'm worried about college.

MELISSA

Yeah well at least you have some time before applications. I already applied one place.

JACK

(Puzzled)

Really? I thought-

MELISSA

Yeah it was spur of the moment. Early admission at UC Berkeley. I figured if I had any chance it all it would be early admit.

Now it's Jack's turn to scoff.

JACK

Oh c'mon you're the smartest kid in the grade you'll be fine-

MELISSA

(Glowering)

Yeah I'd be more fine if Mr. Wheezenbaum gave fair grades.

JACK

Wheezey's an old fart, fuck that guy.

MELISSA

An old fart who's gonna keep me out of college! He always gives me worse grades than the boys for the same work. It's bullshit.

JACK

Well what about that interview you have Friday? That's exciting.

MELISSA

I don't know. The application says they need a confident decision maker. Am I confident? I can be confident. Do you think I'm confident? I've never been confident.

JACK

This internship was made for you! How long have you wanted to be an Imagineer?

MELISSA

Ever since I rode Space Mountain.

JACK

You'll do great.

MELISSA

You'd do great. You'd have him wrapped around your finger in a minute. I wish I could stir up a crowd like you.

JACK

I wish I had your flighty little voice. I'd do so much better in theater.

MELISSA

Well, if you need some magic go to the Doc.

JACK

I'm sorry what?

MELISSA

Oh, you know my cousin who sells weed to high-schoolers?

Jack frowns, but looks intrigued.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Anyway, he calls himself Doctor G. and he says he sells magic.

JACK

Oh my god that's your cousin! I heard that he sold Thomas Marshall shrooms that turned him ten years older for a day!

MELISSA

(Suddenly serious)

Jack you know that's ridiculous, a drug can't--

JACK

But what if--

MELISSA  
Jack it's--

JACK  
You need it too!

MELISSA  
Jack--

JACK  
Pleeeeeeease

Melissa glares at him. Then, jabs a finger in his face.

MELISSA  
You are too cute for your own good.

5 EXT. DOCS' TRUCK - DAY

5

Doc does business from the back of a truck parked in the middle of a field with a multicolored bonfire crackling on the ground.

Doc himself sits crosslegged in the trunk. He's either 20 or 60 with a thick mop of wavy orange hair. He's wearing aviators and hippie clothes.

Before him stand Jack and Melissa. Jack is curious and almost reverent. Melissa stands with her arms crossed glaring from Jack to Doc and back.

JACK  
Hello...

Jack isn't quite sure what to call him, then he sees a sign over the door "Doctor G. MD"

JACK (cont'd)  
...Doctor G....sir.

DOC  
Call me Doc. I always do business on a first name basis.

MELISSA  
Oh get real, Gerald.

Doc points at his bogus degree.

DOC  
Hey little cuz, respect the degree.



MELISSA

You found that at a garage sale.

DOC

It's an expression of my expertise.

JACK

So Doc, I heard that you can do a little bit of magic...

DOC

You heard right my friend. And who might you be?

JACK

I'm Melissa's boyfriend.

MELISSA

My bonehead boyfriend who believes in magic.

DOC

I see. Mr. Bonehead, what ails you?

JACK

Well Doc, we don't want anything too crazy, see, I need something to make my voice higher and she needs--

MELISSA

I've got this interview Friday. I have to ace it.

DOC

Say no more, say no more.

Judge has been holding his hands clasped with forefingers pressed to his lips. He drops them and points at Jack.

DOC (cont'd)

Yes, yes, yes.

Jack turns to Melissa who still looks wary of the whole affair. He grins and shrugs.

Judge rummages through a box full of vials of unknown substances and grabs two dusty little bottles.

He hands them to Jack and Melissa.

DOC (cont'd)  
Don't mix those up. That should do.  
Take them tonight to allow enough  
time for the effects to kick in.

Melissa looks at her bottle.

MELISSA  
This is ridiculous. I bet it's  
colored vodka or something.

DOC  
Hey. I would never violate my  
hippopotamus oath.

MELISSA  
Hippocratic oath, Gerald.

Jack bats her thigh and shushes her.

JACK  
Doc, you're a lifesaver.

6 INT. MELISSA'S CAR - LATER

6

Melissa sits in the driver's seat and Jack in the  
passenger's. They each hold their bottles.

JACK  
This is great!

MELISSA  
This is crazy.

JACK  
Yeah...but what if it works?

MELISSA  
But what if it's poison?

JACK  
He wouldn't do that.

Jack sniffs the contents of the bottle.

JACK (cont'd)  
I mean, it's like you said, it's  
probably a bit of vodka and food  
coloring...but that won't hurt us.

MELISSA  
Please don't drink that.

JACK  
Look I'll try it first and if it  
doesn't kill me then you try it, ok?

Melissa can't believe what she's hearing.

MELISSA  
(Defeated)  
Ok.

Jack sniffs one more time. Judging it safe, he tosses it  
back and swallows.

MELISSA (cont'd)  
Well?

JACK  
(Shrugs)  
Kinda tasted like candy.

MELISSA  
Ugh fine.

Melissa drinks hers too.

They look at each other, expecting something to happen.

Nothing happens.

Then, Jack breathes in sharply, and burps.

MELISSA (cont'd)  
You're disgusting.

JACK  
Yeah that was nothing. Let's go home.

7 INT. MELISSA'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

7

Melissa's bedroom looks just like it did last night, except  
the sun is shining outside.

Melissa is passed out on her desk, the Redbull and textbook  
still open on either side of her. Her computer is open and  
dark.

Suddenly, her alarm goes off. It's the Big Bang Theory theme  
song.

Melissa wakes up, her hair in tangles.

Her vision is blurry. She can't see anything. She turns her head to one side and catches sight of her glasses on the bedside table.

She grabs them and puts them on, and suddenly everything comes into focus.

She looks down at her body. She stifles a scream.

Startled, she jumps out of her chair, runs out the door, and takes a right down the hallway.

She runs back past the door in the other direction.

MELISSA  
Where's the bathroom where's the  
bathroom.

8 INT. THE BATHROOM

8

Melissa looks at herself in the mirror. She touches her hair.

She touches her face.

She looks down her shirt.

She looks at herself in the mirror, realizing that she, who was once Jack, is now in Melissa's body.

MELISSA  
(Screaming)  
AHHHHHHH!

She puts her hand over her mouth, blocking the scream. Then, grins to herself in the mirror.

9 INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR OF MELISSA'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

9

Jack KNOCKS hard on the front door of Melissa's house.

No one answers.

He KNOCKS again, harder.

JACK  
C'mon, c'mon.

Still no one answers.

He checks the doorknob. It turns.

He slowly pushes the door open. As soon as he does, he hears someone singing in the distance. He bolts into the house.

10 INT. OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM DOOR - DAY 10

Outside the bathroom door, the singing has become louder. A young female voice is singing Defying Gravity from Wicked in the shower.

Jack bursts into the steamy room.

11 INT. THE BATHROOM 11

MELISSA

(Singing)

SO IF YOU CARE TO FIND ME, LOOK TO  
THE WESTERN SKY! AS SOMEONE TOLD ME  
LATELY, EVERYONE DESERVES THE CHANCE  
TO FLY!

JACK

JACK!

MELISSA

(Screams)

Ah!

She peaks out from behind the shower curtain, holding it to conceal her parts.

MELISSA (cont'd)

What are you doing in here??

JACK

Oh get real it's my body I've seen it  
before.

MELISSA

Oh right.

She turns off the shower and emerges wrapped in a towel.

MELISSA (cont'd)

Jack this is great! I've never been  
able to hit those notes!

JACK

(Stunned)

Great? No! We have to get back to  
normal!

Melissa (Jack) pouts.

JACK (cont'd)  
Oh I'm sorry did you want to take all  
of my classes for me? Tomorrow we  
have a test on differentiation by  
parts, I'm sure you'll do great.

MELISSA  
Fine! And how exactly do you intend  
to fix this?

12 EXT. DOCS' TRUCK - DAY

12

Melissa's car SCREECHES to a halt next to docs' field.

Jack jumps out of the driver's seat and charges toward the truck.

A wisp of smoke rises from the recently burnt out fire, and even though all of his stuff is still there, docs is gone.

JACK  
(Yelling from a  
distance)  
TURN US BACK!

There is no sound but the crunch of Melissa's footsteps as she runs to catch up with Jack.

JACK (cont'd)  
Turn us back, Gerald!

She has reached the truck and goes straight for the driver's side door.

JACK (cont'd)  
Open up!

She frantically tugs on the handle and bangs on the glass.

JACK (cont'd)  
Where are you?!

MELISSA  
Melissa?

Melissa gently intones, standing at the back of the truck. She points to something on the tailgate.

JACK  
(Snappy)  
What?!

MELISSA  
Look.

Jack storms to the back of the truck and fixes his gaze where Melissa was pointing.

We see a sign, hastily drawn: *Gone fishin' Back Tuesday.*

JACK  
I'm gonna kill him.

MELISSA  
It's ok, he'll be back soon and he'll change us back, ok?

JACK  
I'm gonna kill him--

MELISSA  
No no no, think like Melissa now, ok? Rational. We only need to do this for a few days. Calm down.

Jack wheels on her.

JACK  
CALM DOWN?! NEVER tell your girlfriend to calm down! I have a test tomorrow, a quiz Tuesday, an exam Thursday, and a meeting with a Disney Imagineer Friday! And no matter how hard I try, Mr. Wheezenbaum won't give me an A! And now this! Nothing ever goes right for me!

MELISSA  
I know--

JACK  
You?! You're loving this! Everything comes easy to you. You're never stressed, Jack, no, but I am! So shut up, and let me scream about how I am going to kill Gerald the next time I get my hands on his hippie, voodoo, witch-doctor neck!

Jack seethes. His shoulders rise and fall violently with puffs of angry air.

Melissa looks at him frightened, her eyes wide.

MELISSA  
I've never seen you like that.

Jack slows his breathing, trying to exit beast-mode.

JACK  
Sorry.

MELISSA  
No, no. That was some weird dom energy but I'm here for it.

She approaches Jack.

MELISSA (cont'd)  
Mel, I get stressed too.

JACK  
(Now pained)  
You're always smiling--

MELISSA  
Being carefree is an act. Everyone is acting all the time. We just have to act like each other for a few days, then it'll all be back to our normal roles.

She hugs him, going for the tall person, and ending up in a very strange hug. Jack is almost bent at a 90 degree angle.

JACK  
How are you not more worried?

MELISSA  
Oh I'm terrified, and I'm sorry in advance for failing your tests.

She holds him at arms' length.

MELISSA (cont'd)  
But I'm also kind of excited. I've always wondered what the inside of a girl's bathroom looks like.

JACK  
It's the same.



MELISSA

(Disappointed)

Oh...hey by the way do you want me to just not look down when I change and stuff?

JACK

You've already seen it, it's fine.

Melissa turns them, and they start back to the car.

JACK (cont'd)

Hey can I helicopter dick? I've always wondered--

MELISSA

(Laughs)

Haha, yes you can. Gotta tell you though, it's not that interesting.

JACK

Ok. Can I please teach you calculus tonight, I really don't wanna fail--

MELISSA

No you cannot. We're gonna have some fun tonight. There are some songs I've gotta sing before I lose these cords.

She strokes her neck and looks up at Jack. He looks back at her, smiling.