

MISSION 8

Written by

Richard Tur

Draft Date: 2013.06.12

Copyright © 2013  
Richard Tur  
All rights reserved.

<http://www.cinefina.com>

FADE IN:

1 EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - NIGHT 1

RIDLEY, 30s, average, neatly dressed, is waiting at a street corner. A few moments pass. In haste, he uses his MOBILE PHONE. KATHERINE, 20s, beautiful, trendy, is walking toward him. She waves and catches his attention.

KATHERINE

Ridley!

They meet and awkwardly embrace each other.

RIDLEY

Hello, Katherine.

Ridley gazes at Katherine, she demurely looks away.

KATHERINE

I know you already made plans for us tonight but maybe we could go to a dinner party that my friend is hosting.

RIDLEY

(smiles)

OK.

The sights and sounds of Hollywood. They walk together heading to their destination.

2 EXT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - COURTYARD - NIGHT 2

Katherine leads Ridley to the apartment. LISETTE, 30s, attractive, well-dressed and put together, answers.

KATHERINE

Hi, Lisette!

They kiss and embrace each other warmly. They hold each other as they speak.

LISETTE

Katherine, you are so special and unique to this world!

Katherine is touched by her compliment.

KATHERINE

This is my friend Ridley.

RIDLEY  
Hello, Lisette.

Lisette reaches her hand out to Ridley. He gently shakes her hand as they enter.

LISETTE  
It is so good to meet you, Ridley!

RIDLEY  
Thank you for having us.

3 INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 3

The apartment is warm and festive with HOLIDAY LIGHTS. A gathering of GUESTS. They have DRINKS in their hands.

PRISCILLA, 40s, eccentric, attractive, and DAVID, 40s, gentle, casual, meet Katherine with hugs and kisses.

DAVID  
It's wonderful to meet you,  
Katherine. This is Priscilla.

PRISCILLA  
So nice to meet you... and who is  
your friend?

Katherine directs their attention to Ridley. He smiles and nods.

KATHERINE  
Ridley is new to Los Angeles. This  
is David and Priscilla.

PRISCILLA  
Welcome to Los Angeles!

RIDLEY  
Thank you. It's nice to meet you.

Priscilla and David give Ridley and Katherine a conspicuous hug. This makes Ridley uncomfortable but Katherine enjoys the love bombing. Priscilla draws Katherine away from Ridley. INGRID, 40s, attractive, walks towards Priscilla and Katherine.

INGRID  
Hello, Katherine!

KATHERINE  
So nice to see you, Ingrid!

They exchange hugs.

INGRID

I would like to introduce you to  
our newest member.

AJAY, 30s, casual, turns to meet Katherine.

AJAY

My name is Ajay. It's nice to meet  
you, Katherine.

KATHERINE

I believe we've met before.

They exchange hugs and mingle. Ingrid gives a knowing look to Priscilla as they mingle with Katherine. David moves in on Ridley.

DAVID

So Ridley, are you from Chicago?

RIDLEY

Yes, I am. How did you know --

DAVID

That's wonderful! How do you like  
it here?

RIDLEY

I like the warmer weather.

DAVID

It's so different out here! We're  
very glad you came over, Ridley.  
Would you like a drink?

RIDLEY

(politely)  
No thank you... David.

David smiles. Lisette approaches.

DAVID

Ridley is from Chicago.

She starts working on Ridley.

LISETTE

Oh, that's wonderful! What brought  
you out here, Ridley?

RIDLEY

I'm a writer. Well, I've written news articles but I want to write a screenplay.

LISETTE

Wow, that is awesome! We love creative people. You will feel so right at home with us. How did you meet Katherine?

RIDLEY

I met her backstage at a play she was in.

LISETTE

Katherine is an amazing actress!

RIDLEY

She's something.

LISETTE

Would you like something to drink, Ridley?

RIDLEY

No, I'm good.

LISETTE

It's just punch!

RIDLEY

Thank you. I'm fine.

LISETTE

Are you sure?

Ridley looks away from her. She draws his attention back to her.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

Do you live out here by yourself?

RIDLEY

Yes. I have a bachelor apartment in Burbank.

LISETTE

Did you have trouble finding parking?

RIDLEY

No. Well, I don't have a car... yet.

LISETTE  
Are you on public transportation?

RIDLEY  
(reticently)  
Yeah. I took the bus here.

LISETTE  
We'll give you a ride home!

RIDLEY  
It's OK, I was planning to take  
Katherine --

LISETTE  
(to Katherine)  
Can we give you both a ride home?

KATHERINE  
Of course!

Ridley is disappointed.

LISETTE  
Excuse me, Ridley.

Lisette moves on. Ridley walks toward the fireplace and notices PAMPHLETS on the mantle. He looks toward Katherine having a time mingling with the other guests. Ingrid and Ajay approach Ridley.

INGRID  
I've brought you a drink, 'Riley'!

Ridley reluctantly takes the drink.

AJAY  
(raising his glass)  
Cheers!

Ridley politely raises his glass.

RIDLEY  
It's Ridley.

INGRID  
(faux pas)  
Oh, I thought Ridley was a girl's  
name.

RIDLEY  
No. It's not.

4

INT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (LATER)

4

LISETTE

Thank you all for coming!

The guests arrange their chairs to form a circle. Ridley moves toward Katherine.

RIDLEY

I thought we were going out to have dinner.

Lisette maneuvers between them to create a barrier separating them. Ridley reluctantly sits in. Priscilla and David are seated on each side of Ridley. Katherine is seated on the opposite side of Ridley with Lisette next to her.

LISETTE

If you are new here, it means that somebody loved you enough to invite you to our group. Please welcome Katherine and Ridley!

They all applaud and smile at Katherine and Ridley. Katherine enjoys the attention. Ridley half-smiles politely.

RIDLEY

What exactly is this?

LISETTE

Let's begin.

David and Priscilla reach for Ridley's hands. Except for Ridley, the guests close their eyes and bow their heads for several seconds without saying a word. Then they start to clap their hands until it reaches a crescendo. They all laugh and give each other light hugs. Ridley is annoyed.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

Who would like to start off the meeting?

(off Ingrid's look)

Ingrid?

INGRID

Thank you, Lisette. You're like a sister to me. My life has changed so much this past year and I just want to say how happy I am!

Ingrid takes Ajay's hand and they look at each other. The group applauds and smiles at them. Ridley feigns applause.

KATHERINE

That is so sweet!

LISETTE

Welcome to Mission 8, a worldwide movement linking over a million followers. We have a Friendship Mission in every major city but we also host study groups in our homes.

KATHERINE

I heard about the charity events the A-listers attend on behalf of the organization.

LISETTE

All the best ones!

The group agrees. Lisette turns to Ridley who looks disinterested.

LISETTE (CONT'D)

Have you heard of our organization, Ridley?

RIDLEY

Mission 8?

LISETTE

Yes! Mission 8.

RIDLEY

Yeah. I've heard a few things.

LISETTE

What have you heard about us, Ridley?

The guests are waiting to hear his answer. Ridley is reluctant to answer.

PRISCILLA

(smartly)

Cat got your tongue?

LISETTE

Go on, tell us.

RIDLEY

Your organization masquerades as a religion, but it really operates as a commercial enterprise.



DAVID

What are you talking about?

RIDLEY

You claim to be a religion just so you can get tax breaks. Everybody knows this is all fake. This is all phony.

DAVID

That's not true.

RIDLEY

You exploit people and take their money.

DAVID

We're only here to help people, Ridley. We're here to help you, if you let us.

RIDLEY

Your organization is given to criminal acts.

DAVID

Do we look like criminals to you?

PRISCILLA

You can't trust everything you see on television or newspapers or the internet.

DAVID

Our organization is about social transformation. We have changed lives around the world.

RIDLEY

You've ruined lives.

PRISCILLA

Stories! You hear stories about everything out there. You know darn well that half the things you hear is just gossip. A lot of it is just not true. Look at me! I'm grounded. I know a lot of things about the world. There's nothing wrong with me, is there? Just look at me -- look at me right now -- do you see anything wrong with me!?

RIDLEY

Thank you for having us over but --

PRISCILLA

No! Wait until you've heard me out. Will you look at me? I'm right here. I have to explain this to you. We only want the best and brightest people and we are giving you the chance to learn about us!

DAVID

I really think you should give us a chance, Ridley.

PRISCILLA

Let me ask you something, what do you believe in? Do you believe in anything at all?

RIDLEY

I believe you've been brainwashed.

PRISCILLA

Is that something you would to say to a Christian or a Jew? How dare you! Look at me --

RIDLEY

I don't want to look at you --

PRISCILLA

This is our religion. Who are you to attack my faith? Are you a bigot? You must be a bigot! Is that what you are?

The group frowns on Ridley. Lisette feigns amusement toward the dissenter in her group. She passes around copies of a pamphlet.

LISETTE

(cheerfully)

Katherine is an aspiring actress!

The other guests murmur enthusiastic approval.

PRISCILLA

Have you been to the Celebrity Mission yet? You can make a lot of contacts in the business and jump start your career in Hollywood. Once you're on the inside, you've got it made.

KATHERINE

Oh my God!

LISETTE

We are the religion of the stars!

KATHERINE

That sounds so cool!

RIDLEY

(off Katherine's look)

Thank you for having us over.  
Katherine, I think we should be  
leaving now.

Ridley stands up and puts the pamphlet on the chair.

KATHERINE

We just got here!

RIDLEY

Right now.

KATHERINE

I think you're being rude.

LISETTE

Katherine is free to decide for  
herself if she wants to stay with  
us.

Ridley glances at Lisette with contempt. Katherine takes the initiative and moves close to him. She looks into his eyes.

KATHERINE

They want to be our friends and  
they can help us.

RIDLEY

They're not your friends. This is  
a goddamned indoctrination --

PRISCILLA

Don't listen to him, he doesn't  
care about you. We love you,  
Katherine!

Ridley begins to see through Katherine.

RIDLEY

This isn't the first time you've  
been here, is it? You knew about  
all this. Is this why you brought  
me here?

Katherine turns away for a moment and then she gazes at him.

KATHERINE

(softly)

Ridley... remember how you told me how lonely you've felt since moving here? I know what it's like and we're here for you.

RIDLEY

Are you coming with me?

KATHERINE

No. I'm staying.

Ridley reluctantly pulls away from Katherine. The other guests goad Ridley into staying.

LISETTE

You don't have to be all alone, Ridley.

RIDLEY

(to Katherine)

You're an amazing actress.

He heads toward the door and leaves.

5 EXT. LISETTE'S APARTMENT - COURTYARD - NIGHT

5

Ridley makes his way to the gate. Lisette follows him.

LISETTE

You've upset Katherine! She's so much younger than you and you made her cry, Ridley. You're embarrassing yourself! Will you please come back? Why don't you just sit with us and you can learn something? Just come back!

The gate slams shut behind him. Lisette stands alone in the courtyard.

FADE OUT.