

SUNFLOWERS

Written by

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"Sunflowers"

FADE IN:

INT. AGILE FINANCE, OFFICE - DAY

An open-plan office overlooking an impressive view of London. Behind a desk, MIKE twists his chair back and forth. Waiting.

MIKE wears hearing aids. He is 31, deaf, one of life's observers.

An ELEVATOR PINGS. The POSTMAN saunters onto the floor, pushing a trolley of letters and parcels.

Across the office, the postman hands mail to a young woman, FRANCESCA. A bookish brunette, 31.

The POSTMAN approaches Mike. Mike's eyes light up. But the postman walks past. Mike tuts. Returns his gaze to...

FRANCESCA, as she opens an envelope and removes a Valentine's card. A BRIGHT PHOTO OF SUNFLOWERS ON THE FRONT. Inside: a question mark.

Francesca looks around the office. Catches Mike's eye. She flashes an awkward smile, then looks down.

Mike frowns. Disappointed.

EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

Mike leaves a cafe with a sandwich and a coffee. Another man HURRIES past, holding a bunch of roses. Mike stops. An idea pops into his brain.

INT. AGILE FINANCE, OFFICE - LATER - DAY

A FLORIST arrives with big bunch of sunflowers. Francesca gulps. The other women around her react with smiles and applause.

Francesca admires the flowers in stunned silence. She lifts her gaze to Mike.

She rises. Approaches.

Ten feet away, she hesitates. She blows out her cheeks. Looks around, nervous.

Then, to Mike's surprise and disappointment, she shakes her head and walks away, past him, to the water cooler.

INT. AGILE FINANCE, MEETING ROOM - DAY

A meeting is in progress. The room is packed with sharp-suited business men and women. Mike sits opposite his SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER.

He glances across the table at Francesca. She steadfastly avoids his gaze. Mike's eyes drop.

INT. AGILE FINANCE, OFFICE - LATER - DAY

Home time. Dusk. The sun drops over the view of London.

In a dark mood, Mike turns off his computer. Packs away his things.

He notices someone hovering nearby. Looks up to see Francesca shifting from foot to foot. She places the flowers and the card on his desk. Flashes a quick, nervy smile.

Mike braces himself, expecting the worst.

Francesca lifts her hands. Mike leans back on his heels.

Now - with great concentration - FRANCESCA SIGNS:

FRANCESCA
(speaks, signs)
Thank you. For the flowers. And the
card. I... wanted... to say...

She pauses, unsure how to say this.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
I learnt this... Dammit!

Exasperated, she takes a deep breath, steps forward and PLANTS A KISS ON MIKE'S LIPS.

They part. Mike, stunned, stares at her. Francesca smiles.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)
(speaks, signs)
I love sunflowers.

MIKE
(speaks, signs)
I know.

He watches her gather her flowers and card. Before she leaves, she gives him a beautiful smile. Mike beams.

FADE OUT.

THE END.