

EXT. PERFORMANCE HALL - DAY

KAY (20s) sits by herself on a bench, studying a book of sheet music. She hums to herself, intent on her work. BRIYA (20s) walks past, surrounded by friends. She waves them on and takes a seat next to Kay.

BRIYA
Hey, Kayla!

Kay reluctantly closes her music book.

KAY
It's Kay, actually. Just Kay.

BRIYA
Oh. Hey, Kay. Heh. That rhymes.

KAY
Yeah.

Briya shifts in her seat.

BRIYA
Yeah. Um, listen. I'm sorry about those auditions. Patricia can be really...closed-minded when it comes to new sopranos.

KAY
It's fine. She told me she had something special in mind, but I'm not getting my hopes up.

BRIYA
You have that little solo in the fifth number, right?

KAY
No.

She fakes a smile.

KAY (CONT'D)
Patricia removed the soprano solos. Except, of course, all ten of yours.

BRIYA
Oh. Sorry.

KAY
Congrats, I guess.

Kay stands up hurriedly.

BRIYA
Hey, you're still going to come to
coffee with me and Levi on
Saturday, right?

KAY
No, I don't think-

BRIYA
Come on, Kay. I know we could all
use some musician-to-musician time.

KAY
Really, I'm good-

BRIYA
No, you're not. I'll pay.

KAY
I think I should let the two co-
stars of this... *illustrious* choir
production get to know each other
without any chorus girl
interruptions.

She storms toward the performance hall.

KAY (CONT'D)
But thanks for your *kind* offer.

The door slams behind Kay. Briya gets up with a sigh.

BRIYA
Okay, then.

She exits.

INT. KAY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kent sits at a small table, cradling a mug of coffee. Kay
paces angrily next to the table.

KAY
Briya absolutely hates me now.

KENT
That sounds about right. Why did
you have to snap at her like that?
It's not like she *made* Patricia
change the solos.

Kay grabs a piece of toast and puts it in the toaster.

KAY
No, but she didn't stop it either!
Want any?

KENT
No, thanks.

Kay puts the toast away and returns to pacing.

KENT (CONT'D)
Sis, you're just as talented as
Briya. Don't let anyone tell you
otherwise.

KAY
I know, but Briya's nice, and she's
good at talking to people, and Levi
really likes her...

She stops.

KENT
So this is about Levi?

KAY
No! No, this is definitely *not*
about Levi.

KENT
Uh huh.

Kay sticks her tongue out at her brother and resumes walking.

KENT (CONT'D)
So what's the big deal? You'll get
other solos.

KAY
It's just that-

The toast pops out of the toaster. Kent jumps, and Kay stomps over to grab it. She begins buttering the toast.

KAY (CONT'D)
It's just that I'm 24, I moved to a
new city, and really I thought
things would be different.

Kent places a hand on top of Kay's to prevent her from tearing the toast. She pulls away.

KENT

And...they can be?

KAY

How? If everyone adores Briya, I'll never get my chance.

KENT

You just have to prove yourself. There's no artist who doesn't.

KAY

The whole reason I came here is because I never got my chance back in Omaha. What if I never get my chance here?

She begins eating the toast, still pacing.

KENT

You have a part, don't you?

KAY

Do you really think I can get anywhere as 'chorus girl'?

KENT

You can get anywhere you want, sis. You're unstoppable.

KAY

Thanks, but optimism isn't going to help, Kent. I need a plan...some way to get a step ahead of Briya...

She goes back to the table and leans on it. Kent leans away from her.

KENT

What do you mean? It looks to me like you need to prove your vocal skills to *Patricia*.

KAY

No, the only reason I don't have that solo is because of Briya.

KENT

That's a dangerous game you're playing.

KAY

What game?

KENT
The blame game.

Kay drops her toast. Beat. She turns defensive as she bends to pick it up.

KAY
I know what I'm doing.

Kent's phone buzzes. He looks at it.

KENT
I have to get home. Felicity's calling.

Kay throws the toast away and hugs him on his way out the door. Once the door closes behind him, she mutters one more thing.

KAY
Don't worry. That solo is going to be mine.

INT. BACKSTAGE PERFORMANCE HALL - NIGHT

It's opening night. The VOCALISTS stand in a circle, doing warmups. PATRICIA (40s) dismisses the vocalists. Briya gives Kay a hug and takes LEVI's hand.

BRIYA
Wish me luck!

KAY
(monotone)
Good luck.

She takes her place among the chorus, and Briya and Levi step out onstage, still holding hands. Patricia follows quickly. The audience can be heard cheering.

Kay slips behind the crowd of chorus girls, to the tech board. She looks around. The SOUNDBOARD OPERATOR is peering out the window with other members of the CREW. Kay slides into the seat and begins fiddling with the controls.

PATRICIA (V.O.)
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Community Choir's spring showcase!

More cheering.

PATRICIA (V.O.)
We're so proud to have each and every one of our wonderful choir members, but especially our two stars.

Kay rolls her eyes and begins mouthing the words.

PATRICIA (V.O.)
Please give a warm welcome to Miss Briya Pinta and Mr. Levi Fallworth!

Patricia rushes offstage, waving frantically at Kay. She doesn't seem to notice that Kay isn't the Soundboard Operator. Kay slides a button and the opening music begins.

SOUNDBOARD OPERATOR
Hey, chorus girl. What are you *doing*?

Kay whirls around. Briya begins singing offscreen.

KAY
Oh, I'm sorry. I saw you were, um, distracted, and-

SOUNDBOARD OPERATOR
I can do my job, vocalist. Can you?

KAY
Yes, sir, right away.

Kay hurries away. The other members of the crew rush to the soundboard as Kay smiles and retreats into the alcove behind the curtain, where a maze of ropes lies.

Kay grabs one and gives it a sharp tug. Briya's high notes turn into a high-pitched scream as set pieces come crashing down.

LEVI (O.S.)
Oh my-

His mic is cut off. Kay releases the curtain for good measure before rushing out of the alcove and behind the stage, to the other side. This part of the wings is deserted. Kay steps onto the stage, in front of the curtain.

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

The music is still playing. Kay spreads her arms and begins to sing.

The audience gasps and murmurs, but is gradually engrossed in the music. Just as she reaches the climax of the song, her mic is cut off and Patricia strides onstage.

PATRICIA
(whispered)
We will talk about this in a
moment. For now, not another word.

Patricia turns to the audience.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for the delay, folks. Our
true concert will be up and running
in fifteen minutes. For now, enjoy
an early intermission and don't
forget to buy a t-shirt!

Patricia grabs Kay's arm and they exit backstage.

INT. BACKSTAGE PERFORMANCE HALL - NIGHT

Briya sits on a chair with an ice pack on her head.

LEVI
Kay! What was that?

PATRICIA
I'll take care of it.

BRIYA
It's okay. I understand why.

KAY
No. Obviously *you* could never
understand.

Patricia drags Kay out of the backstage area and into bright fluorescent lighting.

INT. PATRICIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kay is shoved into a comfy armchair. Patricia goes to stand on the opposite side of the desk.

PATRICIA
I expect that you have some sort of
explanation for that? Insufficient,
but an explanation?

KAY
Briya took my part-

PATRICIA
Your part? A hundred other girls
auditioning and it's *your* part?

KAY
I was never going to get my chance
with you fawning over her!

PATRICIA
Fawning? If you're going to work in
this side of show business, you
really must work on your
professionalism.

KAY
I was just looking for my
opportunity to shine.

PATRICIA
And so was Briya.

She stands up.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
You're lucky the injury wasn't
serious. This could've been a much
bigger issue. For now, getting out
of this theater would be enough.

Kay grimaces.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)
Immediately.

Kay hastily stands up and walks out the door.

EXT. PERFORMANCE HALL - NIGHT

Kent leans against a bright green car.

KENT
You certainly got your minute of
fame.

KAY
And kicked out.

KENT
What did you expect?

Beat.

KAY

What am I supposed to do now, Kent?

KENT

First of all, you're going to come home with me and Felicity. And tomorrow, you're going to call Briya and set up a chat with her over coffee.

KAY

I am most certainly not.

She starts to walk away.

KENT

Yes, you are. Briya's the star of the show-who you coincidentally whacked with scenery-and she's nice enough to forgive you if you ask.

KAY

I'm going home.

She takes another step. Kent steps in her way.

KENT

That's not a good idea, sis.

Kay glares at him but finally relents.

KAY

Fine.

KENT

Good. Hop in.

Kent gets in the car, but Kay hesitates. On the lightpost next to her, a poster for the show says "A CONCERT OF VOICE - STARRING BRIYA PINTA AND LEVI FALLWORTH." Kay moves to rip the poster off the pole, but small print catches her eye.

"WITH GUEST STAR KAY KINNELLY ON THE LAST NIGHT."

Kay drops her hand and stares back at the theater.