

Scene 3—The Next Day

DIRECTOR

Your leading man is ill today. His understudy will rehearse with you.

SHE

Oh. What kind of illness does he have?

DIRECTOR

Stomach bug.

SHE

Oh, really.
Who is his understudy?

Kevin, the understudy, comes on.

KEVIN

Hi.

START

SHE

(To the director) I thought he was playing the butler.

DIRECTOR

He is. He's also understudying Johnny. And the husband. He was my student when I was teaching Meisner? He's really something.

KEVIN

I didn't get a chance to say: I'm—a fan. A huge fan—that thing you did? Like ten years ago—whoa. That was incredible.

SHE

You saw that? Oh, thanks, you're sweet.

DIRECTOR

Take it from: "Kiss me darling."

KEVIN

What a strange job to kiss strangers in front of people and make it look like you know each other. Or kiss someone you know in front of people and make it look like a stranger.

SHE

Yeah. It is.

KEVIN

Where do you want me?

SHE

Just here.

Whenever you're ready.

KEVIN AS JOHNNY

Kiss me darling.

They kiss. She stops.

SHE

Sorry—

STAGE KISS

KEVIN

What is it?

SHE

You're making a little face before you kiss me, sort of like you're going to eat me.

KEVIN

I'm sorry. I'm nervous.

SHE

Oh—

KEVIN

Also, I'm not straight.

SHE

Oh?

KEVIN

Yeah. It's not a problem, obviously, I just have this awful fantasy that I'll kiss a woman on stage and everyone will be like: you know, *yeah right*, whatever. Sorry I just needed to get that out there.

SHE

Don't worry. You're going to be great.

KEVIN

Thanks. Cool. Cool.

(As Johnny) Kiss me darling.

They kiss.

He makes a face like he's going to eat her.

She pulls away.

KEVIN

What is it?

SARAH RUHL

SHE

Sorry—just a weird flashback to prom—sorry, nothing.

DIRECTOR

Let's just—okay—maybe it would help to be clinical. From: "Oh, Johnny"—and I think it's a five count kiss—or maybe a three count kiss—if that helps.

SHE AS ADA

Oh, Johnny. Johnny Lowell.

KEVIN AS JOHNNY

Ada . . . I can't and I won't call you by your married name, god-dammit to hell. I never met and never will meet Ada Wilcox. Kiss me again, Ada Fountain. Kiss me back in time.

They kiss.

He makes a face like he's going to eat her first.

DIRECTOR

One—two—three—

SHE

Okay. I think we're good.