EXTRACT

torn

a play

by

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Cast

SUSAN

GERRY

CADE

AYESHAH

Setting

A city.

Time

Now.

SCENE ONE

Recording Studio. Night.

GERRY is alone. He speaks into a microphone.

GERRY
Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of -

We hear a VOICE over a loudspeaker.

VOICE
No.

BEAT.

GERRY
Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of -

VOICE
No.

BEAT.

GERRY
Crispier, crunchier, creamier -

VOICE
No.

GERRY
(LOOKING UP)
Is it possible to get a little more than 'no'?

VOICE
It's in the brief.

Gerry holds up a couple of sheets of paper.

GERRY
Okay, so can you tell me exactly what I'm missing - (READS) “the raw enthusiasm” or “the hint of delicious abandon.”

BEAT.

VOICE
I'm coming down.

PAUSE. GERRY alone. CADE, the owner of the voice, enters.

CADE
How you doing?

GERRY
Good thanks. And you?

CADE
Okay. So what's up?

GERRY
Just trying to get this down.

CADE
And ?

GERRY
And ...

GERRY gestures vaguely. BEAT.

CADE
What's the problem?

GERRY
You don't seem to like what I'm doing.

CADE
Clearly neither do you.

GERRY
Really?

CADE
You're missing you're usual *pop*. You sound ...

GERRY
What?

CADE
I don't know.

GERRY
Say it.

BEAT.

CADE
Sad. (BEAT) You sound sad. Hard to make that crunch tastic *crunch tastic* when you're …

BEAT.

GERRY
I'm not sad.

CADE
You don't sound happy.

GERRY
I'm not sad.

CADE
Something's going on. You miss out on a part?

GERRY
I don't really do anything these days where I'm required to be seen on camera.

CADE
You okay with that?

GERRY
Sure.

BEAT. CADE looks at GERRY.

GERRY (CONT'D)
Not really. But that's the way it panned out.

CADE
Kids?

GERRY
Are you asking ...

CADE
Do you have any?

GERRY
No.

CADE
I always thought you -

GERRY
No.

CADE
Wife?

GERRY
I'm not married.

CADE
Strange. You always struck me as a ...

GERRY
What?

CADE
Family type of guy.

BEAT. GERRY half smiles.

GERRY
One day.

CADE
But?

BEAT. GERRY is silent.

CADE (CONT'D)
And I think we found the sad.

GERRY
I'm not sad. (BEAT) She's restless.

CADE
Bored?

GERRY
Restless.

CADE
You think so?

GERRY
She wants more.

CADE
You can give her more.

GERRY
Not that kind of more.

CADE
She's said something?

GERRY
No. But I can …

CADE
Sure you're not imagining it?

GERRY
No.

CADE
And you're scared you can't deliver.

GERRY
I know I can't deliver.

BEAT.

CADE
Maybe you're underestimating yourself.

GERRY
I'm a voice over artist. I do shitty ads for Coco Rocks.

CADE
Coco *Chox*. And it's not shitty. I wrote it. Well I didn't write it. Someone in Creative did. But they spent a lot of time over it.

GERRY
You know what I mean.

CADE
The *Chox* is kind of important.

GERRY
Not from where I'm sitting right at the moment.

BEAT.

CADE
Look ...

GERRY
Gerry.

CADE
Sorry. I should've remembered that.

GERRY
It’s okay. I’ve forgotten your name too. (He hasn’t.)

CADE
Anyway, I hate to break up the male-bonding session and I don’t want to sound unfeeling but I kind of need you to get this right. We've only got the studio for another half an hour, so I need you to shelve the *sad* and give me the *pop*. Otherwise we have to find someone else and you don’t get paid. (BEAT) You good with that?

BEAT. GERRY nods. CADE starts to exit.

GERRY
What would you do?

CADE
I don't know her.

GERRY
You know women like her.

BEAT.

CADE
Plenty more fish in the sea.

GERRY
Not like this one.

BEAT.

CADE
There must have been something. At the start, something that drew her to you.

GERRY
I hounded her till she relented.

CADE
But there was something that made her say yes. Remember that. Use it.

GERRY
I don't think I’ve got 'it' anymore.

CADE
You'll figure it out. Now, clock’s ticking. We gonna “*pop*”?

GERRY
Crunchtastic.

BEAT. CADE exits. GERRY tries to psyche himself up.

GERRY (CONT'D)
Crunch tastic ... crunch tastic ... crunch tastic! Coco Chox are Crunch tastic ...

CADE
(VOICE OVER)
Ready?

GERRY
Ready.

CADE
Recording. And three two one.

GERRY
(BEAT)
Crispier, crunchier, creamier - the crunch tastic taste of Coco Chox!

BLACKOUT.

SCENE TWO

Bar. Later.

CADE and SUSAN sit at a table.

SUSAN
Canada.

CADE
Canada? Okay. Why?

SUSAN
You didn't say I had to give a reason.

CADE
Sure you do. A nation's pride is at stake.

SUSAN
You didn't say-

CADE
Well I am now.

SUSAN
(BEAT)
I don't know.

CADE
Yes you do. *I* do.

SUSAN
You do it then?

CADE
It’s your country.

SUSAN
They're so ... I can't.

CADE
Sure you can. They’re so ...

BEAT.

SUSAN
I can’t.

CADE
Boring.

SUSAN
What?

CADE
Boring.

SUSAN
Did you just call me -

CADE
You’re *being* boring. It’s a game. Play the game.

SUSAN
It’s a very nasty game.

CADE
Nasty?

SUSAN
Yes. Nasty.

CADE
And we love a bit of *nasty*. (BEAT) Come on. You'll like it. Try.

BEAT.

SUSAN
They're so ... serious.

CADE
Now she's getting it.

SUSAN
So earnest.

CADE
That's the one.

SUSAN
Everything is so *important*.

CADE
So important.

SUSAN
And said in these very *important* voices.

CADE
Hate it.

SUSAN
Hate it.

CADE
So much. (BEAT. SUDDENLY SERIOUS) My uncle is from Canada.

SUSAN
You never told me that.

CADE
Saskatchewan.

SUSAN
Is that a real place? I thought that was -

CADE
Yes it's a real place. It's a real province. A prairie province. And my Uncle comes from there.

SUSAN

It's your game.

CADE

You were playing it.

SUSAN

Only cause you made me.

CADE

You insulted my Uncle. My own flesh and blood. He'll roll in his grave.

SUSAN

He's dead?

CADE

No. But when he hears what you said about him he will be. (BEAT, SUDDENLY) Got you.

SUSAN

No you didn't.

CADE

Yes I did. *"It's your game."* Got you, completely.

SUSAN

You don't have an Uncle?

CADE

I did, but he's dead. At least he would be. If I had one. And he lived in Canada, which he'd hate. Hate *so* much that he'd die, of boredom. But he didn't. Because I don't have one. And even if I did have one he wouldn't live, in Canada.

BEAT.

SUSAN

So much.

CADE

So much.

BEAT.

SUSAN

I don't like this game.

CADE

Yes you do.