

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

FISH OUT OF WATER

Written by
Annie Bowers

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Draft 6

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INT. FISH SHOP - DAY

TIFFINY, a seventeen year old school girl, top half fish bottom half girl, stops her shopping to stare in contemplation at the fish counter opposite.

TITLE CARD: FISH OUT OF WATER

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Tiffany gets ready for school when she drops her phone. She bends down to pick it up and in the process falls flat on her face. She begins to flail around, flapping her fins to regain balance but cannot stand up. Instead she rolls over to the nearest wall and levers herself up using a series of obscure yoga moves.

She stands, triumphant, only to watch in horror as the phone falls back onto the floor.

INT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

Tiffany is walking down the street on her way home from school. She looks up to see the POPULAR GUY leaning against the bus stop, waving. Flattered, Tiffany waves back and starts walking towards him...

...before realising he was waving at someone behind her. She tries to play it off as an awkward fin stretch and carries on walking past.

A sad piece of toilet paper desperately clings to her skirt.

INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

It's after school and Tiffany is in her room. She stands in front of a full length mirror that is plastered with cut-outs of female models and makeup looks - one photo is an advertisement for the lipstick sitting on her desk. It says in blaring letters 'BE COLOURFUL, BE CONFIDENT'.

She contemplates the photos longingly, before leaning in. She traces her features - taking the time to explore every part of her face. Each touch is tender and deliberate; raw.

Tiffany takes out a makeup wipe and begins to remove her lipstick but every movement is difficult and uncertain.

She takes a step back and stays there for a moment, observing, before moving her focus to a photo of her and her friend NIKKY. It shows them laughing and messing around.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - MORNING

Nikky has a handbag over one arm instead of a school bag and always wears cherry lip gloss. She is facing Tiffany, unusually serious, struggling to form her words.

She starts speaking abruptly, just wanting to get it out.

(Throughout the film, all of Tiffany's speech is subtitled and she will speak in a series of blubs)

 NIKKY
I'm leaving.

 TIFFINY
What?

 NIKKY
I just - I can't stay here anymore! I
need to get on with my life, do
something exciting y'know?

Tiffany stares.

 NIKKY (cont'd)
There's this apprenticeship in
London; and I know it's all really
sudden, I'm honestly sorry, but I
leave next month.

Tiffany doesn't speak. She stands there, thinking.

 NIKKY (cont'd)
Please say something.

 TIFFINY
(quietly)
I am deeply wounded.

 NIKKY
I-

 TIFFINY
We were supposed to move out
together - you traitor.

NIKKY

This is a massive opportunity for me!
You know how long I've wanted this.

TIFFINY

What about the plan!?

Tiffany's fin creeps into frame holding a scrap book titled - THE PLAN.

NIKKY

Tiffany don't...

Tiffany begins reading.

TIFFINY

2022 - go to university, stay up
until midnight on Fridays.

NIKKY

But we already do that!

TIFFINY

2023 - Settle down in Slough and meet
a lovely set of twins we can court.

NIKKY

That one seems a bit restrictive.

TIFFINY

2020 - Nikky shatters my heart by
betraying me in cold blood.

NIKKY

Tiff...

TIFFINY

Oh wait no, it doesn't say that!
THAT'S NOT IN THE PLAN!

NIKKY

I don't want to live by some stupid
plan we wrote when we were twelve!

Tiffany recoils in shock and slams the plan shut, as if covering its ears.

NIKKY (cont'd)

I don't even know why I told you; I
should have just gone. You prude,
boring, selfish... *Pollock!*

Tiffany doesn't speak. She just stands there, looking like she's been slapped. Nikky opens her mouth but doesn't get any further and instead shakes her head, looking both sad and a little shocked that she said all that. She walks off down the street. Tiffany turns and runs home.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Just like before, Tiffany is in front of the mirror taking off her lipstick. Anger removes any attempt at tenderness though and in her frenzy, Tiffany drops the makeup wipe. She lets out a scream of frustration and throws her lipstick at the mirror.

With half her makeup still on, she rips down all of the magazine pictures from the mirror, scattering them across the floor. The only thing left is the photo with Nikky.

She throws it onto her floor with the rest and moves on.

EXT. NIKKY'S GARDEN - LATE EVENING

Angry and seeking revenge, Tiffany breaks into Nikky's garden and sneaks towards the house. She moves conspicuously but clearly thinks she is a master of espionage. With her is a bag full of toilet paper.

Soon she's destroying the garden in a frenzy - attacking potted plants and toilet papering trees. She even awkwardly pushes over the bins in her madness.

An outside light comes on, making Tiffany freeze, and she looks up to see Nikky standing at the front door, looking equally bemused and horrified.

They are caught in an awkward freeze-frame, just staring at each other, until a lone strand of toilet paper flutters to the ground behind Tiffany.

NIKKY

What. The. Actual. *FU-*

EXT. NIKKY'S GARDEN- LATE EVENING

Tiffany and Nikky are sat next to each other, outside, surrounded by a mountain of toilet paper. Everything feels quiet at last. Calm.

NIKKY

This hasn't changed my mind by the way. You're my best friend and I'm sorry we can't leave together, honestly, but I'm still going.

TIFFINY

Yeah I know. It's okay.

NIKKY

So what's with the whole breaking in thing?

TIFFINY

I don't know, guess I just had some shit to work through. Sorry about your bins.

(pause)

Sorry about everything.

NIKKY

It's okay. Me too.

Silence.

NIKKY (cont'd)

So what's your next step then?

TIFFINY

I don't really know. It's scary. What do you do if nothing works out?

NIKKY

Then you just move onto the next plan.

(Gesturing at the
toilet paper)

You could always become a world renowned anarchist.

TIFFINY

Shut up.

NIKKY

So why don't you get a job here? You could make some money and hang around for a while. What's the rush - it's not like you *have* to run away.

TIFFINY

You are.

NIKKY
Yeah but I'm an idiot.

TIFFINY
Fair.

They shuffle even closer and Nikky leans her head on Tiffany's 'shoulder'.

NIKKY
You'll get there, I know you will. Sometimes it just takes a while to figure stuff out. And I'm really not leaving because of you, you do understand that right? I didn't mean it to end like this.

TIFFINY
It's okay. It's just that I'm just going to miss you. A lot.

NIKKY
Yeah, me too Tiff. Duh.

A moment of quiet again. It's peaceful.

Nikky looks up, breaking the silence.

NIKKY (cont'd)
Your lipstick's dope tonight by the way. I really like that colour.

Tiffany pulls it out of her pocket and passes it over.

TIFFINY
Keep it. I don't need it anymore.

Nikky takes it and rolls it in her fingers, unwinding it a few times before closing her fist around it.

Nikky closes her eyes and smiles in contentment.

INT. FISH SHOP- DAY

Tiffany stands at the counter, staring at the fish like before. This time, however, she turns and walks away.

FIN.

