

Missed Connection

By Will Hightower

Kyle – A boy.

Gwen – A girl.

Lights up on what appears to be a subway station. Train sounds are heard as Kyle enters. He is uncommon and slightly awkward looking; he is 22-years old with a tendency to look at the ground, disengaged, while walking and is wearing earbuds. [Feel free to play with the following actions. The more detailed the better.] He notices his shoe is untied; he bends down, ties it, and then patiently waits for his train. After a moment Gwen, a cute 23-year old girl wearing glasses, walks on reading “The Perks of Being a Wallflower”. She stumbles and drops her book. She picks up her book and continues reading, waiting for her train. At the same time Kyle and Gwen look up and lock eyes for an inordinate amount of time before they both awkwardly continue waiting for the train in silence. There is a change in lights that puts the focus on Gwen. She looks at Kyle for a moment then walks near him and drops her book deliberately—it lands near Kyle. He doesn’t notice it. She waits for him to notice, he doesn’t. She picks up her book and puts it away. She looks up at him until he notices.

Gwen

Hey.

Kyle looks around and sees that she is talking to him.

Kyle

Hey.

Gwen

What are you listening to?

Kyle

What? Oh these. Uh... Nothing.

Kyle takes out his ear buds.

Gwen

Nothing? I’ve never heard of that band.

*She giggles for a moment at her own joke.
Kyle politely smiles.*

Gwen

Sorry, that was a joke. I'm not very good at jokes but sometimes people at work tell me I'm funny. Not like ha-ha funny but like heh-interesting funny. I'm not entirely sure what that means but... Anyway... What were you really listening to?

Kyle

These aren't actually plugged into anything.

Gwen

What? Why would you do that?

Kyle

This way I can listen to what's going on around me and people aren't afraid to talk because they think I can't hear.

Gwen

I bet you catch a lot of interesting conversations.

Kyle

Sometimes. It also keeps the subway crazies from talking to me.

Gwen

Looks like it didn't work! –I mean, I talked to you so it didn't work. I'm not a subway crazy or anything, I'm just a normal person. Well, I think I'm normal, some people might beg to differ, but I think that if there were a room half full of crazies and half full of normals then I'd be somewhere in the normal half.

Kyle

... Yeah, me too.

Gwen

Sorry. I'm Gwen. Just plain-old-nothing-special-not-crazy-but-normal Gwen.

Kyle

I'm Kyle... Just Kyle.

Gwen

So, where are you headed?

Kyle

I don't much care where.

Gwen
Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.

Kyle
So long as I get somewhere.

Gwen
Oh, you're sure to do that,

Kyle
If only you walk long enough.

Gwen
If only you walk long enough.

They share a moment together.

Gwen
I love that book; it's one of my favorites.

Kyle
Mine too. I liked to write about all the other ways Alice could have gone but didn't. The endless possibilities of what could have been if she had just walked long enough.

Gwen
Oh, you're a writer?

Kyle
I try. I ride the subway around and write about what I hear and see.

Gwen
Crazies?

Kyle
Crazies.

Gwen
Me?

Kyle
Maybe.

They share another moment as the train arrives.

Kyle
Well, here's my connection. It was nice meeting you Gwen.

Gwen

Hey Kyle, I was wondering if you'd like to get coffee sometime, I mean if you're not too busy or anything, if you are I totally understand that you—

Kyle

Hey Gwen, where do you want to get to?

Gwen
(Smiling)

I don't much care where.

Kyle

Then come on, let's get lost together.

Kyle grabs Gwens hand and pulls her on the train as the doors close.

Blackout

Lights up on the subway station as it was at the top of the show. Train sounds are heard as Kyle and Gwen enter separately and do the same actions as at the top of the show, ending with their locking eyes. There is a change in lights that puts the focus on Kyle. He looks back at Gwen who is still reading quietly. He takes out his ear buds and walks over near her. Not approaching, just getting closer to her. She does not notice. He gets a little closer then finally:

Kyle

Hey.

Gwen looks up from her book

Gwen

Hey.

They exchange silent looks.

Kyle

Sorry, that was really awkward. I'm not very good at this.

Gwen

What do you mean by "this"?

Talking to girls.

Kyle

Gwen

Me either... Talking to boys I mean, I like talking to them. Not that there is anything wrong with girls but I... like boys...

She goes back to reading.

Kyle

You win, that was way more awkward.

They smile at each other.

Kyle

I'm Kyle.

Gwen

Gwen.

Kyle

What are you reading?

Gwen

"The Perks of Being a Wallflower"

Kyle

What's that about?

Gwen

Well, it's pretty much a series of letters from this kid Charlie who is talking about his high school life as an awkward and unpopular wallflower.

Kyle

And there are perks to that?

Gwen

For him there are.

Kyle

What are they?

Gwen

I haven't finished it yet, so I don't know.

Kyle

Oh, yeah, of course. Sorry I ask a lot of questions. I'm not like, interrogating you for a date or anything, (like a detective) where will you Saturday night at around 8 PM?

He laughs awkwardly. She does not.

Gwen

Tie game.

Kyle

So where are you going?

Gwen

I don't much care where.

Kyle

Then it doesn't much matter which way you go.

Gwen

So long as I get somewhere.

Kyle

Oh, you're sure to do that.

Gwen

If only you walk long enough.

Kyle

If only you walk long enough.

They share a moment

Kyle

Alice in Wonderland, I love that book.

Gwen

So do I! The artistic imagery and the artwork it inspired are just amazing. The endless possibilities of what wasn't described, where Alice didn't wander, what could have been.

Kyle

You're an artist?

Gwen

I try. Mostly I just draw what I see on the train.

Kyle

Can I see?

Sure.

Gwen

She shows him some sketches in her notebook. Kyle is looking at the sketches as she holds the book and flips through the pages. His attention goes from the pages to Gwen. After a beat she notices and they stare at each other for a moment from their current, very close, proximity. The train arrives.

Gwen

Well, here's my connection. It was nice meeting you Kyle.

Kyle

Hey Gwen... Ah, I'm not sure how to ask this, but I know it has something to do with you, me, and coffee.

Gwen

Hey Kyle, where do you want to get to?

Kyle

(Smiling)

I don't much care where.

Gwen

Then come on, let's find out where this rabbit hole goes.

They smile as she grabs his hand and pulls him on the train.

Blackout

Lights up on the subway station as it was at the top of the show. Train sounds are heard as Kyle and Gwen enter separately and do the same actions as before. At the same time Kyle and Gwen look up and lock eyes for an inordinate amount of time before they both continue waiting for the train quietly. The train arrives.

Blackout. End of play.