

Finding X Lang

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EXT. SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL- DAY

A MEDIUM SHOT of group of diverse students walking out of the Law School. They are speaking different languages.

Cut to a WIDE SHOT of the Law school in present day.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL 1930 - DAY

BLACK AND WHITE ESTABLISHING SHOT OF SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL.

INT. OFFICE - DAY.

B&W: Margaret Gillespie and Dorothy McNamara are filing extra paper work. Margaret and Dorothy are shuffling about the office, answering telephones and scribbling in large, leather bound books containing end of the week grades for students attending Suffolk Law School.

OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT TO MARGARET AND DOROTHY.

MARGARET GILLESPIE

(quietly)

Dorothy, do you mind handing me those papers for Barbara Sugarman?

Dorothy raises an eyebrow with a hand on her hip.

DOROTHY MCNAMARA

(even quieter)

Sugarman hasn't completed her weekly check-in with us, Marge.

MARGARET GILLESPIE(CONT'D)

(loudly)

What?! I told her I needed her to come in specifically because I have to input her grades and follow up with her parents! Unacceptable.

DOROTHY MCNAMARA(CONT'D)

(cautiously to Dorothy)

I think I'll be able to give her a call.

Dorothy yanks the telephone receiver off the line and dials a home number found jotted in Barbara's file.

Cut to a WIDE SHOT as Francis X Lang walks in from the front office and wraps his knuckles against the open door. His face is not shown. Margaret is ruffling through pages of paper as Dorothy stands there patiently waiting for the phone to ring. Dorothy looks up and sees Francis, excitingly, she hangs up the phone, smiling.

FRANCIS X LANG

Remember me?

DOROTHY MCNAMARA

(excitedly)

Remember you!? Oh, Francis, how are you?! It's been so long! How are you doing?

(then to Margaret)

Can you believe it? He came back!

Dorothy leaps to hug Francis, showing the back of his head. It is very unclear what he looks like.

FRANCIS X LANG(CONT'D)

(laughing)

I told you I'd be back!

MARGARET GILLESPIE

I told you he'd come back, Dorothy.
(smiling at Francis.)

I've been here for years, and they always come back, don't they?

DOROTHY MCNAMARA

(dejectedly)

Oh, pish posh! Elizabeth and Jennifer haven't made their way down here ever since they moved down south with their husbands!

FRANCIS X LANG

I'm sure they haven't forgotten about you two. Everyone graduates and moves on. Heck, it feels like just yesterday I graduated.

DOROTHY MCNAMARA

How was that break you took?

FRANCIS X LANG

It was something I needed. I wasn't able to focus much on my studies-- I needed to orient myself.

MARGARET GILLESPIE

Would you perhaps want me to dig up
your old end of the week and year
grades?

FRANCIS X LANG

Oh, that'd be swell, actually. Do
you have the yearbook?

Margaret shoots Francis a smug look.

MARGARET GILLESPIE

Does it look like I don't have
every single photo of yours taken
at Suffolk on file?

Francis laughs and rubs the back of his neck.

FRANCIS X LANG

I should have known better, you're
right.

Margaret and Dorothy disappear into an office off-camera.

FADE TO:

EXT. SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL- DAY

PAN UP on present Suffolk Law building

INT. SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL- DAY

LOW ANGLE SHOT of students walking down hall.

INT. SUFFOLK LAW SCHOOL OFFICE- DAY- PRESENT

Suffolk Law School Dean Andrew Perlman is shown in a mid
shot. He's wearing a dark blue suit and yellow tie, his
expression is neutral but warms up as he begins to speak. He
is facing camera, looking at someone just off screen.

DEAN ANDREW PERLMAN

Since 1930, Suffolk has established
a great reputation for being a
sanctuary for international
students.

INT. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - PRESENT DAY

An Asian student sits at a table alone in a library. There is a lamp lit next to her and she is looking at her computer. There are open books and notebooks all around her.

ANDREW PERLMAN (V.O.)

When we opened our doors, I don't think many people imagined that Suffolk Law School would be such an established, well-respected institution it is today. I think we owe a lot of that to the men and women who worked at Suffolk Law long ago.

INT. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- PRESENT DAY

Interviewee sits facing camera framed in a medium shot. She is wearing a tee-shirt and her expression is neutral.

PENNY

I came to the United States in high school. I was very interested in English, and I knew there were opportunities there for me. The person was the least on board with the thought of me leaving China was my grandmother.

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF PENNY'S HOME IN CHINA - DAY

INT. KITCHEN- DAY

Penny and her grandmother are in the kitchen in her house. They stand at the counter, Penny chops veggies and her grandmother stirs a pot on the stove. They are both focused as they move around the kitchen.

PENNY(V.O)

Still, whenever we talk on the phone she asks me when I plan to move back home. She really believes that all of the opportunities that are available to me in Boston are also in China.

INT. SUFFOLK SAWYER CAFE- DAY

We have a MEDIUM SHOT of Rafael Castro, 21 year old, Suffolk International Student.

RAFAEL CASTRO

Well my father got a job in Madrid
and my entire family moved over
there.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE THE MAIN BUILDING OF MADRID CAMPUS - DAY

Shots of Suffolk Madrid campus.

RAFAEL CASTRO (V.O.)

When I was choosing what college to
go to I wanted to further my
English studies so I chose to go to
suffolk.

INT. BUS

A CU of rafael looking out the window of a bus.

RAFAEL CASTRO

My family couldn't afford to live
within the city so we moved to the
very far outskirts. I took a bus
for 35 minutes then the subway for
another 35 minutes before finally
reaching my stop for the school.
But it was worth it,

INT. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- DAY

Penny sits facing camera framed in a medium shot. She is
wearing a tee-shirt and her expression is neutral.

PENNY

Before I left China, I had no idea
what America was like. No one I'd
known had ever gone to school in
the United States, so making that
choice was really challenging for
me and my family.

INT. SUFFOLK SAWYER CAFE- DAY

CU of Rafael.

RAFAEL CASTRO (V.O.)

I thought Boston was very nice,
very European like. The people are
something else and it still amazes
me how different it can be from my
culture.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

Five students sit at a table surrounded by open books,
computers and notebooks. They are all looking down and
talking to each other. They appear focused, not necessarily
stressed.

PENNY (V.O.)

Growing up, my parents always
emphasized the importance of
education. For us, it didn't matter
how much college cost, or where it
was or how well I would fit in. It
was more about getting into the
best school possible. American
students had less drive in that
way.

INT. SUFFOLK LIBRARY - DAY IN B&W.

Francis X Lang walks into the archives of the Suffolk
Library. Inside he meets with archivist who he shakes hands
with. He sits at a table with laid out material and
documents.

The archivist hands Francis a year book. His year book. He
says to himself.

FRANCIS X LANG

Ahh my class year book. It has been
years since I've seen this.

Francis X Lang opens up the book.

ARCHIVIST

If you flip a few pages forward you
will find something interesting.

Francis flips the pages forward and lands on the alumni
achievements page of the yearbook. He scans down and finds
himself. CU of the page.

FRANCIS X LANG (OUT LOUD)
 "Class of '30 was one of the most unusual cases in the success list of Suffolk men in the July examinations. Mr. Lang had never before taken the Bar Examination. Despite a lapse of six years after his graduation from Suffolk, he nevertheless succeeded, on his first trial!" That was one of the hardest things I've ever done.

He scans down then up and stops at another name. Edward A. O'Donnell.

FRANCIS X LANG (CONT'D)
 He- he was a good man. He came in to study the last night before my exam and he seems kind and brilliant. He was like me taking it years after school. We felt like we had something to prove.

He looks back at his name in the yearbook. CU on the book.

ARCHIVIST
 Is it true that you worked at the bank?

FRANCIS X LANG
 Yes, after Law School I went to work at the National Shawmut Bank.

INT. SUFFOLK SAWYER CAFE- DAY

MEDIUM SHOT of Rafael Castro.

RAFAEL CASTRO
 I want to work in music.

INT. ROCK CONCERT. NIGHT

POV shot as Rafael is at a concert, dancing as he gets on stage and begins to crowd surf.

RAFAEL CASTRO (V.O.)
 I became a PR major with the hope of enter the music industry. I want to be able to expand the reach for my favorite bands from Madrid and Venezuela.

INT. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- DAY

MEDIUM SHOT of Penny.

PENNY

Although I noticed right away how much more seriously Chinese students take their education, something I have learned from my American peers is independence.

EXT. BOSTON COMMON- DAY

A group of college girls sit on a blanket in the grass in the common. They are laughing and talking, some are sitting crosslegged and others are laying down. They are clearly friends and comfortable with each other.

PENNY (V.O.)

My parents sent me money from home when I was still in high school and starting college, but in the last few years I've been able to financially support myself. I think that if I hadn't come to Boston, I would never have gained this independence. Coming to the US has made me more of an adult.

INT. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- DAY

CU on Penny

PENNY

I think one day I will move back to China, but not to the town where I grew up. Now that I've lived in Boston and gotten so used to the city, I think I would have to be in Beijing or Shanghai to be happy. I'll certainly miss my friends that I've made here, but when I picture my life and my future, I see myself in China.
the potential and drive he had.

INT. A DARK ROOM

Black and white low key light of a shadowy man. As he turns it transforms to color as we see the actor that plays Francis X.

Lang and he begins a montage of multiple different international students transforming into each other. All students from past and present day.

FRANCIS X LANG (VO)

Now we never figure out who I am,
but we learned that, each immigrant
who comes to the United States
comes with a dream to better
themselves and Suffolk University
is the best place to do it.