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**We Day – Kate Winslet**




**Speaker:** Kate Winslet
**Text by:** Kate Winslet

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00:00:01:23

- So... I am Kate Winslet.

00:00:06:20

- Born in Reading, Berkshire, I have two sisters and one brother.

00:00:11:14

- I have a mum and a dad.

00:00:15:05

- Our mum was just our mum, a great cook and storyteller, sometimes worked in a local sandwich shop.

00:00:22:03

- My dad was a postman, a van driver, a tarmac shoveler, a Christmas tree seller, and he did many other odd jobs along the way to make ends meet.

00:00:33:19

- He was also an actor.

00:00:39:04

- Yes, he was.

00:00:41:04

- More out of work than in it, but he always loved it.

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- And even though he rarely made any money from it, he still loved it.

00:00:48:12

- He was happy, and it made me want to be an actor too.

00:00:52:08

- At school, I wasn't very good at maths.

00:00:54:02

- I was okay at English, pretty rubbish at history.

00:00:57:03

- But the thing I loved, I loved, was drama.

00:00:59:11

- It was my passion.

00:01:02:04

- Yes, it was my passion.

00:01:04:20

- I was always auditioning for the school plays.

00:01:07:10

- I didn't really get very good parts, mind you, but I didn't mind, I didn't care.

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- I would often get cast as the crocodile or the scarecrow or the daft fairy.

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- I was even a dancing frog once.

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- But it didn't matter.

00:01:18:15

- I still loved it.

00:01:19:20

- I loved acting.

00:01:21:10

- It didn't matter how big or small the parts were.

00:01:23:10

- I wanted to be great, and I was determined to keep learning.

00:01:26:24

- So I did my GCSEs.

00:01:28:10

- I did okay.

00:01:29:11

- Nothing in life comes for free, my dad would say.

00:01:32:14

- Do good work.

00:01:33:21

- I tried my best.

00:01:34:23

- I did good work.

00:01:36:13

- I got an A star for drama.

00:01:37:23

- It was the only A I got.

00:01:41:19

- I got my A.

00:01:43:05

- Oh, yeah.

00:01:44:24

- But what was I going to do now?

00:01:46:11

- How was I going to realize my dream of being on stage?

00:01:49:20

- I never even dared to think about being in films.

00:01:53:18

- So first things first, I got a job at the same sandwich shop as my mum.

00:01:59:21

- That way I could save enough money each week to pay for the train fares to London to go on auditions.

00:02:05:01

- I didn't get that many auditions back then.

00:02:07:20

- And it was tough.

00:02:09:00

- I never got the parts.

00:02:10:16

- I tried so hard to get them, but I never got them.

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- And I was always comparing myself to others.

00:02:14:22

- You see, I'd been bullied at school.

00:02:16:10

- They called me blubber.

00:02:17:18

- They teased me for wanting to act, locked me in the cupboard, laughed at me.

00:02:23:09

- I wasn't the prettiest.

00:02:25:01

- I've always had big feet.

00:02:26:24

- And I was even told that I might be lucky in my acting if I was happy to settle for the fat girl parts.

00:02:35:07

- Never let go.

00:02:36:15

- Never let go.

00:02:40:02

- And they would say, you're just not really what we're looking for, Kate.

00:02:43:13

- And so I'd hear that a lot.

00:02:44:21

- And so these comments about how I looked started to crop up, and I'd never really dared to think about how I looked before.

00:02:51:02

- I was just kind of ordinary, nothing special.

00:02:53:03

- But this unkindness made me feel truly horrendous.

00:02:56:17

- I felt I wasn't enough.

00:02:58:11

- I wasn't good enough.

00:03:00:03

- I didn't look right.

00:03:02:00

- And all because I didn't fit into someone else's idea of perfect.

00:03:06:05

- I didn't have the perfect body.

00:03:08:09

- And I would rarely hear anything positive.

00:03:11:15

- So I started to feel uncomfortable in my own skin.

00:03:15:24

- It made it hard.

00:03:16:22

- I wanted to give up.

00:03:18:13

- Maybe I should rethink this acting thing, I said to myself.

00:03:22:00

- But it was my passion, and it made me happy.

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