

"Close Encounters"

By

Phil Berard

834 Stanford Cir.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
248.342.1559  
[berard.phil@gmail.com](mailto:berard.phil@gmail.com)

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Outside of a shop window, the sidewalk is bustling with lovers making their way home carrying gifts and flowers. DAVE enters solemnly; only occasionally taking notice of his surroundings. From the other direction STACY enters seemingly in a hurry carrying a PAPER BAG OF GROCERIES. Dave meets her glance and tries to look away.

STACY

Dave?

DAVE (V.O.)

Oh God, not tonight.

DAVE

Hey, Stacy! How've you been?

STACY

Oh, you know, same ole' same. You?

STACY (V.O.)

Oh no! This is so awkward.

DAVE

Same. You still working over on 3<sup>rd</sup>?

STACY

Oh yeah, we've just been so busy with...

Stacy continues to talk as Dave gets lost in his thoughts.

DAVE (V.O.)

Just look at her. Her hair, her eyes, the way she gently bits her bottom lip after every sentence. Oh you hopeless sap, you're still in love with her!

DAVE

Sounds exciting. You know, at my job...

STACY (V.O.)

Okay stay strong here. You're with Darrel now. You're happy. You're free. You're a self-reliant, independent woman. You're not thrown by his smile or his hair or those dimples...(sigh).

DAVE

...I guess I can't complain. So, you have any big plans for Valentine's tonight?

Stacy reluctantly holds up the bag of groceries and shrugs.

DAVE

Oh, so you...well, for how long?

STACY

About 3 months now. We met at...

DAVE (V.O.)

Maybe it's not too late...just tell her you still love her! NO! STUPID!

DAVE

Yeah that's great. I haven't really...

STACY (V.O.)

You know that hurt him. He won't even look at you now. You still love him; just tell him, you coward!

STACY

Look, it was great to see you but I should really get dinner started.

DAVE

Oh, of course.

Stacy moves in for a hug as Dave goes for a kiss. They fumble around and settle at an awkward kiss on the cheek. They walk away from each other in opposite directions.

STACY (V.O.)

I wonder if he looked back.

DAVE (V.O.)

I wonder if she looked back.

They both stop and pause, still facing away. They turn abruptly towards each other locking in a romantic gaze across the distance. They don't move nor say a word as Stacy drops her groceries.

BLACKOUT