

FROM A DISTANCE

by  
Sullivan Le Postec

(50 Kisses Competition)

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Sullivanlp(at)gmail.com

75020 PARIS  
FRANCE

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY

MARK, quiet and good-looking, thirtysomething, is looking for his room. He has a suitcase in one hand, a documentation package and a card key in the other.

He finds the room, finally, but still double-checks the number on his card key.

He proceeds to open the door, clumsy with his hands full.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Mark sits on the bed, his suitcase at his feet. He checks his watch. 6 p.m. He SIGHS.

He has a look at the cover of his documentation package:

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION, 15-17 FEBRUARY

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mark pushes the door of a restaurant. He PAUSES, as he realizes:

On every occupied table, a COUPLE. Awkward.

A WAITRESS comes towards him. She understands at first glance, tries to be gentle:

WAITRESS

A table for one?

MARK

(smiling)

I guess...

She leads Mark to a table. She invites him to sit facing a wall, but he chooses to face the room.

MARK (CONT'D)

It's okay. I'll manage.

She hands him the menu with a wink:

WAITRESS

I'll take extra care of you.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT -- LATER

Mark is having lasagna. His eyes are wandering around.

Hands holding hands.

Passionate looks.

Sweet kiss over the table.

Mark cannot help but smile. He reaches for something on his pocket-- His wallet.

Inside, a PICTURE of him with a charming young lady.

The waitress looks over his shoulder, while bringing a new jug of water.

WAITRESS

Your girlfriend?

MARK

My wife, actually. She's home.

WAITRESS

And thinking about you right now. I'm sure.

As the waitress moves away, Mark KISSES his finger, and he touches the cheek of his wife on the picture.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The lady in the picture, DANA, is tossing a salad.

Behind her, in the background, MOVEMENT and HIGH-PITCHED laughter. It's a girl's night.

Suddenly, she STOPS. A strange expression on her face. A SHIVER on her body.

Slowly, she brings her hand to her cheek. And she SMILES, the biggest of smiles.

She turns and, bringing the salad to her friends, slowly moves away.

CUT TO BLACK