

OTHER PEOPLE'S KISSES

Written by

Gabriella Apicella

EXT. BUS SHELTER - NIGHT

Couples and young people huddle beneath and around the bus shelter from the cold. Smiles linger on the faces of those who are alone, some clutch bouquets and cards, and couples snuggle together.

MARIANNE (50) approaches the bus shelter. Her clothes are old, dirty and tattered, and she staggers a little drunkenly. She edges her way past a particularly passionate KISSING COUPLE(20s), and gives them a disdainful glance before balancing herself on the bus shelter bench.

Next to Marianne, a YOUNG MAN(20) has his arm around a YOUNG WOMAN (18). The Young Woman looks across at Marianne with compassion. The Young Man turns and looks at Marianne with disgust before turning back to the Young Woman. He kisses her on the tip of her nose, and shuffles along the bench a few inches further away from Marianne.

Marianne remains unaware.

A bus pulls up, and people get on including the Young Man and Woman.

BUS PASSENGER (30s) gets off the bus, then blows a kiss and waves at a partner still onboard before walking away.

SOPHIE (28) wearing a pretty dress and impractical shoes, runs for the bus. It pulls away just before she reaches it. Angry and disappointed, she sits near to Marianne and rummages in her bag, taking out a cigarette and lighting it.

MARIANNE

Got a spare fag?

SOPHIE

No sorry - it's my last one.

Sophie puts the half-full fag packet back in her bag, and looks away from Marianne who has clocked Sophie's lie.

Marianne shrugs. Sophie hugs her arms around herself, shivering in the cold.

NICK (22) cock-sure and casually dressed, sits next to Sophie.

NICK

You look freezing! Want my coat?

SOPHIE

No thanks.

NICK

I don't mind. Here -

Nick starts to take his coat off.

SOPHIE

I'm fine.

NICK

Rather I kept you warm?

Nick puts his arm around Sophie, and she tries unsuccessfully to shrug him off.

SOPHIE

Get off!

NICK

Aww - you're cute.

Nick puts his hands on Sophie's legs, as she continues to struggle.

Bystanders shift nervously away, or ignore the situation.

SOPHIE

Let me go.

NICK

Just one kiss?

Sophie stops struggling, and looks at Nick with a mixture of fear and repulsion.

MARIANNE

Oi. Fuck off!

Marianne pushes Nick's shoulder. Nick stands and looms over Marianne threateningly. She shrugs casually.

MARIANNE (CONT'D)

Ah go ahead you prick!

Nick looks Marianne up and down with dismissive disgust, then down at Sophie, trembling on the bench.

NICK

Fucking whores.

Nick walks away, hailing a cab as he walks up the street.

SOPHIE

Wanna fag?

MARIANNE

That'd be grand. Ta.

Sophie hands Marianne a cigarette and lights it for her.

Marianne inhales a satisfied puff.