

CLOSE ENOUGH

By

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EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

GARY walks with a bottle of wine.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY

Gary walks in.

INT. APARTMENT

With quiet music a drink is picked up off a coffee table,
and then interrupted by a door buzzer.

INT. DOOR

It opens to Gary to be greeted by LARRY.

LARRY
Who are you?

GARY
I don't know. But, I can be a
lot of fun!

LARRY
So, I've heard.

They hug warmly.

GARY (Offers the wine.)
Here's a treat.

LARRY
Thanks.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Gary and Larry walk in.

GARY
So, Jane's not back yet?

LARRY
She's still with her sister and
the new baby.

GARY

I miss her.

LARRY

It'll be soon. We'll be the three stooges again before you know it.

GARY

Good. But, for now I'll have to suffer alone with you.

LARRY

And torture.

GARY

Promise?

LARRY

How about a drink? I was having a rum and coke. Do you want your usual?

GARY

No, I'll have what you're having. Something different for a change.

LARRY

Feeling adventurous?

GARY

Maybe.

Larry moves to the bar while Gary sits on the sofa.

GARY

How's the website business?

LARRY

Doing well with some new accounts and busy enough.

GARY

Good.

Larry brings the drinks.

LARRY
Cheers! (Toasts.) To friendship.

GARY
Yes, it's the best.

Larry reaches behind the sofa to pull up a large sketchpad and then presents it to Gary.

LARRY
This is what I've also been working on.

A surprised Gary looks through it with interest.

GARY
Oh my God! That's me. From what?

LARRY
A snapshot from that pool party. Remember?

FLASHBACK - Fifteen years ago.

EXT. SWIMMING POOL PATIO

Gary on his back, is surrounded by people while Larry gives him mouth to mouth.

He gasps, opens his eyes, and then Larry with the others look back with relief.

Back to present.

LARRY
I'm glad you're still around.

GARY
Thanks. It was a lesson about mixing drinking with swimming. I've told others that one time you and I got out of a pool together, and then you gave me a big wet kiss.

LARRY

Well, I haven't given any mouth to mouth or kissed another man's lips since then.

GARY

Would you care to elaborate?

LARRY

Not right now.

GARY (Refers to book.)

Ok. This is beautiful work.

LARRY

Thanks, it's a start.

GARY

With a lot showing through.

LARRY

It feels good. You and your work have always inspired me.

GARY

Thanks.

He continues to look through the drawings.

LARRY

Refill?

GARY

Sure.

Larry goes to the bar.

A romantic ballad plays as Larry returns to the sofa with the drinks after which they click glasses.

Larry takes a large gulp.

FLASHBACK - twenty years ago.

INT. MUSEUM - GALLERY

Gary walks around a corner, and then notices Larry as he gazes at the 'Blue Nude' on the wall.

Gary moves closer with interest, but Larry is not aware.

GARY

Isn't that beautiful. I have that at home.

Larry gives him an odd look.

GARY

A copy that is.

Larry smiles which opens up a silent conversation between them.

INT. MUSEUM HALLWAY

Larry and Gary continue their conversation while they walk.

INT. LOFT

Gary shows his paintings to Larry.

Back to present.

GARY

It was thrilling; you were turning me on, I wanted to seduce you. Then, the "Bang" reality check.

LARRY

What?

GARY

Oh come on.

LARRY

Refresh my memory.

GARY

Don't play with me!

LARRY

There's another surprise!

GARY

More? O.k., Mr. Mystery. I'm all yours.

LARRY

Good. Now, go into the bedroom and shut your eyes.

Gary walks into the bedroom as Larry nervously paces.

With growing courage, Larry walks into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Gary stands near the bed with his eyes closed.

Larry awkwardly approaches Gary to clumsily kiss Gary on the lips. A surprised Gary opens his eyes and then pulls away.

Gary moves fast out of the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Gary enters followed by Larry.

LARRY

I'm sorry. I'm a God damned idiot!

GARY

Calm down. It's o.k.

LARRY

But, I just wanted it to be nice.

GARY

It was, but scary.

LARRY

What?

GARY

I thought I was satisfied with what we already had going.

LARRY

Me too. I just got carried away.

A pause, and then they carefully sit on the sofa with a safe distance between them.

GARY

It's just that, I don't want all of you, but some of you. Let's not add more than we have to.

LARRY

You're right. (Pause.) I just feel so close to you.

GARY

Likewise.

They move closer together to begin an embrace.

A telephone rings.

Both freeze as the voice of JANE, Larry's live in girlfriend, leaves a message.

JANE (OS)

Hi love. Are you there?

Gary and Larry remain silent.

Oh, I guess not. I thought you'd be home. I hope you're behaving. Just kidding. I'll be back tomorrow night. Everything is fine here. I hope you were able to get together with Gary like you wanted to. I miss and love you. See you tomorrow.

Affectionate kissing sounds from Jane. Gary and Larry awkwardly move out of the embrace.

LARRY

Well, let the guilt begin.

GARY

Something like that.

LARRY

Maybe, this is just curiosity.

GARY

Or jumping over to where you think the grass is greener.

LARRY

Could be.

GARY

Be careful, the grass may be greener because it's fertilized with piles of shit. That won't be fun to walk in.

LARRY

No.

GARY

I should get going.

LARRY

Are you sure?

GARY

Yes, I need some fresh air.

LARRY

So do I.

EXT. SIDEWALK

Larry and Gary walk slowly next to each other.

GARY

Anyway, I hope you are happy.

LARRY

Yes, but just a little restless.

GARY

I can relate.

LARRY

I'm going through this thing about relationships. I want them all to be beautiful and meaningful. Not to waste time with bullshit.

GARY

More quality not quantity. I don't worship false Gods, so why should I worship false friends. I'm so fortunate to have had those fourteen wonderful years with Ted as my partner. May he rest in peace. Also, being with you has been great.

LARRY

Yes, it can be very simple and special.

GARY

And can go wherever it wants. A kind of freedom.

LARRY

Let's keep that going between us.

GARY

For sure. We're close enough for that.