



CARRIE, WALTER and GARBO

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FADE IN

INT. SMALL MOVIE THEATRE LOBBY - DAY

CARRIE, a young woman, walks by Lobby Cards that read: GRETA GARBO Retrospective TWO FACED WOMAN and AS YOU DESIRE ME.

FLASH scene from the film CAMILE of GRETA GARBO as she walks through a theatre lobby.

Carrie walks through the theatre lobby.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

WALTER sits alone in an empty theatre towards the front.

INT. THEATRE ENTRANCE - DAY

Carrie enters, looks around at the emptiness with Walter.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

Carrie tentatively sits in a back row seat.

She gets up.

INT. AISLE - DAY

Carrie walks, pauses at the row with Walter, and then slides into it.

She slides closer to Walter.

He becomes aware of her.

She carefully sits in the seat next to him.

CARRIE

Excuse me, but do mind if I sit here?

WALTER

(look forward)

No.

CARRIE

How was Two Faced Woman?

FLASH scene from the film TWO FACED WOMAN.

WALTER

Not bad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE

Her last, but not her best. I think  
you'll like the next one, As You  
Desire Me, better.

WALTER

Maybe.

Walter gets up.

INT. AISLE - DAY

Walter walks towards the exit.

INT. CLOSEUP ON SCRIPT DIALOGUE -DAY

WALTER (O.S.)

Excuse me.

INT. CONCESSION COUNTER - DAY

Walter stands to be waited on.

BRAD, a handsome young man looks up from a script.

BRAD

Yes, may I help you?

WALTER

A large popcorn and coke please.

BRAD

No problem.

Brad prepares the refreshments.

WALTER

Not very crowded here today.

Brad brings him the refreshments.

BRAD

Tuesday afternoons are usually like  
this for the classics. A private  
screening.

WALTER

Are you bored?

BRAD

No, it's a nice change from when it's  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRAD (CONT'D)  
hectic. And, I keep busy anyway.

WALTER  
Yes, I noticed the script, but I won't tell.

BRAD  
Not a problem. It's for an audition.

WALTER  
Good luck or break a leg.

BRAD  
Thanks.

INT. AISLE - DAY

Walter walks slowly with refreshments as if to look for another seat.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

Walter sits behind Carrie further away but within speaking distance.

Carrie looks up.

CARRIE  
(to Walter)  
I'm sorry if I sat too close. I just like this seat. It's a weird habit.

WALTER  
No problem. I'm not that particular, but it seemed too close.

CARRIE  
Well, I did ask you first.

WALTER  
Yes, and I appreciate that.

The lights fade.

FLASH on the opening scene of AS YOU DESIRE ME and then cuts off.

INT. PROJECTION BOOTH - DAY

JANE, the projectionist, looks towards the equipment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JANE  
What the hell!

She moves away towards a wall TELEPHONE.

INT. THEATER - DAY

The lights come up with an announcement over the P.A. system.

JANE (V.O.)  
We are having difficulty with the reel of "As You Desire Me." If we are unable to show it, another film will be substituted. We apologize for the inconvenience, and hope you are enjoying the Greta Garbo retrospective.

CARRIE  
Damn!

WALTER  
I hope they get it fixed. It's one of my favorites.

CARRIE  
I've never seen it.

WALTER  
It's the only one in which Greta is a Platinum blond.

CARRIE  
Is the story good?

WALTER  
No, but that doesn't matter as much in a Garbo film. They are mostly about atmosphere, sets, and costumes.

CARRIE  
But, a good film has to have an engaging story to drive it. Otherwise, there's nothing.

WALTER  
A film is not a car that has to be driven.

CARRIE  
Nice line. I'll have to remember that.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE (CONT'D)

Are you an expert?

WALTER

No, just an opinion.

CARRIE

Well then, what is your opinion on whether Garbo was bi-sexual?

WALTER

There are rumors, but why does it matter?

CARRIE

Just fun gossip!

WALTER

It's not that fun!

CARRIE

Oh, another opinion?

WALTER

No. I...

CARRIE

Ok, sorry I brought it up. I had no idea sexual preference was a sensitive issue.

WALTER

It's not, but you seem a little pushy!

CARRIE

What makes you think that?

WALTER

You sat right next to me, when all these other seats were available!

CARRIE

I told you before it's a favorite seat, and I'm friendly with no apologies. There are far worst things to be!

FLASH on Jane in the projection booth as she opens a door.

WALTER

Ok, maybe I over reacted, so let's  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALTER (CONT'D)  
just watch the film.

With quiet tension in the air, Carrie and Walter look ahead towards the screen.

A distant "Excuse me"(O.S.) interrupts.

They both turn around.

INT. AISLE - DAY

ALONDA, an elegant woman who looks similar to an older Greta Garbo, stands to address them.

Carrie and Walter struggle to keep from laughing.

FLASH on scene from the film NINOTCHKA as Greta Garbo laughs.

ALONDA  
This is my theatre with apologies about the delay. We've had a difficult day. A perfect storm. All these years this has never happened. First, the reel broke, now the projector is in trouble, and the P.A. system is out, so that's why I'm here. The projectionist is working to get it fixed. Now, in the meantime, the snack bar is working. Also, two free passes each - one for each inconvenience will be waiting for you at the door when you leave. In other words, a total of four split between the two of you. Enjoy the show or whatever!

She exits.

Carrie and Walter continue to silently share the humor.

WALTER  
I hope it shows for your sake, but I think one show was enough for me this day. Take care.

CARRIE  
You too.

Walter moves away.

INT. AISLE - DAY

Walter walks slowly towards the exit and then turns around.

He walks back into the theatre.

He slowly approaches Carrie's row.

He slides towards her until up close.

WALTER

Do you mind if I sit here?

CARRIE

No.

He sits in the chair next to her.

WALTER

My name is Walter.

CARRIE

Carrie.

WALTER

So you like Garbo?

CARRIE

You might say that. It's sort of an obsession.

WALTER

Me too. I wonder why?

CARRIE

There's no explaining it. It's just a feeling, I guess.

WALTER

We're simply fans.

CARRIE

Yes. (Pause.) I have a confession to make.

WALTER

Do I look like a priest?

CARRIE

I sat next to you because you looked interesting.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

WALTER

Thank you and I came back here because of your interestingness.

CARRIE

Good. That's nice. What do you do?

WALTER

I'm a freelance photographer for fashion layouts mostly. You've probably seen some of my work in magazines.

CARRIE

Damn, it's a small word. I'm on the design staff of George Gillen. I'm surprised we haven't met before.

WALTER

Yes, we probably know some of the same people.

CARRIE

This is quite a switch.

WALTER

What do you mean?

CARRIE

Things started out a little tense between us. Now it seems to be going in the other direction. Were there other reasons you came back to sit next to me?

WALTER

I wanted to exorcise your loneliness by keeping you company.

CARRIE

Now that's crap....!

WALTER

Just kidding.

CARRIE

Thank God. Otherwise, I would move to another seat.

WALTER

Well, I didn't want to miss an  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALTER (CONT'D)  
opportunity.

CARRIE  
Opportunity?

WALTER  
To miss out on something new.

CARRIE  
Ok, that sounds good.

WALTER  
I have been isolating myself because  
of a sudden recent loss. The love of  
my life, now gone.

CARRIE  
Oh, that's hard to deal with. I've  
been through that too. Sorry to hear  
that.

WALTER  
Thanks. Hopefully time will help to  
bring new people in my life. Not to  
replace, but new directions or  
something like that. Oh, maybe this  
doesn't make any sense.

CARRIE  
Yes, it does. Moving forward will help  
to heal.

WALTER  
I hope so. Ted is gone. The best  
person so far in my life.

CARRIE  
I had no idea.

WALTER  
How could you if you just met me.

CARRIE  
No, I'm talking about that stupid bi-  
sexual crack.

WALTER  
Oh, that didn't bother me. Some people  
are gay and others are not. I am,  
that's all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE

Nicely put. A simple statement without judgement or concern.

WALTER

Well, now you know everything about me.

CARRIE

No, I don't. Just scratched the surface. There is a lot more.

WALTER

Yes, there is and the same could be said about you.

CARRIE

And everybody else.

INT. THEATRE AISLE - DAY

Alonda enters with a shoulder bag and a soda in a covered container.

ALONDA

I'm sorry, but Ms. Greta Garbo will not appear today, except in your dreams. It's not possible. So, here are your free passes.

She gestures the passes towards Carrie and Walter.

ALONDA (CONT'D)

Thank you so much!

INT. THEATRE - DAY

Carrie and Walter look at each other and then get ready to leave.

WALTER

Do you know where Greta lived here in the city?

CARRIE

Somewhere on the eastside I think.

WALTER

East 52 street looking out over the River. I could show you if you want.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARRIE

Sounds good, instead of a movie today  
we can have a field trip.

INT. THEATRE LOBBY - DAY

Jane is comforted by Brad.

BRAD

Don't worry. It's just one of those  
days. Besides, congratulations for  
your film getting in the festival!

JANE

Thanks. That is something to look  
forward to.

He embraces her.

INT. THEATRE - DAY

While together, Carrie and Walter exit as they take the  
passes from Alonda.

INT. THEATRE LOBBY - DAY

Carrie and Walter in conversation walk closely towards the  
front door.

Jane and Brad are in a passionate KISS.

They switch to hug as Carrie and Walter pass them.

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - DAY

Alonda sits in a back row seat and then proceeds to relax in  
the empty theater.

She opens her bag to pull out a silver FLASK.

She opens the soda and then pours from the flask into it.

With a distant look, she sips with enjoyment.

FLASH on the final scene from the film QUEEN CHRISTINA as  
Greta Garbo looks out from the bow of the ship.

FADE OUT