

' WHAT YOU NEED'

Treatment for a Feature Film

by David Goossen

An original story

Registered WGC #2293

ADAM is riding along a rough dirt road on a battered 10 speed, music blaring from his Walkman. COLIN is up on the roof of one of his two buildings, over looking the ocean. He is working on the roof. Adam continues thru the forest now, as fast as he can.

Colin is lounging in his living room, an elaborate, graceful, room. There is a knock on the door. He goes to answer it, and is taken aback by who's there. Visibly stunned.

Outside, nervous, is a pretty girl, STACEY. It seems that they haven't seen each other a long time. She gives her condolences to Colin about his parents dying, it was some time ago, that's why he has such a great house. They retire to the deck for a drink.

Adam arrives. New record, 45 minutes! He's excited, but even more so when he finds Stacey there. He emotes what Colin wanted to. They've really missed Stacey and they haven't seen her in ten years, not since grade 10. That makes them all 26 years old.

Over dinner, the conversation tries to figure out why they didn't keep in touch, why the vodka bottles keeps getting more empty. They talk and they talk, way into the night.

Later, Adam is asleep and Stacey and Colin are curled up on the couch. Colin is filling her in on what's been going on. Adam still lives at home, doesn't really have a job, and he's out here in this huge house by himself. Quietly, so as not to wake Adam, he takes her hand and leads her out of the room.

In the blackness, Colin helps Stacey into a tiny rowboat. They sail off into the still ocean. After a while, Colin stops the boat and opens a bottle of wine. They sip and talk. Colin is content with his life. Stacey is goading him on, trying to find out if there's anything that he really wants to do, cause there must be something. Finally, Colin calmly confesses he really wants to make love to her. Right now.

Adam wakes up and goes looking for the two, expecting to find them in the bedroom. But they aren't.

Out in the boat, Stacey, now more distant, wants to go back to

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shore. Colin tries to explain what he said, but Stacey isn't interested. But, Colin realizes, why did she come out to see him? There must be some reason. Stacey admits, she's lonely, her life isn't working out the way she planned and she wanted to have his friendship back. Colin sighs and starts rowing back in. Stacey suddenly tells him to stop the boat. She's willing to leap where angels fear to tread, only if he leaps with her. Then she kisses him, passionately.

Up at the house, Adam sips a beer on the balcony and notices a boat missing. He grins.

In the boat, Colin sits up, frustrated. Nothing is working. Stacey sits up and reassures Colin she wants a magical experience too, but they have to work at it. They start kissing again, but have to stop, no one has a condom. With a sigh, Colin starts rowing back in.

The next morning, Stacey is nursing her hangover with a coffee on the patio. Adam joins her. He gets her to tell him why she returned to Victoria, after trying to become a film star in Vancouver. She chickened out, didn't get any parts, ran out of money, she sighs. Adam sighs too. But she's got to do what she's supposed to do, or you're marking time on this earth. Stacey thinks about that while Adam goes inside for some cereal and a beer.

Stacey comes inside, she's got to be at work in a couple hours. But she promises to phone Colin that night. Once she's gone, Adam and Colin slouch off the day, doing nothing, talking aimlessly. Adam mentions that Colin's got Stacey way up on a pedestal, something that aggravates Colin to no end.

Stacey joins Colin for a video, but subtly rebuffs his passions and has to leave without staying over. Colin is confused but lets her go. After he's asleep, she pounds on his door. She's got something she hasn't told him. She's living with someone. Brian. A rugby player from their junior high school class. Stacey apologizes, but makes Colin promise to call her. He promises, totally depressed.

The next day, Colin tells Adam. He's shocked, but doesn't know what to do. The only options he can think of are to forget her or not forget her. In love, there are no prisoners, just casualties.

A few days later, Stacey arrives at Colin's house. He never called. He's distant, she gets fed up and leaves. Frustrated, Colin gets into his car and races to catch up with her. Catching up to her, he gets her to stop and they have a big fight on the

side of the road. But Stacey stops the mean talk and gets Colin to tell her the truth in his heart, and she will tell him. They do. They love each other. Not that that makes their lives any easier. But they are talking.

They go for a walk in the forest. At the graves of Colin's parents, they stop and talk. They talk about their lives. Adam seems to like his, forgetting the past, enjoying the present, but Stacey... she doesn't like to think about her present life. And Colin, Colin spends his days at a house his father created, that his parents lived in, everything reminds him of them. But he can't move, he can't let someone else live there. They walk back to Colin's house. Adam is there. Serious.

On a busy street corner, a simple cross and a battered cardboard sign is dropped. A bouquet of flowers. Their best friend was killed there, when she was 15. Every year, Adam does this, in memory.

That night, drawn down by the mood of the day, they all watch a video. Later, Adam and Stacey talk on the patio. Adam gets Stacey indignant by answering a question of hers honestly. No, he doesn't think she lives her life. If she wakes up in the morning and doesn't want to get out of bed, if she doesn't want to go to work, if she doesn't... No, she doesn't live life. It's not about what you want, it's about what you need, Adam says. With that thought in her head, Adam realizes something's changed. He takes the video and leaves Stacey with Colin.

Once alone, Stacey turns to Colin, she confesses she wants to make love to him, right now. But this time they have condoms. But that doesn't mean that things go smoothly, and Colin tries to give up, after a couple injuries. But Stacey takes him into the bedroom, and they make love. Unfortunately, with the anticipation of the moment, very quickly for Colin. Struggling thru the silence they talk about it. And end up curled together to sleep, close in the moment.

In the morning, after a good night's rest, they are relaxed enough to make love - wonderful, fabulous love.

Colin meets Adam for coffee. Adam draws out that they slept together. And that Colin had a great time, but, what about Stacey and Brian? She still sleeps with him, when she's not at Colin's. Depressed, Colin thinks about that.

The next time Stacey stays over, Colin wants to know if she's ever leaving Brian. They get into an argument and Colin leaves, even though it's his house.

Stacey sleeps on the far side of her bed at home. Brian is way on the other side. She is crying. The next day, she goes to see Adam. She doesn't know what to do. Colin can't deal with her and Brian, even though they haven't had sex in over a month, Colin won't believe that. Adam says he doesn't have any problem with her and Brian, and Stacey sighs. Once in high school was enough for them, she needs to know where Colin is.

She finds him at the coffee shop. She tries to get him to understand that she can't just stop her old life, she wants to slow down a bit with Colin. He takes it badly, being really terse, saying it's her decision, he has no say, if she just wants to be friends, so be it and that he's got to go. She can call him if she wants.

Stacey returns to Adam's house and takes him to his bedroom. If Colin only wants her as a friend, then she needs some commitment free loving from someone else. And she's got a condom. Actually, it's one of Colin's.

Before their passions get too high, Stacey stops herself. She has to know if Adam has been tested, if he's safe. Passions pause while they discuss this hard part of sex in the Nineties. But they get thru it, and leap back onto the bed together.

Stacey shows up at Colin's place to watch a video, just as friends. But it's really hard to just be friends.

Stacey mopes around her apartment, frustrated with her life. Colin mopes around his house, bored, waiting for something. Exasperated, Stacey goes to see Adam. He's standing in the middle of a field, headset on, playing guitar, oblivious to everything around him. She needs his advice. But, Adam warns her, no point in listening to his advice, in her heart, in the back of her brain, she already knows what she's going to do. She's just got to relax and do it. With a smile, he offers her the headset and plays for her. Stacey actually relaxes for the first time in a long time.

A newly serene Stacey arrives at Colin's house. Over a glass of wine, Stacey gleefully tells Colin her news. She's left Brian and quit her job. Does Colin have a room for rent?

That night, while Stacey dances freely in her new bedroom, Colin watches her from the dining room. After a while he stops and goes to bed.

In the darkness, Stacey climbs into bed with Colin and curls up

against him. But Colin has problems with her being next to him, if they're to remain friends. He can't separate the two. Either friends or lovers. Colin chooses friends, friends forever. But Stacey starts to cry, she needs him to be both.

The next morning Colin wakes to a full breakfast cooked by Stacey. But after the wonderful breakfast, he's got to go meet with Adam. With a sigh, Stacey lets him go. Now she's alone in Colin's house.

As Colin meets up with Adam at the coffee shop, Stacey rows out to the nearest tiny island and explores. Meanwhile, Colin is confused about Stacey, he is starting to make it worse than it is, he's not content when things are going well. As Stacey decides to nude sunbathe on the island, Adam begs off the afternoon with Colin. But he does tell him to go get Stacey, because she's offering him both, friend and lover. Both. You can't get better than that.

Colin arrives home to find Stacey not there. But his telescope quickly finds her. With a grin, he rows out to the island, furiously. He tells her that he's willing to try being her friend and her lover. Stacey is overjoyed by his decision and they embrace.

After making love, they talk, lying on the moss. Stacey confesses that her entire life has changed because of her coming out to see Colin. They are happy, they are in love.

On a different day, at a wine soaked picnic, Adam, Colin and Stacey ponder their lives, Colin suddenly asking if they'd ever been on a blind date. He gets really tense when asked about his question and leaves them. When Stacey and Adam catch up to him, swinging on a tire swing, it turns out that Colin is feeling like he hasn't lived his life too much, he hasn't been on a blind date, etc etc. Adam and Stacey try to convince him that blind dates aren't much fun but there's a great concern of Colin's. But the bottom line is they don't know what they've done with their lives, and they don't know where they're going. And they weren't taught anything about real life in school.

Later, Adam thinks out loud that he doesn't believe there could ever be total honesty in a relationship, because there would be nothing left to learn, you'd merge, become one. Stacey agrees, Colin doesn't. But Adam pushes the point, talking vaguely about his hidden secrets, much to Stacey's concern. But Colin gets Adam to spill his great secret. It's that he didn't lose his virginity to the girl everyone thought he had. There was someone earlier. But he remembers the event like it was yesterday.

Stacey pales and changes the subject.

In a loud, full nightclub, Colin nurses a drink. Out on the dance floor, Adam and Stacey talk animatedly. When they arrive at the table, they quickly order more six tequila shots. They're on their way to being very drunk. Colin is the unlucky designated driver. Adam and Stacey quickly down them, order more and head for the dance floor again. The waitress arrives with the bill. Colin doesn't have the cash and goes to talk to Adam and Stacey. No one has any money. But they need the tequila.

After several unsuccessful attempts, they find a bank machine and race back, dragging the embarrassed Colin, to make last call. As they leave the nightclub, Colin is struggling to get the very drunk Stacey home. Adam stumbles off by himself.

Stacey passes out and Colin sits up in their bed, glancing down at her occasionally.

As Adam sleeps, a pounding occurs at his window. Disoriented, he wakes up and opens his curtains to see Colin there. Time to talk.

Outside, in Colin's car, Adam admits he slept with Stacey. But Colin thinks he's talking about back in Grade 8, Adam is talking about last week. Colin realizes what he's talking about. They fight, Adam walking away, Colin has the problem, not him. But Colin comes after him, accusing him of messing with Stacey. Adam gets angry and slams his window shut. Colin is interrupted by Adam's father and leaves.

The next morning, Colin accuses a very hungover Stacey of fucking Adam. She admits it, but she's really angry at Adam for talking and at Colin for getting upset. What she does, is what she does. Furious, Stacey leaves. Colin comes after her as she's getting into her car. Only his perception of her has changed, she hasn't. But he won't believe that.

At Adam's house, Stacey flips on him. He fucks with everyone else's lives and doesn't care for the consequences. Still angry, she leaves.

As Colin mopes in his house when the doorbell rings. He opens the door and Brian is standing there. He isn't going to hurt him, he just wants to talk. He doesn't know what to do. He wants to hurt Colin, real bad, but that won't solve anything. He doesn't know what to do and he leaves. Colin is left standing in his living room, in shock. Brian comes back up the stair and breaks Colin's nose. No, it doesn't make anything better. He leaves.

Stacey goes and watches a softball game. Kids are playing, families having fun. She bums a cigarette and ponders. Colin remains in his living room, with an ice pack and a beer. Adam stands in the park, trying to play guitar, but nothing's working.

Colin's house. The doorbell rings and a six year old girl answers it. A ten year older Stacey asks for the girl's daddy. Colin comes down the stairs to see her. Before he can say anything, the girl sees a baby and is all excited. They look past Stacey to see Adam, holding a baby in his arms.

The past is forgotten as tentative steps are made to bond once more.

THE END

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