

Second Look  
by  
Patrick Gabridge

Sample Pages

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**Second Look**

Characters: (2m)

Bobby: L30s-50s. Homeless.

Dave: Same age as Bobby. Not homeless.

Time: Afternoon.

Place: A sidewalk in downtown Boston.

Synopsis: A chance encounter between two old friends raises some tough and awkward questions.

Bio: Patrick's plays have received hundreds of productions in theatres across the country. He's been a Huntington Playwriting Fellow with the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston and is a New Voices Playwriting Fellow at New Rep. In his spare time, he likes to farm.

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Scene: A busy sidewalk, downtown.

At Rise: A man, BOBBY, stands facing out, holding up a sign: "Homeless, Hungry. Please Help." He looks tired, but not ragged. His clothes are worn, but not filthy. He holds a coffee mug for donations. As he stands he looks out straight ahead, his face a little hard.

Sounds of city streets.

DAVE enters, walking quickly across the stage. He gives only the merest glance at Bobby. Keeps walking.

Just as Dave is about to exit, he stops, turns, and looks at Bobby. Takes a step back towards him. Changes his mind. Turns and exits.

Bobby keeps staring ahead, with sign and cup.

Dave re-enters. Stops. Walks over to Bobby.

DAVE

Hey, Bobby.

Bobby looks at him, face still hard, maybe a little harder than before. Mostly blank, but something else, too.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Hey. I. Uh. I didn't want you to think I ignored you. I just didn't...

BOBBY

Hi, Dave.

DAVE

I didn't see you.

BOBBY

It's fine.

DAVE

How are you?

Bobby raises his sign and cup in answer.

Yeah. Right. DAVE (CONT'D)

I'm okay. BOBBY

Really? DAVE

Bobby gives him a look.

Sorry. How's Sharon? DAVE (CONT'D)

Still having trouble. On and off the wagon, you know. BOBBY

Sorry to hear it. And Taylor, he's in school? DAVE

Yeah. Yeah, he goes. BOBBY

Good. I'm glad. DAVE

Silence.

Sorry things are still so... DAVE (CONT'D)

Yeah. BOBBY

Silence.

So what happened, when I got you that job at our complex? Remember? The masonry? DAVE

Yeah. God. Seems like ages ago. BOBBY

Paid you the first half up front. DAVE

Right. Yeah. Right. You still need it done? BOBBY

Nah. Had to hire someone else. DAVE

Sure. Sure. Of course. BOBBY

DAVE

Sorry. But you never...

BOBBY

Yeah. Yeah. Sorry about that. I couldn't get myself over there. Things got kind of...

DAVE

You have a place to... I mean, where are you... I heard you were in Somerville.

BOBBY

Revere. Had a lead on a place in Cambridge. But. Work's hard to come by these days.

DAVE

Yeah. Everyone's hit pretty hard.

BOBBY

Keeps on going.

DAVE

Yeah.

BOBBY

And life gets... complicated. You know.

Silence.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

This isn't, ah... I have plans. This isn't what I'm about. I'm just trying to get on my feet.

DAVE

Sure. I didn't mean to put you on the spot. Maybe I shouldn't have....

BOBBY

No. It's okay. I'm here.

DAVE

Yeah. When I saw you, I thought... I wasn't sure, the look you had in your... I thought maybe you wouldn't want...

BOBBY

You to see me? That it might be an awkward moment?

DAVE

Right.

BOBBY

But now it's all flowers, puppies and kittens.

DAVE

No, I...

BOBBY

It's all right. You stopped. You did your bit. I saw Stacy Martin the other day---the three of our kids--used to be like a little pack of wild dogs. Remember? I know she saw me. Real quick. Just a glance. But she saw me. I tried not to look too much, you know, but she... It was almost like a dance move. The way she changed her step, a little hop and a skip, to keep from having to walk past me.

DAVE

I'm sure she didn't--

BOBBY

Yeah. She say anything? Mention it?

DAVE

Nah.

BOBBY

Not part of the playground talk at pickup time, after school? "I saw Taylor's dad downtown, blah, blah, blah, what a shame."

DAVE

She didn't mention it.

BOBBY

Oh.

DAVE

Maybe she didn't see you.

BOBBY

Maybe.

Silence.

DAVE

I should really...

BOBBY

Sure.

DAVE

It was good, ah, seeing you.

BOBBY

Yeah. Thanks.

DAVE

Say Hi to Sharon and Taylor.