

A MEDIUM CHANCE

Written by

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EXT. METAPHYSICAL CENTRE- AFTERNOON

A sunny weekend afternoon. The Metaphysical Centre is a kooky little place in the shopping part of town. Crystals and numerous books on chakras and Hindu art are displayed in the windows along with a pokey little sign:

PSYCHIC READINGS AVAILABLE ON APPOINTMENT

Two customers arrive at the door. EVE is an ex-hippie, willowy and wide-eyed. She's somewhat dragging her husband REG, professional and put-upon. He glances at the crystals with disdain as he reluctantly follows his wife inside.

INT. METAPHYSICAL CENTRE- AFTERNOON

The opening door sets off a cheerful CHIME. Reg winces at the sound, nauseating to his ears.

REG

(under his breath)

I don't know why we paid forty-five quid for this!

EVE

Shh! It's worth it! I know, I wasn't sure when Sharon took me, but you wait and see!

REG

Oh I don't doubt this woman's good at it. I just know it's a con.

EVE

Look! Will you just go in with an open mind, alright? I know what you're like! But you should see how much better Sharon is now.

REG

Darling, you know how she can be-

EVE

Yes, she's had her issues but this has really made a difference. If you try, just go along with it... You'll feel a connection I promise.

REG

Fine. I'll try my best to 'connect' with the spirits from beyond. Maybe I'll find out where dad left his bloody ring spanner!

EVE
Reg! Come on!

At that moment MELINDA emerges dramatically from behind a curtain. Wearing a voluminous wizard-like coat, her every movement is a performance she revels in.

MELINDA
Good afternoon!

EVE
Hi!

MELINDA
(recognising her)
Hello you! Back for more are we?

EVE
Absolutely!

MELINDA
And this must be Reg I've heard so much about?

Reg waves halfheartedly, forcing a smile.

MELINDA (CONT'D)
Lovely! So who's going first?

EVE
He is.

MELINDA
Wonderful! If you'd like to follow me downstairs then, Reg!

Reg follows reluctantly. As he goes, Eve shoots him a look:
Behave!!

INT. MELINDA'S ROOM- AFTERNOON

An exotic veil hangs in what is otherwise just a door to a regular office. Foreign books and bizarre figurines cover the desk. Reg slouches in the seat opposite Melinda.

MELINDA
Lovely day isn't it?

REG
Beautiful.

MELINDA

Hmm. Someone close to you loves days like this. Has your mother passed?

REG

No.

MELINDA

...OK. I'm getting someone who's passed, very protective of you... loved the sun... who's Margaret?

REG

I'm guessing a common name from forty years ago that fits a dead relative for most people.

Melinda stiffens slightly but keeps the performance going.

MELINDA

Hmm. See the spirits are never specific. I have to interpret them the best way I can. See now, they're whispering about a journey. You're going somewhere, north of here perhaps?

REG

Like the holiday to the lake district that Eve must have told you about last time?

MELINDA

You're going to have a wonderful time. I'm seeing dramatic scenery, rolling hills and rivers-

REG

So the lake district then?

She's getting annoyed now.

MELINDA

Reg, I'm getting hostility from you. It's distorting the spirits.

REG

Look I'm sorry but I know what cold reading is. You're just picking things up from looking at me, listening to me-

MELINDA

Any exploration of the metaphysical requires a leap of confidence.

REG

You shoot out vague statements and hope I fill in the gaps! See I could just take a stab that your... your grandmother's probably passed and you were sad when it happened!

MELINDA

If you're not willing to take this seriously-

REG

I suppose you missed her every day and wanted to talk to her again somehow, so you got hooked on this?

Melinda freezes: he's absolutely right.

MELINDA

Reg, that isn't funny.

REG

See it's easy! Look, I'm getting a Harry...William... Willie...Bill... Billy? Is Billy your dog that went missing when you were eleven?

She's freaked out now. Reg is surprised himself: *That was specific!*

MELINDA

That's impossible!

Dawning realisation for Reg; knowledge he's never had before...

REG

He was alright in the end, lived a long life... But your mother Meredith always felt guilty about it, knew how upset you were.

MELINDA

Stop it! How are you doing this?

REG

I don't know!

Suddenly a high-pitched cockney voice whispers in his ear:

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
Ask about the trip then!

Reg cries out in shock, scares Melinda too.

MELINDA
What?

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
The trip! Go on!

REG
A...A trip. You're going somewhere?

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
Come on! India! India!

REG
India! You're going to India?

MELINDA
Who are you? What do you want from me?!

DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
Yes she's going back to that temple where she snogged Gary twenty years ago!

REG
Who's Gary?

INT. METAPHYSICAL CENTRE- AFTERNOON

Eve paces around patiently, waiting for them to finish.

Suddenly Melinda runs screaming out of her office, darts straight out the door and disappears. Eve stares in amazement as Reg emerges. He's a different man- it's like he's experiencing everything for the first time.

EVE
Reg! What did you say?

REG
You're ashamed of me aren't you?

EVE
I... Reg come on! I-

REG

Your grandmother always thought I was too dull for you. She wants you to move on.

EVE

My grandmo- what are you talking about?

REG

And Sharon...Wow. She's not just a friend to you is she?

Eve gapes at her husband, part outraged, part horrified, utterly shocked.

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. METAPHYSICAL CENTRE- EVENING

The Metaphysical Centre has undergone quite a change. Many of the crystals and books have been removed from the window to make way for a much bigger more impressive sign:

HIGH QUALITY PSYCHIC READINGS- NO NEED TO BOOK

A couple, LUKE and JANE arrive at the door. Luke is buzzing, looking forward to treating her. Jane is excited but a little apprehensive.

JANE

I mean it seems a little expensive. Are you sure it's worth that much?

LUKE

Jane, you should have seen Joe's face the other day. Trust me, this is gonna be fun!

He bounds in, taking her by the hand.

INT. METAPHYSICAL CENTRE- EVENING

LUKE and JANE look around the store. More items for sale, and absolutely packed with excited customers. This place has really gone up in the world.

JANE

And we really don't need to book or anything?

LUKE

You read the sign. They said no
need to.

The curtain FLIES open dramatically. A CUSTOMER emerges,
absolutely astonished. Luke and Jane turn to see the psychic
emerge-

It's REG. Dressed in a sharp black suit with a talisman round
his neck.

REG

Good evening! Jane and Luke I
presume? You're a little early.

A big devilish grin spreads across his face at the sight of
their dropped jaws.

THE END.