

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

by Wendy MacLeod

L.A. Valet Parking Stand. Night. DAVID, a handsome television star waits for his car. He's approached by MICHAEL, a heavy-set guy who holds a baby, carelessly wrapped in blankets.

FAN

David? David? Hey! It's Mike. Michael.

DAVID

Michael...?

FAN

I was an extra. On Space Nine. This was, wo. Back in the day. You needed a cigarette and I had one.

DAVID

I don't smoke.

FAN

Good for you, man. I quit too. I mean my wife had to quit, so I figured solidarity, right? Like when your friends are doing chemo you shave your head.

DAVID

I never smoked.

FAN

You *totally* smoked. It was the Disney Lot. Studio Three. It was the Santa Anas. I was having trouble lighting a butt. You nodded towards the pack.

DAVID

I have asthma. I wouldn't smoke.

FAN

Me neither. 'Cause of this little guy. What are you driving?

DAVID

(apologetically)

I'd rather not say. The paparrazzi.

FAN

Tell me about it!

He laughs heartily, excessively.

DAVID

You're an actor?

FAN

Was an actor. *Was* being the operative word...But it wasn't for me. I was always third frat boy from the right. The fat boy in the toga, you know. Type-casting. You know what's that like.

DAVID

What do you mean?

FAN

Well, I mean, *you* play the same part week after week.

DAVID

It's a series...

FAN

Week in week out...you can have it.

DAVID

Are you waiting for a car?

FAN

If I answer that, they'll have to kill you! Hey. While we're waiting...

FAN juggles the baby while pulling a digital camera from his pocket.

FAN (CONT'D)

Would you mind being photographed with the bambino? I have a collection. Of him with celebrities. Charleton Heston. Joan Rivers. Charles Nelson Reilly.

DAVID

Heady company.

FAN

(defensively)

And younger actors too.

DAVID

Like who?

FAN

It's not a *movie*. These aren't your *co-stars*. It's a *snapshot*.

DAVID

Whatever...

FAN
SCARLETT JOHANNSSSEN!

DAVID
Why do you take pictures of your baby with movie stars?

FAN
You're not a movie star.

DAVID
Famous people.

FAN
It's conceptual.

DAVID
You're an artist?

FAN
Did I say that?

DAVID
You said you were a former actor.

FAN
So?

DAVID
So what are you now?

FAN
Good question!

FAN laughs heartily, excessively.

DAVID
Is he alright?

FAN
He's *great*.

DAVID
He's not cold?

FAN
He's *sleeping*.

DAVID

Is he...really yours?

FAN

What's *wrong* with you man? He's my *kid*. Take the picture or not but don't *question my paternity!*

DAVID

The flash will wake him up.

FAN

So?

DAVID

So it's after midnight and he's *sleeping*...

FAN

He'll go *back* to sleep. He's got his whole life to sleep. But how often does he get a chance to be photographed with David Wyman?

DAVID

You're not gonna...?

FAN

What?

DAVID

Claim you know me? Knew me?

FAN

What you think you're John Lennon? You think you're *Garbo*? *Claim to know you? Jesus!* You're on *Fox!*

DAVID

No, I know, it's just...

FAN

Forget it, forget I mentioned it. I'll just tell him he *met* David Wyman once. Waiting for his *Mercedes*.

DAVID

It's not a Mercedes.

FAN

What?

DAVID

For the record. It's a Prius.

FAN

Of *course* it is.

DAVID

I'm just trying to understand...

FAN

I'm a *father*. I'm trying to give him something.

DAVID

Why...*this*?

FAN

So he'll *have* it. Please.

David sees his car arrive. Beat.

DAVID

No.

(*exiting*)

It's chilly out here. That kid should have a coat.

FAN

(*yelling after him*)

Asshole!

The baby wakes up from the sound and begins to cry.

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