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Four Meetings: Scenes from Adult Dating, circa 1994

(with apologies to Henry James for borrowing his title)

by Daniel Schwarz

I.

“I’ll bet you are great in bed;
Will you read to me?”
she blurted primly, coiffed and kempt,
our eyes meeting as she leaned forward,
on darkening late fall evening
in drab restaurant
lit by our flirtation,
her foot massaging mine
as my ears reddened in rash of puzzlement.

II.

“I want to do everything to please you.
With you it’s wonderful,”
she gasped,
intermingled with me
in her Victorian parlor opened to
late December sun caressing
our mid-life nakedness.

III.

“Perhaps I should have
mentioned Robert, who has
returned to share our house and
whose illness requires my presence,”
she whispered grammatically,
looking away
as she lay beside me.

IV.

“I am a creature of duty and loyalty;
besides, I am in love with my house,”
she added formally, as she departed,
fastidiously closing my front door.

