

“CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU” by Alexander Lee-Rekers - Gayle - F - 60s

GAYLE speaks to her younger friend RITA about how she met DON.

GAYLE: Well ... I was still in school. I'd taken a self-defence class with the other girls about how to stay safe, how to walk home at night, that sort of thing... And the woman who ran it—stern woman, cropped hair and whistle on a lanyard—she said if you ever think you're being followed, ladies: do something strange or unexpected. Throws the attacker off, she says! *(Pause.)* Of course, this was nineteen-seventy-something, so I can't be sure if that's any good advice at all...

And so one night I was walking home after choir practice, and I noticed this figure over my shoulder. Not big, but ... present. I sped up, he seemed to speed up. I slowed down, he seemed to slow down. I start getting nervous, my heart starts racing. I can hear that self-defence woman in my head and she's saying "Throw the attacker off! Strange or unexpected!"

So I started to sing: "You're just too good to be true... Can't take my eyes off you..." Do you know Frankie Valli? I started out soft, because that's how the song begins, but before long I'm singing along with the brass part and heading right for the chorus. I'd almost forgotten the figure behind me at this point—caught up in the moment as the music reaches its peak. And then, from behind me, a beautiful voice: "I LOVE YOU BABY, AND IF IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT I NEED YOU BABY..." I turned and the figure was down on one knee, arms outstretched, not a right note among the ones he sang. It was my Don. First time we met. We married two years later.