"LOOSE CHANGE" by Alexander Lee-Rekers (StageMilk, 2024)

SANDRA stands alone at a train station platform, dressed for the commute to work. She looks over to the entrance, where AUBREY enters: full of aggressive energy, devoid of purpose. SANDRA stiffens as AUBREY approaches her, seeking out even a flash of eye contact.

AUBREY: Hello? 'Scuse me? You wouldn't have any change would you? Spare change.

SANDRA: No, sorry.

AUBREY: Anything at all? I'm trying to get ten dollars for a room at the shelter.

SANDRA: I'm not carrying any cash.

AUBREY: (Stepping in.) You can relax. I'm not gonna hurt you or anything. Just wanted to ask if you had any change. Notes, coins, whatever.

SANDRA: I'm about to catch the train-

AUBREY: You don't even want to check your pockets? Bottom of your bag?

SANDRA: Aubrey? Are you Aubrey Davis?

AUBREY backs off a little.

SANDRA: I think we went to school together. It's- I'm Sandra. Sandra Gordon.

A long pause.

AUBREY: I don't think so.

SANDRA: It's been a while.

AUBREY: My name's not Aubrey.

SANDRA: Hold on. Let me have a look... (Sandra checks her bag, and then:) Aha!

She holds out a stray fifty. AUBREY looks from SANDRA to the money and back again.

SANDRA: Please.

AUBREY: Umm. No, it's- Sorry to bother you. Got me confused...

SANDRA watches them leave the platform as the train pulls up.