

## THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE

by Tim Bass

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A man recording his “bio” for a video dating service reveals his inner insecurities.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The most important element of this monologue is that it appear spontaneous—encourage the actor to make this monologue his own by finding the moments, mannerisms, and pauses that work best for him.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Relationships

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 12:32, Romans 8:28

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service

**CHARACTERS:** MAN

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** One wireless microphone

**LIGHTING:** Special spotlight if possible, or general stage

**SETTING:** The video recording studio of a dating service

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*MAN walks out; he adjusts his tie, etc. There is a video screen above or beside him.*

**MAN:** Uh...okay. Okay, I guess I'm ready. Do I...? What do I do?

*Suddenly his image appears on screen. The camera zooms in and pulls out until it finds a comfortable shot of the MAN.*

Oh. That's me. Cool. Uh...should I just start? Okay. My name is Alvin Koster. I live at, uh, 400 East Madison. Here. In the city. I've never been, uh, married. I'm forty-three. I know what you're thinking. I know. Forty-three. Never married. What's the matter with this guy? But the thing is...well...I mean I was almost married once. Nineteen eighty-nine. Her name was Rita. She taught school. Graduated second in her class. I think she...well, I mean, she said she loved me. Uh, we dated for eight years. But you know how it goes, I mean, I knew there was something better out there, you know? I mean, c'mon, right? So, I broke that off. That was a close one. Anyway, that was 1989. So, uh, it's been a while since I've actually dated. That's why I'm here. Making this tape. I'm looking for someone between 5'2" and 5'3", about 110 pounds, blond hair, and green eyes. Sophisticated. Well, actually any color hair would be fine...that's not, uh...brown eyes are fine, brown eyes are, I like brown...and really, up to uh, I don't know, 145 lbs...and...I mean, okay, you don't have to be terribly smart, I mean maybe the IQ of a defensive lineman...okay, if you've got a car and a phone, call me.

I've got a good job. That's, well, it's an okay job...it's, well, okay, I'm in public radio. I had a good job. I mean I almost had a good...I was offered head of programming at NBC back in '91. But I thought, you know...uh, maybe I should wait, see what else is out there. So, I'm in public radio. Well, I mean, I work at a public radio station. You know, I, uh, I answer the phones out front...it's a good job...I was offered head of programming at NBC in '91, did I say that already? Yeah. That was a close one.

What do I want? Well, I don't...I think...nothing really special...just...Okay, the truth? Someone to...save me. Someone to help me make some sense out of a world that seems altogether senseless. Someone who can see what other people don't...that I am...that I'm not...I'm not just another...Look, uh, I'm sorry, can you hear me in there? Let's just uh, can we just forget about this? Just uh...can you turn that...can you just, let's just...I'm sorry...I've made a mistake...can you just turn off the camera?

*Image of MAN on screen flickers out.*

Thank you.

*He turns and begins to walk out.*

That was a close one...