

AT FIRST SIGHT

— *When the lines get blurry* —

Written by: **Emily O Hara**



Jim

I could drown myself in someone like you
I could dive so deep I never come out
I thought it was impossible
But you make it possible

Impossible, Nothing But Thieves

Samantha

When it feels like this, like a light came on
And you look at me, like I'm all you want
I got everything, at my fingertips
How can I resist, when it feels like this?

Maisie Peters, Feels Like This

Genre: *Drama / Romance*

Format: *Feature film, 1h 20m*

Targetgroup: *15–30 years of age*

Potential buyers: *Netflix, Amazon, HBO, Viaplay, and other SVODs*

Estimate: *2–4 mill €*

At Pitch-level: *At Pitch-level Q2*

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They walk in companionable silence for a few moments, scanning the engravings across the many headstones.

*JIM:
Who, being loved, is poor?*

*SAMANTHA:
What?*

*JIM:
Oscar Wilde said that.*

*SAMANTHA:
He also said, "quotation is a serviceable substitute for wit."
Jim laughs, amused his attempt to show off backfired.*

*JIM:
Hey, he was a great believer in true love and stuff!"*

*SAMANTHA:
Don't get that debate started.*

*JIM:
Are you? A believer?*

Sam pauses, really taking in his question, and delivers her answer carefully.

*SAMANTHA:
I believe if true love comes along you should grab it with both hands and never let go. It is likely to test you to the limit, wear you thin and bring you to your knees. But it will still be worth it.*

Jim is taken aback by Samantha's passion, and goes quiet for a minute.

When he replies, it is as if he is speaking to himself.

*JIM:
So I guess, the problem is, recognizing when you have found it.*

At First Sight is a boy meets girl story, with Paris as its enchanting backdrop, seeping into every edge of the story. British Jim and American Samantha are both visiting the iconic French capital as they meet, purely by chance, or perhaps fate, in a bar. The only problem? Jim has a girlfriend back in the UK, so nothing can happen - or can it?

At First Sight is a high intensity romantic drama. The feature focuses almost exclusively on Jim and Samantha. The entire movie takes place during a warm summer's afternoon and night, ending as dawn breaks over Montmartre, the next morning. This is a story about a whirlwind romance that has the potential to change the lives of Jim and Sam forever, a veritable fork in their roads. Both have

weighty reasons to hold back, but nevertheless, they struggle to ignore what they feel more and more certain they have found with each other: "the one."

The movie follows the pair, as they experience the kind of instantaneous connection which happens to very few people in this lifetime, and that which many dismiss as myth: love, at first sight. They first meet in a bar in Montmartre, and even then, the initial attraction and the inexplicable, pulling need to be around each other, making itself clear. They spend the evening and the night together after their initial meeting. It transpires that Sam is saddened because she will miss the chance to see Oscar Wilde's grave and a show at the Moulin Rouge, as her friend Giselle ducks out of their

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plans. Jim, assuming the role of the English gentleman, offers to accompany her, and they embark on an adventure around Paris and it's ever romantic quarters as they discuss art, poetry, literature, each fascinated by what the other has to say.

During their twilight wanderings, they take in the bustling nightlife in the Latin Quarter, finding old book shops and street artists. They speak to a troubled former reverend of Notre Dame. At the Moulin Rouge they miss their show but spend a while talking to the owner and the dancers after being let in the stage door by one of them, who took a liking to Sam. She even lets Sam perform alongside them to an empty theatre after hours, Jim staring at this American beauty, entirely in awe of her. As the early hours creep in, they bid their Parisian companions farewell, and find Montmartre once again to catch a typical Parisian breakfast in the square they set off from as the sun slowly rises over the beautiful city. By the end of

the night, it becomes almost physically painful for Jim to resist being romantic with her.

The film questions at which point an affair becomes an affair, and if love at first sight is really possible, and whether you can love two people simultaneously, pinning new attractions and well-established relationships head to head. It also leaves the door open to ask the question most people at one time have asked themselves: Is the person I am with really "the one"?

The film concludes back in Montmartre, with Samantha discovering the existence of Jim's girlfriend. The ending is ambiguous as to whether Jim stays with his girlfriend, or cuts ties and seeks out Samantha - the viewers will be left reeling, with heads full of questions that could instigate heated discussions on the dilemmas raised by the movie.
