

Hope Springs Eternal

by Liz Gibbons

In Googling “missed connections” on the Internet for an idea that might trigger a memory of an experience in my life, I discovered that Craigslist has a Missed Connections section which I was not aware of. There you can leave a message for that random stranger who smiled at you, held open a door, or was wearing a particular outfit, with whom you connected for just a moment. Yet you felt significance in that momentary encounter, and you imagine that person may have been the love of your life and you missed that connection.

A posting on Craigslist is like a personal advertisement. The messages all represent love, loss, and regret. Often they say “You probably won’t read this,” but hope springs eternal in the message.

Some messages may seem sad as it appears the person posting is lonely and may have a great need for connection. Another posting may represent persistence or why not take a long chance and see if anything develops. Some messages are very creative.

There are some other sites such as Gumtree and some mobile phone apps where you can post missed connections. In London the *Metro* newspaper has a “Rush-Hour Crush” section for commuters to advertise missed connections. There have been theater presentations and movies on missed connections such as *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Desperately Seeking Susan*. With people so absorbed with their cell phones that they hardly interact at all with others, I find it interesting that this completely different avenue for connection exists. In our rush through life how often do we miss encounters to engage meaningfully with another whether for a few moments or for what may turn into a rest of our lifetime together?