

Across the street

Scotland Galloway

Across the street, I hear a man speak,

“It’s so good to meet you.”

A woman replies, “I’m so glad to have met you.”

I can hear their happiness and beers.

I look to my left. Under the light of an apartment building entrance,
the two are in embrace. They hold each other close.

The mask on my face tickles my nose.

“I’ve felt so alone. I can’t believe,” she says,

her voice fades as I walk on

Friendships I Don’t Understand

Parham Elmi

You come and say hi

We smile, laugh, share food and chai!

Now only walk by—bye.