

CREATIVE WRITING M.A. 200'

Dissertation

The Manchanda Connection

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(15,000 words)

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The funny thing was, I quite liked Dave. He was always good-natured and went along with the aggravation. Then all that changed.

I'd got a job at the *Daily Mirror* and an Irish workmate Ethel, came along with me to a meeting at the London School of Economics. John Gittings, Malcolm Caldwell^{xvi}, Manu and Pat Jordan of the International Socialists were getting an Indo-Chinese Solidarity Committee together. Ethel was interested in becoming involved. Dave was there. When Ethel saw him, she greeted him brightly. 'Oh, I know Dave,' she said. He grabbed her by the wrist and said, 'I want to talk to you outside.' They didn't come back. Next day at work, Ethel was cool and awkward with me. After a week of this she asked me to meet her for a drink.

'Dave works for the special branch,' she told me. 'He's threatened that if I tell you or Manchanda, he'll cause something nasty to happen to my family in Ireland.'

Dave disappeared off the radar and was never seen again. A few months I scrutinised the faces under policeman's helmets, wondering whether Dave had been demoted back to pounding the

