



## BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Spring  
Season  
2016

**Release:** 1945

**Cert (UK):** PG

**Language:** English

**Runtime:** 86 mins

**Director:** David Lean

**Writer:** Noel Coward, David Lean, Anthony Havelock-Allan, Ronald Neame

**Cinematographer:** Robert Krasker

**Cast:** Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard, Stanley Holloway, Cyril Raymond



They are two ordinary people, going about their weekly routine, when they bump into each other at a railway station. Both are married, both are trapped by their marriage. She is Laura – a housewife – he is Alec, a doctor taking refuge in working hard. They like each other and agree to meet again, but soon, inevitably, the friendship starts to become

something more. What can they do – go on, or turn back?

Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard play the repressed, middle class couple to perfection and, if you give yourself over to their characters, and *'to the film's mounting mood of swooning, tight-lipped desperation (you) will be rewarded with one of the most vivid, impassioned and painfully believable love stories ever committed to celluloid'* – Tom Huddleston, Time Out

The film was much-loved in Britain and was the joint winner of the Cannes 'Grand Prix' (now the Palme D'Or) in 1946. It even earned Celia Johnson a nomination for best actress in the Oscars. In 1999 *'Brief Encounter'* came second in a British Film Institute poll of the top 100 British films.

David Lean adapted this story from a short story by Noel Coward. It was Lean's third film, all of them in partnership with Noel Coward. Released in 1945 and set in 1938, the two lovers are very much the representative of the time, with the end of the war promising social change; can we imagine such repressed love nowadays?

