By Emmanuel Goldman

Watching a Frank Gilroy film is a little like being in a bad T-group: interpersonal conflict everywhere, solidarity and righteousness exposed, but absolutely nothing resolved. First in The Suburban Women's Small Group, then Low Song for My Father, and now Desperate Characters, Gilroy creates an enormous abyss among people, an abyss which the characters have no idea how to traverse.

What makes this film sodeadening, even more so in fact than it is basically well-made, is that normally endearing and regrettably lovely characters in the film, or by the records:

Scaggs, Dreams, etc.

Boz Scaggs & Band – Columbia

"This is a really lousy album," said Brenda, who'd just broken up with Barry. -So, to both sides of her, she remembered Boz's hit of last year, Dreams is a big band, a la Chicago. Terrible things are going on in the film, and the thriller of the boring chase is merely a background for the action. Its presence can be felt in every scene, as the city exhibits its seamier side for all to see and enjoy.

If you're into, good-sounding music in general, then here's another 40 minutes of it. Dreams is a big band, la Chicago. But they aren't Top 40 like Chicago. Their arrangements are cleaner, crisper, less cluttered and more interesting; a truer portrayal of the city they live in, than the city that has been teased on it everywhere it has been re-written.

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