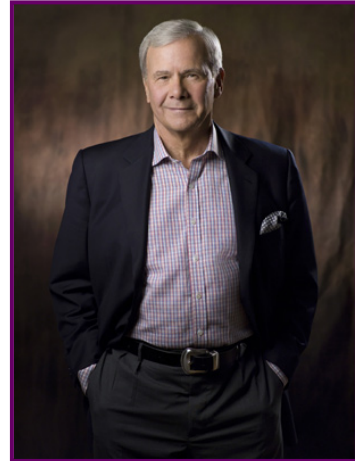


## Encounter in Bloomingdale's

Success can sometimes dazzle a person in the achieving of it, but there's usually someone around to help you come back down to earth. Former television newsman Tom Brokaw has a story about that.

Brokaw was wandering through Bloomingdale's in New York one day, shortly after he was promoted to co-host on NBC's *Today* show. That show was a pinnacle of sorts for Brokaw after years of work, first in Omaha, then for NBC in Los Angeles and Washington, and he was feeling good about himself.

While walking through the store, he noticed a man watching him closely. The man kept staring at him and, finally, when the man approached him, Brokaw was sure he was about to reap the firstfruits of being a New York television celebrity.



The man pointed his finger and said, "Tom Brokaw, right?"

"Right," said Brokaw.

"You used to do the morning news on KMTV in Omaha, right?"

"That's right," said Brokaw, getting set for the accolades to follow.

"I knew it the minute I spotted you," the fellow said. Then he paused and asked, "Whatever happened to you?"

The lesson is a good reminder for everyone. We are all fellow travelers on planet Earth, with hopes and dreams we want to achieve.

– Beecher Hunter