

THE JOURNEYING HERO

CAPSULE

A man on a mission – learning at every step. He’s been following the classic path of growing and developing in his life and his acting career, thinking about his progress, making connections along the way. Everything seems mapped out ahead of him: he can see, in the successful older actors here, the people who he is likely to become.

MEETING GOTTFRIED

You first met him a while ago, when you were a teenager. He was a guest of your parents at the castle, and was younger than himself of course; quite new in the business. Up until that point you’d had no real interest in film: you were aware of it as a popular diversion, no more than that.

He chatted with you, asked you about your interests, and he seemed knowledgeable: you found yourself able to talk to him, more than with most people.

Then he showed you his current piece of work: a private screening, projected onto the wall of a cool wine cellar, deep in the castle’s bowels. It was just one reel, but it took your breath away – the beauty, the impact.

The lead actor looked somewhat similar to you. Gottfried saw that you had noticed this. “He doesn’t have what you have, though. Not many people do.”

You weren’t sure what he meant. “You’ll see. Look inside yourself and follow what you find there. Then come and look for me.” He gently kissed your forehead, and left you his business card: it simply said “G.”

BACKGROUND

Unlike most actors in the film industry, you come from a background of great privilege – your family are aristocrats, and you grew up in a castle. But you decided early on that the life of landed luxury was not for you. You wanted to make your own mark on the world – to carve your own path.

You are not exactly estranged from your family, but you know that they regret your decision to turn your back on them, and they disapprove of your choice of career. You're pretty sure they wouldn't understand your reasons – not that you have tried all that hard to make them see.

You chose acting because it allows you to progress, to learn, to grow, all the while in the guise of other people. Your true self can remain as protected as you want it to be. And film acting is clearly the best kind for progressing: it's the future, and it lets performers reach unimaginably large audiences, compared with the theatre. You can see how well you're doing, by the size of the roles that you're getting, and the size of the cheques that you're paid, and the respect of those who are working alongside you.

So far, it's all going well – you've been making great strides, rising from small parts to starring roles. *Stolen Moments* is your biggest film yet, and you intend to leave your mark on it – as well as learning from the established stars who are here with you.

You've never yet stopped to ask yourself just why it is that you feel so driven to succeed, to prove yourself the best – why it is that you don't feel you can stop to look around on your journey, let alone settle down – why it is that you've never formed a lasting romantic attachment? Perhaps opening that box would be too dangerous to contemplate.

- ☹ What is your name (real name and/or stage name)?
- ☹ Where are you from?
- ☹ How old are you?
- ☹ What was your family background like?
- ☹ How has your relationship/sexual history been?
- ☹ What's your current living situation like?
- ☹ How do you feel about your gender?
- ☹ How do you feel about your sexuality?
- ☹ Is there anyone outside the set of *Stolen Moments* who's important to you?
- ☹ What's the most significant memory from your childhood?

PRIMARY RELATIONSHIPS

THE COSTUME DESIGNER

She's humble and modest, despite her evident great talents and her capacity for hard work. There's something very warm and genuine about her. You found yourself drawn towards her from almost the moment you first met, although you've been careful not to (yet) say anything about your feelings.

She is from a very different background to yourself – one of poverty and struggle. You admire that – she has raised herself to the top of her profession! And although actors normally get involved only with other actors, not with crew, you certainly wouldn't be ashamed to have a costume designer on your arm. No, it's not that which holds you back – it's more a doubt about what impact such an involvement might have on your life journey.

THE FEMME FATALE

She's the closest thing you have to a good friend – you're very fond of her. You see through her affected toughness and her callous exterior – you know that inside she is a warm person who yearns to share her feelings. (She's also very attractive – she can seduce anyone she wants – but, so far, she hasn't tried it on you; and you haven't sought that yourself.)

But, as usual with you, you're wary of reaching out to her too openly. When the conversation gets too intensely emotional, you find yourself backing away. You feel that she has let her emotional responses shape her life too much – she has made a lot of enemies, broken a lot of hearts. You don't want to end up like that! But even so, why is it that you are so wary of making a close connection?

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

She seems like a perfectly nice person, but she really isn't a good actor – in your opinion. She looks good on camera, and she can hold a pose and say a line – but it doesn't live and breathe. It's disappointing, because you really feel that with a bit more skill (or perhaps a bit more talent) she could really be something.

You've held off from getting involved until now. But really, if she's working alongside you then her performance is going to impact the way the film is received. You don't want to be unkind, but you probably need to give her a few tips, for your sake. She might be upset – but really she should be grateful for your help and you're sure in time that she will see that.

THE GOOD-TIME GIRL

You worked with her a while ago, on a film shoot, and you hit it off: you spent a lot of time together. You wondered if she might have real feelings for you – you hoped not! You weren't in a place in your life where you could be dealing with that sort of thing.

Seeing her again now, you wonder how her own journey is going. She must be getting to the age now where her looks can no longer carry her by themselves. You still think of her fondly, despite the way you drifted silently out of her life after finishing working together.

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Positive

THE INGENUUE – she's new to the business, and looks eager to learn. You hope she has a good path mapped out for herself.

THE MAN OF MYSTERY – a free spirit like yourself, he doesn't let himself get tied down by other people.

Negative

THE INVESTOR – This could have been you – throwing your unearned money at films and other projects, rather than earning what you have. You're not exactly critical of her decision to finance this film, but if you get a chance to talk with her you would like to have a conversation about her finding her own purpose in life.

ANGEL

You're dedicated, hard-working, and keen to learn: you respect those who know more than you, and you're generally kind to those who are junior in the business. You're an agreeable companion, with no bad habits, and in general the film set is a more pleasant place with you on it.

DEVIL

You have your mind and heart firmly fixed on your objectives, and you don't really care about what happens to those who you pass along the way. To be honest, you don't care about other people much at all. They have their uses, for sure: but you don't let yourself get tied down by them.

ROLE

The role that he was given will challenge him to: question his assumptions about what is worthwhile in life, and maybe change his aims.

Out of character

Your task in Act 1 is to create and rehearse scenes from Stolen Moments, together with your fellow-actors. You should also meet with THE HAIRSTYLIST, THE MAKEUP ARTIST, and THE COSTUME DESIGNER to discuss your character's needs; and you should get your portrait taken by THE STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER. During Act 2, you will probably be expected to continue this work.

DILEMMA

You've got this far along your path, and it's all gone well. But what might you have sacrificed, along the way? Are you going to keep treading onwards and upwards forever – or does there come a point where enough is enough, and you decide to accept life as it is, and step off the path?