

THE NAIF

CAPSULE

He's new to the film business, with a shy innocence that audiences will surely love. He so desperately wants to succeed – to find happiness and fulfilment. He's got here through his own efforts, but perhaps that won't be enough now, here on location – he may need other people to make it work for him.

MEETING GOTTFRIED

You were preparing for a meeting. You were sitting in a park, having needed to escape the office. It was a hot day and the figures seemed to blur as you tried to make sense of them. They weren't just numbers on a page for you. They were people and the decisions you made would affect their lives. Around you there were families, children playing and their parents lying in the sun. You could see the river and smell it too from where you sat.

You turned and he was next to you. You jumped in surprise. He leaned closer to look at the paper you were writing on, and you suddenly felt uncomfortable, but you didn't know how to ask him to leave. The awkward silence hung in the air for minutes that felt like hours.

Eventually he nodded and smiled at you and you felt as though you'd passed some test. He ran his fingers down the paper.

"You know what they want you to do" he said. He shrugged, as if it couldn't possibly matter.

"You'll find your way to me soon enough. I'm excited to see what you'll become."

He gazed at you suddenly, intensely.

"Of course" he said firmly, as though you'd disagreed with him.

"We can't know yet. You might end up as nothing at all."

He stood up and started walking away, then turned.

"I'm betting on you though. I'll be in touch."

BACKGROUND

You were taught the value of work at a young age as the oldest of 5 siblings with an ill mother. You lived in an isolated village for much of your early life and tried to take care of your siblings and help them get enough education to make something of themselves in the outside world.

You left school at 16 with ambitions to work in a business in the city. However, it didn't work. You took people at their word and didn't have the right edge. You couldn't make decisions that would end up hurting people. You asked for help, and people around you were keen to offer it, but it never came for free. There was always a debt to be paid and it was something you both hated and didn't understand. You would help people just because they needed help. Why did others have to be so calculating? It didn't take long for you to find yourself without a job, and alone.

You discovered acting by chance, when you were noticed by someone looking for a new face for a small film. You loved the idea of becoming someone else, although you could never quite stop being yourself for the role. No one seemed to mind though. It was suggested that you had a quality, and although you were never told exactly what that quality was, it seemed like a good thing to have.

- ☹ 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 BEST FRIEND

She seems to want you to fail and you're not sure why. Does she feel threatened by you? She is a gifted actress, a household name. Maybe she has just recognised a lack of talent and is trying to save you from embarrassment. Is she trying to help you or sabotage you?

You wish that you could understand her. It seems like she's hiding something and if you could understand what, maybe you could understand what's at the root of her concerns and whether you should listen to them. And whatever the reason, you're not sure that you have the confidence to resist. What will she ask for in the end, and will you have the strength to refuse?

THE CAD

He knows what the deal is. He's straightforward and charming and you enjoy talking to him and getting to know him. Maybe he's someone that you could end up being like. Effortlessly charismatic and successful, but still generous enough to treat someone like you like an equal.

You've been thinking about him more and more often. There's something about him which makes you want to be closer to him, closer than you already are. You're sure there have been some moments where that's seemed possible, normally after you've been drinking together... but he's always shut down, so far.

THE GOOD-TIME GIRL

You know her mostly by her reputation. You worked hard to be here and you're going to continue working hard. You want to know that you've earned this on it's own merits. The rumours of what she's done, fluttered eyelashes, promises and sometimes more than promises, disturb you a little. Obviously she did this the easy way.

You don't like the way she looks at you. As if she's judging you. Jealousy maybe plays a part, after all she must regret what she did to get to where she is. But it's almost like she's wishing you would stoop to her level.

THE MAN OF MYSTERY

You wouldn't dare to ask him for anything directly, which is a shame because he seems to have it all sorted. You wonder what advice he would give you. He has managed to make everything work, but he doesn't seem to have sold himself and his life in the process.

In the meantime you enjoy talking to him. You know that he holds you at a distance, but he's fun to be around. And maybe one day you will ask him how to survive in this industry the way he does.

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Positive

THE DIVA – for some reason she seems to be helping you and showing you the way things are done.

THE LOCATION MANAGER – working with him makes it easy to hide that you're not always sure what you're doing. He treats everyone the same way and that makes you feel like you fit in perfectly.

Negative

THE FADING STAR – he's obviously jealous that you're on your way up while he's barely hanging on. The way he's been used up and hollowed out – it's not going to happen to you.

ANGEL

You are a true innocent in a world where not many innocents exist. You want to help people for its own sake and don't want to give into the vices that others do. Nothing is meaningless. You're keen to make friends and form connections but you're not there to use people. You understand that everyone has their own needs and wants, and you want to support that.

You hope to get to know people in the cast and maybe understand them a little. You want genuine friendship and possibly genuine romance.

DEVIL

You know that not everyone is like you. If you ask for help from someone they will want something in return. They always do. It's better to try and figure things out for yourself, but you're terrified of getting it wrong. You feel like everyone knows what they're doing except for you.

There's also a part of you which feels a bit superior to the others. You're genuine and they're fake. Not that you would judge them of course, it's not in your nature to judge after all. You just can't help noticing.

ROLE

While you're waiting for the filming to start it will be your job to consider the overall aesthetic of the film and see how the props, costumes, make up and set work together and ask for changes if necessary. You're not sure why Gottfried gave you this role and you're not even sure how the film should look, much less how to tell people that they're getting it wrong.

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 could do what's asked of you, play the innocent boy that the audiences will love and continue like that, both on and off screen. Film is a competitive business and you don't know if this will help you stand out enough to keep getting jobs, but it might. You're not sure what you will do next though, if you get overlooked.

Alternatively you could ask for help. There are people here who have made it and that couldn't have been entirely down to luck. They probably know the right people and can give you the right advice. They will want something in return though, people always do. What debt would you owe then?