

THE SUBJECT

CAPSULE

Her troubled and glamorous life is the inspiration for this film's story, although Gottfried has changed many of the details. Having bounced from one exciting but disastrous relationship to another, she now feels barely able to make sense of her own history and her own wishes and ambitions.

(Warning: this character has become desensitized through overstretching and overgiving, and could potentially come apart in any number of ways. It'll be up to you whether that happens, and how it plays out; but if this is a trigger issue for you, you will want to avoid this role.)

MEETING GOTTFRIED

You didn't know how long he had been waiting for you. It was raining, and you were hurrying home, but you remembered later that he wasn't wet. He didn't seem to get wet either, or seem rushed in any way. He stood outside your house, like he had been waiting forever, and would keep on waiting as long as was needed. He had an air of self confidence, nothing like the journalists who were clamouring to tell the 'real story'. He asked you what the 'real story' meant to you, and you realised you didn't have an answer. Perhaps you had once.

Instead he talked about narrative and painted a picture of a young determined woman, making her own way in the world, and daring it to be anything but hers. You fell in love with her, this woman who had overcome insurmountable odds to be someone who mattered. "She will be remembered forever," he promised and you knew that you would remember her for your whole life, even if no one else did.

He always referred to her though, never you, although it was clear it was your story that he wanted to tell. He didn't call you inspirational, not once and maybe that was what made you like him.

Afterwards, fumbling with your keys while trying to get into your house you wondered what had just happened, and what you had agreed to. Later, when you looked in the mirror, you saw the other woman, the determined and resilient one, smiling back.

BACKGROUND

Your life seems to have jumped around from one moment to the next. Born in an orphanage, you left to work in a factory, but developed a talent for social climbing, moving from one person to the next but always falling deeply in love.

You remember parties and dances. You remember watching people leave, through the window in the rain. You remember the heart aching beauty of it all, and the adventure. You've seen Africa and lived there with missionaries before risking it all for a chance at love with someone you met three days before. You've made scenes at parties that have caused newspaper headlines. You've broken hearts and had your heart broken time and time again.

You didn't exactly court fame, but you didn't avoid it either. You were bold or demure depending on what the situation called for, as more and more cameras flashed in your face. You represented possibility, and almost tangible excitement. You represented a dream that someone could be born as nothing but become everything. When you didn't remember your background you lied. You were a scientist you told them, an explorer, you joined the circus for a while when you had nowhere else to go and made lifelong friends. You changed evil men into good men, you told them. The more outrageous the stories, the more they loved you. And as the world started hearing about you, you found better stories, real ones.

And none of it means anything to you.

- 🌀 What is your 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 ART DIRECTOR

A friendly man, but his friendship with you seems to have grown into a bit of an obsession. He always seems to be there, watching you, wanting to understand your story.

You're used to men falling for you and the excitement of it, but you're not sure what to think of this. Is he another person who has come too close to your flame and will soon burn up, or is this something real?

THE INGENUE

You understand what it's like, being young and feeling out of control. Everyone has their vices, and anything that helps you cope with the world better can't be a bad thing. You do what you need to do to cope, and you showed her the way – and sometimes you follow it together. You understand this about each other.

What she needs is someone she can talk to, someone non-judgemental, someone encouraging, and you are happy to be that person, and tell her – and help her – to do what she needs to get through the filming.

THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Someone who keeps you together and makes you feel special. While you're with her you can really see yourself as someone who deserves to be the star of the story, someone who maybe has a touch of magic about them and has a story worth telling – even if that story isn't quite what's being told.

You visit her as often as you can to talk about your fears, but also to relive your glory. She absolves you of your mistakes, and shows you your true worth.

THE RIVAL

Yet another well known name who seems to have fallen for you. Maybe there is something a bit different, a bit unique about him, but you wonder how different he would be if you really got to know him. Would he be like the rest, charming but ultimately empty, or would there be something more to him, something deeper lurking there.

You wonder if wanting to find out is part of your nature, the part that brought you glamour and parties, sure, but also the part that leaves you adrift and alone.

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Positive

THE CLOWN – someone who doesn't take life too seriously. You can respect that.

THE FEMME FATALE – your type of woman. It's like looking in a mirror at your younger self – a fascinating mirror, that you want to get closer to – maybe, much closer. You wonder if she feels the same?

Negative

THE PROP MASTER – annoying. He thinks he's mysterious and exciting, but most likely he's just unable to hold a conversation like a normal person.

ANGEL

You love excitement and drama, yours and everyone else's. You want to help people find their own story and their own happiness. You're drawn to people and fascinated by who they are and who they could become. You can lead them into taking chances, falling in love and enjoying life.

DEVIL

Everyone wants a piece of you and sometimes that's just too much. You can't connect the story being told to yourself sometimes. It's just some empty words with no feeling attached. It shouldn't be like that, but somehow it is. And what does it mean that the story of your life, the story that is so glamorous and important that it's the subject of a film, feels like nothing?

TASK

Gottfried told you to tell everyone your story, to give them a feel for who you are. You must reveal everything, the joy and the pain, to everyone relevant. You should approach them and let them interview you, and answer any questions they have. Gottfried instructed you to hold nothing back, however painful or embarrassing.

Out of character

Your task in Act 1 is to help the actors and THE SCRIPTWRITER in turning the details of your life into screen gold. Let yourself be interviewed, and seek people out to tell them about yourself if necessary. Attend rehearsals, and don't be shy to intervene. You will also need to talk with THE PUBLICIST about how you are to be used in the film's publicity campaign. During Act 2, you expect that this work will continue.

DILEMMA

Your life is fascinating to others, but you feel nothing. What drove you to do the things you did and who are you really, at the core of it all? The film is giving a coherent narrative to your life, one that not only makes sense but makes you a hero. What would be wrong about believing that about yourself? At least it makes you feel something. But you know it's not how it was. Your life may have only been a jumbled mess of coincidences but maybe, if you ignore the narrative of the film and put them together, figure them out for yourself, you could at least make something true. A life where you're not a heroine, not a romantic figure to be longed for but just another human being.