

THE VETERAN

CAPSULE

He shone brightly during the early years of the movie business, and survived the transition from silent to talkies. Having made more than his fair share of mistakes, and accumulated many regrets, he came gradually to a way of understanding himself and the world. From the outside, he appears peaceful, calm, contented; and a tangible connection to the pure, honest, old days. He has been able to devote much of his energy and time to helping others (although there is a great deal about modern life that saddens and disappoints him). But he knows that internally he has much unfinished business.

MEETING GOTTFRIED

You didn't recognise him when you first saw him. He had had some previous success but he wasn't the big name that he is now.

You were just starting out then, and sitting in a dark bar after a day of filming. He sat opposite you, which was strange as it was the sort of place where people always sat alone. He should have looked out of place, smartly dressed, and confident, but somehow he didn't. He seemed like he fit in perfectly there, like he would fit in perfectly anywhere.

He told you that you had talent and that you would make it. You asked him what it would take to get a job with him, a leading role, and he told you it wasn't time yet.

You thought of him occasionally over the years, but you didn't need help anymore. You had made it on your own. You started hearing his name spoken, at first gradually, and then more and more often.

You met him again at the same bar. Not your usual sort of place at all now, but somehow you had ended up in there again.

When he asked you to be part of Stolen Moments it wasn't really a question. There was only one answer you could give.

BACKGROUND

You've done it all throughout your considerable career. The sidekick, the leading man, and now as you are older, the mentor who guides the others on their journey.

That's what your life feels like too. You remember the trouble you got into back at the height of your stardom. The women, the men, the drink the drugs and the clumsy mistakes that could so easily have been avoided. You're past that now and you want to help. You're not jealous that others have taken the leading roles. You want to help them avoid the mistakes you've made.

But sometimes your own mistakes keep you up at night. Maybe you could make it up to the people that you've hurt along the way, or at least learn to forgive yourself for it. Maybe the first step to that would be to stop pretending you have all the answers and admit you're as flawed (more flawed?) as everybody else. Maybe if you could be honest for once it would be an apology of sorts. Maybe even if you could just be honest to those who matter.

Is it really too late to set things right?

- ☹ 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

You recognised something of yourself in her when you first saw her. She was talented, but young and naive in the way you had been and you wanted to protect her. Over time you began to see her almost like a daughter. You gave her advice, encouragement and occasionally a bit of help with contacts or money.

You don't really understand what happened. You were trying to talk to her about how to present herself so she could get the best roles when she lost her temper and told you she didn't need your help anymore. You haven't spoken since, except cold courtesies.

THE GRANDE DAME

You've worked together over the years, but where you've allowed yourself to be swept sideways into support roles she has always fought for better things. She has always known what she's wanted and she's always got it. New roles have been written, other, younger actors have been pushed aside to give her parts.

And you don't know how it happens except for her determination to succeed. Even when you were the main star you didn't have that sense of purpose. You always wished you had.

THE HAIRSTYLIST

You can tell that he doesn't really buy into the idea that your years of experience have brought you calmness. He watches people too closely and he's said things that make you think he considers your demeanour a cliché that couldn't possibly be true.

He's right, of course: but how does he know?

THE STILLS PHOTOGRAPHER

You play cards with him. He's always interested in you, in the things that would make you passionate, the things that you care about. He always seems quite tight lipped about himself though.

You wonder sometimes, if the two of you are playing a similar game regarding what you present to the world. Surprisingly, that makes it easier to relax around him.

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Positive

THE CLOWN – a enjoyable presence on set. Someone who can make you laugh.

THE METHOD ACTING INSTRUCTOR – she takes the film seriously and helps you find your role.

Negative

THE SCRIPT WRITER – she's falling apart and wants to drag the world with her.

ANGEL

You present a calming presence to the rest of the cast. You have been there before and can give them the benefit of your advice in a calm, caring way. You are someone who understands yourself, and can help others understand themselves. You can comfort those in crisis and be someone to turn to.

DEVIL

You've made mistakes along the way and they still haunt you. You have to make sure that no one else does the same. You offer unneeded advice and tell people how to live. You want to be accepted as the father figure, as the mentor, and the others must listen to you.

ROLE

You are playing the religious authority, haunted by memories of the past. As you guide the other characters on their quest you need to justify your past mistakes to your God. It almost seems like this role was written for you. You've played similar in the past of course, but the sins you're asking forgiveness for are remarkably like your own.

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're old now, and feel like you've achieved what you set out to. Yet, somehow you don't feel happy or at peace when you look back at your life. Should you examine the mistakes you've made, your old wounds which used to hurt so much but have now faded into secret scars? Or should you let it go and live as you are? Everyone makes mistakes, after all.