

THE HAIRSTYLIST

CAPSULE

He's had the hopes and fears of every star at his fingertips – he's the one they trust, the one they confide in, as he tends their luscious locks, or trims their marvellous moustaches. His skill brought him here; and he's kept here because of his caring for those he works with. But he's never been sure if this is all that fate has marked out for him.

MEETING GOTTFRIED

You never knew where he got his hair cut: not by you, anyway. It was beautifully done, but unimaginative. And he always had a lovely clean shave.

It must have been the third or fourth of his films that you were working on, when he finally deigned to talk to you. Apparently one of the actors had told him how helpful you were.

You were busy sweeping up. "What do you do with the ends?" he asked. He was lounging at an angle against the door jamb. The dying sunlight was behind him, making a bloody halo.

You told him that they were burnt. "You've never been tempted to keep some as a souvenir? Or for magical purposes?" You assumed he was joking, although it was difficult to be sure.

He unbent himself from the doorway and came over to you. "If I was to sit here –" he indicated the chair, "and you were to work your mysteries on me, neither of us might like the result. Neither of us might understand it! It's better if I stay as I am, and you keep doing what you do."

You felt your hand taken – his fingers were long and surprisingly delicate, and they traced your own. "You're an important part of this ship. Without what you are doing here, we could all founder. I'm going to put a great deal of faith in you. And you are going to repay it, handsomely."

BACKGROUND

You were still a child when you gave your first haircut: helping your parents, you trimmed the locks of your younger siblings. You found you had a knack for it – the ability to see how the waves of hair would lie, how they would affect the shape of the face, how they could convey mood and personality. Soon you were earning useful money from the people of the neighbourhood.

You had a little formal training, but to tell the truth, you didn't need it – your strength was the empathy that you built up with your clients. The more you progressed up the social scale, the more time you could devote to each session, the more you could encourage the clients to open out to you. You got a place in a top-notch hair salon: but it was soon apparent that you were just making the owner wealthy.

That was when the film industry came calling. One of your regulars was an actress: she asked you to attend her on location. It was the start of a beautiful career.

You've been struck by how needy these actors are – so many of them talk to you as though you're their only friend in the world, the only one they can trust. It's sad – when they devote themselves to creating pleasure for others. It's satisfying to know that you're doing your part to help them in return.

But all the same, you've been doing this for a while now, and you have been starting to wonder. Were you really put on Earth to just be an attendant – someone who's hired to serve others? Might there be more that you could do with your life?

- ☹ 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 INVESTOR

She's a very wealthy woman – everyone knows that. And she likes to spend money on what she knows is good. That has included you – you've styled her hair occasionally; and she liked the results, it seems. She's recently made you an offer: to set you up in your own business. She has a string of equally wealthy friends who she could point in your direction. It would be an amazing opportunity to make some real money, settle down, plan for the future.

... plan for a future of spending the rest of your life at her beck and call, being patronised and drawn into a world where you'll only ever be 'the help'. You're well known enough to be the perfect accessory. The find that would astound her friends. What depths would you have to sink to before you accepted that?

THE PUBLICIST

You watch him, and wince: it's painful to see such insecurity, such lack of self-belief. What it is in his past that has made him like this, you have no idea: but, while it doesn't seem to interfere with getting his job done, you can see it's eating him away as a person.

You can help – you know you can. A programme of tonsorial therapy, some gentle words, and you could make a new man of him. But perhaps he will think that he's not worthy of your attentions? – or perhaps he just won't want to be helped? And perhaps you recognise something of yourself in this man who always shies away from the spotlight and is always a supporting character in other people's lives.

THE RIVAL

You worked for him for a while, but it was disconcerting. Although he respected your expertise, everything was tightly managed and controlled. It was helpful sometimes not to be surrounded by the utter chaos that often occurs on sets; but he was always very interested in what the actors told you.

The last straw came when you spotted that he was listening at the door while you were talking with one of his stars, an actress who was growing increasingly impatient with the endless reshoots which seemed to be stalling the production. You were professional, said nothing, and finished the film; but you vowed not to work with him again. You are still a professional. You're sure that you can suppress the anger that you feel every time you see him.

THE VETERAN

He's been around forever, since the early days of the industry – and now he's everyone's beloved twinkly-eyed uncle. He has a reputation for calm, for wisdom, for giving good advice and for dealing with crises.

But you aren't so sure. You've had his head in your hands – and you've felt the tension there, the nerves. You've felt that there's a deep anxiety within him. You've hinted at this knowledge of yours, once or twice – just to keep him on his toes...

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Positive

THE PSYCHOTHERAPIST – you're glad she's on board. You know the people working on this film seem more stressed than usual; and she seems competent in helping them.

THE SIDEKICK – he's undemanding, amiable, and happy with your work. More people should be like that, really.

Negative

THE MAKEUP ARTIST – her artificial and mannered work is in real danger of undermining the great hairstyles that you give your clients. She really has to learn how to work with you, not against you.

ANGEL

You're soothing, calming, gentle and kind – you help people with their troubles, and you make them look amazing too. It's a noble calling, and a rewarding one. The film set would be a grim and stressful place without you.

DEVIL

When it comes down to it, you are a servant. Well paid – but still just ending to the needs of people who you have no reason to respect. Sometimes you'd like to assert your own worth – to show the value that you have. Sometimes you have the urge to use your empathic skills to harm and undermine your clients, rather than to help them...

TASK

It seems routine: prepare the stars' hair, their beards and moustaches, ready for each day's shooting. Make sure that they look at their best, and as the art design requires. But you know that you are also here for emotional support – there's a tension around the shoot, which highly-strung actors may find difficult to deal with, unless you can help them. You are ready to ask the questions that may need asking.

Out of character

Your task in Act 1 is to work with the actors to decide upon their hairstyles and facial hair, and how they will look on screen. You may need to seek guidance from THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, THE SCRIPTWRITER and/or THE ART DIRECTOR about the general structure and look of the film, but the actors themselves will be your main guides as to what they think they should look like: question them about their roles, and how best to bring out their characteristics. Your work will complement that of THE COSTUME DESIGNER and THE MAKEUP ARTIST, of course. During Act 2, you will probably be expected to continue revising and improving the coiffures.

DILEMMA

You're at the top of your game – film hairstyling doesn't come bigger than this. But is it where you really want to be? You can carry on doing this, for many years more if you wish. Or you can ask yourself what else you might want from your life. Perhaps it's time for you to move from the background into the spotlight... and into the unknown.