

Halo and Goodbye

by
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6 EXT. CITY STREET -- MOMENTS LATER

6

The sidewalks are at half-bustle. PEDESTRIANS glide past Nadine as she walks among--but not exactly with--them. She smiles shyly at several in passing. Most ignore her or gaze back blankly.

In the distance ahead stands a petite WOMAN, 40s. She is holding a clipboard, pen and brightly colored pamphlets that she seems hesitant to thrust upon strangers.

Nadine veers away as she approaches but ultimately lets their eyes lock. She smiles (force of habit).

WOMAN
(extending hand)
Hello. I'm Cathy!

Nadine stops. Cathy is acting more assertive than she looks. Nadine shakes her hand weakly.

NADINE
Hi.

CATHY
What's your name?

NADINE
(unwilling)
Nadine.

CATHY
Nadine. You seem like a nice young lady. While we're talking, would you like to take a survey?

NADINE
Um, I guess.

CATHY
Great, great. It'll only take a minute. Easy questions. Nothing personal. You look like an open-hearted soul, so I'd like to know: What makes a person good: intellect, kindness, faith, all of the above?

Nadine shrugs politely.

NADINE
They all sound good to me. But what do you mean by "good"?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY
 (marking clipboard,
 moving on)
 Great. Does nature matter? Yes or
 no?

NADINE
 Well...yes.

CATHY
 Great. Do friends matter?

NADINE
 Yes. Of course.

CATHY
 Would you like to know more about
 what I'm talking about?

NADINE
 I am curious.

CATHY
 Well, then.
 (deep breath)
 I represent an organization that
 promotes the sanctity of relationships
 between fellow humans and with nature
 on a spiritual plane. We're still
 growing and we're excited to invite
 anyone who's interested in making
 new friends and celebrating the
 environment with our fresh perspective
 to a retreat upstate. This weekend.
 (pause)
 How does that sound?

Pretty good, Nadine must admit to herself.

NADINE
 That's interesting. But what do you
 do?

CATHY
 (laughs too loudly)
 Oh, that's where my eloquence stops.
 (offers pamphlet)
 This could explain things much better.

NADINE
 (taking it)
 Okay. Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Well, you're a thinking being, so I'll let you read that and leave the decision to you. But the offer still stands. Upstate. This weekend. Contact me if you're interested. It's all in there.

NADINE

(ready to leave)
Thank you.

CATHY

Maybe you'll feel a little less lonely with us.

Nadine stares. Was she that obvious?

CATHY (CONT'D)

(sweet)
So will I see you again?

NADINE

(caving)
Maybe.

CATHY

That gives me hope.
(hugs Nadine)
Take care, Nadine.

NADINE

You too. Good luck. Cathy.

Nadine departs. But Cathy's effect on her doesn't.

7 INT. NADINE AND TABITHA'S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT 7

Tabitha and two FRIENDS are studying and joking around. Loudly.

8 INT. NADINE'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS 8

Nadine is lying in bed again. She is not enjoying the enjoyment outside her closed door.

She re-focuses on the yellow pamphlet in her hand. Flips through its few pages, past clean chunks of text and happy-face cartoons. Stares off again, thinking. Reaches for her phone and dials a number from the pamphlet. A beat.

NADINE

Hello, may I speak to...Cathy, please?

9 INT. HALO CABIN DEN -- CONTINUOUS

9

Inside a cleanly furnished, earth-toned room, Cathy sits with a phone pressed to her ear. She covers the mouthpiece, turns expectantly toward a plump, MATRONLY WOMAN standing behind her and frantically points at herself.

MATRONLY WOMAN

(quiet)

Hello, this is Cathy.

CATHY

(returning to phone)

Hello, this is Cathy.

10 INT. NADINE'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

10

Nadine is jotting notes on her pamphlet.

NADINE

6:30am tomorrow? Uh...sure. Wow, okay.

(listens)

Limestead and Flink Streets. Blue Honda Civic.

(listens)

Oh, like sunglasses?

(listens)

A scarf?

(listens)

Yeah.

(breathes deeply)

Okay. Well, thank you in advance for picking me up. Okay. Bye.

Nadine closes her phone and grasps it tightly. She can't quite believe what she's agreed to do.

END OF EXCERPT