

After The Fall

Quentin

And whatever made me think that at the end of the day I absolutely had to go home? Now there's a truth; symmetrical, lovely skin, undeniable.

Maggie

'Scuse me, did you see a man with a big dog?

Quentin

No. But I saw a woman with a little bird.

Maggie

No. That's not him. Is this the bus stop?

Quentin

Yah, the sign says...

Maggie

I was standing over there and a man came with this big dog and just put the leash in my hand and walked away. So I started to go after him, but the dog wouldn't move. And then this other man came and took the leash and went away. But I don't think it's really his dog. I think it's the first man's dog.

Quentin

Well, you want the dog?

Maggie

How could I keep a dog? I don't even think they allow dogs where I live. What bus is this?

Quentin

Fifth Avenue. This is the downtown side. Where do you want to go?

Maggie

Well, I could go there.

Quentin

Where?

Maggie

Downtown

Quentin

Lot of funny things go on, don't they?

Maggie

Well, he probably figured that I would want a dog. Whereas I would if I had a way to keep it, but I don't even have a refrigerator.

Quentin

Yes. That must be it. He must have thought you had a refrigerator. What do you do?

Maggie
On the switchboard. Don't you remember me?

Quentin
Me?

Maggie
I always sort of nod to you every morning.

Quentin
Oh! In the reception room!

Maggie
Sure! Maggie!

Quentin
Of course! You get my numbers sometimes.

Maggie
Did you think I just came up and started talking to you?

Quentin
I had no idea.

Maggie
Well, what must you have thought! I guess it's that you never saw me altogether. I mean just my head through that little window.

Quentin
Well, it's nice to meet all of you, finally.

Maggie
You go back to work again tonight?

Quentin
No, I'm just resting for a few minutes.

Maggie
Oh. It's nice to do that. Is that my bus down there?

Quentin
I'm not sure where you want to go...

Maggie
I wanted to find one of those discount stores. I just bought a phonograph, but I only have one record. I'll see you.

Man
There's one on Twenty-seventh and Sixth Avenue.

Maggie
Oh! Thanks!

Quentin

There's a record store around the corner, you know...

Maggie

But is it discount?

Quentin

Well, they all discount...

Man

What? Ten percent? Come on, honey, I'll get you an easy fifty percent off.

Maggie

Really? But a Perry Sullivan?

Man

Look, I'll give it to you. I'll give you two Perry Sullivans. Come on...

Maggie

'Scuse me. I... I... forgot something.

Man

Look, I'll give you ten records! Hold that door! Come on!

Quentin

Hey!

Man

Ah. Get lost! Hold it! Hold that door!!

Quentin

I'm sorry. I thought you knew him.

Maggie

No. I never saw him.

Quentin

Well, what were you going with him for?

Maggie

He said he knew a store. Where's the one you're talking about?

Quentin

I'll have to think a minute. Let me see...

Maggie

Could I sit with you? While you're thinking?

Quentin

Sure. That happen to you very often?

Maggie

Pretty often.

Quentin

It's because you talk to them.

Maggie

But they talk to me, so I have to answer.

Quentin

Not if they're rude. Just turn your back.

Maggie

Oh, Okay. Thanks, though... for stopping it.

Quentin

Well, anybody would.

Maggie

No. They laugh. I'm a joke to them. You... going to rest here for long?

Quentin

Just a few minutes. I'm on my way home. I've never done this before.

Maggie

Oh! You look like you always did. Like you could sit for hours under these trees, just thinking.

Quentin

No. I usually go right home. I always go right home.

Maggie

See, I'm still paying for the phonograph, whereas they don't sell records on time, you know.

Quentin

They're afraid they'll wear out, I guess.

Maggie

Oh, that must be it! Cause you can get phonographs. How'd you know that?

Quentin

I was just guessing.

Maggie

I never can guess those things! I don't know why they do anything half the time! I had about ten or twenty records in Washington, but my friend got sick, and I had to leave. His family lived right over there on Park Avenue.

Quentin

Oh, is he better?

Maggie

He died.

Quentin

When was this?

Maggie
Friday. Remember, they closed the office for the day?

Quentin
You mean.... Judge Cruse?

Maggie
Ya.

Quentin
Oh, I didn't know that you....

Maggie
Yeah.

Quentin
He was a great lawyer. And a great Judge, too.

Maggie
He was very nice to me.

Quentin
I was at the funeral, but I didn't see you, though.

Maggie
His wife wouldn't let me come. I got into the hospital before he died. But the family pushed me out and... I could hear him calling, "Maggie! Maggie!!" They kept trying to offer me a thousand dollars. But I didn't want anything; I just wanted to say good-bye to him! I have a little of the dirt. See? That's from his grave. His chauffeur drove me out... Alexander.

Quentin
Did you love him very much?

Maggie
No. In fact, a couple of times, I really left him.

Quentin
Why didn't you altogether?

Maggie
He didn't want me to.

Quentin
Oh... So what are you going to do now?

Maggie
I'd love to get that record, if I knew where they had a discount.

Quentin
No, I mean in general.

Maggie
Why, are they going to fire me now?

Quentin
Oh, I wouldn't know about that.

Maggie
Although I'm not worried. I can always go back to hair.

Quentin
To where?

Maggie
I used to demonstrate hair preparations. You know, in department stores? I was almost on TV once. It's because I have very thick hair. And it's not broken. Here, feel it. Feel how... Oh, 'scuse me!

Quentin
That's alright.

Maggie
I just thought you might want to feel it.

Quentin
Sure.

Maggie
Go ahead. I mean, if you want to.

Quentin
It is. Yeah. Very soft.

Maggie
I once went from page boy to bouffant in less than ten minutes.

Quentin
What made you quit?

Maggie
They start sending me to conventions and all. You're supposed to entertain, you see.

Quentin
Oh, yes...

Maggie
There were parts I didn't like... any more... (looks at student looking at her) Aren't they sweet, when they look up from their books?

Quentin
Well, I've got to go now.

Maggie

'Scuse me. I put your hand on my head.

Quentin

Oh, that's all right. I'm not THAT bad.

Maggie

It's not bad to be shy.

Quentin

You're very beautiful, Maggie. And I wish you knew how to take care of yourself.

Maggie

Oh... I got this torn on the bus this morning. I'm going to sew it home.

Quentin

I didn't mean that. Not that I'm criticizing you. I'm not at all. You understand?

Maggie

I understand. I think I'll take a walk in the park.

Quentin

You shouldn't. It's getting dark.

Maggie

But it's beautiful at night. I slept there one night, when it was hot in my room.

Quentin

God, you don't want to do that. Most of the animals around here are not in the Zoo.

Maggie

OK. I'll get a record then. 'Scuse me if I embarrassed you.

Quentin

You didn't.

Maggie

(hair) It's just that it's not broken.

(dress) I'm going to sew this home.

(park) I didn't mean to sleep. I just fell asleep.

Quentin

I understand.

Maggie

Well, see you! ... If they don't fire me...

Quentin

Bye, Maggie? Here. Why don't you take a cab. It's on me. Go ahead. There's one right there.

TAXI! Go on. Grab it.

Maggie

Where? Where will I tell him to go... but...

Quentin

Just cruise in the Forties. You've got enough there.

Maggie

Okay. 'Bye! You... you just going to rest more?

Quentin

I don't know.

Maggie

Golly! That's nice!