

SCENE FIVE

REPORTER II

(Out of scene) Good morning from Bellary. Taking a look at the weather forecast for this week, you can expect mostly clouds with some rain. There is a lovely light mist coming down and temperatures at the moment are very mild.

(The sound of a bus leaving. A change of scene is made clear. Kevin arrives in the town of Bellary, a very small village)

KEVIN

Book (Tag 2)

The greatest escape that a man can perform

Is not from a prison, a fight or a storm

But rather a way of life

This is how to escape your strife

(Suddenly, Jenn, who is herein listed as Emily, nearly runs Kevin over)

EMILY

Oh my gosh, I am so sorry, I wasn't looking where I was going and I was entirely in my head and all to myself and I just didn't even think to look where I was going, I'm so stupid, I'm so sorry and I know I'm rambling on I'm just kind of freaking out a little bit...

KEVIN

Hey, hey, it's okay. Are you alright?

EMILY

Am I alright? Of course, yes, I'm fine, it should really be me asking you if you're alright, shouldn't it? Why didn't I think to ask that right away? Are you alright?

KEVIN

Yes, I'm fine. Still got all my limbs intact.

EMILY

(She laughs; a little too much) I'm sorry again. I've just been completely out of it; today felt like it would never end. I had lots of things on my mind and I wasn't paying attention to my surroundings... Thank God it was you and not a car, right? That isn't to say bumping into you wasn't a mistake or anything I just... I'm rambling again, I'm sorry.

KEVIN

Seriously, it's okay. You want to sit down?

EMILY

Sit down? Yes, yes that would be good. *(They both sit on a nearby bench)* I'm Emily, by the way.

KEVIN

I'm... I'm Donny. *(Kevin is herein listed as Donny)*

EMILY

Well, nice to meet you, Donny.

DONNY

Nice to meet you as well, Emily.

EMILY

You must be new around here, yeah?

DONNY

What gave me away?

EMILY

Well, everybody knows everybody here in Bellary. And we never get visitors here. The only people who come and go, really, are the mailmen. You're probably the first new guy we've had around here in years. Where are you from? Oh, if you don't mind me asking.

DONNY

I'm not from anywhere. Nowhere worth mentioning, anyway.

EMILY

How mysterious.

DONNY

I guess.

EMILY

Oh, that's certainly not a bad thing. I know a lot of guys who are mysterious. Oh, that isn't to say that you're not unique or anything. I'm sure you're very interesting once you get to know you. That, of course, isn't to say I don't find you interesting now. In fact, I find you very interesting. I'm going to stop talking now.

DONNY

Long day, you said?

EMILY

Very.

DONNY

What's on your mind?

EMILY

Well, I'm a little bit in between jobs right now, so to speak. I'm looking to open up my own corner store nearby.

DONNY

Ah, an entrepreneur.

EMILY

Yeah, of sorts. It's very close to opening, just a couple small things to work out still. So, I live around the corner in an apartment right now. I've lived there for a long time along with my boyfriend who has been singlehandedly paying for the rent, giving me time to get my business started. This morning he became my ex-boyfriend. He's moved out and I only have so much cash; I may not have enough to pay the rent until my store opens. Mr. Rotterdam, my landlord, is not very lenient... I've just been scrambling to figure something out.

DONNY

Right.

EMILY

I'm sorry, none of this really matters to you, I know.

DONNY

I don't mind. In fact, I may be able to help you out.

EMILY

How so?

DONNY

Forgive me if I'm being too forward but... I happen to be in the market for somewhere to stay. At least until I find a more permanent place of residence.

EMILY

Oh?

DONNY

As well as a job, if you'd consider taking me on.

EMILY

Oh!

DONNY

I know, I'm a complete stranger to you but...

EMILY

No, that's alright. I just wouldn't be able to pay you right away because I'm not open yet, obviously...

DONNY

I have a bit of money set aside. And I wouldn't mind taking care of the rent until you're open.

EMILY

You'd do that? For someone you barely know?

DONNY

Well, you seem trustworthy, Emily.

EMILY

(Long pause) You seem like a great guy too, Donny. Sure, I'd be happy to have you move in with me for a little while.

DONNY

(Somewhat taken aback) Oh, great!

EMILY

As for a position at my market, I don't exactly know what I'd have you do. But I'm sure we could find something for you.

DONNY

I'm flexible. I'll do whatever.

EMILY

A jack of all trades, eh? What are the chances I would run into someone like you just when I needed you? Seriously, this whole thing is starting to come together in my head and it's amazing.