

# Inspirational

Brittany loved basketball, friends and parties too. When it came to painting, that's all she wanted to do. She painted everything she saw birds, flowers, and the sky. Some days she sat at her window and painted everything that passed her by. But lately she'd been feeling woozy. Her muscles ached a lot, and her parents got kind of worried. So they took her to the doc. The doctor did a couple of tests to see if everything was okay. Then the nurse came out with a look of sadness, and this is what she had to say; "I'm sorry but you've got leukemia," "You've got about 3 months more." Then Brittany got up and ran out of the room, and slammed the office door.

She ran down the street screaming and cried her eyes out dry. And stayed up all night wondering what it's like to die. Her parents held her tightly and said, "We love you, we'll make your last few months the greatest, we'll do anything for you."

So Brittany and her parents moved to Florida to live by the sea because Brittany loved the ocean. And when she dies, that's where she wanted to be. She spent her days painting and horseback riding in by the bay, but one day she met this guy and his name was Jay. They collected seashells together and talked about all kinds of things, and then one day while walking he handed her a ring. It said, "I love you," which brought tears to Brittany's eyes, and when he put it on her finger she began to cry. "I've got leukemia, and about a month more." He said, "No matter what, I love you, and no matter what, you are the one I adore."

So they spent everyday together and swam in the Atlantic all day, but Brittany was getting weaker and it was hard for her stay awake. So one day Brittany painted her picture and gave it to Jay. She said, "I want you to remember me, even when I leave this place." One day while they were walking and searching for seashells in the sand, Brittany collapsed and started to lose her breath and said to Jay, "Please hold my hand." "I love you more than anyone, you are my only true love, but now my time is up. I'll watch over you from above." Then Brittany's body was lifeless as she lay in Jay's arms. He sat there all day and kept her safe from harm.

I hope this teaches you a lesson. To tell someone you love them whenever you can, because maybe they'll be gone tomorrow and you won't be there to hold their hand. Because love is everything to everybody, without it, the world would be dead. So always tell someone you love them - a parent, a lover, a friend. Send this to everyone you know, it makes a big difference even though you don't think so... Everyone deserves an "I love you", because there may be no one for that person to say it back to.

Send this to 6 people or more. If you get it back they love you too.

This is a true story.

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# Inspirational

## **Eleanor Roosevelt:**

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.  
To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.  
Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you once, it is his fault; if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.  
Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.  
He who loses money, loses much; he who loses a friend, loses much more; he who loses faith,  
loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You don't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the Present!!

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## **THE INTERVIEW**

I dreamed I had an interview with God.

"Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"

"If you have the time," I said.

God smiled and said: "My time is eternity and is enough to do everything; what questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

"What surprises you most about mankind?"

God answered: "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.

That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future.

That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived..."

God's hands took mine and we were silent for while and then I asked...

"As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

# Inspirational

God replied with a smile: "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved.

To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.

To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis!

To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is one who needs the least.

To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them.

To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.

To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.

To learn that money can buy everything but happiness.

To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally different.

To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them...and likes them anyway.

To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves."

I sat there for awhile enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for his time and for all that He has done for me and my family, and He replied, "Anytime.

I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I'll answer."

People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

--unknown

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# Inspirational

**This is cute -- we all need to smile more.**

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu; when someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile then I realized its worth, A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

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## The Big Rocks

One day, an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students and to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget.

As he stood in front of the group of high-powered over-achievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz". Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide mouth Mason jar and set it on the table in front of him. He also produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them one at a time into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the classe yelled "Yes"! The time management expert replied, "Really?"

He then reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. Then he asked the group one more time, "Is the jar full?"

By this time, the class was on to him. "Probably not", one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. Then he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand and started dumping the sand in the jar. The sand went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. One more time he asked the question... "Is the jar full?" "No!" shouted the class. Once again he said, "Good".

Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then, he looked at the class and said, "What's the point of this illustration?" One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things in it!"

"No", the speaker replied, "that's NOT the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all. What are the "Big Rocks" in your life? Time with your loved ones, your faith, your education, your dreams, a worthy cause, teaching or mentoring others? I want each and everyone of you to think about it!" The students all left inspired to write down the big rocks of their lives.

So, for all my e-mail correspondents.... when you are reflecting on this short story, ask yourself this little question: **WHAT ARE THE BIG ROCKS IN MY LIFE? THEN, BE SURE TO PUT THOSE IN YOUR JAR FIRST!**

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# Inspirational

## Installing New Software -- Titled "Love"

CUSTOMER: I'm not very technical, but I think I am ready to install now. What do I do first?

CS REP: The first step is to open your HEART. Have you located your HEART ma'am?

CUSTOMER: Yes I have, but there are several programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

CS REP: What programs are running ma'am?

CUSTOMER: Let me see....I have PASTHURT.EXE, LOWESTEEM.EXE, GRUDGE.EXE, and RESENTMENT.COM running right now.

CS REP: No problem. LOVE will automatically erase PASTHURT.EXE from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. LOVE will eventually; overwrite LOWESTEEM.EXE with a module of its own called HIGHESTEEM.EXE. However, you have to completely turn off GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM. Those programs prevent LOVE from being properly installed. Can you turn those off ma'am?

CUSTOMER: I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

CS REP: My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke FORGIVENESS.EXE. Do this as many times as necessary until GRUDGE.EXE and RESENTMENT.COM have been completely erased.

CUSTOMER: Okay, I'm done. LOVE has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

CS REP: Yes it is. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your HEART. Do you see that message?

CUSTOMER: Yes I do. Is it completely installed?

CS REP: Yes, but remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other HEART's in order to get the upgrades.

CUSTOMER: Oops....I have an error message already. What should I do?

CS REP: What does the message say?

CUSTOMER: It says "ERROR 412 u PROGRAM NOT RUN ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS."  
What does that mean?

# Inspirational

CS REP: Don't worry ma'am, that's a common problem. It means that the LOVE program is set up to run on external HEARTS but has not yet been run on your HEART. It is one of those complicated programming things, but in non-technical terms it means you have to LOVE your own machine before it can LOVE others.

CUSTOMER: So what should I do?

CS REP: Can you find the directory called SELF-ACCEPTANCE?

CUSTOMER: Yes, I have it.

CS REP: Excellent, you are getting good at this.

CUSTOMER: Thank you.

CS REP: You're welcome. Click on the following files and then copy them to the MYHEART directory: FORGIVESELF.DOC, SELFESTEEM.TXT, REALIZEWORTH.TXT, and GOODNESS.DOC. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete SELFCRITIC.EXE from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

CUSTOMER: Got it. Hey! My HEART is filling up with really neat files. SMILE.MPG is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that WARMTH.COM, PEACE.EXE, and CONTENTMENT.COM are copying themselves all over my HEART!

CS REP: Then LOVE is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing before I go...

CUSTOMER: Yes?

CS REP: LOVE is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other people and they will return some really neat modules back to you.

CUSTOMER: I will. Thank you for your help.  
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# Inspirational

## God's Boxes of Love

I have in my hands two boxes which God gave me to hold;  
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black,  
And all your joys in the gold."  
I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,  
Both my joys and sorrows I store;  
But though the gold became heavier each day,  
The black was as light as before.  
With curiosity, I opened the black,  
I wanted to find out why;  
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole  
through which my sorrows had fallen out.  
I showed the hole to God, and mused aloud,  
"I wonder where my sorrows could be"  
He smiled a gentle smile at me;  
"My child, they're all here with me."  
I asked, "God, why give me the boxes,  
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?"  
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings,  
the black is for you to let go."

We should consider all of our friends a blessing. Send this to a friend today just to let them know that you are thinking of them, and that they are a joy in your life.

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Please READ THIS, don't just scan it, it says a lot.

Around the corner I have a friend In this great city that has no end, Yet the days go by and weeks rush on, And before I know it, a year is gone And I never see my old friend's face. For life is a swift and terrible race. She knows I like her just as well, As in the days when I rang her bell, And she rang mine.

If, we were younger then, And now we are busy, tired people. Tired of playing a foolish game, Tired of trying to make a name. "Tomorrow" I say "I will call on Jackie" "Just to show that I'm thinking of her." But tomorrow comes and tomorrow goes, And distance between us grows and grows. Around the corner!-yet miles away, "Here's a telegram sir-" "Jackie died today."

And that's what we get and deserve in the end.

Around the corner, a vanished friend.

If you love someone, tell them.

Remember always to say what you mean.

Never be afraid to express yourself. Take this opportunity to tell someone what they mean to you.

# Inspirational

## **Seize the day and have no regrets.**

Most importantly, stay close to your family and friends, for they have helped make you the person that you are today and are what it's all about anyway.

Pass this along to your friends. Let it make a difference in your day and theirs. The difference between expressing love and having regrets is that the regrets may stay around forever. Within 1 hour you must send it to other people. Within five days you will have a miraculous occurrence in your relationships. You will find new love or have an old love rekindled.

If you do not send it, you will have once again passed up the opportunity to do something loving and beautiful and continue the trend that gives you problems in your relationships.

If you've received this it is because someone cares for you and it means there is probably at least someone for whom you care. If you're too busy to take the few minutes that it would take right now to forward this to ten people, would it be the first time you didn't or that little thing that would make a difference in your relationships?

The more people that you send this to, the more blessings you will have and the better you'll get at reaching out to those you care about.

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Falling in love.

Laughing so hard your face hurts.

A hot shower.

No lines at the Super Wal-Mart.

A special glance.

Getting mail.

Taking a drive on a pretty road.

Hearing your favorite song on the radio.

Lying in bed listening to the rain outside.

Hot towels out of the dryer.

Walking out of your last final.

Finding the sweater you want is on sale for half-price.

Chocolate milkshake.

A long distance phone call.

Getting invited to a dance.

A bubble bath.

Giggling.

A good conversation.

A care package.

The beach.

Finding a \$20 bill in your coat from last winter.

Laughing at yourself.

Midnight phone calls that last for hours.

Running through sprinklers.

Laughing for absolutely no reason at all.

# Inspirational

Having someone tell you that you're beautiful.

Laughing at an inside joke.

Friends.

Falling in love for the first time.

Slumber parties.

Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you.

Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep.

Your first kiss.

Being part of a team.

Making new friends or spending time with old ones.

Playing with a new puppy.

Late night talks with your roommate that keeps you from sleeping.

Having someone play with your hair.

Sweet dreams.

Hot chocolate.

Road trips with friends.

Swinging on swings.

Watching a good movie cuddled up on a couch with someone you love. Wrapping presents under the Christmas tree while eating cookies and drinking eggnog. Song lyrics printed inside your new CD so you can sing along without feeling stupid.

Going to a really good concert.

Getting butterflies in your stomach every time you see that one person.

Making eye contact with a cute stranger.

Winning a really competitive game.

Making chocolate chip cookies!

Having your friends send you homemade cookies!

Spending time with close friends!

Running through the fountains with your friends.

Riding a bike downhill.

The feeling after running a few miles-an accomplishment!

The feeling you get the first time you step on stage.

Seeing smiles and hearing laughter from your friends...

Holding hands with someone you care about.

Wearing your boyfriend's shirt that still smells like his cologne.

Running into an old friend and realizing that some things (good or bad) never change.

Discovering that love is unconditional and stronger than time.

Riding the best roller coasters over and over.

Hugging the person you love.

Watching the expression someone's face as they open a much-desired present from you.

Kisses on your forehead from the first and only boy you have ever loved.

Watching the sunrise.

Getting out of bed every morning and thanking God for another beautiful day.

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# Inspirational

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with cupcakes, several cans of root beer and started on his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he saw an elderly woman. She was sitting on a park bench watching the pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed the lady looked hungry so he offered her a cupcake. She gratefully accepted and smiled at him. Her smile was so wonderful that he wanted to see it again, so he offered a root beer as well. Once again she smile at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling without saying a word. As it began to grow dark, the boy realized how tired he was and wanted to go home. He got up to leave but before he had gone no more than a few steps, he turned around and ran back to the old woman, giving her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy arrived home his Mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked, "What has made you so happy today?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." Before his mother could respond he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile in the whole world!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face. He asked, "Mother, what has made you so happy today?" She replied, "I ate cupcakes in the park with God." And before her son could reply, she added, "You know, he is much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring; all of which have the potential to turn life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.

Take no one for granted and embrace all equally with joy!  
May there always be work for your hands to do.  
May your purse always hold a coin or two.  
May the sun always shine warm on your windowpane.  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

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**The Lord's Prayer.... Must read, This is special!**

"Our Father who art in heaven."

"Yes?"

"Don't interrupt me. I'm praying."

"But you called Me."

"Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father who art in heaven."

"There, you did it again."

# Inspirational

"Did What?"

"Called on Me. You said, Our Father who art in heaven. Here I am.

"But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done."

"All right. Go on."

"Hallowed be thy name....."

"Hold it. What do you mean by that?"

"By what?"

"By 'hallowed be thy name'?"

"It means, it means... I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?"

"It means Honored, Holy, Wonderful."

"Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

"Do you really mean that?"

"Sure, why not?"

"What are you doing about it?"

"Doing? Well, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there."

"Have I got control of you?"

"Well, I go to church. "

"That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?"

"Hey! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at the church."

"I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example."

"Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others."

# Inspirational

"I'm Listening ... go on."

"I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free."

"Good. We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you."

"Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread."

"You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is."

"Hey, wait a minute! Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups."

"Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer."

...(pause)...

"Well, go on."

"I'm scared to."

"Scared of what?"

"I know what you'll say."

"Try me and see."

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

"Okay, since you asked, all sin is forgiven Except ... What about Ann?"

"See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!"

"What about your prayer?"

"I didn't mean it."

"Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?"

"No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor. She'll wish she had never moved into this neighborhood."

# Inspirational

"You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that."

"You can? How?"

"Forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive this of you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart."

"Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want to revenge Ann, I want to be right with you..."

... (pause) ... <sigh .

All right. All right. I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be out of it. Someway, somehow, show her the right way."

"There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?"

"Hmmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest."

"You're not through with your prayer. Go on."

"Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Don't turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about the time you spend having coffee with your friends, if you can't influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should re-think the value of those friendships. Another thing, your neighbors and friends shouldn't be your standard for 'keeping up'. And please... don't use me only for an escape hatch."

"I don't understand the last part."

"Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me, 'Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again.' You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?"

"Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am."

"Which bargain are you remembering?"

"Well, there was the night that Bill was gone and the children and I were home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, 'Oh God, if you spare us, I'll never skip my devotions again.'"

# Inspirational

"I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?"

"I'm sorry, Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did."

"Go ahead and finish your prayer."

"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen"

"Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?"

"No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers."

"You just answered the question."

"I did?"

"Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me. And I see that happening between us. Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together."

"Lord, let's see what we can make of me, O.K.?"

"Yes, let's see."

- Author Unknown

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## The Test

Six minutes to six, said the clock over the information booth in New York's Grand Central Station. The tall Army officer lifted his sunburned face and narrowed his eyes to note the exact time. His heart was pounding with a beat that choked him. In six minutes he would see the woman who had filled such a special place in his life for the past 18 months, the woman he had never seen yet whose words had sustained him unflinching.

Lt. Blandford remembered one day in particular, the worst of the fighting, when his plane had been caught in the midst of a pack of enemy planes. In one of those letters, he had confessed to her that often he felt fear, and only a few days before this battle, he had received her answer: "Of course you fear....all brave men do. Next time you doubt yourself, I want you to hear my voice reciting to you: 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of Death, I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me'" ...He had remembered that and it renewed his strength.

# Inspirational

He was going to hear her voice now. Four minutes now.

A girl passed closer to him, and Lt. Blandford started. She was wearing a flower, but it was not the little red rose they had agreed upon. Besides, this girl was only about 18, and Hollis Maynell had told him she was 30. He responded "I'm 32." He was 29.

His mind went back to that book he read in training camp. "Of Human Bondage" it was; and throughout the book were notes in a woman's handwriting. He had never believed that a woman could see into a man's heart so tenderly. Her name was on the bookplate: Hollis Maynell. He got a hold of a New York City phonebook and found her address. He wrote, she answered. Next day, he had been shipped out. They kept on writing for 13 months, and when his letters did not come, she wrote anyways, and now he believed he loved her, and she loved him.

But she had refused all his pleas to send him her photo. She had explained: "If your feeling for me had no reality, what I look like won't matter. Suppose I am beautiful. I'd always be haunted that you had been taking a chance on just that, and that kind of love would disgust me. Suppose I'm plain, then I'd always fear that you were only going on writing me because you were lonely and had no one else. No, don't ask for my picture. When you come to New York, you shall see me and then you shall make your own decision."

One minute to six...he flipped the pages of the book he held. Then Lt. Blandford's heart leapt. A young woman was coming toward him. Her figure was long and slim; her blond hair lay back in curls from delicate ears. Her eyes were blue as flowers, her lips and chin had a gentle firmness. In her green suit, she was like springtime come alive.

He started toward her, forgetting to notice that she was wearing no rose, and as he moved, a small delicate smile curved her lips. "Going my way soldier?" She murmured. He made one step closer to her.

Then he saw Hollis Maynell.

She was standing almost directly behind the girl, a woman well past 40, her graying hair tucked under a worn hat. She was more than plump. Her thin-ankled feet were thrust into low-heeled shoes. But she wore a red rose on her rumpled coat.

The girl in the green suit was walking away quickly. Blandford felt as though her were being split in two. So badly, he wanted to follow the girl, yet so deep was his longing for the woman whose spirit had truly upheld his own, and there she stood. He could see her pale face was gentle and sensible; her gray eyes had a warm twinkle.

Lt. Blandford did not hesitate. His fingers gripped the worn copy of the book, which was to identify him to her. This would not be love, but it would be something special, a friendship for which he had been and must be ever grateful...

# Inspirational

He squared his shoulders, saluted, and held the book out to her, although, even when he spoke, he felt the bitterness of his disappointment.

"I'm Lt. Blandford, and you're Miss Maynell. I'm so glad you could meet me. May-may I take you to dinner?"

The woman's face broadened in a tolerant smile. "I don't know what this is all about son," she answered.

"That young lady in the green suit, she begged me to wear this rose on my coat. And she said that if you asked me to go out with you, I should tell you she's waiting for you in that restaurant across the street. She said it was some kind of test."

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