

The Rose



Reading

Instruction: Read the story. Who did John Blanchard speak to in the train station?

John Blanchard studied the people in the station. He was looking for a girl whose heart he loved, but whose face he had never seen.

Blanchard first became interested in Hollis Maynell when he found a book in a Florida library. The handwritten notes on the pages fascinated him. They showed a thoughtful personality and a sharp mind. A name was written in the front of the book: Miss Hollis Maynell. She lived in New York City.

Blanchard wrote to Hollis Maynell for over a year, and slowly a friendship developed into something more. Blanchard asked for a photograph, but Maynell refused. She felt that if he really cared, it would not matter what she looked like. Finally she agreed to a meeting: 7:00 p.m at Grand Central Station in New York. "You'll recognize me," she wrote, "by the rose I'll wear on my coat." Now Blanchard was there, waiting for the woman he knew he loved.

Suddenly Blanchard saw a young woman coming through the crowd. Her figure was tall and slim. Her blonde hair lay back in curls from her delicate ears; her eyes were as blue as flowers. In her pale green suit she was like the springtime come alive. Blanchard moved towards her automatically. He didn't notice that she was not wearing a rose.

Then he saw Hollis Maynell. She was standing behind the girl. A woman past 40, she had gray hair and a pale, round face under an old hat. Her gray eyes had a warm and kind look.

Blanchard hesitated for a moment. Then he hid his disappointment and spoke to the older woman. "I'm John Blanchard, and you must be Miss Maynell. I am so glad you could meet me. May I take you to dinner?"

The older woman smiled, "I don't know what this is about, son", she answered, " but that young lady in the green coat asked me to wear this rose. And she said that if you asked me out to dinner, I should tell you that she is waiting for you in the restaurant across the street".

Source: KnowHow 1

Activity

Instruction: Match beginnings and endings.

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Blanchard wrote to Hollis Maynell | a. because she was beautiful |
| 2. He didn't know what Hollis Maynell looked like | b. because he read her notes in a book |
| 3. He noticed the young woman first | c. because she was wearing a rose |
| 4. He spoke to the older woman | d. because she didn't give him a photograph |
| 5. Hollis Maynell didn't wear a rose | e. because she wanted to test Blanchard's love |

Discussion

1. What do you think of the story?
2. How do you think the story might continue?
3. What do you think the main idea of the story is?