

*Susan  
(double sided)*

*shaw*

STELLA

That's when I really got into writing. I didn't know anybody, didn't know the language, so instead of being lonely, I started making up my own friends.

DEREK

Resourceful.

STELLA

And Istanbul is such a great place to wander and watch people, try to figure out the stories they all carried around with em.

DEREK

Oh yeah...I know what you mean. Any of your work picked up?

STELLA

No, I'm still struggling.

DEREK

Yeah, takes time.

STELLA

A lot of time.

DEREK

So what d'ya do to pay the rent?

STELLA

I still teach.

DEREK

You like it?

STELLA

Love it. I've got great kids... my summers off to devote to

*Susan Pasquantonio*

*Once Upon A Film - indie feature*

writing...

DEREK

Summers off would be cool...

STELLA

Yeah, it gives me a chance to  
submerge myself in it.

DEREK

You should let me take a look.

Stella grimaces.

STELLA

Oh, I don't know if I'm ready  
for your professional opinion  
just yet.

(coily)

After all, we've just met.

44 EXT. PARK. -NIGHT

They come to a park. Stella sees the swings and runs  
towards them.

~~STELLA~~

~~Come on!~~

She swings.

Derek jogs over and joins her.

Stella leans back and looks up at the star-filled sky.

The spattering of stars glimmer in a perfectly moonlit sky  
above a swirling tapestry of New York monoliths.

DEREK

Do you believe in fate?

Stella wonders.

STELLA

I don't know. I used to.

DEREK

What happened?

STELLA

Life.

DEREK

That'll do it.

STELLA

I don't know, seems the older  
I get, the less I know.

DEREK

Isn't that the definition of  
wisdom? To know that you know  
nothing?

STELLA

The trick is being happy knowing  
that you have no answers.

DEREK

I don't know...happiness is  
so overrated.

STELLA

That sounds like something I  
would say.

DEREK

Well, think about it. There  
aren't any happy people,  
just happy moments, just  
seconds in a life, and if  
you're lucky, a few minutes,  
and if you're really lucky,  
you can store up hours and hours,  
maybe even whole days. Maybe even  
years!

STELLA

How do you do that?

DEREK

What?

STELLA

Take something so cynical and  
turn it into optimism?

DEREK

I watch a lot of movies.

STELLA

Derek?

DEREK

Yeah?

STELLA

Why do you think Maude killed  
herself?

Derek thinks.

DEREK

I don't know.

stop

Stella smiles.

45 EXT. PARK SLOPE. -DAY

MATCHCUT: Stella smiles.

Stella and Derek walk talking MOS.

JIGSAW MONTAGE: Split screens become split screens.

Stella and Derek eat a slice on a bench. Stella talks MOS.  
Derek listens intently.

They sit on the steps of the Public Library. Now Derek  
talks MOS as Stella listens intently.

ECU Derek and Stella hold hands

They talk in front of a waterfall cascading down a flat  
marble wall.

They hold hands in front of a toystore as Derek points.  
They walk inside.