

ROMANCE 101

Character Descriptions Audition Scene

CHARACTERS

TRAVIS: Late teens/early 20s. Any race. Boyish and slightly socially awkward.

SALLY: Late teens/early 20s. Any race. Shy, but smart. A hopeless romantic.

PATTI: 50s to 60s. Any race. Sally's aunt. Pushy and a natural leader.

GLADYS: 70s. Any race. Outspoken and unapologetic. Also prone to spontaneous naps.

MEREDITH: 30s. Any race. Aspiring romance novelist and newly engaged.

SCENE

PATTI: Okay then, who wants to kick off the discussion?

TRAVIS enters. All the women stare at him comically. Even GLADYS, who began to doze again, becomes alert.

TRAVIS: Hi. Sorry I'm late. This is the Romance Readers book club, right?

Silence. The women continue to stare at him.

PATTI: Are you mocking us?

TRAVIS: No! Not at all!

TRAVIS holds up his own paperback as proof.

TRAVIS: I saw a post on the library's Facebook. That you all meet every Tuesday night at seven.
And welcomed new members.

GLADYS: But you're a man.

TRAVIS: Are men not allowed?

PATTI: It's not that they're not allowed...

TRAVIS: There weren't any rules or restrictions listed.

GLADYS: Is he serious?

TRAVIS: I figured it was okay.

PATTI: It's just that this is...highly unusual.

PATTI tries to stare TRAVIS down, but he looks at her with such boyish sincerity, that she concedes with a heavy sigh.

PATTI: No matter. Take a seat.

TRAVIS sits. He and SALLY lock eyes. TRAVIS nods hello to her, she shyly returns the nod.

PATTI: Well then! This week we read "Stitch of Love." What were everyone's initial thoughts?

GLADYS: Not enough sex.

MEREDITH: There were, like, five sex scenes! And the first one was a full chapter!

GLADYS: Not enough.

MEREDITH: You say the same thing every week. You need to give better feedback.

GLADYS: It's not my fault that we keep picking prudish novels. It should be my turn to pick the next book.
Patti has picked the last three in a row!

PATTI: We always choose next week's novel at the end of the meeting.

GLADYS: I know that, missy!

PATTI: Then save your comments until then!

GLADYS: You listen to me, a coup is coming!

PATTI: Oh, sure, sure. One that you will sleep right through.

SALLY: (interrupting) I liked that the heroine had a career! You only see that in a handful of historical romances. But I think that having her be a seamstress supporting her siblings made her more relatable.

TRAVIS: I agree. And I think that it really made their love story more genuine, that the Duke didn't try to stop her from working after they fell in love. The fact that she was business savvy and smart wasn't threatening, but one of the things that he loved about her.

Silence. The women stare at him suspiciously, still unsure of his intentions. PATTI clears her throat.

PATTI: What did we think of the villain?

MEREDITH: Meh, I found her to be a little weak. You've seen one vengeful dowager duchess, you've seen 'em all. Am I right, or am I right?

TRAVIS: Totally.

Another silence. PATTI's glare at him intensifies.

SALLY: Did everyone find the development of the love story believable? I think there was definitely a suspension of disbelief that had to happen, for the author to pull off the circumstances of a seamstress meeting a duke.

GLADYS: Never would happen!

TRAVIS: I like how the author started it off with a screwball comedy set of circumstances, with the two of them meeting by chance out in the town, constantly bumping into each other and her not having any idea who he was. But then the author really seamlessly transitioned the story from comedy to drama, with their class differences being the main conflict.

Another silence.