

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

First 6 pages

Written by

Susanna Bezooyen

Inspired by a true story

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN PARK - DAY

Sun shines on snow that glistens atop pine trees overlooking a gazebo. It's roof has greenery hanging from post to post, tied up with large red bows. A banner hangs in front.
"WELCOME 1947!"

Three steps lead up to a bench sitting centre in the gazebo.

The sidewalk around the structure is neatly shoveled, and its paths lead to centre front.

MUSIC, typical of the era, plays continuously, from speakers suspended from the gazebo rafters.

Enter, PETER (25) in tailored travel clothes. He studies a piece of paper while awkwardly carrying trapping gear, and a beaver hat with tail, tags hanging on his wares.

Enter ELAINE (24), stage L, carrying a package. She is wearing a long coat, a purse over her shoulder and a simple wedding band on her left ring finger.

Both are preoccupied. They bump into each other.

PETER

Oh! Excuse me.

ELAINE

Oh!

Elaine almost drops her package, but Peter manages to catch it before it hits the ground.

ELAINE CON'T

Good catch!

Peter hands Elaine the package. Upon seeing each other, looks of recognition cross their faces.

PETER

Elaine?!

ELAINE

Peter?! What are you doing here?!

They try to hug but it is awkward with so much paraphernalia in the way. They LAUGH.

PETER
I figured I'd come try out
trapping ...

ELAINE
Trapping?!

She GIGGLES as he tries to secure the hat onto his head.

PETER
What?

ELAINE
What on earth possessed you to come
up here to do that?

PETER
Well ... I ...

ELAINE
It won't earn you any decent money.
Paul and I failed miserably at it.

PETER
Yes ... I'm so sorry about Paul ...

ELAINE
You already said so in your
letters. Besides, I know he's ok.
Everything's going to be fine.

PETER
Yes. I guess, in the end, that's
true.

ELAINE
I have faith.

PETER
So ... you and your little ones
aren't suffering?

ELAINE
We're managing.

PETER
I was always jealous ...

ELAINE
Jealous?

PETER

Auh, yeah, you just left
everything, came up here, and
started a whole new life.

ELAINE

You mean, you'd love living in a
little shack and milking cows? You
have a better set up.

PETER

Set up?

He struggles to hold onto everything.

ELAINE

Your job.

She takes some things from him to help.

ELAINE CON'T

Or don't you still have it?

He nods a "Yes."

ELAINE CON'T (CONT'D)

So why trapping?

PETER

Well, I wanted ... an adventure ...
and I ... know you and

ELAINE

Are you ok?

PETER

Yes ... Well ...

He looks at her with trepidation.

PETER CON'T

Maybe I shouldn't have come.

ELAINE

What's going on?

He GULPS as she studies him.

ELAINE CON'T

You didn't really come to trap, did
you?

PETER

No ... Well, yes. I did. But ...

ELAINE
Sometimes you just need to get
away?

PETER
Yes.

ELAINE
And see a friend?

PETER
Yes.

ELAINE
I see ... I can relate.

PETER
Could we sit down?

He indicates to the bench. They walk over to it and sit.

ELAINE
So how is Salt Lake? Is the dance
hall still as cramped?

PETER
It isn't the same since ... anyway
... I quit dancing, and ...

ELAINE
What?! You?!

PETER
Lost my rhythm I guess.

ELAINE
I don't believe it! You were my
favorite dance partner!

PETER
Till Paul.

There is an awkward SILENCE. Just then the music changes and
the VOICE OF DORIS DAY begins to SING "Sentimental Journey."

ELAINE
There's a dance tonight. Paul's Mum
can watch the children for me, and
we could go. I can introduce you to
some really nice girls.

PETER
No, I can't...

ELAINE
Poppycock.

PETER
I couldn't dance without ...

ELAINE
Of course you can!

PETER
No. Really ...

ELAINE
This is silly.
(she stands)
Get up.

PETER
What?

ELAINE
Get up. There's music playing.
Prove you can't dance.

PETER
You don't understand...

ELAINE
I understand you're nervous. Am I
right?

PETER
Yes, but...

ELAINE
(HUFFS) Here.
(making him stand)
You just need some practice.

She takes his hand and puts it around her back. He takes her other hand and goes into a perfect dance frame. Elaine smiles.

ELAINE CON'T
I knew it!

Peter grins, then leads her into a prep step, followed by a foxtrot with grand spins around the bench. At the end, he dips her. Lifting her up again, he keeps his hand around her waist, holding her close. She removes his hat.

ELAINE CON'T (CONT'D)
You should probably get rid of

this. He nods in agreement, as he places his hand over hers. He is still looking at her. She doesn't move. He carefully leans in. As their lips are about to touch...

ELAINE
(pulling away)
I haven't danced in forever.

PETER
Me either.

She turns away from him and grabs her package.

ELAINE
That was so wrong of me.

PETER
Why? You don't have to be alone
anymore.

ELAINE
I'm married!

She wheels around, knocking into him. Her package falls, opening. A man's shirt slips out. Peter looks stunned.