

The phone beside his bed rang just once when Gordon answered it. "Yes", he drawled. "Sorry to wake you boss" said the voice at the other end. "I thought you might like to meet one of the new girls in the office" "Why" he asked. "She is Japanese, speaks very good English, and is beautiful!!" "I thought you might <sup>want</sup> to practice your Japanese, O K"?

"Where does she work" Gordon asked? She is one of your new secretaries" "I hired her yesterday" "You will find her in your outer office when you come down"

Gordon hung up the phone and thought about Phylis Stevens. She had been his executive secretary for ten years, now, and she was still single attractive, and very effecient. He didn't know what he would do if she were to leave. They had become good friends even though she still treated him as the boss. She even called him the boss to his face, but Mr. McCrea whenever anyone else was present and when speaking of him to others.

After a shower and shave, Gordon took the elevator down to his office. As he entered the room, he saw a slender young woman just closing the door to the outer office. Good morning, sir she said. A quick glimpse told him that this was the girl Phyl had told him about. What is your name. He asked. "Tamiko Miller" She said. "Miller, are you married? No sir, that is my name. My Father was an American. My mother is Japanese. He kept looking at her until she asked if there was anything wrong. No he said, but I can't think of anyone as lovely as you. Your parents must be very proud of you. My mother is much prettier than I and my father died before I was born.

Miss Stevens said I might like to practice my Japanese with you. I think it would be delightful. If you have nothing better to do this evening, may I have the pleasure of your company this evening, for dinner.

That would be very nice, she said, then we could speak Japanese. After she left the office, he called Phylis and asked her to come in. Where did you find that lovely creature? Oh, I'm just lucky, she said. She is in this country on a special work permit. Her father is a diplomat and is anxious for her to learn our ways. The father contacted our office in Tokyo and they sent her to us. I immediately hired her to fill the vacancy when our newest girl got married. By the way, boss, why do all of your secretaries get married in such a short time after they work for you? Is it something about you that I don't know of? I'm having dinner with her this evening, will you pick a place for me? You seem to know all the proper places. Isn't she rather young for you, Boss. "Phyl, you know that I am old enough to be her father"

That evening Gordon picked Tamiko up at her apartment in his Mercedes and took her to one of the better night clubs. They got a table in the corner so they could talk. After ordering cocktails and dinner, they began speaking Japanese. "Where are you from he asked. I was born on a small island in the south of Japan. I love it there and only leave it when my Grandfather has to go off on duty. He is a trouble-shooter diplomat. When things are going wrong someplace, they send him in. He is in Washington, now, so that is why I got to come here.

~~that time. We searched for him for several weeks and then we~~  
~~felt that he was drowned. Mother seemed to just fade away~~  
~~after that. I was eighteen when she died.~~ She was quite the  
most beautiful lady I have ever seen. I have a picture of her  
and father at home. It was taken the day they were married.  
They seemed so happy.

What about you, she asked. My life is not very interesting.  
he said. I was born in Paris, came to the US when I was too young  
to remember and grew up the son of a widowed school teacher.  
When WWII came along I went into the Navy and somewhere along  
the way, I crashed in the ocean and wound up with a lapse of  
memory for five years. I have never found out what happened to  
those five years, except that somehow, after I recovered my memory  
I knew how to speak Japanese. I was in college when it was found  
that I was the grandson of a very wealthy man. He died and left  
everything to me and now, I am a very wealthy man. End of story.

They spent many such evenings, but each working day she did  
her work with ease and did it charmingly. There was no sign of  
the social life they enjoyed outside of the office. As the months  
went by, Gordon felt more and more like a father to Tamiko. Then,  
one evening when they were in his apartment she told him that she  
would be leaving at the end of the week. His dismay showed on his  
face, and Tamiko saw it. I am truly sorry, Gordon, she said.  
I have enjoyed working here and have especially enjoyed these  
evenings of talks with you. You have become my dearest friend.  
I must go home with my grandfather, but my heart will remain  
here.

Gordon spent the next day going around town trying to find  
an appropriate gift to give Tamiko as a going away present. He  
found just what he wanted in a small shop just off Broadway

It was a small golden heart which opened to reveal a message in Japanese "To the daughter I wish was mine" When he gave it to her, she cried. "I couldn't love you more if you were my father" she said. I hope we will meet again, soon.

I won't let it be too long daughter.

Tamiko had been gone for just two ~~years~~<sup>YEARS</sup> when the word came from the detectives in Japan that they thought they had found where he had spent the lost five years. An elderly couple on a small island in southern Japan saw the picture of Gordon and said that he was the man who washed ashore on the island they worked on during the war. They couldn't remember his name, but they knew that he married the owner's daughter. The detectives were going to the island to see if they could find out anything more about him.

Gordon decided that he wouldn't wait for the detectives he would go there himself. He called Phylis and told her to pack some things for a trip. Then called the airport to get the jet ready. That afternoon they were on their way to Japan. Upon arriving at Tokyo airport, they went directly to the helicopter which stood waiting for them. Once aboard, they headed south for the small group of islands which lay in the most southerly part of the Japanese chain.

As they approached the island, Gordon seemed in a state of shock. "What's the matter" Phylis said. Milt was right! He said that if I could find the place where I spent all those years, I might begin to remember things." I think I can see things that I remember" On the far side of the island is a small cove with a stairway going down to it from the top of the cliff. There is a house just below those rocky outcroppings at the top of the hill.

The house is surrounded by Japanese gardens and a lawn runs from those gardens to the cliff over the bay. "Is there anything at the edge of the cliff" asked Phyl. Yes, there is a small gezebo right on the edge. "Gordon! You have found it! Do you remember all of it now? No, but it seems to be coming back. The helicopter circled the island just once and then settled on the lawn near the garden. Out of the house hurried a man in a light grey suit followed by two more people who seemed much younger.

Gordon felt as though his heart had stopped, for a few seconds "Mieko" He said. "What or who is that", asked Phyl. My wife was his reply. "You are married? Yes, many years ago.

Gordon jumped from the helicopter and ran towards the old man "Koshi, my old friend" He said as he threw his arms around the old mans shoulders." "Gordon!?" was the shocked reply Gordon' Just then, a small figure came running out of the house and when Gordon saw her, he ran towards her calling "Mieko". The girl stopped and then slowly walked toward him. "No my father it is I Tamiko.....