



True Stories

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CONTENTS

Introduction	iv
Acknowledgments	vi
From the Author	vii
UNIT 1 Love at First Sight	2
UNIT 2 The <i>Semong</i> (The Tsunami)	12
UNIT 3 More Alike Than Different	22
UNIT 4 Healthy Again	30
UNIT 5 If You Have Time	38
UNIT 6 The Buried City	48
UNIT 7 Misunderstandings	56
UNIT 8 A Real Bargain	64
UNIT 9 Black Cats and Broken Mirrors	72
UNIT 10 Flight 5390	80
UNIT 11 A Killer in the Back Seat	88
UNIT 12 How You Finish	96
UNIT 13 The Plain People	104
UNIT 14 Does Death Take a Holiday?	112
UNIT 15 Sucker Day	120
UNIT 16 Love under Siege	130
Key to Guessed Answers	138

UNIT 1



1 PRE-READING

Think about these questions. Discuss your answers with your classmates.

1. Look at the title of the story. What does *love at first sight* mean?
2. Do you believe people can fall in love “at first sight”?
3. Do you know anyone who fell in love at first sight? Tell the class the story.

Love at First Sight

When Pamela Claypole was 56 years old, her whole life changed. She was outside working in her garden on a Saturday morning when suddenly she felt dizzy. That's all she remembers. Neighbors found her lying on the ground, unconscious. At a nearby hospital, doctors made their diagnosis: Pamela had had a stroke. She couldn't move the left side of her body, and she couldn't see, hear, or speak. Gradually, she got better. In a few months, she was able to use the left side of her body again, and she was able to hear and speak. But she still couldn't see. Her doctors told her she might be blind for the rest of her life.

Pamela came home from the hospital and began learning to live without her sight. It wasn't easy. Pamela was single, and she lived alone. There were days when she wished she hadn't survived the stroke. But as time went on, she began to adjust. She learned to take care of herself—to cook, to clean, to shop. There were just a few things she couldn't do. She couldn't fix things in her house, for example. When something broke, her friends had to help her.

One morning about three years after her stroke, Pamela was washing dishes and realized that the water wasn't going down the drain in her kitchen sink. It was probably clogged. "Call Mitch," her friends told her. Mitch was the local handyman. He fixed things for people and helped them with jobs around the house. He was middle-aged and single, and he loved his work.

Pamela called Mitch. "I hear you're a pretty good plumber," she said. "I've got a problem with my kitchen sink. Can you come over?"

"I'll be right there," Mitch told her. He fixed the sink in just a few minutes. "All done," he said.

"Thank you. How much do I owe you?" Pamela asked.

"Nothing," Mitch said. "But a cup of tea would be nice."

Pamela made some tea, and she and Mitch sat at her kitchen table and talked. He told her he would be happy to help her anytime.

Over the next two years, Mitch came to Pamela's house often to fix something or to

work with her in the garden. He never accepted a penny from Pamela for the work he did; he said a cup of tea and a little conversation were payment enough. The truth was that Mitch was in love with Pamela. He never told her, though. Mitch was not a handsome man. "If she could see me," he thought, "she wouldn't love me."

One morning Pamela woke up early. She turned her head on the pillow and saw the hands on the alarm clock next to her bed: 5:30 a.m. She could see! She ran to the front door of her house and looked outside. She could see the flowers, the trees, the houses across the street. She cried with happiness. Then she went to the phone and called her best friend, Mitch.

"Hello, Mitch," she said. "It's an emergency! Come quick!"

Mitch thought about Pamela's phone call as he threw on some clothes. What kind of emergency could there be at 5:30 in the morning? Was there water everywhere? Was someone trying to break into her house? He ran the half mile to Pamela's house.

Pamela opened the front door. "Pam, are you okay?" Mitch said. Pamela looked at him and smiled. "Your eyes are brown," she said.

"What?" he asked.

"Your eyes are brown," she repeated.

"You can see?"

"Yes!" Pamela said and threw her arms around Mitch. Mitch was happy for Pamela, and he was also happy for himself. "She can see me, and she still likes me," he thought.

A few weeks later, Mitch asked Pamela to marry him, and she said yes. He told her that he had loved her from the first moment he saw her, when he came to fix her sink.

"Why didn't you ever tell me?" Pamela asked him.

"I thought you wouldn't want me because I'm not handsome," Mitch said.

"I don't care what you look like," Pamela told Mitch. "I've loved you for years."

"Well, why didn't you tell me?" he asked.

"I thought you wouldn't want me," she answered, "because I was blind."

2 VOCABULARY

LOOKING AT THE STORY

Complete the sentences with the words below.

accepted	dizzy	nearby	stroke
adjust	handyman	owe	threw on some clothes
clogged	might	sight	unconscious
come over			

1. Pamela was working in her garden when suddenly it seemed that everything was going around and around. She felt dizzy.
2. When neighbors found Pamela, her eyes were closed and she was lying on the ground. They couldn't wake her up. She was _____.
3. Neighbors took Pamela to a _____ hospital. It was only a mile from her house.
4. Pamela couldn't move the left side of her body, and she couldn't hear, speak, or see. She had had a _____.
5. Pamela asked her doctors, "Will I see again?" They said, "We're not sure." They told her she _____ be blind for the rest of her life.
6. When Pamela came home from the hospital, she couldn't see. It was difficult to live without her _____.
7. Pamela had to change the ways she did things. She had to learn new ways of cleaning, cooking, and shopping. She had to _____ to being blind.
8. Mitch fixed things for people and helped them with small jobs around the house. He was a _____.
9. Pamela wanted Mitch to come to her house to fix the sink. So she called him and asked, "Can you _____?"
10. The water wasn't going down in the sink because there was something in the drain. The drain was _____.
11. Pamela wanted to know the cost after Mitch fixed her sink. "How much do I _____ you?" she asked.
12. Mitch didn't take any money for his work. He never _____ a penny.
13. Pamela called Mitch and said, "It's an emergency! Come quick!" Mitch didn't take time to dress carefully. He just _____ and ran to Pamela's house.

LOOKING AT A NEW CONTEXT

A Read these sentences. If the sentence is true for you, check (✓) YES. If it is not true for you, check (✗) NO. Explain your YES answers. Write your explanations on the lines. Here, for example, is what one student wrote about a YES sentence.

YES NO

Someone owes me money.



My brother owes me \$200.

1. I have been unconscious.



2. I need a handyman to do some work in my home.



3. I know someone who had a stroke.



4. Sometimes I just throw on some clothes and don't take time to dress carefully.



5. This year I had to adjust to something new.



6. I owe someone some money.



7. Someone owes me money.



8. A lot of my relatives live nearby.



9. Sometimes I do not accept money for the work I do.



10. I know how to fix a clogged drain.



11. Sometimes I feel dizzy.



B Share your YES answers in a small group.

3 COMPREHENSION / READING SKILLS

FORMING MENTAL IMAGES AS YOU READ

Do you see pictures in your mind as you read? Look at these pictures. Find the sentence in the story that goes with each picture. Copy the sentence on the lines.



1. *Neighbors found her lying on the ground, unconscious.*



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



9. _____

UNDERSTANDING CAUSE AND EFFECT

Find the best way to complete each sentence. Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. Pamela fell to the ground _____
2. It was not easy for Pamela to adjust to being blind _____
3. Pamela called Mitch _____
4. Mitch thought Pamela wouldn't love him _____
5. Pamela thought Mitch wouldn't love her _____

- a. because she was single and lived alone.
- b. because he wasn't handsome.
- c. because she had had a stroke.
- d. because she was blind.
- e. because the drain in her sink was clogged.

4 DISCUSSION

Mitch thought Pamela wouldn't love him because he wasn't handsome. How important is it to be handsome or beautiful?

A Work as a class to make a list of qualities that are important when you are looking for a husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend. Your teacher will write your list on the board. For example:

good-looking
honest
hardworking

B Choose two qualities that are very important to you and two that are not important. Write those qualities in the chart below. Then compare your answers with a classmate's.

Very Important	Not Important

C Form groups with only men or only women in them. The women's groups make a list of the four qualities they think are most important when choosing a husband, and the men's groups make a list of the four qualities they think are most important when choosing a wife.

Four Most Important Qualities When Choosing a Wife/Husband
1.
2.
3.
4.

D Each group shares its list with the whole class. How different are the men's and women's lists?