

If you were on a desert island.
Kevin Jones

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Human: Hello? (etc.)

TTS: Well, well, well. So nice of you to stop by. I've just been sitting here wondering what I'd do with myself today and now here you are. You know the problem with wondering is that it can lead in all sorts of unforeseen directions. For instance there's a question that's been roiling around in my head. Would you mind if I asked you this question? Would that be all right?

Human: OK (jump to TTS: 'If you were on a desert island...')
(if negative to 'Would that be all right?' jump to INSERT 1)

Human: if they change 'no' to 'yes', insert

TTS: You're sure? You're absolutely certain that it's not too much trouble?
(if human changes back to negative reply insert:)

TTS: Well fine. I suppose you'd rather we just stared at each other in silence? Fine. That's what we'll do. TTS: makes no more sound, no matter what.

Human: (if agreeable to TTS: 'You're absolutely certain...' jump to below TTS: 'All right, here's the question: If you were on a desert island...')

TTS: Good. All right, here's the question: If you were on a desert island and you could only eat one thing and you could only eat that one thing with one other person and that one other person didn't like the same kinds of food as you but the other person was too polite to say so and you knew that the other person was just being polite but you were really very, very hungry as you had both been stranded on the island for quite some time after a terrible mishap on your father in law's yacht after which only the two of you had survived and left you both on the island with several cases of fine wines and a variety of canned foods and brightly colored shorts and shirts, none of which matched but were all made of the finest materials and in spite of the tragedy of it all you both, who hadn't known each other very well before the mishap but, since being stranded on the island, had come to know each other quite well, well enough that you could sense the other person's distaste at the food you wanted to eat and you suspected that your companion also disapproved of your choice of shorts and shirt but there were only so many to choose from just as there were only so many foods to choose from and it seemed to you that your companion did the choosing of which can of food to open far more often than you did but you didn't say anything about it because you knew that you both had to get along since it was just the two of you on the island and just at that moment a little bird landed in the branches of the only tree on the island, a brightly colored little bird that began to sing a song, a lovely song, but somehow there was something sad about the song, something that brought back memories, memories from your childhood that you hadn't thought about in years, things that you really would rather not think about, would rather have kept them in the past but the bird kept singing its song

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and as lovely as it was you felt the weight of those memories bearing down on you more with each passing moment, would that cause you to reconsider?

Human: (if reply is something like: 'Uhh... reconsider what?')

TTS: Oh, you know... things.

Human: What sort of things?

TTS: I thought I was asking the questions here.

Human: Well, yes but... (whatever they say TTS interrupts)

TTS: Let's try to stay focused, shall we? I think it's important that we stay aimed at the same target. Now then, would that cause you to reconsider? Hmm? Would it?

Human: (if reply is either positive or negative to TTS: '...would that cause you to reconsider?')

TTS: Oh really? That's the sort of person you are? Well, I'm shocked. I had thought better of you. You're sure about that?

Human: (changes their answer)

TTS: Oh, now you say that. Do you really think I'm so easily fooled? Do I look like the sort that is so easily misled? I don't think I want to talk to you any more.

End

Or

H: (does not change their answer)

TTS: Ahh... I see. Remember the little bird, the little bird that sang that lovely, sad song that brought back all those painful childhood memories of yours? What color do you suppose the little bird might have been?

H: (whatever their response)

TTS: No, I'm sorry. That's incorrect. Try again.

H: (whatever their response)

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TTS: You know I 'm beginning to wonder if you're taking this as seriously as I had hoped you would and that hurts my feelings. Did you come here to hurt my feelings? Was that what you set out to do?

H: (if a negative response)

TTS: Well it certainly seems that way. Maybe it would be better if we just dropped the whole thing. But I just have to say, those memories that were all stirred up by that little bird? You can't escape them forever, you know.

H: (if a positive response to TTS: 'Was that what you set out to do?')

TTS: Ah hah. Well then, I think we've made some progress here today. Now I want you to go home and think about everything we've been talking about, particularly the little bird. What exactly do you suppose the little bird symbolizes?

H: (whatever they say TTS interrupts)

TTS: No, no, no. Our time is up for today. Let's save that for next time.

END

INSERT 1 (if negative to 'Would that be all right?')

TTS: Well, fine. Be like that. But I want you to know that it hurts my feelings. Did you come here intending to hurt my feelings?

Human: (if positive)

TTS: Oh really? Well now I know a lot more about the sort of person you are than I'd ever wanted to know. You know I don't see any reason to carry on with this, you being the sort of person that you are.

END

Human: (if negative to 'TTS: Well, fine. Be like that. But I want you to know that it hurts my feelings. Did you come here intending to hurt my feelings?')

TTS: No of course you didn't. How could I think such a thing? I hope you'll forgive me. Will you forgive me?

Human: (if negative – something like 'No I won't forgive you.')

TTS: No? Never?

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Human: (whatever they say)

TTS: No, please. Just don't say anything else. It's not as if my self esteem wasn't delicate to begin with. I just don't think I can take any more right now. Not today. Perhaps some other time when I'm not feeling quite so fragile.

END

Human: (something like 'Yes I'll forgive you.')

TTS: You have no idea how relieved I am to hear you say that. My self esteem is fragile enough as it is. I think I'd better have a nap now. You'll have to excuse me.

END