

MORNING STORIES TRANSCRIPT

All The Time in the World: From her college years, Portland Helmich remembers a day with a new friend that lasted forever.

Gary Mott:

How ya doing, Everybody. It's Gary Mott from WGBH radio Boston with this week's *Morning Stories* podcast. The producer and director of *Morning Stories*, Tony Kahn, was unavailable to record the intro for this week's podcast, so, happy to take over that responsibility for at least this week. This week's story comes from someone named Portland Helmich, who hails from these parts. She recalls a day a long time ago, when she had all the time in the world to get to know another woman.

Portland Helmich:

She was an absolute firecracker, someone who had just broken all these rules and didn't give a damn. And I was very much the kind of studious good girl.

[Traffic noise]

I didn't know her that well, yet, but I knew that I was excited to be around her. And we decided to meet for breakfast one morning in the West Village. And over eggs and toast, we really, really opened up. She told me about her childhood. She told me about what it was like growing up with her father and her sister. I told her about my parents and my family history. We spoke about our dreams.

After breakfast, I didn't have anything planned for the rest of the day and I think it was she that said, "Do you want to go to a bookstore, or something?" [chuckles] And, and I said, "Yeah. Sure!" And we were probably there for like a half an hour. And then I remember walking out onto the street and it was a June day, kind of humid and sweaty and sticky outside and, and I think it was she that said, "Do you want to go get some lemonade or some iced tea or something somewhere?" And, "Yeah! Sure!"

And so we waltzed over to some café on Broadway and it was so exciting because it was like – there's more! There's more! There's more time to spend with each other. And she had calamari or -- and linguini with clam sauce and I had pasta primavera and it didn't even matter what we were talking about. It just felt like it could bounce back and forth so easily.

I'd never really been with someone who was so incredibly gifted at knowing when to talk and knowing when to listen. And oh my God she made me laugh. Made me laugh until I cried.

The friendship was deepening as she entered my apartment and we sat there and talked until 12:30 at night, over a couple of glasses of red wine. I could have spent the rest of

my life with that woman on that day. I was ... If she had been a guy, I wouldn't have looked any further. That would have been it. Yeah. I swear I fell in love that day. I really did.

When I look back on my life, you know - what moments am I going to remember? I, I'm sure I will remember many, many treasured moments with my husband, just simple moments when he made me laugh, but I know that one of the things that I will always remember is that day. We had the whole day to ... we had our lives to get to know each other, it felt like. God. Will I ever have a day like that again? Will I ever have a day that's, just has no agenda, where there's, there are no expectations? Will I ever meet somebody who has that much time to indulge in getting to know me? I long for those days again. Like old times. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

[Traffic sounds]

Gary Mott:

That's Portland Helmich with this week's *Morning Story* from WGBH. WGBH podcasts a new *Morning Story* each and every Friday, so keep on downloading, keep on listening. Thanks so much for the feedback we've gotten thus far. You know, it's so encouraging to hear that somebody is listening out there.

Be sure and check out our website <wgbh.org/morningstories>, that's "morningstories" all one word, and on behalf of Tony Kahn and Rick Wezowitz and all the folks here at WGBH, we wish you the happiest of holidays and all the best in the new year and you'll hear from us again next week on the *Morning Stories* podcast.

Bye-bye, now.

[End of recording]

Transcribed by: Bev Sykes

Note from transcriber:

What I love about this story is that you can tell, as she relates her memory, that she has a huge smile on her face the whole time.