

Jeroen: What do you see?

Cathy: I saw a dog but that's it -- like a little white dog.

Jeroen: What is it doing?

Cathy: I can't really see it that well anymore.

Jeroen: Is the dog sitting down or moving?

Cathy: It is kind of alert & happy.

Jeroen: What does it feel like?

Cathy: It has soft fur. It kind of sits on the couch. It likes to sit by me - beside me under my arm.

Jeroen: Do you know this dog?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: What does the couch feel like?

Cathy: Floral print. The fabric is a little rough with reddish big flowers. It's kind of big, kind of long and not too high of back. It is kind of a stiff couch. It is in the middle of the room with a carpet underneath. It is a rug - not an Oriental rug but one like that - a woven rug. The dog is a boy. He is sitting on my right side. I am sitting up on the couch.

Jeroen: Are your legs touching the floor?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Are you male or female?

Cathy: I am a female.

Jeroen: What kind of body type do you have?

Cathy: Bigger - I am knitting or something.

Jeroen: Like crocheting or knitting? Something like that one needle or two?

Cathy: Two needles in my hands - using green yarn. My hands are a little tired and sore. A little old I think. They are arthritic I think.

Jeroen: What color are your hands?

Cathy: White.

Jeroen: What are you wearing?

Cathy: A big dress - almost like a robe.

Jeroen: Housecoat?

Cathy: Yeah - wearing some kind of house shoes. Not really slippers, but enclosed shoes. They are kind of heavy with a tiny flat platform heel. A thick sole.

Jeroen: Are you wearing any stockings/pantyhose?

Cathy: Yeah, like pantyhose or stockings.

Jeroen: Wearing a hat?

Cathy: No, but I have my hair up, though, up on the back of my head, like a bun. My hair is grey.

Jeroen: What about your face?

Cathy: I have a round face, glasses.

Jeroen: What are you feeling?

Cathy: A little sadness. I have blue eyes.

Jeroen: Are you wearing any jewelry?

Cathy: Not right now. Maybe a watch.

Jeroen: What is the weather like?

Cathy: It is kind of cool outside. There is a window to my left. It's chilly. Everything looks a bit frozen.

Jeroen: Is the place heated?

Cathy: There is a stove heater in the corner of the room. There is a table - some newspapers on the table - a wooden table.

Jeroen: Does it have chairs?

Cathy: No, it's like a coffee table. There is a lamp too - next to the couch. It looks the kind of lamp that could maybe tip over. It's a tall lamp.

Jeroen: What kind of walls?

Cathy: Like plaster walls, and a wood floor, and kind of a raised foundation. Not on the ground, up a little higher.

Jeroen: Is there anything on the walls?

Cathy: Some pictures - and the yard is kind of big in front - the driveway - cars in the driveway and more people in the house too.

Jeroen: Are they in the same room too?

Cathy: Someone is in the kitchen cooking.

Jeroen: Smell?

Cathy: Some bread. I think their family is gonna come home for lunch.

Jeroen: Are you living with the family?

Cathy: Yeah, with the family.

Jeroen: What about you, do you have a family?

Cathy: No, I have my dog (laughing).

Jeroen: Is there more than one person in the kitchen?

Cathy: There is just a lady in the kitchen.

Jeroen: How do you feel about her?

Cathy: She's my friend.

Jeroen: She lives with you in the house?

Cathy: Yeah, it is her house.

Jeroen: You live with her and the family?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Where do you sleep?

Cathy: Sometimes on the couch. There is a bed that I can sleep in but it's not really in a bedroom. It is just kind of out of the way.

Jeroen: What do you do with the majority of your time?

Cathy: I just keep busy reading and knitting, crossword puzzles sometimes.

Jeroen: Are you good at them?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Do you have any activities you do outside of the house?

Cathy: I drive sometimes. I have a car. It's kind of a big car.

Jeroen: Where do you park it?

Cathy: It is in the driveway - kind of like a gravel driveway

Jeroen: What color is your car?

Cathy: Dark color - like grayish black - not real shiny.

Jeroen: Is the engine in the back or in the hood?

Cathy: Not sure. It could be in the front. It has a big tail end so it might be in the back. Ford or Chrysler or something like that.

Jeroen: What does the area look like?

Cathy: There's houses nearby, but not too close. We don't see the neighbors too much.

Jeroen: What does the house look like that you live in?

Cathy: It's got siding on the outside, like slats of wood on the outside, white. And I think the car has a personal plate - New York. Might say "CG" - only a few letters. But I don't think I'm in New York, up a bit, like Connecticut - outside of New York.

Jeroen: How many floors does house have?

Cathy: Just one. No wait, there are stairs but I don't go up there. I stay on the ground floor. The kids might be upstairs. The stairs are wood too.

Jeroen: How old are the kids?

Cathy: A couple boys like eleven and twelve and a little girl. Maybe ten- and twelve-year-old boys. They are sweet. I like being around family . . . They were nice to take me in. I kind of ran out of money. I have a little bit left, not really enough for a house. I used to have a house here. I have friends, they are Germans. The family I live with came over from Germany too. They are younger than I am, obviously. They like baseball too.

Jeroen: You say baseball?

Cathy: I think that the boys play Little League. I go watch the games nearby.

Jeroen: How do you go there?

Cathy: I drive my car - sometimes my friend comes with me. I like to bring treats for the boys, cookies.

Jeroen: Do you make them yourself?

Cathy: Yep, I make 'em.

Jeroen: What kind of cookies?

Cathy: Chocolate chip, oatmeal.

Jeroen: I bet they like that?

Yeah. They kind of expect them now (laughing). I can't show up empty handed. They sometimes run around my car when I'm coming there. Sometimes I take the lady that I live with.

Jeroen: Do you have any family?

Cathy: No, not really. I have some friends.

Jeroen: Did you have any family?

Cathy: Yeah. I had a husband and a son. Then they passed away. Now it's just me . . . a few years ago . . . my son died first.

Jeroen: Must be terrible?

Cathy: Yeah. It's hard. It's hard.

Jeroen: How do you deal with your loss?

Cathy: People still love him and they always tell me every day. They think of him, my son. My husband kind of gave up after my son died.

Jeroen: No other kids left?

Cathy: He had a wife, but she's just different.

Jeroen: Did they have any kids?

Cathy: No.

Jeroen: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Cathy: Not here - in Germany. They don't have a lot of money either. They are younger. They have a different mom,

Jeroen: So your dad remarried?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: What happened to your mom?

Cathy: She died.

Jeroen: You've had a lot of loss?

Cathy: Yeah. I got my animals to keep me company (laughing).

Jeroen: More than the dog?

Cathy: I've had a couple birds. I have one now.

Jeroen: Where do you keep it?

Cathy: In a big iron cage, kind of by the couch. Not too close to the window, but kind of by the window. I cover it at night when it sleeps. That bird I've had a long time.

Jeroen: You've had a lot of loss?

Cathy: Yeah. It's hard.

Jeroen: Are your son and husband buried together?

Cathy: Yeah, they're together. That's where I'll be buried too.

Jeroen: Is it close to where you live?

Cathy: Not too close - close to where we used to live in New York.

Jeroen: Do you visit the grave?

Cathy: Yeah, I do. It's a big drive though.

Jeroen: Do you go by yourself when you go?

Cathy: Yeah. I've done that by myself before - bring flowers. There's always a lot of people there at the grave, at my son's grave. They leave little things there for him.

Jeroen: How does it feel?

Cathy: It feels nice. I still feel connected to him. I kind of have a feeling he watches me.

Jeroen: Do you keep any of your son's stuff anywhere?

Cathy: Yeah. I have like a wooden chest that I keep some things in, a few things. I don't have too many things, but a few things.

Jeroen: What kind of stuff?

Cathy: Old uniforms, jewelry. There is something from Japan, like a coin or something. It's engraved - maybe like from a game they played there.

Jeroen: Did you ever go with him?

Cathy: Nope, I never made it. Never went back to Germany either.

Jeroen: Did your son ever go to Germany?

Cathy: No, more in Japan, Hawaii.

Jeroen: Did your son leave a lot of money behind?

Cathy: Yeah, but the wife took it. She likes Hollywood. She lives the rich lifestyle.

Jeroen: Where is she?

Cathy: She might be in Hollywood (giggling), I don't know, maybe New York City. I'm not a big fan of hers (laughing). I just feel like she was the problem. She kind of took my son away from me. She even tried to move his grave. That I know (giggle). She wanted to take it away.

Jeroen: Why would she want do that?

Cathy: She wanted to move it to get more attention, up to the baseball Hall of Fame.

Jeroen: You don't talk to each other much then?

Cathy: Just through attorneys. It's bad.

Jeroen: How do you live?

Cathy: I get some money from the government, a little bit. I sold everything I had. I don't have much left. I sold my house. That money didn't last too long.

Jeroen: Do you and the woman talk a lot?

Cathy: I'm kind of like a mother to her though because she is younger. She kind of looks out for me.

Jeroen: Describe what she looks like?

Cathy: She's pretty. Kind of heavier, like I am. She is cooking a lot, wearing kind of a long dress like I wear - in the kitchen. She doesn't work outside of the house. Her husband works.

Jeroen: What color hair?

Cathy: Kind of brown hair with curls. Wears it kind of off her face, but not up. Kind of like a headband type thing - back a little.

Jeroen: How old are her kids?

Cathy: The boys are like 10 and 11. The girl is maybe like 7.

Jeroen: And the girl?

Cathy: I don't know, like Janie or Jill. She has short dark hair.

Jeroen: Do you speak German in the house?

Cathy: I do with her, but the kids don't speak. They understand some German, but they don't speak it.

Jeroen: Do you use it to say things the kids aren't supposed to hear?

Cathy: Yeah (laughing). My English is pretty good now too. The crossword puzzles help (laughing), and I still get the New York Times.

Jeroen: What parts do you like reading?

Cathy: The sports, I still keep an eye on. And things on the community - like entertainment and stuff.

Jeroen: Did you speak any English when you came from Germany?

Cathy: Very little.

Jeroen: So you mastered a whole new language?

Cathy: Yeah, kind of had to for work.

Jeroen: What did you do for work?

Cathy: I was cleaning, cooking.

Jeroen: So you had to understand?

Cathy: Louie taught me a lot. He taught me.

Jeroen: Who is Louie?

Cathy: He is my son. His English is perfect (laughing).

Jeroen: He was born in the states?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Does he speak any German?

Cathy: Yeah. If he had kids, I would hope they would speak German too, but that wife - I don't know (laughing).

Jeroen: Did you miss Germany?

Cathy: A little bit, but I never had the time or the money to go over there.

Jeroen: What do you miss about it?

Cathy: Miss the scenery - family.

Jeroen: Are you from a small town or a city?

Cathy: Small town - not a big city, but there were some shops and things.

Jeroen: Did you and your husband meet in the States or in Germany?

Cathy: I knew his family.

Jeroen: Were you in the same area?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: When did you decide to get married?

Cathy: I think he was in the States and he came back.

Jeroen: So you guys knew each other before you left?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Did you date at all?

Cathy: Not earlier, but maybe at the time he came back. He came back to see family. We have family together, like cousins or something. We're not related, but we went to family things together.

Jeroen: Were you in love with him?

Cathy: I was kind of ready for change and he knew how to get by in America. It's kind of scary just to go there.

Jeroen: Did he turn out to be a good man?

Cathy: (hesitating) Yeah - a little boring - but (laugh) - not too hard of a worker. He was okay.

Jeroen: Was he a good provider?

Cathy: No, not really (laughing)

Jeroen: Did you love him?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: What did your husband die of?

Cathy: Heart

Jeroen: A heart attack?

Cathy: Yeah. I think so

Jeroen: What happened to your son?

Cathy: He just got this horrible disease - it just killed him.

Jeroen: Do you know what kind of disease it was?

Cathy: It just stopped his body. His nervous system shut down. Yeah, that wife didn't help (laughing). I don't feel like she took that good of care of him. She could have taken better care of him.

Jeroen: It must have been hard for you to see that?

Cathy: Yeah, we didn't know it was that serious. She knew.

Jeroen: Were you with your son when he died?

Cathy: I remember being in the room, but I can't remember if it was right when he died.

Jeroen: Where did he die?

Cathy: In the bedroom upstairs at their house - above the garage. He was in the bed. I can remember seeing him kind of unconscious.

Jeroen: Were you able to talk with him before he went?

Cathy: A little bit. She barely let us see him. She wanted to control it.

Jeroen: It is too bad you only had one child?

Cathy: Yeah. The other ones didn't make it. He was a good son. He was a good person.

Jeroen: You said his wife got in the between?

Cathy: Yeah. She just took charge. He kind of just fell right into it. He let her be the boss.

Jeroen: It had consequences for you?

Cathy: Yeah, it changed our relationship. She was a little jealous of me, so she kind of wanted to cut him off.

Jeroen: Did he leave you any of his memorabilia or something that you can remember him by?

Cathy: Very little. Just that one uniform, and then that coin from Japan. And then some jewelry that he bought me, like a bracelet and a necklace.

Jeroen: A necklace?

Cathy: A pendant with jade in it. I don't have much family so I don't know where it'll - what to do with it. I don't know who to give it to.

Jeroen: Are you thinking about that?

Cathy: Yeah, when I die.

Jeroen: Are you thinking about death?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Is your body okay?

Cathy: Yeah, I'm just old

Jeroen: What are you deciding about who to give it to?

Cathy: I could give it to the little girl, I guess. Probably have to give it to her mother to hold on to.

Jeroen: Leave the scene moving forward to the next important day . . . what is the first thing that comes up?

Cathy: I am a mother - two little kids. They are all dressed up today.

Jeroen: Is it a special occasion?

Cathy: Yeah, it's like a Sunday, a church day.

Jeroen: What gender are the kids?

Cathy: A little girl. A baby girl. I feel like a baptism day. She's in a white dress.

Jeroen: How old is she?

Cathy: Like one.

Jeroen: How are you feeling about day?

Cathy: It's a nice day. Just walking on a dirt road.

Jeroen: Are your shoes getting dirty?

Cathy: A little dusty - kind of normal around here.

Jeroen: What kind of shoes are you wearing?

Cathy: Not really boots. They are shoes, but they have a buckle on them. They are brown - kind of working but dressy too. A hard toed shoe - a little open.

Jeroen: What else are you wearing?

Cathy: I have on a long dress that is kind of tight around my waist up high with a tie.

Jeroen: What kind of material?

Cathy: A little coarse - like it doesn't really need to be ironed.

Jeroen: What color?

Cathy: Like a tan color.

Jeroen: Are you wearing anything on your head?

Cathy: Yeah. A hat, a scarf. I have a watch.

Jeroen: Do you wear any makeup?

Cathy: A little bit.

Jeroen: You've got the two kids. Is anybody else with you?

Cathy: Yeah, Henry and his mom . . . or sister, I think. Visiting maybe - maybe just for the baptism.

Jeroen: Henry is your husband?

Cathy: Yeah. There is a horse carriage, but I don't know if I'm in it. It's just kind of going by.

Jeroen: Where is the dirt road? What is around you?

Cathy: We're just walking to church.

Jeroen: Can you see the church?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Is it big or small?

Cathy: It's small. Just like a one room church, white, not fancy, a Lutheran church, not a lot of people – there's a lot of German people there. It is a church service. We don't go all the time, but we're going today for the baby. She's gonna be baptized.

Jeroen: That's exciting are you feeling festive?

Cathy: Yeah, it's exciting.

Jeroen: So it's Henry, his mom and the two kids?

Cathy: Yeah, and there's other friends with us.

Jeroen: What is the boy's name?

Cathy: Lou.

Jeroen: Has he been baptized yet?

Cathy: Yeah. We did it when he was a baby. Now he's two. He's got knickers on. He is big though. He is a big kid. He looks like he is about four. He's got big hands, big feet, a big head. Not chubby, just big. He's sweet with the baby.

Jeroen: What does he do with her? How do they play?

Cathy: He likes to hold her on his lap. He is pretty good about holding her head up. He gives her a bottle.

Jeroen: So how did you get to church?

Cathy: I think we walked, but I think the kids rode in the carriage for a little bit with the horses. That was fun they got to do that.

Jeroen: You didn't do that?

Cathy: No. It costs money.

Jeroen: And you've got to be careful with money?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Is it a lot of people getting baptized or just her?

Cathy: Just her - at the service.

Jeroen: Are you close to your church community?

Cathy: We don't go a lot because I work a lot, but we go sometimes. There's a lot of German people there.

Jeroen: Where is this church?

Cathy: It's in New York. It's kind of in the country a bit.

Jeroen: Is there a city close by?

Cathy: It could be in New Jersey, even. It's not in the city.

Jeroen: What does the building look like?

Cathy: Like a house. It's not real big. I think at the most, it could seat like a hundred people.

Jeroen: Is it freestanding?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: Does it have a bell tower?

Cathy: Yeah, but that's about it though.

Jeroen: Is it well taken care of?

Cathy: It's kind of green, just because it rains a lot. We don't come here too often.

Jeroen: What is her name?

Cathy: Sophie, I think. I want to say Charlotte (laughing).

Jeroen: Drifting to the next important scene . . . what's happening now?

Cathy: It's kind of hard to breathe.

Jeroen: Is it something in your chest because there's no air or what?

Cathy: I might be sick.

Jeroen: What are you doing?

Cathy: Laying down.

Jeroen: Does whatever you're laying on feel big or small?

Cathy: It's kind of a big bed.

Jeroen: Can you tell what's going on with you?

Cathy: Not really, but I can't really move.

Jeroen: Are you tired?

Cathy: I think it's just sick.

Jeroen: Do you have a fever?

Cathy: No, maybe like a coma or something.

Jeroen: What do you look like laying there in the bed?

Cathy: Just a little old, tired, a little thinner than I was. Not thin though (laughing).

Jeroen: What kind of place is it?

Cathy: It's a hospital - metal around on the bed.

Jeroen: How are you feeling?

Cathy: Kind of ready to let go

Jeroen: You've had enough?

Cathy: Yep. I'm tired.

Jeroen: How do you feel about dying?

Cathy: I feel ready.

Jeroen: Not afraid or anything?

Cathy: No.

Jeroen: What do you believe about death?

Cathy: I think I'll see my family again. I think I'll be peaceful.

Jeroen: Is there anybody else there with you or are you by yourself?

Cathy: Just me.

Jeroen: Is this hospital far away from where you live?

Cathy: Not too far.

Jeroen: Does it feel like you've been in the hospital for a while?

Cathy: Only a few days.

Jeroen: Were you staying with the family still?

Cathy: Yeah, my stuff is there.

Jeroen: How did you get to the hospital?

Cathy: Maybe an ambulance.

Jeroen: So something happened?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: What happened?

Cathy: I was playing cards. I collapsed. There were 5 of us playing cards.

Jeroen: With the family?

Cathy: Yeah, 2 couples and me - another family from Little League.

Jeroen: What game were you playing?

Cathy: Bridge.

Jeroen: Did you feel anything coming on?

Cathy: I felt a little dizzy.

Jeroen: Did you ever come to?

Cathy: I don't think so.

Jeroen: What did they do to your body?

Cathy: They took me to the hospital. They tried to, like, shock it a little.

Jeroen: Are you hooked up to any equipment?

Cathy: Um, yeah. They are watching my heart. It's hard to breathe. I think there may be a breathing tube. It's hard to breathe,

Jeroen: Keep letting go and now you're on the other side of it out of the body, just look down and see the body, what does it look like?

Cathy: It looks like it worked very hard (giggle),

Jeroen: Is anybody there?

Cathy: The nurses noticed right away, but they can't do much.

Jeroen: Are they trying to revive it?

Cathy: Yeah, but they can't. I can't go back.

Jeroen: So what happens to your body?

Cathy: The family I was living with - they came to do the paperwork and stuff.

Jeroen: What happens to your body is there a service?

Cathy: Yeah, a lot of people there. Mostly people for Lou - the Yankees people.

Jeroen: Are you being cremated or buried?

Cathy: Yeah, cremated and buried next to Lou.

Jeroen: So that's what you wanted right?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: So his wife didn't get in the way?

Cathy: No, I don't think she went to my funeral.

Jeroen: The family must have been sad to see you go?

Cathy: Yeah, they helped with the arrangements, helped coordinate it.

Jeroen: Are the kids older now?

Cathy: Still young

Jeroen: What happens to your stuff?

Cathy: I'll leave it with them and there's some other stuff I sent to another friend female friend

Jeroen: What about the coin?

Cathy: I think they kept that one.

Jeroen: What about the jewelry?

Cathy: I think I gave that to them.

Jeroen: What kind of jewelry was it?

Cathy: A gold necklace with a jade pendant, and a bracelet, like a charm bracelet. A watch.

Jeroen: Where did you get that jewelry?

Cathy: From Lou (fondly). He always brought me things.

Jeroen: He was a sweet kid, huh?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: What does it feel like to be out of the body?

Cathy: It feels good. It doesn't hurt to breathe. It feels light.

Jeroen: Does it feel like a relief?

Cathy: Yeah.

Jeroen: From this perspective, you can see the whole lifetime. Every lifetime has a lesson, it's learning. What is the first thing that comes to you when you think about this lifetime? What is it that you tried to learn?

Cathy: Just kind of like learning to accept loss.

Jeroen: So how did you do with that?

Cathy: I think I did pretty well. I kind of kept my eye on the ball (laughing). I kind of kept charging along. I didn't get bitter.

Jeroen: It sounds like your personality that you came in with was very sturdy in a way?

Cathy: Yeah, kind of tough, right?

Jeroen: What was your name in this life?

Cathy: Christina. Yeah, even my family, first I gave up my family, and then the children, and then Lou and my husband. So there was a lot of letting go.

Jeroen: You didn't get bitter?

Cathy: No, I think always being around kids always helped me.

Jeroen: And what about your little dog, was he still alive when you passed?

Cathy: Yeah, I think the family is going to keep him for me, I think, and the bird.

Jeroen: They'll probably miss you too?

Cathy: Yeah, I might have been a little burden, but we had fun.

Jeroen: What does it feel like to be where you are?

Cathy: It feels very bright, very airy. It just has this feeling of lightness, of levity. Just kind of floating.

Jeroen: Are you by yourself or is anybody there?

Cathy: I feel like just kind of being in the light. I see like an opening.

Jeroen: What's behind it?

Cathy: Just sky, beauty, bright lights.