

Questions on “Model’s Assistant” by Alissa Nutting

1. What might we learn about the narrator by the style, as well as content, of her narration?
2. What attracts the narrator to Garla and vice versa?
3. Is the narrator’s conflict external, internal or both? Why doesn’t she abandon the phone at the end of the story?
4. We don’t discover until midway through the story that the narrator is female (“Hi Woman”). Does the narrator describe herself with stereotypically male or female characteristics? Do you believe that she is truly ugly and that Garla is truly stunning?
5. Why is Garla’s randomness of thought highlighted in this story?
6. What impressions of the modeling industry are created?
7. Why has Garla befriended the narrator? What perks does the narrator get through her friendship with Garla? Has she been transformed as a result of their “friendship”?
8. What does the cell phone symbolize?