

## harry's story /5/ the way things are

**harry:** So I tell stories **that** some people **think are** a bit dark. You **call** that a dark side? **Just because** I do that **every now and then** doesn't mean I'm like that all the time. **I can't believe** you **think of me as** a guy with a dark side. **We've known each other** for years. Why **have** you never **told** me?

**jess:** I thought you **knew**. I mean, look at the other **things you do**. **Reading** the last page of every book **in case** you die **before you finish** it? **Constantly wondering what it's going to be like** when **you're** dying. Not **believing** a guy and a girl can be just friends...

**harry:** Well, **that's the way things are** and **you'd better get used to** it. I mean, I **do wish I could** be **friends** with a girl. But you know how it is: you meet a girl. **Either** you like her but you **get tired of** her after a few weeks and you don't know how to **get rid of** her. Or you see **right away** she's **all wrong** for you. Or sometimes you **wonder** if she **might be** right for you but you don't **feel like spending** months **trying to find out**.

**jess:** That **may be** true. But maybe you **haven't met** the right girl **yet**.

## harry's story /6/ jess and his wife

**jess:** When **my wife and I** first met, it was **love at first sight**. **I've** never **even** thought of other women **since then**. I understand you're **different** and that's **fine with** me. But saying things like that **on a first date**? **That's not what** you're supposed to do. You're **supposed to**

enjoy life, not **waste** it **by** constantly **coming up** with crazy ideas and **worrying about** things **that** will probably never happen to you.

**harry:** Well, **apparently you and I** are two very **different** people. I **do envy** you **in a way**. You **and** your wife are a perfect couple and I'm sure your marriage will **last**. **Although** sometimes I **get the impression** that **the two of you try too** hard to be a perfect couple.

**jess:** **What do you mean**, try too hard? You **don't think** two people can **share** all their interests and views?

**harry:** **Actually, I don't.**

## harry's story /7/ buh-byes

**harry:** I'm sorry, but **whenever** I see a couple like—well, like **the two of you**, I always get very **suspicious**. It seems to me **like** one of the couple respects the other one **too** much **to** ever say "Sorry but I think you're wrong **about this**" **even if they do**. But I **might be** wrong.

**jess:** I guess **I'll have to** think about that. I just think you **should be** a little less pessimistic, it would **do you good**. It would also **make it a lot easier to** find someone you could go to New York **with**. **Anyway, let me know** when you're leaving **so I know** I can **stop looking**.

**harry:** **I will**. And I'll **definitely** give you a call as soon as I **get back** and I'll tell you all about the Big Apple, ok?

**jess:** Yeah, I'm looking forward **to hearing** all about it. **Have a good time** in New York. **Watch out for** the **muggers** and don't **get too drunk** on the first night, ok? **Take care**, Harry.