

THE PHONE CALL

By

Jean Gross-Tolstikov

Mr. Jean Gross-Tolstikov
200 Winston Drive, # 3007
Cliffside Park, NJ 07010
phone (201)233.3387
email jeangrossusa@gmail.com

INT. GALE'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - LATE EVENING

A standard apartment is decorated to celebrate the New Year Eve. An elegant lighted up Christmas tree is in the corner of the living room. A long table is served for guests.

A young woman GALE (30, pretty, dressed up, with make-up and stylish hair) runs from room to room, finishing the final preparations for the celebration night.

Gale stops in the middle of the living room. She looks around with the satisfaction on her face.

A wall clock shows the time as of half-past ten.

Gale topped up some champagne from an opened bottle into a glass. Then she sits on an arm-chair near the Christmas tree.

Sipping champagne, Gale dials someone's phone number.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

This is Heaven. How may I help you?

GALE

Hello? Hi... Um, may I talk to God?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hello, Soul. Just a moment, please.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

While a waiting time, a classic music is heard from Gale's cellphone.

The living room is modified. Now, it is divided into two triangle halves diagonally.

One half of the room stays the same as before: with Gale who sits on the arm-chair near the Christmas tree.

Another half of the room becomes all snow-pure, white and sterile, like never-ending one: with white walls, white ceiling, and white floor.

GOD (50s, handsome, dressed in a white business suit and tie) sits at an office desk.

GOD

Good evening, my dear. You're talking to God.

GALE
Oh, God! Is it you?

GOD
Yes, my dear. It's me.
(pause)
Marry Christmas and Happy New Year!

GALE
Thank you. And... um, Merry
Christmas to you... and all others
up there.

GOD
Thank you.
(pause)
So, speak up, my dear. How may I
help you?

GALE
Dear God... We have just a matter
of hours before the start of the
new year.
(pause)
I beg you to make my wishes come
true.

GOD
Sure! Anything you want, but...
(pause)
But first, I have to transfer you
to the D.F.W.

GALE
Pardon me?

GOD
The department of fulfilled wishes,
my dear. You have to try to
understand what mistakes you've
done in the past.

GALE
Mistakes?
(pause)
Well... Um, all right then.

God hangs up the phone and dials another line. At the same
time, he looks at Gale with a smile on his face.

A classic music is heard in Gale's cell-phone.

METALLIC VOICE (O.S.)

Thank you for calling the
department of fulfilled wishes.
Your call is very important to us.
Please stay on the line. The first
available operator will take you
shortly.

(pause)

Marry Christmas and Happy New Year.

GALE

(mumbling)

Thank you.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

A classic music is heard in Gale's cell-phone.

On the another half of the room, the second office desk
appears next to the desk of God.

A young woman OPERATOR (30s, beautiful, dressed in a white
business suit and white high-hill shoes) sits at the second
desk.

Two white wings are behind the Operator's shoulders.

OPERATOR

The department of fulfilled wishes.
How may I help you?

The Operator gently smiles and nods to God. God nods at her
back, silently watching after Gale.

Gale continues to sit on her arm-chair, sipping her
champagne.

GALE

Oh, hi... Um, Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to you.

OPERATOR

Same to you.

(pause)

So, what would you like to know
from us?

GALE

Um, actually... I don't really
know. I mean, it was God... He
transferred me to you, and...

(pause)

(MORE)

GALE (cont'd)
He said that before making new
wish, I have to listen to the
previous ones.

OPERATOR
It's just simply clear enough for
me. One moment please.

The operator opens up her laptop and quickly types on a
computer keyboard.

OPERATOR (CONT'D)
I beg your pardon, but because of
following information is
confidential, I have to confirm
your identification. Am I talking
to Gale Schevy?

GALE
Yes, it's me.

OPERATOR
That's great!
(pause)
Well! Here it is... Making a
selection of all wishes of Gale
Schevy's soul... Sorting it by
descending.
(pause)
Wow, your file is pretty huge!
(pause)
Hello? Gale? Do you hear me?

GALE
Yes, I'm here.

OPERATOR
Great... Um, so we can start with a
list of your fulfilled wishes from
the last year.. now.
(pause)
Oh, I hate my job!
(pause)
Done! You hate your job.

God smiles silently, nodding to the Operator.

INT. GALE'S OFFICE - LATE EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Gale sits at a desk, what is littered with document folders. A wall clock shows time as of ten minutes after nine o'clock.

A CLEANING WOMAN (50s, average, dressed in uniform) passes by Gale's desk, wiping the floor with a rag mop.

CLEANING WOMAN

Oh, Gale, hi! I thought everyone left already. Why are you still here?

GALE

(sad and tired)

Hi, Mary... A lot of work to do... I'm damn tired and absolutely out of time.

CLEANING WOMAN

I see... Well, I won't interrupt you anymore.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on the arm-chair near the Christmas tree, sipping her champagne.

The Operator looks at Gale, then turns to the monitor.

OPERATOR

My husband does not paying any attention to me!

(pause)

Done! He does not!

God silently nods to the Operator.

INT. GALE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Gale cooks a dinner at the kitchen.

A young man HUSBAND (30s, average body, dressed in business suit) walks in the kitchen. He talks with someone over the cell-phone.

HUSBAND

Exactly!.. And what did you say on that?.. And then?.. And what did she say back?

Gale glances at her Husband and smiles at him. She moves forward to him for a kiss.

The husband passes by Gale, ignoring her moves.

He walks to the fridge, opens it and grabs a bottle of beer. Then he opens the bottle, pours the contents of it into a glass and leaves the empty bottle, cap and opener on the table. Then he leaves the kitchen, continuing to talk over the phone.

HUSBAND

Oh, shit!.. And what did you say on that?.. And then?

The noise of turning on TV is heard from the living room. The soccer play goes on.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on her arm-chair, looking inside of empty glass.

The Operator looks at God. She mimics to him like she is disappointed with this situation.

God nods to her silently. He looks upsad.

OPERATOR

Next.

(pause)

Oh, I wish to have some extra money... Just a little extra.

(pause)

Done! It's just enough for food and to pay bills. But there is nothing left for a pair of new boots.

INT. MALL, SHOES STORE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Gale stays by shelves with nice boots and shoes.

She glances down at the price tag. Her eyes open wide surprisingly.

Hanging her head, Gail silently leaves the store.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on her arm-chair near the Christmas tree. She silently touches tree's needles and decoration.

The Operator looks at her laptop monitor.

God silently watches after both women.

OPERATOR

At least I would have some
apartment of my own. Just any!

(pause)

Done! You own the apartment on the
tenth floor... just under the
roof... elevator doesn't work
properly... the roof is leaking,
whet it rains or snow.

INT. ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gale walks in the hall of a building. she carries heavy bags with groceries in both hands.

There is a sign on the elevator cabin. It shown as following: "Out of service".

Gale sighs heavily and walks upstairs.

INT. TENTH FLOOR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gale walks upstairs, reaching the tenth floor.

She wearily sits down on the floor near her door and closes her eyes.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on her arm-chair near the Christmas tree.

The Operator comes closer to the desk of God. She puts a cup of coffee in front of him. God nods to her in gratitude.

The Operator returns to her desk and glances at the monitor.

OPERATOR

I would have at least some kind of
car.

(pause)

Done! There is Lincoln Towncar as
an inheritance from your

(MORE)

OPERATOR (cont'd)
 grandfather... By the way, it's in
 the same age as you are.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Gale walks closer to the parked Lincoln Towncar. She gets inside and turns on the engine.

The car turns on somehow and slowly leaves the parking lot.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on her arm-chair.

The Operator looks at the monitor.

God drinks his coffee.

OPERATOR
 I want a vacation... At least
 somewhere, but outside the office.
 (pause)
 Done! Lets visit your
 mother-in-law. She just needs
 someone for a slave labor at her
 garden.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Gale weeds the beds at the garden.

An elderly woman MOTHER-IN-LAW (60s, ugly, dressed casually) watches after Gale's work closely.

MOTHER-IN-LAW
 Gale! When you'll finish with it,
 put some water over my tomato,
 please. And then you can enjoy this
 beautiful sunny day. Weather is
 just fabulous!

GALE
 (wiping the sweat from her
 forehead)
 Okay, I'll do tomato, too.

MOTHER-IN-LAW
 You may relax in the gazebo, in the
 shade of it.

(pause)
 And, by the way, I left some
 buckwheat on the table over there.
 Just when you'll take a rest, clear
 it up for me, please.

GALE
 Okay...
 (pause)
 I'll do it, too.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

Gale sits on her arm-chair near the Christmas tree.

The Operator polishes her nails, shaking her leg under the
 table.

Leaning his cheek on his fist, God looks at both women.

OPERATOR
 Noone brings me some flowers since
 God knows when.
 (pause)
 Done! No one does. You buy flowers
 yourself, making it as a present.
 (pause)
 Gale? Do you hear me?
 (pause)
 Should I continue reading it? There
 are other eight hundred ninety-two
 wishes.

A bunch of flowers is on the table next to TV set.

GALE
 No, no, I got it! Thank you! No
 more please.
 (pause)
 Could you transfer me back to God.

The Operator smiles and nods to God politely.

God nods to her back.

OPERATOR
 Sure. Just a moment please.
 (pause)
 Have a beautiful year! Bye now.

GALE

Thank you for your help. Bye-bye.

A classic music is heard in Gale's cell-phone.

Gale puts her empty glass on the table beside the arm-chair.

INT./INT. GALE'S APARTMENT/HEAVEN OFFICE - EVENING

There is only one desk on the second half of the room, where God sits alone.

There is neither the Operator, nor her desk and laptop anymore.

God picks up the phone and nods to Gale.

GOD

I'am listening to you, my dear.

GALE

Oh, God! I got it!

(pause)

I'll keep track of every thought,
even the smallest ones!

(pause)

I just want to ask you... Could you
send me some... positive thoughts?

(pause)

Could you help me to understand
that you have always helped me and
made all my dreams come true?

(pause)

And now... I wish... I mean, I need
to think about what I wish.

(pause)

May I call you back later?

GOD

(grins)

Of course, my dear! At any time you
wish.

GALE

Thank you! And goodbye.

Gale turns off the cell-phone. She drops her hands on her lap wearily.

The Christmas tree flicks with merry lights, standing in the corner. It fills up the room with a gentle glow of coming holiday.

Gale sleeps tight, sitting on her arm-chair.

God comes closer to her and carefully covers Gale with a blanket.

GOD

While you pray, you have not to complain that you have everything goes wrong. I may regard it as something that you don't really know what a bad thing is... And I'll show it to you practically.

(pause)

Tell me that you're fine!

(pause)

And I'll show you what is really being fine!

FADE TO WHITE: