

# Hello

by Brian Stokes

Hi

Hi

What's that?

Oh, philosophical studies of the dynamics of international intellectualism.

Sounds thick.

Not really.

Nice perfume.

You like it?

Reminds me of how the house smells on a warm, dewy summer morning.

Oh, come on.

It's my imagination, and you asked me if I like it.

Oh, alright. What are you writing?

Something about two people who've just met. Free verse.

Can I see it when you're done?

I'm still working on it. It'll be a while.

What are you smiling about?

My characters. They're getting three-dimensional, and one made a funny.

Who was it?

The girl. She's a little shy and suspicious, but she's getting over it.

She must be interested. What's the guy like?

Intelligent, quick-witted, sensitive, but not wimpy, a little shy, but fun.

Is he as interested in her?

He's been watching her for a few weeks. Remember, he's a little shy.

**Watching** her? What do you mean?

Oh, he's seen her from time to time, and she makes him smile.

Whew. I thought you meant he's been

Playing Peeping Tom. No, not that at all. Quite healthy attraction.

What does he see when he looks?

She's animated. Comfortable with herself. Well dressed, but not snobby.

Is she pretty?

If she wasn't, I don't think he'd have been looking. She's cute.

Cute doesn't equal pretty.

Not everybody wants classic pretty. Pretty sometimes equals stupid.

Not always.

I **said** sometimes. You seem to be taking this personally.

What makes you say that?