

Summarized Dialogue

Laura asked Jim if he was all right because she had never seen him act this way before. He had been staring into the Plexiglas cage at the one-eyed, calico kitten that stared back and opened its mouth in silent greeting. When Laura first asked him, he said nothing until she grabbed his right arm and said they really should be going. He turned suddenly, "No!" he said as he yanked his arm out of her grip. Laura took a step back and told Jim he was frightening her. Jim's voice softened as he said he needed a few more minutes; he apologized for startling her, but the damage was already done. She asked what had come over him, how could a cat have such an effect. Six months ago, on their first date, he had told her he loved animals. But if this was his idea of love.... She told him they needed to talk; there shouldn't be any secrets in a love relationship. He said he needed to wait; he would soon explain his behavior. And together, but not arm-in-arm, they left Cold Springs Mall and started across the darkening parking lot.