

## Finnegan

Amy stretched and asked,  
“What do you feel like doing today?”  
It was the fourth day of their  
vacation and they had done all the  
“musts” already.

“Beach? Just relax,” **Rick**  
answered.

**Commented [PM1]:** You don't tell us his name until down by the beach. No reason to keep it a secret.  
Also, maybe “her husband, Rick,” or “her boyfriend, Rick,” whatever he is. We don't need to know immediately, but within the first three or so pages.

“Snorkeling?” Amy  
suggested.

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“No, or at least not this  
morning. Let's have breakfast and  
then walk down to the beach and  
swim or read or just **lie** there.”

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“That's okay for this  
afternoon, but I have more energy  
now.”

“Yeah, you look it,” he said.  
Amy was still in **bed**.

**Commented [PM2]:** This sounds as if Rick isn't still in bed. What is he doing?  
Coming out from the shower and getting dressed maybe?

“I'm taking my time getting  
into **the day**. Once I'm up, look at me  
go.”

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“Hmm. That’s what I’m afraid of.”

“What about walking down to the lighthouse? They say you can go up in it.”

**Commented [PM3]:** “walk down to the beach” and then “walking down to the lighthouse.” Change one? Just “going to” or “What about the lighthouse?”

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“How many steps?”

“You are lazy today.”

“I am always lazy. And I still remember getting talked into climbing up 354 steps to the Statue of Liberty’s crown.”

**Deleted:** , which you claimed wasn’t a lot of steps

“The climb is part of the fun. And the view is spectacular.”

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“354 steps. That’s like a 20 floor building. Insane.”¶

. “The climb is part of the experience.

“Maybe I’ll grow a beard,”

**Commented [PM4]:** Not sure if you mean the climb and view at the Statue of Liberty or the lighthouse. If the Statue of Liberty, make it “was” in both sentences. If the lighthouse, make it “will be” and “is supposed to be” or such.

he said, “No more having to shave during this vacation.”

**Commented [PM5]:** Seems abrupt, unless perhaps he’s standing there with a razor in his hand.

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“I think you’d look great with a beard.”

**Deleted:** he added.

Rick laughed. “I expected you to tell me to quit being lethargic.”

**Commented [PM6]:** Lethargic is more a feeling than an action. Change to “lazy” or, if you want to be a little funny, “slothful.”

“I know.” She was on to his teasing.

There was a knock on the door.

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“I love room service,” Rick said and opened the door.

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A waiter wheeled in a tray covered with a silver dome.

“Just like in the movies,” said Amy, delighted.

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Rick signed the bill and the waiter left.

Deleted: “Just sign here,” said the waiter, showing Rick a piece of paper. “Okay,” said Rick. He

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“I think we need a balcony to eat on,” said Amy.

“I think I’m glad of the air conditioning,” replied Rick.

There was another knock on the door.

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“Hello,” said Rick in a surprised voice when he answered the door. “Look who came to visit.”

Deleted: , Amy

Amy came over to the door. A beagle looked up at her.

“Hello!” She leaned down to let him smell her hand and then gave

him an enthusiastic pat. “How did clever you manage to knock on the door?”

Rick leaned out the door. A maid carrying in sheets next door said, “Not yours? He sits in front of your door. I knock.”

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“Not ours,” said Rick. “Maybe he saw the waiter bring in the food.”

**Commented [PM7]:** Better to always refer to him in one way. If you like, Amy or someone else could call him Ricky sometimes or always.

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“Yes, the poor thing looks hungry,” said Amy.

**Deleted:** sadly

The dog gave a short bark as if a little steak wouldn't go amiss.

**Deleted:** awry

“Dogs always look hungry,” said Rick.

The dog ignored Rick and looked up pleadingly at Amy with his big brown eyes.

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“How about some bacon? You'd like some bacon, wouldn't you, buddy?”

The dog pranced behind Amy  
as she went over to the table.

**Commented [PM8]:** Whoops, we don't know his name yet. Keep it "the dog" until we know.

**Deleted:** Finnegan

"Not my bacon," said Rick.

"It's the only bacon we have.

I didn't order any."

**Deleted:** You know

"Just one piece, then."

Amy gave the dog a piece of  
bacon, which the dog gulped down  
as if he hadn't eaten in days.

"He has a tag on his collar,"

said Rick, leaning down to take a

look, "Finnegan Bennet, I'll take him

to the front desk, They'll know

where his room is."

"Leave him here while you

go."

**Deleted:** . "What's the name?"

"Let me look."

She took a hold of the dog's collar. "It's hard to read. Oh, Finn something.

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"

**Deleted:** ," said Rick

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**Deleted:** insisted Amy.

While Rick was gone, Amy  
moved Rick's sausage and the rest of  
his bacon onto the muffin plate, cut  
them up, and put it down on the floor  
for Finnegan, who gobbled them up.

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Amy sat down on the  
armchair and Finnegan jumped up

onto the footstool, then made his way onto her lap. She petted him while she called room service to replace the parts of Rick's breakfast Finnegan had eaten.

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Rick was back in a few minutes. "Nobody named Bennet is checked in, and the only two dogs who are here are accounted for. He must have wandered in from outside.

**Deleted:** that

What's the phone number on his tag?"

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**Deleted:** . Can you read it out to me

Amy read it out and Rick dialed it on his cell phone. "Recording," he said to Amy, then in a moment said into the phone, "Hi, my name is Rick Saunders. Your dog Finnegan is here at the Blue Dolphin Hotel, Room 139." He recited the address of the hotel and his phone number.

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**Commented [PM9]:** We don't yet have a take on Amy or Rick or their relationship. We'll probably learn more in the next few pages. But you could let us know more now. You could add something showing their connection, humor, or tension.

“They’re probably out  
looking for you,” said Amy to  
Finnegan, pulling lightly on his ears.

**Commented [PM10]:** This is a nice leisurely start to a book, but you can shorten it and get the action moving faster. We don’t yet know what kind of book it is or what it’s about.