

Marlene Pearson

Passion in Santa Monica

At this yogurt place I asked how many calories in a small? O not many the woman said not even in this Chocolate Passion. Passion reminded me of tropical beaches and I was at the beach, so I took one, sat outside on the aluminum chair, held my napkin from the wind, stretched out my legs, arms to the sun. A streetman came along

asking for money. I didn't have much so I just gave him a little change. He said thank you O god bless you thank you. The couple next to me said NO NO. The man swallowed his caramel and said all these people just keep asking everyone for money. He wiped the syrup from his moustache. The woman nodded, crossed and recrossed her white legs while the man could not stop talking. He said everyone just keeps giving them money they don't have to work just collect from everyone I work for a living if I just did what that man does asked everyone for, look he's asking and they're giving him a QUARTER, he's getting quarters from everyone he's going right down the line he must get 50 dollars a day if I did that I wouldn't have to work what do they think I am what is this charity I work for a yack yack

yack. I threw my dish in the trash. I walked past the two girls behind me who told the streetman NO NO if I give you my money I won't have money to buy the things I want to why should I give you my money. Then one said something and the streetman grabbed the pickle off her plate. He said thank you O thank you god bless you before he walked

away. When I was crossing the street some other man with a green nylon pack on his back said hello what a nice smile. I didn't know I smiled. I was reading a book and thought how strange for someone to interrupt someone reading a book while crossing the street. He said not many people here in California smile I'm from England and I give

massages you sure need a massage why just look at your back and just look at your shoulders what's your name are you married want to have dinner tonight is that your car can't you at least drop me off at Santa Monica and something other street. I said NO NO and made sure I wasn't smiling.