

The Hollywood Museum

By Kate Mickere

LAURA (late 20s) is a guide at The Hollywood Museum, a tourist trap filled with movie memorabilia. She addresses her group.

LAURA

Bette Davis was 24 when she lost her virginity.

In her autobiography, she calls herself a late bloomer... but I don't really think that's true. Bette Davis never just waited for things to happen to her. If she wanted something, she would fight like hell to get it.

She had high standards. *That's* why it took her so long. She was holding out for someone worthy. Someone who was smart and kind. Someone whose eyes lit up whenever she walked into a room. But then she realized that she was 24 and pretty soon she'd go from being virtuous to being kind of sad. So she settled for some "good enough" guy she knew from back home, got married and got it all over with.

BEAT.

When I was 24, I lost my v-card to an adjunct film studies professor in Cleveland. He was 37, but he looked MUCH older. He had this wild grayish hair and a beer belly and -- I mean, he did have this kind of sexy/gross Jack Nicholson vibe, so I'm not totally embarrassed about it, but... I just remember lying on his air mattress being in total disbelief that THAT was what I had been waiting and hoping for. And I wondered if Bette Davis had been that disappointed too.