

Roberta Walashak



Roberta was an M.S.W. That means “Master of Social Work,” but Grandpa Larkin thought it meant “Might Sweet Woman.” Roberta insisted that she was a qualified social worker. Couldn’t Grandpa see all those papers on her desk?

Roberta and Grandpa Larkin started dating, which lost Roberta her job. Enter the New Roberta—Lady Fashionetta saleswoman and follower of S.T.E.T. Survival Training and Existence Therapy, which was a parody of ‘70’s craze est (according to Daniel Lockwood, author of *The Mary Hartman Story*, was “the current craze for quasi-authoritarian courses in personal ‘betterment’ during which people are bored and abused for sixty hours and then convinced they have been led to a deeper understanding and acceptance of themselves). S.T.E.T. was founded by neo-Nazi Otto Fuhrenbach. They try to enlist Mary, but she’s too distracted to focus on the program.

Here are the basic principles of S.T.E.T.

- What is isn’t.
- Right there is nowhere.
- What might be could be.
- What will be will be.
- Try anything once.
- You are where you are.
- Now is only now, but tomorrow is the future.
- You are where you drive.
- Ride the subway in the direction it’s going.
- Most people are asleep when they are asleep and awake when they are not asleep.
- Nothing is the ultimate nothing and also the ultimate

something.

- The truth is—what the truth is.
- What there is right now is a part of the universe, but not all of it.
- Many subways do not work.
- Eighty thousand times \$250 is \$20,000,000—which is not nothing.
- I know that you know that I love you. But do you know that I think you're all beautiful people?
- You can't always get what you want. You can't always get what you want. You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need.

At some point in the Roberta storyline, she ends up as the object of police Sgt. Dennis Foley's attention because Mary Hartman placed her there. Dennis proves to be less than faithful, since was engaged to Mary's sister Cathy Shumway at the time. Roberta finally gave up on S.T.E.T., Lady Fashionetta, and Dennis, and she left Fernwood forever.

Roberta was played by Samantha Harper.

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