

But then suppose he takes her hand. This act of her companion risks changing the situation by calling for an immediate decision. To leave the hand there is to consent in herself to flirt, to engage herself. To withdraw it is to break the troubled and unstable harmony which gives the hour its charm. The aim is to postpone the moment of decision as long as possible. We know what happens next: the young woman leaves her hand there [...] the hand rests inert between the warm hands of her companion--neither consenting nor resisting--a thing

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (1943)