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Hostess of the Week: 'We're Not Curing Cancer Here'

September 7, 2010 at 10:00AM by [Mark Mikin](#)



Maria Nadeev, 24
Hometown: Boston
Hostess at: [Bina](#), Boston

ESQUIRE: *Congratulations on being named Hostess of the Week, Maria.*

MARIA NADEEV: It feels wonderful. I'm honored.

ESQ: *What's your secret?*

MN: To just make the guest feel warm, and let them know that we're happy to have them here.

ESQ: *What's your secret, for life in general?*

MN: For life in general? That's a good one; pretty intense. I'd say, just to have a good attitude. Be positive. Enjoy it as much as you can. It's kind of a short life, more or less.

ESQ: *You must get a lot of people having special occasions at the restaurant. What's your first tip-off that it's one of those nights?*

MN: If people come in all dressed up, or the woman is carrying flowers. Other times you can just tell.

ESQ: *What's it like being a part of such special moments?*

MN: I've seen someone get engaged, which was really cute.

ESQ: *What happened?*

MN: The next thing I knew, when I walked through the dining room, this woman had a ring on, and they had champagne, and they were holding hands, and she was crying.

ESQ: *What's the best way to get good treatment when we're out?*

MN: Butter up the hostess. Always works.

ESQ: *Is a fiver okay?*

MN: It's kind of a tough economy, but I'd have to say, let's up it *[laughing]*.

ESQ: *Thanks for humoring us. What do you do when things get stressful?*

MN: I think it's important to just keep in mind that we're not curing cancer here. It's true — there's no reason to get stressed out. At the end of the day, everything *will* be okay.

ESQ: *What's the most creative way you've come up with to tell people the table isn't ready yet?*

MN: "I'll be with you in just a moment" is a great one. And then pretending like you're doing something important.

ESQ: *Has anybody snuck past you and stolen somebody else's reservation?*

MN: Probably. I'm sure I've seated the wrong reservation a couple of times, but we don't have to tell anyone about that.

ESQ: *Well, you are being interviewed.*

MN: I'm just kidding.