

It is Tuesday afternoon.

Edward is in the common room.

Edith enters.

“Ah, Edward. As you know, the Poetry through the Language Barrier matinée event is due to take place a week on Saturday. As it is on a Saturday you are not obliged to attend, but if you would like to attend you get, as a member of staff, a complimentary ticket for yourself and also a complimentary ticket for a guest if you would like to bring someone with you.”

“Oh, ... thank you.”

“Anyway, let me know how many tickets you would like please.”

Edith goes to the peninsula unit to make a cup of peppermint tea.

If this is a movie there is a flashback sequence.

Edward is sat in his room at Mrs Johnson’s boarding house.

It is afternoon, he was sacked that morning.

‘What to do now?’ thinks Edward.

A flashback within the flashback.

Edward has been called to the office of the editor of Trade Magazine.

The editor is stood behind his desk. There is a security man a bit to the editor’s right and back a bit.

The editor is very annoyed.

“I don’t know how you did it but you’re sacked.”

Edward turns and walks toward the door.

“What have you got to say for yourself?” shouts the editor.

‘Nothing.’ thinks Edward. ‘I don’t work here now, he is not my boss any longer, so I don’t need to answer his question.’

Edward leaves the office and goes to his former workspace to collect his briefcase.

The security man has followed.

Edward leaves the building without saying anything.

The flashback within the flashback ends.

“Mr Stanley.”

Edward realizes that Mrs Johnson is calling to him.

Edward gets up and goes to his door and out onto the landing. Mrs Johnson is in the hallway.

“You have a visitor.”

Edward wonders who it can be and notices a lady, perhaps in her thirties, stood in the hallway holding a potted houseplant. The houseplant is gift-wrapped, with a cellophane wrapper and with a ribbon tied around the pot.

Edward goes down the stairs.

“Mr Stanley? Mr Edward Stanley?” asks the visitor.

“Yes, I’m Edward Stanley.”

“This houseplant is for you.”

“Oh”

Edward accepts the potted houseplant.

“Thank you.” says Edward.

“A lady came into the shop at lunchtime and chose it herself and wrote a card and asked me to deliver them. I put the card in an envelope for you.”

“Oh thank you.”

Edward is feeling a little embarrassed.

Far from being the traditional landlady of films, Mrs Johnson does not get offended and go at the mention of the card being put into an envelope, but rather smiles knowingly at the lady from the florist shop. However, the lady from the florist shop, being used to dealing with matters diplomatically, does not react.

Edward thanks the lady, who then departs.

Edward goes to his room, places the potted houseplant on a table, and then opens the envelope and reads the card.

“I often go for a walk in the park near the office at lunchtime. Angela.”

Edward thinks: he decides what to do.

The flashback ends.

Edward thinks: he decides what to do.