

La Flava Floro. Saturday. The Poetry through the Language Barrier matinée event. Visitors are arriving.

Edith looks around her. Many of the ladies are each wearing a long floral-patterned dress.

Edith remembers.

A flashback sequence.

Edith is answering the telephone.

“Hello Edith, this is Jane Jane Hove.”

“Hello Jane.”

“I have had some emails regarding the Poetry through the Language Barrier matinée event. Ladies asking me what they should wear. What should I tell them?”

“Well, I hadn’t thought about that. Do you have any ideas?”

“I was thinking well, hoping I suppose that it would be long dresses, not evening dresses, floral-patterned, that sort of thing.”

“Well, that is a good idea. You could say dress is informal, as people please, yet some ladies are choosing to wear a long floral-patterned dress. That is then a suggestion and not a requirement. I would not want anyone to feel awkward if they are not. Are you intending to dress like that.”

“Well yes, but I did not want to be the only one doing so. Have you got a long dress?”

“Well not one like that, but I can go shopping.”

“Oh good. If a good number of people wear them then I can put it in my article about the event, as part of the ambience.”

The flashback sequence ends.

Edith is glad that she went out and bought a long dress, floral-patterned and is wearing it now.

Edward arrives with Angela.

Edith remembers.

A flashback sequence.

“Enter please.”

Edward enters Edith’s office.

Edward requests two tickets for the Poetry through the Language Barrier matinée event.

“The lady who has kindly agreed to accompany me has asked if I can ask what she should wear.” asks Edward a little awkwardly.

“Ah, Jane Jane Hove, do you remember her from the Poetry through the Language Barrier evening event? has asked me that earlier today. People have been emailing her for advice. We agreed the following. ‘Dress is informal, as people please, yet some ladies are choosing to wear a long floral-patterned dress.’ So if you would like to pass that on to your friend”

“Yes, thank you.” says Edward, still somewhat awkwardly as he quickly leaves Edith’s office.

Edith smiles.

The flashback sequence ends.

Clearly the message was passed and Angela looks splendid.

“Ladies and Gentleman, could I have your attention please.” announces Julia.

“Tonight there is a Country Music Event here, in this hall, and I have some tickets left. If you choose to attend that event, then after this event you could either go and come back or you could stay for a meal in the smaller dining room as we will need to reset this hall for the Country Music Event.”

Edward looks at Angela.

“Yes please.” says Angela.

“Including the meal?”

“Yes please.”

Edward goes to Julia and gets two tickets and arranges for the meal as well.

“All arranged.” says Edward.

“Thank you.” says Angela.

After a short while the *matinée* performance starts. The performance is much as in the Poetry through the Language Barrier evening, the only real difference being that the gentleman who spoke in Portuguese has not been able to attend due to a previous engagement elsewhere as a translator: however Edith was able to find a lady to speak in Italian. There needed to be a rehearsal of everything anyway and John and the lady had worked together to produce text localized into Italian. All is going well. There is enthusiastic applause.

The matinée performance has ended. People are leaving. Quite a few people are staying on for the Country Music Event, including staying for a meal.

Julia announces that the meal will be served in about forty-five minutes time and people are welcome to go through the smaller dining room into the garden if they wish, or may wait in the smaller dining room if they wish. She explains that there is a bell in the garden and that she will ring it five minutes before the meal is to be served. She mentions that in case some people want to go back in the garden after eating their meal that she will also ring the garden bell ten minutes before the Country Music Event is due to start.

Edward and Angela decide to go and have a look around the garden.

The garden is quite large and sometimes events are held in the garden. The garden has a two metre high wire mesh fence surrounding it, like the fence that is often used around the area of a garden centre. There is a wide gated entrance for access when vehicles need to enter to deliver equipment for events and that entrance is situated some distance from the building and serves as a fire exit directly from the garden as well.

“I’ll just ring my mother and say that we have stayed on for the meal and the Country Music Event.”

Angela’s mother has driven her down so that Angela can attend the Poetry through the Language Barrier matinée and then go for a meal with Edward. Angela and her mother are staying at the Golden Astrolabe Hotel overnight. Angela had intended going back to the hotel to change before going out for dinner somewhere with Edward.

Angela’s mother has gone to visit Jardins sans Château, some ornamental gardens just a few miles from the Golden Astrolabe Hotel. The gardens are set out, in the English countryside, in a French style. There is a large garden and also lots of small gardens each with a particular theme, some have sculptures in them. The name is because the gardens are like those that might be found at a French château, yet there is no château, just the gardens. There are a few buildings near the entrance, including a visitor centre and a café. There is also a feature in the large garden, which feature is not a building, but is a collection of Sequoia Sempervirens trees set out as if they are the main supporting pillars of a French château. The trees are each about two metres tall now, but all being well will grow and eventually become a feature visible from a distance, as if a château.

Edward has moved to a discreet distance while Angela telephones her mother.

Angela finishes her telephone call and moves toward Edward, who, seeing her approaching, walks toward her.

“I rang my mother and said about us staying on here for the Country Music Event and so not to expect me back to change and she said fine and that that is very convenient actually as she is still at Jardins sans Château and was just about to leave and that she had found out that there is an evening event of classical music in the open air this evening with a string quartet and she was thinking of going back this evening after an early dinner at the hotel but as she does not now need to get back to the hotel to meet up with me that she is going to stay for that and eat in the café there. She was going to have dinner

at the hotel but it is an optional extra not part of our booking and she had not had to book for dinner and so she will not be losing out.”

“Oh good.”

“The hotel restaurant is open to non-residents as well as to residents, so it is not as if her not being there will make much difference to the number of people eating in the restaurant. It is all working out quite well. When I asked her about driving me down to visit this event and we found the Golden Astrolabe Hotel on the web she mentioned that as it was not far from Jardins sans Château and that she had wanted to visit it since reading an article about it in Arts Magazine a few months ago that she could do that while I was at this event.”

Edward and Angela walk in the garden, though not going far so that they will not miss the bell when it is rung.

The bell rings. It is time for the meal.

Angela and Edward enter the building and go into the smaller dining room and move toward a table.

Julia approaches.

Julia speaks to them. “Ah, I’ve seated you in the Incunabula room. Could you come with me please.”

Angela and Edward follow Julia.

They go through swing doors into a wide corridor with swing doors to the kitchen at the other end. Julia turns to the left and opens a door and enters. Angela and Edward follow. The room is about four metres square. There is one table, which could seat eight, but it is set for two.

Julia leaves.

Angela and Edward look around the room. On the walls are framed prints of pages from books printed in Europe in the Incunabula period, that is, before 1501.

Some of the pages have an illustration. Several of those are from books printed by William Caxton.

One page without an illustration is from a book printed in Venice by Nicolas Jenson.

“They’re beautiful.” says Angela.

Julia returns with a trolley with the main course of their meals.

“There is a bell push at the end of the table. Just press it when you are ready for the pudding, or indeed if you want anything else.” says Julia.

Edward and Angela both thank Julia and start to eat.

After eating their meals, Edward and Angela have another look at the illustrations on the walls, then leave and go for another walk in the garden. There is quite a selection of shrubs and a few small trees and a large oak tree.

“I expect that that oak tree was already there when this place was built.” opines Angela.

The bell rings.

Angela and Edward walk back to the building, going through the smaller dining room and into the main area. People are arriving from outside as well, most of them not having been at the matinée event.

The Country Music Event. There are two bands playing live and a tape of recorded music while bands change over. One band is a national full-time band and the other is of local part-time musicians who each have another job nothing to do with music during the week, but also play at music events on some Saturdays. The tape of recorded music was recorded by a local band of older musicians who meet up for recording sessions but do not play live events.

The national band plays mostly well-known country songs.

The local band however plays a mixture of some well-known country songs and some new songs that have not been performed in public before.

One such song is *Where Asparagus Grows*, performed as a duet for vocalist and pedal steel guitar. The pedal steel guitarist supports the vocalist as she sings the verses, then has featured performance between verses.

By having arranged for the tape of recorded music, the music at the event is almost continuous, with either a band playing live music or the recorded music playing.

Edward is driving Angela back to the Golden Astrolabe Hotel in his car. Angela is singing bits from some of the songs of the country music event, including scating to imitate a pedal steel guitar with twang and wolll and wolllll and wolllolllll.

“Twang twang twang-twang twang twang twang wolll” sings Angela.

In a movie version, the camera is with them in the car, then the camera is stationary as the car travels away into the evening twilight, with Angela still singing and scating as a voice-over as the car goes into the distance.