

The conference dinner is due to start in forty minutes time.

Jane sees Edith in the foyer.

“Ah, Edith,” says Jane “have you got a minute please, I’d like to ask you something.”

“Yes, go ahead.”

“Well, not out here. Shall we step into the lecture room, it is probably empty.”

“Very well.” says Edith.

The lecture room.

“Edith, I have been wanting to ask you who told you about this conference taking place.”

“Ah yes.” says Edith, thinking that she can learn from how Caroline replies to implied questions that are not actually asked.

“So, can I ask you please?”

“Well you can ask, but I shall not say.”

“Oh.”

“Well, would you tell me who told you if I asked you?”

“Well no, I am a journalist and I must not reveal my sources.”

“And I am a Secretary-General.”

“I have never heard of that! .... well, not that I have never heard of you being a Secretary-General .... I meant ....”

“I know what you meant.” says Edith and smiles.

A flashback.

The office of the Managing Director of Gigantic Business.

The Managing Director is talking to Janice.

“So please ring Ms Gatford at LocSARA and say that I would like to meet her for a discussion at the conference on localizable sentences taking place in Mainz the day after tomorrow. She may well not know about the conference - I am tipping her off - but don’t make that obvious, act as if you fully expect that she knows about it and is going. Be sure to mention the hotel by name. That way she can have a way to find out about the conference by ringing the hotel.”

“Very well.” says Janice, with a hint of reluctance in her voice.

Janice leaves the room.

The Managing Director telephones the Editor of Trade Magazine and tells him of the conference.

“So how about sending that young man whom I nearly misjudged.”

“To Mainz! Then there’s the conference fee and the cost of the hotel! That will cost a packet.”

“Well there is an option to have an extra day at the hotel so as to have time to visit the Gutenberg Museum. You could let him have that too.”

“Extra day!”

“Well, I’ll tell you what, I’ll make sure you get some extra advertising to cover the costs, including the extra day.”

“So I’ll break even!”

“Tell you what, double your costs.”

“Double?”

“Yes double.”

“Alright then. Double on the lot though including the extra day.”

“You won’t need to mention me to him will you.”

“Be assured.”

“There is one other thing ....”

“Oh yes, go on.” says the Editor of Trade Magazine with some suspicion in his voice.

Simon is in the Editor’s office and has just accepted the Editor’s offer to go to Mainz for the conference and to visit the Gutenberg Museum.

“Thank you, yes thank you.” says Simon as he goes to leave the room.

“Oh, and one other thing Simon ....”

“Yes ....”

“Telephone that lady who spoke out about that matter I told you about. Tell her about the conference .... tell her as if it is your own idea to tell her. Say you know that she is interested in localizable sentences and you wonder if she knows about the conference. .... Don’t say anything about that other business. Make sure you mention the name of the hotel.”

“Right.”

“I know that she works for another publication but what she might write will be more flowery rather than technical so it won’t clash with what you write. Make sure you

mention the extra day for visiting the museum and make sure you mention the name of the hotel.”

“Right.”

The telephonist answers the telephone at Arts Magazine.

“Hello, this is Simon Eastleigh, can I speak to Ms Jane Hove please?”

“Ms Hove is out of the office on an assignment. She is due back in tomorrow morning. Can I take a message?”

“Ah, yes please, can you tell her ....”

The flashback ends.

“Ah, sorry to interrupt ladies.” says the Manager of the hotel. “We need to set up the room for the volksmusik band for the evening event after dinner.”

The band enters together with some hotel staff to move the lecture podium and to rearrange the chairs.

Edith and Jane get up to leave.

The bandleader speaks “You do not need to go ladies. You are welcome to watch us rehearse if you like. We like to have a run through to get the ambience of the venue.”

“Thank you.” say Edith and Jane almost simultaneously.

Edith and Jane stay for a while watching the band rehearse, then thank the band and leave to go to the conference dinner.

After the conference dinner, people are gathering into the lecture room, now transformed for the volksmusik event.

Jim goes to the front of the room, standing in front of the band.

“Well everyone, thank you for attending this event, kindly sponsored by the New York Newspaper.”

The band starts to play an instrumental tune as Jim moves away.

There then follows several vocal volksmusik songs sung by the band’s female singer. There is applause after each of them.

“Now ladies and gentlemen, here is a volksmusik song written in English.”

The band starts to play, a beautiful slow tune.

(Now roses from rootstock)

(Are high in the air)

In a garden

A grafted rose

Was once set to grow

Fine genes on the top

With rootstock below

Yet a shoot from the rootstock

Took a chance that was there

Now roses from rootstock

Are high in the air

Yes roses from rootstock

Are high in the air

(Yes roses from rootstock)

(Are high in the air)

Now the stem from the rootstock

Then started to branch

With long stems abounding

And forming an arch

And the sprays of the flowers

Now interlink

And the roses from rootstock

Are delicate pink

Yes the roses from rootstock

Are delicate pink

(Yes the roses from rootstock)

(Are delicate pink)

The roses from rootstock

Are quite simple flowers

Their quietness is such

One could watch them for hours

And the roses from rootstock

Of such simple kind

Give quiet contentment

And peace in the mind

They give quiet contentment

And peace in the mind

(They give quiet contentment)

(And peace in the mind)

There is applause.

'This is all going very well.' thinks the man from the New York Newspaper. 'I am glad that I offered to arrange this entertainment. The people back at the office did well to get

this all organized in less than a day. Good job I happened to find out about this conference happening.'

A flashback.

New York.

The man from the New York Newspaper is in the Secretary's office conducting an on-the-record interview with the Secretary.

"Thank you, I'll turn off my recording machine now. .... Is there anything that you would like to say off-the-record?"

"Yes. I remember reading your articles about localizable sentences. As a result I visited their research centre when I was in England."

"Yes I saw that on the television."

"Are you still interested in localizable sentences?"

"Yes."

"Are you going to the conference about them in Mainz?"

"I'm not aware of that conference."

"I have the details here, including the name of the hotel. You may copy them down if you wish."

"Thank you."

"I would like to go myself really, but in my position I can't just get up and go."

"Ah, yes, of course."

"But I look forward to reading whatever you write about it in your newspaper."

The flashback ends.

The band leader walks forward and addresses the audience.

"And now ladies and gentlemen, here is a second volksmusik song in English, a duet, sung by two attendees at the conference."

We are viewing from the back of the room, facing the band. The camera looks to the left and Edith stands up and walks forward, the camera looks to the right and Jane stands up and walks forward, the camera switches back to Edith who is now wearing a volksmusik style costume in light blue over a white blouse with a dark blue apron. The camera pulls back and shows that Jane is now similarly attired. Edith and Jane meet just in front of the band and turn to face the audience as the music starts, at a lively pace.

(And a volksmusik clarinet swing)

Pick your own  
The notice states  
In an orchard  
Or estate  
Pick an apple  
Pick a pear  
In the rural  
Country air  
Leave the bustle far behind  
Pick some fruit  
Just unwind  
Very soon  
It will be clear  
Pick your own is here!

(And the music takes off with a clarinet swing)

(Just trying to give it a volksmusik zing)

(Then it swings back and forth like a bird on the wing)

(And we're ready again for the singers to sing)

Apples, cherries, plums and pears  
Pick some fruit  
Lose your cares  
In the orchards you can go  
See just where  
Apples grow  
Walk around amongst the trees  
Choose your fruit  
As you please  
You will find  
Once you've begun  
Pick your own is fun!

(And we're back once again with the clarinet swing)

(Trying once more for a volksmusik zing)

(Once again back and forth like a bird on the wing)

(And the singers wait to sing)

So you see  
It's really great  
Picking fruit  
On an estate  
Rural England  
Air is clear  
Pick some fruit  
It's not too dear  
Spend some time  
Upon the land  
Ask a friend  
To lend a hand  
See the fruit  
Where it is grown  
And you can pick your own!

(And the volksmusik style with clarinet swing)

(Now ends us with a zing!)

There is enthusiastic applause.

The band then continues to play some instrumental music for a while.

Edith and Jane return to their seats, still wearing their volksmusik-style outfits.

The event continues for a while.

Edith is in her room at the hotel.

Edith lies back in her bed.

'Today has been a busy day.' thinks Edith.

Edith smiles.

Edith relaxes and goes to sleep.