

Edith is in her office.

The telephone rings.

Georgina speaks. "A man claiming to be the Managing Director of Gigantic Business is on the telephone. He has asked to speak to 'the woman in charge'. He sounds very annoyed. Yet the Managing Director of Gigantic Business knows you so I am wondering if this is some sort of bogus call."

"Ah, thank you for saying. Put him through please, and I will try to find out what is going on."

"Yes ma'am."

"Good afternoon. This is Edith Gatford, how may I help?"

"Not you, I want to speak to the woman in charge, the woman sent in to run things after the takeover."

"Well, there has been no takeover nor is any takeover or attempted takeover taking place. I am still in charge."

"Don't give me that. She's staying at a nearby hotel. I've been reading all about it in the article in The Daily Newspaper. I want to speak to her, now. I've played fair with you and my company has helped you get your research accepted and put into practice. So you play fair with me."

Edith realizes that 'the woman' as he puts it may well be Mariposa and that maybe someone has got the idea that she is here as part of a takeover.

"You mention an article in The Daily Newspaper. I haven't looked at today's issue yet."

"Page five. It is there in black and white. It's no use you trying to keep it secret. It is all there. Now kindly put me through to her, now."

"Well, there is no takeover. Is there anything else about which I can help you?"

The call goes blank. It seems that the telephone call has ended.

'Slammed down?' wonders Edith.

Edith has asked John along to discuss the matter.

John arrives as Edith is reading the article in The Daily Newspaper. The article is bylined as by "Freelance Contributor".

Edith hands the newspaper to John, who reads the article.

"Freelance Contributor .... again." says Edith.

"Indeed."

"So what are we to do? Should we say anything to Mariposa?"

“No, best not. She might well be totally innocent. Perhaps someone has seen her travelling to work here and found that she is not employed here and jumped to the wrong conclusion. .... Yet just because we say nothing to her doesn't mean that we should do nothing about it all. It is possible that he might try to contact her at the hotel and we need to be ready for that possibility.”

“You have an idea?”

“Well, Edith, I don't feel I want to cook this evening, so I am thinking that I might as well go and have a nice dinner at The Golden Astrolabe Hotel.”

Edith smiles.

“I don't feel like cooking this evening either, so I think that I too might as well go and have a nice dinner at The Golden Astrolabe Hotel. If we go together and share a table it might look quite natural and not draw any attention. If he turns up to try to confront Mariposa then we will be there. There aren't many hotels in the area and he has been to The Golden Astrolabe Hotel before, so it is best that we are there .... just in case.”

“Delighted ma'am.” says John.

Edith smiles.