

The LocSARA research establishment. Mid-afternoon.

Peter Johnson has gone out to his car in the car park.

As he closes the car door and locks it, he sees a lady coming out of the building. He recognizes her as the lady who was supportive of him at that interview.

Flashback, about ten minutes ago, in Edith's office.

"So, is there anything that you would like to ask me?" asks Edith.

Edith is interviewing the lady for the post of Documentation Manager.

"Well, I am wondering why you have not asked me about why I was only in my previous employment for just over two months."

"Oh I saw that you had put that in your application form, and I realized that there would be a story there, but I also realized that someone else might have missed it out and just said that they had been looking for a job since finishing at university."

"That would have been dishonest."

"Exactly. I consider that the honesty you had displayed is a factor in your favour."

"Will you be seeking a reference from them as my most recent employer?"

" I don't know yet, I will think about it. But thank you for coming, I'll see you to the door."

They both stand and Edith leads the way to the foyer.

Flashback ends.

Edith has seen the lady out and is about to turn to go back to her office when she sees Peter Johnson walk towards the building, smiling, looking as if he recognizes the lady.

Edith pauses, and stays to observe, but she cannot hear what is said.

"Hello," says Peter, "What brings you here?"

"Hello, I've been here for an interview for the post of Documentation Manager, but I don't know yet whether I will get it."

"I hope you do. Then you can move on from that place."

"Well, actually, I no longer work there. I got the sack, though they did not put it like that, probably to cover themselves legally I suppose."

Edith notices Peter's expression turn from happy to one of concern.

"The morning after your interview I was called in to my manager's office and told I was leaving, leaving straight away, though with a month's salary in lieu of notice. Oh, there

had been a memo about cutting costs and the staff number had to be reduced by one and it was last in first out and as I was still in my three month probationary period”

“Oh no!”

“One of the others told me that the manager that was awful to you is married to the Managing Director’s daughter”

“Oh it’s like that is it! I hope that you get to come and work here.”

“Yes, well, we’ll see, but I am pleased that you have got a job here. Bye.”

“Bye.”

Edith sees Peter smile as they part, yet as he walks back to the building she notices the look of concern return.

Peter enters the building.

“Peter, could you come along to my office please?”

Edith’s office.

“I’m sorry, I just went to get something from my car, should I have asked first? I’m sorry.”

“Peter, relax, there is no problem about you going to get something from your car I want to ask you about that lady, you seem to know her if it’s private, I won’t ask, I won’t ask you to break any confidence or to gossip.”

“Oh, right.”

“You seemed to be friendly towards her, and she to you, but you seemed to look concerned at what she said to you, though you both seemed fine with each other.”

“Well, I don’t remember her name, though she did say at the time, I had only met her once, I went to a job interview at a company and she was on the interview panel, though not in charge of it, just there from the personnel department, and, well, a manager asked me what were my weaknesses and I got into an argument with him and she intervened and supported me, and I have just found out that she lost her job the next day, with the excuse of needing to cut staff costs. I feel responsible, if I had not got into the argument with the manager then she might still have the job.”

“Oh, thank you.”

Peter returns to the computing laboratory.

‘So, she is diplomatic about why she lost her job’, thinks Edith.

Edith gets up and goes to Rose’s office.

“Rose, has the post gone yet?”

“Yes, about five minutes ago.”

“Ah, could you produce a job offer to that lady for the post of Documentation Manager please straightaway and bring it to me to sign and I will drive over to Ruralham Post Office and post it, there is a later collection there. First class stamp please.”

“Yes, ma’am.”