

Caroline remembers.

Flashback.

“So, now we have got to know each other better, can you explain why you are so sure that we are not related even though we have the same surname?”

“Well, I cannot be sure that we are not related,” says Caroline “what I said is that we are not related through the surname ‘Appleby’.

“The reason is simple really. One of my male line ancestors was a refugee from central Europe and he decided to change his name so that any children he might have would be born in England and would have an English name on her or his birth certificate.

“And he was on a train, and the train stopped at a station, .... and he looked out of the window and saw the name of the station .... and, it was ‘Appleby’.

“So, he changed his name, well he changed his surname but he kept his given names as middle names but added an English first name.”

“Ah. So if we were to get married you would not change your surname.”

”Yes I would. I am very traditional about things like that.”

“But it’s the same name.”

“No it is not, one is your name and one is my maiden name.”

“Well ....”

“Well what?”

“Well if you want to see it like that ....”

“But the situation will only arise if we were to get married. .... Are you intending to ask me?”

A pause.

“Yes.”

“When?”

“When I am as sure as I can be that you would say ‘yes’ to my proposal.”

“Ah, well that can be on the day after we finish university.”

A pause.

“Right.”

“Right.”

“Right.”

The flashback ends.