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3 spannende Fälle der britischen Hobbydetektivin aus Cambridge.



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Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to edition 1/2020 of Spotlight Audio. This is David Creedon from Britain. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

New York is a city that's always changing. Take a trip with us through some of the latest attractions that the Big Apple has to offer.

British amateur detective Dorothy Winslow returns with another mystery in an exciting three-part short story.

Plant-based burgers are taking the food world by storm. Spotlight talks to the founder of a Los Angeles restaurant that specialises in the trend.

Britain Today

[2] No more Christmas cards?

David: The British have a unique and time-honoured way of celebrating Christmas. And sending Christmas cards is an important part of spreading the holiday cheer. But thanks to a friend living abroad, our British columnist Colin Beaven has been inspired to update the card-giving process a bit. Find out what Colin has in mind in his column Britain Today.

How long does it take to stop being British? It's something I think about when the time comes to get in touch with friends who've left, to start

a new life in a different country.

Such as France. You can see the attraction: delicious food, wonderful wine, lovely countryside and colourful clothing — like the yellow jackets worn by protestors.

Almost 200,000 Britons live there. A friend of mine recently went to join them. He sent a Christmas card to say he was settling in — and that it was the last one he'd be sending. The French tend not to send Christmas cards, he explained.

It seemed a rapid transformation. He must have started integrating the moment he arrived there and drove on the wrong side of the road. Or rather, de-integrating from the life he had led in Britain.

Not sending Christmas cards is the tip of the iceberg. Next, he'll stop living off mince pies

attraction

- Reiz

holiday cheer

- Weihnachtsbotschaft, Weihnachtswünsche

live off sth.

- sich von etw. ernähren

mince pie UK

- süßes Weihnachtsg Gebäck

plant-based

- pflanzenbasiert, vegetarisch

settle in

- sich einleben

time-honoured

- althergebracht

tip • Spitze

unique

- einzigartig, besonders

in the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Then there'll be no more bubble and squeak on Boxing Day. No loud joining in and singing off-key when the radio plays festive songs by Slade and Paul McCartney.

Even worse: no grand celebration when things get switched on — I mean the TV, not the Christmas lights. Many people in Britain leave their telly on from mid-November to Twelfth Night (the sixth of January).

De-integrating's only the first step; the next is to re-integrate, and finally to become a citizen of the country that is now your new home. In France, that's a five-year process, not a game of Happy Families. It would be so much simpler if all you had to do to get a new passport was swap a few playing cards with British relatives on them for French ones.

But no, there are hoops you have to jump through. It seems a lot of trouble to go to just to get out of the chore of writing Christmas cards. Still, I'd better make a start in case I also feel the need to live on the other side of the Channel.

So, I thought I'd send my Christmas greetings in a slightly different format this year: a pre-recorded telephone message, like the ones organizations use when they want to annoy their customers. It's interactive, with options you can choose from. Here goes: Welcome to Colin Beaven's festive phone message. Please

choose from the following three options: press 1 to hear the list of funerals we've recently attended. Press 2 for news of our health and the pills we're now taking. For anecdotes about this year's foreign holiday, press 3.

There! I already feel less British. Christmas cards — who needs them? Time now to sit back and wait for the nice old man with the gilet rouge — the red jacket that goes with the big white beard and the sack full of presents. After all, some things don't change: Santa visits every country on Christmas Eve. Assuming he's not stuck on the motorway as a result of gilets jaunes and Brexit.

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, page 20

assuming

► ausgehend von der Annahme, dass

Boxing Day UK

► zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag

bubble and squeak UK

► Resteessen aus Kartoffeln und anderem Gemüse

chore

► lästige Pflicht

funeral

► Beerdigung

hoops: jump through ~

► sich ein Bein ausreißen

jaune Fr ► gelb

lead up to sth.

► etw. vorausgehen

sing off-key

► falsch singen

swap ► austauschen

telly UK ifml.

► Glotze

There!

► hier: Da hast du's!

A Day in My Life

[3] Keeping the overview

David: In A Day in My Life, we meet Robyn Riddett. The 45-year-old Australian works as an executive assistant in a large bank in the UK. Listen now as Riddett explains how she ended up in London.

I was born in Canberra — the capital of Australia — and I moved to Melbourne when I was about 10 years old with my mum and my sister. I lived in Melbourne until I was about 27. When I was 27, I decided to move to London. At the time, you could only get a working holiday visa as an Australian to move to London until you were 28, so just before I turned 28, I hurriedly got a visa and moved to London on a whim. So that was 2002 and several visas later and 17 years later, I'm still in London.

David: So, what does Riddett's job at the bank involve?

I basically spend most of the day organizing my boss. He is the global Head of Risk, well, Risk Finance and HR Technology of a large bank, which is where I work, of course, also. We've got about 3,000 staff globally. We've got staff based in London, Manchester, Edinburgh and several locations in India. I spend most of my days organizing his agenda, organizing

meetings, travel, booking meeting rooms and basically organizing and reorganizing things as priorities shift and change. I really like my job. It's fast-paced, but I work with really nice people, which is important to me.

David: In the following part of the interview, Riddett lists some of the tasks she carries out in her job. She uses the term “to liaise”. This means to work closely with somebody and exchange information with them.

Usually, the first part of my day is just checking in on what's happened the previous day. My boss has got a really busy diary, so things are constantly changing. So, I usually look at my inbox and check if anything's changed overnight, like if there's anything I need to do urgently. And usually I spend the first hour or so fixing things that need sorting out. So, it might be moving meetings around in the diary,

executive assistant

► Chefassistent(in)

fast-paced

► temporeich

fix things

► etw. in Ordnung bringen, festlegen

inbox ► Posteingang

shift

► sich verlagern

sort sth. out

► etw. klären, regeln

staff

► Mitarbeiter (Pl.)

whim: on a ~

► spontan

or changing things, rebooking things that need changing and so on. And then, the rest of the day, often I do planning. So, for example, if he's going to India, I might have to book flights or make hotel arrangements, things like that. I liaise a lot with other PAs, because most of the people that my boss works with are quite senior. So, organizing a meeting might be a lot more complicated than it sounds. I have to get in touch with other PAs and liaise with them about when things can work or reprioritize things if it's something more urgent.

David: In the final part of the interview, Riddett talks about the importance of planning and, if necessary, rearranging plans. She mentions "off-sites". These are meetings or other events that happen away from the main place of work.

Yeah, so the rest of the afternoon is just working through whatever the priorities are, as far as whether it's arranging travel or booking meetings or pre-planning off-sites, or we do a lot of, you know, big events and things like that as well. So, always keeping ahead. It's all about planning, it's always keeping ahead of what needs to be organized and then rearranging everything that needs rearranging when things change.

See Spotlight 1/2020, pages 12–13

Travel

[4] New New York: a city transformed

David: New York is one of the world's most exciting tourist destinations. In the current Travel feature, Spotlight correspondent Claudia Hellmann shows us a city going through a period of great change. Listen to an excerpt from the article and try to answer this question. What is the name of New York's newest neighborhood and where is it located?

Even for a city like New York, which has constant change in its DNA, these are extremely eventful times. Change can be seen all over the place, which makes traveling to New York now especially exciting. If you haven't been to Manhattan recently, you'll be surprised by all that's new.

New neighborhood: Hudson Yards

It's not every day that a new neighborhood is created from scratch, but this is exactly what

excerpt

- Auszug

neighborhood

- Stadtviertel

PA (personal assistant)

- Assistent(in) der Geschäftsleitung

reprioritize

- neue Prioritäten setzen

scratch: from ~

- von Grund auf, ganz neu

senior

- in leitender Stellung

has been happening on the Far West Side of Midtown Manhattan. What's now the new Hudson Yards development used to be a gritty area of the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, one of Manhattan's last undeveloped areas. It was — and still is — mainly home to an enormous Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) rail yard. Few visitors ever went there unless they were attending a conference at the Javits Convention Center to the north of today's Hudson Yards. Located on the Hudson River, roughly between 30th and 40th Streets, the development has been years, if not decades, in the making. The Yards' eastern part opened in spring, with the western half expected to be finished in 2024.

David: New York's newest neighbourhood is called Hudson Yards and is located on the Hudson River, roughly between 30th and 40th Streets. Continue listening to the recording and try to answer this question. What unusual structure is described as being on the plaza in the heart of the Hudson Yards?

The 28-acre site — an area equal to 16 soccer fields that was once considered for a sports stadium — has turned into what has been described as the largest mixed-use private real estate project in the country's history. That it's still nowhere near finished becomes clear the

minute you exit the 34th Street–Hudson Yards subway station.

As you look up at the gleaming high-rises reaching into the sky, you'll see others that are still under construction. Noise fills the air: the banging of metal, the hissing of machines, the shouts of workers, the beeping of trucks. At the coffee stand outside the subway station, businesspeople in smart clothes stand in line with workers in orange vests and hard hats. Despite the ongoing construction, the heart of Hudson Yards is finished. Your eyes are immediately drawn to an enormous tree-lined plaza dominated by an unusual structure: the Vessel

acre

► Morgen (4.047 m²)

bang

► knallen

beep

► piepen

gleaming

► glänzend, schimmernd

gritty ► düster

hard hat

► Helm, Schutzhelm

high-rise

► Hochhaus

hiss

► zischen, fauchen

lined ► gesäumt

plaza ► Platz

rail yard

► Bahnbetriebswerk

real estate N. Am.

► Immobilien-

subway N. Am.

► U-Bahn

unless

► außer, es sei denn

vest ► Weste

by British architect Thomas Heatherwick, which looks like an M. C. Escher fantasy come to life. The copper-clad steel structure of 154 interlocked flights of stairs (2,500 steps in total) and walkways offers a fabulous view over Hudson Yards and across the river. Tickets are free, but it's best to reserve them online well ahead of your visit for a good entry time.

David: The unusual structure on the plaza in the heart of the Hudson Yards is known as the Vessel. It's a copper-clad steel structure consisting of flights of stairs and walkways. Now listen to the final part of the recording. What is expected to be one of the biggest highlights at Hudson Yards when it opens in March?

To the left of this is the Shed, a casual-sounding name for what is the city's latest hip performance center. The exterior, covered in what looks like opaque white cushions, similar in style to the Allianz Arena in Munich, provides a soft contrast to the Vessel. In addition to shopping (much of it high-end) and dining (much of it celebrity-chef), the biggest highlight at Hudson Yards will be the Edge observation deck, expected to open in March. The triangular platform juts out from the 100th floor of 30 Hudson Yards — at 387 meters, the supertall skyscraper is among the tallest in the city. The Edge will provide

yet another high-altitude place from which to enjoy views across New York and beyond. At a height of 335 meters, the outdoor, glass-walled observation deck promises to be the highest in the western hemisphere, rivaling those of the Empire State Building, Top of the Rock, and One World Observatory. It will also have a glass floor, allowing visitors to enjoy the busy city from an unusual perspective. It's worth going below ground, too: if you like Eataly, the Italian marketplace and food hall in Midtown, you'll love Hudson Yards' Mercado

altitude

- Höhen-

beyond

- außerhalb

casual-sounding

- lässig, salopp klingend

copper-clad

- kupferkaschiert

Eataly

- Wortschöpfung aus „eat“ und „Italy“

flight of stairs

- Treppenflucht

hip *ifml*.

- angesagt, schick

interlocked

- ineinandergreifend, miteinander verbunden

jut out

- herausragen, hervorstehen

observation deck

- Aussichtsplattform

opaque

- undurchsichtig, milchig

shed ► Schuppen

triangular

- dreieckig

walkway

- Fußweg

Little Spain with its many Spanish cafés, restaurants, and food stands.

While Hudson Yards is impressive, it doesn't yet have a neighborhood feel and has been criticized as a “billionaire's fantasy” and “architecture as luxury branding,” as well as a “gated community for the 0.1 percent.” Maybe the people who live in this new neighborhood will breathe some life into an area that still feels almost too shiny to be real.

David: When it opens in March, the Edge is expected to be one of the biggest highlights at Hudson Yards. This outdoor observation deck will be the highest in the western hemisphere and will have a glass floor, allowing visitors to look down on the city below.

Source: *Spotlight* 1/2020, pages 28–35

Everyday English

[5] Planning to move

David: Many people list moving home as one of life's most stressful events. That's certainly what Helen has discovered in Everyday English. She and her family are moving from London to Oxford and there's just so much to do. Listen now as she talks to her friend Claire about it and try to answer these questions. How is Helen organizing everything for the move? And how do Helen's kids feel about moving to Oxford?

Claire: You must have heaps to organize. I wouldn't know where to start.

Helen: I just keep making lists. Once I've ticked off the things on one list, I think of plenty of things to add to the next list.

Claire: What's on today's list?

Helen: It's the holidays next week, so I'm off to Oxford with the kids to organize things. I have a list of things I have to do there and a list of things I have to finish here before I go.

Claire: How are the kids feeling about the move and starting at a new school?

Helen: They're really positive. I think they're looking forward to the adventure, but at the same time, they're feeling a bit sad about leaving their friends.

David: So, how is Helen organizing everything for the move? She's writing a lot of lists. And how do Helen's kids feel about moving to Oxford? The children are looking forward to the adventure but are also sad to leave their friends. Of course, making lists is one thing; actually moving is another. So how is Helen going to get all her stuff to Oxford? And how does Claire offer to help her friend?

billionaire

• Milliardär(in)

gated community

• bewachte Wohnanlage

Claire: I suppose property's cheaper in Oxford.
Helen: It's the UK's least affordable place to live.

Claire: Really? I just assumed anything outside London would be much cheaper. How are you getting your stuff to Oxford? Are you hiring a van or are you getting a removal company to move it for you?

Helen: We're getting a removal company, but we're going to pack everything ourselves.

Claire: OK. Well, once you've got rid of all the stuff you don't want to take with you, I can come and help you wrap dishes and glasses and then pack boxes.

Helen: That's a very kind offer. I might just take you up on that.

Claire: You definitely should. I want to help.

David: So how is Helen going to get her stuff to Oxford? She has hired a removal company to bring it all to the new house. And how does Claire offer to help her friend? Claire offers to help Helen and her family wrap dishes and glasses and then to pack boxes.

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, pages 54–55

Around Oz

[6] Fond memories of Y2K

David: It was around this time 20 years ago that people were celebrating the turn of the century and the start of a new millennium. As

columnist Peter Flynn reminds us, however, there was also plenty of fear about the Y2K computer bug, which many believed would bring the world to a standstill. Let's look back at that momentous time in Around Oz.

On New Year's Eve 20 years ago, I was partying at a pub by the sea and ended up sleeping on the beach with a woman I hardly knew. But it was all in the line of duty for my work.

You see, this was the closest beach to my office, where I had to report at dawn to see if the much-feared Y2K (which stands for "year 2000") computer bug had made the world as we knew it collapse. For those who are too young, or too old, to remember, the Y2K bug was a problem caused by computer programmers trying to save on what was then really expensive storage space.

assume

- annehmen, vermuten

bug

- hier: Fehler

dawn

- Morgendämmerung

duty: in the line of ~

- in Ausübung seiner/ihrer Pflicht

removal company UK

- Umzugsfirma

standstill

- Stillstand

suppose

- annehmen, vermuten

wrap

- einwickeln

One “trick” was to use only the last two digits of each year, so that 1999 was shortened to 99. But this meant that computers might interpret the rollover to a new millennium as a leap back to 1900 or even a jump forward to 19100.

The developed world was taking all this very seriously because the correct date and time are a basis for many computer programs. Just think about regular bank transfers or time-sensitive train tickets.

To avoid a scenario known as “mutually assured destruction” (MAD) — a long-held military strategy designed to prevent opposing nuclear powers with equal arsenals from launching a first strike — the Americans and the Russians shared intelligence about their nuclear missile early-warning systems.

The World Bank funded an international Y2K cooperation group involving IT experts from more than 100 countries. Australia had embraced digital technology on a massive scale. Because our relatively small population was spread out across a large continent, there were Y2K committees and task forces at every level of business and government. A bit sadly, on New Year’s Eve, there were millions of hits on the government’s Y2K website. Perhaps only the British took it more seriously and openly reported the Y2K readiness of all business sectors. This led to hundreds of Australian IT specialists flocking to London to earn the

big bucks by helping companies to become risk-compliant. (Worldwide, more than \$300 billion was spent on Y2K readiness in 1999.)

In the end, nothing really happened here other than minor ticketing problems with some bus systems. Globally, we can probably thank the fixes and upgrades that software companies sent to all users, even to those who did not believe in the Y2K bug.

But if you want something to worry about, there’s a Y2K38 on the horizon — the year 2038 — when the Unix 32-bit systems will run out of time. If I live that long, I’ll be 84. While that might be too old for partying, I reckon I’ll just go to the beach and sleep under the stars.

billion ← Milliarde(n)

bucks: the big-
N. Am., Aus. *ifml.*
→ das große Geld

compliant
→ konform

embrace
→ (bereitwillig)
annehmen

flock
→ in Scharen strömen

leap
→ Sprung, Satz

mutually assured destruction

→ gesicherte gegenseitige Zerstörung

reckon *ifml.*

→ schätzen, vermuten

rollover

→ hier: Übergang

scale

→ Ausmaß, Größenordnung

time-sensitive

→ zeitkritisch

By the way, on New Year's Eve 20 years ago, to paraphrase then US president Bill Clinton, "I did not have sex with that woman". I imagine she simply figured my camping swag was the safest of her bed options, and I never saw her again.

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, page 46

Lifestyle

[7] A tale of two burgers

David: They look and taste just like beef burgers — they even bleed! But they're not made of meat. Plant-based burgers have become popular in the United States thanks to two companies: Impossible Burger and Beyond Meat. They have used technology to create burgers that mimic the texture of beef. Spotlight correspondent Talitha Linehan visited the Honeybee Burger restaurant in Los Angeles that specialises in vegan burgers. Talking to restaurant founder Adam Weiss, Talitha got the low-down on this tasty new trend. In the first part of the interview, Weiss explains why he decided to open the restaurant.

We had been thinking a long time about the plant-based space. In fact, I made investment in a chain of plant-based stores, restaurants here in Southern California over the last decade, and they had done quite well. What we found was the movement was growing but

there was a large piece of the puzzle that was missing, and we felt that the mission could be broader than just your health, and we wanted to expand it to include the health of the planet, and, by the way, the animals in it. And so, we came up with this concept of Honeybee Burger because we felt what better, more accessible and friendly way to appeal to people than a) through food and b) through the most iconic food that we have in the States, which is the cheeseburger? And that's how we did it.

David: The restaurant opened in the first half of 2019. What has the response been like?

Pretty exceptional. We kind of knew that this location we had is a very pocket, hidden

accessible

► zugänglich

appeal to sb.

► sich an jmdn. wenden

iconic

► kultig, beliebt

low-down: get the ~ ifml.

► sich umfassend informieren

mimic

► imitieren

pocket

► hier: klein

swag Aus.

► etwa: packbare Schlafmatte mit ausklappbarer Zeltplane

tale: a ~ of two burgers

► Wortspiel mit dem Roman „A Tale of Two Cities“ von Charles Dickens

location in LA. The local population is very passionate about not just plant-based but animal rights and so on, so we knew we'd do well locally. What we didn't realize was we'd have customers driving in from 20, 30 miles away, and in LA, that's quite a thing. The press and media have embraced us. We've made a number of best burger lists already, and not just plant-based burger lists but best burger lists. Our social media is picking up nicely. We're close to 5,000 followers that really kind of came to us organically, and I just couldn't be happier with the response in the community as well.

David: What is it about the Beyond Meat and Impossible burgers that have made them so popular?

The veggie burgers have been around forever, obviously, and to be fair, we've had them and they're quite fine. I don't know that they actually inspire people, but they're a good alternative. Along came these two amazing companies, both California-based companies that consider themselves technology companies by the way, one up north in San Francisco and one down here in El Segundo, both of which were started by really interesting and very smart founders with a deep understanding of technology. And their goal, although slightly

different for Impossible than for Beyond, was to create a burger alternative that wasn't just veggie or plant-based but was superior to meat and, in fact, would be so good that it would allow meat eaters not just to prefer it but actually to understand that cow- and beef-based patties are not so great anymore.

David: What is the difference between the Impossible and Beyond Meat burgers?

Well, we get asked that a lot. We're one of the few restaurants in LA or anywhere that actually offers both, both Impossible and Beyond. We do this for a number of reasons, one of them is one of our core values and that is we want to bring the best of the plant-based world to our customers, so we're not beholden to any one particular brand or product. They're both

beholden: be ~ to sb.

► jmdm. verpflichtet sein

brand

► Marke

core value

► Grundwert

embrace

► hier: annehmen

passionate: be ~ about sth.

► etw. leidenschaftlich gern haben/tun

patty

► Frikadelle, Bratling

pick up ifml.

► wachsen, zunehmen

superior to

► besser als

really good. Impossible, when it first came out, was wheat-based, which means that it had gluten. It was quite good but wasn't perfect. Impossible 2.0 is now a completely different product. It is now soy-based, for better or worse. It is a wonderful product; customers love it. Beyond is entirely different. They, too, have gone through a few recipe changes, but they are predominantly pea protein, and when I say pea, there's a yellow pea or lentil, so it's not the green peas you have perhaps with your dinner. Nevertheless, it's a very different mouth feel, different taste, and those are the primary differences in protein.

See Spotlight 1/2020, pages 36–39

English at Work

[8] Hostile questioning

David: Business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio now with tips on using English at work. This time, Ken has some advice on dealing with hostile questioning during a presentation.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Most business presentations we make are on uncontroversial subjects. And, usually, our audiences ask straightforward questions. Just occasionally we might meet hostile questioners or people who want to disrupt the presentation. How, then, do we keep control

of the situation? Listen to this excerpt from a question and answer session in a presentation. Lindsey, from HR, is presenting a reorganization plan to her colleagues in the Production Department. As you listen, think about what might be going wrong.

Lindsey: So, that will mean that we will have to reduce our staffing levels by 10 per cent over the next six months. I realize that this will mean some redundancies but...

Colin: Can I just butt in here? This is nonsense. Things are picking up now. We'll soon

butt in *ifml.*

► dazwischenreden

disrupt

► unterbrechen, stören

excerpt

► Auszug

for better or worse

► ob gut oder schlecht, wohl oder übel

hostile

► abweisend, skeptisch

HR (Human Resources)

► Personalabteilung

lentil ► Linse

pea

► Erbse

pick up

► hier: sich erholen

predominantly

► überwiegend

redundancy UK

► Entlassung

soy

► Soja

uncontroversial

► unumstritten

wheat

► Weizen

need to start recruiting again! Have you taken that into consideration?

Lindsey: Of course, we have. The statistics show...

Colin: Statistics, statistics! This is about people, not statistics. Don't you understand the situation here on the factory floor?

Lindsey: There's no need to get so angry, Colin. I'm just doing my job.

Colin: That's what they all say — I was just following orders. We've heard all this before — in 2016 when the last cuts took place — remember, John? You were here then, too.

John: Colin's right. It's always the same. HR cut the team by 10 per cent then, too — and then had to start recruiting again six months later!

Colin: See! Typical bureaucracy!

Lindsey: That's totally unfair. And anyway, it wasn't 10 per cent last time.

John: So how much was it then?

Lindsey: Um... er... I wasn't there then... I haven't got the figures with me now... um... er... I think it was 7 per cent.

Colin: And you think we should rely on your blasted figures this time? Where did you get that 10 per cent figure from?

Lindsey: You don't understand. You're just being difficult as usual.

Colin: Difficult! You'll soon find out how difficult we can all be!

Ken: Oh, dear me! I don't think Lindsey handled that difficult situation very well, did she? Let's see if you agree with my assessment of what went wrong. When Colin butted in, she answered his question with the words "of course", which sounded very dismissive. She then told Colin not to get angry — which only made him more annoyed. And the statement "I'm just doing my job" made it sound as though she had no authority. She then allowed Colin to start a dialogue with John, which raised the tension. Lindsey then got angry herself before sounding hesitant when she didn't know the exact figure from 2016. Finally, she insulted Colin by saying he was difficult "as usual". It was a demanding situation. Let's see how Lindsey could have dealt with it differently.

assessment

► Einschätzung

blasted *ifml.*

► verdammt

bureaucracy

► Bürokratie

dismissive

► abfällig, herablassend

hesitant

► zögerlich

insult

► beleidigen

recruit

► einstellen

tension

► Spannung

Listen again. This time Lindsey tries to do four things. First, she tries to stay calm and non-confrontational. Second, she tries to be firm in her replies rather than hesitant. Third, she tries to prevent a dialogue between Colin and John building up. Fourth, she tries to show empathy with the questioner's concerns. Let's see if she succeeds.

Lindsey: So, that will mean that we will have to reduce our staffing levels by 10 per cent over the next six months. I realize that this will mean some redundancies but...

Colin: Can I just butt in here? This is nonsense. Things are picking up now. We'll soon need to start recruiting again! Have you taken that into consideration?

Lindsey: I'm afraid our order books show that the next financial year is going to be very difficult for all of us.

Colin: That's not the feeling here on the factory floor.

Lindsey: I understand that. But at the moment, we're working on the big Smithson order. Once that is completed, our order book is very thin.

Colin: But we've heard all this before — in 2016 when the last cuts took place — remember, John? You were here then, too.

John: Colin's right. It's always the same. HR cut the team by 10 per cent then, too — and

then had to start recruiting again six months later!

Lindsey: Look, Colin, I really do understand your concerns here. That's why we intend to downsize gradually over six months.

Colin: Downsize! Typical bureaucratic language! You mean fire people.

Lindsey: Actually, we think we can reach the 10 per cent reduction we need without compulsory redundancies. We'll simply have a recruitment freeze.

Colin: If that doesn't work, will you offer a voluntary redundancy package?

Lindsey: Yes — but it will only be a standard one.

Colin: Do you have any figures for that?

Lindsey: They're not finalized yet. As soon as they are, I'll circulate them.

Colin: OK. Fine. Thanks.

circulate

- in Umlauf bringen, verteilen

compulsory redundancy

- betriebsbedingte Kündigung

downsize

- Stellen abbauen

empathy

- Einfühlungsvermögen

non-confrontational

- nicht auf Konfrontation ausgerichtet

recruitment freeze

- Einstellungsstopp

voluntary redundancy package

- freiwilliges Ausscheiden, freiwillige Vorruhestandsregelung

Ken: That was much better, don't you think? Lindsey kept calm, was firm in her replies and prevented the dialogue between Colin and John from building up. She showed some empathy with her questioners and got more information across to the audience than in the [previous example](#). She managed a difficult situation pretty well.

David: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de. If Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you'll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See *Spotlight* 1/2020, page 57

Peggy's Place

[9] A pub with patina

David: It's always a joy to step into a room with an open fire. The [crackling](#) of wood and the glow of the flames just warm the heart. That's exactly the effect Peggy and Phil want to achieve by [resurrecting](#) their London pub's long-[neglected](#) fireplace. Will their plan be a [blazing](#) success, or will it all go up in smoke? Let's find out in the latest episode of *Peggy's Place*.

Peggy: Phil, did you get those [logs](#) like I asked you to?

Phil: Of course I did. They're behind the kitchen door.

Peggy: They're not much use out there, are they? Especially as it's snowing. They'll be far too wet to burn. You'll need to bring them inside, [pronto](#)!

George: What are you planning to do?

Phil: We're going to reactivate our fireplace.

Helen: Why? It's nice and warm in here.

Peggy: Actually, we were contacted by Footfall.

George: Who are they?

Helen: Don't you know the Footfall City Guides? Very [hip](#) and cool.

Phil: We had the one on New York for our trip recently. They had some great tips.

Peggy: Anyway, they contacted us because they're doing an online story about pubs with fireplaces.

blazing

► lodern, glühend; hier
auch: bahnbrechend

crackling

► Knistern

hip ifml.

► total in

log

► Holzklotz, Holzscheit

neglect

► vernachlässigen, nicht beachten

previous ► vorherig

pronto ifml. ► dalli

punter UK ifml.

► Kunde; hier: Gast

resurrect

► wieder auferstehen lassen

Phil: Where the punters can experience a real open fire. We think it could be good for custom and we're planning to have a little cupboard with games and books.

George: I'd never have noticed that you have a fireplace.

Helen: Where is it?

Phil: Over there in the corner, behind that armchair.

Helen: Oh, right. It looks a bit dusty. Don't you need to clean it?

Peggy: That's just the — what do you call it? — the patina.

Helen: I'll take your word for it.

Phil: The writer chappie is coming tomorrow, so we thought we'd try it out today, just to be sure.

Peggy: Well, then bring in the logs and we can get started.

George: Let me help. Have you got any kindling? And what about some newspaper? And we need some matches, of course.

Peggy: Here you go! The *Evening Standard* from yesterday.

George: So, you make this pyramid with the newspaper at the bottom, like so.

Helen: Quite the Boy Scout.

Peggy: I'd definitely want to have you with me if I were stuck on a desert island.

George: Thank you, Peggy. Now where are those matches?

Peggy: Here you go!

Helen: What's that cone-shaped piece of newspaper for?

George: I light this... and then by holding it above the fire... I make an upward draft.

Helen: That's a lot of smoke!

Peggy: Take the paper away. Quick!

Helen: Don't just drop it on the floor.

Peggy: It's so smoky. Helen, are you still there?

Phil: What's going on? Where's all the smoke coming from? Peggy? Is that you?

Peggy: Yes, but I think we may have a problem with the chimney pipe.

Phil: We need to open all the doors and windows, otherwise the alarm will go off. Where's George gone?

Man: I think he may have gone out.

Peggy: Sorry. I can't see you properly. Who are you?

armchair

► Sessel, Lehnstuhl

chimney pipe

► Schornsteinrohr

cone-shaped

► kegelförmig

custom UK

► Kundschaft

draft ► Luftzug

kindling

► Anzündholz

match

► Streichholz

upward

► Aufwärts-

writer chappie UK ifml.

► Schreiberling

Man: I'm from Footfall City Guides. I'm here about our piece on pubs with fireplaces. The interview was scheduled for today, wasn't it?

Peggy: Of course. Get the man a nice big whiskey, Phil. I'll be with you in a moment.

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, page 10

Short Story

[10] “Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation” Chapter 1

David: Now it's time for a special three-part mystery story with British amateur detective Dorothy Winslow. While visiting Germany, Ms Winslow discovers that her niece knows a secret that could be damaging to a local family. Should she keep quiet or tell all? It reminds Ms Winslow of a similar situation when she was a diplomat in Bonn — a situation that involved a murder.

“Klaus,” said Lucy Tischler in a voice that was naked of wifely affection as she pointed at a packet of chicken. “Did you check the sell-by date?”

The kitchen table was covered with the shopping that Klaus had just brought back from the supermarket.

“This chicken is dated the 28th, which is tomorrow,” Lucy continued.

“Is it?” asked her husband, a touch of panic in his voice. “I thought today was the 25th. Well,

we can eat it today, can't we?”

“And what about the bolognese I made last night? I promised Aunt Dot we'd have that this evening!”

“I don't mind having...” said Dorothy, but Lucy wasn't listening. A storm that had been collecting for a couple of days was about to break over Klaus's head.

“I suppose you didn't have your glasses. When are you going to admit that you can't read without them? What's the point of doing the shopping...”

The twins, Roland and Freddie, took their great-aunt by the hand as the row got going and led her upstairs, where she helped them build their Lego train set. After about 20 minutes, as the voices died down, Dorothy stood up and looked out of the window into the garden. Klaus was cutting back the hedge with rather more energy than was really necessary. “Well, I think I'll take your mother and the dog for a walk,” she said. “Keep an eye on your father.”

affection

• Zuneigung, Liebe

hedge

• Hecke

row

• Streit

sell-by date UK

• Verkaufsdatum, Haltbarkeitsdatum

suppose

• annehmen, vermuten

Trotsky and Dorothy followed Lucy as she stomped along the path towards the woods with her head down and hands deep in her pockets.

“Slow down a bit, dear,” said Dorothy eventually. “You won’t be able to tell me what’s worrying you if you walk so fast.”

Lucy slowed down and Dorothy caught up.

“What’s the matter?” she asked.

Lucy sighed. “Aunt Dot, I have a moral dilemma.”

“Yes?”

“What would you do if you found out that the husband of someone you know quite well is having an affair? Would you tell the person that you know, or would you decide that it’s none of your business?”

“That would depend on your reasons for telling or not telling, don’t you think?”

“Well, surely she should know what her husband is up to so she can decide what to do.”

“How do you know she doesn’t know?”

“She couldn’t. Nobody would put up with that.”

“How do you know?”

Lucy waved her hands in frustration. “Stop saying ‘How do you know?’,” she snapped. “She can’t possibly know! If you think I should mind my own business, why don’t you just say so?”

“I don’t think anything at all. This is completely

abstract at the moment. It depends entirely on the people involved and the circumstances. If it were you, Lucy Tischler, then yes, it would be better to tell you because I think you could sort it out. But it’s not the same for everybody. Who are we talking about?”

Lucy didn’t say anything for a while. “Angelika Moser,” she muttered finally. “I saw her husband with another woman.”

Angelika Moser’s husband, Günter, ran a successful transport company, which allowed his wife a comfortable existence as the unofficial ruler of Heroldstein, the village where the Tischlers lived. She was a little bossy, it was true, but for making sure that the council

catch up

- ▶ einholen, aufholen

circumstances

- ▶ Umstände

entirely

- ▶ komplett, vollständig

eventually

- ▶ schließlich

mind: ~ one’s own business

- ▶ sich um seinen eigenen Kram kümmern

mutter

- ▶ murmeln, brummen

put up with sth.

- ▶ etw. hinnehmen, etw. ertragen

sigh

- ▶ seufzen

snap

- ▶ blaffen, fauchen

sort: ~ sth. out

- ▶ etw. regeln

stomp

- ▶ stapfen

collected the rubbish punctually, or that the school buses drove carefully, or that the village summer party was organized properly, the villagers were grateful to Angelika. The Moser family sat in the front row of the church every Sunday and were seen as a model of respectability. But now, Lucy didn't know what to think.

"I saw him in Mannheim on Tuesday when I went to the dentist," Lucy explained. "I was on the tram to the station and it stopped at a traffic light opposite the entrance to a hotel. At that moment, Herr Moser came out with a much younger woman and they started kissing each other — I mean really kissing."

"I see."

"So, I think I have to tell Angelika about it. I'm not her biggest fan, but I hate the thought that at some time in the future, when he leaves her, she'll find out that I did nothing to help her fix things while it was still possible, because I was too chicken to tell her."

"That's tricky. Do you think she'll want to know?"

Lucy looked surprised. "Well, of course! Nobody wants to be deceived."

They walked along in silence for a while.

"Have I told you about my time in the embassy in Bonn?" Dorothy said finally. "It was the only time in my career that I was involved in a murder case."

"A murder case? Really? Who was the murderer? Did you find him?"

"Oh, yes. Only it wasn't a 'him' — it was a 'her,'" said Dorothy. "I got the call just after midnight..."

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, pages 66–71

[11] "Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation" Chapter 2

The call was from her boss, Alec Hughes. He told her to come straight over to the ambassador's house. Something had happened, but he wouldn't say what on the phone. He needed Dorothy to look after the ambassador's wife while he "sorted some things out".

"This was my first post after passing the exams for the diplomatic service, and the 1970s were a very exciting time in West Germany," Dorothy explained. "Britain had joined the Common Market, the World Cup was about to take place and the people I worked with at

ambassador

► Botschafter(in)

chicken *ifml.*

► hier: feige

deceive

► betrügen

embassy

► Botschaft

post

► Stelle, Arbeitsplatz

sort: ~ sth. out

► etw. regeln

tricky

► kompliziert, knifflig

the embassy were fascinating.”

The British ambassador and his wife — Sir Roger and Lady Elaine Wood — were very well known in diplomatic circles.

“Roger was clever, good-looking and very charming. He’d worked his way to the top of the diplomatic corps and been posted to all the main capital cities. Paris, Washington, Moscow — it was said that he was the only British diplomat President Brezhnev had been willing to listen to — and Bonn was his last appointment before retirement.”

But, as everyone always said, Elaine had played a large part in his success. She had a gift for saying the right thing, for dealing with difficult diplomatic situations, for persuading people to do things that maybe they hadn’t thought they wanted to do before she spoke to them. And always in a way that made people feel good about themselves and about her. As for the other members of the embassy, she ruled them fairly but firmly.

“Elaine had very high standards about what was suitable or unsuitable behaviour,” Dorothy explained. “If she noticed any of us having a cocktail too many at an embassy function, she would just give that person a look and they’d switch to water immediately. If a secretary’s skirt was too short, she’d quietly invite them to coffee and explain in the most tactful way possible that in the embassy, they

represented Her Majesty the Queen and that skirts above the knee were not acceptable to Her Majesty.”

They had two children, a boy and a girl, who were also clever and charming and who studied at Oxford — in short, it was difficult to imagine a better example of a successful diplomatic couple.

“Except?” asked Lucy. “There has to be an ‘except’ in this story.”

“Yes. The ‘except’ was Liselotte Hitchens, who was married to David, the senior trade attaché at the embassy.”

David had worked in West Germany for a long time and Liselotte was much younger than him. Embassy gossip was that he’d met her in a nightclub in Frankfurt.

“She was very pretty in a blonde bombshell kind of way, but not at all suitable as a diplomat’s wife,” said Dorothy. “However, poor David was completely infatuated.”

At embassy functions, she became a magnet for most of the men, which infuriated the

blonde bombshell *ifml*.

➤ blonde Granate

function

➤ hier: Veranstaltung, Empfang

gossip

➤ Klatsch

infatuated

➤ verknallt, vernarrt

infuriate

➤ wütend machen

wives of the invited diplomats and government officials. Elaine tried to hint that maybe her dresses were too low-cut, or her laugh too loud, but Liselotte would just shrug her shoulders and carry on as before.

“The situation was becoming difficult, and I could tell that Alec was worried,” Dorothy said. “We started to keep an eye on her.”

“Why? What was your job?” asked Lucy.

“Junior policy adviser,” Dorothy said vaguely, which left Lucy none the wiser. “It was the middle of the Cold War, Willy Brandt had recently been forced to resign because of a political scandal involving East German spies and one of our responsibilities was to make sure that nothing similar happened within the British Embassy.”

“You mean you thought this woman could be a spy?” asked Lucy, thrilled.

“We thought it possible. But Alec did some digging and finally decided that she wasn’t. Any trouble she caused was all of her own making. Anyway, one day, David popped his head around the door of our office and announced that Roger had told him he’d been promoted and was being transferred to Malaysia as the British consul in Penang. ‘Liselotte will be thrilled,’ he said. ‘She’ll look terrific in sun hats, don’t you think, Miss Winslow?’”

Dorothy was not so sure. Although it was a promotion, Penang would seem like the end

of the world to a city girl like Liselotte. Alec, however, was relieved.

“She can flirt with as many men as she likes as long as it’s on the other side of the world,” he said to me. ‘Not our problem any more.’ Or so he thought.”

As Dorothy was leaving that afternoon, she passed Liselotte going upstairs. Her eyes were swollen from crying.

“I asked if I could help in any way, but she said no, she had an appointment to see Lady Wood. She was the only one who could do something for her, and she was sure she would. I was a bit doubtful, but Elaine was very kind. If anybody could help Liselotte see the bright side

government official

► Staatsbedienstete(r)

hint

► andeuten

low-cut

► tief ausgeschnitten

none the wiser

► so klug wie zuvor

policy adviser

► politische(r) Berater(in)

pop if/ml.

► stecken

relieved

► erleichtert

resign

► kündigen, zurücktreten

shrug

► zucken

swollen

► geschwellen

thrilled

► begeistert

of going to Penang, it would be her. But that evening...”

Dorothy stopped as Trotsky suddenly rushed past to chase a squirrel, which ran up a tree leaving the dog bouncing helplessly around the trunk. Lucy had to fasten his lead to pull him away.

“Yes?” she asked breathlessly after Trotsky had finally calmed down. “What happened that evening?”

“That evening was when I got the call from Alec,” Dorothy said. “That’s when the murder happened.”

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, pages 66–71

[12] “Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation” Chapter 3

When Dorothy got to the ambassador’s house, the lights were on. Alec was standing in the hall talking to the embassy doctor, who was pulling on his coat.

“There you are!” he said to me. ‘Please look after Elaine. Roger’s had a heart attack and she’s in a state.’

‘I’ve given her a sedative,’ the doctor said. ‘She’s asleep, but it’s best if someone stays with her.’

‘What about Roger?’ I asked Alec as the doctor drove off. ‘Will he be all right?’

‘He’s dead,’ he said, matter-of-factly. ‘Doc got a call an hour ago from Elaine and he called me. We found him on the floor and moved him on

to the sofa in the drawing room. Been dead a few hours, we think.’

‘But why didn’t Elaine...?’ I started to say. ‘Exactly,’ said Alec. ‘I don’t know. That’s why I need you to sit with her while I look around and inform London. She’s upstairs, first door on the right.’

I went silently into the bedroom. A lamp next to the bed gave the room a soft glow. Elaine lay under the bedclothes, her eyes closed. I took a chair from her dressing table and sat down quietly beside her.

‘I’m not asleep, just a bit woozy,’ she said, making me jump. ‘Sorry. Didn’t mean to frighten you.’

‘Elaine, I’m so sorry about Roger...’ I began, but

ambassador

- Botschafter(in)

bounce

- springen

embassy

- Botschafts-

fasten: ~ the lead

- anleinen

glow

- Schimmer, Schein

matter-of-factly

- sachlich, nüchtern

sedative

- Beruhigungsmittel

squirrel

- Eichhörnchen

state: be in a ~ ifml.

- unter Schock stehen

trunk

- Baumstamm

woozy ifml.

- benommen, benebelt

the look on her face silenced me.

‘Can you pass me a cigarette?’ she said after a moment. ‘I’ve given up, but after everything I’ve done this evening, smoking doesn’t really matter.’

I brought her the packet from her dressing table. She sat up, lit the cigarette and drew in a deep breath.

‘Has this to do with Liselotte?’ I asked.

Elaine nodded. ‘She insisted on telling me. I couldn’t stop her. I’ve always managed to stop people before, but she had no shame...’

The story poured out. Roger had been having an affair with Liselotte for months. When David told her about the posting to Penang, she thought Elaine had found out and was trying to separate them. Liselotte begged Elaine not to have her sent so far away.

‘I had absolutely nothing to do with it. It was all Roger. Recommend the husband for a promotion somewhere far away — that was usually his way when a mistress was becoming difficult.’

‘Usually?’ I asked. She nodded.

‘Oh, yes, Liselotte wasn’t the first. Roger didn’t know I knew, but I always did.’

‘But then why didn’t you...?’ I stopped, uncertain how to continue without hurting her.

‘Confront him? Divorce him?’ she said. ‘If I did that, then all this...’ — she waved her hand at the room — ‘...would be over. We were a

successful team. Divorced, we’d be nothing. He’d be an embarrassment to the diplomatic corps and I’d be just another bitter divorcee. Why make a fuss over his silly little affairs? Roger was never going to leave me.’

‘What happened today, then?’

She lit another cigarette.

‘Once or twice in the past, people have hinted to me what Roger was doing, but I always shut them down. If nothing was admitted, I could keep the show going. They quickly understood. They were more like me, I suppose.’

‘Liselotte didn’t understand?’

Elaine shook her head. ‘No, she didn’t. It’s not her fault. She has a different background, and English diplomatic hypocrisy isn’t easy to understand. No, she forced me to hear all the sordid details.’

Afterwards, Elaine drove home and waited for Roger. When he arrived, all her anger boiled over.

‘We had a huge shouting match. I was so angry

embarrassment

• Beschämung

fuss

• Tamtam, Wirbel

hypocrisy

• Scheinheiligkeit,
Heuchelei

mistress

• Geliebte

pour out

• hier: heraussprudeln

sordid

• schäbig, schmutzig

with him for putting everything we'd built at risk for a little bedroom romp. I hated him so much at that moment, for his stupidity more than anything else. And then it happened..'

Roger groaned, clutched his chest and fell to the ground.

'I knew it was a heart attack. I'd trained as a doctor. That's how I met Roger. He came for a check-up at the hospital where I worked — even then, he had a slight heart flutter. He'd been on medication for years.'

'What did you do when he collapsed?'

She didn't speak for a moment, and when she did, her eyes were full of tears and her voice shook.

'I just left the room. He held out his hand to me, but I just left. Maybe I could have saved him, but at that moment, I wanted him to die.' She stubbed out the cigarette, then looked me in the face.

'I murdered him.'

Dorothy stopped. They were standing on the top of a small hill overlooking Heroldstein.

'What happened then?' Lucy asked.

'Nothing,' Dorothy replied. 'She talked a little bit more, but the sedative was starting to work and she fell asleep. I stayed until the morning. The next day, I helped her make all the funeral arrangements.'

'But what about her confession?'

'There was absolutely no benefit in anybody ever hearing about it. It would simply have been destructive. You're the first person I've ever told.'

Lucy was very quiet as they walked back home. 'It's about my assumptions, isn't it?' she said as they reached the front door. 'I need to be careful in my assumptions and realize that whatever I do will have consequences.'

Dorothy nodded. 'I don't know what the best thing is for you to do. Just remember, Lucy, my dear, that your preference for confronting the truth isn't necessarily the same for Angelika Moser.'

'I will, Aunt Dot. I will.'

assumption

- Annahme

chest

- Brust(korb)

clutch

- packen

confession

- Geständnis

flutter

- Flimmern

funeral

- Beerdigungs-

groan

- stöhnen

romp ifml.

- Techtelmechtel

stub out

- ausdrücken

They went into the kitchen, where Klaus was taking a break from gardening.

“Right,” said Lucy. “Chicken for lunch!”

Source: Spotlight 1/2020, pages 66–71

Conclusion

[13] David: Thanks for joining us for Spotlight Audio. You'll find more information about becoming a regular subscriber to either our CD or download at www.spotlight-online.de/hoeren Join us again next time, won't you? Until then: goodbye.

subscriber

➔ Abonnent(in)

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Contents

E 1. Introduction	1:18	M 9. Peggy's Place A pub with patina	4:20
E 2. Britain Today No more Christmas cards?	4:53	M 10. Short Story "Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation" Chapter 1	6:17
A 3. A Day in My Life Keeping the overview	3:55	M 11. "Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation" Chapter 2	6:03
M 4. Travel New New York: a city transformed	6:18	M 12. "Murder in Bonn — a Ms Winslow investigation" Chapter 3	7:01
M 5. Everyday English Planning to move	3:09	E 13. Conclusion	0:31
A 6. Around Oz Fond memories of Y2K	4:28	Total playing time	60:16
A 7. Lifestyle A tale of two burgers	4:49		
M 8. English at Work Hostile questioning	7:10		