

INCIDENT IN A STATION BUFFET

(A short sketch for adults)

by

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INCIDENT IN A STATION BUFFET

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CHARACTERS

1. Mrs Harrison, well-heeled woman, late thirties
2. Richard, young man aged about eighteen
3. Hilary, plain woman living on her own
- 4 & 5. Two yobs aged about eighteen

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(The scene is a station buffet. We hear the background noise of a busy station with distant tannoy etc. Three tables are in use - one has two yobs loudly discussing football, girls etc, another has a plainly dressed woman delicately eating a sausage roll and wiping her mouth with a serviette and the third has a well-heeled woman in her late thirties impatiently flicking through a glossy magazine.

In the following scene whenever there is any dialogue on one table the lights go down on the other two, while the third is illuminated to get our attention.

At the opening all the stage lights are on. A young man comes from the counter carrying a tea tray, looks around at those present before tentatively approaching the plain woman)

Richard Excuse me - are you Mrs Harrison?

Plain Woman (Tetchily) No!

Richard Sorry

(He now feels awkward and doesn't know where to sit)

Mrs Harrison (Looking up) I'm Mrs Harrison

(There is a pause while the two take each other in)

Well are you going to sit down or what?

Richard Yes, sorry

(He sits for a while with his mouth slightly open looking at her. The lights go down on the other tables)

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Mrs Harrison Do you always sit with your mouth open?

Richard (Closing it) I'm sorry

Mrs Harrison For Gods sake stop saying "sorry" all the time

Richard Sor - O.K.

Mrs Harrison So what do you think then ~ am I what you expected?

Richard I don't know what I expected

Mrs Harrison I don't have much time - I have an appointment in ten minutes so what do you want to know?

Richard Er ...

Mrs Harrison I knew this was a bad idea

Richard It just feels a bit strange

Mrs Harrison Not half as strange as it feels for me

Richard I feel as if I want to hug you

Mrs Harrison Why would you want to do that?

Richard You're my mother - I thought that's what mothers and sons did

Mrs Harrison Was your mother

Richard I thought you'd be pleased to see me

Mrs Harrison Curious - I'll admit I was a little curious when I got the phone call - its not every day you get a call out of the blue from somebody who says "I think you might be my mother" - thank God it was me that answered

Richard I don't understand why you're so negative

Mrs Harrison Look, just ask what you want to ask and let me get on with my life

Richard (Getting up) You're right, this was a mistake

Mrs Harrison I'm sorry - don't go (he sits down again) - now you've got me apologising

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(The pair of them freeze while the lights draw our attention to the conversation of the two yobs on the next table)

Yob 1 So after we come out of the Griffin he says "Are we going clubbin' then?" and I says, "No way Hosé, last time I went out with you I got nicked"

Yob 2 But you went?

Yob 1 Yeah, course I went - so we goes down to Templars and then we have grief with the bouncer - no tie you see - so I goes into the Chinky, borrows a couple of serviettes and makes meself a tie

Yob 2 Nice one