

CHAPTER 4

The next morning, Kate phoned Emilia at the agency to ask about her visits to the Vermilion and to Claire's. "I'd like to come and see you, if you've half an hour to spare¹," she said.

"I've got a number of things to organise," Emilia explained. "The thing is², I'd like to go to London this afternoon. I spoke to a former employer of Adam's a few minutes ago. He's reluctant³ to give any information over the phone and suggested that I come to his London office tomorrow – he'll be on a business trip on the following days. And I got hold⁴ of my friend Alix and said that I'll be earlier than expected." "Oh yes, you're going to stay with her, where does she live?" "I think it's Brixton – or is it Camberwell? Anyway, it's very near St Luke's hospital where she works. Look, I've got another call coming in – could you come around lunchtime? Fiona could get us a sandwich from the shop at the corner and I'd tell you what I've learned. Or I'd phone from the train, if that's private enough." "No, lunch is fine," Kate said, "I won't keep you long, and I'll bring the sandwiches."

Kate turned up, with a heap of sandwiches, at twelve thirty. "They are only bought," she said, "but they look very edible⁵." "They do," Emilia agreed. She took a few bites and then reported what people had told her during her visits to the Vermilion and to Claire's, and that she had posted messages on websites with names like oldmates.com or auldacquaintance.com⁶. "It's not much, I'm afraid," she concluded. "I hope I'll have more luck in London." "I'm sorry that so much of your weekend was taken up," a frown had appeared on Kate's face. "Somehow I had hoped ..." "It is early days," Emilia reminded her, "and the visits to the clubs were quite interesting. I have to confess that I like the Vermilion better than I do Claire's. Even Claire says that Guy made a good job of it."

"Claire," Kate said, "took a great interest when Guy set up the Vermilion – wanted another style altogether, another interior designer ... Guy

1 to spare: erübrigen 2 the thing is: die Sache ist die 3 to be reluctant: unwillig sein, zögern 4 to get hold of s.o.: jmd. erreichen 5 edible: essbar 6 auld acquaintance: alte Freunde (eine Anspielung auf das bekannte schottische Lied „Auld Lang Syne“)

let her have some say, but then put his foot down." "What business is it of hers?" "She's one of those people who are independently rich⁷," Kate explained, "she financed Claire's and she's the financial backer⁸ of the Vermilion. Guy has had a very good income for the last few years, but he couldn't have done it by himself. And Claire ... she is charming and I get along with her very well, but she always needs something to get her teeth into. If it's not the clubs, it's her dinner parties. Or look at these sandwiches. She would have made them herself, with exactly this bread and that cheese. They'd have been delicious, but it's always so much bother about small things!"

Exercise 31

The days are packed

Complete the text by filling in the English equivalents of the following:

*am folgenden Tag – eine Dreiviertelstunde – heute Abend – heute Morgen
um zehn – übermorgen – um die Mittagszeit – vor ein paar Tagen*

Robert Rutherford is as busy as Emilia: An important client made an appointment for _____ (1) – but arrives _____ (2) too late. _____ (3), when Robert and his assistant are having a bite to eat, the phone does not stop ringing. Robert would like to go home early _____ (4), because he still has an article to write, which is due _____ (5). _____ (6), he tried to get some writing done at the gallery, but _____ (7) had to rewrite it all.

"And she would have served canapés instead," Emilia added. "Yesterday, she told someone in the kitchen at Claire's to do them just so⁹." "Some time ago," Kate giggled, "she tried to convince Adam to drink some fancy¹⁰ South American coffee, which, she said, he could brew with the big

⁷ independently rich: reich, ohne dafür gearbeitet zu haben ⁸ financial backer: Geldgeber ⁹ just so: auf eine ganz bestimmte Art ¹⁰ fancy (ugs.): ausgefallen

machine at the bar. But Adam said that he didn't even want to think about how to operate that monster, and that fair trade instant was perfectly fine for him."

Exercise 32

Idioms involving feet and teeth

Find the English–German equivalents.

1. *by the skin of one's teeth* – 2. *the boot is on the other foot* – 3. *to cut one's teeth* – 4. *to get one's teeth into sth.* – 5. *to lie through one's teeth* – 6. *to put one's foot down* – 7. *to put one's foot in it*

a) *das Blatt hat sich gewendet* – b) *das Blaue vom Himmel herunterlügen* – c) *ein Machtwort sprechen* – d) *erste Erfahrungen sammeln* – e) *ins Fett-näpfchen treten* – f) *sich eingehend mit etwas beschäftigen* – g) *um Haaresbreite*

"How did Adam come to work for the Vermilion in the first place¹¹?" Emilia wondered, "a nightclub in St Stephen seems very different to the London NGOs he worked for before." "I'm not sure," Kate said. "but ... I think Adam once told me that he heard about the position at the Vermilion from Aaron, so he must know Aaron, or they might have a common acquaintance. And London was not really his cup of tea¹², I'm sorry to say, so going somewhere more rural suited him. Besides, the money at the Vermilion was probably better¹³ than what he earned before." "Hm," Emilia said. What Kate had said about Aaron answered a question that she hadn't had the chance to ask the evening before. "I have to think about how to approach Aaron again. It don't want to appear too persistent¹⁴. Perhaps Guy knows about Aaron and Adam?"

"I can ask him," Kate offered. "It should be easy. Guy does wonder where Adam has gone. He has brought the conversation round¹⁵ to him several times." "Oh, did he?" Emilia asked. On Saturday, Guy had been

11 in the first place: überhaupt 12 not his cup of tea (idiom): nicht sein Fall 13 the money is better: das Gehalt ist höher 14 persistent: hartnäckig 15 to bring the conversation round to sth./s.o.: das Gespräch auf etw./jmd. bringen

really helpful, but later she had felt that he was not completely comfortable with her looking for Adam.

“He says that he worries, but I never thought that they were such great friends. I always had the feeling that Adam was keeping his distance¹⁶ from Guy. He felt kind of bad about the situation with me.” Kate suddenly looked insecure. “I don’t know, maybe Guy suspects something, I really don’t know what to make of it ...” Emilia didn’t either – but neither did she want to discuss Guy with Kate, thinking that it could make the other woman’s situation even more complicated. So she only said, “At least he’s talking to you.” “He’s been talking to me more than for a long time,” Kate replied, “but this morning he went off on his boat again.”

Exercise 33

Translate

Some phrases from the last three paragraphs might help you.

1. *Warum ist Adam überhaupt nach St Stephen gekommen?*
2. *In einer Kleinstadt zu leben war nicht wirklich sein Fall.*
3. *Ich weiß nicht, was ich davon halten soll.*

“This is your bedroom,” Alix showed Emilia into a tiny room, “Tom calls it a study, but before I figured out¹⁷ that you could just about¹⁸ cram¹⁹ a bed into it, I thought I’d have to use it as a box room²⁰.” “It is small,” Emilia laughed, “but it will suit me fine.”

Alix left to prepare some pasta for dinner, and Emilia lay down on the bed for a minute. She had, after a hectic day, arrived at London King’s Cross shortly before 8 p.m. – grateful for the fast trains from York to London, although the connection from St Stephen to York left much to be desired. The tube had brought her to Kennington in less than half an hour, where Alix was waiting in front of the underground station. From there they had walked to Fenton Street.

16 to keep one’s distance: Abstand halten 17 to figure out sth.: etw. herausbekommen; austüfteln 18 just about: so gerade eben 19 to cram into: hineinzwängen in 20 box room: Abstellraum (für Koffer etc.)