

English Champions

Autumn/Fall 2018 – November 13, 2018

Mrs Tufty loves to listen to radio drama. After the French Management Team's success with the animated *Tufty the Squirrel* franchise, Mr Tufty is exploring the idea of creating a new radio drama to sell to independent radio stations in the English speaking market.

In this evening's meeting he wants you to rehearse the following pilot episode.

Pilot episode

Narrator1: The morning after Amenpreet Hiran's surprise visit, Mr Tufty went down to breakfast earlier than usual. He hadn't slept well and felt very tired. Even Falmouth, Mr Tufty's corgi, seemed to lack his usual joie-de-vivre. Still, the smell of the fried breakfast being prepared in the kitchen made Mr Tufty feel better. His mouth began to water.

Narrator2: He entered the dining room and poured himself a cup of coffee from the pot sitting on the sideboard. When he turned round he was surprised to see both Mrs Tufty and Henrietta staring at him from the other end of the table. They were not eating anything and Henrietta's face was red and looked to be swollen.

Mr Tufty's dining room

Mr Tufty: Morning, dear. Morning Henrietta.

[Silence]

Are you alright?

Mrs Tufty: [Angrily] Of course she's not alright! Henrietta's heart is broken.

Mr Tufty: Don't worry, don't worry, I will sort things out as soon as I have finished my breakfast.

Mrs Tufty: What do you mean? What are you going to do?

Henrietta: [Emotionally] Dad, aren't you going to speak to me before you barge in and ruin my life?

Falmouth: [Barks excitedly]

Mrs Tufty: [Soothingly] Don't get upset, my precious darling. I will make sure he doesn't do anything silly.

Henrietta: Daddy, you know I love Arthur Hiran very much. His mother is jealous. That's the reason she wants to stop our marriage! She smiles and says nice things but all the time she has been planning to get me out of Arthur's life! [Sobbing]

[Pause]

Mr Tufty: [Cautiously] Henrietta, have you been in contact with Arthur since his mother's visit?

[Pause]

Henrietta?

Henrietta: Maybe just a little text message.

Mr Tufty: Oh no! A text message! What did you say?

Henrietta: I just said I missed him and looking forward to having dinner with him this evening.

Mrs Tufty: What did he say?

Henrietta: [Emotionally] He hasn't replied.

Narrator1: There was a loud knock at the front door. A few moments later, Mr Tufty's housekeeper put her head around the door.

Housekeeper: Mr Hiran is here to see you, Mr Tufty.

Narrator2: Mr Tufty got up quickly and went into the hall to meet Mr Hiran. He then took Mr Hiran

into his office to talk.

Mr Tufty's home office

Narrator2: Mr Hiran had a rather worried expression on his face.

Mr Hiran: [Seriously] It's very nice to meet you at last and sorry to disturb you at this early hour.

Mr Tufty: Don't worry, don't worry. It's very nice to make your acquaintance too. How can I help you?

Mr Hiran: I don't know if you have ever met my wife, Amenpreet. Over the last few weeks she has been behaving more and more strangely. She has not been her usual carefree self. Suddenly, this morning, she and my son Arthur have disappeared. I have called the police and I am extremely concerned. Also, this morning when I was searching through my wife's things I found this unsent letter addressed to you, Mr Tufty.

Narrator1: Mr Tufty shifted uneasily in his chair for a few moments.

Mr Tufty: I need to tell you something. Late last night, just as I was about to go to bed, Mrs Hiran appeared outside the French-doors of my games room. We spoke for a few minutes and then she left. She insisted that I shouldn't let you know about her visit.

Narrator2: Mr Hiran looked very surprised.

Mr Hiran: [Anxiously]What did she say?

Mr Tufty: She was emotional and concerned that the relationship between your son and my daughter should end.

Narrator1: Mr Tufty and Mr Hiran spoke for a few more minutes and then Mr Tufty showed Mr Hiran out and returned to the dining room where Mrs Tufty and Henrietta were still sitting.

The dining room

Mrs Tufty: What did he want?

Henrietta: Quickly, tell us!

Falmouth: Woof! Woof!

Narrator2: Mr Tufty sat down slowly and put the unopened letter in front of him on the dining room table. Henrietta's and Mrs Tufty's eyes turned towards the letter and became transfixed by it. The room became strangely quiet. Mr Tufty started to open the letter.....

Questions for the French radio drama team

1. Speculate as to what is happening. Where is Amenpreet? Where is Arthur?
2. Do you think Mr Tufty handled this morning's situation well?
3. What makes a good radio drama?
4. Are there any French radio serials?
5. Should Tufty Carpets commission this new radio drama?

Vocabulary

To barge in: interrupt, break in, burst in, butt in, impose yourself, force your way in, elbow your way in.

Swollen: larger than usual.

Sobbing: crying noisily.

Make your acquaintance: meet someone for the first time and come to know them slightly.

Transfixed: cause (someone) to become motionless with horror, wonder, or astonishment.

Mouth began to water: to cause one to salivate or feel hungry.

Web site

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