

Terry Tufty visits Halle Riser in Chicago

1 March 2021

Vocabulary

Reunion: an instance of two or more people coming together again after a period of separation.

Surgical resident: a doctor who has completed medical school and is in training for a surgical specialty.

Scrubs: sterile clothing worn by doctors and nurses during surgery, childbirth, etc.

A tall order (informal): something that is very difficult to do.

Stroll: walk in a leisurely way.

Milling about: (of a group of people) to move around with no obvious purpose.

Radiant (of a person): Someone who is radiant is so happy that their happiness shows in their face.

Formed an attachment (to someone): You are fond of them or loyal to them.

Heart nearly missed/skipped a beat (informal): someone is suddenly very surprised, excited, or nervous about something.

A romantic reunion?

Halle Riser, the younger sister of Earl-Lea, had spent several weeks with the Tufty family in Squirrels' Wood during the Covid lockdown. Terry Tufty, the Tuftys' son, was also staying and during the few weeks that he spent with Halle he had formed a strong attachment to her.

Halle had returned to her surgical residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center located on the south side of Chicago. Terry was working as an attorney at a big firm in Washington DC. Both of them were working extremely long hours and had not been able to arrange a visit.

Once Covid had finally disappeared and life was a bit calmer, Terry arranged to travel to Chicago to spend the weekend with Halle. Since she was on duty for much of Friday and Saturday, he had arranged to meet her between shifts. They had planned to have dinner together that evening at Halle's favorite Sushi restaurant in downtown Chicago.

Terry was taking a flight from Reagan National in Washington DC and he arrived at the airport earlier than expected. He noticed that an earlier flight than the one he was scheduled to take had not departed and he was able to change his ticket.

The two hour flight was uneventful and because he arrived at Chicago O'Hare International airport some time ahead of schedule, he decided to visit the Chicago Medical Center to surprise Halle.

He took the Chicago 'L' train into the centre of Chicago and then transferred to a Metra commuter train. He got out near the University of Chicago and walked across the university to the hospital. It was a beautiful spring day and he soaked up the university atmosphere. When he arrived at the medical centre and saw scores of patients, nurses and doctors milling about, he realized that finding Halle would be a tall order.

He entered the hospital and was very surprised when he immediately saw someone who looked very much like Halle sitting at a table in the café. She was wearing blue scrubs and her hair looked a little shorter than he remembered. She looked beautiful and radiant.

Terry observed her for a few moments from a distance and was about to stroll over to where Halle was sitting when he realized that she was seated opposite a slightly older male colleague, also wearing scrubs. Terry's heart nearly missed a beat when he realized that she seemed to be holding the man's hand....

Questions for discussion

1. If you were Terry, what would you do in this situation (e.g. go and say hello and introduce yourself to the other doctor, leave and try and find out who the mysterious doctor was over dinner, something else)?
2. What could the possible explanations be for Halle sitting with a colleague holding his hand?
3. Was it a good idea for Terry to visit the hospital unexpectedly?
4. Do you enjoy medical dramas on television? Why or why not? Why do you think they are so popular?

The new pronunciation challenge

I take it you already know
of tough and bough and cough and dough.
Others may stumble, but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, lough and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps.

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead – it's said like bed, not bead.
For goodness sake, don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat.
They rhyme with suite and straight and debt.

A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for pear and bear.
And then there's dose and rose and lose
Just look them up – and goose and choose.

And cork and work and card and ward.
And font and front and word and sword.
And do and go, then thwart and cart.
Come, come I've hardly made a start.

A dreadful language? Man alive,
I'd mastered it when I was five!

Attributed to T S Watt, 1954

	janvier	fevrier	mars
Intermédiaire / avancé lundi	11, 18, 25	1, 8	1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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