

A surprise for Terry

29 March 2021

Vocabulary

A spring in (one's) step (idiom): a happy, energetic, and excited mood or manner, as indicated by the carefree way one walks.

Absent-minded: someone who is absent-minded often forgets things or does not pay attention to what is happening near them because they are thinking about other things.

Dour: (usually of a person's appearance or manner) unfriendly, unhappy, and very serious.

Taciturn: tending not to speak much.

Distracted: nervous or confused because someone is worried about something.

Brusque: quick and rude in manner or speech.

Overdrive: a state of great activity, effort, or hard work.

Broach: to begin a discussion of something difficult.

Actiq: a fentanyl brand name. Comes as a lozenge on a plastic stick administered under the tongue like a lollipop.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BG7okTLfS7w>

Terry had a flight booked for the early evening on the Sunday to return back to DC. He and Halle had arranged to have lunch together after which Terry would make his way to the airport.

It was a beautiful day and Terry decided to have a walk around Chicago zoo before meeting Halle. After the time he had spent with Halle the previous evening he had a 'spring in his step' and he was excited to be with her.

When he had finished walking around the zoo he headed back to his hotel to check out. The process was a lot more efficient than he had anticipated and he was ready about thirty minutes before he was due to leave to meet Halle at the *San Soo Gab San* Korean restaurant in Lincoln Square.

While sitting in the hotel lobby, he absent-mindedly looked at his phone and then suddenly remembered the mysterious boxes of medicine he had seen in Halle's purse. He remembered one of them, *Actiq*, and so he searched for it in a web browser on his smart phone.

He was surprised to find that *Actiq* was a brand of fentanyl, a medicine that he had heard of. He put aside his thoughts and persuaded himself that there was a perfectly innocent explanation.

The couple arrived at the restaurant at almost the same time. Terry tried to hug Halle but she seemed to have other things on her mind and the encounter was rather awkward. Yesterday she was smiling and happy she now seemed to be dour, taciturn and distracted.

"Is there anything on your mind, Halle?"

"No, why do you ask? I'm just tired and I have so much work to do at the hospital. Can we order, I don't have all day."

Her tone was brusque and she was not conveying, at all, the sort of warmth that she had the night before. It was almost like she was not the same person. She kept looking at her watch every few minutes. This was not the Halle that Terry remembered from Squirrels' Wood.

His mind started going into overdrive. Perhaps Halle has started taking fentanyl?

Halle got up to visit the bathroom and Terry took the opportunity to search the web for the side effects of fentanyl use. The list included: weight loss, difficulty urinating, anxiety, depression, difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep, dry mouth, and sudden reddening of the face, neck, or upper chest.

When Halle returned from the bathroom about fifteen minutes later, Terry realized that she could have some serious issues. But what should he do? He knew that the theft of controlled medications could

end Halle's promising medical career. He also knew that someone struggling with an addiction could die of an overdose. On the other hand, falsely accusing Halle of something that was not true could result in the end of their relationship.

Terry leaned across the table and said, in a serious voice: " "

Questions for discussion

1. How could Terry broach the subject of the medicines he saw in Halle's purse? How can he explain how he accidentally looked in her purse?
2. If Halle admitted to a problem how could Terry force Halle to be accountable to him (for example, she could tell him that she is having treatment, which is not actually true)?
3. If Halle denied that there was a problem how could Terry make sure that Halle received treatment without wrecking her career?
4. Think of some perfectly innocent explanations as to why Halle might have had the medicines in her purse?
5. Should Terry avoid taking action because Halle is sensible and mature and would not let herself get into trouble?

The 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