

MARCUS SHAKES HIS HAND

MARCUS: I'm Marcus, Marcus Hive.

JOHN CONSULTS A SHEET OF PAPER

JOHN: Ah yes, you are on the list.

MARCUS: And this is my brother, Julian; and his good lady wife Sonya!

JOHN LOOKS AT JULIAN AND THEN AT SONYA.

JOHN: Wife?

MARCUS: Wife.

JOHN: I'm sorry. I thought, for a moment, that you said "wife".

MARCUS: I did, Sonya is Julian's wife.

JOHN: Wife.

SONYA: Wife.

JULIAN: Is there an echo in here? Yes, "wife". Is there a problem?

JOHN: No, of course not.

JOHN CHECKS HIS PAPER AGAIN.

Yes, that all seems to be in order. You are the first guests to arrive. Alice, here, will help you take your luggage to your rooms then I would ask if you would be so kind to reconvene in here at eight o'clock.

SONYA: Luggage? Rooms? You're not expecting us to stay here, are you?

JOHN: Of course. It was made quite clear in the letter I sent you, in my capacity as executor of Mrs. Hive's will. In order for anyone to be entitled to what is set down in your mother's will, you must all first spend the night here.

SONYA: Spend the night? Well, I can't do that.

JOHN: I can assure you there are plenty of bedrooms here.

JULIAN: Come on Sonya... it's only one night.

SONYA: I can't.

JULIAN: Why not? What's the problem?

SONYA: Knickers.

MARCUS: Well, there's no need to be like that.

SONYA: No... I haven't got any change of clothes.

JULIAN: But it's only one night!

SONYA: I am not a fourteen-year-old boy. I am not wearing the same pair of knickers for two days in a row.

MARCUS: You could turn them inside out.

SONYA: Don't be disgusting.

JULIAN: May I suggest an alternative solution?

SONYA: Alternative?

JULIAN: You know.

JULIAN GIVES SONYA A KNOWING LOOK AND GESTURES WITH HIS HEAD.

SONYA: No.

JULIAN: It's only for one night.

SONYA: There is no way am I am going commando.

JOHN: Er, may I interject...?.

SONYA: What's that?

JOHN: Well, Alice here lives in the house, a sort of live-in home help.