

A Slight Inconvenience

a play in one act

by Margaret Kynaston

Published by
Drama Association of Wales
Registered Charity Number: 502186

A Slight Inconvenience by Margaret Kynaston

© 2002 by Margaret Kynaston

The play was first performed by Dolfor Drama Group
at Theatr Clera, Welshpool, Powys
on Saturday 20 April 2002.

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| Iris | : | Hazel Francis |
| Dora | : | Olive Jones |
| Liz | : | Fiona Williams |
| Carolyn | : | Sylvia Dutton |
| April | : | Clare Jones |
| Lilian | : | Jean Jones |

Directed by Margaret Kynaston

Note: NO PERFORMANCE MAY BE GIVEN WITHOUT A LICENCE

Performance Fee Code: Ch

This Play is fully protected under world copyright
A licence for public reading or performance
must be obtained in advance
from the publishers:

Drama Association of Wales/Cymdeithas Ddrama Cymru
Unit 2, The Maltings
East Tyndall Street,
Cardiff CF24 5EA
WALES
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)29 2045 2200
E-mail: info@dramawales.org.uk
www.dramawales.org.uk

ISBN: 978-1-898740-71-2

A **Drama Association of Wales** Publication
Printed in Wales by DAW

Cast:

Iris A cleaning-lady middle-aged, garrulous, gossipy, aggressive.
Dora A tea-lady middle-aged, gossipy, dour and unhelpful.
Liz A typist 30s-40s attractive and chatty but a bit dim.
Carolyn Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive. Smart, in her 40s, brisk and efficient. Confident and self-possessed.
April 20s, smart and attractive, self-assured.
Lilian Carolyn's Mum. 60s, gossipy, relaxed, at ease with everyone, a talker.

Time: The present
Setting: The PA's office of a large company

A reception office. A desk and chair, some plants, a couple of telephones and an intercom if possible, some easy chairs for clients to wait in. IRIS the cleaner and DORA the tea lady are gossiping to LIZ a typist from a different office who has just popped in to waste some time.

IRIS: So I said to him I said, look I said. Don't come it with me I said and he said I'm not coming it with anybody and I said oh yes you are I said...

DORA: He always does...

IRIS: What?

DORA: Come it with people.

LIZ: What do you mean "come it"?

IRIS: Ssh you'll make me lose me thread...

DORA: Go on then what happened next?

LIZ: Ooh it's just like "Question of Sport"

DORA: You what?

LIZ: You know "Question of Sport – what happened next?". They stop the film and you have to guess what happened next...

IRIS: Do you actually want to know what happened next?

DORA: Well yeah.

IRIS: Well shut up then.

DORA: Sorry. It was her.

IRIS: Anyway I said to him I said don't think you can come it with me I said because you can't I said. I said I've been here for years I said and I've seen things I wouldn't care to repeat in polite company, I said...

LIZ: What did he say to that?

IRIS: He said be that as it may, Mrs Winterbourne, he said but I am still the Managing Director he said and I'd like you to Hoover my office please...

DORA: He never!

IRIS: He did! So I looked at him and I said that's as may be I said but I said I don't Hoover on a Wednesday because the bag doesn't get changed till Thursday I said so I said I'll Hoover you tomorrow I said and that's me drunk or sober I said...

DORA: You never!

IRIS: I did!

LIZ: So did you Hoover him or not?

IRIS: Yes. But not till Thursday. I wouldn't have said anything if he hadn't tried to come it with me...

LIZ: What do you mean "come it"?

(ENTER CAROLYN. SHE IS SMART, IN HER 40's AND IS OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY BRASSED OFF AT FINDING ALL THESE BODIES IN HER OFFICE. IRIS, DORA AND LIZ SPRING UP AND TRY TO LOOK BUSY)

C'LYN: Good morning ladies, Can I help?

DORA: Tea Miss Bennett?

C'LYN: Tea Dora? It's nine o'clock in the morning. Tea break isn't until ten-thirty.

DORA: Well I just thought you might like...

C'LYN: Dora, don't even start... You found my office empty, word went round on the jungle tom-tom and hey presto...! The rest of the coven arrived for a quick skive-in...

LIZ: I'm not skiving! I've come to use the photocopier.

(CAROLYN POINTEDLY LOOKS AROUND THE OFFICE FOR THE PHOTOCOPIER)

C'LYN: Sorry Liz but we don't appear to have one in here. You'll have to use the one in the corridor.

(EXIT LIZ, MAKING GESTURES TO CAROLYN'S BACK AS SHE GOES. CAROLYN HOMES IN ON DORA WHO PUSHES HER TROLLEY OUT SLOWLY WITH DELIBERATION. AFTER DORA'S EXIT CAROLYN FOCUSES ON IRIS, WHO STANDS FIRM)

Was there something Iris?

IRIS: I need to clean in here.

C'LYN: No you don't.

IRIS: Yes I do.

C'LYN: No you don't! In the first place it doesn't need cleaning. In the second place it's supposed to be cleaned before the office staff get here... which is for your information, before 8.30... and in the third place... just go away I've got work to do.

IRIS: Now look here Miss Bennett. Don't you come it with me. I've been here for more years than I care to remember...

C'LYN: Iris, you've been here for eighteen months. If you want to make it to nineteen I suggest you go and find somewhere that actually needs cleaning.

IRIS: I don't have to take this from you, you know...

C'LYN: Yes you do, I'm the personnel officer, now take your hoover and hop it before I put you on report!

(IRIS GATHERS UP HER GEAR AND EXITS)

IRIS: (PUTTING HER HEAD ROUND THE DOOR) And if you think I'm putting in for your birthday present you can think again!

(IRIS GOES AS THE PHONE BEGINS TO RING)

C'LYN: (IN TO PHONE) Hello Michael... Er... not too bad... (LEAFING THROUGH HER DIARY) Three appointments this morning... You're meeting your wife for lunch at twelve thirty... Oh, don't forget it's your anniversary on Friday. I've ordered some flowers to be sent. Not at all... Then this afternoon is clear until three, when you're meeting Mr Armstrong from Planning... Your first appointment's at nine... a Miss York. No, I'm afraid I don't know what it's about. No, she's not here yet... Yes fine, I'll do that... (SHE PUTS THE PHONE DOWN)

Margaret Kynaston

has been actively involved in amateur theatre for ten years. She wrote her first play, an all-female comedy set in a maternity ward, entitled: *All Labour in Vain* which was commended in the Geoffrey Whitworth Competition, 1999. In 2000 her second play *Loony Tunes* was runner-up for the DAW Crawshay Cup awarded for the Best Original Script premiered in the Wales One Act Festival rounds. *A Slight Inconvenience* won the DAW Crawshay Cup for 2002.

A Slight Inconvenience

Carolyn, a smart and self-possessed Personal Assistant has enough to put up with in her busy office what with inquisitive tea ladies, truculent cleaners and dippy typists to say nothing of an unwanted visit from her loud, insensitive mother. When newly pregnant April turns up at the office demanding to see Carolyn's boss as she has "something truly amazing and staggering" to tell him, Carolyn thinks the day could not possibly get any worse. But it rapidly does...

Drama Association of Wales

Exists to provide opportunities for people to be creatively involved in drama, which is fun, and of a high standard. The Association runs the world's largest drama hire service and sends scripts and theatre books to members worldwide. As well as the library service, the Drama Association runs training courses and festivals and provides many other services for drama lovers. As a key function, the Association stimulates and publishes new playwriting.



ISBN: 978-1-898740-38-0

**A COPY OF THIS SCRIPT IS AVAILABLE TO
PURCHASE BY TELEPHONE 029 2045 2200 or EMAIL**

teresa@dramawales.org.uk leon@dramawales.org.uk

DO NOT COPY