

Bourne
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creative writing
workshops

Together

by Chris Baker

Together we, that is the laden breakfast trolley and me, went up alone in the lift and stopped at the second floor. I was to take breakfast to Room 213.

“Room 213 is to the right of the lift about half way down the corridor. If you meet a guest, allow them to pass and greet them with a friendly Good morning Sir or Madam But you probably won’t see anyone, not at this hour”.

Even if anyone had been up and about, no one would have known. The hotel is huge, built in another age.

My trolley sank into pile of the carpet, as if we were in snow, muffling my footsteps. I didn’t see anyone. Room 205, 207, 209, 211 I went past each – were they occupied? Who pays £500 per night? Folk with lots more money than me. This was my first breakfast delivery on my own. I had joined the staff three days before. I was rather proud of my uniform. I knew that I looked smart. Room 213, at last. “Room service”, I announced, after knocking. No answer. I knocked again, a little more assertively.

“Come in”. It was like being in a film. The curtains were closed and the bedside lights were on. Wheeling the trolley to the centre of the opulent room, I asked should I open the curtains? Adding, helpfully I thought, that it was a bright sunny morning. It was a Sunday morning little traffic was moving in Arlington Street at this hour.

“Do, yes please. That’s so kind.” the voice purred sleepily. As I moved to the window and reached up to draw the heavily swagged curtains, I felt that I was being watched. I felt a little uncomfortable. I hadn’t expected this.

As the curtains slid back I heard over my shoulder, in the same sleepy tones, *“You’re my dream and I plan to sleep forever.”* Mmm, sounds interesting I thought to myself.

This was no dream. I wanted to leave. No end of trouble could come out of this. I could be out of a job before I had started!! Turning to leave the breakfast trolley between me and the bed, I noticed someone else's feet exposed as the duvet was pulled up.

“ Thank you, Please do take the coins on the corner of the desk.”