

# Bourne toWrite... creative writing workshops

## Finding the right man for the job

by Lesley Dawson

“What do you think?”

“I’m not sure. Can he do the job?”

“I didn’t contact him until we had spoken”

“The date is ok, but is he up to the job?”

“He is the son of mother’s best friend, so of course mum swears by him”

“That doesn’t convince me somehow”

“What would convince you?”

“I suppose I am looking for a professional reference from someone for whom he has done a good job”

“I know he is on Check a Trade. I was looking for a plumber and my glance strayed down the page to other professions, where I found his name”

“They do say that it is easy to get your name on that website. All you need to do is persuade some gullible client that you did a good job when you put in a new shower head or changed a light bulb”

“It sounds to me that you want the Archangel Gabriel, you are expecting so much”

“He would be great, but do you think he can work at this level?”

“He can certainly make a big splash, but somehow I don’t think he will be available”

“So shall we ask your mother’s best friend’s son, or not?”

“Why not? We don’t have anybody else in mind”

Later.....

“What did you think to Duncan?”

“Who’s Duncan? And what was I supposed to think about hm?”

“Duncan, who is mum’s best friend’s son”

“Ah yes, him”

“Well?”

“He is free that date and I am convinced he can do the job properly, but...”

“Why the ‘but’ if he is available and competent?”

“I had a message from him to say his little boy had been sent home from school because a girl in his class had caught Covid. Now the whole family has to isolate for seven days”

“Have you had a lateral flow test?”

“Why?”

“You have been in contact with him, so you might have caught it too”

“Oh, is it catching? I thought if I had all the vaccinations, I would be ok”

“You shouldn’t even be in this room with us, mate, unless you have had a negative lateral flow test”

“Somebody, open the windows quickly”

“Why are you making such a fuss? I think you are overreacting”

“If we are pinged on the NHS app, we may all have to stay at home because of this”

“That would be nice if I didn’t have to go to work. I could get my patio finished”

“That’s all very well for you. You will still get paid by your employer. I am self-employed. If I don’t work, I don’t earn. If I don’t earn, my family don’t get fed. Joyce will die of shame if she has to apply to the Food Bank again”

“I still think you are making a lot of fuss over nothing. You don’t even know if I am infected. I don’t have any symptoms”

“Are you so stupid that you don’t know that you can be symptom-free and still pass it on? You may be my brother, but I want you to get out of my house and not come back”