

NOTES TO THE BUILDER

Monday, 15th June, 7.00 pm

For the Attention of the Builder

When your employer stated that you would be starting work on my en-suite bathroom early this Monday morning, and, as I am out at work in the daytime, you would require a key, I had no concerns. I could, of course, imagine the situation arising whereby you might need to leave and re-enter the flat.

However, as you will no doubt recall, at 7.15 this morning, when going from my bedroom to the existing bathroom at the other end of my landing, I was highly shocked and alarmed, to find you lurking and smirking in front of my bathroom door. Even when you finally had the decency to throw me a small towel from the pile on the landing table, in order for me to cover my embarrassment, you still failed to inform me that I was positioned in front of the landing mirror, thus rendering you a full length, uninterrupted view of the entire uncovered, rear section of my anatomy.

On reflection, (absolutely no pun intended) I can't imagine how I was foolish enough to have assumed you were genuinely interested in the relative aesthetic value of having the en-suite tiles laid horizontally as opposed to vertically as specified in my requirements. I still don't understand why I did not, at that time, question your motive for seeking to discuss this for a full five minutes!

You will understand therefore, that in future I require you to ring the doorbell when you arrive in the morning, then WAIT to be admitted. Needless to say, I shall be

up, dressed and ready before 7.30 tomorrow. Also, please be aware that I have sellotaped my lingerie drawers in such a way that I shall know if they have been tampered with in any way.

Please confine any temporary mess to the area of the new en-suite. I do NOT want any brick dust or plumbers sticky tape trodden into my bedroom carpet. Also, please adhere rigidly to my instructions for the work. I designed the room with meticulous care and will not accept any deviation from my plans, nor will I accept, without compensation, any exceeding of the agreed completion date. Having builders in one's home is inconvenient enough, without prolonging the disruption beyond the date agreed and contracted.

Also concerning disruption, I do not wish to come home to any signs that you have been consuming food in my kitchen. Should you wish to bring a flask of tea or a sandwich for a lunchtime snack, please consume these items in the garden, and remove any resultant litter.

Rest assured I shall be informing your employer, Mr. Bailey, of the above mentioned incident. I feel certain he would want to be made aware of the calibre of men he employs. And please understand, it is a mistake to imagine that women under thirty are all helpless girlies who cannot identify and reject inferior workmanship.

Tuesday, 16th. 8.00 pm

Dear Mr. Builder

I am sorry I was not at home this morning, I was unexpectedly required to attend a meeting in town and had to leave home around 7.00 a.m. It will most likely

be the same arrangement on Wednesday and Thursday.

I hope you didn't stand knocking on the door for too long before using the key to gain entry, especially in this morning's driving rain.

Thank you for the apology note and the flowers and also for leaving my flat clean and tidy. Apart from the new walls I would hardly know anyone had been working here.

I did phone to speak to your employer about yesterday but he was out. I left a message, but when I speak to him tomorrow morning, I will mention your apology and the flowers you left for me. I will explain that yesterday's incident was unfortunate but, I believe, accidental and that so far you are doing a reasonable job on the en-suite. On Friday I am at home all day so I will see you then to discuss any problems you may have understanding my requirements.

Julia Westwood.

Thursday 18th 7.00 a.m.

Dear Edward,

I phoned your 'employer' yesterday. We had a chat about Monday's unfortunate incident and misunderstanding regarding starting times, keys, towels, and mirrors etc, and he also apologised for the incident, although I do feel I detected a degree of mirth in his tone.

However, he reassured me as to your character, indeed he seems to be quite a fan, and he told me of the high

standards to which you work. He said that your CV sites your college studies in Art and Design , and that you have lots of innovative ideas on the subject of functional interiors. He also told me of the complimentary things you had said about my own design ideas as discussed on Monday morning. It quite made me blush, all over again! He also told me your name - hence my use of it at the beginning of this note.

I have a day off work tomorrow (Friday), so I shall see you then, in the morning, (fully dressed this time), and maybe we will be able to discuss further your ideas on décor, especially for the rest of my flat. I will be there to make morning coffee and afternoon tea and will be happy to make you a lunchtime sandwich, should you wish.

Best Regards, Julia

Monday 22nd , 6.00 am

My Darling Teddy

What a wonderful weekend! So sorry I have to slip away before you are awake, but if I am to be on time for my conference, I have to catch the 6.45 train.

Thank you so much for the fabulous meal we had last night, and, as discussed in the restaurant, I agree that your revised layout for the en-suite makes complete sense, so please go ahead with everything you suggested. Just let your Dad know there are changes to the plans. By the way, I do think you could have let me know a bit earlier that you were the boss's son, I suppose I should have guessed, considering his glowing reference regarding your personal integrity and his

intimate knowledge of your education.

I loved all your ideas for the further renovation of the flat and look forward to having you around for - well who knows how long?

Have a good day, My darling, don't work too hard, and help yourself to anything you want from the cupboards and fridge. I'll bring in some steak and fresh salad for this evening.

Goodbye, till tonight, my cuddly Teddy,

Love and kisses,

Julia

P.S. Have not renewed the sellotape on my undies drawer - There doesn't seem to be a point any more.