

Stories for Lipreading



ON A ROLL by Gill Rogers.

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]
Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this short, autobiographical story which is called 'On A Roll' by Gill Rogers.

On A Roll by Gill Rogers.

My friend Mary is a professional violinist, playing with a well-known London orchestra.

As you probably know, to 'make it big' in the world of music is very rare, and most musicians earn very little. Sometimes they supplement their income by doing things like teaching or playing in pubs and clubs in their spare time.

Mary signed on with a musicians' agency. The agency provided substitutes at short notice for bands and orchestras. This was usually because of illness. They also provided musicians to play for TV adverts. It was surprising how often this happened, and it was certainly beneficial to Mary's bank balance.

One day in December, Mary had a call from the agency. Could she get to a nearby recording studio that morning to record music for a TV advert? She was free until that evening's concert at the Royal Albert Hall, so off she went, not having a clue what she would be playing or what the advert was for.

One of the perks of recording adverts was that everyone usually got free samples of the product being advertised. This was fantastic if was something like luxurious perfume. Not so good if it was dog flea treatment or anti-odour insoles for shoes. The advert today was for toilet rolls!

Anyway, she arrived at the studio with her violin and was asked to fill out a form so that they could pay her. As well as filling in her name, address and bank details, one of the questions on the form was 'How many toilet rolls would you like?' Not wanting to appear greedy, she put 'five', thinking they were probably the ones in packs of nine, like you get in a supermarket. That wasn't too much to ask for, was it?

The day progressed well. The music was straightforward and Mary was pleased with her performance. She knew one of the other musicians well, and they enjoyed a lot of banter about loo rolls. They finished recording and Mary went home to change before heading out to her concert. What a lovely day she had had.

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She had forgotten about expecting a delivery of toilet rolls until a week or so later when there was a knock at her door. She opened the door to see a large lorry outside and a forklift truck busily working at the back. The driver asked her to 'Sign here, please' and then said 'Where do you want them?'

Mary stood rooted to the spot. Yes, she had asked for five samples. What she had failed to spot on the form was that the samples were in pallet loads, and here, coming up her driveway, were 4,500 loo rolls.

Well..... Christmas was coming.