



WORDS OF WISDOM by S. Bee.

[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 story, which is called 'Words of Wisdom' by S. Bee.

Words of Wisdom by S. Bee.

'How's things?' Jill asked.

Kate shrugged. 'Fine.'

Things weren't fine, but Kate had no intention of confiding in Jill. After all, Kate had only met her once before – exactly a year ago today, in fact, at the motivational talk. The speaker had been a charismatic businesswoman called Eleanor Craven.

Kate's mind flew back. She'd eagerly hung onto Eleanor's every word. At lunchtime, Kate had found herself in the queue next to Jill.

'What do you think of the talk so far?' she had asked. Kate didn't usually talk to strangers, but after listening to Eleanor, she felt rather upbeat.

Jill shrugged. 'To be honest with you, I only came in to get out of the rain.'

'Did you? I'm Kate, by the way.'

'I'm Jill. As for the talk – well, Eleanor certainly makes a good impression.'

'You sound cynical', Kate said.

Jill pulled a face. 'These sorts of talks are basic pick-me-ups, aren't they?'

Kate was taken aback. 'How can you say that? It's life-changing!'

'How is Eleanor's speech going to change your life?'

'I don't know yet,' she spluttered. 'But I'll be buying Eleanor's book later. Will you stay for the second half of her talk, Jill? It's free.'

'Is it still raining?' Jill asked.

Kate looked out of the window.

'Pouring down.'

So Jill stayed.

By the time the talk had ended, Kate had been fired up with enthusiasm. All sorts of plans buzzed around her head. She was determined to kick-start a brand new enterprise!

Contact: info@storiesforlipreading.org.uk

©2019, Stories for Lipreading and the author. All rights reserved.



Now, one year later, back at the conference centre, Kate wasn't sure why she had bothered to come to this anniversary catch-up event. All her hopes and dreams had come to nothing. She had been surprised to see Jill there.

'Do you fancy a coffee?' Jill asked.

Kate nodded.

While Jill went to the cafe counter, it gave Kate time to reflect. The vintage jewellery idea had flopped, the sandwich delivery business hadn't got off the ground and the online art concept had sunk without a trace. She had eventually taken her parents' advice and found a 'proper job' - one which bored her to tears. To relieve the boredom, she had started an anonymous blog. She called it 'The extremely tedious life of an office girl'.

As Jill returned with the coffees, Kate wondered why her new acquaintance was here today. After all, it wasn't raining!

'How's your year been?' she asked.

'Good,' Jill answered. 'I've been working on a project.'

Kate took a sip of her coffee. 'Sounds interesting.'

'Yes, the second half of Eleanor's talk made quite an impact on me,' Jill admitted, 'so I bought her book. It really inspired me to create and innovate,' Jill went on. 'Energise and focus.'

Kate recognised Eleanor's motivational jargon.

'So I wrote a self-help book of my own! It's called 'Words of Wisdom.' It's selling really well. I've set up a website and an app, too.'

Jill paused.

'I don't suppose you know anyone who's good with social media? I need someone to help promote the book,' she explained.

Kate took a deep breath, recalling the confidence techniques from Eleanor's talk.

'Well, I'm excellent on social media platforms,' Kate replied. 'Oh, and I blog too. Have you heard of 'The extremely tedious life of an office girl'? Well, that's me.'

'So that funny writer is you?' Jill was amazed. 'I guess I've found the perfect person for the job!

You're hired!'

Kate's heart lifted. What a turnaround! The day had begun badly - yet Eleanor's words had turned out to be life-changing after all!