

Early morning, May, the first 1851

Crystal Palace, London

Here it is, this is my first day, I am THE housekeeper chief of the great exhibition. Can you believe it? I now work at the first great exhibition ever ! I don't think that you can understand my enthusiasm, but it's fantastic! Thanks to my job, I could meet great people from across the whole world : some important personalities, like the Queen or many aristocrats! I don't know but maybe the Queen will come here and I might actually see her! Oh my God, I'm so excited, I feel magic! Dear descendents, you're probably curious as to how I got the tremendous job which helped me handle the overseeing of the smooth running of the first great exhibition of the world! Well, I'm glad you're reading my logbook, my dear progeny, because I'm really happy to explain to you why I'm here and what I do during the great exhibition.

To be honest, it's not a wonderful story like you might have heard. Well, I had lost my job and at that time I was staying at home all day long while my wife was working as hard as she could to keep us alive. Fortunately, I read the newspapers and there was something great for us, but especially for me. I was really euphoric thanks to the job part. I read that some people were searching for a caretaker and since I was unemployed, I decided to apply for the job.

And here it is ! I am right in front of the widely known Crystal Palace. This building is so tremendous ! It's unbelievable. I don't know if you have heard about this coincidence, but I find it kind of funny. I did some research about the Crystal Palace and the first great exhibition and I found out that the Crystal Palace is 1.851 feet long and the year of the Great exhibition happened in 1851. Don't you find it hilarious ? What's more, it covers more than seventeen acres. It's just gargantuan ! A voice which came from the building said to me : "Don't stay in front of the doorway. Come on ! Push the door ! Come inside this wonderful place !". It was quite magical ! When I entered the gigantic monument, I discovered the magnificence of the Crystal

Palace. I was overwhelmed by all the splendours which were inside the building. After a few minutes, the main chiefs of the exhibition came over to me and gave me a warm welcome to the Crystal Palace. They then explained to me they were in trouble because the initial housekeeper resigned. After an interview, I got the job thanks to my caretaker skills.

Today is the great day! I have to handle the great exhibition! It will start in a few minutes. However, I chose to take thirty minutes to look around the property before the first visitors' arrival. Indeed, I don't want to be overtaken by events on my first working day. I walked down the great hall, my footsteps echoing around the large, empty space. As I walked back out the doors, I started down the path leading me around the palace. I could see the sun gleaming off of every windowpane and could hear the flags flapping in the light morning breeze. It took me twenty minutes to walk around the whole Palace so I went back inside for a while.

From my walk, I could see that this is an amazing building and a wonderful venue for the exhibition, and we can assert that there is no better place. On each of the stands, there are inventions and innovations from all around the world. During my walk, I could see stands from Canada, Turkey, China, Russia, etc... It was amazing! I will meet people from countries that seem so far away, especially for me, who has never left the United Kingdom. Many of the inventions are extremely revolutionary and may shape the future we will live in. For example, I saw something incredible; It's a bike for postmen, with a strange catapult that launches mail. I stayed speechless in front of this stand, like it was the best idea I had heard for the last decade! However, I realised that I had to go and work because the first visitors were just arriving.

My first task will be to welcome the Queen's visitors and guests. My boss gave me a list of people that I have to greet. In this list there are really famous personalities, like Lewis Carroll, Charles Dicken, the French scientist Louis Pasteur, Charles Darwin, Alexander Graham Bell, Arthur Conan Doyle, Michael Faraday and so many more.

Later, same day

My first visitors were honestly quite corpulent, but were nice. They wore gorgeous clothes, and sumptuous hats : they looked like authentic aristocrats but I noticed from their speech and manners that they were from a middle class rather than real aristocrats.

The morning was quite busy, some visitors were not very nice, but in general it was quiet and pleasant. We had an hour break for lunch, so we decided to go to eat with the other housekeepers before the second part of the day. After this enjoyable hour I came back to work happy and carefree, not knowing that the worst was still in front of me. When I came back from lunch, I saw a conflict in the big hall. At first I wanted to eschew the conflict, but then I remembered that it was my task to interfere in the fight. The fight was already attracting a large crowd, so I jumped into the scuffle and tried to pull apart the two young men. When calmness was restored, the crowd instantly dispersed.

I took the two belligerents apart to speak with them, as a mum does with two children, to listen to their version of the story. The first one explained to me that the other one had pushed him against the stairs. He said that he flew into a fury, when he saw his torn suit and hit the second one. The other one, answered back with a kick in the abdomen, and then the war was declared, they hit one after the other, with more and more violence as the fight moved forward.

I arrived to put an end to the battle. It seemed to me that a fight for a suit was a little bit excessive, but I have seen so many things that nothing impresses me anymore. So I asked the second belligerent to tell me his version. He told me roughly the same story but instead of him pushing the first man, he added that he was nudged and accidentally fell on him. They waited impatiently for me to return my verdict.

I finally told them that this was probably just a big misunderstanding and if this situation repeated, I shall call the security and they would be in big trouble! They left looking very scared and I knew that I had done the right thing.

I decided to get back to my activities as it was getting late. After I glanced at the clock, I realised that it was almost the end of the day but I still had so much work to do! It didn't matter, I would procrastinate because I hadn't even seen the Queen yet! I packed my bags and left in search for Her Majesty the Queen Victoria, diamond of the exhibition!