Test Your Speaking & Listening Skills

Role Playing - Family

2. My dad's new girlfriend

Scene: *Liam and Harriet are friends. They are at a bus stop having a chat. Harriet looks upset about something . . .*

Liam: So, are you going to tell me what's the matter?

Harriet: Well, it's about my dad.

Liam: Yes. What about him?

Harriet: You know my parents are getting divorced?

Liam: Yes. You told me about it the other week.

Harriet: I met his new girlfriend the other day.

Liam: Really? Your dad's got a girlfriend?

Harriet: Yes. That's the main reason they're getting divorced.

Liam: Oh. I see. So what was she like? Did you speak to her?

Harriet: Yes. I met them by accident. Dad has always kept her a secret. I saw them when I was in town last Friday so I had to say hello to her.

Liam: What does she look like?

Harriet: She's blonde and quite pretty. About twenty years younger than my dad. It was very embarrassing. I didn't know what to say to them.

Liam: I bet you didn't. So what happened?

Harriet: My dad introduced her. He said, "This is my friend Melanie." I can't believe he called her his 'friend'. We all know she's been his girlfriend for the past three months.

Liam: So what did you say? Were you polite, or did you lose it?

Harriet: I was calm. I was very polite. I just said, "Hello. Nice to meet you." That sort of thing. Afterwards I was angry. My mum is still pretty upset about the divorce, and there was dad, showing off his mistress.

Liam: She's young enough to be his daughter, isn't she? I wonder what she's doing with him. She probably sees him as a sort of father-figure.

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Harriet: Well that might be the case, but he's *my* father and I want him to start acting like one. I just can't see what they've got in common. What do you think?

Liam: I don't know. Maybe he's having a mid-life crisis. I wonder what your mum will say. Are you going to tell her?

Harriet: I'm not sure. She'll be really upset. I don't know whether to tell her or not. (Pause) They invited me round for a meal next Wednesday. Do you think I should go?

Liam: It's up to you.