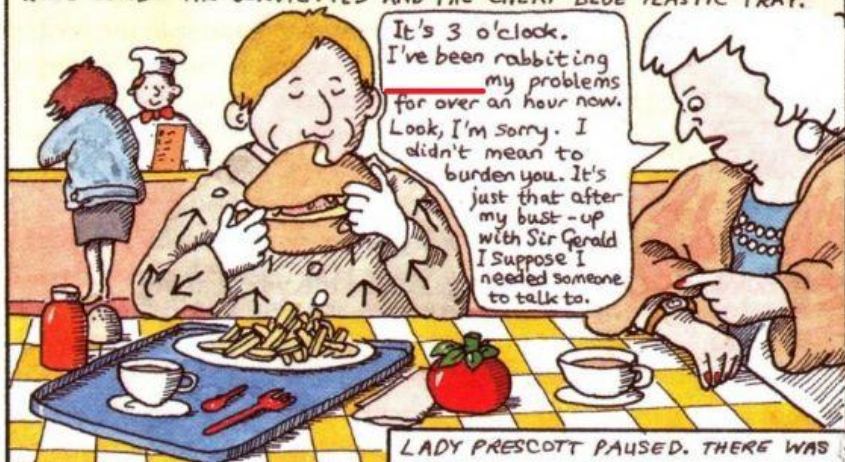


CHAPTER TEN

LADY PRESCOTT WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE FOOD. IT WAS DEFINITELY THE BEST BURGER THAT FREDERICK HAD EVER TASTED. BUT THAT WAS HARDLY SURPRISING. HE WAS SO HUNGRY THAT HE COULD HAVE EATEN THE SERVIETTES AND THE CHEAP BLUE PLASTIC TRAY.



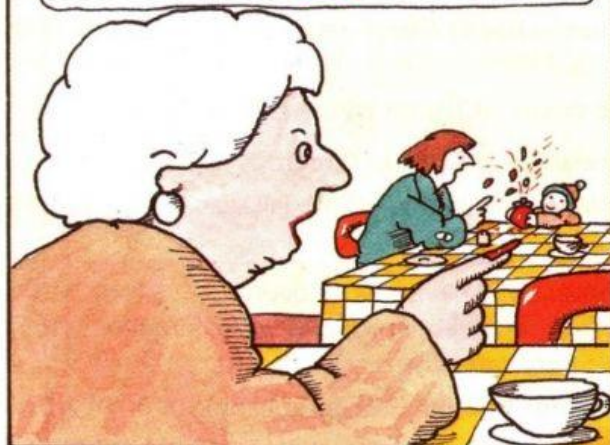
It's 3 o'clock. I've been rabbiting my problems for over an hour now. Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to burden you. It's just that after my bust-up with Sir Gerald I suppose I needed someone to talk to.

LADY PRESCOTT PAUSED. THERE WAS SOMETHING ON HER MIND.

Mr. Carruthers, I want to ask you a question. When I drove _____ that layby you were standing _____ with your hands in your pockets looking like a down-and-out.



But you have an honest, kindly face and you're obviously an intelligent man. So how did you end _____ like that?



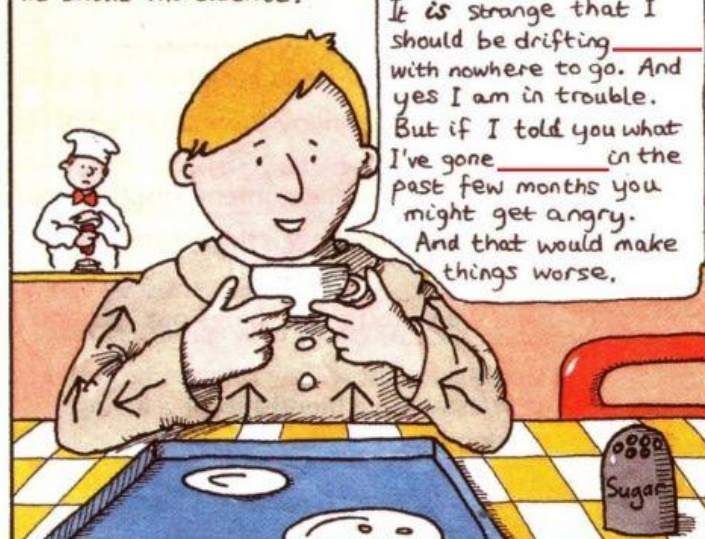
There must be something wrong. And I think it's time for you to tell me the truth. Why were you wandering _____ near the motorway with no money in your pocket and those very strange clothes?



FREDERICK SAID NOTHING. HE LOOKED _____ AT THE TABLE AND STIRRED HIS COFFEE WITH A SPOON.

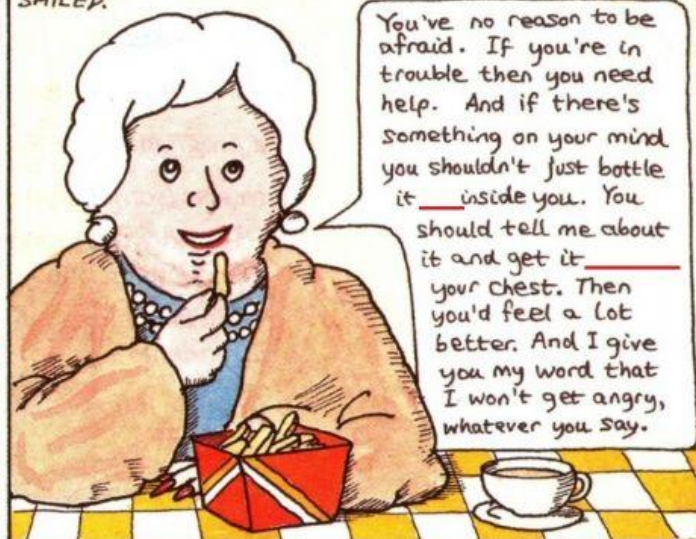
HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. HE WANTED TO EXPLAIN THINGS BUT HE WASN'T SURE WHETHER HE COULD TRUST LADY PRESCOTT. AFTER ALL, SHE WAS THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE PRISON HE'D JUST ESCAPED FROM. IF SHE FOUND _____ THAT HE WAS A CONVICT ON THE RUN PERHAPS SHE'D TURN HIM _____ AND THEN HE MIGHT END _____ IN CELL 269 AGAIN.

FREDERICK LOOKED _____ HE BROKE THE SILENCE.



You're right of course. It is strange that I should be drifting _____ with nowhere to go. And yes I am in trouble. But if I told you what I've gone _____ in the past few months you might get angry. And that would make things worse.

LADY PRESCOTT FINISHED _____ HER FRENCH FRIES AND SMILED.



You've no reason to be afraid. If you're in trouble then you need help. And if there's something on your mind you shouldn't just bottle it _____ inside you. You should tell me about it and get it _____ your chest. Then you'd feel a lot better. And I give you my word that I won't get angry, whatever you say.