

***The Girl I Left Behind* – Characters**

The I-narrator

The I-narrator is an employee of Mark Letter's. (219)

Her boss' mood swings "roused [her] resentment". (219)

"[His moods] used to jar [her]." (220)

"[She] still felt put out by the urgency" (220)

She is sure to have "left something important behind [her] or some job incom-
pleted at the office". (219)

She feels "tired" (219); "tired as I was" (222)

"[She] felt terribly old for my twenty-two years." (220)

She is "absentmindedly" (221).

She has got a sister. (222)

Hints to the narrator's depression

She has suffered a "long illness" and the job is "experience" to her now. (219)

There is "a misty unease of [her] feelings". (219)

"Late autumn always sets my fancy towards sad ideas." (219)

"I felt desolate." (222)

"I sat for a moment in the chair in the hall to collect my strength A year's illness
drains one, however young." (222)

"'Teedle-um-tum-tum.' – I told myself that I was giving way to neurosis." (220)

"I opened the door and my sadness left me at once." (223)

Mr Mark Letter

His company is called "Mark Letter (Screws & Nails) Ltd." (219)

"sandy hair" (219)

"little bad teeth" (219)

"seedy brown teeth" (220)

"his small, separated discoloured teeth, no larger than a child's first teeth." (221)

"freckled hands" (220)

"his hobby, fretwork" (221)

"At forty-six he was still unmarried, living alone in a house at Roehampton."
(221)

"He often worked late, or at least, stayed there late, doing I don't know what."
(222)

His mood swings

He is "whistling [tunes] between his noisy telephone calls and dreamy sessions".
(219)

Mr Letter always liked a cup [of tea] when he was neither in his frenzy nor in his abstraction, but ordinary and talkative. (221)

Hyperactivity

"His sudden moods of bounce, and his sudden lapses into lassitude" (219)

From time to time, Mark Letter is hyperactive: "By fits, he would occasionally turn up at eight in the morning, tear at the post and, by the time I arrived, he would have dispatched perhaps half a dozen needless telegrams; and before I could get my coat off, would deliver a whole day's instructions to me, rapidly fluttering his freckled hands in time with his chattering mouth." (220)

On the bus the narrator recalls "that morning's excess of energy on the part of Mark Letter" (220).

"He had been more urgent than usual." (220)

"Mr Letter's moods of bustle" (220)

Daydreaming

"Then I knew that he had fallen into one of his afternoon daydreams." (221)

"Mark Letter had remained in his dreams for two and a half hours." (221)