

TIME TO MEET.

Dear Rebecca,

I trust you don't mind me starting with 'dear'. I know that everyone starts with 'Hi' now, but I believe that you, like me, don't agree with all this modern nonsense. It is even worse, in my view, than mis-using the apostrophe. 'Whatever happened to good old British standards?' I hear you ask. I know that you hold the same views, and that is why you would like me to nominate you to join the 'Good Old-Fashioned Standards' group, known as GOFS. Emails have their place, but there is no substitute for a hand-written letter, sent through the post.

In your missive, you had some queries. I can provide you with some answers now, but I think it is best that I respond to most of these when we meet. You asked me why you can't have my phone number or my address. As GOFS we do not exchange phone numbers. It is central to our philosophy that we adhere to the standards that were prevalent prior to the Second World War. Mobile phones, even landlines, are not acceptable. You need not fear, I safely collected your letter from the P.O. Box address that I supplied you with. Being a GOFS member means being different.

As I have suggested in my earlier correspondence, the two of us should meet, one night after work, in Whippendell Wood. I know it is late autumn, and the nights are drawing in, but it is important that we are not intimidated by modern social convention. I shall send you directions in my next correspondence. Your agreement would make me a very contented gentleman.

Yours sincerely,

Eric.

Dear Eric,

I shall do my best to follow your rules. As I wrote in an earlier letter, I've not spoken about the group to anyone else. I understand that it's important that we keep this group as an 'elite circle' as you mentioned in your earlier letter. When I was growing up my mother taught me that I should aim high in order to rise in social circles. I hope that, by knowing you, I shall achieve this and make her proud.

I agree to meet you in Whippendell Wood. Meeting somewhere like that seems right for a group like ours, as the wood has a long history. I've got one more question. How many members are there in the group? I have to confess that I did a very bad thing, and used the internet to find out more, but I couldn't find anything about GOFS. I suppose that's because of the high standards that you keep. I know that I shouldn't have done what I did, and I promise I won't do it again. From now on, it will just be letters.

Because of your background and all you have told me about yourself, I look up to you. I'm flattered that that you would invite someone like me to meet you, in person. I can't wait.

See you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca.