

EXTRAIT 7 : INTERNET FRAUD (2'34'')

ANCHOR: Now, every yr, tens of 1000s of people across Europe & around the world fall victim to Internet-based fraud. U might be familiar w/ some of the clumsiest scams [*canular, arnaque*] (the misspelled letter from a relative of a former dictator, promising U huge rewards if U'll allow her to use Ur bank account to transfer Ms of \$; or the forged email from Ur bank, asking U to provide security details so that they can be "updated"), but increasingly the fraudsters are taking a more sophisticated approach. Theo Leggett, of our business staff, is here. Theo, what are they up to?

THEO LEGGETT: Well, 1 particularly nasty type of fraud involves people who are looking for love on the Internet. The scammers [*arnaqueur*] tend to target people who're using dating websites, wh/ are increasingly popular at the moment. Er... what they do is they set up fake profiles to lure people in. They offer companionship at 1st, but then once a relationship's been built up, they start demanding money. And now, Britain's [National Fraud Authority](#) [*one of the Home Office's agencies*] says there's been a massive increase in reports of this kind of thing in the UK over recent mths. & it is a similar pb int'ally. Now, a lot of people wd hear that & say: *It must be just gullible people – serves them right!* Er, but what might surprise U is the kind of people who're getting hit by this. Take Brenda**, for ex. She's an intelligent, 60-yr-old lady who's worked in finance. She's run her own business. When I met her, she came across as a very strong character, very together, very weathered [= *experienced*]. Yet she ended up losing some €70,000 to a fraudster. So I asked her, *How did he do it?*

BRENDA: He was considerably younger than me. I cdn't believe that someone considerably younger than me wd be interested in a 60-yr-old woman – wh/ of course was flattery – right at the beginning. He was a Dutch businessman, supplying and fitting computers in the Benin Republic. He went away in the middle of January, & we communicated by email, & subsequently by telephone. And by telephone was only after there had been a hit-and-run accident, in wh/ he & his daughter were involved, & she ended up in hospital, & needing an operation. & this is where the scam really kicks in. He needed money for his daughter's operation. Initially I said no, that I didn't have the money, that I cdn't do this, & that I wasn't prepared to give money to sb I hadn't even met. However, he just placed me in a position of responsibility for his daughter's welfare, & I decided I just cdn't walk away, & leave a young girl in hospital w/ no money to fund the operation.

** This is her real name. See another article on this "romance scam victim" [here](#).

EXTRAIT 8 : SELF-DEPRECIATION (2'30")

ANCHOR: Our guest editor [*rédacteur invité*] today is the former CE [*directrice*] of the Stock Exchange: Dame Clara Furse. She's of Dutch origin & had a peripatetic [*itinérant*] childhood, but she says she's a great admirer of Britain's unique traditions, its commercial ac... acuity & its great companies. But she finds that the Br are far less likely than other nationalities to celebrate their successes. Dame Clara wondered what's behind the Br tendency to self-deprecation [*autodénigrement*], & whether it is a virtue or a vice.

I spoke to the *Times* columnist Matthew Parris who was – used to be a Conservative MP, & to Lucy Kellaway who writes for the *Financial Times*. I asked Lucy whether *she* thought B business people lost out when selling themselves & what they do overseas.

LUCY KELLAWAY: Yes, I do. I think we were all brought up to believe that boasting was wicked, & I remember my parents saying to me that there was a man who was *really* brilliant & the great big thing about him was U'd never ever know it. That was how we were brought up, & so really it doesn't come naturally to us to say *Look at me, I'm brilliant!* But if you're in a competitive environment, U actually *have* to do that – it's very very depressing, but there's no way around it.

ANCHOR: And so we lose out in the end, do U think?

LC: Yeah, I think we do lose out, b/c if U've got to choose b/e 2 people, & 1 of them saying *I'm just a sort of silly old duffer* [*tocard*], & the other saying *I'm highly intelligent, super-motivated* – *here are some of the things that I've achieved*, wh/ 1 do U go for?

MATTHEW PARRIS: But this is a completely outdated characterization of Br businessmen. BrB don't go around saying *I'm just a silly old duffer* – I mean that's the sort of patrician public school, upper-class self-deprecation wh/ still does exist in certain classes in Br, but not a class wh/ is particularly well represented amongst businessmen. If you listen to Br businessmen and women in saloon bars [*bar d'ambiance*] anywhere, they're just as boastful, just as arrogant as any anybody else. In the end, U buy & sell on the quality of your product, not on whether people think U're self-deprecating (*laughs*) or not.

ANCHOR: So, Matthew, U don't think there is sthg that's in the Br character that means we're born or brought up in a way to be self-effacing or self-deprecating?

MP: There is, I suppose, still a residual, apparent modesty about B people that U don't alw. meet among foreigners, but if U really want an area where people are not particularly modest – & anyway where the manner a person may approach a compensation [*rémunération*] or contractual arrangements – an area where that wdn't matter, it wd be B.

EXTRAIT 9 : THE DECLINE IN MENSWEAR (2'30") from [BBC Radio 4](#)

PRESENTER: The Br menswear designer of the yr [= Patrick Grant] says that the scruffiness [*le laisser-aller*] of the men he sees around him makes him cry. Patrick Grant says that men's dress sense in this country has been in decline since... well, he says, the end of the reign of King George VI. This is the comment that perhaps sums up his view: "The whole idea of not wearing a tie is a bit naff [= *Br. slang, unstylish, outmoded*]." We are joined by Peter Howarth, who's a former editor of *Arena* and *Esquire*, & the style guru Peter York. Wearing a tie is always naff?

PETER YORK: It depends how it's done. If U just take off the bit of polyester (anchor?) in your chain-store shirt, and then throw it open & think: "God, I'm liberated, I'm modern, I'm young," then U're subject to a terrible illusion. And that's a bad thing, b/c it's a decline in discrimination [*discernement, goût*]. & we're a nation that's got more discriminating [*sophistiqué, qui fait preuve de discernement*], U know, over the last 20 yrs – for food, art, architecture...

PRESENTER: So it's caring that matters?

PY: It's caring & discrimination. It's not about money.

PRESENTER: Peter, other Peter, it's about caring & discrimination?

PETER HOWARTH: It is, up to a point. But this argument that we've been in some kind of stylistic decline for decades is... is really an argument about conservatism. It's really about preserving some kind of strange heritage, Br's status quo.

PRESENTER: Well, "Peter" Grant... *Patrick* Grant, rather, said until 10 yrs ago people had an image of London, w/ an archetypal, beautifully dressed man wearing a grey flannel suit, & a bowler hat, carrying an umbrella... In 2000...

PH: Well, I don't know where he [= Patrick Grant] was in the '60s! Ha ha ha ha!

PRESENTER: Yeah, I know...

PH: Yes, it's a very narrow, [Savile Row](#) [*the capital of "bespoke tailoring" (vêtements sur mesure) in England*] kind of reductive...

PY: Because he's at the smart end of the business.

PH: He is, he is... but the wonderful thing about Br style is that it's a kind of pick and mix [*libre association, combinaison laissée au choix de chacun*]. I mean, U know, this is a country in wh/ U can have a punk rocker sitting next to a business gent on the... on the tube, & it won't raise an eyebrow.

PRESENTER: But that's a question – is there style in British men at the moment, Peter?

PY: Not much. But it's a very long-standing tradition. Anthony (?) was not *quite* a gent b/c he was a too sharply dressed, a bit dodgy [*louche, pas net*], a bit euro, carrying a bit too much...

PRESENTER: Too fastidious [*méticuleux, "difficile"*].

PY: ... Suspect. But that's changed in so many other

ways. I mean, it's a question whether fastidiousness has been replaced by boldness, but boldness is good a little... way.

PH: But boldness is also, U know, the freedom to dress in any way U want. This idea that U have to wear a tie to be well-dressed [= *is outmoded*]...

