

A COLLEAGUE FROM THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Marie Veselá



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“An alien is about to join you in the office!” Renata puts her head inside the office.

Anna stops running her fingers over the keyboard and turns to the door, frowning.

“Well, really. She has come back from somewhere in the middle of nowhere where she was living with a savage. She might start jumping on your table as a monkey,” she sniggers. But she is not going to get her colleague on her side.

“Well, you will see for yourself,” she says in an aggrieved tone and closes the door abruptly.

“Yes, I will see for myself.”

That’s how a planet director introduced me before starting a new job. If I knew that right away and not after a while, I’d rather go to work as a cleaner where my colleagues would treat me as their equal.

Luckily, my supervisor Anča is nice. She let me settle in, then walked me through the building and now she’s willingly introducing me to the job. Until the stomachs of both of us start rumbling.

“Shall we go out to have lunch? I will take you out to the canteen, it is a little out of the way.”

We are setting off into the cold. It is freezing hard, I exhale vapour out of my mouth because of the frost and remark casually: “Jesus, what a cold, fortunately I am wearing my mother’s coat.”

Anča is staring at me. “God’s name should not be taken in vain.”