

Torquay, UK

After I finished my final exams I had to wait the summer months for the results. My parents were living in East Africa but my brother Andrew was working as a waiter in Torquay. My girlfriend Lesley I was also working there as a hotel receptionist. So I decided to join them for the summer.

When I first got to Torquay I had nowhere to stay so Andrew smuggled me into his hotel. It was late at night so we could avoid security and we made our way to Andrews crummy room where I slept the night. In the morning I had to sneak out again.

I spent the morning searching for a place to stay and eventually found a tiny room which was they blocked off the end of a corridor with Just enough room for a bed. It wasn't very pleasant but it was cheap.

Then I had to find a job. I started working in a wholesale banana warehouse. It was hard work carrying heavy hands of bananas around, they were green and had to be ripened. There were many stories of nasty spiders dropping on people as they carried them.

Later I got a better job delivering for a laundry picking up hampers of dirty linen from hotels and returning with the clean linen. The wicker hampers were very heavy but I learnt the trick of flipping them onto your back and then walking bent forward with all the weight on your legs. I found that the glitzy guest's areas of the hotels contrasted completely with the mazes of narrow dirty corridors behind the scenes.

One of the great advantages of this job was that I was able to hang on to their back of the truck as we drove around Torquay delivering the baskets. It was their height of the holiday season and the town was full of very pretty girls. So I greatly enjoyed the view.

Of course, I had my own girlfriend Lesley. Originally she was Andrew's girlfriend whom he met at Henley hotel and catering college where they were both studying. However, by the time we were in Torquay I had stolen from him and we had been going out together for some time.

We three had a great time together, we were young and free knew how to enjoy ourselves.





















