

Задание №R3\_02

*Прочитайте текст и выполните задания 12-18. В каждом задании запишите в поле ответа цифру 1, 2, 3 или 4, соответствующую выбранному Вами варианту ответа.*

**Harvey Maxwell**

Pitcher, a confidential clerk in the office of Harvey Maxwell, allowed a look of mild interest and surprise when his employer briskly entered at half-past nine in company with a young lady. Miss Leslie had been Maxwell's stenographer for a year. She was beautiful in a way that was decidedly unstenographic. On this morning she was softly and shyly radiant. Her eyes were dreamily bright, her expression a happy one, tinged with reminiscence. Pitcher, still mildly curious, noticed a difference in her ways this morning. Instead of going straight into the adjoining room, where her desk was, she stayed for a while, slightly irresolute, in the outer office. Once she moved over by Maxwell's desk near enough for him to be aware of her presence.

The man sitting at that desk was no longer a man; it was a machine, moved by buzzing wheels and uncoiling springs.

"Well - what is it? Anything?" asked Maxwell sharply.

"Nothing," answered the stenographer, moving away with a little smile.

This day was Harvey Maxwell's busy day. Messenger boys ran in and out with messages and telegrams. Maxwell himself jumped from desk to door sweating. On the Exchange there were hurricanes and snowstorms and volcanoes, and those powerful disturbances were reproduced in miniature in Maxwell's office. The rush and pace of business grew faster and fiercer. Share prices were falling and orders to sell them were coming and going and the man was working like some strong machine. Here was a world of finance, and there was no room in it for the human world or the world of nature.

When the luncheon hour came, Maxwell stood by his desk with a fountain pen over his right ear. His window was open. And through the window came a delicate, sweet smell of lilac that fixed the broker for a moment immovable. For this odour belonged to Miss Leslie; it was her own, and hers only. She was in the next room - twenty steps away.

"By George, I'll do it now," said Maxwell half aloud. "I'll ask her now. I wonder why I didn't do it long ago." He dashed into the inner office and charged upon the desk of the stenographer. She looked at him with a smile.

"Miss Leslie," he began hurriedly, "I have but a moment to spare. I want to say something in that moment. Will you be my wife? I haven't had time to approach you in the ordinary way, but I really do love you."

"Oh, what are you talking about?" exclaimed the young lady. She rose to her feet and gazed upon him, round-eyed.

"Don't you understand?" said Maxwell. "I want you to marry me. I love you, Miss Leslie. I wanted to tell you, and I snatched a minute. They are calling me for the phone now. Tell them to wait a minute, Pitcher. Won't you, Miss Leslie?"

The stenographer acted very strangely. She seemed overcome with amazement; then tears flowed from her wondering eyes; and then she smiled sunnily through them.

"I know now," she said softly. "It is this old business that has driven everything else out of your head for the time. I was frightened at first. Don't you remember, Harvey? We were married last evening at 8 o'clock in the Little Church Around the Corner."

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**12. Harvey Maxwell was**

- 1) a stenographer.
- 2) a clerk.
- 3) Pitcher's boss.
- 4) Pitcher's partner.

**13. Pitcher was mildly interested and surprised because**

- 1) Miss Leslie moved decidedly to Maxwell's desk.
- 2) Miss Leslie arrived with Maxwell.
- 3) Maxwell came late at half past ten.
- 4) Maxwell looked irresolute that morning.

**14. It was Harvey Maxwell's hard day because**

- 1) he had no one to help him.
- 2) all messenger boys had gone.
- 3) the weather was hot.
- 4) the Exchange was a busy place.

**15. 'On the Exchange there were hurricanes and snowstorms and volcanoes' means**

- 1) the Exchange was about to be destroyed.
- 2) the financial situation was difficult.
- 3) natural disasters often happened in that area.
- 4) those were powerful disturbances of nature.

**16. Maxwell dashed into the inner office at lunch time because**

- 1) he liked the lilac smell.
- 2) the smell reminded him of Miss Leslie.
- 3) Pitcher called him for a phone call.
- 4) he needed to send a message.

**17. Harvey Maxwell made a proposal between phone calls because he**

- 1) was rather pressed for time.
- 2) used to make business proposals in such a way.
- 3) always acted very strangely.
- 4) was afraid Miss Leslie would leave him.

**18. Miss Leslie was astonished by the proposal because**

- 1) she had never heard anyone make it in such a way.
- 2) she had never expected it from Harvey Maxwell.
- 3) she had married the man the day before.
- 4) it came too quickly and without warning.