

Sold on Beauty: A Commentary

Katy Mason

I really enjoyed this script.

The characters were likeable, and even in the short narrative the author was able to give us some insight onto their values and a bit of their backstory.

Wanda and Martin are in a domestic relationship, and we see their organisations through their eyes. They discuss their changing associations to their workplaces as they check in with each other in their daily routines. There are four organisations referred to: a school, hospital, corporation and university. We start to understand a bit about each, and it was easy to resonate with their changing understandings.

The story arc kept me interested. I liked the characters, and wanted to see them succeed. Their challenges are placed in the context of organisational consultancy and the senior players in their work sites.

The idea of beauty is developed throughout the narrative. It piqued my interest and was vividly illustrated by the characters. Steve Taylor used the story to develop my understanding of beauty within a context that is not usually associated with this construct. Some of the ways that the characters played with the ideas were funny and made for an enjoyable and instructive read. It left me feeling stimulated and reflexive and provoked me to consider beauty in other organisations that are part of my lifeworld.

The script was well written. It was easy to get into and understand, working as a useful format for readers' understanding of beauty in their contexts. It links well with the scope of the journal, and helped develop my understanding of "beauty" used in an organisational context. Readers will be inspired to bring their perceptions to the issues.

The account of practicing aesthetic leadership in an organisation places it as a practice piece. I can imagine readers taking the script and performing it in their settings, allowing for the provocations to resonate with colleagues. Fiction may then turn into vivified conversations about *their* realities.

Katy Mason: Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and Medical Psychotherapist

Katy, a dual trained Psychiatrist specialising in Forensic Psychiatry and Medical Psychotherapy, is passionate about providing holistic, person-centred care. She has a long-term interest in both large and small group dynamics and uses this knowledge to help support the teams that she works with. She is an alumnus of various Tavistock Institute professional development programmes, notably Deepening Creative Practice with Organisations, a co-created space with arts and Tavistock practitioners. As part of this programme Katy wrote a script about group dynamics in the face of the existential threat to the environment and realised it as a performative film.