**ANALYSIS MEETING BETWEEN ROBYN AND VIC (from page 72 to page 77)**

“Show the woman in”. This is the imperative used by Vic when he takes the resolution to finally meet his “shadow”, which is introduced by Brian Everthorpe as “Doctor Penrose”.

The scene is narrated under Robyn point of view, so the reader can figure Vic Wilcox as Robyn sees him.

Under a certain point of view she is disappointed because the term “Managing Director”, which is attributed to Vic, had suggested in her mid a figure more “grand and gross” than Vic actually is. She expects someone “with plump, flushed cheeks and wings of silver hair, rounded torso sheathed in expensively tailored suiting, a gold tiepin and cufflinks, and a cigar wedged between manicured fingers”, but Wilcox doesn’t reflects her stereotype. He is “stocky and wiry”, with a “pale and drawn” face and “hank of dark flat hair” with an obvious neglect of his appearance, but with a strong handshake and a glint in his eyes that warned her not to underestimate him.

Immediately Vic gets rid of Brian Everthorpe, then he tries to put Robyn at ease suggesting to sit and offering some coffee and a cigarette. The conversation starts as a fast exchange of questions and answers where Robyn excuses for her delay and Vic remarks that her decision to postpone their first meeting caused him to have a meeting cancelled. Robyn resents his rudeness but apologizes and the discussion ends upon the strike she participates the week before which main motive was “the cuts”. Vic asks Robyn if she thinks the country can really give her more pay and at the same time lower the costs. Robyn answer positively at the condition to spend less on defence, so Vic inform her Pringle’s has several defence contracts and that if the country acted as she suggested, those contracts would be cancelled and as a consequence he would have to lay off man, so that the problem wouldn’t be solved but only shifted. He is also able to make Robyn admit to herself that that strike was ineffectively and to put in crisis some of her beliefs on the utility of strikes. Feeling cornered Robyn tries to shift the focus of conversation and they finish to debate on the utility of such studies as the ones Robyn teaches at university.

Another important point of the discussion is the one in which the narrator clears the main difference between Robyn point of view and Vic one:

*Robyn: “Is money the only criterion?”*

*Vic: “I don’t know a better one”*

Here the reader becomes aware that in Vic’s mind everything revolves around money, the logic of profit is the only possible while Robyn, as academic woman, has different beliefs and strongly affirms money don’t give happiness with this affirmation: “I don’t earn much money, but I’m happy with my job. Or I would be, if I were sure of keeping it”.

This leads again the conversation on the motives for which she were demonstrating and another time Vic points out her efforts were useless because she were demonstrating in support of the other lecturers’ right to a job for life, but if they couldn’t be shifted, there will never be a room for her.

But Robyn, as a real idealist, replies: “It’s the principle of the thing”.

So this is the difference between these two characters: while Vic thinks people should look to their own advantage, Robyn beliefs the better thing to do is to stand up for the right principles.