

Dear A■■■■,

Thank you for your letter which moved me in several ways. Let me list them:

- when you say the letter is a flashback I realise you are telling your truth, though to a passing, external eye the lines you write might seem like a brief, warm description of your life. No, as you penned the lines you re-lived, you were back in the experiences. If you had not mentioned the word flashback I might have read the letter absurdly superficially. Thank you for clearly flagging the reality.

- what you say about your pethera (I use the Greek word as the English word does not carry the strength of the relationship as it is often lived in Greece) is very moving, as this relationship can be rocky and fraught, sometimes. Condolences for her death. I think it was you that borrowed that red book on mourning.

-- what you say in your last paragraph leaves me underlyingly sad, as it is terrible to be able to write: " but I knew them as colleagues and nothing more ". All over Europe people will echo this sentence and agree with it. It is monumentally sad. What could/should/ might S■■■■ fos mean? The good bit is that you have really had a chance to get to know E■■■ and L■■■ a lot better.

Why should the workplace not be a really warm and supportive place- after all we spend a lot of the day there?

Mario

Ps: I regret we did not get this correspondence going sooner as I intuit that our exchange of thoughts would have been a rich one. I feel in easy harmony with you.