

UNIVERSITÉ DE TOULON ET DU VAR
FACULTÉ DES LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES

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SALLE	: amphi W 300
ENSEIGNANT	: P.-F. Peirano
DOCUMENTS AUTORISÉS:	néant

I've been a postman for twenty-eight years. Take that first sentence: because it's written in a simple way may make the fact of my having been a postman for so long seem important, but I realize that such a fact has no significance whatsoever. If I started using long and complicated words that I had searched for in the dictionary, I'd use them too many times, the same ones over and over again, with only a few sentences between each one.

It's also twenty-eight years since I got married. That statement is very important, no matter how you write it. It so happened that I married my wife as soon as I got a permanent job, and the first good one I landed was with the Post Office. I had to marry her as soon as I got a job because I'd promised her I would, and she wasn't the sort of person to let me forget it. [...]

She was never happy about our life together, right from the start. And neither was I, because it didn't take her long to begin telling me that all her friends – and her family – said that our marriage wouldn't last five minutes. I could never answer much to this, knowing after the first few months how right everybody would be. Not that it bothered me, though, because I was always the sort of bloke¹ that doesn't get ruffled at anything. If you want to know the truth, the bare fact of my getting married meant only that I changed one house and one mother for another house and a different mother.

Alan Sillitoe, *The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner* (1958)
(punctuation unchanged).

¹ a bloke (familiar): a guy, a fellow.