



This Student Life

It's bad news day

SCENE 1

Cheryl is in her flat. The phone rings. She stumbles for the light.

Cheryl:

What time is it? 7:13, who is this? Hello?

Katie: *(in tears)*

Cheryl, the loan company have taken everything.

Cheryl:

Katie? What's happened? Are you okay?

Katie:

They've taken my TV, my laptop with all my OU work on it, even the sofa. What am I gonna do?

Cheryl:

Hold on. I've just got to get up and get dressed and I'll be there.

SCENE 2

Neil and Dave are making breakfast

Neil:

Do you want milk in that coffee?

Sound of milk being poured into a mug of tea

Dave:

Neil, this is without doubt the worst toast I've ever had. It's black on one side and it's not cooked on the other.

Neil:

Well you can do breakfast next time. Hey, did I tell you I was meeting with Rob after work today?

Dave's mobile phone rings

Dave:

It's Ben. Hello mate. You're up early ... Hey, hold on, what's the matter? ... You what? ... It must be a mistake. Look leave it with me, I'll talk to her.

Neil:

Trouble?

Dave:

Ben reckons he's going to the States.

Neil:
For a holiday?

Dave:
No. To live.

SCENE 3

Donna is serving breakfast to Ted.

Ted:
These eggs are nice, Donna.

Donna:
Good.

Ted:
Maybe it's for the best. You know? You're a bit old to be a student, after all.

Donna: (*angrily*)
How is it for the best? Exactly how, Ted? I am going to be expelled for cheating. And that's for the best, is it?

Ted:
I'm not saying being expelled is for the best. But really, Donna, sometimes you get these ideas into your head.

Donna:
Ideas in my head? Yes, I do. Sometimes Ted I think that maybe there's more to life than these four walls and running round like a fool looking after you. Sometimes I think maybe, just maybe, I can be something other than a wife and a mother.

SCENE 4

Cheryl arrives at Katie's flat.

Katie: (*still sniffing*)
Thanks for coming Cher. They've taken everything.

Cheryl:
Bloody hell! You're right. They've stripped the place. When did this happen?

Katie:
Six o'clock this morning. I wasn't even dressed. They banged on the door, I opened up, they put this letter in my hands and then they forced their way in and started carrying stuff out. They've taken everything.

Cheryl:
What about Jade's things?

Katie:
They left most of those. But they'd all been paid for. There was this really horrible fat pig. He said that I'd better enjoy her company whilst I can. They're gonna take her into care Cher.

Cheryl:
We won't let that happen, Katie.

SCENE 5

Neil and Dave's flat

Dave:

I'm going round to Kelly's. There's no way she's taking Ben to the States to live. I'll see you later.

Dave walks out slamming the door behind him

Neil:

Bye Dave. Oh, by the way, I'm getting help with my assignments, which is good news. Hmm, you don't give a monkeys, 'cos, it's not about you. I bet Donna will be interested. Perhaps I'll give her a ring.

SCENE 6

Katie and Cheryl are surveying what's left of her possessions.

Katie:

I thought I could manage, Cher. I never expected it to come to this.

Cheryl:

Oh you were really stupid signing up with that loan company. How are you ever going to pay them off?

Katie:

I don't know. At least they left your toys, Jade. She's starting to really show an awareness now. She loves this teddy. Don't you?

Cheryl:

She's gonna be walking soon, you know that. Well, look on the bright side. At least there's nothing here for her to knock over.

Katie laughs weakly

Katie:

There's also nothing here for me to cook on, no fridge, they even took my bed. I'm gonna have to sleep on the floor. You're lucky Jade at least you've got a cot. Perhaps I can share that.

Cheryl:

Look you can't live here, without a cooker or anything. You'll have to come and stay at mine.

Katie:

I'll be fine here.

Cheryl:

No you won't, Katie. You're coming to mine and that's final. It does mean you and Jade will have to share the spare room. It'll be a bit cramped but at least you'll have a bed.

Katie:

It's not fair on you though, Cher.

Cheryl:

Do you really think I could be happy thinking you were living in a shell of a flat. Are you up to date with the rent?

Katie:

More or less.

Cheryl:

What does that mean?

Katie:

I'm a couple of months behind, that's all.

Cheryl: (*exasperated*)

Oh Katie. How many months.

Katie:

Only two.

Cheryl:

Two! That's what? Eight hundred quid?

Katie:

When you say it like that, it sounds a lot.

Cheryl:

It is a lot. Right. Let's gather what you've got left and move to my place. I can't think about what's going to happen next. It's doing my head in.

SCENE 7

There is a post-row silence in Donna and Ted's. Donna's phone rings.

Donna:

Neil? What does he want? Hello.

Neil:

Hi Donna. I hope you don't mind me ringing you at this early hour?

Donna:

No, of course not. Is it about the podcast thing?

Neil:

Partly. I just wanted to check that you were okay?

Donna:

Stressed about TMAs as usual, but apart from that, fine. How about you?

Neil:

Well, do you know what? I feel like I've really turned a corner. Before I got the DSA I was seriously considering chucking it in. But now, well, with all this help, it's going great.

Donna:

Oh Neil, that's wonderful news. You must be thrilled.

Neil:

I am, I am. It's a load off my mind. I don't have to worry about writing stuff down so much. They're providing me with a bloke who types what I say.

Donna:

Well, I'm very pleased for you.

Neil:

And what about you? Are you okay? You know, with all that business?

Donna:

No, not really. I've been quite upset by it. I can't stop going over and over it in my mind. I haven't touched the course material for a couple of weeks. I sent them a letter apologising and explaining the situation but I've heard nothing back yet.

Neil:

Well, that can't be right. Surely there's a statute of limitations or something on this.

Donna:

It's my fault really. I didn't write straight back. I took my time to think about it, and then wrote at the last moment. So, I think they're still within their rights to keep me waiting a couple more days.

Neil:

Oh dear. Donna, look if there's anything I can do.

Donna:

Unless you have any friends in high places.

Neil:

Dave's got his head in the clouds, but apart from that, I'm afraid not. Listen I got to get to work. We must talk about the podcasts. Katie's gone quiet lately too.

Donna:

Okay. I'll be in touch. Bye Neil.