

OpenLearn interactive

At a crossroads: navigating work and/or family alongside study

Misha, Ben, Dad, Dipak, Priya, Jaya, Nani, Carl, Molly:

MISHA: She's probably on her way.

BEN: Should we wait?

MISHA: Don't worry, I'll be your buffer.

BEN: I don't need rescuing from my in-laws.

MISHA: Famous last words.

DIPAK: Joining us, or planning on standing out here all day?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DIPAK: So, how was work?

BEN: Oh, same old. Another day, another dollar.

MISHA: I think we should start without Mum.

DAD: Great minds think alike. Ben, try some Bhindi first.

BEN: Thanks.

[DOORBELL]

DIPAK: Exactly an hour late. You owe me a fiver.

PRIYA: Hello, I'm Priya and I'm your sister, but you might not recognise me.

JAYA: I'm not likely to forget that nose.

PRIYA: You missed Raksha Bandhan.

JAYA: Good thing there is another one next year.

DAD: Just help yourself, please. Plenty of food here for everyone. Have some Bhindi.

JAYA: Dad, the Bhindi is delicious.

PRIYA: Actually, Dad didn't make it, I did.

DIPAK: But I made the chips.

[LAUGHTER]

DAD: So, how have you been, Jaya?

JAYA: I'm OK, work, study, cook, repeat.

BEN: I think she's doing amazing with all the juggling. She's been cooking with gas on her assignments.

NANI: Nice to hear that you've been cooking something. I hear this one has been eating too many vegan burgers.

MISHA: Nan!

JAYA: Yes, we were working and studying. I don't always have time to cook from scratch.

DAD: Well, there's plenty of food here for everyone.

JAYA: Thanks for saying what you said.

BEN: Got a lot of plates spinning.

JAYA: Just none with any home cooked food, apparently.

BEN: But I'm here, if you need me.

JAYA: Is that an offer to help?

BEN: Well, yes. I'm not totally useless.

JAYA: Huh, the jury's out.

BEN: I'm being serious. If you need me, just ask.

JAYA: OK, I will.

MISHA: She won't.

CARL: Jaya.

JAYA: Hmm?

CARL: How you doing? Have you thought about asking for an extension?

JAYA: Never asked for one at school. Hardly going to ask for one now that I'm an adult.

CARL: I got an extension for one of my assessments in uni.

JAYA: Really? I didn't think I'll be entitled to one. I'm just struggling with time management with lots of stuff going on at the moment.

CARL: Some tutors get that there might be other things their students are dealing with. I mean, I got my assessment extended because of my anxiety.

JAYA: Well, so far, I'm keeping my head above water.

CARL: Drowning metaphors don't fill me with confidence.

MOLLY: You still doing that course?

JAYA: It's a degree. I'm doing it part-time, so it does take a bit longer.

MOLLY: Better you than me. Can't imagine going back to school now. Barely made it through the first time.

JAYA: Well, it is hard work, but it's rewarding. I'm enjoying the challenge so far.

JAYA: Mm, well, seeing as you're here, would you mind doing a few more hours tonight?

Dale called in sick again.

CARL: Well, I can cover.

MOLLY: No, I need you on front desk.

JAYA: I would, but I've got to finish this assignment.

MOLLY: Have you got any classes tonight then?

JAYA: No classes tonight, but I really need to get going.

MOLLY: Well, you can study whenever.

JAYA: Yes, but that doesn't mean--

MOLLY: Jaya, I'm in full support of your desire to better yourself, but it was your choice to take on all this extra stuff. I wouldn't do it personally. If this is something you really want to do, I'm sure you will find the time. I really do need you to do those extra hours.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BEN: Are you on your way?

JAYA: Actually, I have to cover for Dale.

BEN: Again?

JAYA: Yeah. Can you warm up the dinner I prepped this morning before I went to work? It's in the fridge.

BEN: Well, we can wait for you. It's movie night.

JAYA: No, you guys go ahead. I don't want you to get hungry. Won't hear the end of it from Mum.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JAYA: Why is there a pizza box in the house? I cooked.

BEN: Well, we thought we'd save it until tomorrow.

JAYA: All you had to do was put it in the oven.

BEN: But delivery was easier.

JAYA: I don't want Misha eating takeaway all the time. She should have at least one home-cooked meal a day.

BEN: It's pizza, not arsenic.

JAYA: It's only yesterday, you asked how you could help.

BEN: I meant it.

JAYA: I mean, look at this place.

BEN: Well, I was going to get around to it.

JAYA: When?

BEN: Well, I didn't know what time you were coming back.

JAYA: You don't clean in anticipation of my arrival. You clean because it's a mess. I don't have time to do this as well.

BEN: Are you OK?

JAYA: Yes, I've just got a lot on with deadlines, and--

BEN: Is it too much with University and everything?

JAYA: No, it's fine.

BEN: Are you sure? You disappear for hours on end to study. Misha and I barely see you. When we do, you're always distracted.

JAYA: I don't think that's fair.

BEN: We were going to save the meal for all of us, but you were late, again.

JAYA: Not on purpose. I had to work. I would rather have been here.

BEN: We both earn enough. You don't even need a degree.

JAYA: Yes, I do, because since having Misha, I haven't done anything for myself.

JAYA: [SIGH] That obvious?

MISHA: I can feel you stressing from the living room.

JAYA: Perhaps I was delusional thinking I could do this degree.

MISHA: I thought you were enjoying it.

JAYA: My mark in my last assignment wasn't as good as I hoped, and all this studying is taking up too much time that I should be spending with you and your Dad.

MISHA: You don't need to worry about me. You run the house, hold down a job, study, all while raising an amazing daughter. I've barely done one of those. You've maxed out the role model checklist.

JAYA: I just don't know what to do.

MISHA: Well, let's just talk about it. A problem shared and all.

JAYA: [SIGH]

[MUSIC PLAYING]