

**This Student Life**

**EPISODE 24: ARE WE THERE YET?**

**Dur: 07:07**

**Music – dur: 00:15**

**SCENE 1**

*It is 5 weeks since the Conference and the final TMA is due. Katie is still living with Cheryl, but is about to receive some unwelcome news.*

*Knock on door*

**Katie:**

Come in Cher.

**Cheryl:**

You okay?

**Katie:**

A bit stressed by this TMA. And, a bit more stressed by Jade having a bad cough and keeping me awake half the night. And, starting this job today.

**Cheryl:**

Yeah, you've been really lucky with this.

**Katie:**

I have Mister Yesayan to thank for this.

**Cheryl:**

And, you're sure about taking Jade with you.

**Katie:**

Yeah, he said she'll be fine. It's gonna be a killer though. This is a late start because it's my first day. But tomorrow I have to be there by 4.30 in the morning. I hope I'm not going to disturb you.

**Cheryl:**

Oh, I sleep like a log.

**SCENE 2**

*Donna is working on her final TMA. Ted interrupts her.*

**Ted:**

Donna, do you know where my green tie is?

**Donna:**

Why should I know?

**Ted:**

Because you usually hang them up?

**Donna:**

Do I look like your servant, Ted?

**Ted: (shouts)**

Right, I've had enough of your attitude. Ever since you've been on this blasted course, you've given up on me.

**Donna:**

I gave up on you years ago.

**Ted:**

What does that mean?

**Donna:**

What do you think I mean? You've been taking me for granted for years. You know what? I'm the one who's had enough.

### **SCENE 3**

*Neil is with Dave in their flat. Dave is listening to classical music.*

**Neil:**

Can you turn that rubbish down.

**Dave:**

Rubbish? You bloody philistine. This is the Egmont Overture Finale by Beethoven.

**Neil:**

I've got to submit an assignment. I can't concentrate with that racket. I'm listening to this on earphones and all I can hear is Beethoven. And, could you stop waving your arms all over the place.

**Dave:**

I thought you said that there was no point in submitting this assignment?

**Neil:**

I spoke to Martin and he reckons that well, I've a good chance of passing. I can't see how to be honest. Could you check this Assessment Calculator and see what you think?

**Dave:**

Okay, I'll have a look.

### **SCENE 4**

*Katie is outside Donna's house with Jade. A car passes by, she walks up the path and knocks on the door. The door opens.*

**Donna:**

Katie. What a nice surprise. Come in.

**Katie:**

I'm sorry for turning up without an invite. I was just wandering past. I've just finished work. It's not a bad time is it?

**Donna:**

Of course not. Hello Jade.

*Jade babbles happily*

**Katie:**

She has plenty to say. I just don't understand a word of it. Though I'm sure she said Mum the other day.

**Donna:**

You say you've just finished work. I didn't know you were working.

**Katie:**

It's my first day today. Oh my, it was hard work. I'm cleaning in an office block. But it's good to be out of the flat to tell you the truth.

**Donna:**

Oh, let me get you a nice cup of tea.

FADE OUT/FADE IN

**Katie:**

So, I thought that Option 1 looked the easier one, but I'm not sure what they mean by citizens being in awe of the state. I don't think I'm in awe of the state. To be honest, I hardly think about it.

**Donna:**

I was going to do Option 2 actually, because I wasn't quite sure what that meant either.

**Katie:**

You seem a bit down Donna, is everything okay?

**Donna:**

Not really. I've been arguing a lot with Ted lately. He really didn't want me to do this course, but he's kind of accepted it. He hated it that I enjoyed the conference. He's such a snob he doesn't think social science is a real science. Unlike accounting!

**Katie:**

Oh dear. Poor you.

**Donna:**

Sometimes I think I'd be better off leaving him.

**Katie:**

It's not going to lead to that, is it, surely?

**Donna:**

I doubt it. Ted can be a bit old fashioned sometimes, but deep down he's a good person. But, doing this course has really opened my eyes to things. One thing I've seen is that my identity is entirely composed of wife and mother. Ted's happy with that. But I want a bit more from life.

## SCENE 5

*Dave has recalculated Neil's scores*

**Dave:**

Listen Neil, I might be doing this wrong, but I reckon you can pass.

**Neil:**

Really?

**Dave:**

Yeah. Unfortunately, you'd need to score 105 per cent on your last assignment.

**Neil:**

There's no point in me doing it, then! I'll tell you what, I'm going to phone the helpline and ask to speak to an advisor. Bloody hell. If only I'd got my DSA earlier, this wouldn't have happened.

## SCENE 6

*Donna is still with Katie*

**Katie:**

I really enjoyed the conference though.

**Donna:**

Yes, me too. It was fun. I enjoyed working with you and Neil.

**Katie:**

Things have felt a bit flat since. I only narrowly passed the last assignment. I'm not really that good at essays.

**Donna:**

Which option did you do?

**Katie:**

I did the one on identity.

**Donna:**

Me too!

## **SCENE 7**

*Neil is on the phone.*

**Neil:**

Hello is that the student support team? Yeah ... Can I talk to an advisor please? ... Yes, name's Neil Scott ... PI? W239471 ... Yeah, I'll hold ... *(turns to Dave)* I'm on hold. Typical. I'll be on here now for twenty ... Oh, hello ... Yes, yes, I just wanted some advice please.

FADE OUT/FADE IN

**Neil:**

So, basically, I can pass but it depends on this assignment ... Yes, yeah, it's a bit unfair. I didn't get my DSA until a few weeks ago and I was already behind ... Yeah, I understand that ... Yeah, I see ... Okay, right, thanks, thanks, bye.

**Dave:**

Right, I think I got the gist of that.

**Neil:**

I've got to pass this assignment, and then I can get through. It's been easier since I got the stuff on audio. We forget to include the substitution score, Dave.

**Dave:**

Oh, I'll take your word for it. Come on, let's go for a pint.

**Neil:**

You're on!

## **SCENE 8**

*Katie and Donna are still discussing their essays.*

**Donna:**

I've just read Chapter Nine twice. I'm really confused. It's just not my cup of tea. I've found it quite boring. I've never really followed global politics.

**Katie:**

I didn't think it was boring, but I wasn't really taking it in because I knew that I was gonna do the other question.

## **SCENE 9**

*In the pub*

**Neil:**

She said that if I wanted to I could retake the new module, the one that replaces this next year.

**Dave:**

What? Do it all again?

**Neil:**

Yeah, well, because I've now been assessed, I'm getting lots of extra help.

**Dave:**

So, what you gonna do?

**Neil:**

I don't know. I reckon I'll just pass this final assignment and move on to the next module. I might do a bit of psychology.

## **SCENE 10**

**Donna:**

I have to pass this. My grades are low because of the zero I got. So I really need to do a good job.

**Katie:**

I think I've just got to pass this and I'm through. I looked on the Qualification site and I think I'm going to do this module called 'You and Your Money' next. I need all the help I can get managing my finances.

**Donna:**

Well, provided I can scrape a pass, I'm doing the Level One Psychology module. I think it's called 'Discovering Psychology'.

**Music – dur: 00:06**

To be continued.....