

This Student Life – Series 2

EPISODE 1

Dur: 08:00

Music – dur: 00:15

SCENE 1: DONNA: GETS HER RESULTS

In a small upstairs office. Computer logging on. Typing log in details.

TED:

Donna!

DONNA:

Hang on a minute Ted. I just need to check something on my email.

TED:

Donna, I need my light blue shirt for this meeting. Where is it?

DONNA:

Hang on... This has got to be a mistake. Pended result? What does that mean? Ted, I just need to make a quick phone call.

TED:

I have to leave shortly, Donna. Can't it wait?

DONNA:

Oh, where's that number? Let's try under K. Think Donna. Ah, here we go.

Sound of mobile phone being dialled

DONNA:

Come on Katie, please pick up..... Oh hi. It's Donna. Yes, no it's been a good summer. Katie listen, are you busy? I really need to see you. Now. Can I buy you a coffee? The usual place. Yes sure - half an hour. Yes of course, it would be lovely to see Jade. Thanks Katie.

TED:

Donna! I have a meeting at 11. And I need my shirt.

DONNA:

Yes Ted. Sorry. I'll be down in a sec.

Slow walking down the stairs. Enters the kitchen.

DONNA:

Ted listen, I had an email from Katie.

TED:

Who's Katie? Donna, I am not attending a board meeting topless. Now where is my shirt?

DONNA:

You know, my friend from the OU, the one with the baby. Well the results are out and she didn't do so well, so I'm going to pop out and see her. Is that ok?

TED:

I've got a meeting Donna, so it doesn't make any difference to me what you do. I'd like my shirt though.

LOUISE:

Morning dad, hey mum.

TED:

Morning? It's nearly 10 o'clock. Louise, you're not a teenager any more. And isn't it about time you started looking for a job?

LOUISE:

Oh Dad, I only got back a month ago. Give me a break. Anyway, I'm going to make coffee. Do you want some?

TED:

Yes, sure. Why not? It looks like I'll be waiting a while for my shirt.

Kettle on. Making coffee

DONNA:

I'll go and find your shirt now, Ted.

LOUISE:

Have you had your results Mum? I thought they were due out today.

DONNA:

Oh yes, I scraped a pass.

TED:

You didn't say. Well that's good. But of course anybody can pass one of these, can't they?

DONNA:

It's not that simple Ted... Anyway, here's your shirt – it was in the wardrobe with the dry cleaning. I'll see you later. Louise, I'm just meeting a friend for coffee. I'll see you back here soon and we'll go to M&S, I promise.

Gets bag and keys. Door closes.

SCENE 2. KATIE AND DONNA MEET IN CAFÉ

Sound of a cafe in the background

DONNA:

Hi Katie. Hello Jade! Haven't you grown? And aren't you a busy bee?

KATIE:

How are you Donna? Wow, you've lost weight.

DONNA:

Yes, things have been a bit stressful.

KATIE:

What's been going on?

DONNA:

Oh it's all just been a bit hectic. My daughter Louise left her husband and children in Australia and has come back home. Anyway, let's get a coffee and make ourselves comfortable. What do you want? Can I get Jade something too?

KATIE:

Oh I'll get the coffees. I've got a job now, so let me treat you for once. The usual? Here you do this

with Jade. I won't be a sec.

Donna and Jade play

DONNA:

Hello Jade. What are we going to play? Shall we play with the blocks?

Katie returns with the drinks

KATIE:

Here you go – one grand cappuccino with cinnamon. Now Jade, be careful, this is a squeezy one. Let me have a big taste first... (*slurp*) Ooh yummy. Strawberry! Now you do the blocks ok? Right Donna, you have my undivided attention... Oh careful with that drink Jade. So what's wrong? Oh Donna you look like you're going to cry.

DONNA:

I logged on to get my results.

KATIE:

Yeah, same... I was up at midnight checking them. I got a pass 2 in the end. I don't know how they worked that out, but I was well pleased. Bet you got a first and all. So tell me, what's wrong?

DONNA:

I think I've failed. It says my result is "pending"?

KATIE:

Oh.... no. Well what was your grade?

DONNA:

I don't know. That's the thing. I think they're investigating me or something. How can they not know my results?

KATIE:

Ok. So, let's take this one step at a time. Your result is pending, that's not the same thing as a fail though is it?

DONNA:

Well what else can it be? It was that plagiarism business. Oh why was I so stupid?

KATIE:

No, it can't be. They've already punished you. I thought you worked out on the assessment calculator that you'd still get a pass even with the zero grade for that assignment?

DONNA:

Yes. I was convinced I'd be alright, and that's what the adviser said when she went through it with me. I don't know how I'm going to tell Ted.

KATIE:

Have you spoken to anybody?

DONNA:

Only you.

KATIE:

I mean have you spoken to somebody from the OU? Jade, please be a good girl. Mummy needs to have a little talk to Donna OK.

DONNA:

Oh yes that's probably a good idea. Why didn't I think of that? See? Stupid.

KATIE:

Donna, listen, it's probably nothing. You just need to talk to someone so that you know what's happened. They've probably lost one of the assignments – it's probably just an admin thing. You'll be fine. Unlike Neil.

DONNA:

Neil – the star of the Student Connections Conference. Why, what's happened to Neil?

KATIE:

He's left the country.

DONNA:

No.

KATIE:

Yes. And, he failed.

DONNA:

Oh poor Neil. How do you know all this? I didn't think you two were in touch?

KATIE:

Me and Neil. Oh, we're just friends – we met up a couple of times over the summer. He's not that bad actually. Just so long as we avoid the topic of fiscal policies.

DONNA:

Oh right. Yeah, well...

KATIE:

So anyway, I'd called to see whether he'd had his results because he wasn't replying to my texts, and his friend David answered and told me Neil is working abroad. And that he failed.

DONNA:

Goodness. Well, what about you? A pass 2. That's great, what's next?

KATIE:

Jade! Oh, did you have to do that? Come on darling. Please play nicely. Sorry, she's a bit of a handful. Let me wipe that up. Well, I've just signed up for DB123 "You and your money". I'm going down the economics route. It's only 30 points, so I think I can cope with that and my new job.

DONNA:

New job?

KATIE:

Yeah. I finished with that Mister Yesayan – that all got a bit dodgy. But I'm starting work in a fab new bar that's opening up.

DONNA:

That's great, Katie. I'm so glad, you're really going places. You just seem like you've got everything sorted.

KATIE:

I wouldn't go that far, but it is a step forwards. Now Donna, just call the OU and find out what they say. It's going to be OK you know. We'll be laughing about this next time we meet up. *(sighs)* It's nothing Donna. You'll be fine. And the modules start in a couple of weeks so you'd better get enrolled on your next course.

DONNA:

(starting to cry)

It's all too much Katie. I should never have started this degree. Ted was right. It's not for people like me.

Donna gets up to leave

I've had it. I know I've failed. I'm just useless.

Donna leaves in a hurry.

KATIE:

Donna! Don't go. Oh no. I hope she doesn't do anything silly. Jade! Please get your fingers out of that.

Music – duration: 00:06