



Living with Disability

Ann's story Scene 5

ANN:

All right Cheryl!

CHERYL:

Hiya pet. Sit down.

ANN:

God I need a drink.

CHERYL:

Here you are pet. I've got them all lined up.

ANN:

Oh. Cheers! Thank you.

CHERYL:

Things any better? Did the social come?

ANN:

No, not for my Dad they didn't.

CHERYL:

What? It's been months now!

ANN:

And we're still waiting! But did you hear what happened about Zoë?

CHERYL:

No?

ANN:

Oh, I can't believe this, wait till you hear this. Zoë's been playing up at school, mucking about in class, cheeking the teachers, not doing her homework.

CHERYL:

That doesn't sound like Zoë.

ANN:

Och, it's the new school, she's never really settled down, and apparently her behaviour was getting to the point when they were thinking about excluding her.

CHERYL:

My God, Ann, that's serious!

ANN:

Aye, well, the school rang up wanting a meeting and it was the night of that dreadful anniversary meal, and I basically told them just to get lost.

CHERYL:

What?

ANN:

Well, I just couldn't cope with it. So the school thought something dodgy was happening to Zoë at home, and they get this social worker on the case. And she came round like a shot.

CHERYL:

Oh. Aye. Why it's different isn't it when there's a child involved.

ANN:

Well, this is it, it's nuts, isn't it. If it's a kid, they're banging on the door, and if it's your father, just cos he's nearly 80 and it's like he'll be dead soon, why bother? It's ridiculous. Oh, I had a phone call saying I had an appointment, and that was about a couple of weeks ago, and then they cancelled that, absolute bloody nightmare.

CHERYL:

Don't you think that's typical though, eh?

ANN:

Yeah. I'm going to phone 'em back, say he's ten years old, they'll be round in five minutes.

CHERYL:

So what happened about Zoë?

ANN:

Oh, it's fine. The social worker came round and checked us out, you know, realised

Zoë

was not in danger, and the latest thing is, they reckon she's got dyslexia.

CHERYL:

How do they work that out then?

ANN:

Well, apparently bad behaviour can be a sign of it. You know, you muck about to hide the fact you can't do the work, and that's what she's been doing. And of course I hadn't spotted it, cos what with Dad and everything I just didn't have the space in my head for her, poor kid.

CHERYL:

Well, you've got enough on your plate without all that, haven't you?

ANN:

Aye! Well, just have to see about my Dad now, so...

CHERYL:

Well, don't hold your breath.

ANN:

I'm not, no.

BOB:

Post's here!

ANN:

Oh, I've got it!

BOB:

For God's sake, don't snatch! It's only bills!

ANN:

Gas bills, electric bill, pizza delivery ... oh God! How long are they going to keep us waiting! I don't think my nerves can take it!

BOB:

Hey, just relax, eh? It took them forever to send that social worker round for your Dad. You can't expect her to do the report the next day.

ANN:

I know but it's everything else, isn't it. I mean there's the Occupational Therapist needs to get involved, there's builders' quotes and God knows what else, waiting for this, waiting for that! I've just had it up to here, Bob! I don't know how much more I can take!

BOB:

Ann, will you just try and deal with one thing at a time, OK?

ANN:

Yeah, well it's quite a lot to be dealing with, and no one else round here seems to be taking any responsibility for anything, and it's all just taking forever!

BOB:

Yeah fine, whatever. I'm, I'm going to work.

ANN:

Fine, go.

BOB:

What's this I hear about you being late back again?

ZOE:

I wasnae that late, but Lily and I found a rabbit on the football pitch and it was nearly dead ...

ANN:

Right, I'm just going to turn this off for a minute

ANGUS:

Don't turn that off I was watching that!

BOB:

Zoë, don't start with this nonsense!

ANN:

Hello, Zoë, Bob, sorry to interrupt, but while we're all here together

ANGUS:

I'm watching the television!

ANN:

I know, Dad. Yes, I'll put it back on in a minute ... right; can I just have everyone's attention for a second, right? We've had the decision back from the social.

ZOE:

At last! What have they said?

BOB:

Great! It's about time!

ANN:

Well, I just want to check everyone's happy with this, OK? What she's come back and said is that we can have a, a care worker, I think they called her ...

BOB:
Care worker?

ANN:
Aye, she's going to come out for one hour twice a day, so it'll be like an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening and the good thing is, is that they've said it's completely free.

ZOE:
Oh, well, that's a brilliant idea!

ANGUS:
A stranger. I, I don't want a stranger in here! I mean, you can do it, can you not do it?

ANN:
No that's the whole point, Dad, you know all this. I'm not coping on my own, so she's going to come and give me a hand in the morning and in the evening, you know, just to get you up.

ZOE:
Oh, I think it sounds like a brilliant idea what if it's going to help Mum out.

ANGUS:
Well maybe if it, if it helps your Mum out ...

ANN:
Listen! When the social worker came she said you were really close to needing full-time care. I mean, that would mean a nursing home, so...

ANGUS:
You'll not leave me, will you?

ANN:
We're not leaving you, Dad, what's happening is, you get to stay here in your home, which is what you wanted.

ANGUS:
Aye

ANN:
And, we're all still here, and it just means somebody extra's coming in for two hours a day.

ANGUS:
But you'll still be here?

ANN:
Yes, I'll be here the whole time till she gets to know your routine, and then, you know, it might mean that I can get a bit more time just to get out and get to the shops, and...

ANGUS:
It's what you really think is the best?

ANN:
Well, Dad, I think it's best for now, cos I think to be honest we're, we're facing either this or you going into a home.

ANGUS:
I don't, I don't want the home.

BOB:
Angus we don't want that either.

ANGUS:

If it's, if it's going to help you, Ann, all right then.

BOB:

Good man.

ANGUS:

But don't leave me. Don't leave me on my own.