



## **This Student Life**

*A journey begins*

### **SCENE 1**

Music – dur: 00:15

**Donna:**

Ted, are you on your way out?

**Ted:**

Coat on, car keys in hand. Well, yes, I guess I am.

**Donna:**

There's no need to be sarky. Anyway, is it okay if I use the computer whilst you're out?

**Ted:**

My computer you mean? What do you want it for?

**Donna:**

I need to log on for my course.

**Ted:**

I don't want you downloading anything. That's how viruses get onto hard drives.

**Donna:**

I won't download anything. I don't even know how to download things.

**Ted:**

Precisely. And that's what worries me. You know what they say about a little bit of knowledge.

**Donna:**

I'll be careful Ted. I promise. Can I use it? Please?

**Ted:**

Okay, but if it picks up any viruses, you can pay to have them removed.

**Donna:**

Oh, thanks Ted.

**Ted:**

Okay. Right. I'm off. See you later.

**SOUND:**

*A door closing. Car driving away.*

**Donna:**

Don't rush back! Now, let's see if I can get onto this welcome forum. What shall I say? I know "Lonely woman seeks like-minded souls for mutual education".

### **SCENE 2**

*Setting: a pub, some music playing in the background.*

**Dave:**

There you go one pint of good old fashioned wallop.

**Neil:**

Good old fashioned what?

**Dave:**

Wallop. I dunno why, that's what me dad used to call it.

**Neil:**

You never cease to amaze me David, honestly.

**Dave:**

Well, what do you northern chappies call it?

**Neil:**

Er, beer.

**Dave:**

Anyway, how's your degree going?

**Neil:**

Oh, it's been great so far, I'm lovin' it.

**Dave:**

Well what have you learnt?

**Neil:**

Well, it's been mainly introductory stuff so far, so it's a bit early to say what I've learned.

**Dave:**

Well, what's it introducing you to?

**Neil:**

Okay, the first bit's all about 'the street'.

**Dave:**

The street? What street?

**Neil:**

Well the film's about a street in Cardiff.

**Dave:**

Cardiff? Do they have streets there, I thought it was all dirt tracks and coal mines.

**Neil:**

You know that ain't true, didn't you go there to watch Spurs in a Cup Final a couple of years ago?

**Dave:**

It was 2002. I prefer not to think about it. I hate Cardiff.

**Neil:**

You can't judge a city on the basis of whether Spurs lost there. You'd hate every city in Europe.

**Dave:**

Oi, steady on. Anyway, why on earth are you studying Cardiff?

**Neil:**

You lummo! I'm not studying Cardiff, it's just like an example. They show you a typical street and they show you how it shows things like connected lives and ordered lives and all that.

**Dave:**

Ordered lives? Whoever wrote it has obviously never been to Cardiff!

**Neil:**

I thought you said you knew something about social sciences. Ordered lives is all about how social order is maintained.

**Dave:**

Ooh, get you with all your 'how social order is maintained'. I thought you were supposed to read the book, not swallow it.

**Neil:**

You're so funny, aren't you? It's dead interesting actually.

**Dave:**

Well, so long as you're enjoying it.

**Neil:**

I am mate.

**Dave:**

Okay, here's a question for you about social order?

**Neil:**

Go on then.

**Dave:**

Do you think you could go up to the bar, socialise with the young man doing the serving and order us a couple of pints?

**SCENE 3**

*Katie's flat.*

**SOUND:**

*A baby crying.*

**Katie:**

Please Jade. Enough's enough. This has been going on for hours. Just stop crying. I really need to put you down.

**SOUND:**

*A doorbell rings, the baby keeps on screaming.*

**Katie:**

Who's that?

**SOUND:**

*Door opens*

**Cheryl:**

Jeez Katie, I could hear her crying half way down the street.

**SOUND:**

*Door closing*

**Katie:**

I just can't get her to stop. What is wrong with her.

**Cheryl:**

Bloody 'ell, you look wasted, here give her to me.

**SOUND:**

*Baby stops crying*

**Katie:**

Oh, at last. Thank you. Right, you are not leaving. Ever.

**Cheryl:**

Right. You're gonna keep me prisoner are you?

**Katie:**

I'm not kidding Cher, she has been crying all afternoon.

**Cheryl:**

Have you changed and fed her?

**Katie:**

(angrily) Of course I've bloody changed and fed her. I'm not a moron.

**Cheryl:**

Hey, calm down, okay. Look, she's falling asleep. You put her down, and I'll put the kettle on.

**Katie:**

Okay.

**SOUND:**

*Katie walks away and Cheryl goes into the kitchen. She puts on the kettle. Katie returns.*

**Katie:**

I'm sorry Cher, that was out of order. I should be thanking you not shouting at you.

**Cheryl:**

Oh, don't worry. I've been shouted at worse than that. It's you I'm worried about. Are you okay?

**Katie:**

Better. I'm so glad you turned up. I feel like strangling her when she won't stop. That's not right is it?

**Cheryl:**

Oh Katie, you're just finding it difficult. I bet loads of new mums feel like that. And you're not actually going to strangle her, are you? But you look absolutely out of it at the moment. I think you need a break. If there's anything you want me to do ...

**Katie:**

It's just been a hard couple of days. I could do with a good night out.

**Cheryl:**

Well, you know I'll babysit for you. You know, if you want a night on the town.

**Katie:**

D'you know what Cher. I don't want a night on the town I just need a couple of hours. That's all. And I can't have it because I can't leave her on her own. I've got a tutorial in a couple of weeks, and I'd really like to go, but what am I supposed to do with Jade?

**Cheryl:**

When is it?

**Katie:**

It's in two Saturdays' time.

**Cheryl:**

Well, let me have Jade and you go off and be a student. How's that sound?

**Katie:**

Brilliant. Are you sure?

**Cheryl:**

Of course I'm sure. I love playing at auntie, you know that.

**SCENE 4**

*Donna is at the keyboard typing and talking out loud.*

**Donna:**

I do hope you're going to cope, Donna. Let's face it, if I don't Ted'll never let me live it down. What is it with him? Why does he have to be so negative? I feel pretty confident when he's not around. Right. That's it. I'm not letting Ted spoil this for me. I will succeed.

**SOUND:**

*The front door opens and shuts.*

**Ted:**

Have you finished? I need to do some work.

**Donna:**

Yes, I was just looking at the website. Look at this?

**Ted:**

What am I looking at?

**Donna:**

This here.

**Ted:**

Student Connections. The Faculty of Social Sciences have just announced an online conference for students in June. Why am I reading this?

**Donna:**

It sounds exciting. I thought I might get involved.

**Ted:**

(laughs) You? You've managed to get on a course and now you're off to conferences. What next? A Nobel Prize?

**Donna:**

Do you have to be so negative all the time.

**Ted:**

You call it negative, I call it being realistic. You're a 54-year-old housewife. You left school at 16. Who's filling your head with all this nonsense? Was it Ariadne?

**Donna:**

Ariadne? Who's Ariadne?

**Ted:**

You were talking to her at the staff do. She's Julian's mad wife. All full of that feminist nonsense.

**Donna:**

Oh, her! I thought she was quite nice, but I only talked to her for about five minutes.

**Ted:**

Well, somebody's filling your head full of nonsense.

**Donna:**

Of course they are. Because I couldn't have the ideas by myself, could I? There. I've finished on here. It's all yours.

**Ted:**

Thanks. Where are you off to?

**Donna:**

Nowhere, it seems. If you have your way.