



## **This Student Life**

*A study group is formed*

### **SCENE 1**

**Dave:**

Come on Neil, mate. You can't stay in the toilet all day.

**Neil:** *(through door)*

Go away. I don't feel well.

**Dave:**

You shouldn't have eaten that kebab, I told you.

*Sound of flushing toilet. Door opens.*

**Neil:**

Just one more, you said!

**Dave:**

We only had one more.

**Neil:**

Yeah, but how many one mores?

**Dave:**

Eight, I think.

**Neil:**

How come you haven't got a hangover?

**Dave:**

They don't call me iron stomach for nothing, you know?

**Neil:**

What day is it?

**Dave:**

Saturday.

**Neil:**

Oh no! I've got to meet Donna today.

**Dave:**

I knew you was after her!

**Neil:**

I'm not after her. I'm helping her.

**Dave:**

Helping her? I bet you are.

**Neil:**

It's not like that. Anyway, what time is it?

**Dave:**

10.30

**Neil:**

Right, I'm gonna have a shower. I'm supposed to meet her in an hour.

## **SCENE 2**

*Door opens*

**Cheryl:** (*shouts*)

Katie! Katie! You here?

**Katie:** (*From off*)

Yeah, I'm in the shower.

*Sound of Cheryl walking to the bathroom and opening the door. The shower is running.*

**Katie:**

Oh, come in why don't you.

**Cheryl:**

I picked up your mail. You've got a lot of letters that look like final demands.

**Katie:**

Oh I've taken care of all that. But you know what they're like, they just keep on writing.

**Cheryl:**

Do you think I could have a quick shower before you go?

*Shower stops running*

**Katie:**

Pass my towel. Thanks. Didn't you go home last night?

**Cheryl:**

No, Tim had booked us a double room.

**Katie:**

A double room?

**Cheryl:**

He was well up for it. What a night. He knew positions I'd never even thought of ...

**Katie:**

Cher! He's married. Is this wise?

**Cheryl:**

He's on the verge of leaving his wife. From what he said, they're only staying together for the sake of the kids.

**Katie:**

And, you believe him? What are you thinking of?

**Cheryl:**

Hmm, even if he isn't leaving her, it's just a bit of fun.

*Sounds of clothes being discarded*

**Katie:**

If you say so. Listen, Cher, if you have a shower, I'll get Jade's stuff ready.

*Sound of shower running*

**Cheryl:**

Okay. What time's your tutorial?

**Katie:**

It's not a tutorial. I'm meeting Donna, my friend.

**Cheryl:**

The interfering old busy body?

**Katie:**

I've got to get ready.

### **SCENE 3**

*In a cafe*

**Donna:**

Can I have a coffee please.

*Donna takes out her mobile phone and makes a call*

**Donna:**

Voicemail. Okay, er, Louise, it's Mum, just checking if you're alright? Call me. Bye.

*Donna ends call.*

**Katie:**

Hiya.

**Donna:**

Oh, hiya. Where's Jade.

**Katie:**

She's gone shopping with my friend Cheryl. I've got about two hours before she comes back.

**Donna:**

Great. Well, how are you?

**Katie:**

What do you mean, how am I?

**Donna:**

Are you always this suspicious? I was just making conversation.

**Katie:**

Sorry. You must think I'm mad. I'm just not used to this sort of thing. Shall we talk about the course? I've brought my books.

*Sound of books being put on table*

**Donna:**

Yes, of course. That's why we're here isn't it?

**Katie:**

So, what do you make of this TMA?

**Donna:**

I thought we might wait for Neil.

**Katie:**

Well, it's gone 10.30. You did tell him 10.30?

**Donna:**

Well yes, but it's Saturday morning.

**Katie:**

Well, I know that, but I get Jade back in two hours and I don't want to waste it waiting for somebody who can't be bothered to get here on time.

**Donna:**

Okay, perhaps he'll join us later. Right TMA2. Shall we look at the question?

**Katie:**

Yeah, well it's two parts isn't it. First the essay plan, then the essay. I've done a plan – look!

*Katie passes a piece of paper to Donna*

**Donna:**

That looks really good.

**Katie:**

You hardly looked at it. What's wrong with you?

**Donna:**

Nothing. Your plan looks fine.

**Katie:**

I'm not gonna rip your head off, if you say it's crap, you know?

**Donna:**

I didn't think you would. Don't look at me like that. Okay Katie, do you mind if I say something?

**Katie:**

What?

**Donna:**

You can be a little abrupt sometimes.

**Katie: (abruptly)**

What's that supposed to mean?

**Donna:**

Look Katie, I don't want to get off on the wrong foot again. Let's just go through your plan shall we?

**Katie:**

Look, Donna. I know what you're thinking. If you say the wrong thing, I'm going to walk out again. I'm not. Okay? I want to be here. I've been looking forward to meeting up actually.

**Donna:**

Okay. But you do sometimes give the impression of somebody about to lash out at the slightest thing.

**Katie:**

Do I? Oh look, I'm sorry, I've just got a lot on my mind at the moment. I just need to make the best use of my time. So, anyway, you don't think much of my plan.

**Donna:**

No. No, it's really good. I like the way you've done it. I like the way you put the question in the middle then all the little clouds coming off it. You're quite artistic.

**Katie:**

See I was trying to think about the ideas around consumption. You know repressed and seduced consumers, and market power and monopoly and all that. But, it just seems so huge. And, we've only got 1,250 words to play with.

**Donna:**

Only? That seems a lot to me.

**Katie:** *(Katie spots Neil walking in. He doesn't see her and walks straight to the counter.)*  
Oh no!

**Donna:**

What's the matter?

**Katie:**

That bloke at the counter. He tried to pick me up a couple of weeks ago.

**Donna:**

Are you sure?

**Katie:**

Of course, I'm sure.

**Donna:**

Only...

**Neil:**

Hello Donna, sorry I'm a bit late. Oh, you.

**Donna:**

So, you two know each other?

**Neil:**

Sort of.

**Katie:**

So you are an OU student.

**Donna:**

Of course he is.

**Katie:**

Well, why didn't you say?

**Neil:**

I did. You just didn't believe me.

**Katie:**

Oh, well I thought you were just trying to pick me up.

**Neil:**

No, that was my mate Dave. And to be honest, you were very sensible to turn him down.

**Katie:**

Well, you better sit down. He's not coming is he?

**Neil:**

Here? No. He's busy today watching Spurs lose to Chelsea.

*Fade out and up again*

**Neil:**

Okay, so we've got to do one of these spidery diagrams, have we?

**Katie:**

I'm not sure you have to do that. I think you have to produce some sort of plan. You need to say what's in the introduction, what's in the middle, what's in the conclusion. That's what it says on the website.

**Neil:**

Right. So we don't have to hand in a spidery diagram?

**Donna:**

I think they want us to use the spider diagram just to organise our thoughts. But if you prefer some other way Neil, I don't think that would go against you.

**Katie:**

You know when they talk about social divisions, are they talking about class?

**Donna:**

I think class is one of the divisions, but they also talk about the in- and out-crowd. Wasn't it that Bauman said that the in-crowd are the seduced consumers?

**Neil:**

I don't think Bauman actually calls them the in-crowd, does he? When I was younger I used to hang out at a club with the so-called in-crowd, most of them didn't have much money, but they spent what they had on clothes and Northern Soul records ...

**Katie:**

That's very interesting, but I don't think you can use that in your essay.

**Donna:**

No. It's important that we only use the material they've given us.

**Neil:**

But it doesn't actually say that. I saw an interesting article in the paper the other day, and I thought I might use it.

**Katie:**

I wouldn't if I were you. Look at the references they give in the assessment notes? They're all from the materials. I don't think they want us to go outside the course.

**Neil:**

Oh, right. I never realised that.

**Katie:**

Oh no. Is that the time, I'm gonna have to go. I've got to get back for Jade. I'm sorry. This has been really good.

**Donna:**

Yes it has, hasn't it? Should we meet up again?

**Neil:**

Definitely. This has been useful. I've got a really good idea about what I shouldn't do now.

*Donna and Katie laugh*

**Donna:**

You'll be fine Neil. So, when shall we meet again?

**Neil:**

Well, how about next week?

**Katie:**

I'll need to check with Cheryl. I can't commit yet. Could you email me please, Donna?

**Donna:**

Of course I can. I'll email you both. I need to go too.

**Neil:**

See you both next week then.

**Music – dur: 00:06**