



## **This Student Life**

*A tutorial and a cup of tea*

### **SCENE 1**

*Outside the study centre, Katie and Neil are walking out together.*

**Katie:**

I wonder what happened to Donna? I was sure she'd be here.

**Neil:**

Didn't you read her email?

**Katie:**

Which one, she sends about five a day?

**Neil:**

Yes, she is quite prolific isn't she? The one about her husband.

**Katie:**

About her husband? No. Has something happened?

**Neil:**

Oh, look the refectory's still open, you got time for a quick cuppa?

**Katie:**

I would but I came out without my purse. I was in such a hurry this morning.

**Neil:**

Well, I think I can manage to pay for two cups of tea. Come on.

**Katie:**

It looks quite busy in there.

**Neil:**

Yeah, there's some big conference on.

A little while later:

*(Fade out/Fade in)*

**Katie:**

That's such a shame about Donna's husband. How awful for her.

**Neil:**

Not so great for him, either!

**Katie:**

I really enjoyed the tutorial. Martin's a really good tutor, but I thought there would be more people there.

**Neil:**

More than just four of us you mean?

**Katie:**

Well, yeah, there were 33 at the online one.

**Neil:**

Well, on the forum some people were saying they prefer to work on their assignment, you know, rather than waste time at a tutorial listening to other students.

**Katie:**

Well that's just daft. Verbalising helps you to understand things surely?

**Neil:**

Well, I'd have thought so. Actually, I prefer verbalising or even talking.

**Katie:**

Are you being funny?

**Neil:**

Just teasing. I'm serious, I don't find writing things down that easy. I wish we could just tell them what we think. You know, that's one reason why I'm going on this podcasting course next week.

**Katie:**

What podcasting course?

**Neil:**

Don't you read any of your emails?

**Katie:** (*angrily*)

I have got a young baby to look after, Neil. I can't spend all day reading emails.

**Neil:**

All right, all right. Sorry, sorry. It's an online course to do a podcast for the conference.

**Katie:**

Oh, yes, the conference. Donna was on about that. You're into that sort of thing are you?

**Neil:**

I might be. Look around you Katie. These are all at a conference, they look as though they're having a pretty good time don't you think?

**Katie:**

I suppose. But our conference isn't a real conference, is it?

**Neil:**

Why not?

**Katie:**

Well it's online for one thing. You won't be sitting around drinking lattes.

**Neil:**

Now who's being daft? It's just the same as an online tutorial. That was a real tutorial, wasn't it?

**Katie:**

I suppose so. There were certainly more people there.

**Neil:**

Exactly. I thought you said you preferred it.

**Katie:**

Well, it was easier to get to. I just had to open my laptop. And although I had a babysitter, I wasn't very far away.

**Neil:**

But did you learn anything?

**Katie:**

I did, yeah. But I learned something today too. I suppose this is quite nice as well, isn't it?

**Neil:**

Er, yeah, it is.

**Katie:**

I mean just being able to have a cuppa with another student. It wasn't as sociable online. We all just waited for the tutor to speak.

**Neil:**

Yeah, it was a bit stilted. Look, I'll tell you what, maybe next time we should make a point of talking to each other. You know, like this, just chatting. Maybe others will join in.

**Katie:**

Good idea. We could get there a bit early and invite others. Did you know there's a Facebook page for students in our region?

**Neil:**

I don't really do Facebook.

**Katie:**

Oh, you should, it's a brilliant way of staying in touch with people.

**Neil:**

Okay, I'll try it. But if I do, will you be my friend?

**Katie:**

Of course I will. Here this is my Facebook address, I'll write it down for you.

## **SCENE 2**

*Donna is at home.*

**Ted:**

Donna! Donna!

**Donna:**

What now Ted?

**Ted:**

What time's dinner?

**Donna:**

In an hour. Now do you mind if I get on with this. I only just got my last assignment in on time.

**Ted:**

But I'm hungry.

**Donna:**

Well why don't you have a biscuit?

**Ted:**

Can you bring me one up?

Donna walks to the kitchen, takes a biscuit from the tin and walks up the stairs.  
(*noise from activity*)

**Donna:**

Ted, you really ought to be up and about.

**Ted:**

I thought you were getting me a cup of tea as well. What am I supposed to dunk it in?

**Donna:**

I don't mind making you a cup of tea, Ted, honest. But the doctor said you should get back to normal as quickly as possible. Not lay in bed for a week.

**Ted:**

I'm not well Donna. You heard what he said I've got an abnormal heart rhythm.

**Donna:**

Yes he did say that. But, he also said it is very common and that it's not life threatening. Ted, you're like this when you get a cold. You just give up. Now, I really think you should get up and shower and take a walk.

**Ted:**

But I'm nervous it'll happen again.

**Donna:**

But it could happen again lying here, couldn't it? He said that your exercise was good for you. Perhaps you should think about going for a short run.

**Ted:**

A short run? Are you mad woman? I've just had a heart attack.

**Donna:**

You didn't have a heart attack. You had an elevated heart rate. What did they call it? SVT?

**Ted:**

Well it certainly felt like a heart attack. SupraVentricular Tachycardia. That's what they said I had.

**Donna:**

You're going to have to go back to work next week, you know that don't you?

**Ted:**

Oh, that's right. You try and kick me out of the house. Am I stopping you from playing with that stupid course?

**Donna:**

It's nothing to do with me. The doctor hasn't given you a certificate.

**Ted:**

I'll go and see my GP. I can't go back to work. Not yet. I don't feel up to it.

**Donna:**

Oh, stop being such a baby, Ted. Of course you can.

### **SCENE 3**

*Katie is back home and talking to Cheryl on the phone. Jade can be heard in the background.*

Katie:

Well there were only four of us turned up. I had a cup of tea with one of them afterwards, which was nice.

**Cheryl:**

Let me guess who with? Erm, Donna?

**Katie:**

No, smartypants. Actually it was Neil. I went for a cup of tea with him afterwards.

**Cheryl:**

Really? What's he like.

**Katie:**

He's quite cute actually.

**Cheryl:**

Do I hear the sound of a romance?

**Katie:**

No, you don't! Men and women can be friends you know without jumping into bed together?

**Cheryl:**

Really? Not in my experience. If a man buys you a cup of tea, he's after something else.

**Katie:**

Well, you'd know. Anyway, I don't think Neil's that way inclined.

**Cheryl:**

Oh, he's gay. You never said.

**Katie:**

I never said he was gay! He's just a nice guy, who happens to be studying the same thing as me. And he was nice enough to buy me a cup of tea afterwards. That's it. End of.

**Cheryl:**

We'll see.

**Katie:**

Yes we will. Now if you don't mind, I've got to feed Jade then I'm going to read a chapter on The Changing UK Economy.

**Cheryl:**

Sounds riveting!

**Katie:**

Actually, Cher, I thought this sort of thing would be really boring. But, do you know what, I'm starting to get really interested in all this economics stuff. It's really important.

**Cheryl:**

Okay, happy reading.