



This Student Life

Conference training

SCENE 1

Neil has just completed the podcast training. Dave is watching football on the TV.

Dave:

Come on, get it across! Oh you, useless, twerp. Come on Neil, come and watch this.

Neil:

Do you know what? Now I've got the DSA through I'm getting loads of help. They've just sent me all the materials on audio.

Dave:

We're brilliant at passing the ball in our own half. Hopeless thereafter. There we are, halftime. So, what help are you getting?

Neil:

The OU have been great. I had a long talk with that lass Ella at the student support team today. I'm getting an amanuensis?

Dave:

D'you get that under a local anaesthetic?

Neil:

You lummo! It's someone to help me write my assignments down for me.

Dave:

I could have done that for you.

Neil:

But this one won't want to do it in the pub.

Dave:

All sounds good, mate. Any beer in the fridge?

Neil:

I don't know. Try looking.

Dave opens the fridge, takes out a bottle of beer and opens it.

Dave:

D'you want one?

Neil:

Nah, you're alright.

Dave:

You were saying?

Neil:

It's a bloke called Rob. I'm meeting him later this week.

Dave:

Really? Oh, second half's about to start. Come on you Spurs!

SCENE 2

Donna has just finished the podcast training.

Donna:

That was very interesting, Ted.

Ted:

What was?

Donna:

I told you earlier I was doing some training on how to make a podcast.

Donna's mobile phone rings

Donna:

Who's that now?

Ted:

You could try answering it.

Donna:

Oh, it's Katie. Hello.

Katie is on the other end of the phone.

Katie:

Hiya. That was great wasn't it?

Donna:

Yes, it was. I think the conference is going to be real fun.

Katie:

Me too! I really liked that presenter, what was her name?

Donna:

Oh, you mean Karen. Yes, she made me feel very enthusiastic.

Katie:

Exactly. And she made it sound really easy to do. What did you think of this idea about working in small groups?

Donna:

I think that's a brilliant idea. Are you thinking that we could do something together?

Katie:

I wrote some ideas down and sent you an email. I know I should have waited, but I just wanted to strike whilst the iron was hot.

Donna:

Oh, sorry. I came downstairs, let me just get back to the computer. Look, you ring off, I'll ring you back.

Katie:

Okay. Why don't you Skype me. Save on your phone bills.

Donna:

Okay. Five minutes. Talk to you in a minute. Ted? That was Katie, the young girl I told you about.

SCENE 3

Donna is at her computer

Donna:

Right. That's Katie's email. Let's have a look at the attachment. The challenge of learning social science. What a good title. Oh, she really is bright. Okay, let's Skype.

Sound of a Skype call. Katie answers.

Katie:

Did you get it?

Donna:

Yes, I've got it open in front of me.

Katie:

What do you think? You can tell me if it's an awful idea.

Donna:

It's not awful at all. In fact, it's brilliant. I really love it. You are very talented, Katie.

Katie:

I'm not sure about that.

Donna:

Where did you get this picture?

Katie:

Oh that! Oh I drew it and then scanned it in. It's just a doodle really.

Donna:

A doodle? It's wonderful. Where did you learn to draw?

Katie:

Nowhere. I've just always liked sketching things. They're nothing special.

Donna:

You underestimate yourself. You're very much like my daughter Louise in that way. I think you two would really get on.

Katie:

Well, next time I'm in Australia, I'll make sure I look her up.

Donna:

So, your idea is that we do five or six interviews with students?

Katie:

What I was thinking was that almost every student I meet has some sort of story. Whether they're single parents, or living in the middle of nowhere, or just had a bad time at school, nearly every single Open University student is special. So, I thought we should make a podcast celebrating the way we all overcome our challenges.

Donna:

That's a wonderful idea. I'm just wondering how we're going to meet these students to interview them?

Katie:

I've thought of that too! We could meet them through the Facebook page. We could tell them what we're trying to do, then meet up somewhere and record them.

Donna:

You've thought of everything.

Katie:

There was just one other thing though.

Donna:

What?

Katie:

Should we ask Neil to work on this with us? He did say he was interested?

Donna:

That's a great idea, Katie. Do you want to ask him?

Katie:

Would you mind doing it? I don't want to give him the wrong idea.

Sound of Jade crying in the background

Katie:

Oh, that's Jade. She must have woken up. I'd better go.

Donna:

Okay, Katie. We can talk again tomorrow.

Donna finishes the Skype call

Donna:

I'll just check my emails before I close down. Hold on, what's this? The Academic Conduct Office. What's this? Oh no! I don't believe it. Ted! Ted!

Ted comes up the stairs

Ted:

What's wrong?

Donna:

I've been accused of plagiarism.