

Audio file

[118999-TheOldOak.mp3](#)

Transcript

I can manage this one. OK, if you just follow me, we'll go and find your new one.

We'll help you down.

That's a bit heavy, that one.

Your jacket.

Here we go. OK, guys. So we're going to go.

We're going to take you to your home. We can get your bags. We can give you a hand.

Where the **** are they from, Mike?

Please mind your language, sir.

Just answer me question. Who the **** are they?

They're from Syria.

Muslim Syria.

Are you taking the ***** kids?

Right, please mind your language. See, there's loads of kids here. Let's just keep it calm.

I've got my own kids to ***** worry about.

I understand that, but let's keep it calm so we'll get these kids in the house. It's not fair.

That's ****.

I'll answer all your questions we've got later, but let's please get these kids.

Is it all right? I'm not asking. Yeah.

Why didn't you tell us these were coming?

Look, the council will be around to explain to all the neighbours.

You could explain. You didn't even tell us they were coming. When are you going to do that?

We will be around just to explain.

But they've got a good point, haven't they? You've got to admit they've got a good point.

I understand what they're saying.

Listen. Like there's bands on the bus, they're tired, they're frightened, we just need to get them into the house, and we'll deal with it later. Listen, I know we'll just have to deal with it later. I'm really sorry.

You're ***** rad kids, man. You shot my mate in a rack.

All right, that's out of order now. We need to keep calm.

That is out of order. She's taking your ***** photo there. Look at that. Her there. Look at that. She's taking your photo. Taking my photo. We took my sea, so it's a ***** disgrace, TJ. You better delete that phone right now. The sizes, man. You're terrifying the people, man. She's taking my phone.

You can't do that.

You manage with that. Watch your step as you're coming off. Try and stay together. Put you lads. Put you lads this way.

I'll sort out the photograph, right?

I'll sort out the photograph, right? But they're just kids, man. Let them get in the house and get settled, man.

This way. I'm right. Do you want to work to your town down there? Yes, if you can. Win this one. Bye, boys.

Right, okay. Please. Two more pictures. Rocco, man. No, man.

Rocco. Rocco, man.

Give me the camera.

Rocco.

Give me the camera. It's okay.

Selfie.

You better step back at me, man.

Rocco.

I say she's trying to grab it. She shouldn't have tried to grab it. What the-- Wind your head, man.

Come on. Aye, that's all right.

It was a toast, man.

Let's go inside. OK. Everybody in? OK.

I'm sorry.

I'm really sorry for that, guys. OK, you've got the lounge here.

Here's your bags. I'm really sorry that happened, and I hope you're OK.

Thank you.

So we've got a microwave.

We've got a fridge.

Come on, Mara.

Come on. Good girl.

Good girl, Mara.

Leave.

Leave it.

Come on.

Come on.

Come on, Mara.

Good girl, Mara, good girl. Go on, help me again. Good girl, Mara, come on, give me some water. Come on.

Good girl.

Good girl. There you go.

Good girl.

Foxy. Come on. Foxy.

Just put your mum in the car there, Michelle. I'm going to have a word with that lad.

Dad, suck her down.

Look, I'll just put her in the car. Oh, son. Have you sold that house?

Well, that's commercially sensitive information, sir.

Yeah, look, I'll do you sensitive. Have you sold it or not?

It was sold online at auction a couple of weeks ago, along with three others at the top of the village.

Four houses without even a visit? Who the **** bought them like?

I don't know, some company in Cyprus.

How much? Eight grand each. **** me, I am screwed. We paid five times that. How the **** am I going to sell it now? Have you got a tenant? Have you done a background check?

No, that's my department.

Not my department. I'll not my department, you. You rented out the house next door to me to a **** nutter. They've been bought online, right, on an auction. They've never been to the village to have a look at the houses. They've never walked round the street, our streets in our village, you know.

Bought by some speculating greedy **** who'll rent them out to some **** moron.

They're **** parasites. They are. All they do... They don't even come to the village, they don't even come to the street, they don't even see the **** houses to buy.

Now you heard this. They're advertising homes for rent in my street, right? In Durham **** prison. I'm not kidding you. That's a **** number, man. That's a **** number.

I'm telling you. Remember a few years ago when Mary was first diagnosed and we were thinking about selling up and moving so we could be closer to her sister. We hummed in hard for a bit, like, didn't know what to do, but we got the house valued. It was worth about 50 grand. A bit more than we paid for, so that was all right. Do you know how much? Do you know how much that company in Cyprus paid for them houses? Go on. Eight grand each.

For **** sake.

I mean, we're screwed. Eight grand. Eight grand. I mean, Mary can't take it anymore, man, with **** **** next door, but we're just trapped there. This has now become a dumping ground, lads. You're right. Landlasses, dumping ground.

You're right there. Them people that are buying the places, they're not bothered, they're not doing the houses up. And the people who are moving in, well, it's not their property at the end of the day, they're not doing them up. They're just being left to wreck and ruin.

I just don't know what to say. I mean, me and Mary, we've been in this village all our lives.

I know you have.

You know, and is this going to be it like the rest of our lives? I live in...

Don't take it anymore.

No, Mummy. Oh, it's all right. We all know Mary. Please give her our regards, will you, Mary? We all know. How is your time? Owning your house was your pride, wasn't it? It's a ***** mill stone now, isn't it? It's a ***** mill stone. You're absolutely right. It's not worth it. The mill stone is what we'll become.

She's one of them from the boss.

***** hell. That'll be a pint of Guinness then.

Hi, how can I help you?

I just came to say thank you for your kindness when we arrived.

In fact, me, I didn't do anything.

I really appreciate it.

No, I didn't do anything. You're right.

And I need to ask you another question. I am trying to find the man who broke my camera. I need him to pay for it and to fix it.

Right.

Yeah, so do you know him?

No, I don't really know who it was.

He wore a shirt with black and white stripes.

That's a very good shirt. That's the colors of a local football team.

But you were talking to him. Do you remember that?

Yeah, I remember talking to him. I know who he is. He's not a friend of mine. I'm not the police.

Maybe if you see him, can you please let me know? My name is Yara, by the way. What's yours?

I'm Tommy Joe Ballantyne.

Thank you, Mister Ballantyne. Can you do that?

I'll see what I can do. I'll try, yeah.

Thank you so much, Mister Ballantyne. Bye, bye.

OK, bye now.

What's a ***** brass neck?

I thought he couldn't come into the pubs where they sold alcohol. Oh man, they get up all sorts when anybody's looking. I learned that when I used to work out there.

She's marched in here as if she owns the place? What next?

Building the mosque.

Morning.

Morning.

You all right? Yeah.

Morning, Linda.

Oh, morning. Hi.

Should you end up be at school?

Yeah, but they could do a day without me, so, you know. But don't tell my nan, because I'll get another lecture.

Jesus Christ, my lads only ***** **** me self.

See you, man, stop overreacting. They're little soft shirts, really, aren't they?

Overreacting, you can put a saddle on that, ***** . Sorry, man. Let's be fair, TJ, mate.

We wouldn't have them in the street yet if they weren't good with kids.

The box were...

Honestly.

They're lovely.

They're lovely. They're not that bad, you know, mate.

We were viewing hers as a bloody breakfast snack.

They're not that bad. He's cute.

We apologise, mate. ***** hell.

Listen to me.

This...

You shouldn't take it from the bag. But shouldn't I take my picture then, should you?

Should pay for it.

I shouldn't pay for that.

What's going on?

This is the man who broke my camera.

I can't let you banging on a bit seriously.

I don't understand what you are saying. You should pay for it.

If you don't understand me and you don't understand Queen's English, **** back to your own country. You ****. Don't say that to me.

You're not exactly ***** local, are you?

Right, I'm offski. Have a good day. Bye.

So you know him.

Yeah, I do, yeah. You'll not get any money out to him to fix the camera. All his money goes on drink. Do you have the camera on you?

Yeah.

Could I please have a look? Thank you. If you've got a moment and you come back to the pub with me, I may be able to help you.

Now.

If you've got a moment, yeah. Good girl, good girl. Hey, off you go. Maggie, can I have a case of the back room, please?

The back room.

Yeah, please. Thank you.

Good morning.

Hiya, Pet, you all right?

Yeah, thank you.

You just need to come this way. Have to excuse the mess, I'm afraid. It's been locked up for about 20 years, this room. Back in the day, it used to be packed every day. There used to be a pit in the village, a coal mine. Every village around here had their own pit. They're long gone now, of course. All be a life. Just gone forever. You all right? This is what I wanted to show you. Now, they're not the same as yours, but I thought that possibly one might be of some use to you. One of my uncles, he took most of the photographs in here.

This one looks really like my camera. Thank you for thinking of me. But my camera is special to me.

Right, well, there's a shop in Durham where I can get your camera fixed for you.

Well, thank you, but I have no money.

Right, well, what if I just trade two of these cameras into that shop and that'll get enough money to get your camera fixed? You can trust me with it. I'll get it fixed. I'll keep an eye on it, don't worry.

Thank you so much.

I'll look after it, I promise.

Thank you.

Do you mind me asking? You speak very good English. Where did you learn?

Cos I lived in a camp for two years and I volunteered there to help the foreign nurses. So they taught me a lot of English. Also, in the first months, I decided that I am going to learn 20 new words of English every day. That's what I did, yeah.

TJ, I really need to go now.

Right.

As the regulars are in, and that's two that want serving.

Right, open up. Cheers, man.

All right, see you later.

Cheers now. I'll leave this with you. Right.

Mr. Brantime.

Yeah.

Can I take a look at the other pictures?

Yeah, of course you can. Take as long as you want.

Thank you.

I shouldn't be too long. OK.

Here, where have you been? Oh, you're trying to get served here. Five minutes, we've been waiting now.

Five minutes.

Do you want a beer?

Right, go on.

I'll get it.

Thank you very much.

So, what's going on, TJ?

Not a lot, mate.

Well, no, she's in there.

TJ, this is the one place in the village where we can come and forget what worries, just be ourselves, man.

Oh, no, I hope you're not slipping her a lentil next door.

Going to be a trip down memory lane. Been giving her a soft story about the poor ***** manners of you, TJ.

Now, Vic, cut the ***** out.

Look, man, we've just come in here for a quiet pint, are you all right? And, TJ, we don't need *** ***** in our booze, are you? *** *****.

***** Gary, man. Speak for yourself, lad. Anywhere, she's doing you no harm whatsoever. ***** ever.

**** Joe. Do you know what?

You can tell your father was a ***** scab, because she had telling her just like him.

The only regret my old man had, it's like he didn't leave work earlier.

He didn't get any earlier, but he ***** went in. And five years later, mate, the pit was ***** shut and he was on the scrap heap like the ***** restaurant.

I thought you meant like a drink.

Thank you. When you eat together, we stick together.

Yeah. Your mother always said that. Yeah.

We used to do the same before we left Syria. We used to cook together, too, with our neighbors and sleep under the stairs in case we were pumped.

I had to take him during the strike. I was just a young lad. I'd just started down the pit. And the government tried to stall us back to work, so we made sure that we ate together every day. Yeah.

And what's that?

This is more of the strike. Then we'll be caught by those *****. Yeah.

Well, they look so strong.

Yeah, we were. You know, my father always said, If the workers realized the power that they have and the confidence to use it, we could change the world. But we never did.

Alaikum. Okay, okay. Please, a moment. Yeah.

Salaam alaikum. This one's close. This one, yeah.

And this one, yeah.

Oh, it's come, I'll show you.

You all right with that?

Yeah, not good.

Jeremiah, how are you?

Hi, salaam alaikum, alaikum as-salam.

How are you doing? Good, This one's for you.

Thank you.

No problem.

Mum said thank you.

No problem. No problem.

Because Jamila kicked me in bed.

No, Jamila.

No. For you.

No. Let her hear you. Mum, I hear you.

Tap.

Three seconds.

Oh.

You all right?

You know what?

What?

Something you'll never learn.

What's happening?

Charity begins at home.

Have you seen what I've got? Nappies. There's a baby.

Hi.

Salaam alaikum, Aisha. Salaam. Salaam. Yeah.

Got some clothes. A couple of shoes.

Thank you.

Should I put it inside? Yes, shoes.

A couple of bits here.

Oh, thanks. That's good.

That Aisha's dead kind of, you know. But they're having like a proper nightmare. The Ben won't stop crying because of his bad chest. And that neighbour you saw, banging on the wall constantly, swearing his head off at them, right? It's a nightmare, really, really stressful, like.

I cannot say, I'm surprised. I mean, if you have the stuff to come out with in the pub, man, geez, especially when they've had a few. And then they go home, they go online and they just wind each other up. Some of the stuff that come out of it, it's horrendous.

What do you say to them in the pub?

What can I say?

Well, I don't know, TJ, that's why I'm asking you.

I see a note. Just keep me mouth shut. Yeah. Thank you. Hi.

Listen, I'm Anika.

Sala Anika. Sala Anika.

For you, for the house. How are you doing?

Shrugging off.

No problem. And for you, yes, what we've got? Bike.

Yes.

There you go. Happy? There you go. Yes. Poor honor.

All right, lads.

How come they're getting all that stuff?

It's all been donated by local people. It's all second-hand stuff, lads. There's nothing new.

I know, but they've been getting everything lately.

Aye, but they've lost everything. I'll see if we can understand. They came to this country and they had absolutely nothing other than the clothes on the back.

Wish I could get a bike.

You know, maybe you should do something for the local kids.

Are you kidding us? Why don't you do some things? Start the football up again? No? Thought not. Here, man, I'm ran off me feet. I never stop. I've got burns at home. I've got work. My mum's poorly. Our lad's saying he never sees us. You want us to do more? There's only a couple of us doing this, you know. Me, a couple from the church. Jesus Christ, Fantasia, you do something for ***** sake. You used to be the one kicking our ***** when something needed doing round her, yeah? And now what? I've got to beg you to give us a lift in the van to drop some stuff off. Are you kidding us? How am I, man?

On your marks, get set.

Come on. Go on, Olivia! Keep going, Linda! Linda! Linda.

Linda, are you okay?

I'm so ill.

Is your mother here?

No, she's at work.

Linda, Linda, you all right, darling? No.

Here, have some water. You might be dehydrated.

Yeah.

Thank you.

What have you eaten today, Linda?

It's a small bag of quiffs.

Right, OK.

Do you think you might want to go home?

Yeah. Is your home near?

Yeah, it's just a couple of streets away.

OK, I can take you home. yeah.

I forgot my keys.

Max, Max, open the door.

What do you want?

Hi, your sister is not feeling well. Can I help her inside?

Yeah, sure.

Come sit here. Put your head here. I have a banana in my bag. Could you try and eat that?

Look, I can't. I need something sweet. That usually helps.

Sorry, do you have a biscuit or something sweet for your sister? One moment.

Who the **** are you?

I'm sorry.

Do I come in your house poking around in your *****. Get out! ***** get out.

Get out! I'm sorry, I was trying to help.

These kids are my responsibility. Keep your big ***** foreign nose out of my business, right? Get out.

She was helping me.

I don't ***** care. You're not wanted to hear your nose.

You don't understand. She's sick. I was helping her.

I don't ***** care. Get out. Don't come back. How many times have I told you?

You're not the last thing in the house.

***** front of us in the house. How many times? Mr. Bantine.

Hello, you are.

Hi. I have something for you. Thank you so much. You're welcome. Mr. Bantine, salah al kamurti. Salam alaikum. Thank you. My mom say you must come in for tea.

Oh, no, it's okay. I've got dirty shoes on. I've been to work.

No, please, just for tea. Five minutes. Please come.

That's very kind of you.

Please come.

Thank you.

She's making a joke of me. Like, now I am going to take pictures of everyone on the street, like I did in the camp.

Thank you.

Here, have some cakes.

Thank you.

Do you like it?

Very good cake.

Very nice.

Is the camera okay?

It's perfect. Like any one. Shukran. Do you know what shukran means?

No.

It means thank you.

Shukran.

Shukran. It goes with your name. Shukran, Mr. Valentine.

Shukran. So, all the kids are in school now, so how's it going?

Good.

School good? Big lad, how's school going? Good, right. The adults are very pretty.

Do they have names? Yeah.

So those are the names of her girlfriends back home. She doesn't know where they are now. This is our father, and she said she wish he can find us here.

I'm sure he will. Yeah, I'm sure he will.

If you excuse them, they have homework to do.

Yeah.

So this is my father. He's A tailor, quick hands and quick mind. His only crime was to look for his brother. He was picked up by the Shabbiha. It means the ghosts.

Ghosts.

They are state-sponsored militias of the Syrian regime. My mother thinks he's dead. I know he's still alive.

Your father got you that camera, didn't he?

Yeah.

When I was a little girl, I told him I wanted to be a photographer and travel the world. So this camera saved my life.

How was that?

Because I saw a lot of things I wish I hadn't seen. I don't have the words to describe it. But when I look through this camera, I choose to see some hope and some strength. So I choose how I live with this camera.

Right.

And I feel like my father is with me. So thank you for fixing it.

It's my pleasure.

Your boss here.

Come down. Everybody deserves. Make him pay. Come on. All right, boys, come on. Come on, come here. All right, boys, come on. Get the **** the patty cuddle. Get the **** of that, you little ****. Come on, come on. **** look at me, yeah. I know what you've **** done. You know what you've. Get the ****. You all know what you've **** done. Why the **** would you do that? You know what, buddy, come on. You little ****. You dirty immigrant ****. **** out of your own country. **** do that again. I swear to **** God. Go on. Go on. You **** little dirty ****. Go on. ****. ****. That's what you **** are. Get the **** now. Get the **** you little ****.

Stop it dead. Stop it dead. Look, see him. That's my nephew. Right? Listen to what he says. You know what we've done. We know what you've done. Have you seen this, Charlie? That foreign **** has been bullying lasted at dinner time. He pushed one over.

That's the parents.

He's a good kid. He's a decent lad.

We're just trying to figure out what happened.

Well, something's going on, TJ. Here, Gary, play that again. See, something happened before that?

I've got your actual Ronnie responding, isn't it?

How Ronnie's getting bullied on **** social media now.

They're bloody fanatics, man.

So what the **** do you make of happening to you? Yeah.

I don't know.

Another pint. Anybody.

Is there anything to see another pint?

I'll post another one. Sure, Eddie.

It's all you want to see another pint.

I bet I'll have you.

I'm no racist, but I'm not happy about the skill. All those extra kids in there. And I don't blame them, but some of them don't even speak English. It's holding everyone back.

Exactly. Are there no more teachers?

Right. They're bringing someone in who speaks Arabic.

Arabic? It's great for our kids, aren't it? There was two of them in front of our cousin in the doctor's other morning trying to fill ***** forms out. That took half an hour.

It was the same with Mary at the health centre.

Funny, isn't it? They always put them around here, but they never put them in Chelsea or ***** Westminster.

Well, of course they don't. They don't want them living by them, don't they? That's why they're dumping them on us by the ***** busload. Exactly. I mean, I'm not against refugees, immigrants. I mean, God, my father was Irish. But there's **** all in this village now. And we're supposed to share it with that lot. We don't even know them. And if you say anything about it, all the posh wangers make you out to be a racist. I'm ***** sick of it.

So am I. I'm ***** sick of it.

And what about the background checks? You know what I mean? Who are these people's wives? Who are they married to? Who's their brothers? Who's their cousins? They've all got smartphones, face-to-face with fighters in the war zone.

All it takes, you know, is one of them to slip through one crazy ***** jihadi.

I feel sorry for the poor *****. I honestly do.

Me and all, Jaffa, but what can we do? We can't even look after our own.

Bang on. People living in ***** bordered up houses here with candles on. They've never had any ***** respect for us around here, ever, ever.

Well, I say we should draw a line in the sand. Enough's enough. It starts here. This village, this pub, the Old Oak, we should have a public meeting and tell everybody how we feel, invite everybody, the local council, the press, Chinese telly.

You need to be careful, Charlie. You get a load of racists in. There's plenty of them about. I don't need it.

Jaffa, as far as I'm concerned, it's now or never.

Well, where would we hold it? Everywhere's closed. There's the church hall, the miners' welfare, even the school's gone.

Well, you opened the back room the other day there, TJ. What could have it in there?

It's been shut for 20 years, that one. The place is an absolute tip.

Would you like to clean it up? Come here, lads. I'll do that, Yeah, of course we could.

There's no heating in there, the plumbing's knackered, and the electrics are ***** so that's a non-stop.

Jaffa's done time in the building trade. Couldn't you help out Jaffa?

No, count me out. I've got a bad back.

What about the cooks, TJ?

Cooks? They haven't been worked until the 90s, man would blow ourselves up.

I'll strip them down. I've got time in my hands. Oh, oh, anyway, we don't need cooks. We don't need any food on out. All we need is a room for a few hours for a meeting. Now, what's the problem?

I haven't got public liability insurance, so for that reason I can't have any public functions in there.

You're a stickler for the rules all of a sudden, aren't you, bonny lad? Do you mind if I go and have a look yourself?

Go on, son.

Hey, the keys are behind the bar. Come on, open it up.

The room stay is closed.

Hey, do you know what it is, TJ? Some of us have been drinking in this pub for 40 years. That's a lifetime, man. Me and Mary, we had our... Our engagement party in that room, you were there, you remember.

Of course I can, mate.

Aye, of course you can, cos you made a lovely speech, didn't you? Maras for life and all that. Aye. And now you won't even open the room for us, but you'll open it for your new mates. What's that like? Do I not count all of a sudden? No.

I'm sorry, mate. I'm sorry. But that room stays shut. There you go, Howard, then.

Aye. Fair enough. That's it. Fair enough.

Sorry, Charlie.

***** disgraceful. Absolutely.

Can I have a word with you?

Yeah, you. I need to talk to you. I didn't know what happened with Linda the other day. I'm really sorry. I just want her to apologise.

I'm sorry too for entering your house. I shouldn't have asked.

Linda showed me the photographs she took of her. They're really lovely. They're so natural. And she looks happy for a change. What I wanted to ask you, I showed the pictures to the girls in the salon. I've got a little cleaning job there, just a few hours a week. They would really like it if you come and took some pictures of them as well.

Really? Yeah, I can do that. Yeah.

Can you look at the camera, please? You want us to look at you?

Yeah.

So this is Debbie, Yara, took the dog.

Not tonight, my room with my friends and what's the bar?

I don't think he was a bar. I don't think he was.

Are you enjoying doing this thing? Yeah, very much.

Thank you for letting me take your photos. Oh, you're welcome.

Oh, a nice cup of tea. Oh, that's fantastic. Thank you.

Thank you for your darling. Yeah, she's good. She's doing better. She's back at school.

Nice. Can I just ask you something? Do you do like a gift voucher?

No, say do you wear like simple outfits or...

Oh, dear nuts. It's just, you know my daughter Josie? It's her birthday coming up and she hasn't been out for months. And I was just thinking it would be lovely, maybe for her, she could do with having her hair done. I mean, she's... Got her nails, but they're a

mess. They really need doing. And if I give her money to get it done, it'll go straight out for the kids.

Yeah.

I've got a friend going through exactly the same thing as well. Sadie, it's awful. She's lost all of her confidence. She's just hiding away.

We've just never seen her. She's just so lonely.

Oh, they feel ashamed, don't they? That's what happened to me, Katie. She just got left by the wayside. I don't even know where she is. Don't know if she'll ever come back.

That's 5:20 there, boy. She has it. Got a friend for life there, mate.

Can you look dog?

She's a belter.

TD.

Yep.

Can we have a word? Yara and me have been having a think.

That's reassuring.

No, not like that, honestly. Just Yara was at the hairdresser's the other day, talking to the lasses, and you know what it's like. People are really struggling. She was talking to Sadie about her daughter Josie.

Christ, I haven't seen her in months.

Exactly. She's like really hiding herself away, right?

I've been thinking, Mr. Valentine, our families, the Syrian families, are so isolated and worried for their kids. Some of the locals here are struggling too.

Some of the stories are here and here, man. It's absolutely heartbreaking.

Exactly.

So that photo in the back room, what your mother said to you, if you eat together, you stick together, right? So imagine if all the families mix and start to eat together, we can become friends. This could really change our life forever. What do you think?

Well, it sounds like a great idea, but do you not think you're taking too much joy?

Why no man? Our mans did 500 meals a day during the strike. We can pull off a dinner for a couple of people from the village. If we just start small, maybe, it's like with the

people who need it the most, like Josie. And we could maybe ask Brendan from the school, which the other Burns might need it. Just start off like that.

We can brother the van any team you want, if that'll help.

The thing is, there's nowhere really to do it anymore. The church hall gone, and that was the last suitable place, so... We were thinking maybe we could use the back room.

Are you trying to embarrass us? No. That's been shut up for 20 years, man.

We were just thinking we could get people in, maybe have a maybe daily.

Some of our men are builders.

They can't come and...

It's not safe, Yora. You know that. You know it's not safe in there. What are you playing at, Laura?

How am I, TJ?

Are you trying to ***** ruin us?

No, we're trying to do something for the village.

All right, even I could open that back room. The last few regulars I've got left were ***** boycotters.

Oh, yeah.

I'm hanging on by me fingertips, yeah? I can't sell the place. I've got a penny to me ***** name. Do you want us out on the street? Is that what you want?

No, no, of course not.

If that's what'll happen, Laura, just ***** leave it, right? Just get off me back and leave it.

Yeah, I'm sorry.

Good girl, come on.

Mara.

Leave it.

Mara.

Leave it! Mara, leave it! Leave it! Mara.

Leave it.

Mara.

Mara! Mara! Mara! You man, you ***** prick! Get those ***** under control! I told you not to do this! Mara! Get a ***** one! Mara! Get a hold of the ***** thing, man! The ***** size of it, man! Go, go, go, go! Mara! Go, go, go, go! Mara, you ***** *****! Mara! Mara.

Mara! Mara! You *****.

You ***** *****! I don't ***** have you.

Hi, we were thinking of you. Can we come in?

Yeah, of course you can. Please take a seat.

Bring a plate just for yourself. Sometimes in life there is no need for words, only food.

You make me feel quite ashamed after what you've been through to do this for me.

There is no shame in love, Mr. Valentine. We understand loss. Please, take a seat.

Thank you.

You would like the food.

I'm sure I will.

She won't leave until you eat.

Okay.

That's very nice. Thank you. Thank you.

When did you get married?

April the 9th, two years ago.

You remember the date.

Yeah. It's a very special date to me. My father was a miner, as you know. On April the 9th, many years ago now, he was working on a seam 3 mile out to sea and he was killed in an accident. So 2 years ago, my life was in such a mess. I decided on April the 9th. I would take my own life. I don't know, that may be hard for you to understand.

It's not touched.

Yeah, I just made so many mistakes. I'd just lost a good woman. I made time for everybody except her. By the time I realised, That was too late. She wanted a divorce.

Do you have any children?

Yeah. I have a son. He's a good lad, but he doesn't speak to me anymore. And I can't blame him. I just kept hurting everybody that I loved and cared for. I mean, this place... the old oak, and it's dropping to bits, and I can't get it fixed. So when I was coming round

to April 9th, two years ago, I realised I had a way out. So I made the decision to take my own life. I walked down to the beach, I took a bear from the old pit head, and I looked out at the horizon. And I just thought to myself, If I'll get three mile out there, just above where my father died. I thought that'll do me. I couldn't come back from that. I knew that. I even left a note on this table. I told me Joe Ballantyne's gone for a swim. So I stepped into the sea. And that's when it happened. Now, I'm not a religious person. I don't believe in God, the afterlife, any of that. But as I stepped in the sea, I heard this noise. And I looked around. And there was this daft little dog coming towards us. I'm not thinking, not now. Not today of all days. But it just kept coming. I came right up to my feet and I looked down and I saw a name tag and it said Mara. See Mara? It's an old miner's word. Mara is your friend, but it runs much deeper than that. He's your friend, he's your equal. He's got your back, you've got his. You keep each other safe. All I could think of was what would me father think of me. So I stepped back, brought the daft little dog home with us. She gave us a reason to get out of bed. Every time I looked at Mara, I saw the little dog that gave us a second chance.

He's all right? You all right, Maggie? I just want to see how TJ is.

He's all right, he's all right. He's in the back, God knows what he's doing. He's in the back? The door's not locked if you want to go in.

A.J., you alright?

What are you doing?

What does it look like I'm doing? I'm cleaning the kitchen. You ought to blame for this, the power he is.

Well, good.

Yeah. So, off with your coats and get your backside and give us a hand.

Right.

We'll come back later.

No, no, no, you're not going anywhere. I'll start all this because of you. Get in there, give us a hand.

OK.

Yeah, right.

Go on. Right.

Uh-huh. Great. I've got plenty of cleaning stuff. Come on.

A couple of people came to me very recently with an idea that I reopened this room.

And I wasn't receptive at all. But what I want to do now, with your help, is I want to reopen this room, and I want to help the kids in this village who are in desperate need of our help and in need of a meal. So then, Tony, are we safe?

I've replaced these three fuses here, but long term, it needs sorting out, like, because otherwise you'll have a bit of an issue on your hands. But for now, you see a bit.

I want to welcome our new friends who have left the war zone, come to our community. And what I want to do is I want to use this space so we meet together and we sit down and eat together.

If you can take that rubbish out, that would be great.

Just anything that looks as though it's unsafe or... Needs chicken out, exactly, needs to go.

This is solidarity, it's not charity. This is about we do something together. It's not just about putting some food on the table as a one-off. I want this to be ongoing. How are you getting on, Mo?

Oh, you good?

No, Rust. Rust.

Rust. I'll get you some WD-40 for that. That's not a problem. Do you want to check that one?

Yes, sir. All right. It's here.

I don't understand the word I see.

I'm struggling, mate. I'm struggling.

Right. Well, where's Yora?

She's up translating with Betty up there. I didn't really want to interrupt.

No, I can't interrupt that.

Hi.

Can I put these fingers in for, did you?

Yeah, you can.

Put them on the bottom table there.

Hiya, you all right? Hi.

Hi, you all right?

All right. All right, yeah. No, no, no. Hello. Hiya, you all right?

Hiya. Hiya.

***** Alibaba and the forty thieves. Oh, for ***** sake. How are you going to go sit down there? ***** brain.

Just come in to require your paint, man. Maggie, is that too much to ask for?

Charlie, it's TJ's idea. Yeah, better ***** is, I know.

See you later. Bye.

Have a nice day. Thank you.

Bye.

**** **.

The pub's not ours anymore, is it?

Hello, Tony. What are you doing here, son?

All right, Uncle Ed. Gaffer sent us over to chip on some wiring.

I hope you're getting paid, son.

Usual rate. Now we're doing a favour for TJ. I'll chip in to help out. Anyway, I'll catch you later on.

Pint later on. There we are.

Hi there. Is it OK to leave these here for TJ, please?

Just put them on the bottom table there, Pet.

What?

The car book sale or something?

OK.

Can you tell Laura that's from the Fire Brigades Union and there's more on the way?

All right. OK.

Also, I've found an industrial juicer.

Can you just tell her Sammy's got it? It's second hand, but it's in Good Nick.

I'll drop her off later on.

All right. OK. Thank you. All right, Pat.

You all right there, lads?

All right.

Enjoy your pint.

All right.

Great.

An industrial ***** josie.

I mean, what the hell's next?

A ***** jacuzzi.

***** unions like to mind their own business. Too much time on their hands.

It's getting like ***** Panama Canal in here, isn't it?

I might like that.

Another pint, please, Maggie. Anyone else? No. No, I'm all right.

All right, Maggie.

So, back room's not good enough for us, but it is good enough for them. Is that it, TJ?

I hadn't planned it, Charlie. All it is, there's a few of the locals trying to give a helping hand to those that need it. There's a few volunteers doing it. You and your family are more than welcome to come. OK then. What's your problem, Vic?

I'll tell you the problem, Charlotte. The problem is we drink in here all the time, keeping you in business, and you treat us like ***** ****.

I don't treat you like ***** ****.

Yeah, you do. Yeah, you do. We ask you for a favour, mate. One favour for a meeting, one ***** meeting. And all he needed was give us a load of excuses. But with these ***** right, you can give them what they ***** want. As far as I'm concerned, mate, you're a ***** two-faced, forty-faced *****.

Easy, man.

All right, just calm down, Vic. I mean, look at the place, TJ. It's like a bloody refugee camp. It's a shithole.

That's sad coming from you, mate.

No, you're the one that's ***** sad, mate. I'll tell you what it is, right? I'm just trying to work it out. Either you're going for the OBE for charity work, or you're ***** her in the ***** cellar. ***** watch your mouth, Bob. Make me. ***** make me. I'll tell you

what it is, you're a ***** loser. Even your own son won't talk to you. That's why your ***** wife left you.

You ***** went... You ***** went... Watch the ***** window.

What's the matter? Touch a nerve there, Mr. Ballantine. Get outside and let's ***** say it out.

All right, that's enough, Vic. You've gone too far. TJ, this is the one last public space we've got in our lives. All we want to put back, is that too much to ask out at all this time? Oh, yeah. It's time you made your mind up, son.

And you with your ***** brass neck. Not being disrespectful, Pet, but ***** where you come from.

Go back. That's what we want to.

Yeah, good. Well, hurry up. Bye.

Well said, you're a pet. You're all right.

You're okay. Maggie, you all right?

Yeah, are you?

I'm sorry about that. I'm sorry.

You okay, guys? Yeah.

I'm sorry, I don't have to say see your bread like that. You've got a bunch of chips and... Look at that, dude. Everybody's open for a drink.

Enjoy that?

Cabs and beating, please.

Of course you can, right? There you go.

Thanks. Is this just for today?

But we're going to try and do it twice a week and especially on a Saturday.

So can I come in here every Saturday?

Of course you can.

Is it for free?

Absolutely, not a penny.

Can I bring my gran?

Yeah, of course you can.

Yeah, she'll love to hear that. Thanks.

No problem at all.

Hiya, can I ask the nuggets, please? Is that true? This is all this for free.

Yeah, absolutely.

Is it a promise?

We'll do the best we can.

You want pizza as well? Is this it? Oh, me. It's really very little... Really, John Carrots? John Carrots? Good move. Thanks. Perfect.

Thank you, dude.

Is this your glass pad?

What's up, Max?

Nothing.

We still got some food left.

This one.

Yeah. If you eat in the kitchen, no one will see you there. We won't say anything. Wait here.

Are you okay?

No.

If you need anything, just ask. We are asked for.

Thank you.

Andy Akhbar, hello.

Sure.

Sure. My father is still alive. Someone saw him in the prison. Please don't stop. Sometimes I wish he was dead. We had his body, and I can bury him. Where he is, there's 100 people into one cell. So backed, they take turns to sit down. Starved, beaten. Only few survive. This is what the Assad regime does to us. It's the hope that causes so much pain.

I'm so sorry, Yara.

But I have to be strong for my family and community. But it's all just a big act.

TJ.

We'll get a donation from the cathedral. Can you go and collect it, please? All right, cheers, Fint. Will do, mate. Thank you. Thank you. So that's the cathedral.

Wow.

Built nearly 1000 years ago by the Normans. Your father loved it. But he always said that the cathedral doesn't belong to the church. It belongs to the workers that built it. We used to love coming every July to watch the blessing of the miners banners and then go on to the big meeting. We used to love all the speeches and the barns.

Like in the photos?

Yeah, just like in the photos.

Can we go?

It's been a long time since I went, so it's probably best if you go with Laura.

Slow as well, mate.

Cheers, Jeff.

Leave that, leave that. I'll tell you what, if you hurry up, yeah, you can see the choir practice.

Really.

Yeah, Now.

Yeah, just go through the arch, yeah, in cedral.

Okay.

All right.

I'm going.

Okay, enjoy.

My children will never see the temple in Talmur, Palmira, built by the Romans and destroyed by the Islamic State. When you have half of your country in rubble and you see this, it makes me want to cry. What will Syria be like in thousand years? How many years to cut the stones? To lift the weight? To imagine the light? How many brilliant minds? How much sweat? How many people working together? Such a beautiful place. Makes me want to hope again. When they torture, when they target hospitals, when they murder doctors, when they use chlorine gas, when the world stands by and does nothing, that's when the regime laughs. When the world does nothing, that's what they do to break us. It takes strength to hope, but they want to smash it. It takes faith to hope. We try to build something new, something beautiful, and look at us. Thrown to

the wolves. I have a friend who calls hope obscene. Maybe she's right. But if I stop hobbing, my heart will stop beating.

I did the best.

Our community has prepared a little gift for you, inspired by the miners' banners and also by the oak tree, which we know is so important and so special for you. Yusuf and Abdo, please come.

Take it! TJ, quick.

***** sake.

TJ, come down. TJ, come and have a look at this man.

What's the matter?

Come and have a look.

Oh, for ***** sake.

It's all right, mess.

Ah, *****.

It's them ***** paperwork that we got fixed the other week.

It's a complete disaster.

The joints have all gone. ***** hell, man. Right, I'll have to try and turn it off. You'll do us a favor when you get Jeff on the phone. He meant to have sorted this out.

Right, right. Right. Will do.

Champion, cheers, man.

Hi Jaffa. The plumbing's knackered and the kitchen's flooded and it's a right mess. What about the electrics? Electrics? I don't know. Hang on, I'll just check the switch.

What the **** have you done? For ***** sake, man.

Sorry.

What's happening?

We'll have to get Tony down here.

Just going from back to us, isn't it?

It's not looking good, TJ.

I mean, Jappa's meant to have told them Syrian lads to double-check them joints. That's what's gone. So, yeah, they weren't listening to them. I didn't understand them. Cannot believe that's just gone straight in the electrics.

I don't know, TJ.

Everything's ruined. Everything we've worked for.

Sorry, TJ, I'm here. They're done. Total rewiring. It's a big job. And you can't use this room. Me, Chance, it's not safe.

Tony, what about the bar? Or have I screwed that up as well?

It's on a separate ring, man, so the bar's fine. But it's not your fault, Maggie. It would make no difference. Your boiler, that's *****. That's going to cost you about two grand. And then just look at the floor. It's soaked the joists and the subfloor. It's going to cost you a fortune.

Wait, the insurance will cover it, won't it?

No, it won't. We'll cut this room off from the insurance because it wasn't being used by the public. So in order to bring the cost down, we didn't need it. You haven't got insurance.

I couldn't afford it.

So I'm going to say to the kids now.

Hello, mate.

Can I turn it back into lager, please, mate? Push your camera at that. I tell you what, like, the.

Person sitting watching TV doing this, and you're sort of phony like that, and then in the actual cinema itself.

It's just a great atmosphere at night, TJ. I mean, the place is bouncing, isn't it?

Just like the old days, banging. None of the ***** missionary work going on next door.

No.

Just peace and quiet.

Yeah. Cheers, Tim. Thank you.

There you go, mate.

All right.

You get me one.

Cheers, Tim.

Have a quarter pints of bitter while you're on there, TJ.

I've got to hand it to you, TJ. You all right, you know? I mean... You said it yourself, that lounge wasn't fit for purpose. I mean, from what I heard, it was a ***** death trap.

You should have listened to your own advice, mate.

Oh, here, lads, leave it out, will you? Try and have a good night over here.

We're just chatting, you know? Bit of sympathy for the lad, you know what I mean.

I'll tell you what it is, TJ. Maybe it wouldn't have happened if you used an English plumber instead of one of those ***** foreign cowboys. That's the trouble, you know, these days. Cheap foreign labour. *****. Useless. ***** crap.

I heard a rumour about no insurance.

Is that true? Yeah.

Sometimes we just don't get round to these things, do we? No, it is. Busy lives and that. You look yourself in this place in a hurry. Mine have gone very quiet. What have you got to say for yourself?

Tell you what I've got to say for myself. Why don't you just shut the **** **?

Easy, TJ. Think before you speak. You'll need these people soon. Listen, we want to help you out. Let bygones be bygones, man. I mean, look at the place, it's full. You help us, and we'll help you. This is our pub. These are our kind, our people.

Come on, we're going to go.

How you going, Charlie?

See you later, lads.

What's the matter with you?

What's the matter with you? It's only early yet, man. See you later, Mary.

Right, mate?

Yeah, all right, TJ. Can I have a word?

No, dear, mate, it's not the time.

Hey, look, I need to speak to you now, TJ.

All right, come in then. Cheers. Oh, you're through.

Take a seat, mate.

Do you remember coaching us at football?

I always said, Speak your mind, to be kept private. Is that still old?

Of course it does, mate.

Just, I've got to get something off my chest, mate. I couldn't even sleep last night. you've got the promise. It's just between us, Got my word. Uncle Eddie and a couple of the lads, Gary and Vic, came round my house after the pub closed. Like they know my father's got a load of drinks stashed in the shed. And I'm in the kitchen making some of the teeth. And I can hear every word. And you know what Vic's like when he's had a drink? He becomes more of a ***** than he already is.

Really.

Yeah, and he's shouting off to me father and showing off. Everyone. Everyone knew the plumbing in the back room was dodgy. And I hear Vic explain that the water pressure rises at night. And all they had to do was loosen the joint between the tank and the pipe. And as the water pressure rises, it would give way and nobody would know.

*****.

Wasn't just a drink talking.

No. I heard them say it. They wanted to put the back room out of action and blame the... well, blame the *****. That's what they said. *****.

Is that Rick, Gary and your Uncle Eddie? Anybody else involved?

Charlie.

Nah, not Charlie.

Charlie was the one who forced the window open.

No, I cannot believe that. Not Charlie.

I heard Vic say Charlie wanted to teach you a lesson. Apparently him and Mary got engaged in that back room. And he wanted a favour. Like one meeting in there and you blanked him. Vic said Charlie felt humiliated. What?

We went to school together. In the same class at school. Used to eat in each other's houses when we were burns. His father was down the pit with me.

You all right?

Charlie, you're the state of Old Village, man. Look at all that crap that's happened to us over the years, stuff that's happened to you, stuff that's happened to me. And both were fathers. This place has been going to ***** for years, long before the Syrians got to you. Now I know you're not a stupid man. So how have you become this?

I don't know what you're on about, man.

You know, I look for escape, my life goes to **** don't we? Whenever I look up. They always look down, blame the poor ***** below us. They're always their fault. That makes it easier to stamp on the poor ***** faces, doesn't it? I just want you to know, Charlie. I know. I know.

Obviously, the situation's not good, but it's really good to know people want to help and, everyone wants to help. I'm going to speak to Margaret and Jaffa later as well. They just couldn't be here. But first things first, really, we need to think about talking to the families. There's people expecting food today. TJ, I don't suppose you've made a start, have you?

The kids got to us. Linda just said, it's okay, TJ, nothing good ever lasts. Little Ryan just said, I knew it, I knew it. Called us a liar and walked away. And Max wouldn't even look us in the face.

Listen, that's awful. This is awful, but we'll kind of be beaten by it. This is the best thing that's happened to our community for years.

I mean, I can get back on to me mates and the trade union movement. Try and get some new funding. It must be cast somewhere.

Way high, and there's local churches, there's local business, shops.

We can get there. It'll take time, but we can get there.

How many times have I heard that over the years, though? I've spent a lifetime trying to get there, and I've never got close. It was just self-delusion. Whether it's a strike, this ***** pub. The village, I mean, half the country's ***** rotten. But Laura, you know what is getting there? It's hate, lies, corruption. It stinks to high heaven. And betrayal. Because what happened here wasn't an accident.

Betrayal? That's a strong word, TJ. You're going to have to tell us a bit more about that, mate.

What do you mean? No accident.

TJ, you're going to have to tell us.

You're going to have to tell us something. It's that word again, mate. You can't tell us what that is.

It's not the tape. It's not the tape.

Listen, TJ, please tell us. I can't see a betrayal. I'm going to tell us some more, mate. What do you mean, betrayal? Betrayal by who?

Just shut the ***** **.

I cannot do this anymore. I cannot. All that matters is they closed me down. Because we're trying to help some families coming from a ***** war zone. Trying to help families who have to choose between feeding the bends and heating the house. Families humiliated because they can't feed the kids. In one of the richest countries in the ***** world. And we were helping them. We were doing something good and the ***** closed were down.

TJ. Listen, TJ. I know, mate, but... You've hardly slept, please. Try and take it easy.

I've been asleep for years, look. I saw one of the kids' faces. I saw one of the faces of those ***** next door who took the **** out of me all day, who stood and ***** smirked, took the **** ***** thought this was clever, funny. They get **** dumped on them all the time, crap served on top of it. They say a note, they don't complain. They just accept it, that that's the norm. That it's ***** doormats. If you expect nothing, you get nothing. ***** . Say a note, look after your own, eh? Lower the ***** jungle. That's what they've learned around here.

Mr. Valentine... Mr. Valentine, please believe.

I can't, Yara. I can't. I'm done. It's over.

Oh, my.

Tea, tea, gentlemen.

Just...

What's that? Tea... Joe, just leave him. He's not in a good place, just...

You're right, you're right.

I'm so sorry for your loss.

I'll teach you. Thank you.

I don't want to intrude. I just want to say I'm really sorry.

Thank you. They found my father's body. At least we can bury him and let him rest.

I'm so sorry.

He was a beautiful man.

I'm sure he was. I'm sure he was.

No, come.

Thank you.

Thank you.

I'm there. Hi, Yara. I'm really sorry. We didn't know what to do. I had a word with Raymond. She said it'd be okay to come round.

Thank you so much. Mama, dialy.

Mama. We're really sorry for your father, and we're really sorry for your husband. I'm really, really sorry for your country. Thank you. Thank you so much.

Frotima, so sorry.

So sorry.

Thank you. Thank you for coming. Thank you. If there's anything I could do, just tell me, just ask me. Thank you so much.

Thank you for everything.

I'm so sorry. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

Uh, little me.

Look at this.

You still have coma? Comes from everywhere.

Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you.