

LIVING WITH MOTHER

HOME TIME

By

Alexander Kirk

SCENE 1

DOOR SLAMS

PHILLIP: Honestly, it's like a third world country in Asda it really is. Utter chaos. Virtually every single till is now self service; and one long queue snaking away into the Delicatessen. And when you get there you're faced with a computer, telling you to put your item in the bagging area, then there's suddenly an un-scanned item and then you have to wait for age verification to buy a bottle of Montverde. I feel sorry for the old and infirm June, present company excepted, and for some of them it's the only time they get to speak to anyone all day. There are prams and trolleys, and wheelchairs and the poor staff look like they've ready to resign. I shall be writing some very strong e mails....

JUNE: I think I've broken it.

PHILLIP: What's that June?

JUNE: The remote. I kept on pressing it but I couldn't get the volume up. And there's no buttons on this tv.

PHILLIP: Maybe you hit the mute button.

JUNE: Mute button?

PHILLIP: Or the batteries have gone. I'll have a look. You could have watched a Mr Bean dvd. You don't need sound for that do you.
(*Laughing*) I say you don't need sound for Mr Bean. They even watch it in Japan apparently.

JUNE: Oh yes. I didn't think of that.

PHILLIP: Right well, never mind. Now, I've got us chicken for dinner.

JUNE: Aren't you playing golf today?

PHILLIP: I am, yes. That's why I went to Asda this morning. Arnold and I shall be on the course for the day but then I shall be back home to make dinner. Will you be alright? I'll have a look at the remote so you've got the television and the paper's there and you can do a microwave soup okay for lunch.

JUNE: Yes.

PHILLIP: You won't forget will you?

JUNE: No.

PHILLIP: And have a try with the crossword again.

JUNE: I will yes.

PHILLIP: Promise?

JUNE: I promise.

PHILLIP: Good. And you can look forward to chicken tonight hey June?
(singing) "I feel like chicken tonight, chicken tonight."

JUNE: What are you doing?

PHILLIP: It was an advert, remember?

JUNE: Oh yes, very good.

PHILLIP: Marvellous. Right, better get off and pick Arnold up. *(walks off)* Fore!

SCENE 2

JUNE: I do get a little confused these days but I'm bobbing along just fine I think; with Phillip's help of course. He is a good son. I've been in this wheel chair for years now and Phillip has always been there for me and never moved out..... Even when I told

him to..... Oh I do feel a burden though. And the doctor says my memory is going a little but I still know who the prime minister is and what day it is so there's hope for me yet he says. Doctors have always been very nice. Nice and charming and kind. And Phillip always has a little joke with them about something. Not funny jokes...more like little sayings he has that sort of thing. Or maybe they *are* funny and the doctors and I don't get them.....But he's a good son and done well in his job too; ever so proud of him. Don't want to blow the family trumpet but he's a Bank Manager you know. Worked his way up from the very bottom and by the time he was 25 he was allowed to serve customers all by himself....It does confuse me when he calls me June instead of Mother though. It's new you see. Just started doing it..... I didn't know who he was talking to at first.....I should have a go at this crossword like Phillip says. Keeps my mind active and stops me daydreaming or watching too much television. I can remember the past like there's no tomorrow. It's the present I have trouble with and the future. What am I doing tomorrow? Or today for that matter. I remember we're having chicken tonight I think....and Phillip's gone to play with his friend.....can't remember his name.....Arnold! That's it.....I think.

NEWSPAPER RUSTLE

Right. One down. Famous golfer - five and five..... Oh I bet it's thingy, the one who cheated on his wifeLittle black chap...Oh....I can't remember. Not really my field. Phillip loves it though. Sure he would know.... To be honest I'm bored of crosswords. Bored generally if I'm honest..... Much rather have a game of Gin Rummy with someone.....Oh it's gone twelve. Maybe I'll just watch Bargain Hunt.

TV CLICKING ON AND BARGAIN HUNT THEME IF POSSIBLE.

SCENE 3

DOOR CLOSSES. PHILLIP COMES IN AND PUTS GOLF CLUBS

DOWN.

PHILLIP: Arnold says he's never seen anyone improve at such a rate. I got stuck in the bunker a couple of times but got myself out in one. And the pro there, Jan Janson; remember I told you about him? Well, he *is* Swedish like I thought. I asked if he got his clubs from Ikea. (*laughing*) He said he didn't but he thought it was funny though.

JUNE: I need the toilet Phillip.

PHILLIP: Oh dear. Have you had an accident?

JUNE: No, I just couldn't manage the little step into the toilet. I normally can but today I couldn't quite get enough speed up. It's alright coming out it's just getting a bit of speed to get over that little step.

PHILLIP: Oh sorry Mothe.. June. Sorry. Here let me give you a boost in there.

WHEELING INTO THE TOILET. DOOR SHUTTING. FOOTSTEPS

PHILLIP: (*Calling*) I'll put the kettle on for us

**KETTLE BEING FILLED THEN BEING PUT ON IT'S STAND AND
CLICKING ON**

We should get you an electric chair you know. Oh, ha not like an execution one. (*makes noise of electric chair phizz*) I say not like an execution one....June? I mean one with wheels on. Ha. (*Normal*) Course she won't hear of it. It's not the money she says it's the principal, the independence...Maybe I can have that step taken out. Smooth the path so to speak.

(*Calling*) Antiques Roadshow tonight June.

(*Normal*) We love Antiques Roadshow. Consistently good viewing. We've watched it right from the early days. Old

Arthur Negus running his hand along a barley twist leg. The perfect relaxation.

KETTLE BOILS. WATER POURED

(*Calling*) I'll leave your tea on the side June. I'm just going up to my study. Spot of putting practice. Got to keep my eye in.

SCENE 4

GOLF BALL BEING PUTTED. (Indoors) **MAYBE SOME CLASSICAL MUSIC PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND.**

PHILLIP: Guilt.... I feel guilty. I don't know why though I mean lots of people do it don't they. You see, I've been thinking about moving June into a home for a while. For her own good and benefit of course. It's no good her being here by herself all day and she needs looking after. I've already seen a few, from ones you wouldn't put a tramp in to places fit for the Queen herself. Not that money is an issue you understand. I've done well and I own the house of course and mother has the insurance money she never spent after her accident..... She was knocked over by the miniature train at Ruislip Lido....very embarrassingand then the Dad business soon after. Ran off

with his secretary, Angela Barrowclough. Good grief, she was a big woman. I caught them in the garden shed once. I thought he was doing press ups on a mattress.....She was common too; the sort of woman with a 'W' tattooed on each buttock so when she bent over it read 'WOW'. Good grief.*(Deep breath)*

Let's talk about golf. Yes far nicer subject. Yes golf does mean the world to me. It's a relatively recent thing but Arnold has opened my eyes to it he really has. He's a single chap too. Well, since splitting up with his wife. And we've a tour planed. Playing some of the top courses in the country. And then South Africa for the winter is the plan. He says I'm picking the game up quickly. Natural swing he says which is nice. Arnold's a manager too. He's over at the Highfield branch and we'll both be taking early retirement this summer so the game's a foot as it were.

BALL PUTTED

Right better get that chicken in the oven. *(singing)* "I feel like chicken tonight, chicken tonight."

SCENE 5

HALFWAY THROUGH ANTIQUES ROADSHOW IN

BACKGROUND. CUTTLERY ON PLATES.

CLIP OF ERIC KNOWLES TALKING ABOUT AN ITEM

JUNE: I do love him...What's his name?

PHILLIP: Eric Knowles.

JUNE: Yes, Eric Knowles.....He does love his ceramics.

CLIP OF ERIC KNOWLES SAYING HOW MUCH A PIECE IS

WORTH.

PHILLIP: Good grief!

JUNE: I was going to say, throw it in the bin.

PHILLIP: I bet she sells that as soon as she gets home. Hideous.

JUNE: It'll be straight in the local auction.

PHILLIP: E bay.

FIONA BRUCE LINKING THE SHOW

JUNE: Oh she's lovely. What's her name again? Bruce....Thingy. Looks a bit Chinese.

PHILLIP: Fiona Bruce.

JUNE: Ah yes. Beautiful voice. Doesn't she look a bit Chinese?

PHILLIP: June.....

JUNE: Maybe her Mother was from Hong Kong.....

PHILLIP: I think we should have a little chat June.

JUNE: Lovely.

PHILLIP: This is difficult.....I've been thinking.

JUNE: That's nice.

PHILLIP: And I think it's for the best.

JUNE: Yes well if you think it's for the best.

PHILLIP: I do, I do.

JUNE: Think what is for the best?

PHILLIP: Well.....well..... I'm not really sure how to say this....

JUNE: Oh just say it son.

PHILLIP: Very well. I think it's time that.....that you go in a home. I realise you will be devastate.....

JUNE: Oh yes that's a lovely idea.

PHILLIP: What?

JUNE: Yes I've been thinking the same thing for a while.

PHILLIP: You have?

JUNE: Yes yes. I mean I'm not getting any younger and you want to get on with your life.

PHILLIP: It's not that. I'm thinking of you.

PHONE RINGS

JUNE: Who's that?

PHILLIP: Let the answer machine get it.

JUNE: That's rude. It might Eric Knowles.

PHILLIP: Eric Knowles?

JUNE: I mean thingy, Tiger Woods, no. Arnold!

PHILLIP: Oh yes.

PICKS UP PHONE.

PHILLIP: Hello?.... Arnold hi there. How's it going? How's the back swing? Ha ha. Yes yes Just taking this upstairs June.....
Yeah I'm buying those trousers I think on your advice.....

DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS. *(his voice fades as he goes)*

SCENE 6

TV ON IN BACKGROUND (Bargain Hunt if possible)

JUNE: Nice having your own little space to think about things and say them out loud. Therapeutic. That's what they call it isn't it.....Therapeutic....Funny word that, therapeutic.....sounds wrong the more you say it. Therapeutic. Is it French?....peutic...mmmm....Oh, best turn that off.

TV CLICKS OFF

A little day out tomorrow. Phillip is taking me to visit some homes. I like the sound of one already: The Chives. Sounds nice doesn't it. Lovely gardens too and very sociable it says in the brochure. And I'm so very glad Phillip suggested it. Had to happen sometime didn't it. A bit like his father running off with that Angela woman. I think Phillip was more upset than I was at the time. And I'm not being horrible but his father was a very boring man if I'm being honest. I just accepted it as one of those things....One of those modern facts like the internet, Global Warming or e numbers. What's done is done and you have to move forward. Time to get on with what's next. And what's next for me is The Chives I'm hoping. Meet some new people. Maybe even play a little Rummy who knows. Now

shall I have a go at that blessed crossword again or is it time
for.....

TV CLICKS ON. BARGAIN HUNT THEME PLAYS.

JUNE: Oh Lovely.

SCENE 7

TOILET FLUSHES

PHILLIP: (*calling through*) You alright there June?

JUNE: (*Coming in*). Oh yes. I'm fine son.

PHILLIP: Made us a nice cup of tea.

JUNE: Oh I think I'm all tea'd out. Is that a word Phillip, 'Tea'd'?

PHILLIP: I'm not sure. I know what you mean though.

JUNE: The Chives was nice wasn't it.

PHILLIP: Yes, yes it was but there's no rush remember.

JUNE: And the rooms were lovely and a bedroom with it's own
bathroom. En suite

PHILLIP: Not until after dinner June. I say not until after dinner.

JUNE: Pardon?.

PHILLIP: En suite. Ha ha. Sounds a bit like one sweet doesn't it?

JUNE: Oh yes. En suite, very good. And lovely people. That lady said they have a sing a long every Thursday and they play cards on a Tuesday. I used to be a whiz at cards Phillip.

PHILLIP: You did June, you did.

JUNE: Oh yes I am looking forward to it.

PHILLIP: We can go and look at some others.....

JUNE: No, no I love it. We should have thought of it sooner what with you and your thingy.

PHILLIP: Golf.

JUNE: Yes, you want to go and do things son. Not shopping and cooking and then having to push me into the toilet when I can't get enough speed up.

PHILLIP: I could get that step taken out and.....

JUNE: Now don't you worry. You can come and visit whenever you want.

PHILLIP: Yes, it's not far at all.

JUNE: Lovely.

PHILLIP: Right.....Well if you're happy then I'm happy June.

JUNE: I'm happy son. I'm happy. I'd best go and pack.

SCENE 8

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW IS ON THE TV

PHILLIP: Always loved Antiques Roadshow. Reminds me of being young; when Mum was her old self. She'd be cooking dinner and I would be ironing and we'd hear that tune and run through to watch it. Dad was never interested as you can imagine but Mum and I never missed an episode....All those years..... I rang her earlier actually and she said she's made a friend; a lady called Agnes Moffat. She had fish for dinner with new potatoes and veg. Broccoli spears I think it was....Yes Broccoli spears and those baby carrots with petite pois....I just had egg on toast. Not really hungry for some reason. Must be the guilt again.

Arnold rang. Good solid, Arnold. Good, golf playing Arnold, good gone back to his wife Arnold. What was irreconcilable has become very much reconciled apparently. Obviously I said I was pleased for him. Him and his wife but there's no surprise that the golf tour of the century is now off.

Well, 'on hold' he said. Give me time to perfect my backswing
he said. I wish he'd mentioned it before I bought those stupid
checked trousers. So this summer is now going to be....well I
don't know to be honest. It certainly won't be a wondrous tour
of some of the best golf courses our fair land has to offer. Oh
yes and South Africa is derailed as well of course. One of the
conditions of Arnold getting back with his wife is that he
spends less time in the bunkers with me and more time with
her in....in garden centres or something no doubt. Well, I hope
they're happy looking at gnomes and hanging baskets!
Sorry...deep breath.... Oh it's no good. I feel terrible putting
June in that home. She should be here with me, her family.
Her only son, only child..... First thing Monday I'll go and get
her. Bring her back home. She will be ever so pleased.

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW IN BACKGROUND

FIONA BRUCE CONCLUDING THE SHOW.

Do you know, now I think about it think Mum was right: Fiona
Bruce does look a bit Chinese.

SCENE 9

FRONT DOOR SHUTS. WHEELING JUNE IN THE HOUSE.

PHILLIP Keep your eyes closed. Keep them closed. Are they closed?

JUNE: Yes.

PHILLIP: Okay and open them. Ta da. What do you think?

JUNE: What am I looking at son?

PHILLIP: The step, the step.

JUNE: Oh yes you've taken it out.

PHILIP: Had the builders in over the weekend. Much easier to get to
the loo now. Nice and smooth for you Mum.

JUNE: Thank you son.

PHILLIP: I should have done that years ago.

JUNE: Well it's very nice of you.

PHILLIP: Did you miss Antiques Road Show mum? I suppose they all
wanted to watch something else.

JUNE: No, no I watched it with Agnes Moffat. I told you about her
didn't I?

PHILLIP: Yes you did yes...

JUNE: She had her own television.

PHILLIP: Did she?

JUNE: Oh yes. One of those big LEC ones.

PHILLIP: Right.

JUNE: She was on the show once and met Arthur Negus.

PHILLIP: Was she?

JUNE: He valued her Tall Boy at eight thousand pounds. Inlaid Mahogany. She still has it. Lovely.

PHILLIP: Great, well that's good yes. Welcome home Mum! I thought we'd celebrate. Little trip to Waitrose. I say Waitrose. You can come too if you like. I'm not stepping foot in that Asda until they bring the proper tills back. I sent an e mail....for all the good it'll do.

JUNE: Aren't you going to play golf today with your friend?

PHILLIP: Oh no, no. Family comes first Mum.

JUNE: Chicken tonight?

PHILLIP: Pardon

JUNE: "I feel like Chicken tonight, chicken tonight"

PHILLIP: Oh yes the advert. Very good Ha yes.....You are glad to be back home Mum aren't you?

JUNE: Oh yes, yes....Lovely.

PHILLIP: Good, Good. Hey maybe we could have lamb tonight for a change.

JUNE: Oh lovely Phillip. Yes. That will be nice.

CREDITS