

AUDREY'S STORY EP4 (MELITA&AUDREY)

Written by

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Based from events that took place during the pandemic.

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A few years have gone by since last time. 2022 or 2023 appears on screen then slowly disappears. Audrey in mid conversation with an AA customer service rep. Audrey is sitting on a sofa looking at a bottle of vodka. This could be in a different flat/house. Living room space. throughout this scene Audrey is not seen nor heard and the screen is black. I have put her response lines in to help with tone and delivery.

SPEAKER ON THE PHONE

There's also plenty of online meetings you could find at AA - London.com

AUDREY

Okay thanks its just, I live in Birmingham so...

SPEAKER ON THE PHONE

Not a problem, there will be dozens of venues around your area, you can find plenty of meetings online. I can find one for you if...

AUDREY

No, no this is for a friend you see.

SPEAKER ON THE PHONE

O. Well thats nice you are able to help your friend.

AUDREY

But purely out of interest, would there be any around B21 postcode. Of course I can find this all out for myself but while i'm talking to you...

SPEAKER ON THE PHONE

Of course, umm. I have an address for Oaklands Community centre, 1 Oakland road Hands...Yes, In Handsworth. thats perfect. Thanks. No, no, no, thank you.

END OF SCENE ONE.

SCENE TWO ONLINE AA MEETING.

A few months later appear on screen then slowly disappear. On a laptop screen we see over 20 people online most with their videos off. Audrey has her video off. There's one or two people reacting quietly to what's being said.

SCREEN 2

That's what I don't understand.

SCREEN 27

Yeah I agree, I heard there's been an average of 124 daily deaths from the new variant. So how can that signify the end of it.

SCREEN 2

Exactly, it's wise not to believe in everything they force down our throats. Especially since half of them were partying all the way through lockdown.

Slight pause.

SCREEN 27

Anyway at least the jabs helped big time. If it wasn't for the NHS I know at least 6 people including my uncle that wouldn't be alive today and that's just in my circles.

SCREEN 2

Well personally speaking it's not like anyone's left in my life now, everyone's deserted and that had nothing to do with covid.

Screen two uncomfortably laughs. Slight pause. Emotional.

I tried putting step 4 into practise but with all the hurt I caused it was too late.

Pause. Screen 2 mutes their mic.

SCREEN 27

Wasn't your fault, stop blaming yourself. Your here aren't you?

CHAIRPERSON

What do you mean by that.

## SCREEN 27

People are always quick to judge, instead of trying to help. They come out with, and this often includes your own family members, well in my case it did. your to weak, your to sensitive, your too.....drunk.

## CHAIRPERSON

You are correct, some people are quick to judge. I would like to take this opportunity to open this up to anyone else who would like to share, I would also like to say how I appreciate everyone's openness. could be a situation you'd be willing to share or may have found yourself in, or indeed if you have found one of the twelve steps challenging...

A familiar voice is heard, our very own Audrey. She is screen 17.

## SCREEN 17

They're all bloody challenging, god why i'm I here.

Long Pause.

O shit, I didn't mute my bloody....

## CHAIRPERSON

No, no that's quite alright, it's good to hear your voice and i quite agree with your statement on how it's not easy.

## SCREEN 17

I bet your going to say the hardest part is coming to a meeting right and now I've managed to do that I'm closer to achieving my goal.

## CHAIRPERSON

Not quite, but i also agree with parts of that statement too.

Slight pause.

SCREEN 17

So before coming i made that list  
of the people i harmed and that  
was....extraordinary

CHAIRPERSON

Extraordinary, as in painful?

SCREEN 17

Thats the obvious part.

Slight pause. Audrey takes a breathe.

I went over and over the things  
that have happened in my life. I  
was desperate...I was desperate to  
change what happened. You know, why  
i became the person your hearing  
today. my choices, especially when  
i was younger. The person I lost...  
So I bargained with....I Know this  
might sound stupid but I bargained  
with the universe, god, my self  
anything to try and find a  
solution. In the hope that things  
could have turned out....

Chairperson nods.

They couldn't take my statement,  
this happened on a night out. After  
seeing a friend being punched in  
the face, just because she refused  
to go back with some guy. Similar  
thing happened when i was....

Long pause.

CHAIRPERSON

You don't have to say anything if  
you don't feel comfortable.

SCREEN 17

Hey, its just like mum says, you  
need to be tough as old boots to  
survive.

SCREEN 27

Yeah I hear that.

CHAIRPERSON

I really appreciate everyones  
contribution to this evenings  
meeting.

(MORE)

## CHAIRPERSON (CONT'D)

If anyone else would like to speak  
please feel free too, Believe me  
when I say that I found.....

As the chairperson continues, His/Her voice fades. Audrey looks up from the screen towards the bottle of vodka. She mutes her mic and gets up from the sofa. She picks up the bottle of vodka opens it and starts to pour the vodka in a bin. She starts crying and stops pouring. Theres about a quarter left in the bottle. She picks up a glass and pours the rest in the glass she sits down with it and unmutes the laptop, the session appears to have ended. She is sat holding a glass of vodka. She starts to cry. She puts the glass close to her lips. Chairperson starts clearing their throat.

I'm so sorry, I didn't get round to  
ending the session on my laptop and  
heard you in distress. I am more  
than happy to talk or listen.  
Whatever you want really.

Audrey considers closing her laptop. She is embarrassed. Pause. She puts the glass down on the table. Takes a paper handkerchief and wipes her tears. She looks at the laptop and sees the Chairperson still waiting.

## SCREEN 17

How long were you listening for....  
So you genuinely give a shit?

## CHAIRPERSON

Umm, it appears so. Yes.

## SCREEN 17

What if told you that i'm currently  
looking at a glass of vodka which i  
was about to drink.

## CHAIRPERSON

Before I rudely interrupted you?

Audrey laughs she puts her hair up stroking her face.  
So where is it?

## SCREEN 17

It's on the coffee table looking  
more and more attractive the more  
i'm looking at it.

## CHAIRPERSON

Your too kind but i've never been  
referred to as an it before?

SCREEN 17  
Quite the joker aren't you.

CHAIRPERSON  
Hum.

SCREEN 17  
Whats the hum?

CHAIRPERSON  
The hum stands for many things, I am a recovering alcoholic being one of them.

SCREEN 17  
How the fuck did you quit it?

CHAIRPERSON  
I haven't quit it, i'm managing my addiction. I've come to realise that it'll always be a temptation. It'll always be a part of my identity so to speak, but what i also know is that it's a disorder. It's my fight and that makes me determined to defeat it. Even though it's ever-where. On the TV, in supermarkets, when walking past pubs on the high-street most people seem happy to be in. every achievement usually comes with an I'll drink to that statement.

SCREEN 17  
Hum

CHAIRPERSON  
I remember the hurt and pain I put my family through and my partner at the time, had a full time job just looking after me.

Audrey puts on her video. Audrey signs.

SCREEN 17  
Thanks for telling me your story, it kinda helps.

CHAIRPERSON  
Thats what i'm here for....you Were going to say something earlier. You mentioned about your statement not being taken seriously or valid when your friend was punched.

(MORE)

CHAIRPERSON (CONT'D)

Then you said that a similar thing happened when you was....and Then you stopped.

Slight pause.

I'm Sorry, you don't have to go there if you don't want to.

Pause.

SCREEN 17

My name is Audrey and i'm an alcoholic...

CHAIRPERSON

Only if you are ready to say that...

SCREEN 17

I was also rapped and had a couple of abortions.

Chairperson nods.

All happened when I was younger but you'd have thought that alone would have been enough to stop me from going out and partying. No, I carried on and kept what happened to me from everyone I loved.

Chairperson nods.

I just kept putting myself in dodgy situations perpetually being drunk as a skunk. My sister would have gone completely bonkers if she knew all this.

Slight pause. Audrey imagining what her sister would say chuckles. Chairperson smiles.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for sharing your situation, that couldn't have been easy.

Sincerely.

But what happened to you was not your fault...

Slight pause.

SCREEN 17

The thing is, she always looked after me, my sister.



Suddenly Audrey sees Mikes car lights as he parks up.  
I'm sorry i've gotta go, my  
husbands home early and.....

CHAIRPERSON

No, no thats perfectly fine. speak  
soon I hope and take care.

Audrey puts the laptop lid down as the laptop closes the  
credits come up on black screen.

End.