
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.

PHILL003P:

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?
() "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. () Fore!

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 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.

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.

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

We should get you an electric chair you know. Oh, ha not like an execution one. () I say not like an execution one....June? I mean one with wheels on. Ha. () 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.

() Antiques Roadshow tonight June.

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

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.()

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

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

PHILLIP: Eric Knowles.

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

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.

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: 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.

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.

PHILLIP: Hello?.... Arnold hi there. How's it going? How's the back swing? Ha ha. Yes yes Just taking this upstairs June...owles?

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

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 an1 ov

PHILLIP:

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.

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

