

# Extract from Scene 5 Gemma and Zoey



Photograph by Robert Workman

**SCENE 5.** ZOE'S BEDROOM, MORNING. ZOE SITS ON THE BED, TRYING TO STRETCH HER ARMS, NEARLY DRESSED. THE STRETCHING IS DIFFICULT. SHE LOOKS DEPRESSED. GEMMA COMES IN WITH ZOE'S CARDI.

GEMMA Found it! It was in that load of washing I did yesterday, it's more or less dry.

ZOE Thanks love.

GEMMA PUTS ZOE'S CARDI ON FOR HER. IT'S A BIT AWKWARD AND GEMMA HURTS ZOE'S ARMS ABIT AS SHE TRIES TO GET THEM IN THE SLEEVES.

ZOE Ow that hurts Gemma!

GEMMA Oh I'm sorry! Sorry Mum!

GEMMA LIFTS ZOE'S ARMS MORE GENTLY

GEMMA Is that better?

ZOE (GRUMPY) Yeah, yes, that's better.

GEMMA GETS THE CARDI ON.

GEMMA        Shall I do your hair?

ZOE            OK.

DURING THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE GEMMA BRUSHES ZOE'S HAIR AND PUTS IT INTO A BUN OR OTHER HAIR ARRANGEMENT.

GEMMA        You used to do this for me!

ZOE            Yeah thanks for reminding me of that.

BEAT

GEMMA        I was just . . . [trying to cheer you up]

ZOE            I'm fully aware that I'm like the child now, you're like the adult.

GEMMA        I didn't mean . . . [that]

ZOE            (ANGRY) Bloody legs, bloody arms, bloody . . . body!

GEMMA        Mum. Don't. I wasn't saying . . . [anything]

ZOE            I hate it! I hate this! I don't want to be this . . . child. This is not me, this is not who I am!

GEMMA        Mum, it's alright, I don't mind, you're not a child, you're still . . . [my Mum].

ZOE            (ANGRY) Stupid evil disease, why me, why us, thanks a lot God, thanks a bleedin lot.

GEMMA        Mum don't, don't, it doesn't help.

ZOE            It's so unfair, it's unfair on both of us. Why do you have to . . .

GEMMA        (PANICKY) Look, stop it. Stop this. This is not . . . this is not you, this is just the MS making you . . . behave this way, they said that at the hospital didn't they, sometimes relapses can cause depression. But it passes. It passes. You'll be back to yourself again soon.

AWKWARD PAUSE. SILENCE. ZOE LOOKS MISERABLE

Look. Em. Why don't I make breakfast? Some pancakes eh? Our special breakfast.

ZOE I haven't got any eggs or milk.

GEMMA I'll nip to the corner shop then.

ZOE I've run out of money till tomorrow.

GEMMA Oh. Right. Em . . . I've got some of that money Dad sent me! His busking money. We could use that.

ZOE No! That's for you, for going out and stuff. I think we've still got some of beans left, we could have them on toast instead. I think there's still some bread left as well, but make sure you save some for your packed lunch. There's fish fingers in the freezer for tea.

GEMMA Ok. I'll go and have a look.