

# Your Call

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Music by John Biddle

Produced by Laurence Cook

*Your Call can be listened to as  
a short form podcast series of seven bite-sized episodes or  
as a half-hour comedy-drama.*

*It is a collection of phone calls between a father (John - J) and daughter (Anwen - A) during Lock-down over the first 7 weeks of Covid-19 in the UK.*

*Both characters have Welsh accents.*

*The text is accompanied by an original sound score. It is marked in the script at most notable moments, though sits within the dialogue as a third character throughout. It is a mix of lo-fi electro pop beats with kooky tunes on top. It is played on honky-tonk and electric pianos, and interspersed with remixed phone-tones.*

**EPISODE ONE**

*Week one of Lockdown.*

*Music plays. There are phone sounds incorporated into the score.*

A: Hiya Dad!

J: Hey Anwen! Are you watching the news!?

A: Of course I'm watching the news!! Lockdown!!

J: Lockdown!! What does it even mean!? It feels like I'm in a film or something!

A: I've always wanted to be inside a film! I mean, this is incredibly exciting for me.

J: Yeah, 3 weeks of lockdown, we are locking down! Where are you going to lock down?! Are you going to come home, or, you gonna stay in your flat?

A: Well I mean, I don't know! What do you think I should do?

J: I think you should do what ever you want to do.

A: Alright... I want to do whatever you want me to do

J: No, come on...

A: The thing is Dad, like, if you told me what to do like, if you just told me to come home, I'd come home.

J: Ok then, come home.

A: Ok then. Or shall I stay in the flat?

J: Sure, stay in the flat.

A: Is that the right decision?

J: I don't know, I don't know...Is it?

A: I don't know either, I don't know, I don't know...

J: What's your flatmate doing?

A: Sally's staying in the flat I think

J: Oh ok then. If she's staying in the flat, perhaps you should stay as well?

A: What's Janet doing?

J: She's staying at her place. She's not coming over to mine

A: Ok. Oh I don't know! I don't know I don't know I dont know I dont know What do you think? I don't know-

J: What do you want?

A: I don't know!! I don't know what I want. I don't know!

## Your Call

by Josie & Shôn Dale-Jones

J: In your heart of hearts...do you want to come home, or, stay in your flat? What's your heart telling you?

A: That's difficult, because you know, I don't have a heart.

J: You don't have a heart, but you do have a head, so what do you think?

A: I'll tell you what I don't think, I don't think its *essential* travel. I think I should stay. I mean, it's only 3 weeks isn't it so...

J: You're right, it's not a big deal.

A: Yeah, it's no biggie. Decision made. Catch you the other side!

J: Oh Anwen? Do you think it might be possible for you and I to keep in touch?

A: No I don't think so. Sorry about that.

J: I totally understand so I'll speak to you tomorrow.

A: Ok great. Bye!

J: Love you lots.

A: Lots of love.

*The music picks up and we hear a sequence of moments from phone calls over week one:*

J: How do you squeeze a lemon?

A: I'm so bored.

J: Hello hello hello how are ya?

A: I'm bored of being bored.

J: Listen, in the event of my death-

A: I can't be bothered to be bored any more.

J: will you please come round and do the hoovering.

A: Good afternoon!

J: My elbow feels bit funny...

**EPISODE TWO**

*Week two of Lockdown.*

A: Good morning.

J: Morning Anwen.

A: What's your worry level?

J: Today's worry level, on a scale of 1-10... I'm on a 3.7

A: I'm at a very low 1.8. Hardly worth mentioning. Ok, well, it's good to know where everyone's at.

Right

So

I've got some information

Not the worrying kind

It's just pure information

And I'd like to share it with you...

I've been doing some scrolling on Instagram

And I've come across Sally's latest posts. There is...

A picture of

A train station

A picture of

A big house, double doors, stairs on the outside

A picture of Sally, and maybe her sister, like, they've both got the same nose, so I guess it's her sister, and they're sat on one of those - what they called? The one armed sofas - anyway both looking gorgeous

And then the series is finished off with a picture of a huge bowl of pasta caption 'sorry not sorry' as a hashtag.

So, from that, I reckon, she's gone home...

Which means, I'm in the flat all on my own.

*Beat*

And you know what, it's pretty great!!

I've got a lot of space, I don't have to wait for the shower, I can listen to music out loud, it's really brilliant.

And you know what? I feel so much better for having given you that information. Great!

Ok! Enjoy the rest of your morning, I'll chat to you at lunch. Over and out.

J: Hold on a minute Anwen... Anwen? Anwen? Have you gone? You've hung up. Ok!

*The music picks up and we hear a sequence of moments from phone calls over week two:*

J: where you sitting?

A: Down

A: How was quiz night last night?

J: You'll never guess who won

A: What do I get if I do guess?

J: The prize I won at the quiz

A: Worst thing about lockdown, Liverpool not being given the title. Gutting.

**EPISODE THREE**

*Week three of Lockdown.*

A: Hiya, I was just about to call you!

J: That's nice! How you doing - what you up to?

A: I'm just sitting on my bed, looking at my cactus - I've realised how very spiky its gotten recently. What's up with you?

J: Well, I was wondering if you had time for a little conversation

A: A conversation?

J: Well, perhaps it's more like an advice session.

A: Oh, right, Ok, Mr Evans, Let me check the diary, is it an emergency appointment?

J: If you could fit me in right now thatd be brilliant

A: Alright I'll just check, if you could take a seat in the waiting room.

J: Ok.

A: Yep, ok, come through. Oh and Mr Evans - I do need to make you aware of the rate increase. We've gone from £39 per hour, to £43 per hour. I am sorry about this, but you know, tough times.

J: Totally understandable

A: Ok, well, I'm ready when you are.

J: I've split up with Janet. Had to do it on the telephone. And it was really pretty difficult because Janet kept saying that I was a coward because I wasn't doing it face to face and I had to explain to her that it wasn't really possible because of the social distancing rules and she said that I was patronising her and I was really apologetic I was really sorry but to be honest it was an absolute car crash it was terrible, the relationship is over.

A: Sorry about that dad, I mean she seemed like a nice lady dad but I didn't know her very well and I can't say I'm completely surprised.

J: I don't think I'll ever meet anyone with the same enthusiasm for Dracula as your mother. There you go I said that without crying.

A: I do have tissues Mr Evans.

J: Good to know.

*Pause*

The thing is you know I don't think I'll ever find anyone to fill that space.

A: Well, maybe it's not about filling that space, but creating a new space.

J: Ok yeah, fair enough. Thanks Anwen, thats very kind of you. Thank you for the session, that's been very expensive.

A: Would you like the invoice in the post or via email?

J: An email to the J Evans account please, thank you.

A: No problem

J: Are you ok for money actually?

A: Yeah, I reckon I can pay the rent this month if eat every other day.

J: That's good to know because I'm really struggling to keep up with my mortgage payments.

A: Everything's going down the pan.

J: Everyone's going through this.

A: At least we're all in the pan together, so don't take it personally. I think I'm going to have to go - I'm going to have to move this cactus into the living room, it's becoming quite a safety hazard, I could roll over in the middle of the night and spike my arm off.

J: I'm off to do my one exercise a day on my brand new scooter!

A: Dad? You know you can call me about this kind of thing whenever.

J: Thanks, thanks a lot.

A: I can offer you mates rates.

J: Much appreciated.

A: Alright well have fun at the skate park, don't forget your helmet.

*The music picks up and we hear a sequence of moments from phone calls over week three:*

A: I'm worried.

I'm worrying about being worried.

I don't want to worry about you worrying about me being worried.

J: I was waiving to the postman through the window this morning.

A: I'm thinking about dying my hair in rainbow colours for the NHS.

J: Right.

A: I been wearing socks and sandals...

J: Ok

A: and nobody knows.

**EPISODE FOUR**

*Week four of lockdown.*

*John is watching Nosferatu and we can hear the film playing in the background.*

A: Are you watching Dracula without me?

J: Busted! Yes I am sorry.

A: That's outrageous!

J: The make up in this is so good.

A: Which one are you watching? One of the ones we watched with Mam? Are you watching the classic Dracula Dracula?

J: No, not that one.

A: Dracula in Istanbul?

J: No, not that one.

A: Do you remember when Mam used to make up titles for Dracula films? We'd just give her a letter and she'd make them up on the spot. Give me a letter, any letter

J: Urmmm. Wow. OK, the letter F.

A: Family of Draculas  
Furious Dracula  
Fuzzy Dracula  
Furry Dracula  
Fantastic Dracula  
Give me another letter

J: Urm, N

A: Nighttime Dracula  
Not now Dracula  
Nearly got me Dracula  
Ninja Dracula  
Nosey Dracula  
No Way Hosay Dracula  
Ok, Which one are you watching?

J: it's called Nosferatu -

A: Nosferatu, I haven't heard of that one, are you sure it's a Dracula?

J: Yes, yes yes yes it is oh its so good its like a silent movie, it's a german expressionist. Its from 1922. Oh wow, look at that

A: Oh ok...

J: The way the cut it together is so clever

A: I was just calling cos obviously it's official lockdown will be going on at least another 3 weeks...

J: The actor playing the main part is brilliant!

A: That's nice. That comes into the day we remember Mam, so I'm just wondering how you wanted to do that...

J: Wow, that shadow!

A: I was thinking we could both order some lilies and find a moment on the day to be together on the phone... still dress up, you know, the usual...

J: How they do this without any CGI is absolutely breathtaking.

A: I've been thinking about her quite a lot recently... I really miss her.

*Pause... music from Nosferatu builds.*

I'm feeling quite lonely at the moment actually...

J: It's not clear whether they, probably made the music first, no they probably made the film first, just the combination of the music and the visuals is very strong. Ok Anwen sorry...

*Nosferatu music stops.*

I wasn't listening, shoot, what were you saying?

A: Its ok, let's chat in the morning. Night.

J: You off to bed are you

*Nosferatu music starts again.*

A: I don't wanna interrupt you know.

*Nosferatu music stops.*

J: You're not interrupting, what is it?

A: No. Nothing, Everything's fine.

J: You sure?

A: Yep.

*Nosferatu music starts.*

J: You off to bed are you?

A: Why you speaking to me like I'm a child?

J: Sorry sorry sorry sorry

A: Bye

J: Ok goodnight ill phone you in the morning

A: I'm hanging up now

*Nosferatu music builds. The podcast score takes over.*



**EPISODE FIVE**

*Week five of Lockdown.*

*The following text is a series of voicemails from Anwen to John. Music punctuates the beginning and end of each one which is marked with ‘—’ in the text. Towards the end, the music builds to support Anwen’s feeling.*

Brilliant voicemail! I don’t think I’ve ever heard that!! I don’t think you’ve ever not answered your phone! I’ll give you another call.

--

Me again, maybe you’re still asleep - I was only calling to let you know I poured orange juice into my cornflakes by accident. Give me a call when you wake up.

--

Somehow I don’t think you’re still asleep. It’s gone lunchtime, which has got me thinking this might be a little joke. In which case nice one, but, can you stop now?

—

I know we do these jokes dad, but I don’t know if now is the time to not answer your phone while we’re in the middle of a global pandemic. It’s a bit close to the bone.

For the record, I actually think you’re funnier when you answer your phone. I’m gonna call you straight back and we can pretend this didn’t happen.

--

Ok dad, this really isn’t funny. My worry level 10. It feels like someones squeezing my chest and I don’t like it. Please call me.

--

I don’t know why your not answering your phone I’m thinking something awful has happened to you. I’m thinking that you’ve been taken into hospital. And you’re all alone. I don’t know why I didn’t come home. And now it’s too late. I think you’re amazing dad. I just love you so much.

--

J: Hey Anwen, it’s Dad here, just calling to make sure you’re alright, I got your voicemails and you sounded a bit anxious so I just wanted to let you know that I’m absolutely fine. I misplaced my phone you see, I didn’t know where I put it all day and I found it in my dressing gown pocket so sorry about that.

A: You’re an idiot

*The music picks up and we hear a sequence of moments from phone calls over week five:*

A: Thanks for the postcard from your mortgage holiday - I’m guessing you made the collage?

J: Yes I did! I went for something abstract, did you see what I was doing?

A: Seaside town?

J: Yes!! Exactly. It's a basic beach scene. Did you like the clouds against the white sky?

A: I very much liked touching them. Sensual experience. The whole thing was a real 3D experiment, Dad. The sand as well, was that real?

J: Yeah I found some in my old walking boots. You should see the pritt stick now - it's a right mess.

J: Just clipping my toe nails

A: couldn't find the shower cap this morning so I wore my bike helmet instead

J: I was watching some wrestling last night and I woke up holding my pillow in a headlock.

A: Dad are you in?

J: Yes I am

A: Great cos I ordered you something as a surprise, has anything arrived? I've had texts saying it's been delivered?

J: I've received 7 bottles of suncream...

A: 7!!... Okidokie... must have gone wrong in checkout

J: I haven't used any - I didn't think they were for me.

A: Yeah they were like a gift to enjoy on your mortgage holiday.

J: Brilliant, I'll use some in the garden right now.

A: Yeah, one for everyday of the week I suppose!

**EPISODE SIX**

*Week six of Lockdown.*

J: Hey Anwen

A: Dad?

J: You're whispering are you?

A: I can hear Sally crying and I don't want her to hear me.

J: Where are you?

A: In my room, under my covers.

J: Sally? I thought she'd gone home.

A: Oh, yeah, she just come back.

J: Right...

A: I heard the door opening and so I went to see... and there she was in the corridor with her suitcase, and she's got a red face, like she's been crying, probably rubbing her face with quite a lot of force to get the tears off. She looked at me, and I looked at her, both just looking at each other, and neither of us said anything. Then she just went into her room. I don't really know what to do. Obviously she's been outside so I don't really want to touch her, but it feels like, through the wall, it sounds like she wants a hug.

J: What you could do is very gently knock on the door and ask if she's alright and if she'd like a cup of tea. Just say "hey Sally, you alright? you want a cup of tea?"

A: "hey Sally, you alright? You want a cup of tea?" Wait, which shall I ask first? About the tea or if she's alright?

J: Maybe ask if she's alright first.

A: Ok.

*Beat.*

But Dad, I think I know he's not alright.

J: Maybe just ask if she wants a cup of tea.

A: Ok so just "hey Sally, do you want a cup of tea?"

J: Yeah, nice, that's very nice the way you did that.

A: Thank you.

J: And then just check in, like, do you want milk and sugar? Unless you've made her tea before then-

A: I haven't made her a tea before - do you mind just being Sally for a moment?

J: Fair enough, yeah, sure.

## Your Call

by Josie & Shôn Dale-Jones

A: Ok, so, i knock on the door gently

*The sound of knocking gently.*

Hello?

Hey Sally, it's Anwen here / from....

J: Hey Anwen

A: Hello. Do you want a cup of tea?

J: No, I'm alright thanks

A: Oh I can hear her coming out of her room... oh, I can hear her putting the kettle on, she's making her own tea, it's alright. Ok thanks dad.

J: No problem.

*The music picks up and we hear a sequence of moments from phone calls over week six:*

A: I don't think you need to put anything in soup...

J: When this is over what do you really want to do?

A: I would love a bath.

J: Got a really nice email from Janet, I think we're all alright.

**EPISODE SEVEN**

*Week seven of Lockdown.*

J: Lovely day for it.

A: It's actually a little cloudy here but, I can see the sun trying to poke through and say hello.

J: Brilliant. Well, I've cleared the sitting room. It's looking really nice, taken everything off the coffee table, put the lilies in the vase and put it there on the table. And I'm sitting on the sofa in front of them just looking at them.

A: I'm looking at the lilies too, I've anti bac-ed the table, got my Dracula cape on. Sally's lent me some fake blood leftover from Halloween so I've got that dribbling down my chin. Haven't put my teeth in yet but I do have the glow in the dark ones so I'll put those in when we get going. Sally's given me a bit of space and gone for a walk. Though, I think she probably just thought the whole thing was a bit spooky!

J: I've got my white face paint on, scraped my hair back, drawn the eyebrows on.

A: I love it when you do the eyebrows!

J: Looking good as well! I have the long fingered gloves on too.

A: Nice one.

J: Thank you.

Are you ready to start the minutes silence?

A: How do we know when it's over?

J: Good question - I have a timer on my phone so if I put you on speaker phone and set the time... there we go - there's a radar alarm that will come on.

A: I like radar. When will we know its started? When you're pressing the button...?

J: I'll do a count in.

A: Great. From what number?

J: I'll keep it simple and just go from 3

A: Ok

J: 3, 2, 1

*Pause*

A: Are you going to say go as well?

J: Oh yeah, of course, sorry. 3, 2, 1, go.

*Pause.*

J: So you wanna go 3, 2, 1, go? Does that work?

A: Oh, I was doing it then!

J: Oh sorry...

A: No that's alright - I wanted to double double clarify, I'm in my kitchen now, not by the graveside, so, am I still spending the minute thinking about Mam?

J: Yes

A: So just memories?

J: Yes... hold Mam in your mind, and let all the good memories that come to mind pass through you.

A: Ok.

*Beat.*

What happens if I think of a bad one?

J: Are you thinking of a specific example?

A: I suppose I'm thinking about how much I used to love swimming and when she'd say "ok you have to get out now" and I really wouldn't want to.

J: Maybe on that particular day she was a bit stressed, you know, she was always busy wasn't she? She had a lot going on for her and...

A: She had a lot of life didn't she.

J: Yes, look when you have a bad one let it go very quickly, when you have a good one hold on and really enjoy being with it.

A: Great so memories, and the past.

J: Ok, great!

Actually... do you know what we could do as well - I always liked it when she said "embrace the future" so let's stick that in there as well.

A: So remember the past, let go of the past and embrace the future.

All in a minute

J: Yes...let's try that

A: Remember the past, let go of the past, embrace the future.

J: 3,2,1, go.

*Music takes over before going into silence*

**END**