

Stories for Lipreading



THAT'S MY ROOM by S. Bee.

[This text is read aloud at the beginning of this video:]

Welcome to Stories for Lipreading. If you haven't used our website before, we suggest you look at our 'How to Use' page before you begin. We hope you enjoy this story, which is called 'That's My Room' by S. Bee. It has been filmed in two episodes. Here is episode 1.

That's My Room by S. Bee. Episode One.

'That room is going to be my office,' Jim declared.

'Why do you need an office?' Brenda asked. 'You use the kitchen table when you work on your laptop. I was thinking it would be such a lovely, quiet place for me to sit and read.'

Brenda coveted a reading room of her own. She'd been dreaming of it for months, ever since their daughter, Alison, had accepted her university place.

Now the moment had come. Alison had departed for university amid tears and hugs, and, three days later, both her parents were laying claim to the empty bedroom.

'I can have a desk and an office chair up there. It'll be much better. When I use the kitchen table, I have to log off before meal times,' he explained.

'True,' she grudgingly admitted.

'Why do you want a reading room?' he challenged. 'You don't need a special room for that. You can read anywhere.'

Technically, that was true, she thought, yet nowhere was really suitable. She sat in the garden when the weather was good. When it wasn't, the sofa in the living room was best, but whenever Brenda tried to get stuck into a novel, Jim always seemed to be immersed in a noisy football match on television.

She'd taken her book to the bedroom, but couldn't get comfortable, propping herself up on pillows on the bed, feeling strange to be lying there in the middle of the day.

So Brenda hatched a plan... she was going to transform Alison's room into a relaxing reading room. She dreamed of redecorating and could just imagine white bookshelves, pictures, fresh curtains and flowered cushions. A cosy rug would complete the look. Then she'd treat herself to the comfiest chair she could find. She imagined sinking into the chair, clutching a book by a favourite author. Bliss!

Then Jim had announced his office plan. Well, she mused, if she wanted a reading room, and Jim wanted an office, there was clearly no compromise. They'd reached stalemate.

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[That's My Room by S. Bee. Episode Two.](#)

'Have you changed my room yet, Mum?' Alison enquired on the phone.

'No, not yet, love. Why?'

'I want to come home. I don't think student life is for me,' she confessed.

'You've only been there a week. You need to give it a chance,' Brenda said gently.

'Oh, Mum, I just don't fit in!' she wailed.

'It's a big upheaval, leaving home for the first time,' Brenda soothed. 'You worked so hard to get this far. What if you give yourself a deadline? Try and stick it out for a month. If you really hate it after that, come home.'

'So you'll keep my room just as it is?'

'Of course.'

When Brenda told Jim, he nodded sympathetically.

'Let's forget about transforming her bedroom,' Brenda said. 'Alison needs to know it's here waiting for her, if she wants to come home.'

Jim looked thoughtful as he reached for his laptop. She decided to drop the matter completely.

Six weeks later, Brenda answered the doorbell.

'Delivery for you!' a man announced. Brenda gazed in astonishment as a huge loaded lorry pulled up outside their house.

Jim appeared. 'It's arrived!'

She was puzzled. 'What's arrived?'

Jim didn't reply as he swiftly took charge and guided the delivery to the back garden.

Brenda peered. She spotted windows and a roof in kit form.

Was it a shed? A greenhouse, perhaps?

She called Jim over. 'What an earth is going on?'

'It's a garden room. I ordered it online.'

'A garden room?' Brenda enquired, uncertainly.

'Before you get annoyed at me for splashing out with our savings, hear me out. I'm going to divide it into two. The rooms won't be huge, but we can each have our own space. You can have your reading room and I can have my office. What do you think?'

Brenda couldn't answer, she was so happy. So she covered her clever hubby in kisses instead!