

TELL THEM I CARE

A short sketch  
by  
Tony Breeze

Ventus Books  
ISBN: 9781872758268

## CHARACTERS

Chrissy.....Young mother

Jen.....Female Social Worker

(The front room of a working class flat. Chrissy comes on followed on by Jen)

Chrissy (Hand to hair) I must look a mess ... can I get you a coffee or anything?

Jen Not just now

Chrissy Wayne said I shouldn't let you in, that I shouldn't have anything to do with you

Jen How is he?

Chrissy He's still very angry – they let him phone me last night but he got cross again and put the phone down.

Jen That's why we had to do what we did.

Chrissy He can't really help it

Jen I know he can't help it but he's got to learn

Chrissy He says they lock you up in there for twenty-three hours a day and some of the screws are real bastards

Jan That's only till they can trust him - he shouldn't have done what he did.

Chrissy Is that guy OK?

Jen He's still off work. The doctor says his nose will mend but he'll have a permanent scar

Chrissy It's because you said you were taking Darren and Kylie away, he's not normally that bad

Jen Chrissy I know what he's like, I've seen what he's done to you in the past – so don't tell me, "He's not that bad"

Chrissy He just thinks so much of his kids.

Jen That's why I've come to see you ... you know we've been having meetings don't you?

Chrissy Yeah, but it'll be OK now that he's inside

Jen He won't always be inside will he?

Chrissy I suppose not

Jen           And when he gets out he'll be at it again

Chrissy       He only hits me when he's drunk

Jen           He wasn't drunk when he head-butted Mr Wilkinson

Chrissy       It was because they said they were taking Darren and Kylie into Care - he just lost it

Jen           And he's the reason we were called out in the first place

Chrissy       He doesn't hit them - he only hits me

Jen           We don't know that do we?

                  (Beat)

Chrissy       When can they come home?

Jen           (Hesitant) You remember we said that it would be best if you didn't see him again?

Chrissy       How can I do that? They're his kids

Jen           We know they're his, but you did say that you'd try

Chrissy       I did try but he doesn't listen to me - he just keeps coming back – I tried moving but wherever I move to he always finds me

Jen           D'you remember what was said at that last meeting?

Chrissy       Which one? There's been so many

Jen           The one in Mr Wilkinson's office

Chrissy       I can't remember

Jen           We said that you could keep Darren and Kylie on one condition ... do you remember?

Chrissy       Yeah

Jen           Do you remember what the condition was?

Chrissy       That I finish with Wayne.

Jen           And you haven't have you?

Chrissy       I 've tried

Jen           It's not enough Chrissy - we can't take the chance

Chrissy       What d'you mean?

Jen           You've had lots of chances and you always take him back, no matter what he does to you, you always take him back

Chrissy       You don't understand ...

Jen           I do, Chrissy, I do understand - I understand that you can't give him up

Chrissy       I've told you, it's only when he's drunk, he's not like that all the time. When he's sober he's a different person, we have some great times.

Jen           What did we say would happen if you couldn't give Wayne up?

Chrissy       You said - (she finally realises why the social worker's there) No! You're not -?

Jen           I'm afraid we are Chrissy, we have to

Chrissy       You can't, you can't take my kids off me.

Jen           We can

Chrissy       No, that can't be right - I'm their mum

Jen           We have to think about them and their future

Chrissy       Their future's here with me

Jen           I'm afraid not

Chrissy       (Turning her back on her) I'm not listening to you

Jen           You've got to listen - I've got some papers here I want you to sign

Chrissy       I'm signing nothing

Jen           If you don't, we can get a court order

Chrissy       (Turning on her) They're my kids, for Christ's sake! You want me to sign away my own kids? They're my own flesh and blood - Wayne was right

Jen           (Reaching out) Chrissy -