LIVING THE DREAM UNIT 7

Part 2

P: And so did you set about doing something to realise the dream?

J: Yeah, it happened quite , actually. I typed in 'used bookshop, Scotland', into Google and Wigtown came up, Scotland's of, I think, it was about sixteen bookshops and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, one of them, hopefully, will take me in,' for a kind of live/work exchange while I was on holiday and I could realise this dream of …

P: So, did you just send an email to these bookshops and ask them to take you in?

J: I sent one email to the first bookshop on the list, which was The Bookshop, and it was the largest used bookshop in Scotland, and within a couple of emails this sort of ` , generous bookshop owner said, 'Yes, I host a lot of other artists. Come on over for the festival.

P: And so you came over and you stayed at The Bookshop, and what sort of a bookshop was it? What sort of impression did it make on you when you first arrived?

J: I would describe it as, if Harry Potter had a bookshop, this would be it.

P: And what about the bookshop owner? Did you get on with him?

J: I did. You know, I was … I was here for a specific reason. I really wanted to from things, I wanted to write, so when I first met the bookshop owner I, it was just … it was a friendly, a kind of a friendly I had with him. I didn't get to know him very much until towards the end of my stay.

Part 3

P: Your month ended and you went back to LA. Did you find yourself missing the shop and missing the owner?

J: Yeah, I loved the shop, I loved the town itself and the people there. And it took me a while to admit that it was actually most of all the bookshop owner that I was missing.

P: And how did you find out that he was missing you too?

J: We would correspond over email and Skype and I'd get lovely packages from him with things I missed about Wigtown.

P: Such as?

J: Such as, this is terrible, such as the biscuits, the biscuits I absolutely adore, um, and a lot of the sweets and movies. I Scottish films.

P: So your relationship deepened? Did you think, 'Well maybe I'm falling in love with this man'?

J: Yeah, and I think the reason why it took so long for me to admit was that it meant a radical life shift. And luckily, my job shifted at NASA; so suddenly, I had this freedom of being able to be anywhere in the world that I wanted. And I just thought, 'Well, why let all my characters in my movies have all the fun?' I really wanted to jump in and try this. This was a true , an adventure.

P: So, tell me about your life now, living above the bookshop in Scotland.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

J: Well, right now there's a heater underneath my legs - it is absolutely freezing - there is ice crawling up the windows, but it's very cosy, um, and the snow has just hit here, it's beautiful outside, and Wigtown , four years on, remains as as when I first came.

P: And how is it going with the bookshop owner?

J: Wonderful! You couldn't find a more beautiful place, and you couldn't find more excellent people, and you know … the love of my life is here so …

P: Jessica, it's been wonderful to speak to you.

J: Thank you so much for having me.

LIVEWORKSHEETS