

A Life on the Streets



Every single night of the year, around 1,200 people sleep rough on hard benches and in grubby doorways on the streets of various English cities. Jasmine, twenty-two, is one of them. At first, huddled in a door entrance asking passers-by for money, she is reluctant to open up, but then she begins to talk. This is her story ...

Read the text on page 85 “A Life on the Streets” from Spotlight 11, Student’s book, and do the tasks.

Task 1. Read the text and answer the questions.

Why did Jasmine leave home?

Where did she stay after leaving home?

Why did she move to London?

Where did she spend the first few nights?

How did Jasmine feel those nights?

What places does the girl occasionally stay in?

Who does she share a room with?

What does Jasmine think is the worst thing about being homeless?

How does the girl survive?

What does Jasmine want more than anything?

Task 2. Use the phrases to complete the sentences.

After her parents were killed in a car accident, Annie was placed in a

The young mother put her name on a for affordable housing.

While away at school, Brian’s mail was sent to his in London.

The twins brought along their on the camping trip.

There was no in the building after a pipe burst in the basement.

The homeless man went to a nearby for a hot meal.

1. soup kitchen
2. running water
3. fixed address
4. foster home
5. waiting list
6. sleeping bags

Task 3. Read the meaning and guess the word.

unable to breath

bed and breakfast

very dirty

how a person feels about themselves

expensive

official care by the government

to be so cold that it causes the person to shake

a person's sense of importance and value

throw

to just cover all your essential living expenses

a problem or difficult situation that creates new problems which cause the original problem again

a magazine sold by homeless people

Task 4. Read the exchanges from the dialogue between Journalist and Jasmine and put the exchanges in the right order. The first exchange has been marked for you.

Journalist: Why do you live here?

Jasmine: Many people find it hard to understand why I gave up a home in foster care to make it on my own but I wanted to be independent. Little did I know how hard it would be.

Jasmine: I hope and pray that one day soon I'll get a council flat and will finally have my own place to call home

Journalist: Do you regret your actions?

Jasmine: Yes, quite often I wish I had stayed on at school and stayed in foster care until I was eighteen. Maybe then I would have a job or would have gone to college.

Jasmine: For six years now, since I was sixteen.

Journalist: Is there any way out?

Jasmine: Feeling cold and lonely. And there's also the uncertainty, the danger. It is the worst kind of existence, believe me!

Journalist: How long have you been living on the streets?

Journalist: What is the worst thing about being homeless?

Task 5. Which adjectives best describe Jasmine's feelings? Give reasons.

lonely * confused * proud * delighted * anxious * abandoned * excited