

ON A PLATE

A SHORT STORY
ABOUT PRIVILEGE

THIS IS RICHARD.
HIS PARENTS ARE
DOING OK.



AND THIS IS PAULA.
HER PARENTS?
NOT SO MUCH.



RICHARD'S HOUSE IS WARM AND DRY.
HIS SHELVES ARE FULL OF BOOKS AND
HIS FRIDGE IS FULL OF FOOD.



PAULA'S HOUSE IS FULL OF PEOPLE AND
NOT MUCH ELSE. IT'S DAMP AND NOISY AND
SHE KEEPS GETTING SICK.





RICHARD GOES TO A GREAT SCHOOL. WELL RESOURCED, GOOD KIDS. HIS TEACHERS LOVE THEIR JOB.



AT PAULA'S SCHOOL, THE CLASS SIZES ARE LARGE, THE SCHOOL IS UNDERFUNDED, AND LOOKS IT. HER TEACHERS ARE TIRED, STRETCHED THIN FROM THE STRESS.



SO MAYBE WE CAN SEE WHY THE EXPECTATIONS SET FOR RICHARD...



... MIGHT BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TO THOSE SET FOR PAULA...



... AND OVER THE YEARS ALL THESE LITTLE DIFFERENCES...



(PARENTS PAYING FOR UNI)



(JUGGLING WORK AND POLYTECH, STILL GETTING IN DEBT)

... THEY START TO ADD UP. TO BUILD INTO SOMETHING BIGGER.



I have friends working there - I'll have a word, and get you an internship.

Thanks Dad.



You should be finishing your studies, not looking after me...

Dad, you're sick.

AND BECAUSE EACH LITTLE DIFFERENCE SNEAKS BY UNNOTICED...



Yep, the loan is approved. Congratulations!



Look, we just can't help you. Maybe try Eazee Finance?

THEN MAYBE RICHARD STARTS TO BELIEVE THAT HE DESERVES TO BE ON TOP. THAT HE DID IT ALL HIMSELF.

Oh you're Roger's boy right? I've heard good things, keeping my eye on you...



AND MAYBE PAULA STARTS TO SETTLE. LEARNS TO 'KNOW HER PLACE'.

OK, you've got the job, but I'm watching you sweetie...



What is the secret to your success?



Um... excuse me...

BUT I HOPE NOT.



Less whinging, more hard work I say. I'm sick of people asking for handouts. No one ever handed me anything on plate.



I REALLY HOPE NOT.