

They begin to circle LEXI's chair and start prodding her with fingers or pulling on her ponytail with every spoken complaint. Their voices getting louder and louder.

FELICITY

Lezzie's and gays.

ANGIE

Long rainy days.

FIONA

The world population.

FELICITY

The cost of inflation.

ANGIE

An internet scam.

FIONA

The price of fresh lamb!

Their voices getting louder still.

FELICITY

Filthy old smokers.

ANGIE

Insurance brokers.

FIONA

The price at the pump.

FELICITY

The real estate slump.

ANGIE

Bloody dole bludgers.

FIONA

Tight budgie smugglers.

FELICITY

A painful bee sting.

ANGIE

The blogs of Ken Ring.

Their voices are almost shouting now.

FIONA

Property tax.

FELICITY

Hairy backs / builders cracks.

LEXI puts her hands over her ears.

ANGIE

Husbands who cheat.

FIONA

Too much gluten or wheat.

FELICITY

The broadband connection.

ANGIE

An unwanted erection.

FIONA

Queues at the lights.

FELICITY

SBW fights.

ANGIE

The Warriors home score.

FIONA

The seabed and foreshore.

FELICITY

High interest loans.

ANGIE

All the blood road cones!

At this stage the digital clock under Auckland clicks over to 100,000. Alarms start to ring and buzzers go off. The office is a blare of sirens and lights. LEXI looks like she is going to have a heart attack. FIONA, ANGIE and FELICITY walk calmly back to their desks and pick up their bags. The alarms stop just as they are about to exit the room.

LEXI

Wait! Where are you going?

FIONA

Compliments Department.

LEXI  
Compliments Department? What's that?

FELICITY  
(Gesturing to LEXI) And she thinks she's bright?

ANGIE  
We've reached 100,000, it's changeover time. A person can only handle so many complaints!

LEXI  
Oh thank God, this place sounds awful!

LEXI leans down, grabs her bag and goes to join them.

ANGIE pushes LEXI's head back down until she's sitting back down in the chair.

ANGIE  
Uh uh uh, not you little Lexi, you're just a newbie. Your penance is just starting.

LEXI  
But, I'd do much better in Compliments! Don't you think?

They ignore her and carry on walking.

LEXI  
Oh come on please! This isn't the place for me.

FELICITY spins around and looks in straight in the eye.

FELICITY  
Is that a complaint?

ANGIE, FIONA and FELICITY turn back around and walk out, smiling. LEXI puts her head in her hands as the phone rings. The lights fade as she picks it up and answers it ...

LEXI  
(In a depressed voice) ... Lexi speaking. Whaddya want.

**THE END**