

Transcript of Susan's Story

Quarantine life isn't all that it's cracked up to be. Well at least my morning commute is only from the bedroom, down the hallway, to the spare room. I always pride myself on being an organised person, but it just doesn't feel right.

Do you know what, I actually miss people, I actually miss being in the office, even hanging out with some of the people I have nothing in common with and wouldn't normally talk to.

I mean making a cup of coffee and having a gossip and a natter over the water cooler. I never thought I'd hear myself saying that. The other day we had a Zoom game night for the team, dreadful. It was the usual loud people wanting to win, always getting in there first I really can't be doing with all of that.

I mean knitting circles online, book clubs online, coffee mornings online. Really? I mean it's not the same as if you're meeting face-to-face, so why are we pretending? I just, I really don't see the point.

Having said that one of the upsides of lockdown is at least I don't have to face certain people in the office I mean before the end, some of the looks that I was getting from some of those people I mean I haven't felt like that since I was a teenager in secondary school I mean, people just getting up and walking away because they didn't want to sit next to me. I felt like I had a huge target on my back The closest I've ever come to mainland China is Google Maps. I snapped at Mum the other day, God love her, she didn't take it to heart.

I'm getting really worried about her. I can see it's all this isolation is getting her down. I mean Mum's always busy; has always been one of those people on the go I mean dinner clubs, lunch clubs, cinema clubs she has a busier social life than I do, or did. And she hates being referred to as 'vulnerable', people telling her that she's got to take care of herself, you know, there's some problem with being her age. I mean she's never felt like that, she's always been independent, always been incredibly healthy, and now everybody's treating her with kid gloves, It's not good for her, it's not good for me.

I'm just not very good without a structure, who knew? I mean when I was at work, I knew where I was, work, then gym on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, that was the time I went out to see mates, or caught up or, caught a film, or went to the theatre. I know I need to exercise regularly, I know that.

But one day, one day I am fine, I am buzzing, I'm me, I'm multitasking. The next day, I feel as if I have been hit by a double decker bus.

My sleeping has gone to pot. Maybe that's why I snapped at Mum the other day. And I know that a lot of my teammates are feeling the same way, some of them are laid off and others, I guess, are like me, they're working from home. But we don't really know because none of us are together we're all isolated on our home at home.