**CASUALTY SERIES 39, EPISODE 07: SAMPLE STORY DOCUMENT**

## B STORY EP 07: JODIE GRAPPLES WITH WHAT SHE OWES FAITH

*SP: Jodie is determined to put her personal issues with Faith aside today*

*EP: Jodie realises she can’t work alongside Faith*

*GUEST: A child learns he doesn’t have to be strong and brave all the time*

Outside the ED, JODIE powers into work but she’s caught off guard to spot IAIN in the car park. They haven’t seen each other since the day Faith found out about them. She’s angry to see him and assumes he’s here to see her. Jodie warns Iain that if he keeps coming back to the hospital she could report him for harassment, but Jodie is taken aback as Iain is angry at her. He’s here to drop off Faith’s lunch, she forgot it this morning. They’re still living together - it’s not quick to dismantle a long relationship like theirs. Iain fumes at Jodie for telling Faith – she took that away from him. He was going to tell Faith, and now he and Jodie can never be together. Jodie bristles, feeling a pang of guilt but, before she can reply, FAITH arrives out and takes her lunch. Jodie keeps her head down…

…Moments later inside the ED, Faith catches up with Jodie. What happened is not widespread knowledge – and Faith wants to keep it that way. For both their careers. Jodie reckons Faith won’t have to deal with her for the whole day, as she’s been called away to a think tank. But Faith sours – she’s been invited to the same thing. They can’t escape each other (**INCITING INCIDENT**). Jodie prickles as Faith asks – can she manage that? Will Jodie and Faith be able to play nice?

Pushing Faith and Iain to the back of her mind, a rattled Jodie throws herself into work as she greets her first patients who wait with RIDA. But as she looks up from her tablet, she falters to see DANNY (8) and NS MIA (3). They appear malnourished and neglected. Whatever’s gone on for Jodie this morning, it’s a reality check. The two children have been scooped from a house after a neighbour called in, worried about signs of neglect: there’s no sign of Mum around. Both have symptoms of severe malnourishment. Though Danny also has a laceration to his forehead (he fainted when the paramedics were with him, likely from lack of food), Mia is more unwell. Jodie wants to treat the children separately, but as Rida encourages for Danny to follow her, Danny refuses to leave his sister. Jodie tells Rida it’s fine, as she delivers an oral rehydration solution to Mia. Jodie has no time to think about Faith and Iain now.

With Danny, Jodie applies lat gel to his forehead. But she’s struggling to get Danny to open up or even eat; he doesn’t want to. While Mia takes the energy bars on offer, Danny claims he isn’t hungry. Danny explains they’ve tried to contact their mum but to no avail – do they know where she is? It’s clear Jodie believes the mum is neglecting them, that this could be a child abuse case. But Danny insists he looks after Mia as their mum is really busy – and they’re fine. Danny is irked as Jodie tells him social services are on their way, so they can talk more about this. Danny closes up further, and Jodie privately frustrates. Seeing this, Faith arrives over – she’s a natural with children, and Danny agrees to take a small bite. The subtext is clear to Jodie as she sutures Danny’s wound – Faith’s a mum, and Jodie isn’t. Annoyed by Faith, Jodie is forced to bite her tongue for the sake of the kids.

Jodie is rushing between NS PATIENTS when Rida approaches – she’s so sorry, Danny and Mia haven’t been given food yet. Danny just asked for some. Jodie is about to correct her, when she sees Danny has been storing food in his pockets to save it for later. Approaching, Jodie tries a different tact with Danny. Less forceful, she sets bars on the side but doesn’t encourage him to eat. Subtler, she tries to garner information about life at home. Danny opens up a little too, seeing his sister is okay. But then, exhausted mum SALLY (30s) crashes in – wanting Jodie to get away from her kids. Jodie remains calm, but Sally then confronts Danny – why did he open the door? The situation escalates, but Jodie finds support in Faith as they come together to protect the kids. Sally soon crumbles into upset. Danny goes to hug her. Sally is sorry this has happened, she explains she’s working two jobs. She’s not neglectful – she’s just a mother trying to provide. Faith and Jodie see Danny loves his mum and view Sally in a new light. With their minds changed about Sally, is this the start of a new truce between Jodie and Faith?

Civil, Jodie and Faith are at the think-tank. With Danny and Mia on their minds, it’s not warm but their tension has dissipated (**MIDPOINT**). As the meeting draws to a close, Jodie’s phone pings with an email inviting her to apply for the role of Clinical Nurse Manager. Jodie is stunned (she feels much too inexperienced for the role) but as she tells Faith she doesn’t have to leave – they can do this - it’s clear by Faith’s pale face she wasn’t expecting this. Jodie asks if she’s okay, but Faith quickly covers and maintains her composure, reckoning she’ll catch Jodie downstairs. Feeling for Faith, Jodie makes a quick exit – not wanting to make a scene.

…But with Jodie gone, and in the privacy of a side-room, Faith is furious as she makes a call. Why didn’t they tell her the advert would be out already and they were inviting others to interview!? Faith argues how she led the nurses through some of the worst storms the county has ever seen – and this is how they thank her? Responding to the other end of the line, Faith acknowledges she knew this was a temporary arrangement, but she’s doing a good job. As Faith slams down the phone, we see Faith is humiliated.

Head-spinning after that bombshell, Jodie re-enters the floor. She snaps into action, delivering further treatment to Mia. Then, Jodie notes Mia’s musty breath. Jodie urgently questions Sally – does Mia have any underlying conditions? Sally is beside herself, as Danny holds her hand – fearful for his sister. Sally confirms Mia has PKU – which Jodie knows to be Phenylketonuria. Sally is ashamed. She can’t afford the special diet Mia needs for her PKU. The food she can afford is making Mia sick, but she doesn’t know what else she can do. Jodie’s heart breaks for Sally, who, in her distress, leans on Danny. Sally tells Danny she doesn’t know what she’d do without him. After his dad left, he’s the man of the house – and doing a better job of it! But Jodie worries for Danny to see his little shoulders carry so much burden. Jodie moves from Danny – and crosses with Rida – who asks if Jodie seen the Clinical Nurse Manager position has gone up? Everyone’s talking about it. Would Jodie ever go for it? Jodie tells Rida she’s considering it, just to show management she’s considering a step up, but she falters as Faith passes, face flushed and looking upset.

Later, Jodie explains NS SOCIAL SERVICES are here – they can help, they’re not here to separate the family. They’ll be able to help provide Mia with the food she needs. Sally’s unsure whether to speak to them, but Jodie tells Sally it’s for the best. Jodie offers to watch Danny, and Sally reluctantly leaves. Left with Danny, Jodie asks how he’s doing? Now Mia and Sally are okay, Jodie wants to check out Danny if he’ll let her. He’s got to look after himself too, not just his mum and sister. As Jodie assesses Danny – she gently asks him if it’s a lot at home. Jodie can see Danny getting upset as he maintains he’s proud – he's the man of the house. Jodie assures it’s okay if he wants to cry or get upset, but Danny is fiery – he’s meant to the man house of the house! But worked up, soon Danny breaks, and he cries for the first time in a long while. Jodie encourages him to let it out. It’s clear the pressure of holding up a family is too much. Jodie is strong.

Later, Jodie finds Faith and fills her in on what’s happened with Danny and Mia… and to see how Faith is. It’s unusual territory, but Faith looks to Jodie and see she’s genuine. But as Jodie goes on to say how she also wanted to let Faith know she has no intention of applying for the Clinical Nurse Manager position, this goes down badly… Faith retorts that Jodie isn’t a threat to her. She’s earned this job out of merit and is secure she’s the best person for this job. But in Faith’s coldness, Jodie frustrates – she’s sorry this happened and that Faith hates her – but she never intended this to happen. She and Iain just fell for each other – and anyway, Iain was the one in a relationship, not her. Faith even encouraged Jodie to go after a man she knew was in a relationship, remember? Jodie is riled as she defends herself – she won’t take being kicked again over Iain. She’s done with it. Riled, Jodie walks away – the job opportunity setting alight their small branch from earlier.

## D STORY EP 07: NGOZI IS GIVEN HOPE FOR HER FAMILY’S FUTURE

*SP: Ngozi is anxious about her son’s criminal case*

*EP: Ngozi dares to hope for her family’s future again*

*GUEST: A dying man decides to live every day like it’s his last*

On the floor, NGOZI is taking in the state of the busy ED when her phone rings. It’s her so Obi’s Police Liaison Officer, Ngozi is nervous – as a passing SIOBHAN catches her. Ngozi explains that was the PLO. They’re expecting to receive the CPS’ decision on whether Obi will face criminal charges today (**INCITING INCIDENT**). Ngozi’s anxiety spikes… Is today the day she learns Obi could go to a Young Offenders Institute after he attacked his school mate? Ngozi tries to express her disbelief that the decision would be made today – on Obi’s birthday – to the PLO, but is forced to end the call as she’s pulled into treating DAVID (40s). David is a cancer patient whose been rushed into the ED with severe breathing problems. Ngozi struggles to push down her personal worries as she begins to deliver treatment to David alongside TARIQ.

Together, they stabilise David and he starts to come to. They note he’s on chemotherapy drugs for lung cancer. This focuses Ngozi on her work; she’s sorry to hear that. David explains he’s trying all he can to fight it. His doctor’s been encouraging him to consider palliative care, but David won’t hear any of it. He’s even trying herbal remedies, he’s not usually the sort, but he just wants to make it to next Christmas, to have that day with the kids. David becomes emotional – that’s all he wants. Concerned about David’s symptoms, Tariq explains he’s going to order some tests to determine what’s happened – Ngozi concurs, the medicine could be reacting with his chemotherapy drugs. As David takes that in, Ngozi suffers a wobble. David just wants to be with his kids. Reminded of Obi, Ngozi steps away from David’s cubicle needing a moment.

Later, Siobhan finds Ngozi in the Staff Room. Visibly stressed and upset, as she angers that the decorations for Obi’s party haven’t been delivered yet. Siobhan tries to keep it light, it’s only a few balloons! But prompted by David, Ngozi just wants Obi’s day to be special. She was living in a different country to him on his last birthday so they didn’t do anything to celebrate. He’s finally with her in the UK, and now, today might end with him being sent away. Just another example of Ngozi letting her kids down. But Siobhan softens and is a pillar of strength, reminding Ngozi that she has done everything with Obi’s best interests in mind. Ngozi falters; to reminded of that… It’s a small bit of hope amidst the chaos. It doesn’t feel like it right now – but this is a big milestone for her. Ngozi is grateful for Siobhan’s enduring support.

Bolstered by Siobhan, Ngozi returns to David. It was what they expected; the herbal remedy has had a rare reaction with the drugs he’s taking for his lung cancer. David sadly laughs – by trying to keep himself alive, he’s done the opposite. But as David swears off his herbal remedies, he looks at Ngozi’s expression. There’s something serious coming. Ngozi explains the tests have also shown the cancer has spread. It’s a blow, as David realises there are no more options to him except accepting palliative care… It’s bittersweet as David accepts this is his only option but realises he could have Christmas every day with the kids if he wants. Ngozi is moved by David’s spirit. But as she goes to follow up on his treatment, her phone rings. Her stomach drops to see it’s the PLO. Ngozi braces herself for bad news… But she is flooded with relief as she’s told Obi isn’t being prosecuted. Passing, Siobhan clocks Ngozi’s relief and tentatively asks – good news? Ngozi fills her in, finally daring to hope for her family’s future again…