

The Bathroom (a play)



Kiera has gone into the bathroom and discovered that the builders in the flat next door have drilled through the wall and broken some tiles.

Kiera *(furiously)* Elliott! Elliott! Come and see what they've done!

Elliott *(enters the bathroom)* What is it, love?

Kiera *(points to the wall)* Look!

Elliott Good grief! They've ruined the tiles!

Kiera It's not just the tiles, Elliott. Look at the holes in the wall. *(bursts into tears)* It looks awful, absolutely awful! My beautiful tiles! I'll never be able to get more tiles like them.

Elliott *(upset)* I know. There, there love!

Kiera *(blowing her nose loudly)* I told you they were rotten builders.

They've annoyed everyone in the flats. I've had to tell them twice to stop leaning on our car in the car park while they have a smoke.

Elliott Yes, well I'll call the managing agents office. They'll have to talk to the builders. *(gets out his phone and rings the number)* Hello, hello ... It's Elliott here. We've got a bit of a problem with next door's builders. Oh! Yes, thanks. I'll see you soon. Bye, now. *(puts phone away)* Jared says he'll be round shortly. He was coming over anyway, to see one of the other flats. They've been complaining about the noise and a load of cracks have appeared in the walls of their kitchen.

Kiera It's like what happened to my

brother when his neighbours had builders in. All the drilling made cracks appear in his walls and ceiling, and the neighbours' builders had to re-plaster and paint his flat. It was a nightmare. Still, the builders put in a new kitchen for him, to make up for the trouble.

Elliott

A new kitchen?

Kiera

His kitchen walls were so badly damaged that William said they might as well take the old kitchen out and put in a new one. He'd been planning to get a new kitchen at some point, and I think this spurred him on. *(excited)* I say, Elliott, do you think we might get a new bathroom out of this accident?

Elliott

Are you joking?

Kiera

No I'm not! *(jumps as the doorbell goes)*

Elliott

That'll be Jared. I'll get the door. *(goes out, then reappears with a man and a petite, business-like woman wearing smart clothes)*

Jared

Hello, Kiera. I met Mrs Zebronovitch downstairs. She and her daughter have bought the flat where all the decorating is going on.

Kiera

Yes, we know. How do you do? *(shakes Mrs Zebronovitch's hand)*

Jared

Mrs Zebronovitch is an architect. She was on her way here to see how the builders were getting on and of course I told her about your wall.

Mrs Zebronovitch

I heard about the wall and was horrified. *(examines the wall carefully and makes notes)*

Jared

We need to sort out how to repair the damage.

Mrs Zebronovitch

Yes, indeed. I will send in my tiler tomorrow and he will patch up the wall.

Elliott

Er, what do you mean by 'patch up'?

Mrs Zebronovitch

Fill in the holes and put new tiles over the broken ones. Very quick.

Kiera

We don't want the mess just covered over. Just covering the existing tiles won't be good enough. It would look dreadful. These holes need to be carefully mended and the whole bathroom re-tiled.

Mrs Zebronovitch

(thoughtfully) Yes, yes, I see. It would be best. I will speak to my builders and tell them that they must repair the damage out of their own pockets. This is their mistake, not mine, and they must do the paying!

Jared

(carefully) Perhaps I could see your wall. I'll take a few photographs of both walls for insurance purposes and for the records. *(takes a camera from his rucksack and starts taking pictures)*

Mrs Zebronovitch

Yes, yes, no problem. If you please, come with me now. I will show you the wall. *(Mrs Zebronovitch and Jared leave)*

Kiera

She sounds as if she's quite happy to get the damage repaired. We'd better get some new tiles, Elliott. What a lot of mess and upheaval there's going to be now.

Elliott

(gloomily) That's assuming the job gets done at all.



Questions

Answer the following questions with a full sentence:

1. Describe what has happened to Kiera and Elliott.
2. Why is Kiera so upset about the bathroom tiles?
3. What type of property do they live in?
4. How is Jared going to help Kiera and Elliott?
5. Who is Mrs Zebronovitch and what job does she do?
6. Why is Elliott gloomy at the end of the scene?
7. What is Kiera hoping to get out of the whole situation if she is lucky?
8. How does Kiera respond to Mrs Zebronovitch's first solution to the problem?

Word work

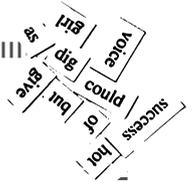
1. Give the meaning of the following words:

ruined

spurred

petite

2. If you 'patch' something up, what does this mean?



Extension work

1. Describe the benefits and problems of getting builders to put in a new bathroom.
2. If you were Mrs Zebronovitch, what would you say to your builders?
3. Carry on the dialogue between Kiera and Elliott. What do you think they will say next?
4. What do you think will happen next? Do you think that the damage to the bathroom will be sorted out?
5. What special things are there in your life that you would really hate to see ruined?

