

PELICAN RADIO COLLECTIVE

EPISODE 1: 'SAFER CROSSINGS'

A beeping alarm clock goes off. Slowly, the noise of Mum's angry voice pierces through your bedroom door.

MUM Come on, hurry up! Just because it's the weekend doesn't mean that you can sleep in until who knows when. Your brother and sister are already down in the kitchen ... Come on, this isn't a hotel!

You enter the kitchen, the sounds of Mum clanging pots and pans echoes in your ears. You can hear your brother and sister, Amber and Andy, bickering.

MUM Why are you always the last one to get up, huh? I don't care if it's a weekend. You know when I was your age, on Sundays, we'd -

AMBER Erghhh. We get it Mum, you're old!

MUM Hey! Cheeky, watch your language! I'm not old, I'm experienced. And sleeping away the whole morning isn't good for anybody, let me tell you.

ANDY What about bats? They're nocturnal.

MUM Well, are you a bat, Andrew?

AMBER *(To you)* If you don't finish, can I have your hash brown? Since I am your favourite sibling!

ANDY Shut up! I'm their favourite. Right?

AMBER Well, they've known me longer.

ANDY Well, it's not my fault I'm younger than you!

MUM Enough you two!

AMBER But -

MUM Eh! I said enough.

AMBER *Ugh.* I can't wait for my sleepover tonight, give me a rest from you two. Try not to miss me too much!

ANDY (*To you*) Why is she so annoying!? She's not your favourite, -

AMBER You think I can't hear you two!? You're both just jealous.

ANDY N-no ... Jealous of what?

AMBER That I've got a sleepover to go to!

MUM Amber! Pack it in, okay? Or you won't be going to that sleepover, you'll be stuck here googling bats with your little brother!

ANDY HEY! Mum!?

MUM Oh. Sorry, darling.

Amber giggles.

MUM Right. I have a mountain of work to do today, so can you three go and get the food shopping? There's a list on the fridge that I've written, and you can all get a *small* treat each. *Small*, okay?

ANDY (*Mumbling*) Not like when Amber bought a whole birthday cake.

AMBER You ate a slice, didn't you?

MUM Exactly, no birthday cakes. One pound or less. And I want a receipt when you're back, okay?

AMBER Wait, what about my sleepover?

MUM You've got plenty of time to go shopping before your sleepover this evening.

AMBER No, I need time to get ready for -

ANDY It's a sleepover, not a fashion show. Won't you be in your pyjamas!?

AMBER Pyjamas!? Uh, no one wears pyjamas to a sleepover! But it's not all about the clothes, Zara said we're gonna be doing TikTok dances all night. So I need to practice them before tonight so I don't look silly.

MUM (*Confused*) Right. I'm sure that's just as important as it sounds. I'm sorry, but all three of you are going shopping and that's that. It would really help me out, you wouldn't believe how much work I've got!

AMBER (*Unsure*) Which supermarket?

MUM The big one on the High Road. and I'm sending you three because you can all carry the shopping. I know, Andy, you get a bit worried about crossing the roads, but I know your siblings will take care of you. It'll all be okay as long as you follow your Green Cross Code, you know like they taught you in school. Stop, look all around and listen before you cross the road, then as you're crossing the road (*to Andy*) what do you do?

ANDY You look all around and listen again.

AMBER (*To you*) Can't believe she's telling us this, she's only doing it for his sake. Look how worried he looks already.

MUM Who's she? The cat's mother? I know you're not talking about me because "she" can quite easily stop you from going to your sleepover tonight.

AMBER (*Mumbles*) Sorry, mum.

MUM Mmm. That's what I thought. Carry on like that and you'll have no TikBox, NikNak, ZigZag or whatever you want to call it.

Andy giggles to himself.

MUM Staying safe is no joke, Amber. Are we all clear on the Green Cross Code? We stop, look *all around* - not just left and right - and listen. Then we cross - as we cross we still look and listen - until we reach the other side *safely*.

AMBER Yeah, mum. We've got it!

ANDY Uh. Yeah. I-I think so. Maybe we should hear it one more time. Maybe twice more, so it really sinks in!

MUM Don't worry, sweetheart. I just don't want anything to happen to you three. Because, the things that can happen to kids just because they don't cross the road properly is awful. Broken legs, arms or even worse.

ANDY R-Really? Uh ...

MUM Yes, but don't worry. Because you three have all the tools to stay as safe as possible. Stop. Look all around - not just left and right - and listen.

ANDY You know, some people get their shopping delivered online, Mum. T-that way we wouldn't have to ... cross any busy roads.

MUM Don't be silly, darling. The fresh air will do you good, I promise. And I know that you know just what to do. Right?

AMBER Now, let's go quickly so I can get back and learn these dances.

MUM And you, don't be rushing your siblings across those busy roads just to get back in time to practice your dancing, alright? It's not worth it. Now, let me get the shopping bags for you all.

Mum leaves. You can hear rustling noises in the background.

ANDY Did you hear Mum call TikTok a TikBox?

They all laugh.

ANDY Amber, can we make a TikTok at Sainsbury's?

AMBER What, dancing down the fruit and veg aisles!?

Pause.

AMBER Maybe, if we have time.

Mum returns.

MUM Here you go. Go put your shoes on.

AMBER Andy, wear nice shoes please because I'm not walking outside with someone wearing yellow wellington boots. You look like Paddington Bear!

ANDY What's wrong with Paddington Bear? He's adorable!

AMBER He's a *cartoon bear*!

The sound of Amber and Andy's bickering slowly fades out as they leave the house.

MUM Bye Kids! Be Safe! Take care of your brother! Remember, Amber, I want a receipt! A receipt!

AMBER (*Not listening*) Yeah, yeah. We hear you. Bye.

MUM Amber, a receipt! A ...

The front door slams shut.

MUM I'm not getting no receipt. (Sighs) Stick that kettle on.

You're outside now. You can hear birds, wind and cars driving past.

AMBER Right! Let's go!

ANDY Can ... can we go over the Green Cross Code one more time?

AMBER Andy, remember what Mum said. Everything will be fine. There are barely any cars, it's a Sunday. Are you ready?

YOU SHOULD NOW BEGIN THE 'SAFER CROSSING' GAME.