

Shine Brighter 2de

Shortfile 6 Home sweet home?

Extrait p.67 – Témoignage d'Elsie McDowell, *"I will never be able to afford to live where I grew up"*

I will never be able to afford to live where I grew up

I will never be able to afford to live where I grew up. It's true that I don't know what the future will bring, but given the state of the British economy, I doubt that I'm going to become a millionaire anytime soon. And thanks to the rocketing¹ cost of housing in the corner of London that I call home, I would need to be a millionaire to carry on living here. [...]

Southwark, the south London borough where I have spent my entire life, is in the grip of a particularly cruel crisis of affordable housing. We have a council housing² waiting list of 16,500 and council housing stock decreased by 18,000 between 1994 and 2020. Despite this, Southwark council has been engaged for many years in two controversial "regeneration" projects: knocking down one of western Europe's largest housing estates, the Aylesbury, as well as the Heygate estate in Elephant and Castle, to make room for mainly privately owned flats. This is not regeneration. It is gentrification. [...]

I am an elected representative in the Southwark Youth Parliament; I care deeply about my community and I love many things about Southwark, not least its incredible diversity. But Southwark council's decision to demolish the homes of largely working-class, often minority-ethnic, residents and replace them with sanitised apartment blocks where a flat can cost more than £1m, all while having the audacity to claim that it is creating the new "life and soul of London"—as one billboard³ puts it—is not only harming said community, but erasing it.

Elsie McDowell (17-year-old student, Winner of the 2023 Hugo Young Award), *theguardianfoundation.org*, 2023

1. rising 2. logement social 3. panneau publicitaire

'I was given a London flat, mortgage-free¹—here's how I feel'

Can you tell me a bit about you and your life? I'm nearly 30 years old and run a business in the cultural sector. My parents worked very hard when I was growing up, so we had plenty of money—I went to private school and we frequently went on nice holidays.

How did you come to own the flat?

When I was 20 and in my second year of university, my parents bought me a flat in central London mortgage-free. I always knew we were well off² but this definitely shifted my perspective on the family wealth and my life significantly.

How did it change your perspective?

I suddenly struggled to relate to many of the things that other people my age were facing, predominantly the London rental market and thinking about saving for a property deposit³. Because I didn't need to pay rent I decided to pursue what I wanted to do – set up my business.

gfy.co.uk, 2023

1. *sans hypothèque* = *acheté comptant* **2.** *rich* **3.** *acompte*

Extrait p. 69 – Article de Ruth Bloomfield, *standard.co.uk*

Buying a home with friends: how these pals¹ joined forces to escape London's rental trap

Soyemi and Farleigh, who are both 27, headed to London after graduating from Lincoln University and in 2019 they started toying with the idea of buying a place.

"We were freelancing and making good money, but neither of us could buy a place on our own," says Farleigh.

"Then a friend said he knew this really good mortgage broker² who could get us a loan. Within a week we had a mortgage in principle."

In early 2020, just before the pandemic first hit, they found themselves the proud co-owners of a £450,000 three-bedroom terrace³ in Waltham Forest.

Ruth Bloomfield, *standard.co.uk*, 2022

1. friend **2.** *courtier* **3.** *maison mitoyenne*

Extrait p. 71 – Roman de Beth O’Leary, *The Flatshare*

Sharing a bed

"So, anyway," I say brightly, withdrawing my hands to wipe my eyes, "I need to move out. Now. Even if I wanted to stay and risk him bringing Patricia back again, I can't afford the rent, and I owe¹ Justin a ton of money, and I really don't want to borrow² from anyone, I'm kind of sick of not paying for things myself, to be honest, so... Yes. It's this or the flatshare."

Mo and Gerty exchange a look. Gerty closes her eyes in pained resignation.

"Well, you clearly cannot live here." She opens her eyes and holds out a hand.

"Show me that advert again."

I hand her my phone, flicking from Justin's message to the Gumtree ad for the flatshare.

Double bedroom in sunny one-bed Stockwell flat, rent £350 per month including bills. Available immediately, for six months minimum.

Flat (and room/bed) is to share with twenty-seven-year-old palliative care nurse³ who works nights and is away weekends. Only ever in the flat 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday. All yours the rest of the time! Perfect for anyone with 9 to 5 job.

To view, contact L. Twomey—details below.

"It's not just sharing a flat, Tiff, it's sharing a bed. Sharing a bed is odd⁴", "Mo says worriedly.

Beth O’Leary, *The Flatshare*, 2019

1. be in debt to 2. emprunter. 3. infirmier 4. strange, bizarre

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Extrait de l'article de July Ezvans, *fortune.com*

Londoners are turning to 'speed dating' to find the perfect flatmate match

"I'm a software engineer," says Josephine Wright, cocktail in hand, as she introduces herself to another woman at a bar in west London.

Just like the 70 other young women who have paid their £7.50 (\$9.65) fee, she has just one aim: to find her ideal housemate.

It is a small price, they say, to fast-track¹ a search process that can otherwise take months in a city plagued by² high rents and scant³ choice.

Losing no time, the women get down to question-and-answer sessions with prospective housemates about preferred neighbourhoods, professions, backgrounds and hobbies, trying to speak to as many people as possible in two hours.

Despite the time limit, the atmosphere is relaxed. Loud chatter and laughter is interspersed with⁴ the sound of cocktail shakers at work behind the bar. [...]

Many participants cannot afford to rent a flat in London on their own, even on seemingly comfortable budgets of up to £1,500 (\$1,900) per month.

"If you want a nice flat by yourself, it's basically around like £1,500 to 1,800 or 2,000 per month," notes Ioanna, a 22-year-old intern from Greece.

In shared accommodation, renters can find a room for under £1,000.

July Ezvans, *fortune.com*, 2024

1. accelerate **2.** troubled by **3.** limited **4.** mixed with