

I, Daniel Blake

Directed by Ken Loach
2016 (100')



Daniel Blake is a 59-year-old carpenter who has worked all his life in Newcastle, in the north of England. After suffering a heart attack and being unable to return to work he is told by the state that he will not receive any unemployment or welfare benefit. Daniel befriends Katie, a single mother of two young children, who has her own problems with the state authorities

I, Daniel Blake is one of Loach's finest films, a drama of tender devastation that tells its story with an unblinking neorealist simplicity that goes right back to the plainspoken purity of Vittorio De Sica. Variety

It's often warm and quite funny, but is, at heart, a damning critique of the Tory government in Britain and their belt-tightening austerity measures, as well as a rallying cry for those who fall through the cracks. The Film Stage

Vocabulary and expressions:

There's nowt wrong with that: There's nothing wrong with that.

If we divvent get to the point: If we don't get to the point.

Can you keep an eye out for the postman?: Can you watch to see if the postman comes?

It's nae bother: It's not a problem.

Give us a shout if you need anything: Let me know if you need anything.

I cannae go back to work: I can't go back to work.

You've been deemed fit for work: You are considered healthy enough to work.

Nan: Grandmother

I mucked up at school: I did badly at school.

Shift that rubbish and shift your arse!: Move that rubbish and move yourself!

This is driving me mental: This is making me go crazy.

She's passed away: She has died.

A Geordie: Someone from Newcastle.

I loved her to bits: I loved her very very much.

A lass: A girl or young woman

You're done for: You are finished; you have lost everything.

When you lose your self-respect, you're done for.

A shirker: Someone who will not work.

A scrounger: Someone who takes what he/she can without giving anything back.

I paid my dues: I did all that I was obliged to do by society.

Daniel Blake's speech to the state appeal board:

I'm not a client, a customer, nor a service user. I am not a shirker, a scrounger, a beggar, nor a thief. I'm not a National Insurance Number or blip on a screen. I paid my dues, never a penny short, and proud to do so. I don't tug the forelock, but look my neighbour in the eye and help him if I can. I don't accept or seek charity. My name is Daniel Blake. I am a man, not a dog. As such, I demand my rights. I demand you treat me with respect. I, Daniel Blake, am a citizen, nothing more and nothing less."

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