

Rosie Philomena

The Assessment

[illegible]

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Now you know right before you walked in there

It's unlikely you'll meet the criteria

And no matter what illness you came with

It's perceived as a form of hysteria

x	
x	
x	
x	
x	

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**You brought proof from consultants and doctors
Who have treated you now for some time
But those letters just don't carry weight here
They're convinced that it's all in your mind**

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**SO YOU WAIT FOR YOUR TURN TO BE CALLED IN
AND YOU'RE HOPING THAT THIS IS QUITE SOON
THEN THEY SHOUT OUT YOUR NAME AND OBSERVE YOU
AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY UP TO THE ROOM**



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Seems they've already measured the distance

That's to see just how far you can walk

Now you're already feeling quite nervous

You're like prey being watched by a hawk

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Once you get to the room you are seated
And they watch how you sit in the chair
Every movement you make, they're observing
Of you're actions you're made more aware



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With assessments like this there's a problem

They don't see you when you're at your worst

This brief snapshot of time's what you're judged on

You might as well say, you've been cursed



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You could find that you manage to do things

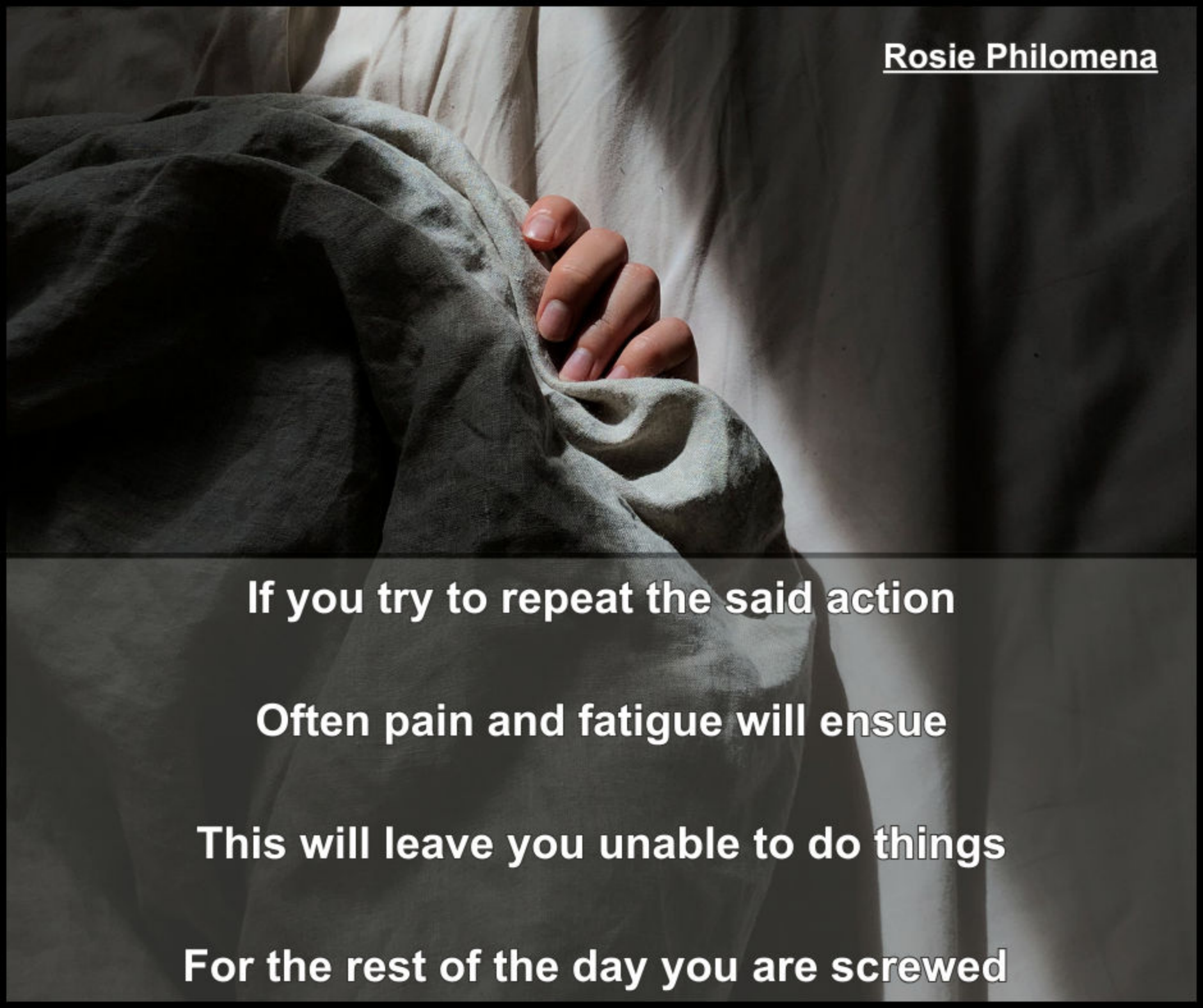
As a one off, or single event

Then they type that you're able to do it

But this isn't at all what you meant

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If you try to repeat the said action

Often pain and fatigue will ensue

This will leave you unable to do things

For the rest of the day you are screwed

They will ask you to copy their movements

As you try, they are looking impressed

Even if you are stumbling or shaking

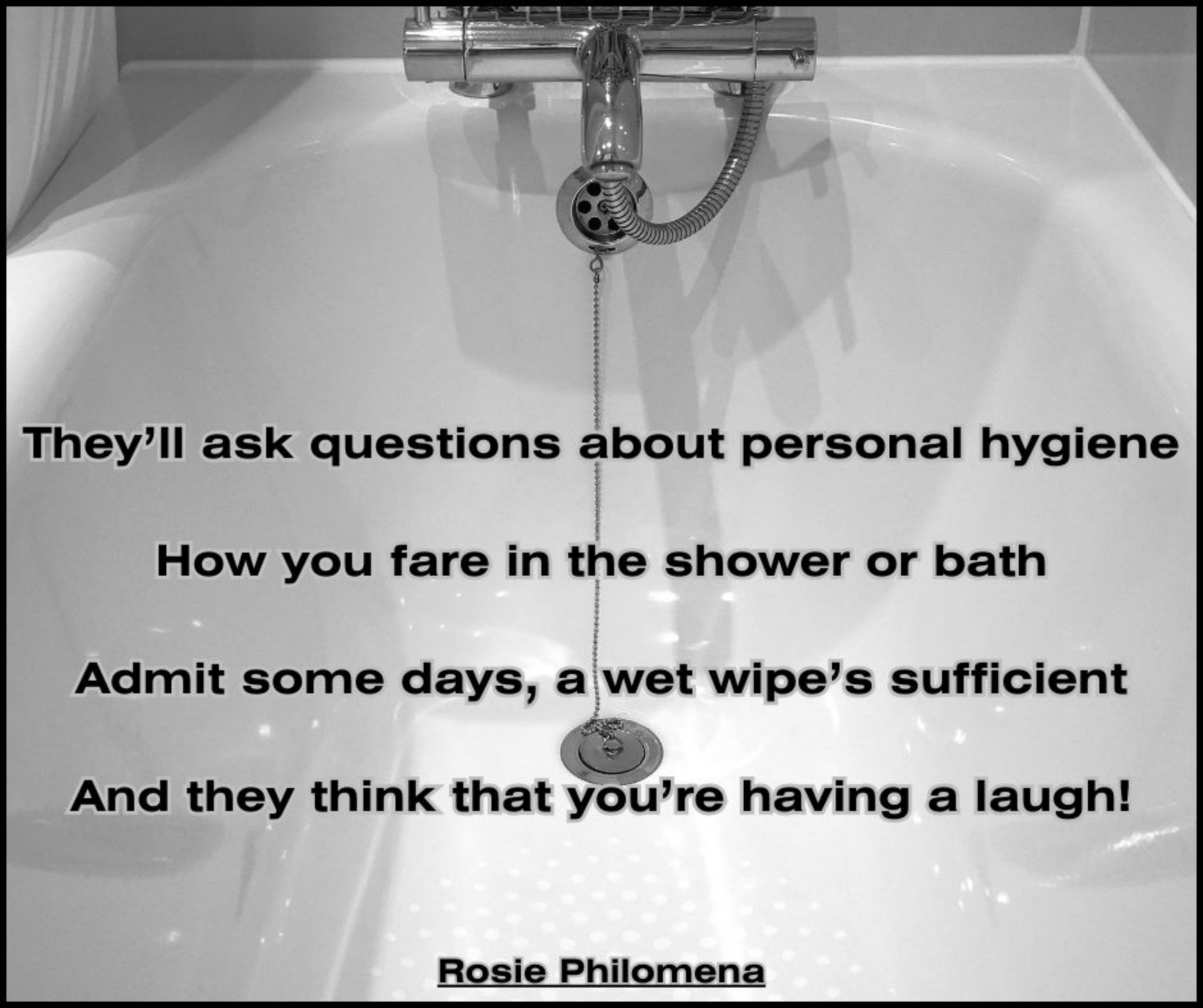
The whole way through the various tests



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If you cry at some point you feel silly
You're bombarded with questions galore
You're acutely aware it's not over
Still more grilling you'll have to endure

A black and white photograph of a bathtub. The tub is white and glossy, with a chrome faucet and a drain chain hanging from the drain. The faucet has a coiled hose attached to it. The drain chain is made of small rings and ends in a circular cap. The background is slightly blurred, showing the edges of the tub and some reflections on the water surface.

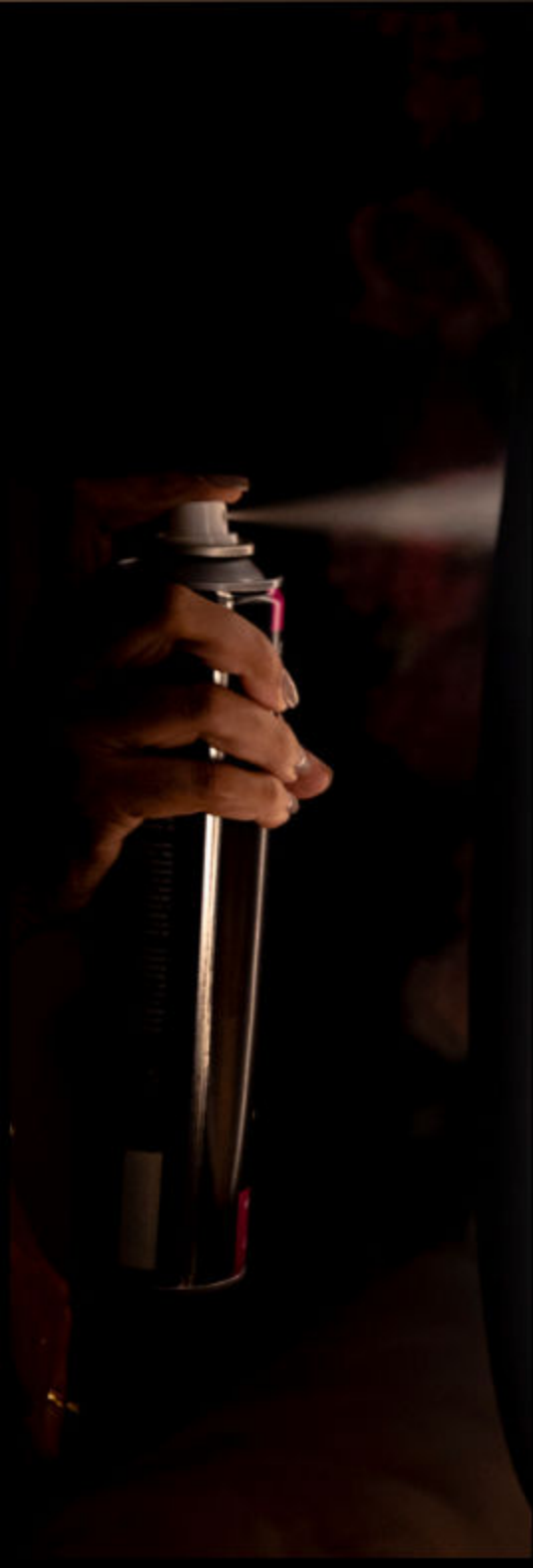
They'll ask questions about personal hygiene

How you fare in the shower or bath

Admit some days, a wet wipe's sufficient

And they think that you're having a laugh!

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DRY SHAMPOO TAKES THE PLACE OF A HAIR WASH

IT'S THE LENGTH OF TIME THIS PROCESS TAKES

DUE TO PAIN IN YOUR HEAD, NECK AND SHOULDERS

AND THE ENERGY FOR GOODNESS SAKE!

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“Can you cook for yourself” Is the next one

“Well, a microwave meal now and then

I eat sandwiches, toast, bowls of cereal

Cuppa soups, are we including them?”



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They will ask about interests or hobbies

If you've none, they will say you're depressed

Say you have and they dig a bit deeper

By this time, you are feeling quite stressed



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"I make cards whilst in bed for distraction

From the pain and the sickness I feel

It can take me a whole day to make one

Concentration remains a big deal"



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If you don't see your friends or your family
They imply that you need to get out
Now by this stage you're feeling frustrated
And trying desperately hard not to shout!

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If you do, then they say you can mix well

But that isn't the whole truth at all

You're not comfortable being near strangers

And your friend circle is rather small



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It's so hard to convey how you're feeling

This is really not much of a life

And this isn't what you had signed up for

Being ill comes with upset and strife



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By the time that you leave, you're exhausted

It will take a few days to recover

But the saga's not over, far from it

What they've written you're still to discover

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Medical Assessment Report

“Had no issues with bathing or cooking

And appeared to be clean and well dressed

Had no problems with answering questions”

Then you’re dreading to read what comes next

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Medical Assessment Report

“Had good range of movements when examined

She could bend, had good grip and can lift

And got up from the chair with no problems”

With the rest of the feedback you're miffed

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They've not witnessed you trying to vacuum

Simple jobs like this can take all day

You try pacing yourself, being careful

But with pain and fatigue you will pay



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You can sit for a time, but get restless

Your sciatica's starting to twinge

They won't see that in just one appointment

As I read on, I'm starting to cringe



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They don't see if you're out doing shopping

From the toilets, you mustn't stray far

It's a full-time job being so poorly!

And you're not always, blessed with a car



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Have to pace myself for those brief outings

Search for seats for relief from the pain

I've used walls, even bus stops with benches

Before I can set off once again!



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I've been forced to sit down whilst out shopping

Found a corner and sat on the floor

Feeling faint, didn't want to fall over

Things like dizziness can't be ignored

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**Changing rooms are another good option
You pretend that you're trying on clothes
Then you're blessed with a few quiet moments
Behind curtains you're safely enclosed**

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You can sit for a while now in private
From the rest of the world hide your face
You can take medication discreetly
A few minutes in this warm, safe space



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Heating soup on the hob is an issue

So I use a chair, feeling so ill

I can sit, rest my head on the worktop

And ensure the pan's contents won't spill

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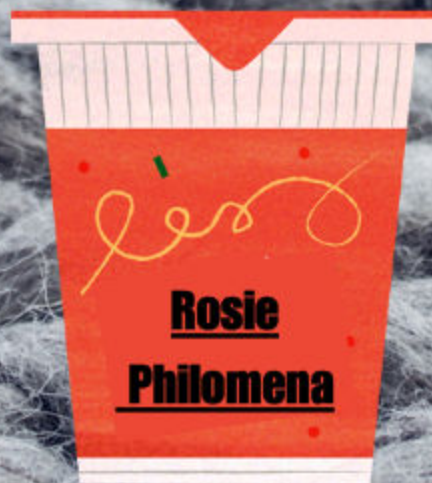


I'd a kettle installed in my bedroom

And pot noodles in bed I would make

For my lunch, even tea on my worst days

They don't see this though, for goodness sake!



The assessment won't show the adjustments

You require just to get through the day

But they've already made their decision

And you're waiting to see what they say



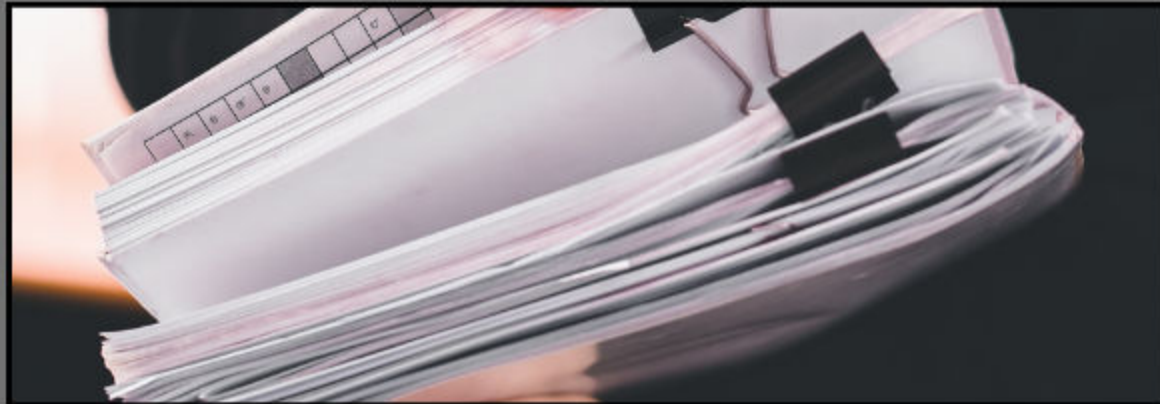
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IF IT'S 'NO', YOU CAN ALWAYS APPEAL IT

THEY WILL LOOK ONCE AGAIN AT YOUR CASE

THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE IT GOES IN YOUR FAVOUR

AT LEAST THIS STAGE IS NOT FACE TO FACE!



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If they don't change their minds with that process

You will have one more chance at tribunal

With a panel deciding the outcome

Now you pray your case meets their approval

APPROVED

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You are questioned some more by assessors

As this is the final submission

Now all you can do is be patient

And just wait for the final decision



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The day finally comes and you're nervous

As the letter arrives in the post

You read on and it's now quite apparent

That your hopes of success are now toast!!

REFUSED

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Medical Assessment Report

“ We’re not saying you don’t have health issues

They are complex, on that we agree

But your daily life isn’t affected

Well, not to a significant degree!”

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Declined

The Assessment

"Controlled drug dealer" means a person or non-person who is involved in the importation, distribution, dispensing, sale or possession of any controlled substance.

"Employee" means the employee of a person directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including, but not limited to, "front stage" employees, for all "backstage" employees, and those who are involved in the performance of the grant, and who are not directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant and who are in the grant's payroll. This definition does not include students and interns of the grant, e.g., students, who are used to meet a mentoring requirement, consultants or independent contractors, but in the grant's payroll, or employees of subcontractors or subcontractors in indirect employment.

4. If religious organizations must include the actual address of buildings or parts of buildings or other sites where work under the grant takes place. (Exemption: Organizations may be used in all activities of a non-profit authority or State Highway Department where in operation. State employees in each local development office perform in current built-in state stations).

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