

Call the Midwife

Season 1, Christmas Episode

Name: Karimah Boston

Title: Auld Lang Syne

Theme: Forgiveness

Logline : Jenny's mother hopes to make amends while a homeless pregnant woman claims to be Chummy's sister-in-law and Sister Julianne learns the fate of Nonnatus House.

A Storyline

Jenny's mother Helen arrives wanting to make amends with her daughter. Reluctant at first, Jenny agrees to meet her mother for lunch. As her mother tries to make small talk Jenny unleashes all the anger and fury she's held back for more than a decade. Helen tries to explain how much she regrets her mistakes and how much those mistakes hurt Jenny but Jenny refuses to accept her apology. Later, as Jenny tries to convince Trixie not to take Sister Julianne's words personally and quit Nonnatus House, Jenny realizes she has made the same mistakes in love that her mother did and that she may have been too harsh on her mother.

B Storyline

A pregnant, homeless woman arrives at Nonnatus House claiming to be Chummy's sister-in-law. Chummy immediately calls her mother who believes the woman is a fraud and using her son to gain entry into the country. Chummy finds her brother Christopher at his favorite bar. The family has cut Christopher off because of his relationship with Pavarti. Without his inheritance, he can't provide for himself or his soon to be family. Chummy asks Christopher if he loves Pavarti and he says he does. Chummy admits it's hard to be on your own but if she had it to do all over again, she'd choose love again. Later, Lady Brown accuses Chummy of trying to convince all her siblings to make the same mistake she did. Chummy holds her ground and tells her mother she will end up alone if she doesn't let her children live their own lives.

C Storyline

After waiting for weeks, the letter Sister Julianne has been waiting for finally arrives and it is not the news she was hoping for. At that moment, Trixie asks a question causing Sister Julianne to snap at her. Sister Julianne retreats to her office not realizing how hurt Trixie is by the remark. Sister Julianne sips tea and listens to the radio in her office. Sister Evangelina takes in the scene and realizes the news is bad. Sister Julianne tells Sister Evangelina that Nonnatus House is scheduled for demolition to expand the subway line. Sister Evangelina worries what will happen to the clinic and the medical needs of the Poplar community. Sister Julianne shakes her head. She doesn't have an answer. At dinner Sister Julianne interrupts Trixie, who is about to announce that she is quitting, to reveal the news that Nonnatus House is scheduled for demolition 9 months from now.

How all three stories relate to theme and backstories: In a voiceover a mature Jenny tells us: "Before I arrived in the East End, I had grand plans for my future. I could not endure anything for myself outside my own imagination, but seeing the women of Poplar thrive in the face of set back and disappointment put my own

naive desires into perspective. It was here that I would learn: tragedy is having things go exactly as you planned.”

Jenny realizes things went exactly as her mother planned hurting both of them in the process. As a result, Jenny wonders what might happen if she lets go of her own plans and instead opens herself up to whatever fate has in store for her. Meanwhile, Chummy realizes her life couldn't be more different than what her mother wanted for her and that Chummy couldn't be happier. Finally, Sister Julienne's faith is challenged when her prayers to save Nonnatus House go unanswered forcing her to reevaluate her plans to help the residents of Poplar.