

Chloe's Phone
By
Jennifer Holdich

Text Message 1: 19th June 7.18am

From: Dave

Hi Chloe. Hope this is a pleasant surprise. Passed the Scilly Isles a couple hours ago and just in sight of Lands End (hence signal). Should be in Plymouth in 10 hours-ish? I'll call u later in work. Don't tell anyone I'm back yet. I'm not ready to go in on Wed (due back). Xx

Text Message 2: 19th June 8.02am

From: Dave

Yes, you can tell Jack if you like. Do you think you can make an excuse for going in late on Wed (dentist appt or something)? Also, can I see u when I get 2 Cardiff 2morrow?

Text Message 3: 19th June 8.27am

From: Dave

Just late enough 4 us 2 have a lie-in. :-). I hope to catch a train back sometime 2morrow morning. Can u have a look on the internet for a number for rail enquiries? I'll call u soon. X

Text Message 4: 19th June 10.25am

From: Dave

Thanx, Have I ever told u you're a gem? Could be a change of plan though. My sister is coming down to greet us and I will get a lift back with her 2morrow afternoon (hope). Is it ok 2 come straight to yours?

Text Message 5: 19th June 9.23pm

From: Dave

Sounds good. Thanx honey. Xxxxxx

Text Message 6: 20th June 2.14pm

From: Dave

Not yet. 10 - 15 mins I expect, then about 2 & half to 3 hours to get back. X

Text Message 7: 20th June 5.23pm

From: Dave

About 20mins! Xx

Text Message 8: 21st June 2.17pm

From: Dave

Hot water, bed, washing up and radio all done. Just waiting 4 taxi 2 turn up. Key left where we agreed. Don't thank me, it's all part of the service. Xx

Text Message 9: 21st June 6.44pm

From: Dave

Was everything to ur satisfaction when u got home? Have u tried radio yet? If u go through the pre-sets u'll see what I've programmed 2 each one. I didn't know the name of the indie station so it may not be the station u want.

Text Message 10: 21st June 7.01pm

From: Dave

I did notice - cool huh? Batteries on both cars are dead. I'm trying 2 charge one up but won't know 4 an hour or 2 if it's successful. U may have to catch the train 2morrow but I will let u know later,

Text Message 11: 22nd June 6.52pm

From: Dave

My wife has just come out with "Who's Chloe?" I think she's been going through my bags which I hadn't unpacked. I'll keep you posted.

Text Message 12: 22nd June 6.59pm

From: Dave

I'd written ur name and number on a paper in case anything happened to my phone while I was away. I've said nothing but I think my silence speaks volumes.

Text Message 13: 22nd June 7.10pm

From: Dave

I told the truth as far as saying u are from work. When she pressed 4 more I ignored

her. I'm upstairs now sorting through my bags but can't find my rucksack which contains the evidence.

Text Message 14: 22nd June 8.59pm

From: Dave

Do u think I should own up? It almost certainly means leaving. She's also told me she knows ur birthday is coming up. I'm sure she knows but isn't pushing me cos I think she's afraid of the truth. I hadn't intended 2 leave this way. When I was 2 leave I didn't want her to think it was for someone else. Otherwise she could be nasty about letting me see Charlotte. She knows that's the only reason we're together. I wish I could come and see u.

Text Message 15: 22nd June 10.23pm

From: Dave

No more developments yet. I've been watching the football downstairs and she went to bed. I'll pick u up in the morning as usual. I don't know what'll be said when I say I'm out after work. As the song goes 'There may be trouble ahead.' Don't forget that I love u and my feelings 4 u are 100% genuine. Xx

Text Message 16: 27th June 5.10pm

From: Dave

Rhys and I are in Walkabout.

Text Message 17: 27th June 5.24pm

From: Dave

Are u coming to Walkabout or going home?

Text Message 18: 27th June 5.27pm

From: Dave

I'll still be here. It'll be over in about 25 mins.

Text Message 19: 28th June 6.32pm

From: Maria

Hiya! Im fine thanks..at least I think I am, I've been watching big bro live for half

hour. Sad or wot! So hes safely back from his voyage then! How do u feel about him staying with you, is it nice or does it feel weird? What's he gonna do? When r u in London? Soz 4 all the questions!

Text Message 20: 29th June 10.12am

From: Beth

Well, that kind of moves the relationship on! R u OK with it? Have u met his kid? Was the wife (ex-wife?) OK about him seeing her in the end?

Text Message 21: 4th July 4.36pm

From: Dave

I was queuing in the barbers from 1.30 til 3ish then I picked Charlotte up from school. Will spend another hour or so with her then go home and have tea and prepare 4 the football.

Text Message 22: 4th July 4.54pm

From: Dave

The forecast 4 ur area was correct then. The weather here is still scorchio. I hope ur trip so far has been pleasant. Look 4ward 2 ur call. XX

Text Message 23: 6th July 7.04am

From: Mum

Happy birthday! Hope u have a lovely day. Did u get my card? See you tomorrow.

Text Message 24: 6th July 7.29am

From: Dave

!""*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*""!! Hope u have a great day!

Text Message 25: 6th July 8.19am

From: Beth

Happy birthday! Hope you enjoy your day and hope your card reached you. X

Text Message 26: 6th July 9.57am

From: Maria

Happy birthday Chloe! :-D ur card is on its way but may b a bit l8! x.

Text Message 27: 6th July 10.35am

From: Dave

Got 2 work at 7.45. Fire alarm had gone off. At 8ish we were told 2 come back in an hour, so Wayne, Rhys, Jack and I went to AJs for brekkie. Got in 2 work about 9.30. I'm here til 5 anyway. Enjoy Nottingham. XX

Text Message 28: 6th July 11.30am

From: Anna

Hi. Just got my phone out of my bag 2 text u 2 wish u a Happy Birthday & found ur text. Glad it's arrived on time. Just having elevensies! Take it easy! X

Text Message 29: 6th July 1.13pm

From: Jack

Happy birthday have a good day.

Text Message 30: 6th July 4.15pm

From: Dave

That would be nice if u can. I should be at my sister's by then. I'll go there straight after I finish. Speak 2 u later. XX. Hope the rain didn't ruin ur day!

Text Message 31: 6th July 8.16pm

From: Sarah

Happy birthday! Hope u r having a good day. Best wishes from ur fave sister.

Text Message 32: 7th July 11.23am

From: Dave

Hi Chloe. It's pissing down here and I got soaked this morning coming into work. Have u had many cards or prezzies? I'm looking forward 2 Sat'day. XXX

Text Message 33: 7th July 1.55pm

From: Dave

Who's a lucky girl then? If I'm still playing golf, is it ok to phone u on ur parent's number between 8 and 8.30? Did u buy something nice? Xx

Text Message 34: 7th July 2.11pm

From: Dave

Good work. If u haven't got any suitable shoes I'll have to take u out 2 buy some when u get back. Speak 2 u 2nite. Xxx.

Text Message 35: 10th July 11.16am

From: Dave

Are we meeting up lunchtime?

Text Message 36: 19th Aug 10.41am

From: Dave

Just wondering if u were going to the gym. If u were, perhaps we could meet up in town after.

Text Message 37: 19th Aug 11.15am

From: Dave

Call me when ur leaving the gym. I might still be in work.

Text Message 38: 2nd Sept 11.58am

From: Dave

Ok. I will probably go in to town shortly myself. I'll take a look round the exhibition and take the book back to Smiths.

Text Message 39: 23rd Sept 4.37pm

From: Dave

Hi Chloe. I'm just going to golf and will have something to eat at the club. I'll see you later this evening.

Text Message 40: 23rd Sept 4.55pm

From: Dave

I'm guessing about 8ish or just after if that's ok. Did you go to Anna's after?

Text Message 41: 24th Sept 3.01pm

From: Beth

He's done *what*? He must be mad! He gave u no warning? R u alright?

Message 42: 24th Sept 3.09pm

From: Maria

What!?!? Is he stupid?!? He'll only do the same thing again! U r better off on your own than being treated like that, Chloe. That kid wants a slap and a bit less of her own way. Her mother even more! Phone if u want to talk

Message 43: 24th Sept 3.24pm

From: Anna

Am really sorry. If you need chat or company I can always pop round. Maybe town sometime if you free. X

Message 44: 24th Sept 3.30pm

From: Anna

I'll be there in half an hour.