



My Big Birthday Surprise

“It’s my birthday today. Usually I start the day with a delicious breakfast in bed which my husband makes for me – croissants, rich aromatic coffee and a refreshing glass of orange juice. I am still waiting for it now. I also listen to my favourite music on the radio, but instead I am staring at the ceiling listening to other people talking about babies.

I love to wear new clothes on my birthday, but today, well, today I am wearing this unattractive white gown. All my friends and family come round to my house and bring cards and presents, but here I am on my own lying in the same room as two other lonely women.

I do have cards, though, but I haven’t ripped them open them yet. I am waiting to see if they come to visit me first. Everybody usually wishes me a happy birthday and smiles at me, but nobody has said anything to me yet. I am feeling a little sad, but I shouldn’t feel sad, as it is a very special birthday this year.

I do miss my birthday meal, though. Every year I eat out at a different restaurant, but at the moment, I am lying in an uncomfortable bed, feeling lonely, hungry and big.

Birthdays are supposed to be fun, exciting and full of surprises. Well, I don’t think you can get a bigger surprise than this, can you??

Comprehension Questions

- 1) How does she usually start the day on her birthday?
- 2) How does she describe the clothes she is wearing?
- 3) Where do you think she is?
- 4) Why do you think she is feeling a little sad?

Think Tank

Why do you think this is her big birthday surprise?
What word(s) make you think that?

Writing Task

In Pairs, write a mini-story mystery in the Present Simple and see if your classmates can work out the solution.