

I, Daniel Blake – Review

Daniel Blake, 59, who has worked as a **joiner** most of his life in the North East of England needs help from the state for the first time ever following an **illness**.

He crosses **paths** with a single mother Katie and her two young children, Daisy and Dylan. Katie's only chance to escape a one roomed **homeless** hostel in London is to accept a flat some 400 kilometres away.



For all its raw anger at the impersonal **mistreatment** of a single mother and an **ailing widower** in depressed but **resilient** Newcastle, the film's brilliantly insightful script finds much that is moving (and often surprisingly funny) in the unbreakable social **bonds** of so-called "broken Britain". With the pair coming together to support each other, they form a heart-melting friendship despite their individual **horrific** circumstances.

There are moments of utter heartbreak, as well as the odd one-liner that pops up about as satisfyingly and rarely as they do in real life. "The computer's **frozen**," a helpful youth at the library tells Blake. "Well can you defrost it?" he quips back, **grinning**.



Director Ken Loach creates a world where, despite **mouldy** tiles, freezing flats and rubbish bags **spilling** into hallways, humanity shines through. While the four walls of the Jobcentre office are **stark** and cold, the generosity of people from complete strangers to security guards suggest that there is **hope** elsewhere for those in need.

If you are **lucky** enough to not know daily **poverty**, then this film is essential and eye-opening. Told **bluntly** but with the utmost in dignity and empathy, this is a film that has the power to change minds and **shift** preconceived perceptions.