



A MOMENT
by Paul Smith

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CHARACTERS

GLENN– mid 30s

SELINA – mid 70s

A bench in a park overlooking a town. Secluded.

GLENN is in a sharp suit, got the latest mobile, Rolex, he is God's gift. He is pacing about while on a phone call.

GLENN *(on phone)*and the only thing getting in the way of the plan is the old folks home which is an eyesore anyway, so it's a win win for us I'd suggest.

Nah, we've already got the say so from the Council. They're not interested in further discussion. They want me out of their hair! *(he laughs)* All I wanna do is get to the YES and then I can rip the carpet out from under the pensioners and we have ourselves a tidy little investment in a prime location. If it's on the market for more than 48 hours I would be very surprised.

SELINA enters with a large carrier bag and wearing spectacles, a coat and a hat. She makes her way slowly to the bench and sits on it. GLENN sees her arrive and moves slightly away from her. He talks a little quieter. SELINA ignores him. She takes a small bottle of water from her bag and sips at it.

Don't worry, I have the planning team in my back pocket – been shagging one of the decision makers for ages to make sure it all goes through. She'd do anything for me and she's got influence into the bargain.

You mustn't listen to anyone else. This is ours, but you've got to give it 110% or else. You can't lose your nerve at this point.

Yes, well I wasn't gonna sit in the office and give you all that detail – just in a park overlooking the town. Nah, quiet as a mouse – apart from some old biddy. Probably lives in the home we're gonna rip down! *(he laughs)*

I'm looking down on the town at the moment; it's so fucking perfect, it's unbelievable. The local population can moan as much as they like but once the go ahead is given, then that's that. And while you're there we're also going to make a bid for the Memorial Hall – some hideous Victorian lavatory of a building – clear it out of the way for the car park; private one. Yeah amazing amount of money you can get from that if you pick the right company. Clamping can generate thousands.

Well it's a miserable town anyway, I'd clear the lot of it. Well, it's kinda what I'm doing..... *(he laughs)*.

Yes I'll take a few pics here and send them over and you can see.

I'm waiting for him to call me so I'm sticking about up here so I don't miss him.

Ok, see you later.

GLENN hangs up and then takes a few photos of the view. He goes and sits on the bench; texting while he does so. Eventually SELINA speaks...

SELINA Beautiful day.

GLENN ignores her.

SELINA Good view.

GLENN ***(half looking up)*** What? Oh, yeah. Well, it's ok.

SELINA I like it.

GLENN Good.

SELINA Hasn't changed much.

GLENN No?

SELINA Well, I don't think so.

GLENN Well don't get too used to it, cos time doesn't stand still for long. This town is in for some changes.

SELINA Oh that's a shame.

GLENN Can't live in the past. The town is dying. Needs get up to date or die.

SELINA That's not a very nice prospect.

GLENN Life Missus.

SELINA The inexorable march of time.

GLENN Yeah. Something like that.

SELINA Are you a builder?

GLENN Developer.

SELINA Is that a posh name for a builder?

GLENN No. I develop building projects. I don't stick bricks together.

SELINA Ah, makes it sound like Lego.

GLENN That's what building is, basically.

SELINA I suppose so. But I'm sure it's quite sophisticated these days. I often think though that modern architecture can't shine a light to the great designs of the past. The Victorians, now they knew how to make a building stand out.

GLENN Yeah? Whatever. Excuse me a moment.

GLENN rises and moves away from the bench. He is taking a call.

GLENN Max. Good thanks. You? No, I'm waiting to hear from him. He's got some inside knowledge that he said he would give me. It will help push the plan through much quicker. Well, let's just say it will compromise one of the members of the top brass and so we should get a free path once its confirmed. No, not in the office – too many ears around. Don't trust anyone. I'm doing this for everyone, not just me, though that new Porsche is just a little closer to my driveway. Yeah, dream on! ***(he laughs)*** Ok, speak soon.

GLENN heads slowly back to the bench.

SELINA Lunch hour is it?

GLENN What?

SELINA I was wondering if it was your lunch hour.

GLENN Never take one. I work all day. Just taking some time out of the car and out of the office.

SELINA Fresh air helps clear the mind of the fug of life.

GLENN The what?

SELINA Fug. F. U. G. Fog, mists.

GLENN Not heard the word before.

SELINA Fug? Oh it's a good word.

GLENN Sure.

SELINA You must forgive me for rambling on. Old age.

GLENN Ok.

SELINA You seem a very busy person.

GLENN I am.

SELINA High-powered.

GLENN Yeah.

SELINA Impressive.

GLENN I know.

SELINA So you have plans for the town?

GLENN Some. You won't recognise the place in five years.

SELINA Sounds drastic.

GLENN As I say. It needs it.

SELINA Maybe.

GLENN Live here do you?

SELINA I used to. Just here to visit a friend. She lives in The Willows.

GLENN The old folks home?

SELINA Yes, she's a feisty one and 88 next month. Loves it there.

GLENN Does she?

SELINA Oh yes. Been there for nearly 20 years. Got lots of friends. Family not too far away.

GLENN Good for her.

SELINA Yes, it's very comfortable if a little bit dated, but the residents all love it.

GLENN Do they.

SELINA Yes. But, as I say, could do with a lick of paint here and there.

GLENN Sure.

SELINA We're going to see something at the Memorial Hall tonight. Not sure what. A variety show of some such. Anyway, Betty is looking forward to it.

GLENN Good.

SELINA So, it's not a bad town really.

GLENN Sure.

SELINA So don't go ruining it will you?

GLENN I'm not intending to. But its run down and old and non-functional. It needs a kick up the arse.

SELINA Sounds like me.

GLENN Well you know what I mean then. No offence.

SELINA None taken.

GLENN Scuse me. *(answers his phone and moves away again)* Where've you been? Hanging on waiting for ages. I can secure it once I know I'm getting something back in exchange. Yep. No not straight into the account – too suspicious. Cash would do fine. I know it's a lot, but safer. Good man. By six o'clock? Ok 'll see you there. He better not be pulling my chain or I won't be impressed, but he will get what he wants. She'll never know. Trusts me like I'm her pet puppy! *(he laughs)*. Good. Looks like we really have it sorted. A bottle or two for sure. Ok, see you.

GLENN puts his phone in his pocket and starts to leave. As he does so, SELINA tries to get up and can't.

SELINA Sorry, young man. Can you help me?

GLENN *(turning back)* What?

SELINA Sorry, my knees aren't playing ball, could you help pull me up?

GLENN Ok.

GLENN goes over to SELINA and helps her gradually but as she tries to straighten up, her knees really give way and she half collapses to the ground.

GLENN Hold on to me and I'll get you on your feet.

SELINA It's very kind of you.

SELINA puts both arms around GLENN and, in a very awkward and ungainly fashion, he lifts her to her feet.

SELINA Oh thank you, that is so very kind of you.

GLENN No worries. You ok?

SELINA Yes, I am fine thank you.

GLENN Yeah, well I've got to get back down that hill now. Have a nice day.

SELINA Yes. Thank you once again.

GLENN is soon gone.

SELINA Nice young man.

SELINA looks after him as he goes.

Look at him run down that path. Always quicker getting down than up.

Well, as they say, it only takes a moment.

SELINA, suddenly very spry and able-bodied – almost business-like. She returns to the bench and from her coat she takes out the following; a wallet, a watch and a mobile phone.

One wallet – mmm what’s that £200 – handy.

Not sure he will miss his Rolex – probably just wears it for effect.

And his phone. Which he will miss very soon. So better get on.

Pleased I haven’t lost my old touch.

SELINA takes a rucksack out of the carrier bag and removes a woollen jacket from it as well as a scarf - which she puts on after removing her hat, overcoat, spectacles, which she puts in the rucksack, along with the carrier bag, the wallet, watch and the phone. The transformation complete – and it should she should appear very different – though not necessarily younger. She puts the rucksack on her back and strides off in a different direction to GLENN. As she goes she waves towards where he went.

SELINA Have a nice day.

Lights Fade