

## How To Pick Up A Man

### SCENE:

A park bench. An ARTIST sits on it sketching. A park trash basket sits on the ARTIST'S side of the bench. An attractive WOMAN, carrying a large purse, walks into scene, hesitates, then crosses to the bench and starts looking around for something. After a few beats, she hesitates and looks over the ARTIST'S shoulder at his drawing. She does this several times. The ARTIST finally becomes irritated and turns to the WOMAN.)

ARTIST

Miss, if you don't mind. I'm trying to work here.

WOMAN

You are? Oh, excuse me ... I didn't realize ... I lost an earring yesterday and I ...

ARTIST

*(Stands.)*

And you were sitting here? *(He starts to look around.)*

WOMAN

Yes.

ARTIST

I see. What does it look like ... I mean ... color ... gold, silver ...

WOMAN

Oh no. Just a regular earring with a little blue stone ... you know ... nothing expensive ...

*(She digs into her purse and pulls out an earring.)*

Here ... it matches this one.

*(She shows it to him.)*

ARTIST

*(Walks around the bench and looks.)*

I don't see anything.

WOMAN

That's awful. I just bought them.

ARTIST

Nope ... it's not here. What part of the bench were you sitting on?

WOMAN

In the middle.

ARTIST

*(Checks the middle section again.)*

Nothing. Sorry.

*(That ends the conversation. Sits back down to resume his sketching.)*

WOMAN

*(A few beats.)*

You're an artist?

*(No response from the ARTIST as she glances over his shoulder at his drawing.)*

That's very interesting.

*(Still no response.)*

*(The ARTIST says nothing. Turns away slightly and continues to sketch.)*

WOMAN

I see you've changed things around. The trees to the left and the flowers on the right.

*(The ARTIST doesn't respond. He erases on his pad and continues sketching.)*

WOMAN

Noo ... I liked it better the other way.

*(The ARTIST turns, glances at her then continues to sketch.)*

WOMAN

Have you been an artist for very long.

ARTIST

*(He stops working. Pleasantly.)*

As long as I can remember.

WOMAN

You wouldn't know it from the way you work.

ARTIST

What's that supposed to mean?

WOMAN

Just an observation.

ARTIST

Do you have any other criticisms?

WOMAN

Not at the moment ...

*(The ARTIST, slightly annoyed, returns to sketching.)*

WOMAN

Do you ever sketch with color pencils?

ARTIST

*(He stops again.)*

I'm sure you're a very nice person, but I didn't come here to converse. I came here to sketch. So if you'll please excuse me ...

WOMAN

Oh, sure. Go right ahead.

*(She sits on the other end of the bench, removes a bag from her purse ... takes a sandwich, cookies and a bottle of water out and places them on the bench. She unwraps the sandwich and starts to nibble, all the while glancing at what the ARTIST draws. She starts to edge closer to more clearly see what he is drawing.)*

ARTIST

Miss ... I chose this bench because it was empty and I could have some privacy. So ... if you don't mind ...

WOMAN

Go right ahead. You don't bother me. Keep working.

ARTIST

I don't think you understand.

WOMAN

What's there to understand? You want to draw ... draw. I want to sit, so I sit.

ARTIST

Can't you go sit somewhere else ... respect my need for privacy?

WOMAN

This is the only bench around here with this particular view.

ARTIST

Exactly ... and I was here first.