

A STRANGE BIRD

Written by

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EXT. A PARK BENCH - DAY

Two young women sit on a bench in a park.

WOMAN 1

I saw a really amazing thing this past weekend. A whole group of us went to Marjorie's lake house for a girls weekend. You know Marjorie, right?

WOMAN 2

Not really. Not well enough to be invited, obviously.

WOMAN 1

Right. So, everyone went out in this cool boat that they have, but I don't know how to swim, so I stayed behind.

WOMAN 2

You don't know how to swim? What's with that?

WOMAN 1

Never got around to learning. Anyway. So, I'm sitting on the porch reading and this beautiful blue heron swoops in and lands on the dock, maybe fifty feet away.

WOMAN 2

How come you weren't at least out on the dock sun bathing?

WOMAN 1

Wasn't in the mood. So, I'm watching this big, beautiful bird with a long neck, long spindly legs and big feathery body stand on the dock trying to catch a fish.

WOMAN 2

How'd you know it was trying to catch a fish?

WOMAN 1

I could tell by the way it was crouching down to watch the water.

WOMAN 2

Did it catch anything?

WOMAN 1

I watched it for a long time. It would look intently at the water for awhile, then it would straighten up and pick at its feathers to get at the bugs.

WOMAN 2

Yuck. You could see bugs.

WOMAN 1

No, but that's what it was doing.

WOMAN 2

OK.

WOMAN 1

I kept trying to read, but I couldn't take my eyes off it. After some more time, it walked down the dock, up the steps and into the yard.

WOMAN 2

(menacing)

It was coming to get you.

WOMAN 1

Very funny. It walked very slowly along the shore, then walked back a bit and stopped.

WOMAN 2

Fascinating.

WOMAN 1

Then all of a sudden, it spread its wings and flew onto the low branch of a pine tree.

WOMAN 2

Why a pine tree? Why not a maple tree or something?

WOMAN 1

That's what was there. And it assumed a pose something like this.

She stands up and imitates the pose of the blue heron.

WOMAN 2

Very statuesque. Not exactly bird like, but statuesque all the same.

WOMAN 1  
(still assuming the pose)  
I couldn't take my eyes off it. It  
just stood there. Didn't move for  
the longest time.

WOMAN 2  
And then?

WOMAN 1  
And then it stood on one leg.

WOMAN 2  
What's that look like?

She sits back down.

WOMAN 1  
I wondered if it knew I was there,  
if we were aware of each other. It  
seemed like maybe we were.

WOMAN 2  
And then?

WOMAN 1  
And then, after awhile, they all  
came back in the boat and the bird  
flew away.

There is a pause as they both think about this.

WOMAN 2  
I had a kind of similar thing  
happen to me this past weekend.

WOMAN 1  
Yeah?

WOMAN 2  
I went out drinking with Wendy. You  
know Wendy, right?

WOMAN 1  
Kind of. Not all that well though.

WOMAN 2  
We had a lot to drink and somewhere  
along the way I met this guy, Mike.  
I think it was Mike. And we hooked  
up.

WOMAN 1  
How was that?

WOMAN 2

Not too bad. Nothing all that spectacular, but not too bad.

WOMAN 1

And?

WOMAN 2

Well in the morning, I woke up and looked over to see Mike sitting on the edge of the bed looking at his phone.

WOMAN 1

An early riser.

They both laugh.

WOMAN 2

He kept on looking at his phone. Then he started texting. I kept still and just watched him. He'd stop, look out the window, then start in at it again. I was waiting for him to turn around and look at me.

WOMAN 1

And?

WOMAN 2

He had a nice back. Strong. Nice to look at. So, I looked at his back for awhile. Then he got up, scratched around for his clothes and put them on. He looked at his phone again and walked out of the room. He never looked at me. He just kept looking at his phone.

WOMAN 1

Hmmm.

WOMAN 2

I heard the door of the apartment close. He was gone. Just like your blue heron. There and then gone.

There is another pause in the conversation.

WOMAN 1

Want to get some ice cream?

WOMAN 2

Brilliant.

They stand up and walk away from the bench.