

MARGARET I suppose opportunities are hard to come by these days.

STEVEN Yes, very hard, when they call for references, what can I show them? McAllister's are the only people I have ever worked for.

MARGARET Yes, I'd like a new job, but I can't seem to find one. I can't seem to find anything I want these days.

ANGELA You're leaving the cake shop? (*Alarmed*)

MARGARET Not, yet dear. Not yet.

ANGELA Oh good, I like the jam donuts, they're my favourite. (*points off stage*) Oh look! A Gallinula tenebrosa! I love those they're my favourite!

STEVEN A what?

ANGELA A Gallinula tenebrosa – a common coot

MARGARET Oh yes! So it is!

STEVEN I know where there's a common coot! (*looking at ANGELA*)

ANGELA Isn't he pretty?

MARGARET Beautiful dear. (*To STEVEN*) You know, Angela is quite the ornithological expert around here. She could have gone to university!

STEVEN Her? (*Incredulous*)

ANGELA (*With obvious pride*) Yes, I was going to go to university!

STEVEN (*Still refusing to believe*) Why didn't you then?

ANGELA That was before everyone changed. I woke up and everything changed. They said I'd had an accident and needed a doctor, but I don't like doctors. They said I couldn't go to university.

MARGARET Yes dear.

ANGELA Doctors give you needles and lots of tablets that make you tired. I was tired a lot in those days. I am better now.

STEVEN Yes, I can see that. (*Sarcastic*) A lot better.

ANGELA Now I don't take any pills and I don't see any doctors. I'm better now. (*ANGELA suddenly sees something over the heads of the audience and rushes back behind the bench hiding.*) Oh he's back!

MARGARET (*concerned*) Who dear?

ANGELA That horrible man with the camera.

STEVEN What's wrong with him?

ANGELA I don't like him. He takes pictures. He's sneaky.

STEVEN That's what you do with a camera. Take pictures.

MARGARET Don't worry dear, he's not coming this way.

ANGELA (*Coming tentatively out*) Are you sure?

MARGARET Yes dear, he's leaving the park.

STEVEN I think she left the park a while ago.

ANGELA (*Mimicking the cameraman*) "Pretend I am not here, just act natural" I don't want to act natural. I don't want to, I just want to be me and do what I do. Coming around and putting cameras up people's noses – It's just not right. I need my privacy!

STEVEN What privacy! You live in a public park!

ANGELA I still want my privacy! I don't want to be photographed all the time. Do I Margaret?

MARGARET No dear.

ANGELA I don't like them and they shouldn't go around bothering people. They should leave people alone to do what they want to do, I don't want to be bothered with acting

natural all the time. I bet he wouldn't like to be told to act natural when he's just sitting in the park waiting, would he?

MARGARET No dear, of course not.

ANGELA I'll complain that's what I'll do, I'll complain!

MARGARET Yes dear, of course dear.

STEVEN Who to? Who's going to listen to you?

ANGELA I could get in touch with someone! (*Thinks*)

STEVEN You need to get in touch with reality first!

MARGARET Steven!

ANGELA A member of parliament! I could write to my member of parliament! You'd help me wouldn't you Margaret?

MARGARET Of course dear.

STEVEN Of course you could, and what's more I bet they would write right back too. Addressed to Angela the bag lady, care of park bench number three, Queen's park etcetera, etcetera etcetera. And don't stop with him! I am sure the Prime Minister would be interested in wandering photographers

ANGELA I wrote a letter once! I can write letters!

MARGARET Yes, and what's more, she got a reply! I put my address on the back of the envelope.

ANGELA Yes! I got a letter once! (*Starts rummaging through the trolley*) It's in here somewhere. (*Worried*) I know it is!

MARGARET It doesn't matter dear.

ANGELA But it's in here! I know it is. I just have too much stuff! I saw it here the other day. (*Frustrated*) Where is it?

MARGARET Never mind dear, just tell us what it said. (*Patiently indulging her*)

ANGELA All right. (*Drawing herself up proudly, opens an imaginary letter and begins to read*) Dear Ms Travis. – That's me! I'm Dear Ms Travis, that's what she called me – Dear Ms Travis. Dear Ms Travis, Thank you for reporting the problem with the public drinking fountain in Queens Park. I have contacted the council's maintenance team and they should be dealing with the matter presently. Unfortunately I cannot assist you with the other matters you mentioned, importation of non indigenous bird life and superannuation policy are not controlled by your local council. For information on these issues please contact your Federal Member whose address you will find below. Should you have any other concerns about council services, please do not hesitate to write again. Yours sincerely, Julie Summers. Councillor. (*ANGELA sits, very self satisfied*)