

Any How

by

Joseph Olabiyi Johnson

© 2008

Samuel, a casually dressed man in his mid twenties stands on a quiet street near a bus stop, while on his phone.

Samuel: What do you mean don't start? I went out of my way to get down here on time, which meant sacrificing an hour to get through the weekend traffic, and another fifteen minutes to get a parking space. That's a lot of me time, and after all that not only aren't you here yet, but your telling me I have to wait another fifteen minutes.....What does that have to do with anything.....I'm off duty.....You know what just hurry up.

Samuel angrily ends the conversation only to be confronted by a man roughly dressed in a suite who was clearly intoxicated.

Drunk: Hey you! Pass your phone of here.

Samuel: Excuse you.

Drunk: Don't make me ask you again.

Samuel: Listen Bruv, I'm not in the mood. So just move yourself along.

Drunk: Hey don't you realise you're being robbed.

Samuel: You're going to rob me?

Drunk: Yeah

Samuel: What? All by yourself?

Drunk: Yeah

Samuel: Do you have a gun?

Drunk: What do you think this is? Holly Wood? I don't need no gun to rob you.

Samuel: Do you at least have a knife?

Drunk reaches for Samuel, only to be floored by a punch.

Drunk: AAAH you bitch! You hit me. *(Still on the floor)*

Samuel makes a call on his phone, while drunk continues to make all kinds of noises.

Samuel: Hey Tony, I've just apprehended a robber, send down a unit to Fairlop road...2nd bus stop after the station.... I am off duty.....don't get met started on that....alright I'll speak to you later.

Samuel makes another phone call

Drunk: Wait until my nose stops hurting, I'm going to give you the beating of your life. (*Still on the floor*)

Samuel: Babes, we're going to have to meet another time.....Have you finished.....Have you finished.....Have you finished. The reason I'm rescheduling is because while waiting for your late behind, some idiot tried to mug me. Now I have to take him in and do paper work during my free time, which by the way I won't get back.....you know what if I continue to talk to you I'm going to do something I regret.

Samuel hangs up while drunk begins to cry

Drunk: I'm not an idiot.

Samuel: Well you're not a genius.

Drunk: I've tried to do something with my life, but everyone I meet just wants to pull me down. I spent 6years of my life developing the most advanced software known to man, and in return they did everything in their power to get rid of me. And in the end they succeeded.

Drunk begins to laugh

Drunk: This life is so fucked-up, everyone is all about money, recognition and power. There's no place for hardworking talented people like me, who put's their heart, soul, and everything into their work. (*Drunk begins to cry again*)

Samuel: So you got stabbed in the back boo hoo, how is getting drunk and attempting to be a criminal going to help things?

Drunk: I don't know, I'm just tired and fed up and I don't know what to do (in tears).

Samuel gives Drunk hankie. Drunk blows his nose and attempts to hand it back, Samuel declines with a dirty look. Samuel then sits down at the bus, which is close to where the drunk sat on the floor in pain.

Samuel: No ones life is fantastic all the time. Take me for instance, for the first time in a long time I give my heart to a woman fully and sincerely, and tonight she tried to dump me on the street. Where's the dignity in that? But you don't see me going on a crime spree because of that.

Drunk: No, instead you fight hard to find a reason not to meet her, so that in your own sad way, you hold on to what is left of whatever you both had together.

Samuel: You know you've hit rock bottom, when you're being psycho-analysed by a drunk.

Samuel makes a call.

Samuel: Tony, forget about sending that unit, the piece of shit got away.....I'll do that on Monday.

Samuel hangs up.

Samuel: Go home and fix yourself up.

Drunk manages to get to his feet and wobbles off. Samuel makes another phone call.

Samuel: Babes, where are you?..... Alright then, just give me fifteen minutes, and I'll meet you there.