

# **The House Viewing**

by

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INT. DOWNSTAIRS OF HOUSE - DAY

FADE IN:

DEREK SMITHERS, an estate agent, is expecting NIGEL, a potential buyer, for a house viewing. He busies himself straightening furniture, soft furnishings and table settings, and removing and discarding dead flowers, in particular from a silver vase on the upstairs landing.

The doorbell rings. Derek answers the door to Nigel.

DEREK  
Come on in. You will find this  
property a real treat.

NIGEL  
Thank you.

Nigel removes his shoes.

DEREK  
Let's start with the reception  
rooms.

Derek leads the way into the lounge. NIGEL follows, his eyes darting purposefully around.

DEREK  
Stunning isn't it.

NIGEL  
Indeed.

DEREK  
These maple pine doors lead through  
to the dining room.

Nigel sees a watch on a shelf.

NIGEL  
Those window frames don't seem to  
have been updated like the rest of  
the house. Is there a reason?

While Derek looks at the window frames, Nigel slips the watch into his pocket.

DEREK  
I see what you mean. I'll check  
with the owner and get back to you.  
But I wouldn't worry. He has spared  
no expense on the refurbishment.

NIGEL  
You certainly get a terrific view.

DEREK  
Come and see it from upstairs.

Derek leads the way upstairs.

DEREK

This is the only house that gives you an unobstructed view down the valley.

NIGEL

Is that an actual balcony or just one of those Juliet balconies?

Derek crosses to the window and tries various keys to open the balcony doors. While he does so Nigel slips a phone into a side pocket of his jacket.

DEREK

Oh plenty of room to have breakfast out here. I'd show you if I could master these locks. The vendor is mad keen on security.

NIGEL

Not to worry. I need to bring the wife out to see this. I'm sold on it but you know what women are like.

Derek senses that the viewing is at an end and leads the way downstairs.

DEREK

Great idea. I know the vendor would be delighted to meet her.

Nigel sees a silver vase on a table on the upstairs landing.

NIGEL

Is the downstairs hall carpet the same as on the stairs?

While Derek looks at the two carpets, Nigel slips the vase into his trouser pocket. The vase is full of water, which Nigel had not considered. As he puts it into his pocket upside down, it empties out and soaks the crotch of his trousers.

NIGEL

Ugh!

Derek turns around. Nigel thinks quickly and chooses embarrassment over a jail term.

NIGEL

Look, I'm sorry about this. I seem to have had a bit of an accident.

DEREK

Oh dear.

Drips are landing on the carpet.

NIGEL

Look I'll just run out to the car.  
I've got a spare pair of trousers  
for emergencies.

Nigel hurries out, trying not to rattle the stolen items.

EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE HOUSE - DAY

Nigel has to walk past two boys on their bikes.

FIRST BOY

Eugh! That man has wet his pants!

Nigel hurries to his car, opens the door, takes off his trousers and throws them into the floor well. Very discomfited by being the center of attention, he slams the car door and hurries to the boot. He reaches for the car keys in his trouser pockets, but remembers that his trousers are inside the car. He tries the car doors but they are self locking. In desperation he starts to make a run for it. The boys start laughing at him. He changes his mind, walks back to the house, and rings the bell. Derek answers.

NIGEL

Mr Smithers, I'm sorry but I've  
done a silly thing. I've locked  
myself out of the car.

DEREK

You look a bit stressed. Come in  
and sit down for a moment.

INT. KITCHEN OF THE HOUSE - DAY

Nigel is sitting at the kitchen table.

NIGEL

Sorry about this. I've made so  
many mistakes today.

A POLICE SIREN can be heard as a police car draws up outside the house.

DEREK

Don't blame yourself, I have as  
well. I cleared away the dead  
flowers before you arrived, and  
never thought to empty out the  
water from that vase.

There is a loud knock at the door.

DEREK

Well the police came quickly, for  
once.

FADE OUT