Saviour

by Tracy Richardson

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EXT.PARK-NIGHT

A HOMELESS MAN in his 30s sits on a park bench surrounded by his life. Shoppings bags, a trolley packed full with a sleeping bag poking out of the top, and a battered old hat sits on the path.

No one stops or notices him. Women and men, dressed in suits or towering heels take important phone calls or listen to their iPods. Some of the women carry single red roses or a bunch of flowers clutched to their breast.

Suddenly someone flicks a coin in the hat and it bounces out and onto the path. The homeless man looks up and smiles.

HOMELESS MAN

Thank you.

But no one is there. He picks up the coin and looks at it. It's foreign. He sits back on his bench looks up into the trees as the sun's rays set and he smiles.

Suddenly, something hits him on the face and he jumps and looks up. A half eaten sandwich lies on his lap and he hears the laughs of the young teenage men as they run away. He lifts up the sandwich and carefully opens it. It's cheese and salad. He sniffs carefully, not sure what to expect. Gingerly he takes a bite and then wolfs down the rest in two bites.

A young man in a suit walks past and stops, holding a phone with his right hand.

SUIT

No, I have to work late again. I'll cancel. We'll go out another night.

He sees the homeless man watching him and turns away, grabbing his upper right shoulder with his left hand, as if he is in pain.

SUIT (CONT'D)

It's just a day like any other day. We'll do it next week. What's the difference, you got flowers didn't you?

He plunges the phone into his pocket and twists his right shoulder around in discomfort.

HOMELESS MAN

Feeling alright?

The suit frowns and lights a cigarette.

SUIT

What's it to you? Go and get a job.

HOMELESS MAN

I used to have one.

The suit looks at him with disdain.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)

I saved people.

SUIT

Well get another job - preacher man.

HOMELESS MAN

I couldn't save my wife. Life wasn't worth living.

SUIT

Well just check out then. You'd make the park look a lot tidier.

The suit hears his phone ring, pulls it out of his pocket, and walks off. The homeless man gets up and follows him. The suit stops and starts every few metres along the path. The homeless man gets nearer and nearer. Suddenly the suit stops, twists and keels over. He falls on the grass next to the path with a heavy thud and lies there. The homeless man looks around, but there is no one else nearby. He runs up, grabs the phone and bends over the suit.

Sideways on, the homeless man's back moves up and down as if beating the suit to death. The feet of the suit twitch.

A few passers by run up and form a circle around them.

The homeless man gives the suit mouth to mouth resuscitation and pushes down on his chest. He chucks the phone on the grass towards the feet of the crowd.

HOMELESS MAN

Call an ambulance. Tell them there's a Thoracic Surgeon performing CPR. He'll need a defibrillator and an ECG.

Life springs back into the suit's heart and he looks into the eyes of the homeless man with horror.

SULT

What happened?

HOMELESS MAN

I saved you.