

Marjorie Meets Gareth, Gareth Meets Marjorie

by

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Enter Marjorie, talking into a phone.

MARJORIE:

Hello? Can you hear me now?

Sorry about that, it's only a little kitchen now but you can't hear anything. I'm in the garden now. So.

I'm very well thank you, and you?

Jolly good. I'm awfully sorry but I can't quite place your voice. Have we?

Gareth. Hello Gareth. I'm Marjorie, nice to meet you. Well, not meet, obviously, on the telephone, but I don't get enough visitors to be picky these days.

My accident? How sweet of you to ask, but don't worry, all better now - touch wood. Just a fall, I mean at my age...

No, it wasn't really my fault., but we can't let these things worry us can we? Although my cousin Melissa - do you know Melissa? No, you wouldn't. She was engaged to a man called Gareth once, that wasn't you, was it? No, of course not. He's dead now.

At work? Yes it was actually. I say "work", it was just an excuse to get out and meet people really. Melissa said at the time I could have sued but I said, well, I wouldn't know where to start. Where would someone like me find a lawyer?

No! Really? What a stroke of luck! I don't suppose you'd be able to recommend somebody, would you? I should say, they'd probably need to be quite good.

No, I'm sure you wouldn't sell me a dud Gareth, it's just that the people I used to work for would probably hire someone quite special. Lots of money to throw around.

I see. Well that sounds wonderful. But Gareth dear, wouldn't that be dreadfully expensive? I've only got my pension at the moment, you see.

I'm sorry, you'll need to repeat that for me dear, I thought you said I wouldn't need to pay anything at all.

Not until we've won the case, of course. That does sound rather generous though, are you sure your company would be all right with that?

Well if you're sure I'd be delighted. It really is so lucky that you called!

My bank details? Of course I can. And a small up front deposit? No, don't be embarrassed Gareth, if anything it's me who should be embarrassed. I do have a slight problem with my cash flow you see.

No no, don't worry yourself dear, it's quite all right. I've got my pension for day to day, but the rest of my money's a little tied up at the moment, that's all.

Bless you, that's very kind, but I couldn't ask for your help again.

Really? You are an angel. But I couldn't.

Well, all right, as it's you. It's my father, you see, he passed away a little while ago and - thank you Gareth, that's very sweet, but he was a dreadful man. Absolutely horrid. Always smelt of old apples for some reason, but he did leave me rather a lot of money.

You don't mind me saying do you? One doesn't wish to appear vulgar but - thank you dear. It was a little under 27 million Rand.

Yes, that's right, South Africa.

Well, let me think - it's about 1.489 million pounds. Give or take.

I know! But the thing is I can't actually get my hands on any of it. It's all very upsetting. We had a family falling out, you see, years ago now, and Daddy put in his will that the money couldn't be transferred to a direct relation. The argument was all cleared up and sorted - I don't even remember what it was all about now - but it appears that the horrid man never changed the terms of his will. Melissa said it must be an accident but I have my suspicions.

Yes. Apples.

It shouldn't be an issue really - all I need is someone who isn't a relation to help with the transfer. I'd ask Melissa but, of course, he was her uncle.

No, it's very kind of you to offer Gareth, but I simply couldn't. You've already been so helpful about the solicitor.

Well, yes, if I did get the money I suppose it would be easier for you to kick off the processes at your end. When you put it like that. Are you absolutely sure?

Gareth darling you are a lifesaver. I suppose if you told me where your bank is then? The sort code, I'd imagine.

Lovely. And your account number? Thank you.

Oh, and just in case, we'd better have the CVC code too hadn't we? It's the last three numbers on the back dear. That's right. Just in case.

And your mother's maiden name? I know, they can be so nosey can't they, but... Wilkinson.

Well that's lovely, thank you so much for calling Gareth dear. I'll let you get back to your work now and I'll be in touch just as soon as that's all gone through.

All right then. Bye bye!

She ends the call.

MARJORIE:

What a helpful young man.