

ON LINE

By

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EXT. BUS TERMINAL - DAY

A sign greets people at the entrance.

INT. BUS TERMINAL

People move about in various directions.

INT. BUS TICKET LOBBY

Windows appear with people lined up.

In a central area, realistic sculptures of two women and a man stand in a row about to enter through a doorway which leads to a bus. They depict typical commuter travelers with packages, briefcases, and movement.

An ELDERLY MAN moves in behind the sculptures as if to wait on line.

Various people become aware of him with humor and concern.

A young woman approaches him.

YOUNG WOMAN

Excuse me, sir. Are you waiting for something?

He nods yes with a smile.

YOUNG WOMAN

Well this is not the line for that.

He looks ahead without reaction and then the young woman walks away.

The young woman approaches a nearby police officer.

YOUNG WOMAN

Excuse me; do you see that man over there?

She points to the elderly man who stands behind the sculptures.

OFFICER

Yes.

YOUNG WOMAN

I think there's something the matter.

The officer smiles, but the woman remains serious.

YOUNG WOMAN

Ok, well I was concerned.

OFFICER

Thanks, but don't worry.

The young woman walks away.

Back at the sculptures, the elderly man remains to stand as more curious people become aware.

A woman walks up behind him.

WOMAN

Do you know what time it's leaving?

The elderly man pleasantly nods no, and then she stands behind him.

A young woman and man with packages, take notice of them.

YOUNG MAN

What is...?

YOUNG WOMAN

Wow!

YOUNG MAN

Shouldn't somebody say something to them?

YOUNG WOMAN

What? I wouldn't want to burst their bubble.

YOUNG MAN

I think it's already burst.

Two mischievous teenage boys approach.

They go up to the sculptures with the two people behind.

One of them goes up close to the elderly man.

BOY

Hey man, where's your bus going?  
Or has it already left?

The boys share a laugh, the elderly man remains silent, but the woman behind him reacts.

WOMAN

Now, you just go on boys and leave us  
alone.

BOY

OK.

He goes up close to one of the sculptures.

BOY

Where's this bus going?

The boys have a good time.

BOY

Ok, I get it. It's too stiff!

They continue to get off on it and then move away.

Various pre-occupied people line up behind the woman, elderly man, and sculptures.

A disheveled man approaches the rear of the line, and then makes a plea.

DISHEVELED MAN

Could you please help? I've got to get home  
and this is the last bus.

He moves along to repeat the line with his hand out.

Some individuals respond with donations and others ignore.

The elderly man at the front of the line gives him some change.

The disheveled man moves on to the sculptures as if they are real when a beam of joy comes over him.

INT. ANOTHER SECTION OF THE LOBBY

A bearded man sits with a guitar to sing and play a slow, soulful version of the Beetle's "Black Bird" song.

Another man next to him bangs out in the same rhythm on bongo drums.

A small audience gathers with a few people who put money in the open guitar case in front of them.

INT. SCULPTURE BUS LINE

More people are on line.

A woman looks towards the front.

WOMAN

It's late. I wonder what's holding this up?

A man shrugs his shoulders as he reads his newspaper.

MAN

Maybe, a delay in the tunnel or something. That happened to me once.

WOMAN

What?

MAN

Stuck in a tunnel for over an hour. The traffic didn't move.

WOMAN

That would drive me crazy. Did people panic?

MAN

No, they were strangely quiet and patient.

WOMAN

Interesting.

MAN

Yes. Have a good trip.

He walks out of the line.

WOMAN

Aren't you going to wait?

MAN

No, I'll come back later.

INT. TICKET WINDOW

The sculpture's bus line is in the background.

With a long line behind, a man walks up to the window.

A female ticket clerk wears two sets of glasses. One set close to her eyes and the other that hangs off the end of her nose.

TICKET CLERK

May I help you?

MAN

Ticket please.

TICKET CLERK

Where to?

MAN

I don't know.

TICKET CLERK

Oh, come on buddy. There are people waiting.

MAN

Ok, the last stop for that line.

He points to the sculpture bus line.

TICKET CLERK

One way or round?

MAN

One way.

TICKET CLERK

That will be \$8.40.

MAN

Will I be able to buy a return ticket  
at the other end?

TICKET CLERK

Yes.

He exchanges the money for a ticket.

MAN

Thank you.

INT. SCULPTURE BUS LINE

The same man takes his place on the line behind a woman.

MAN

This is fun. I can hardly wait to get there.

WOMAN

What stop?

MAN

The last one. How long is it?

WOMAN

About an hour and a half. You've never  
been there?

MAN

No.

WOMAN

To meet someone?

MAN

Maybe, but I'm really just going for  
a ride.

WOMAN

That's adventurous.

MAN

Yes, but I do this all the time.

WOMAN

Interesting.

MAN

What?

WOMAN

To go any where like that.

MAN

Yes, and it's always somewhere.

WOMAN

I like to know where I'm going.

MAN

Where?

WOMAN

Denville.

EXT. BUS RAMP

A bus enters into the terminal.

EXT. BUS

The door opens.

INT. BUS

The bus driver in his seat looks out towards the door.

DRIVER

Welcome aboard.

The now alive three sculptures climb the steps to give their tickets to the driver, and then move into the bus.

The elderly man follows into the bus.

The driver closes the door.

INT. BUS TICKET LOBBY

The people left behind in the line look around with dismay and frustration.

EXT. BUS RAMP

The bus drives out of the depot.

INT. BUS TICKET LOBBY

The people left behind are now sculptures frozen in place.

FADE OUT