

# *Bucket List*

By Leonie Thompson

## **CHARACTERS:**

**MRS BUCKINGHAM**, a retired PE teacher

**KIM**, a middle-aged woman

## **EXTRACT:**

SCENE:

*A woman lies on the beach she has been sleeping after a swim in the sea. She wears a white swimming costume with a light-coloured cotton shirt over the top. She has a beach bag, whose contents have spilt out onto a white towel. To her right is a flask of hot drink. Another younger woman sits very close, next to her, she is fully dressed.*

**KIM** (noticing that **MRS B** has just woken) It's a beautiful beach, isn't it?

**MRS B** (surprised at the presence of **KIM** sitting very close by) Yes.

**KIM** Not a soul on it apart from us.

**MRS B** (still confused) No.

**KIM** All this space.

**MRS B** Yes.

**KIM** I really don't understand why all those holiday makers trudge down to Cornwall year after year. I mean, it's a lovely place, but really, is it worth the effort? Stuck in traffic for hours on end. The M4, just one long, very tedious carpark. Then being ripped off when they eventually get there and fighting for beach space with half of Surrey vying for the top spots. Terrifying seagulls too. Really vicious buggers! No, they can keep that!

*Pause*

Don't you agree?

**MRS B** Yes. Look, sorry.....

**KIM** Nice nap?

**MRS B** Well, yes.....

**KIM** I admire that!

**MRS B** What?

**KIM** I admire you being able to go to sleep on a beach.

**MRS B** Really?

**KIM** I couldn't relax enough to sleep anywhere outdoors. With others around. Having to trust others not to take advantage. I'd feel vulnerable.

*Silence.*

But I guess you aren't the sort to feel vulnerable?!

**MRS B** Not really. *(She takes her vacuum flasks and proceeds to drink her coffee during the following conversation)*

**KIM** You've been here every day this week so far, haven't you?

**MRS B** Yes. How do you...

**KIM** *(ignoring her question)* Every day you've been for an invigorating swim for half an hour or so, and then had a nice afternoon nap on the beach. I've seen you. Have to say that you are a very strong swimmer for someone of your age.

**MRS B** Look, I don't know who you are, but I'm finding this conversation and your behaviour a bit weird to be honest.

**KIM** Weird?

**MRS B** Yes!

**KIM** Is it making you feel uncomfortable?

**MRS B** Well...