

One Single Rose

By Sergio Snyder © 2011

Characters

Rose
David

Time

The present

The play takes place in a park one Friday afternoon in October.

As the play begins we see David sitting down on a park bench. He is 50 years old and dresses casual but smart. From his appearance we see he has money and a good status in society. The park is quite. It is not cold even though it is autumn as we see leaves on the floor. David has one single rose in his hand. He looks nervous, as a young lover would, waiting to see his love. He looks at his watch and then paces up and down the length of the bench. His Blackberry rings and he places the rose on the bench as he answers the phone.

David - *(he has an English accent with a slight American twang)*
Hello? *(pause)* Oh, hi Mimi, no it is 6pm here. *(pause)* in a park... no I'm waiting.... *(pause)* well I don't have much time right now... *(pause)* can't it wait until later? She'll be here any minute... Oh, I see... well, hang on, let me get my ear piece out so I can hear you better... *(he pulls out of his jacket pocket a mobile phone earpiece and connects it to the Blackberry, then inserts the ear piece into his ear)* hello? Can you hear me? Yes, I can hear you... right, you really need to make this quick...*(pause)* I don't know... *(pause)* Mimi, are you going to tell me what you call me for or I'll hang up! *(pause)* Right, you've got one minute...

As David paces up and down listening to his earpiece and reacting to the conversation with occasional words we see Rose enter from the back of the stage. Rose is also 50, an elegant and distinguish woman. She dresses well, although it is obvious that she has a different social status to David. She stops at the sight of David and holds her chest as she feels emotions of seeing him again. David and Rose have not seen each other in 30 years. She stands still looking at David pace talking. Eventually he becomes aware that she is watching and turns around to look at her. He stops in his tracks and looks at Rose, as she looks back at him. There is a silence until he realises that Mimi is still talking to him.

David - *(as if coming back from a trance)* Sorry Mimi, I have to go, I'll call you later *(he hangs up and takes the earpiece out and puts the phone away. looking at Rose)* Rose?

Rose - Hello David.

David - *(staring at her)* is it really you?

Rose - Yes.

Pause. They look at each other for a moment

Rose - Is it really you?

David - Yes.

Rose - My goodness, how you've changed...

David - And you...

They look at each other

David - You look.... Amazing!

Rose - Thank you, a few wrinkles here are there....

David - and you still have that look...

Rose - What look?

David - Rose's look.

Rose - Really?

David - Absolutely!

Rose - You also still have that David's look...

David - Really?

Rose - Absolutely!

They laugh. Rose looks at the single rose on the bench.

Rose - Is that for me?

David - *(walks to the bench and picks it up)* Yes, one single rose, for my Rose.

Rose - *(takes the rose and smells it, lowers the rose and then takes another slow deep smell)* and you are still wearing that aftershave...

David - Yes.

Rose - And you have an American accent!

David - Really?

Rose looks at David and gives him a smile.

David - What?

Rose - I can still see the crazy bohemian young artist that stole my heart all those years ago...

David - I'm still crazy but I don't paint any more. I haven't painted since I left... all those years ago...

They look at each other and Rose lowers her sight

Rose - Why are you here?

David - I had to see you...

Rose - But why? You were dead!

David - Rose...

Rose - *(looks at him)* David, you were dead, you have been dead for 30 years!

David - There is so much to explain...

Rose - Then you'd better start because right now I don't understand a thing...

David - Please sit down...

Rose walks slowly and sits at one end of the bench and looks out. Sets the rose next to her and David sits next to it.

Rose - Do you remember the hours we've spent here, looking out into the horizon, watching the sunset?

David - Rose, I've never forgotten you...

Rose - (*without looking at him*) that's not true.

David - You've always been in my mind...

Rose - Then why didn't you come back? Why didn't you contact me? You didn't call for 30 years.

David - I couldn't... I should have... I tried...

Rose - You didn't.

Pause

David - Rose, there is something you need to know. Frank betray me...us

Rose - (*confused*) What? Frank? What's Frank got to do with this?

David - You married him...

Rose - I married him because he was all I had left after you'd gone! After you died! Remember?

David - I had to disappear, we planed it together!

Rose - Together?

David - I was to disappear for some time, until things cooled down, until it was safe to return! That was the plan!

Rose - I don't understand, what plan? Why disappear?

David - (*pause*) Rose, I killed Peter.

Rose - Oh my god!

David - It was an accident, we got into a fight, I pushed him, but I didn't mean to kill him...

Rose - *(stands up in horror)* You killed Peter?

David - *(stands next to her)* I panicked, lost it and Frank took control, we both knew that if anyone found out what had happened we would go to prison, I would never see you again...

Rose - And you didn't, you never saw me again!

David - Yes, but it was not meant to be like that! It was only for a few months, but then Frank lied to me, told me to stay away, that the police was looking for me. After a while he told me you had found someone else, and that you'd married. *(pause)* What he didn't tell me was that you married him! I could kill the bastard!

Rose - Are you saying the Frank knew all of this?

David - Yes. *(pause)* After he told me you got married, I left, as far as possible and migrated to America. I changed my name, my identity and decided to forget my past...

Rose - And me...

David - No, I never forgot you. I see your face every day. I gave up painting because all I could paint was you. *(pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket)* this one, I always carry it with me... a pencil drawing of your face as I remember it the day you said you'd be my girl...

Rose - *(looks at the picture)* I was 17 then...

David - it took me 4 years to get you to say yes...

Rose smiles as she looks at the picture and then looks at David

Rose - You never gave up until I fell in love with you...

David - I knew you'd be mine...

Rose - So why did you give up on me after that?

David - I didn't.

Rose - David, you fought for 4 years to be with me, you tried everything! Everything! And you got me! You made me fall in love with you! *(pause)* So why did you give up?

David - I was scared... confused... and then I thought I lost you.

Rose - You did....

Pause

Rose - Why now? Why come back after all these years?

David - I still love you *(pause)*. I had to find you; I had to see you again...

Rose - But why?

Pause. David doesn't say anything. Rose moves away.

Rose - *(without looking at him)* its too late... 30 years too late...

David - *(grabs Rose)* Rose, do you still love me?

Rose - *(pauses, a faint smile escapes her mouth)* David...

David - Do you?

Rose - *(still without looking at him)* I do...

They look at each other for a moment and slowly they come close and kiss. As they separate slowly, Rose keeps her eyes closed.

Rose - Kiss me again, hold me and don't let go...

They kiss as David holds Rose in his arms. They look at each other after the kiss.

David - Rose, I love you, I've always loved you and I always will.

Rose - And I love David.

Rose looks at him she smiles and moves away.

Rose - You must go, and never come back!

David - What? But Rose...

Rose - *(she goes to him again and holds him)* David, look at me?

David - I am, I am looking at you

Rose - You don't love me and I don't love you

David - What? Rose, I love you and you just told me you love me...

Rose - Look at me, what can you see?

David - What do you mean?

Rose - David, what can you see when you look at me?

David - You, Rose, the love of my life...

Rose - No David, look harder. Really look at me!

David - Rose, I love you...

Rose - David, you are looking at a 50-year-old woman, mother of 2 and married to an accountant. I have wrinkles, and put on a few pounds. I am foul tempered as I am going through my menopause and I get hot flushes. I get on people's nerves. My children adore me and my husband thinks I am a great mum. I've not had sex in years, I only need 4 hour sleep, I am getting old... you don't love me.

David - Rose...

Rose - And I am looking at a 50-year-old man, with an American twang who seems to be very successful, dresses well and I am sure has had many lovers in his life. A very good looking edging man who loves his freedom, works 24 hrs a day, drinks Champaign and chases

after women half his age. Probably going through midlife crises! Oh, and he lives in New York. I don't love you.

David - Rose...

Rose - The point is you love Rose of 30 years ago, Rose who was young, wild and care free, a young Rose who was studying to be a lawyer and was madly in love with a bohemian artist. I love David of 30 years ago, a young David who didn't care about the world and all he wanted was to paint, to be an artist and love his Rose, his one single Rose.

Pause, David looks at Rose and shakes his head.

David - I know we've changed, I know a lot has happened in 30 years, and I know you have your life and I have mine...

Rose - *(she walks away)* So why come back... *(turns to face him)* Why resurrect something that died 30 years ago?

David - Rose, I came back because I had to see you again.

Rose - And what did you think you could do?

David - I don't now, I...

Rose - You thought I would just drop everything and run away with you?

David - I...

Rose - But how? How could we do that? *(he does not respond)*
David *(she walks to him)* in some ways you haven't changed... you didn't think about this properly. You thought we could just drop everything and run into the sunset...*(she looks at him for a moment in anger and walks away)*

David - I made a mistake, many years ago, I just want to put things right for once...

Rose - And how?

David doesn't answer and she moves to the bench and sits. Looks at her Rose and smells it. David goes and sits next to her.

David - *(comes close to Rose)* Our love was always meant to be.

Rose - *(still looking out)* meant to be what?

David - Forever...

Rose - *(looking down)* nothing is forever...

David - I know...

David turns away and Rose looks at him

Rose - David, what's wrong?

David - Rose, there is a reason for me being here...

Rose - What is it?

David - I am dying

Rose - What?

David - I don't have long...

Rose - Of what?

They come close and hold hands for the first time

David - Cancer. When I found out, I sat at home and examined my life. Like you said, I have everything anyone could ever want, money, successful career, and a great apartment in New York... but there was one thing missing, the one thing I had and I lost...

Rose - David... *(she starts to cry)*

David - Rose, I need your forgiveness...

Pause.

Rose - I wish I could turn the clock back...

David - but we can't

Rose - This is cruel!

David - What?

Rose - I already lost you once... *(pause, she looks at him)* how long do you have?

David - Not long, may be till the end of the year..

Rose - when did you find out?

David - 3 months ago.

Rose - Oh my god...

David - Rose, can you forgive me?

Rose - *(looks at him and holds his face)* I do.

They smile at each other

David - Thank you.

Rose - *(with a smile)* David, close your eyes and kiss me. Kiss me like the day I said yes, the day you made me fall in love with you, here in the park...

Slowly they close their eyes and kiss. With her eyes closed Rose takes a deep smell and then speaks

Rose - This is how I want to remember you with your special sent, my young bohemian artist, madly in love with me.

David - *(looking at her)* And this is how I want to see you for the last time, my special Rose.

Rose opens her eyes and looks at him

Rose - Were you looking at me when you said that?

David - Of course, young Rose is already in my mind, I wanted to see this Rose and remember this Rose from now on.

They kiss one more time and David stands up. She sits on the bench and looks at the rose David brought for her.

Rose - *(looks at David)* when do you go back...

David - Tonight...

David starts to walk away. She stops him and looks at the rose then at him.

Rose - Take me with you

David - What?

Rose - *(stands up)* Take me with you, I want to be with you for whatever time you have left...

David - Are you sure?

Rose - I have never been so sure in my life

David - And Frank? Your kids?

Rose - Kids are all grown up, and Frank *(pause)* I need to think about Frank...

David - Rose...

Rose - David, You died once and I could not tell you everything I wanted to tell you, see you, hold... or even bury you. Now I have that chance. Whatever time you have left, I want that to be our time. I want to hold you, and tell you everything I feel for you, look after you and in the end, say good-bye to you. God has given me this opportunity; I want to be with you.

Suddenly his BB starts to ring. Looks at it and smiles

David - *(holding Rose, answers the phone)* Hi Mimi... no, its fine....
Mimi, book another ticket to New York, tonight... We are coming
home...

The lights go off.