

All is in Order

Nigel Ford

A flash fiction

A person in uniform arrives purposefully at the bench, buttons and buckle sparkle in the mist of dawn. The emerge of daylight will now illuminate the revelation of the premature waking of the ragged man, flopped in sleep on the pale scrubbed bench.

A hand, feminine, grasps his shoulder and pushes it back and forth. Sleep, apparently, is forbidden. A harsh, high voice blares instructions, an impersonal order, an inner appeal. I am only doing my assignment. No empathy will withstand the jobs of instruction.

Nor should they, without them the society will not circulate, but clog and die.

The ragged man rises, the duty of sleep done, complete. The shape straggles off into the shadows of who knows where. The woman writes an entry in her notebook. "All is in order".

Nigel Ford works as a writer, visual artist, dramatist, journalist, copywriter and translator. He is English and lives in Sweden.

Recent publications include short stories in *The Fortnightly Review* (UK) and poems in *Orbis* (UK).

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