

EXT. GARAGE ENTRANCE/EXIT - PARKING BOOTH - DAY

Melanie approaches male PARKING ATTENDANT, 58, over it all. He stands at a PERPETUALLY CONFUSED WOMAN's car window, and teaches her how to use the parking validation machine.

PARKING ATTENDANT

You see, you put your original ticket in-
(inserts ticket)

Then you insert the validation.

She fumbles, drops ticket. He emits patronizing exhale.

PARKING ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

Let's try this again.

MELANIE

Excuse me. You wouldn't happen to know
where the guy who drives the Nissan
Sentra works?

PARKING ATTENDANT

I do.

Stare down. She waits...

MELANIE

Um, where?

PARKING ATTENDANT

Afraid I can't give you that
information... confidential.

MELANIE

What's his name?

PARKING ATTENDANT

Confidential.

MELANIE

His name?

PARKING ATTENDANT

Not everyone wants their's given out...
trust me.

MELANIE

But he parked next to me and he dropped
something.

PARKING ATTENDANT

Oh yeah... what?

MELANIE
(reaches in her bag)
His fork.

PARKING ATTENDANT
Could've been intentional--

MELANIE
I don't think he would litter--

PARKING ATTENDANT
Whatever - it's a plastic fork. It's
replaceable.
(looks into distance)
Everything and everyone is replaceable.
(looks back, points)
That squirrel--

CLOSE UP: Squirrel nibbles on a nut. Car barrels toward it.

PARKING ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
This coffee cup--

Holds up mug. Drops it, shatters on pavement.

PARKING ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
That fork--

Snatches fork. Snaps it in half.

MELANIE
So destructive--

PARKING ATTENDANT
Life's destructive. You think I wanted
to be a parking attendant? All day long
dealing with people who don't know how
to insert tickets into a machine. It's a
ticket that fits in a perfectly sized
slot and it has arrows on the ticket
that tell you which way to put it in.
And these people make more money than
me! They're running companies! Tell me
how that's fair --

PHONE ALARM sounds. She looks at phone. It reads, "1:29pm" --

MELANIE
It's not. Believe me, I know.

Runs toward building.