

Reclining Nude

Al McClimens

Having a girlfriend is a bit like owning a Picasso.
I mean, I may not know much about investment
art but I know what I like to hear and you're
talking my language. So some evenings a couple
might call. I'll take them into a darkened room
where they view the merchandise. On a good night
a queue might form. The men finger their wallets,
the women finger themselves. We talk numbers.
Then I'll take their coats and leave them to a bit
of art appreciation. I might pop the kettle on,
watch a bit of telly with the volume up
while they make approving noises. Next we have
the kind of small talk that small people make
while they pretend to finish their drinks.
Then I shoo them out like cats into the reluctant
dark. I have to tell her to put some clothes on.
I mean, at her age, hanging round the house
naked. Oh, but listen to me. The connoisseur.
Well, at least I know I'm no oil painting.