

BUILD MY FUTURE INTRO
an original short by

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sharon sits in bed wearing a bathrobe reading a book. Dim bedside lighting. Her phone rings quietly. She answers.

SHARON

Hello?

The screen splits to reveal:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Max on the phone at the kitchen table. It looks like there's been a dinner party, - wine bottles, plates.

MAX

Is that Sharon?

SHARON

(brief pause)

Max?

MAX

Yeah, it's -

SHARON

(Excited but keeping
her voice low)

Max! Haven't seen or heard from
you in... 8 years. How are you?

MAX

Yeah I was just... I had a few
friends over -

SHARON

(Interrupting)

You always had so many friends!

MAX

...I was just thinking about -

SHARON

- The good old days! The golden
years!

MAX

(shy)

...the first time we met.

SHARON

The day we were put together. A
pile of cardboard brought to life!
Given a chance to live!

MAX
(remembering
romantically)
I remember when I first saw you,
with the students and that business
volunteer who designed you.

SHARON
In the school hall! Yes! So what
are you doing now Max?

MAX
I'm a carpenter.

SHARON
Of course! You were always building
things with wood, and drawing,
that was always your expertise.

MAX
You were always good at everything.

SHARON
I was never good with people like
you, they just didn't make me
that way. I started an argument
yesterday at work and if I'd just
kept my big cardboard mouth shut...

MAX
The students who made me... they
made some good choices so I'm
healthy, I eat properly, I work
hard so I've got a great job, and
loads of friends -

SHARON
- Because you liked going to
parties all the time!

MAX
And I don't interrupt people when
they are talking!

SHARON
Sorry. I was never good at
listening. Not like you.

MAX
(Pause)
I read in the newspaper you're a
politician now.

SHARON
Can you believe it! Yeah, the
students thought citizenship was
important. That I should have a
strong sense of responsibility.

(MORE)

SHARON (CONT'D)

All those after school clubs they sent me on, getting on the student council and... there I go talking too much again.

MAX

If we were more like each other, we'd be the perfect person.

Sharon laughs slightly mockingly, then reins it in.

MAX (CONT'D)

If I was more like you I'd be building sky scrapers by now.

SHARON

Out of wood, held together with nails.

Max pauses then laughs. Sharon also laughs. They stop laughing. Sharon takes a drink of water from the bedside table.

MAX

Dinner with me tomorrow night?

Sharon coughs on the water loudly, there's a movement to one side of her and the camera reveals her husband stirring under the duvet, rolling over with a snort. Then snores his way back to a deep sleep.

SHARON

You know I'm married now Max.

Max is lost for words.

SHARON (CONT'D)

And we have two wonderful, caring, healthy, clever, responsible, sociable, brilliant children.

She picks up a picture frame from the bedside table of two very odd looking paper puppet children.

MAX

I'm sure they're perfect.

SHARON

They are... Well, nobody's perfect are they. I should get some sleep but it was really nice hearing from you.

MAX

I'll send you my designs for that skyscraper.

SHARON
And I'll present them to the Prime
Minister.

They laugh.

MAX
By then.

SHARON
Good bye Max.

Cut to black.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

The puppets sit side by side on chairs adjusting their hair. Studio lights are visible either side of them. There's a movie poster behind them with 'BUILD MY FUTURE' on it. The words: 'Expertise, Health, Citizenship, Socialising', written as a tag line under the title.

MAX
(to Sharon)
How do I look?

SHARON
Fine.

VOICE
(off camera)
OK. Let's do this. Action!

MAX
(to camera)
Welcome to Build My Future!

SHARON
Thanks for watching the trailer.

MAX
Now it's your turn! To design
and build a well balanced
character.

SHARON
It's all about balance.

MAX
And good interesting choices!

SHARON
Balance in these things.

Pointing to the poster and the 4 elements: 'Expertise, Health, Citizenship, Socialising'.

MAX

You can win as individuals and as a team alongside your brilliant volunteer from G.E. Who has loads of experience working in business and industry.

SHARON

And when you're finished building you're going to stick your hands up... like her...

(referring to the puppeteer)

And present your puppet to everyone else.

MAX

So make your character interesting!

SHARON

And successful!

MAX

(dramatically,
with jazz hands)

Let the games begin!

SHARON

(winking, thumbs up)

And remember, our life was a game, but yours isn't.

Holding the pose.

MAX

How was that?

VOICE

(off screen)

Terrible. Do it again.

Cut to black.

Boards appear and fade:

GE logo.

MFMC, Pickled Image and Gauntlett & Son.

Build My Future logo alongside the four elements written bold alongside. This remains for a minute before fading.