

Guyana

By

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INT. SUBWAY CAR ON THE N - DUSK

A subway car, northbound on the N, is half full on a weekday night. In a corner of the car a family sits together. RAY, dressed plainly with jeans and a gray hodie, mid twenties, is visiting his parents in the city for the first time. His PARENTS are in their mid 50's and sit comfortably talking up to Ray and his SISTER, 12 years old. They have his traveling luggage under their arms. Sister plays with a ball, pink, fairly large, with a "TOYS R US" or other large toy shop logo marked on it.

Ray hugs his sister. Sister throws her ball in the air and Ray catches it. He holds it over her head playfully. She reaches for it and he throws it back up for her to catch. They laugh.

MOTHER

Why haven't you come visit us
before Ray?

FATHER

We've been waiting so long to see
you.

Ray smiles at them sheepishly. The train stops. Sister throws her ball up again. It falls on her head and bounces out of the car. Ray instinctively runs for it. His family try and catch him but he's already out the door.

INT. 28TH STREET STATION - NIGHT

Ray grabs the ball, which has stopped against a trash can. He turns around back to the train. He runs to make the door but it shuts between him and his parent's face. Ray struggles to fit his fingers between the doors, but the car begins to move. His parents frantically try and indicate a plan, but the message is muffled and confused. Ray runs to keep up. The car picks up speed and moves away.

Ray, looks around station. It is empty except for OLD MAN on the other side. He has a bushy beard, a big belly and holds a bottle of bourbon in a paper bag. He looks over at Ray, points and laughs. Ray looks at the man for a moment and turns away.

Ray sits down. He looks closer at the pink ball and puts it next to him. The laughter of the old man is still heard in the background, dying down now, but louder as he comes nearer. He sits next to Ray who looks down still.

(CONTINUED)

OLD MAN
(laughing)
Lost your train then, eh? It happens, it happens. You had a look on you running after it, you looked like you were about to catch it hahaha just a little quicker you could've jumped right on.

Ray looks away from the man, grabs the ball and puts it on his lap.

OLD MAN
Oh come on. No need to be stubborn now. I've missed trains. God knows I've missed some trains. Here, have some of this it'll soothe ya-

The Old man offers ray his glass. Ray politely puts his hand up to refuse.

OLD MAN
Well more for me then! You're not from around here it seems.

RAY
I'm visiting.

OLD MAN
Oh boy. Well let me be the first to welcome you to New York City. What're you in for?

RAY
Family.

OLD MAN
Oh come on don't be so short. Let's go, get up. You like to dance? Come on, come on, lets dance!

The old man takes Ray's hands and tries to make him get up. Ray pulls his hands back aggressively. He looks up exasperated.

RAY
Where should I go?

OLD MAN
(suddenly upset)
You wanna know what to do! You're a real idiot, you know that. you're a moron. You got anything going on up
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OLD MAN (cont'd)
there? You're a loser. This is what
you do- you wait here, the next
train comes, you get on the next
train, and then you're outta the
picture. You're gone. Goodbye.

RAY
I should.

Ray gets up and walks away from Old Man. He paces the
station, turns and looks at a large, half torn advertisement
for a perfume: "Wild Scent"- a woman's face is torn down the
middle. Old man comes behind him.

OLD MAN
(apologetically)
I'm sorry. I'm sorry pal. We've
been friends for a while now you
know I didn't mean it. Put it here.
I didn't mean it, you know that.
The train's coming in a minute,
I'll help you out. I'll go with
you. Sure I'll do it, I've got
nowhere to go, I've been around
here for a while, I can be a lot of
help. What do you say?

Ray continues to read subway sign and ignore old man.

OLD MAN
Alright, here's the train coming in
now we want to go on this one.

Train arrives at station. Old Man grabs Ray by the shoulder
and ushers him into the car.

INT. 34TH ST HERALD SQUARE - NIGHT

Car comes to a stop at the next station. Ray peers out of
train with Old Man looking behind him.

OLD MAN
Alright, here's our stop. You're
parents are probably here.

They both step out of train car which closes behind them.
The station is empty.

OLD MAN
They're around here somewhere. We
just gotta get their
attention. Hello! Anyone around?!

(CONTINUED)

No answer. They move to the end of the station where escalators move down.

OLD MAN

They might've moved down. They
might've gone on a different train.

RAY

I don't know. Maybe.

OLD MAN

After me!

The old man takes the pink ball in Ray's hand and bolts down the escalators laughing. Ray, surprised, chases after him. Ray runs down through the tight station escalators, moving through the industrial levels of the station. He makes it to the bottom of the escalator to a long corridor. There are a few commuters who look confused. The old man runs ahead holding the pink ball over his head. Ray chases after him, catches up and pushes him against the wall.

OLD MAN

Oh come one! No need to be
aggressive, man. Help! Help!

Crowd gathers around scene. Ray looks around and lets go of Old Man, picking up the pink ball which has fallen on the ground. Surrounded by worried onlookers.

ONLOOKER 1

What you trying to do, hurting an
old man like that!

ONLOOKER 2

I saw him grab him, almost tore the
poor guys shirt.

ONLOOKER 3

Someone call the cops!

Ray, confused, breaks through crowd and runs down corridor. He runs down stairs until he can't hear the crowd anymore. At a new stop now, he looks at the pink ball and wipes it.

Ray looks around in confusion. Ray walks towards BUSKER, tall white guy, bearded and dressed in a two piece suit, guitar in hand.

RAY

I'm sorry. I don't know where I am.

(CONTINUED)

BUSKER
(pointing)
Map right there.

RAY
(looking at it)
I don't know where this is.

BUSKER
Well that's a problem.

Busker starts to sing acoustic cover of Peace Train by Cat Stevens. Ray looks around station, same torn up perfume poster, underneath an image of a dense jungle. He puts his hand to it. He starts to peel off perfume add.

BUSKER
(stopping suddenly)
What're you doing? Don't touch that.

RAY
Sorry.

BUSKER
That's valuable property. You can't touch that.

RAY
I didn't realize.

BUSKER
Well start realizing. You can't go around messing with those, they're valuable. You want one to mess with you better buy it.

Busker suddenly goes back into Peace Train, exactly where he left off. Ray looks at map again and tries to figure out a route.

Train pulls into station. Ray looks around confused, gets on.

INT. SUBWAY CAR F TRAIN - NIGHT

Ray looks around the car and sits down across from a MAN WITH SUIT, also mid twenties, closely shaven, and dressed in a suit like a wallstreeter coming back from a nightclub. Man looks at him intently. Ray notices and tries to ignore the intense stare shamelessly directed at him.

Car stops. Ray stands and walks out of car. Man stands up behind him and walks out as well.

INT. 42ND STREET - NIGHT

Ray exits train and again heads towards map. He reads the subway sign, 42nd street/Times Sq. He finds the spot on the map and starts to trace the different lines to figure out a path. Man in Suit is standing behind him.

SUIT MAN

Excuse me. I feel we've met before.

RAY

No, sorry you must be confused.

SUIT MAN

No, I could swear. I think we've met at a party. Are you lost? Need any help?

RAY

Oh yes. Thank you, I'm looking for my family.

SUIT MAN

Where are you trying to get to?

RAY

(struggling to remember)
uhh... flat-bush. Brooklyn.

SUIT MAN

Oh no problem. No problem. Here, you smoke?

Man passes a cigarette to Ray, who refuses it. The man puts one in his mouth and lights it.

SUIT MAN

(pointing at map)
that's just around here, look. You can take the C it'll take you right there.

RAY

I don't think you can smoke that here.

SUIT MAN

Oh don't worry about it. I swear I've met you -

(CONTINUED)

RAY

Oh no, I'm not from here.

SUIT MAN

Oh, where are you from?

RAY

From Guyana. Just visiting family.

SUIT MAN

So I guess this isn't yours then?

He points at the pink ball that Ray is still holding under his arm.

RAY

Oh, haha no.

SUIT MAN

Gu-ya-na. interesting. You should do something tonight, if you're visiting I mean. Tell you what, I'm going to a friend's party just around here. It should be fun, you can meet a lot of people.

RAY

Oh, I don't know.

SUIT MAN

After I can show you how to get home. It's not far from here. Here, my name is Edward.

RAY

(shaking hands)

I'm Ray. Sorry, I don't think I can. Have to go home.

SUIT MAN

It shouldn't take too long. I just want to show you around if you're visiting. This place is 24/7 you gotta be ready for these situations. It'll be worth it.

Ray thinks for a moment looking at the subway map. He turns, across the tracks, the same perfume add stares at him.

RAY

Sure.

EXT. STREET NIGHT - NIGHT

Montage of views of different skyscrapers, looking up. Cut between imposing buildings and shots of different people in Time Square- pushing each other, spitting on the ground, asking for change. Ray and Man with suit walk down empty, dark street.

SUIT MAN

It's this house right here.

Man goes up and knocks on a large, metal door three times. The door opens suddenly to what looks to be a basement- low ceiling and no windows.

INT. HOUSE BASEMENT - LATER

A dingy basement with bad lighting is packed with people. A band is onstage, disheveled with torn up clothes, they play punk music. The crowd in front of them is made up entirely of cocktail attire, well groomed, blond, white people. They speak to each other politely and watch the band on stage thrash and jump aggressively. The music overtakes all other volume.

A WOMAN, well dressed as well, breaks from the crowd and goes up to the Man with the Suit and says something inaudible. He laughs and points to Ray. Ray shakes her hand while covering his ears. She says something inaudible to Ray who nods politely. She laughs and takes him by the hand, moving him through the crowd towards the stairs.

INT. HOUSE UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

RAY and WOMAN come into a spacious and elegant ballroom. The music has completely shut off. The crowd is made up of the same people, though now they all stand quietly at attention in a circle, looking towards the middle of the room. In the center, on a large persian rug, two men, naked, wrestle each other.

A man at the edge of the room standing by a large bell looks at a timer. He pauses it and rings the bell. The men immediately stop, get up and move away from each other. Each goes up to an audience member who takes off their clothes, folds them neatly, and hands them to the men.

The two new naked men go to the center and start to attack each other. The rest look towards them. Ray watches the crowd.

WOMAN hands him a dark drink in a glass. He takes a sip and his lips are colored red. She looks at him questioningly and he smiles in forced approval. She grabs his hand again and takes him away. The man in the suit follows them.

EXT. ROOFTOP PARTY - NIGHT

A view of downtown Manhattan lights up an old rooftop. Ray, woman and Man in a suit are alone.

SUIT MAN
What do you think?

RAY
Thank you for showing me here. I need to go home now.

WOMAN
You should stick around. There's a lot more to do.

RAY
I am very tired. I should go.

WOMAN
Suit yourself then. It was a pleasure meeting you.

SUIT MAN
Yes, let me take you out.

Ray and Man in Suit leave. Woman stays on rooftop alone for a beat and sits on ground.

EXT. STREET NIGHT - LATER

Same street at night. Ray runs out front door, breathing fresh air for a first time in a while. Behind him the man with suit lights up a cigarette.

RAY
What was that? I mean, where were we just now.

SUIT MAN
Oh... it's just a party really. Nothing too exciting.

RAY
I want to go home.

They walk towards subway station. The sky is a bright blue and orange as the sun comes up. The streets are deserted.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - DUSK

Man with Suit and Ray walk into subway stop. He swipes Ray in and jumps the rail behind him. They stand in the stop waiting. Man in suit still smokes a cigarette.

In station, a MAN, middle aged, walks by surprised. He goes up to the man in suit.

MAN

Excuse me, would you mind throwing out that cigarette? You're not allowed to smoke here.

SUIT MAN

oh I'm sorry. Is this bothering you?

He throws the lit cigarette at the man's chest.

MAN

What the hell?

SUIT MAN

Fuck off.

Man looks at him in disbelief and keeps walking. Suit man turns to Ray.

SUIT MAN

So what are you doing here exactly?

RAY

just visiting.

SUIT MAN

Yeah I heard you before, but why? Why are you in the city? In this country?

RAY

I've never been-

SUIT MAN

Are you trying to move in with your family? You know there are too many immigrants in this city.

(CONTINUED)

RAY
sorry?

SUIT MAN
too many immigrants.

Ray is quiet for a beat.

SUIT MAN
You should be back home. You
shouldn't be here.

On the other side of the platform, two police officers
appear.

POLICE OFFICER 1 (OFFSCREEN)
Hey. stop right there!

Man with Suit suddenly tosses cigarette on ground and grabs
Ray. He pushes him against the wall. Ray struggles to keep a
hold of toy ball.

SUIT MAN
Hey officer! Don't worry, he's
right here, I got him! He's not
going anywhere.

Ray tries to fight man's grip but can't get out. Police
officers run and catch up with two.

RAY
Let go of me!

SUIT MAN
(loud for officers)
You're not running away anywhere
you scum! I hate you. I hate you.

Police officers catch up and seize Ray. The pink ball falls
from his hands and rolls down unto the tracks. Ray becomes
upset and tries to push off the policemen.

RAY
Let go of me please!

POLICE OFFICER 2
You be quiet. Sorry if he was
bothering you sir. Would you like
to issue a statement.

SUIT MAN
Sorry, I've got to go to a meeting
right now officers. Happy I could
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SUIT MAN (cont'd)
help out. He was aggressive and
tried to start a fight.

Man in a suit enters the train. Ray struggles trying to lose grip of police officers who hold him tightly. He sees the ball underneath the tracks but is pushed further away until he can't see it anymore.

Ray is pushed against same perfume advertisement- "Wild Scent". It is half of the advertisement is ripped off, underneath a jungle. Ray's body is framed by the advertisement as police officers cuff him.