

THE LAST BAR CAR

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FADE IN:

EXT. STAMFORD TRAIN PLATFORM OF METRO NORTH-DAY

ITS MORNING RUSH HOUR AND THE PLATFORM IS CROWDED WITH COMMUTERS HEADING TO NYC. AMONG THEM IS A GUY NAMED PETE. LIKE MANY OF THEM HE IS READING THAT DAY'S NY TIMES AS THE TRAIN PULLS INTO THE STATION, THE DOORS OPEN AND PEOPLE START TO BOARD.

PETE (V.O.)

Another day another dollar, I hope. How long have I been doing this? What, 15, 20 years? Why? Because you have to is why. If one didn't have to would they be here day after day to start the hour plus journey just to get to work? I don't think so. I mean some of the people here have already travelled a half hour just to get here. It sure isn't for the pleasure. I mean you wouldn't do it unless something like kids or economics or both dictated that you just have to. I've still got at least five years before the last one will be out of school. Then we'll see.

CUT TO:

INT. INSIDE THE RAIL CAR AS IT PULLS AWAY FROM THE STATION

The conductor is making his way through the car checking tickets.

CONDUCTOR

Good morning. Tickets please. We're a little crowded this morning folks. Please make room for your fellow passengers.

(MORE)

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

All bags should be off the seats
and please, no feet on the seats.
Thanks for your courtesy folks.

Pete is sitting in the outside seat on the first bench (the one facing another seat) just inside the door, and is watching the Conductor as he stops at each seat. When he gets to his he flashes his ticket.

PETE (V.O.)

This car is this guy's dominion. He is the King of this car. I wonder what he thinks of all these people sitting and ignoring everyone else including him?

The conductor passes into the next section. In the first set of facing seats are four young ladies who are just settling in, each with a duffle bag on their lap. One of them is opening hers and pulls out a pure white styrofoam bust of a head. It has no eyes, ears or any definition. It is smooth and very white.

CONDUCTOR

Ho! What have we here. That is pretty strange young lady. I thought I'd seen just about everything on this train, but this is a new one on me. Oh by the way, ticket please?

She laughs, holds up her finger as if to say, "one moment please", reaches in her bag, and with a flourish pulls out a wig. Then holds up her ticket for him to punch.

WIG LADY

Sorry if I scared you Sir. It is sort of Stephen King. But its just the head to hold my masterpiece, which is the hairstyle that I will win the contest with today.

The conductor notices all the duffle bags.

CONDUCTOR

Huh. All you ladies got heads like that in those bags?

WIG LADY II

Sure do. Show him girls.

They all pull out their styrofoam heads and wigs.

CONDUCTOR

I'll be. This one takes the cake. I don't get it.

WIG LADY III

Hair dressing school. We all go together and today is a big show at the Hilton where they have a contest for individuals and teams. We're a team. Last year we came in third place. This year...ladies??

Obviously they've practiced, and they all say together.

ALL FOUR LADIES

First place or bust.

CONDUCTOR

Got to tell my wife about this one. Ok ladies, good luck with the contest. Make sure to come back for another ride so you can tell me how it goes.

ALL FOUR LADIES

Ok. We will.

Pete is watching all this with a quizzical expression and also watching a guy sitting across the aisle from him who has been looking back at the wig ladies, obviously annoyed. But rather than quieting down, the ladies are showing each other their respective hairstyles and squealing with laughter at each one. Pete is watching this wondering if the conductor will tell them to quiet down. But the conductor is still at the other end of the car.

PETE (V.O.)

Wow, now this is interesting.
Usually you can hear a pin drop in this car. This guy looks like he's about ready to bust a gut.

All of a sudden, one of the the wig ladies lets out a particularly loud shriek of pleasure at on of her friends hair styles and they all join in clapping and whooping for the cool doo. The guy gets up, puts his laptop on the seat and stalks over to them. He practically shouts to be heard over them.

PASSENGER

Ladies

They look up at him in shocked silence.

PASSENGER

Would you mind keeping it down a little. You're being unbelievably loud.

He walks back to his seat and tries to get settled back down with his laptop when Wig Lady bursts out laughing and they all join in.

WIG LADY

Are you fucking kidding me? What are we in a fucking church or something. Hey mister, are we sitting on pews or railroad car seats? Hey you! Do you know the difference?

The guy jerks back around and gives her the evil eye.

PASSENGER

Lady. You don't have to be profane and belligerent. This is supposed to be a quiet car.

The other wig ladies jokingly heckle Wig Lady with what Passenger said.

WIG LADY

Hey Mister Holier than fucking thou. Go fuck yourself. We paid for our tickets the same as you. You've got a lot of nerve to tell us what we can do on a public train. Who the fuck do you think you are? I'll tell you. You are an asshole!!

The guy is apoplectic and wants to thrash her, but there's nothing he can do. He stands back up in a huff, grabs his computer and jacket and starts for the next car. First he turns to them.

PASSENGER

You are disgraceful, the whole bunch of you.

They go into another gear of laughter and hurl comments after him.

LADIES

What a whimp.
Tail between his legs.
Poor Baby.
And don't come back.

He turns back to them for one final volley.

PASSENGER

You shouldn't be allowed in a car
like this. They should ban you to
the BAR CAR for life. That's where
you belong.

*As he passes through to the other car Wig Lady looks around
and says to everyone in general.*

WIG LADY

Sorry everyone Didn't mean to cause
such a ruckus.

They go back to their hair and murmuring among themselves.

PETE (V.O.)

Disturb??? Are you kidding me. That
was great.

INT. PETE'S OFFICE-EVENING

*Pete is at his desk gathering his papers into his briefcase
as he is speaking to a client on his speaker phone, trying to
save a deal but anxious to get going.*

PETE

Look William, I've researched the market and seen every available decent space myself. There's no other broker in NYC that has a better read on Park to 7th between 48th and 59th than me.

Just let me show you what I've come up with before you bring someone else in this deal. Honestly, you don't need it.

Pete picks up the phone.

So William, you good for 9 AM? I'll meet you in the lobby of the Four Seasons and we'll start at the top and work down. Ok?

I have a driver all set to whisk us around. Ok William. Ok good. I'll see you then...William! Get a good night's rest. You'll need your energy.

He hangs up, grabs his briefcase and walks out of his office heading for the elevator. As he leaves he speaks to his secretary.

2. INT. SECRETARY NAMED SANDY/RECEPTION AREA WITH GLASS DOORS LEADING TO THE ELEVATOR- EVENING

PETE (CONT)

Whew Sandy, I thought I might lose William, after all that work I put in. Geez, what a guy has to go through to rent a little office space. My competition is all over him to cut them in.

Sandy says in a thick newyawkeese.

SANDY

Aaa ...don't worry about it kid.
They don't hold a candle to you.
That's my story and I'm stickin' to
it. Besides I need a good bonus
this year, so you'd better kick
some butt tomorrow, you got it?

PETE

Yea, yea. Come on Sandy. Get out of
here. You can finish those
contracts tomorrow.

SANDY

Yea, fat chance. You know what a
dope I am. I just can't leave when
I've got one of these hanging over
me. You used to be that way to.
What happened?

PETE

I told my kid I'd be home to work
on a project with him. I've got to
make the 7:14 or I'll be too late
to help. If I miss it I'll be
really pissed at myself.

SANDY

Ok, well get the heck out of here.
We need you in good spirits for
tomorrow anyway.

PETE

See ya Sandy Say a prayer about
tomorrow.

**3. Ext. Outside on 5th Ave & 56th St. Pete is looking at his
watch/ trying to get a cab.- Evening**

PETE (CONT'D)

Pete sees a cab pull up down the block to let someone out and breaks into a sprint. We fade out and back to the store described below.

4. Int. A Rite Aid Drug Store-Day

We see a guy dressed in shorts and a tank top, with a very full shopping cart chock-a-block with things for kids like coloring books, a Jacks game, whiffle ball set, etc. at the check out counter packing up bags. He puts the whiffle ball set in an athletic bag he carries over his shoulder and the rest in plastic store bags. He is in a hurry and his appearance is very unkempt. The checkout lady is obviously put off. He senses that which just adds to his sad image.

*

TANK TOP

Gee I'm sorry if I seem in a rush.
I just have to make a train back to
Bridgeport for my sister's kid's
birthday.

The check out lady answers sarcastically.

CHECK-OUT

You mean your niece or nephew?

TANK TOP

Yea. I have some of each and need
stuff for all of them. I haven't
seen them for so long, I don't
really know what to get. I hope
this stuff will be ok. Can I pay
for this with my credit card?

Still sarcastic and viewing him distastefully

CHECK-OUT
Well, of course. Identification
please.

Tank Top hands her a card

TANK TOP
Is this ok?

She looks at the card and bites her lip. She answers with a softer tone.

(CONT'D)

CHECK-OUT
Oh you're a soldier. Where were you
stationed soldier?

TANK TOP
Oh honestly, I don't meant to be
rude but you really don't want to
know. Its not a pleasant story and I
really have to get going. Can I
just sign that?

She is now chagrined about her prior attitude

CHECK-OUT
Sure, of course. Good luck young
man, and where ever you've been,
Thank you. And young man, I know
they'll love those gifts. You're a
good uncle.

TANK TOP
Thank you ma'am.

He leaves with three bags in each hand. The door closes behind him and we fade to Pete on the street

5.Ext. Pete is holding the door of a cab open for someone to get out, before jumping in- Evening.

Pete
Grand Central please.

As the cab door closes, we see the door to a brownstone somewhere in Murray Hill open.

6. Ext. Young woman coming out of a nursing home with a woman who looks like a nurse- Evening

NURSE
Look Dear, we'll do everything to keep your grandparents comfortable, but we must separate them. I hope you can see that. She just doesn't recognize him and its not safe for either of them if this happens again. Of course, if you want to bring one of them home that is an option.

YOUNG WOMAN
I just wish my mother was in a state to handle that, but right now with my little sister the way she is, that's just not in the cards. Thank you for explaining everything to me. At least I understand what's happening, though seeing them both like that is kind of sad. Not what I remember about my Grammy and Granpa if you know what I mean. I have to run now to meet my father at Grand Central. I'll explain things to him on the way home to New Canaan.

(MORE)

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)
Please call right away if there's
anything we should know.

NURSE
Of course. Off with you now.
There's a cab pulling up. Grab it
quick.

*As her taxi door closes, we're transported to the inside of a
doctors office.*

**7. Int. Inside a doctor's office where a guy with a cane
and his girlfriend stand in front of the office manager-
Evening.**

OFFICE MANAGER
So, the Doc says we need you back
for your next check up in a month.
Shall we schedule it now?

The guy with the cane is frowning with his head down.

SOLDIER.
Honestly, based on how I feel right
now I don't see the point.

GIRL FRIEND
Honey, come on. We're going to get
through this too.

He looks at her with a kind of "yea right" expression.

SOLDIER
Look, maybe I shouldn't sound
depressed, and should be grateful
that I'm alive and all that, but I
am depressed. Fuckin' depressed.
(MORE)

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

I mean what's the chance I'll ever play hoops or handball or ride my Harley ever again? Seriously? Hell, he's still talking about me maybe losing my leg. That's not happening. Honestly, this is like a nightmare. Or I should say, another nightmare.

GIRL FRIEND

Honey, the doctor said the chance of that has been way reduced.

*

SOLDIER

Yea I hear you, and I'm trying, but it really makes me feel like I'm not a man anymore and there's just not much that I can do about it. I really hate this.

Girl Friend says to the office manager.

GIRL FRIEND

Lucille, do you mind if I take my Knight in shining armour back in the examination room for a minute so I can talk to him before we go out there amongst people?

*

*

OFFICE MANAGER

Nope, feel free Honey. We don't have anyone scheduled for another half hour.

GIRL FRIEND

Thanks Lucille, Come on you big lug.

He shrugs and follows, limping along.

8. Int. A doctor's examination room- Evening

*She leads him to the table and starts to push him on to it.
He resists and they look at each other.*

SOLDIER

Ok, what's this about?

Girl Friend

Just shut up. Hmmm. Just in case
Lucille walks in

*
*

*There is a curtain that she pulls around them so they are not
visible.*

*
*

We are gonna play some doctor.

SOLDIER.

What are you talking about?

She sounds very serious.

*

GIRL FRIEND

Just sit up there, pull down that
zipper and keep your mouth shut.

*
*

SOLDIER

Oh my God, what are you doing?

*
*

He moans.

*

This is crazy

*

GIRL FRIEND

Shush you jerk or I may just stop.

*
*

SOLDIER

No, don't stop.

*
*

GIRL FRIEND

Yea, well don't you ever let me hear you run that crap about not being a man and all that bullshit ever again. You are my man. Got it? I love you and you may not really get this yet, but we're going to be together for a long, long time and we've got a lot to do in this life. Now I'm sick of your belly aching. Just shut up and don't talk back.

*
*

SOLDIER

Ok, ok. Arghhh. Oh my god

*
*

It is obvious but not visible that she is giving him a blow job. He starts moaning in a rhythm and shudders as he comes in her mouth. As he comes, she keeps sucking and sucking until he finally pulls her off of him.

*
*
*

SOLDIER

OK, ok enough. I can't take any more. STOP.

*
*
*

She appears looking through the curtain to make sure nobody's there.

*
*

GIRLFRIEND

Geez, why don't you make a little noise. They probably heard you in the street.

*
*
*
*

She pulls back the curtain as he is fixing his pants. She wipes her mouth with her hand and looks at it.

*
*

GIRL FRIEND

Wow, that's the first time I ever did that. I never thought I'd get myself to swallow someone's cum. It must be love. So how do you feel now buddy boy?

Soldier

Oh my God, I can't believe you did that. You had me so nervous being in here. Anyone could have just walked in. That was the best cum I ever had in my life. You are really wacked you know that?

*

she is still wiping her mouth and looking at him.

Tell me. How'd I get so lucky to ever find you?

She gives him a wicked look.

GIRL FRIEND

Come here Baby, give me a kiss to prove how lucky you are.

*

*

He plays partial make believe horror at the thought, partial truth

SOLDIER

Ooey, ooey. Ugh!! Mouthwash first please.

They both laugh. She goes to him and they embrace

(CONT'D)

*

(CONT'D)

*

GIRL FRIEND

Yea, you're right. I am wacked out. Wacked out about you, you big stupid idiot. So the next time you use that big throbbing thing please put it where it belongs. I haven't had it since your last leave before you were hurt.

And please don't give me any more pussy crap and bullshit about how you're psychologically down and can't do it. Understand? *

They didn't shoot you in there thank God, and it obviously still works fine. Now let's get out of here and go catch a train home. I may want some more of that tonight. *

He salutes at attention

SOLDIER

Yes Maam!

They walk out smiling. The office manager looks suprised by their new demeanor

OFFICE MANAGER

Well, I don't know what she told you, but you listen to her. You might think its taking too long to heal, but you should have seen how bad you looked the last time you were in here. Look at you now. At least you're on your feet and she isn't pushing you around like a baby in that chair.

*

In an entirely different mood now he laughs.

SOLDIER

Hey, you sure have a way to make a guy feel good. Anyway, you told me I looked good the last time. What's up with that?

OFFICE MANAGER

Yea, well I was lying. Now,
however, you look just scrumptious
to me.

GIRL FRIEND

Hey, watch it he's mine

OFFICE MANAGER

Oh Honey, you got nothin' to worry
about from me. I've got my own
problems. You can have the big
baby.

*Off. Mgr. hands her a piece of paper. She is playfully stern
with hands on her hips but a give-a-way smile.*

Here's your next appointment. Now
get your hunk out of here before I
change my mind.

GIRL FRIEND (CONT'D)

Come on Baby. Grand Central is just
a block away. Bye Lucy.

*They leave with him leaning on his cane with one arm around
her shoulder for support. The door closes behind them and we
fade to see Pete's cab stuck in traffic.*

9. Ext. Pete's cab stuck in traffic- Evening

**10. Int. Office of an independent life insurance agent-
Evening**

*A guy who is the top salesman is in his office with his head
in his hands. He's wearing an overly loud pin stripe suit
with an open collared shirt. His secretary comes in and shuts
the door.*

PIN STRIPE

You shouldn't shut the door like
that. It makes it pretty obvious.
(MORE)

*

PIN STRIPE (CONT'D)

Besides I have to get out of here and get home.

SECRETARY

Look, I'm really sorry about your son. I wish there was something I could do to help. Believe me, I wish it were me there helping you through it, sharing it with you. You know how I feel about you. I want to be the one by your side.

PIN STRIPE

Look, I've never been misleading to you. I really like you and I like being with you, but I've never implied that I was going to leave my wife and son. And now...

SECRETARY

I never said you did. I just wish...I wish it were me there helping you through it, sharing it with you. You know how I feel about you. I can't help wanting to be the one by your side.

PIN STRIPE

I understand that and under other circumstances who knows. But not now. I can't even think of that

SECRETARY

You're right. But you've told me how unhappy you are. And I care. I want to make you happy. You've told me how you just don't have the passion with her anymore. But I know you do with me. I know I make you feel good. Oh, this is just so fucked.

PIN STRIPE

Yea well. Its what I've got and I have to handle this thing with my son now. How can I even have any idea what its going to take? I can't deal with this now. I really can't.

SECRETARY

You can't. And I know you can't be worrying about my feelings right now and that's ok. Take as long as you need. I'll be here. I'll still be here to make you feel good and I won't pressure you. Here. You know how you like it when I sit on your lap and take care of you. How about right now before we leave? Look.

She lifts her skirt as she walks to him.

See. No panties. Just whip it out and let me settle right down on that big boy.

He holds up his hands to keep her away.

PIN STRIPE

No, come on. I can't do that now. You know, at this moment I can't say there ever will be another time when I will. Not with this. I have to go.

She recovers, pulling herself together, wanting to stay connected anyway she can.

SECRETARY

Ok, Ok. I understand.

She holds out her hands to him.

I mean, can't we still be special friends? I mean we work together and take the train together. Please, let's stay friends.

PIN STRIPE

Yes, of course we can be friends. We are friends. But nothing more right now. Its too much. *

SECRETARY

Ok. I get it.

*She is relieved that she didn't blow it completely.. **

Let's catch that train

PIN STRIPE

Ok, get your shit together. And open that damn door. I'm out of here in 2 minutes.

She opens the door just as someone is about to knock. It's the district manager who is their boss.

Boss

Hey what's going on here? Am I interrupting something?

PIN STRIPE (CONT'D)

No, but you might as well come in. I have to tell you something, cause I'm going to need some time.

BOSS
 What's up? Are you resigning or
 something?

Secretary leaves and the door shuts.

Evening 11. Int. Secretary at her desk packing up- *

She is drying her tears and trying to clean herself up. The two guys come walking out of salesman's office.

BOSS
 That really sucks. I mean it blows.
 Well listen. You have my full
 support.

He looks at her.

So you knew about this?

SECRETARY
 Well, I've known about the testing
 going on. Nobody ever expects it to
 happen to themselves, or someone
 they know. Are you leaving now too?
 We might as well all leave
 together.

Pin Stripe is back in joking form.

PIN STRIPE
 Come on you two. It's a good thing
 we're right on Vanderbilt and it
 only takes five minutes to get to
 the platform. Geez, who ever
 thought I'd have to commute with
 the people I work with. As if I
 don't get enough of you two every
 day.

BOSS

Just luck of the draw that we all
live in Ct.

Secretary

And I'm the lucky one to get the
honor of being escorted by two fine
gentlemen.

Pin Stripe

I'm out of here

SECRETARY

Me too.

BOSS

Me three.

*The door closes behind them and we see Pete getting out of
his cab.*

**12. Ext. Pete is still stuck in traffic. He tells the driver
to stop, pays him and heads toward Grand Central- Evening**

PETE

Here you go buddy. I think I've got
a better chance to make my train on
foot.

Pete takes off in a sprint.

13. Int. Inside Grand Central- Evening

*The 7:14 is boarding. People are streaming down the platform.
The nearest car happens to be a Bar Car which people are
entering to grab seats. We follow one in. There are two rows
of seats facing each other. The near one is Row A. The far
one is Row B.*

Description of the sequence of people arriving to find their seat.

The man we follow in is older and wearing a sport jacket. He enters, looks around the empty car, and picks a seat on the far end of side A (the far side) and sits. He appraises the situation and places the bag he's carrying on the seat next to him as if to save it for someone. He walks to the door and looks out as if searching for someone, then goes back to his seat).

A 50-ish business man in a tie and button down shirt walks in with his briefcase in one hand and two bottles of beer in the other. He sits down the row from older man, also on side A and deposits his beers in the drink holders on the pole in front of him. He takes a long drink from one of the bottles. When he sits down he nods at Older Man who is preoccupied watching for the person he expects. Button Down watches as older Man walks to the door and peers down the platform, then returns to his seat. He promptly polishes off the rest of his first bottle of beer.

A lady enters the car with two shopping bags and a satchel over her shoulder. She sits in the near seat on side B and places her satchel and one of the shopping bags on the seats to her left as if to hold those seats for two other people. She puts her other shopping bag on the floor and looks around to survey the scene. After a moment, she reaches into the bag on the floor and takes out a wine bottle which she (Wine Lady) examines closely before taking out a bottle opener and proceeding to pull the plug.

She then takes out a very nice glass which is wrapped in a hand towel. She holds the glass up to make sure its clean, rubs it here and there and pours herself a glass. She carefully places the glass on the floor while she puts the plug back in the bottle and the bottle back in her bag. Finally, she settles back and takes a sip. She holds the glass close to her and sits in a contemplative state as if considering something important.

There is a ruckus of loud voices and raucous laughter as Pin Stripe enters the car trailed by the Secretary who is followed by the Boss. The salesman is reading a headline from the NY Post as they take the three seats on the far end of Row A.

PIN STRIPE

Here's a good one, "Broken
Bridges".

(MORE)

PIN STRIPE (CONT'D)

"Even after billions of tax dollars were spent to repair the city's bridges over the past decade, state inspectors have determined that 84% of the city's largest spans remain in fair or poor condition".

Boss

How the hell do you explain the difference between fair and poor?

Pin Stripe

Wait, wait. Catch this. "Only three were rated good or very good".

BOSS

There they go again. Good and very good. What the fuck?

Secretary

You would get off on that. Just like in the office. Nit pick, nit pick. Have I told you lately just what a pain in my ass you've been?

Boss

Watch yourself young lady.

Secretary

Watch myself my butt. I've got you to watch me for me, and you sure do like to watch don't you buddy boy. Don't give me that watch yourself crap. We're not in the office now. And what's more I'll kick your ass right here on this train. Got it?

At first the spat seems serious like it may spiral out of control, but the next moment it becomes obvious that its their form of playful locker room type banter meant to shock anyone who might be paying attention. They ride the train frequently and have various levels of familiarity.

However, while the boss may wonder about it, he doesn't know the degree of the secretary and salesman's intimacy.

Boss

This might call for some serious disciplinary action, and I'm just the one to administer it.

They both break into a grin. Pin Stripe has been ignoring them as he reads.

PIN STRIPE

Shut up you morons. Listen. "The only major bridge to receive a poor rating was the Brooklyn Bridge which the inspectors insist remains safe despite the rating by state officials." Get this. They stated that, "The poor rating was only for the ramps leading to the bridge and not the bridge itself".

Secretary responds in a high piercing kind of wail.

SECRETARY

What?? So I can get killed on the ramp but should feel confident because the bridge is ok. That's some serious kind of shit. Guys...stay off the Brooklyn Bridge.

They dissolve into laughter and high fiving.

Meanwhile the others in the car are regarding them with a combination of amusement and mild repugnance.

A figure lurches in the door. It is Tank Top with all his packages. He bangs into, then bounces off the car divider as he turns into the seating area. Then his whiffle ball bat gets caught on one of the drink holder posts. He looks very disheveled and awkward and is sweating profusely. Button Down is watching him cautiously.

Older man is fixated on the door and makes a run for it to look down the platform briefly before rushing back to watch over his seats. Tank Top goes for the seat in the middle of Row B between Button Down and the seat being held by Older Man's package. He drops all his bags on the floor and looks around. He looks up and spots the rack over the seats, then starts putting his packages up there which ends up taking up the entire rack.

At that point Wine Lady's friend appears and takes one of the seats she had saved with her bags. She puts one of them in the overhead rack leaving the other bag in place saving the next seat over. The rest of the bench is filled with the salesman and friends so there is no room.

Wine Lady is checking out the couple coming in the door

WINE LADY

Now what have we here?

Its Soldier and Girlfriend heading for the near, end seats on Side B. Button Down has slid down that way to get away from Tank Top, who has been sitting there huffing and sweating. Soldier is leaning heavily on his cane and limping. He is obviously in great discomfort but when Girl tries to help him he waves her away. She shoots Business Man a look and he moves back toward Tank Top, opening up the space for the two of them.

Soldier sits on the end, with Girlfriend next to him. He leans over with effort and lays his cane on the floor, and then using both hands to help he stretches out one of his legs before finally leaning back. He looks over to Girlfriend who has been watching him with concern and smiles at her as he reaches his arm around her. She melts into him.

Wine Lady

Interesting. Pain and love. Wonder what that story is.

Meanwhile, Older Man is getting increasingly frantic. He has had to hold off several takers for the seat he is saving. He's gotten up to go to the door several times, asking Salesman to watch his seat for him. The threesome has made a game of guarding it while he's gone.

Now we hear the conductor

CONDUCTOR

Passengers, good evening. This is the 7:14 peak hour train to New Haven. This is an express train to Stamford. I repeat ladies and gentlemen. This is an express train. The first stop will be in Stamford, Ct. Please make sure you are on the right train. If this is not your train you will ride all the way to Stamford before you will be able to catch a train back to Grand Central. Doors will be closing in a moment.

Older Man hearing this is now out of his mind with concern. Passengers are streaming by looking for seats and he is fearful of leaving his seat again but straining to see the door as his eyes search for the one he is waiting for. He looks over at Salesman.

Pin Stripe spots him looking plaintively and says jokingly.

PIN STRIPE

Go, go. The posse is on the case. She just better be worth all the ahgita.

Old Man dashes for the door.

Older Man

Thank you. She certainly is.

He gets to the door as it is closing and puts himself in the way as it closes on him. A couple of guys standing in the door area grab the door and pull it open. He look down the platform, sees her, waves and shouts for her to hurry.

Older Man
 Come on Honey, hurry. Guys, thank
 you. Please my daughter is almost
 here. Its very important.

*The door starts to shut again. One of the guys puts his foot
 in the way to stop it. It opens briefly*

Conductor Announces
 Please stand away from the doors.
 For the convenience and safety of
 your fellow passengers, do not
 block the door.

Older Man
 Guys, thank you. She's got to
 make this train.

The door starts to shut again.

OLDER MAN (CONT'D)
 Oh God.

*One of the guys puts his foot in the way to stop it. She gets
 there on the outside and Older Man pulls on the door. It
 stays that way for a moment.*

Meanwhile Pete has come tearing onto the platform racing for
 the train and sees the doors close. He stops short with a
 pained look, but then spots the daughter (who will become
 known as Vodka Girl) struggling to get in and takes off again
 just in case.

*Suddenly the door opens and she bursts in with Pete right
 behind her to everyone's relief. The guys around all clap and
 cheer with good natured enjoyment of their shared victory and
 pat Older Man on the back. Pete is doubled over catching his
 breathe. He looks around.*

PETE (V.O.)

Well how do you like that, a Bar Car. I guess I'll learn what that guy meant.

Older Man is sheepish but happy, thanking them all, then leading her back to their seats. Then there's another outburst as Pin Stripe and friends celebrate their victory of saving Older Man's seats.

Meanwhile Tank Top has gone to get a beer. As he left he took one of his bags down from the rack to save his seat. He also asked Button Down if he'd like anything. Just as he leaves, Older Man comes in with Young Woman who happens to be his daughter. She looks around for a place for her bag, spots the opening in the rack that Tank Top just left and puts her bag up in that spot. Older man takes his bag off the seat which he puts on the shelf behind him and she plops down.

OLDER MAN

Honey, what can I get for you?
After that trauma, I need one myself.

VODKA GIRL

Thanks Dad. I will have a very large and very cold vodka and cranberry please. And if they don't have big, I'll just take two. Kidding of course.

OLDER MAN

No problem. Whew, am I glad you made it. I had to be on this train either way.

Older man heads for the bar.

VODKA GIRL

I know Dad. Me too.

Pete has recovered and peers in the car to see if he can find a seat. He spots the seat with Wine Lady's bag on it.

Pete says to Wine Lady.

PETE

Excuse me, could I sit here please?
May I put this up top for you?

WINE LADY

Well, I'm saving that seat for my
friend.

Pete

Oh, well I'm sorry, but gee,
there's no other seat. Actually,
the doors are closed. We're moving.

Wine Lady

Well, she might be searching the
train looking for me.

He smiles but is determined.

Pete

Well, it would not be at all
surprising since you are obviously
a faithful friend yourself. I could
use a few like you. I'll tell you
what. If your friend shows up, I
will give her this seat and stand.
But just in case she didn't make
it, I'd really like to sit here.
How about it?

Pete says very nicely.

Can I put this up there for you?

She realizes that she's being unreasonable and relents.

WINE LADY (CONT'D)

Oh all right. She should have been here by now. She said she was leaving before me. I guess its her own damn fault. My goodness this place is getting packed.

Friend

People do like their drink on the way home dear. Speaking of drink...

Friend starts to get up to go to the bar. Pete is watching this as he puts the bag up and sits down. Wine Lady stops her.

Wine Lady

No, No. Surprise. I've got us covered today. I'm sick of that Bar Car crap they call wine.

Wine Lady hands Friend the bag on the floor. Her friend takes it and checks it out.

Friend

Nice. Kendall Jackson Chardonnay, and cold. Very nice indeed.

Again we hear the conductor.

CONDUCTOR

Passengers, good evening. Welcome to your New Haven Train. This train will run express to Stamford. All local stops will be made after Stamford to New Haven.

(MORE)

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

Change in Stamford for New Canaan.
 We will be coming through the cars
 shortly to collect your tickets.
 This is a peak hour train ladies
 and gentlemen. Any non-peak tickets
 will be subject to additional
 collection. This is an express to
 Stamford.

Pin Stripe goes for beers. Secretary picks up the Post and reads.

SECRETARY

Oh my god. Listen to this. Oh! This
 is hysterical.

Before she gets a chance to start, the Conductor interrupts.

Conductor

Folks we have bar service today
 right in the middle of the train.
 We have seven cars tonight. That's
 seven cars. If you're in the back
 walk forward, If you're in the
 front walk back to the 4th car
 folks. Bar service right smack in
 the middle of this train.

BOSS

Fuckin' A we have bar service.

Boss says to Secretary.

So what's so god damn funny?

*

Secretary

Oh, you're so-o-o-o refined.

Boss

Come on, come on. Amuse me.

Secretary

Well. Headline. "Cruiser a bruiser
for Gramps".

Young Woman has been watching the antics while her father gets the drinks. He now returns and hands her drink to her while he slides his into a drink holder and swings around into his seat. He starts to ask her about her grandparents but she shushes him.

VODKA GIRL

Just a second Dad. I want to listen
to this.

Secretary continues to read.

SECRETARY

An elderly Queens man was injured yesterday when he tripped over his flip flops and flew head first into a passing police car in Chinatown". Look at this picture. He actually smashed his head into the front windshield and busted it.

Pin Stripe has returned just in time to hear the headline. Daughter has a frown on her face.

Pin Stripe

Wow. Flip flop propelled launch
disables police cruiser.

They dissolve into laughter.

Boss

Police narrowly evade deadly attack
by unknown organization using flip
flops as their weapons of choice.

(MORE)

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Young Woman is hanging and shaking her head. Her father notices and puts his arm around her.

FATHER

Honey. They're just having some fun.

Vodka Girl

There's nothing funny about it.

Back to Pin Stripe

Pin Stripe

The authorities have not yet received word from any terrorist organizations claiming responsibility for the attack.

*Hysterical laughter. Others regarding them with cross between * amusement and distaste*

Boss

Bloomberg issues warning to all citizens to keep their flip flops in the closet and wear sneakers until Commissioner Kelly can complete his investigation.

More laughter.

Focus back on Father and Young Woman. She is very upset. He tries to calm her. He can sense her angst and is concerned.

Father

Honey. This is not worth making an issue about. They helped me save your seat. I don't know what I would have done. I almost had apoplexy waiting for you. Come on.
(MORE)

FATHER (CONT'D)

Calm down.

Vodka Girl

That does not entitle them to
ridicule some old man who probably
has Alzheimer's and may have no one
to take care of him. It's a tragic
story, not a funny one.

*

*

FATHER (CONT'D)

Honey, please.

Vodka Girl

You better get me another drink.

Father

Gladly.

Father goes Off he goes to the bar. The group has stopped their laughter long enough for Pin Stripe to pick the paper back up. He also notices Father going to the bar. He says to Young Woman

Pin Stripe

Off to the bar again already?
Understandable I guess. I never saw
anyone as nervous as he was waiting
for you. I thought you were going
to be his Babe he was so uptight.
Yea, I'm sure he can use a drink
after that.

VODKA GIRL

He doesn't drink. Its for me.

He shrugs it off and turns back to the Post and in a loud voice reads.

PIN STRIPE

Oh my God. Check this out. Tragic
Madness of King George. Babbling
Boss Shocks Pal.

BOSS

Oh, I heard about this.

A number of the people in the car perk up and start to pay attention.

Pin Stripe

A new report paints a disturbing
portrait of Yankee owner George
Steinbrenner as a befuddled,
bloated old man in dreadful shape
who bears little resemblance to the
once feared Boss.

Young Woman is trying to contain herself and is rocking gently back and forth with her arms around herself. Her father gets back with her drink which he puts in the holder as he tunes into the Steinbrenner story. He moves quickly to put his arm around her.

Pin Stripe

The apparently addled 77 year old
repeatedly said "great to see ya"
to nearly every question no matter
what was being asked.

The threesome are starting back into convulsions and Daughter let's out a loud moan.

Vodka Girl

Agghhhhh. What is wrong with you
people. That is so not funny!

Now every one is paying attention.

Father
Honey, Honey. Take it easy.

Father turns to Pin Stripe.

Father
Hey, could you guys just tone it
down a little. We had a tough day.

SECRETARY
Well it probably would have been a
lot tougher if we didn't save your
frickin seat. And what's up with
you? That is so-o-o funny.

Vodka Girl
No its not funny. Its cruel.

BOSS
Come on everybody. This is relax
time. Although I gotta say that its
hard to imagine that from
Steinbrenner. And nobody more
deserving if you ask me.

Boss turns and asks Secretary.

BOSS (CONT'D)
So how's it going George?

Secretary answers in an exaggerated way.

Secretary
Good to see you.

They all crack up. Young Woman buries her head in her father's shoulder.

Boss is laughing uncontrollably and shouts out.

Boss
What's for dinner George?

Secretary
Good to see you.

More hysterics follow

Boss
How's your sex life George?

Secretary is now convulsed and can't go on, so Pin Stripe recovers and actually stands up to deliver the line in a very loud and exaggerated way.

Pin Stripe
Good to see you.

Vodka Girl now loses it and in one sweeping motion, let's out an ear piercing scream, grabs her drink from the holder and throws it in the face of Pin Stripe. There's an audible gasp from the other passengers. Pin Stripe is standing there in shock, Vodka Girl holds her hand to her mouth as she sobs and runs toward the bar. Older Man looks at Pin Stripe with his hands out as in "What can I say" and heads after his daughter.

We hear the conductor.

CONDUCTOR

Folks, we have a slight problem
here We have to cut the signals out
and it looks like we'll be holding
for a minute

Collective groans. Two people get up and head for the bar.

*

End of Introduction.

Act II

THE LAST BAR CAR

SECRETARY

Are you kidding me? That's outrageous. You should sue the Bitch. She can't do that to you.

She goes to him with a tissue she's taken from her purse and tries to wipe him off. Pin Stripe takes her by the wrists and gently pushes her away.

PIN STRIPE

No, come On. Chill out. I'm not suing anyone. That's all I need. We were the ones at fault. I should have noticed that she was upset and shut the hell up.

SECRETARY

You're too hard on yourself.

Boss

No he's not. And as far as the shutting the hell up part is concerned, if he did that it would be a first.

PIN STRIPE

Oh, now you're after me too. With a friend like you...

BOSS

Just giving credit where credit is due.

*

Button down addresses Pin Stripe.

Button Down

Excuse me young fellow. There's a hand blower in the toilet. You may be able to dry your shirt a bit in there.

Pin Stripe

Heh, now there at last is a helpful idea, unlike what I've gotten from you two. Thanks sir. I appreciate the suggestion.

Pin Stripe looks at his shirt, says to everyone and no one in particular...

Pin Stripe

I may be in there for a while.

Button Down says to Tank Top...

Button Down

I'm getting a beer. Can I get you one?

Tank Top responds with military sharpness.

TANK TOP

Yes Sir. Thank you sir.

Soldier takes note of Tank Top's response. Button Down heads for the bar. The conductor announces.

CONDUCTOR

Folks, just want to keep you updated. Our slight problem May be a bit more serious. Looks like it may be 10-15 minutes more. We sure do appreciate your cooperation and thanks so much for your patience.

(MORE)

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

Its truly a pleasure to serve you.

Moans and groans and Boss heads for the bar.

Friend

Boy, after that you'd really feel like an SOB for complaining.

Pete

That's the general idea. Pull out the rug before anyone gets the notion to bellyache to the conductors. Make them feel like crap if they do. Actually I don't really blame them for the set up. Some people can be pretty awful.

Wine Lady

Well, personally, I think that was the best show I've seen in a long time. Doesn't bother me that we're stuck. Got a great bottle of wine, my good friend with me and who knows what'll happen next?

Friend

Wow, that guy really pissed that girl off. I mean he was a creep reading that stuff so loud and obnoxious. But holy!

Wine Lady

Well, her reaction was a bit over the top, but he did deserve it, I agree.

Wine Lady turns to Pete

WINE LADY

What about you?

PETE

Who knows what goes on with people?
Personally I'm more interested in
the fact that you brought your own
wine and glasses on the bar car.
Like a BYO party. Don't they get
pissed?

WINE LADY

Well, I don't do it every day. Its
just that it's a special occasion.
And I didn't want to celebrate it
with the rat gut they serve on
here.

PETE

Special occasion? Dare I ask?

Friend interrupts Pete to ask Wine Lady...

Friend

Come on so tell me would you? I'm
dying to hear. What did your hubby
say when you told him?

She says to Pete.

Oh dear, that wasn't very nice of
me. I'm sorry to cut in, but I've
got to hear this..

WINE LADY

Well, its not such a big deal. He
did what I expected. He gave me
grief, that's what he did. He can
be such a pain in my you know
what.. He can try every scheme and
dream he wants but when it comes to
me...

*

She is contained but upset and blurts out.

He's just a creep like every other man.

She turns to indicate Pin Stripe as a prime example of creep by pointing her thumb in his direction, and finds herself looking at Pete.

Oh sorry, I didn't mean you.

She tries to lighten it up.

WINE LADY (CONT'D)

At least I don't think so. I guess that didn't sound too nice.

PETE

That's Ok, I didn't take it personally. My wife's called me a creep on more than one occasion, so for all I know...I mean as long as you're not going to throw that wine at me so I have to use the dryer next.

Wine Lady laughs.

WINE LADY

No, no. Not to worry. I wouldn't waste my good wine like that.

Pete

Getting back to what you said before, can I ask what the special occasion is?

Button Down returns with the beers.

FRIEND

She quit her job today to start her own business. That's what!

WINE LADY

Yea, my husband wasn't too happy about it, but its just time to do it.

Pete

What business are you in?

FRIEND

She's a clothing designer, and a damned good one at that.

WINE LADY

Oh well, I hope so. I've got to give it a try now or I know I never will. But its hard. So many companies in my business have gone down the tubes in the past few years that its scary. I just believe there's a place for something new and fresh and I'm going to try to be that one.

PETE

Well, that's great. I wish you the best. All I know about that business is that it has a lot to do with where you have stuff made. I mean you can't make it in the US anymore can you. You've got to have connections in Mexico or China or Viet Nam, right? Maybe I'm wrong, but I've heard that those places eat people up. I mean they have no standards or ethics and with their labor costs they've pretty much got you.

(MORE)

PETE (CONT'D)

I mean, imagine trying to go after your Chinese partner who has royally screwed you and try to get treated fairly. Good freaking luck. Sorry, I shouldn't say all that and rain on your parade, but what are you going to do about that. Or am I off base in that view?

Button Down has been sitting slumped in a morose state observing the conversation but now jumps in.

*
*

BUTTON DOWN

No, you're not off base. I'm living proof. I was just escorted out of my office where I've had my business for 23 years by the Martial because of non-payment of my debts, which happened because my Asian manufacturing partner failed to deliver the season's merchandise.

*
*

WINE LADY

Oh you poor man

*
*

BUTTON DOWN

I've used every asset I have to the hilt because they kept telling me it was on the way, but my customers started canceling orders and in the end the manufacturer was a fraud. The guy was using my money to live the life. I just heard that I wasn't the only one he screwed and he is now behind bars in some Chinese prison.

*

*
*
*
*

PETE

Couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

*
*

BUTTON DOWM

Maybe so, but meantime I'm done
with no place to turn. And to make
matters worse, I was fine before I
ever got involved with those sons
of you know what.

*
*
*
*
*

WINE LADY

What do you mean

*
*

BUTTON DOWN

I mean I had everything being made
in South Carolina and Texas and was
making perfectly decent profits.
Plus I knew what I was getting and
when. I made the China deal because
I got greedy.

*
*
*
*

FRIEND

Don't be so hard on yourself. Its
not the end of the world.

*
*
*

BUTTON DOWN

It is of my world. I got sold a
bill of goods about how much more
I'd make. How the world was going
that way and I had to get on the
stick. Now I've got that stick
right up my ass.

*
*

TANK TOP

Gee mister, I'm really sorry to
hear that. Oh god, and you just
bought me a beer. I would have
taken care of it if I'd known.

Button Down

You know, I'm sure you would and
that's nice to know, but at this
point, what the hell.

(MORE)

*

TANK TOP (CONT'D)

I'm already down the tubes. A beer won't make it any worse.

He says to Wine Lady.

What are your plans for getting your designs made?

FRIEND

Why don't you show them?

WINE LADY

Are you crazier than you look? Just shush yourself.

Pete

Show us what? Do you have an example? Come on. You can't hold out now. That's not fair. What the hell. You'll probably never see us again. What the heck's the difference?

Wine Lady to Friend.

Wine Lady

Now I am really pissed at you. You know that I'm not ready to show my designs yet.

FRIEND

Oh for Christ's sake girl, get over it. Come on you big baby. You just quit your job. You were going to show it to me. Come on. Out with it.

Button Down

Young lady. I'd really appreciate it if you'd show me your work. My life is basically over. I'm done.

(MORE)

FRIEND (CONT'D)

You're just beginning. It might
just give me a lift to see some
creativity.

*
*

Wine Lady

Oh Geez! Alright/already. For god's
sake, I'll show you.

*

*She reaches into one of her bags and pulls out an overalls
decorated with large flowers.*

So do you feel better?

Vodka Girl lets out a shriek.

Vodka Girl

Oh my god, I love them. Can I see?
Oh, I love this look. Its so
cheerful and unusual. I have never
seen a floral pattern like this.
Listen. I'm a flower person and I
can tell you, this will be a very
hot seller. Do you have other
things in that bag?

Wine Lady

Well I have photographs, but this
is the only garment I have with me.

VODKA GIRL

Oh please let me see.

BUTTON DOWN

Do you mind if I take a look as
well?

Pin Stripe emerges from the toilet and announces.

PIN STRIPE

Well, dry but stained for life. I guess it could be worse.

He sees everyone around the wine lady.

Well, what have we here? Looks like a conference. If this was an airplane they'd be in a panic with these people in the aisle.

He says to Button Down.

Hey buddy. Thanks for the idea or I'd probably be expiring from hypothermia in this air conditioning.

FRIEND

Oh poor baby.

Pinstripe looks at her and holds his hands out like, what's this? Vodka Girl still looking at pictures, turns to Pin Stripe.

Vodka Girl

Oh my god, I'm so sorry.

Secretary

You should be.

Pin Stripe is exasperated and turns to Secretary.

Pin Stripe

God, come on drop it. You women are so emotional.

Friend says sarcastically and in an exaggerated tone.

Friend

Hello.

VODKA GIRL

Honestly, I'm so mortified that I blew my cool so badly. I hope you can forgive me. I just had a really bad day. Until now that is. I just love this jumpsuit.

Secretary

I must say, it is pretty nice. So where will you have it made?

WINE LADY

Well to be honest, that's the conundrum. I've been having those conversations on the sly, but...now I actually have to figure out which way I'm going to go. The problem is, that production is not really my area of expertise So at this point, I don't have a good answer.

Friend

Don't worry Honey, you'll figure it out.

Wine Lady

Well I hope so, but then there's the funding for the whole thing. I couldn't really go around lining it up while I was still employed. I just didn't feel right about that So I've got to figure that out too.

Friend is really into her wine.

Friend
Idiot, idiot. That's what everyone
does. But no, you have to be little
honest, goody two shoes.

Secretary says to Button Down.

SECRETARY
So mister. If I heard right, you
said you were making your stuff in
Carolina and Texas or someplace
like that before you switched to
China and everything worked well.
Should she go there? By the way, I
thought you couldn't be competitive
making clothing in this country.

Everyone in the car turns to Button Down.

Button Down
Well you're right. That is the
general perception. But remember
there is the cost of shipping. And
while its true that the old textile
factory concept is a thing of the
past in this country, with the
internet and communication as it is
there's lots of people who make
things in their homes as part of
cooperatives. That's basically what
I used. It also gives you the "Made
in America" claim. I am such an
idiot for giving that up.

He says to Wine Lady.

Look. I'm done, but I'm still on
good terms with the woman Who
manages the cooperative. I'd be
glad to put you in touch with her.
(MORE)

Button Down (CONT'D)
They're honest and they deliver
when they say they will.

WINE LADY
Oh would you really? That's so nice
of you.

FRIEND
You see you boob. And you didn't
want to even show your stuff.

WINE LADY
Ok, ok . You were right.

SECRETARY
It is pretty nice of him to offer
to help after what he's been
through.

*We see that Button Down is now quietly sobbing, his head in
his hands. Tank Top puts his arm around his shoulder.*

TANK TOP
What's the matter Buddy. What can I
do? Can I get you a beer? That was
a really nice thing you did.

BUTTON DOWN
Oh God. I swear I was on this train
to drink myself into oblivion and
then I was going to get in my car,
head for the Merit and drive myself
into one of those stone bridges. I
swear I was ready to end it. Oh, I
can't believe I'm saying all this.

Friend is now very drunk.

FRIEND

Well, at least wait until you can
make the introduction.

BUTTON DOWN

Yes, yes I will.

*
*

WINE LADY

Oh what's wrong with you? That's
really awful to say to him. You are
drunk.

*
*
*

To Button Down

*

I'm so sorry. Please excuse my
friend for being so rude.

*
*

BUTTON DOWN

Nothing to apologize for. At least
I'm not totally depressed like I
was.

*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

That was still pretty bad.

*

Friend

Oh please. Do shut up. What are you
anyway?

She points to Pin Stripe.

Come on out with it, his secretary
or his girlfriend?

SECRETARY

Well that's none of your business.
But whatever I am, at least I'm not
pissed drunk.

PIN STRIPE

Wow, wow ladies. I think there's something more important going on here than being catty bitches.

He says as an aside to secretary.

You are really feeling your oats tonight aren't you.

SECRETARY

Oh go fuck yourself and the horse you rode in on.

FRIEND

Yup. Something more going on there than meets the eye. So you're not his wife are you? Girlfriend? Is that it? Or maybe wanabe girlfriend? Am I getting close?

Wine Lady shouts out to everyone in general and to her friend specifically.

WINE LADY

Hold it. You just shut up. You're the one who started all this. We were talking about my new business, This nice gentleman offered to help me. Then you go off on this tangent. What is wrong with you? He is obviously hurting, and you are oblivious in your drunken stupor. Pull yourself together. I didn't mean for you to get crocked.

She says to Button Down.

Sir, I appreciate your offer to introduce me to that woman.

(MORE)

WINE LADY (CONT'D)

But it sounds like you have
experience just where I am lacking
it. Would you consider meeting with
me, perhaps tomorrow to discuss it?
I'd like to show you my other
designs and get your advice.

Button Down pulls himself together from his sobbing.

BUTTON DOWN

Are you kidding? Do you mean it?
I'd love to. Jesus what a day.

VODKA GIRL

Hey, what about me? I want in on
this action. I may look flakey...

She looks at her father.

FATHER

She's not flakey. She just cares
about things. She's a lawyer for
heaven's sake.

VODKA GIRL

Yea, yea. And act like it
sometimes. But yes I am a lawyer
and I also have my MBA.

FATHER

That's right. Both from NYU. Her
mother is so proud of her.

VODKA GIRL

Ok Dad. Nobody cares about that.

FRIEND

I care.

WINE LADY

Actually, I care too. A lot. That's fantastic. And you'd be interested in my new business?

(CONT'D)

VODKA GIRL

Well, I mean I want to learn more about it and discuss it with my Dad.

To her father.

Dad. Can I tell her?

FATHER

Sure Honey, what the heck.

VODKA GIRL

We've just sold our family business which my Grandfather started. I've been running it for the past few years since Dad hasn't been able to because of Mom and my sister. It was a landscaping and nursery business which I just have no interest in doing anymore. So now I have to figure out where we're going to invest our money and what the hell I'm going to do in my next chapter in life. And yes, I'd love to come to that meeting.

Wine Lady says to Pete.

WINE LADY
This is some train ride.

She says to Vodka Girl

Of course. How could we have it without you? Let me give you my number and give me yours. You too Sir.

FRIEND
Hey what about me? I want in too. You know you just said I started this whole thing.

WINE LADY
Yes you did. And I love you for it. Now give me a pen.

Pete holds one out to her and she asks him.

So what do you do?

PETE
Commercial real estate.

WINE LADY
No! You don't mean like finding people office space?

PETE
Yup.

They look at each other and laugh, as Pete hands her his business card. Friend says to Secretary.

FRIEND

So this is really too interesting to just let go by the boards here. What is the story with you and your buddy here?

SECRETARY

Well you know its none of your damn nosy business. We work together. That's all.

FRIEND

Well you may work together, but I've been watching how you look at him and I'd say there's more going on than that.

Secretary stands up and starts toward Friend.

SECRETARY

Just shut your big mouth before I shut it for you.

Pin Stripe stands up and gets in her way.

PIN STRIPE

Wow now, hold on there.

He says to friend.

Hey look, its been an difficult enough day as it is. Just chill, the two of you.

SECRETARY

You can be such a limp dick asshole, you know that?

PIN STRIPE

Oh thanks. What else do you like about me?

Friend is obviously over the top drunk.

FRIEND

Plenty. That's obvious. Though I can't for the life of me figure out why.

WINE LADY

God! I can't believe the great conversation about my new business has degenerated into this.

She says to Friend.

Yea, you started the other conversation, but you also started this one. Now shut the hell up.

Wine Lady sees Pin Stripe with his head in his hands.

WINE LADY

Hey, what's wrong with him?

SECRETARY

Leave him alone.

Secretary says to Pin Stripe.

Hey, it'll be ok. You'll figure it out.

She puts her arm around him and leans down close to him.

FRIEND

See! See what I mean. More than
just co-workers if you ask me.

Secretary turns on friend and let's her have it.

SECRETARY

So what business is it of yours?
You don't know anything. Yea, I do
care about him. But he's married
with two kids, and that's just the
way it is. So just shut up. You
hear me?

Pin Stripe looks up and says to everyone and no one.

PIN STRIPE

Look, its all bullshit. You want to
know what's real...what really
matters?. I'll tell you. I just
found out that my three year old
son is autistic. That's what's real
and to tell you the truth, I'm in
shock. She's just trying to comfort
me, and there's no way that she or
anyone else can do that. I'm on my
way to be with my wife and I'll
have to comfort her. And God's
honest truth, I don't know how I'll
be able to.

Father says in a quietly intense voice.

*

FATHER

Please don't be offended. I don't
mean to stick my nose in where it
doesn't belong, but don't try!

*

*

*

PIN STRIPE

What? I'm not offended. What do you mean? *

FATHER

You can't comfort her. Nobody can comfort a parent, particularly a mother whose child is diagnosed with something like autism. Heck, they don't have a clue what to do to correct it and give that child back their life. As a parent you feel it is your holy duty to protect that child but in the case of autism there's nothing you can do. All you can really do for her is be there, listen to her pain and grieve with her. Eventually you'll move from that to resignation and coping the best you can. But right now? There'll be no comforting her. *

SECRETARY

That is a pretty fucking bleak picture. You want to slit your wrists just listening to this. How do you know anyway? *

VODKA GIRL

My older sister was diagnosed with autism when she was about four. He knows. He's been living with it for over thirty years. And back then, they didn't know much about it. It was much more rare then. People just thought their child had terrible behavior issues. Dad's been a rock. Its Mom who has really suffered.

Father is looking off as if in his own world of memory.

FATHER

Actually, she was three years and 8 months. I'll never forget the day we got the word.

VODKA GIRL

They thought I had it too. I didn't say more than a few words until I was almost three.

FATHER

I didn't think so Honey. I've told you that. I could see the difference in you and your sister. Your Mom was out of her mind about it but I knew you'd be ok, and I was right. You've been a dream daughter.

*

Wine Lady says to Friend.

WINE LADY

Oh my God, what did you start?

She says to Pete.

Could anything be more dramatic?

*

PETE

Have you got any more of that wine?

*

Pin Stripe says to Vodka Girl.

PIN STRIPE

Where's your sister now?

Father with his arm around VG, says.

FATHER

She's in a special facility. We had her home for a while but she had a turn for the worse just about the time that we got word from the nursing home that my mother-in-law's dementia was getting worse..

*
*
*

PIN STRIPE

Oh geez. Mister, I'm really sorry to hear all that.

*

He says to Vodka Girl.

*

That's where you were today, right?
Is your Grandma ok now?

VODKA GIRL

Not really. She and Grandpa were sharing a small apartment, but she doesn't recognize him anymore. She actually thought he was an intruder and attacked him. They had to separate them. They've been married for 60 years and Grandpa is pretty broken up. He doesn't understand.

*
*
*

SECRETARY

Of course he doesn't. God, how could he. Just when you think your life has problems, you hear a story like that. You guys must really be strong. You know, in a way, I envy you for all the love you have in your family. I hope I have that someday.

*

She looks at Pin Stripe and sadly shakes her head and says to Vodka Girl

*
*

(MORE)

*

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Even if it takes the kind of challenges, not that I want them, but you know what I mean? Even if it takes big challenges like you guys have lived with. So how's your Mom.

*

FATHER

Not so good.

VODKA GIRL

When she heard about Gram on top of my sister, first her daughter and now her Mother losing it, she couldn't deal. We had to put Sis back in the facility and check Mom in to. Have you heard of Silver Hills? She needed to be put on anti-depression meds which takes several days to get balanced. Its one of those places.

*

*

*

SECRETARY

Sounds expensive

*

*

FATHER

You have no idea. Thank God we can afford it. She's still there, but we're getting her in the morning.

*

*

VODKA GIRL

Dad's been an angel to her. He hasn't left her side except to come meet me, cause I've been such a wreck myself there was no telling if I'd be the next one to bite the dust.

FATHER

Honey, you've been great.

As though she didn't hear him.

VODKA GIRL

I had to come in and take care of getting my grandparents settled. But you know Dad, I'm glad I did. I think I helped Grandpa. I think it's the closest I've ever actually felt toward him. Strange, right?

FATHER

I'm sure you did help him Honey. And thank God you could handle it. I don't know how I could have.

PIN STRIPE

Mister. What do I do? I don't know where to start.

FATHER

There are support groups. Give me your card young man. I'll send you a list. There are also special schools. And there are different levels of severity of the disease. Your son might not be so bad. They also know a lot more about it now that the number of kids being diagnosed has gone up so much. There's research going on to uncover the reason it happens. There's hope for your son. We had hope in the beginning, but...

Father looks off, then recovers.

But hey, you have to just do your best, cut each other a lot of slack and cope the best you can.

Wine Lady is wiping tears from her eyes. Friend is clinging to her listening to Father. After listening to Father, Wine Lady says to Pete.

WINE LADY

What is the deal with this bar car?

*

Pete

Its pretty out there so far.

*

*

WINE LADY

What do you mean so far?

Pete shrugs.

Soldier has a shiver go through his body that catches Girl Friends attention.

*

*

GIRLFRIEND

Honey, are you ok?

*

He recovers and smiles bravely.

*

SOLDIER

Are you kidding me? I'll never be the same again. I'm still thinking about what happened in the doctor's office a little while ago.

GIRLFRIEND

Yea, you want another one right here

She starts to move her hand up his leg toward his crotch. Soldier grabs her hand laughing.

SOLDIER

Oh my God, I have a wild one here.
How about saving it up for you know
what when we get home?

GIRLFRIEND

Sounds good to me. You see what
these people have Baby? Its real. I
want that for us.

SOLDIER

Yea, well we're off to a good
start. Just look at me. But I'll
tell you. I'll take my troubles
over theirs, any day.

GIRLFRIEND

I love you, you know that?

*Soldier pulls Girlfriend closer to him. Meanwhile, Boss is
back to reading the paper.*

BOSS

Hey look. I can't take any more of
this serious shit.

SECRETARY

You know, you can truly be an
asshole.

Boss looks to Pin stripe for support.

PIN STRIPE

Can't help you on this one buddy.
Any good stories left?

SECRETARY

You're not encouraging him are you?

BOSS

Come on now. You gave me your shit
and I didn't fire you. Consider
yourself lucky.

*Secretary gives him a look and starts to answer but Pin
Stripe jumps in.*

PIN STRIPE

Not a smart answer. Come on, what
have you got?

BOSS

Oh here's one.

He tries to imitate Pin Stripe.

Where are you Jane Fonda?

Now Secretary let's him have it.

SECRETARY

What the hell are you talking
about? Don't you dare say anything
bad about Jane Fonda. I love that
girl. Did you see Klute? Did you
see Barbarella? Did you see Coming
Home? Greatest movies ever made. I
love that girl.

*

PIN STRIPE

Oh Geez. If its not one thing its
another.

*

He says to Secretary.

(MORE)

PIN STRIPE (CONT'D)
What's your problem? Nobody likes
Jane Fonda.

Still crooked Friend says to Secretary.

FRIEND
Barbarella? Honey, you've got to
get out more. Glass of wine?

BOSS
No wait. This is good. Listen up
now. "What do you get when cross
Jane Fonda with the Iraq War?"

PIN STRIPE
What? Sand in your jock strap? I
don't know. Becky does Bagdad?

SECRETARY
No you two goons. You get Betsy
Ross and the American flag. Watch
out you jerks. Don't knock my Jane.

Boss says to Pin Stripe.

BOSS
She called us goons and jerks.

They both raise their eyebrows.

SECRETARY
Tough crap honcho and jr. honcho.
It's the bar car, neutral
territory, where everyone is even
up.

BOSS

Yea well that's true but you better watch out back at the ranch. I'll be looking out for you there.

SECRETARY

Oh wow. That'll be different. Are you kidding? You can't keep your big eyes off me now.

FRIEND

Do you guys really work together?

PIN STRIPE

Yup we do. Believe it or not. So heh, what's the answer?

BOSS

Ah yes, thank you. You are all missing the point. When you cross Jane Fonda with Iraq you get, anyone?

He looks around.

You get Sean Penn! Listen to this. "Penn Meets Hugo". " Sean Penn, Hollywood's most anti- American actor flew down to Venezuela for a love fest with the world's most anti-American dictator Hugo Chavez, who heaped praise on Penn in a nationally televised speech.

He looks around again to see if anyone is listening.

BOSS (CONT'D)

Chavez praised Penn for his call to impeach President Bush and his description of Bush, Cheney and Rice as criminally obscene people". Get this part. Says Chavez,

(MORE)

BOSS (CONT'D)

"Penn is well informed about what goes on in the US despite living in Hollywood.

Suddenly Button Down gets animated.

*

BUTTON DOWN

Yea sure. Meanwhile Chavez is shutting down every newspaper and TV station that criticizes him. Penn is a traitor and an idiot.

FATHER

Oh come on. The guy's got a right to say what he thinks. This is America. We're allowed to speak against the government if we think they're wrong and thank God for that.

*

WINE LADY

Boy how easily people forget 9/11. They've done something right guys. We haven't been attacked here since. That is something of a miracle isn't it?

FRIEND

You go girl.

*

*

*

WINE LADY

Shush. That's not helpful. Seriously, who would have thought that?

*

*

*

*

BOSS

Well yea, but So who are you defending? Are you agreeing that Penn should be strung up by his nuts?

*

*

*

*

*

WINE LADY

Well I know everyone is entitled to their opinion, but basically yes. Everyone is quick to criticize but they'd be a lot more unhappy if their house was hit with a bomb, I'm quite sure of that. I think that Sean Penn is truly a disgrace and nobody should ever go to see one of his movies again. I never will I assure you.

*
*
*
*
*

BOSS

Wow, someone who agrees with me. I thought I might never see that again.

*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

Well I wouldn't get to used to it if I were you. Its likely to be a very short lived phenomenon.

*
*
*
*

FRIEND

Sean Penn. Oh he's cute. I like him.

*

WINE LADY

You are so loaded. Shush!

BOSS

Well, in my opinion that Washington crowd are a bunch of assholes and all deserve to be hung by their balls. We'll have to think of an alternative for Ms. Rice.

*
*

Soldier has been listening and now speaks out forcefully.

*

SOLDIER

Hey!!! Do you people even know?
Do you know why there are wars
going on in Afganistan and Iraq? Do
you even know?

BUTTON DOWN

Well yes, I think so. Its to keep
the battle over there. And I agree
with this gentleman, this guy Penn
is a traitor.

*
*
*

SECRETARY

You calling him a gentleman?

*
*

SOLDIER

He's not a traitor. He didn't sell
state secrets to Chavez. That would
make him a traitor. He was just
being an American and expressing
his opinion. He's allowed to do
that. That's what being an American
is all about. You may not like the
particular message he's delivering.

BUTTON DOWN

Damn right I don't.

SOLDIER

Ok, but that doesn't make the guy a
traitor. You've probably said a few
things that other people didn't
like but they couldn't throw you in
jail. How do you want it? Anyway,
that's what the war in Iraq is
about. Its what all the wars are
about.

GIRLFRIEND

Honey, what do you mean? I don't
understand.

Soldier looks at her and softens his tone.

SOLDIER

Its about preserving our freedom to live life like we live it in America. They make plenty of mistakes in the process but at the heart of it, that's what its about.

FATHER

Hey son. Well said. Say, that cane looks like the one my neighbor's son is using. He was hurt in Kabul when a bomb blew up his truck. I guess it's a miracle that he's alive. Are you a soldier?

Soldier was leaning forward animated while speaking. Now he slumps back. Girlfriend gives him a worried look a and puts her arm around him.

SOLDIER

Yea, I'm a soldier, or rather was.

GIRLFRIEND

He's more than a soldier. He's a god damned hero. Do you hear me?

SOLDIER

Come on. There is no need for that. You told me you wouldn't do that.

(CONT'D)

GIRLFRIEND

Well they should know who they're speaking to. He was shot five times. Five times saving his commanding officer.

Soldier grimaces and shudders at the memory. Girlfriend says to him.

GIRLFRIEND

Honey are you ok. I'm sorry I
couldn't help it, I'm so proud of
you and I love you so much.

Girlfriend starts weeping.

WINE LADY

Oh my god.

PETE

You ain't kidding.

FATHER

Where were you stationed son?

SOLDIER

Ramadi Sir, in Anbar Province. We
were at a road check on the
outskirts of town.

*

FATHER

What happened?

*

SOLDIER

My CO and two soldiers went to
check a truck that had just stopped
at the barricade. All of a sudden
there was gunfire from a ditch
across the road and guys jumped out
of the truck firing AK-47's. All
three were hit but my CO was hurt
bad.

He looks off for a moment to gather himself.

It took a second for the rest of us to react. Some of the guys went after the ditch. The rest of us went after the enemy from the truck and to get our soldiers who were down.

*

BOSS

Holy shit.

*

SOLDIER

I was able to drag the CO and one of the others back. Unfortunately we lost the third. We took out eight of them and captured another six, but two of my other mates were hit bad. One is still critical. The other was released with me. He's on his way home too.

WINE LADY

You're not saying that you are just now going home from the hospital are you?

(CONT'D)

*

(CONT'D)

*

GIRLFRIEND

Yes, that's what he's saying. He's been recovering for the past four months in a special rehab facility outside Philly. We had to stop by to visit a specialist in the city today, which we just came here from.

*

*He gives her a sly look recalling the DR's office incident.
She gently slaps him and they hug.*

FRIEND

Well, it looks to me like things
could be worse.

GIRLFRIEND

Yes that's right, isn't it Honey.

She gives him a poke.

Our families will be picking us up
from the station in Stamford.

SECRETARY

So are you guys married or
something.

GIRLFRIEND

Not yet.

Soldier looks at Girlfriend adoringly.

SOLDIER

Honestly, I can't wait.

WINE LADY

Oh my god, that's the most romantic
story I've ever heard.

GIRLFRIEND

That makes three of us.

*

WINE LADY
What three?

*
*

GIRLFRIEND
That would be me and the two of you
I'm looking at right now.

*
*
*

WINE LADY
You are cockeyed!

*
*

Secretary says to Pin Stripe.

SECRETARY
Geez you big lug. Give a girl a
handkerchief will ya?

PETE
Really, its unbelievable. Someone
should write this all down.
Honestly, you could never come up
with all these stories if you
tried. They even beat the ones in
the Post.

BOSS
Ok, Ok, very romantic schmantic. So
you're a big fuckin hero. Great. So
how can you defend this asshole
Sean Penn?

Girlfriend explodes out of her seat going right at Boss

*

GIRLFRIEND
Hey!! Go fuck yourself you little
fucking asshole. You're an asshole.
You hear me. An asshole!!! He was
shot in five places. He almost bled
to death.

(MORE)

GIRLFRIEND (CONT'D)

He's been in the hospital for months and they still don't know if he'll ever be able to walk right again. We didn't even know until today if he'd keep his right leg. He's a hero. What are you? You're an asshole that's what. What have you ever done that you should talk to him like that? I ought to wrap that cane around your sorry head. You ass-hole!

Secretary, attempting to lighten things up.

SECRETARY

Nice work boss.

PIN STRIPE

I'm not saying a word

Soldier has pulled himself up and hopped over to her holding on to the drink poles for support. Tank Top has gotten up to add support but isn't quite sure what to do. Girlfriend is standing there shaking, her chest heaving trying to catch her breathe. Soldier reaches for her.

SOLDIER

Honey, calm down

GIRLFRIEND

No! No, I won't. I'm sorry, no!

She says again to Boss

So what have ever done for your country? Huh? What? What?

(MORE)

GIRLFRIEND (CONT'D)

You speak to him respectfully or
I'll put my fist down your throat.
Do you hear me?

BOSS

Nothing. I haven't done a fucking
thing for my country. Ok, I was off
base. I didn't mean to set off WW
III. That guy Penn just pisses me
off.

SECRETARY

Honey, believe me, he's pissed me
off plenty of times and he's not
worth your bother.

SOLDIER.

Baby, its ok.

*He pulls her to him and she sobs in his arms. He takes her
back to their seat then says to Boss.*

Hey mister. I'm sorry. Its been a
tough road home.

Boss

I can't believe you're letting me
off the hook. She's totally right.
I am an asshole for bringing it up
and for speaking to you like that.

Secretary says to Boss.

SECRETARY

See, there **are** truly nice people.

She says to Soldier

I agree with him. She is totally right!

FRIEND

Totally!

Boss looks at Pin Stripe who holds his hands up like, don't look at me.

BOSS

Ok, like I said...guilty. I really need a drink but I've so had the shit kicked out of me that I can't even walk.

PIN STRIPE

I'll get it. Least I can do. Anyone else?

Vodka Girl raises her hand. Boss trying to get back some semblance of himself says to Pin Stripe.

BOSS

Why you chicken shit coward, You just want to get out of here . Can't take the pressure.

Then changes demeanor to grateful.

Why thank you kindly. I will take three double shots of Johnnie Walker Black with a six-pack chaser

PIN STRIPE

Right. A beer for you.

Recognizes Vodka Girl's hand in the air and says with a smile and twinkle.

And never to be left out of an offer for drinks, what may I get you Madam.

VODKA GIRL

Vodka and Cranberry please. Here's some cash.

Suddenly a chorus goes up as others decide to get in on the ordering.

SECRETARY

Hey, I'll have a Beer.

BUTTON DOWN

Beer for me too.

FATHER

Make that three

PIN STRIPE

Geez. What did I get myself into?

Button Down stands up and motions to Pin Stripe.

BUTTON DOWN

Come on young fellow. I'll give you a hand. I need a break.

They head for the bar. Friend is looking around incredulously and turns to Wine Lady.

FRIEND

Did that just happen, really
happen?

WINE LADY

I think so. Yup, it did.

*Girlfriend is calmed down and sitting quietly. Soldier turns
to Boss.*

SOLDIER

Mister. I know its hard. I've taken
a lot of grief from my family and
closest friends. People are really
upset that I enlisted to go. I get
it. Its hard to understand and I
don't take it personally. This
one's a little different. But look,
do you know who Salman Rusdie is?

*

Pin Stripe is just returning with hands full of drinks.

PIN STRIPE

That's the Iranian guy who wrote
some book and the government put
out a contract on him to blow him
away, right?

SOLDIER

Close. He's not Iranian. He's
Indian. But he's also Muslim. It
was his fourth book but it was
banned in India and much of the
Muslim world. In Iran, that crazy
Ayatollah Khomeini said that Muslims
should kill him and the publisher.
Rushdie went into hiding. The
publisher was actually almost
killed.

BOSS

At the risk of getting a contract put out on me, I know there's a point coming here.

VODKA GIRL

Are you kidding? His point is that this is America and even an asshole like Sean Penn is entitled to have his opinion, and to express it. Even if every single other person disagrees and thinks he's a jerk.

SOLDIER

Well, yea. Basically that's it. Look. Check out just about anywhere around the world. Everywhere you look you have governments telling people what their religion should be and religions telling people what their politics should be.

BUTTON DOWN

Have to be is more like it.

SOLDIER

Right.

BOSS

So whatever happened to the dead man walking, so to speak.

WINE LADY

If I remember correctly, the guy got a lot of awards for the book. I remember that it was called Satanic Verses. He had to go into hiding, was divorced, married, then divorced again. I saw something on him on I think "Sixty Minutes".

SOLDIER

All that's right except he was also married and divorced a fourth time. He's paid a helluva price for whatever fame he got out of the book. It put him on the map and then took him right back off of it.

BOSS

So did they croak the guy? And how do you know so much about this Rushdick guy anyway?

SOLDIER

Its Rushdie and as far as I know, they haven't gotten him yet. It was a big subject of conversation in Iraq. The people there wanted to know if we had heard of him and how we felt about what a lot of them considered his disrespect of their religion. You don't do that over there. Its different than here. I think he's still in hiding. The price on his head is something like \$3 million bucks.

BOSS

You're kidding. Any idea where I can find him?

SECRETARY

Yea, like you'd really have an idea of what to do with him if you did find him. Big talk no action.

BOSS

Geez, will the abuse never end?

SECRETARY

Not so long as you come out with stuff like that. I've got your number and you'll just have to deal.

BOSS

God help the lucky bastard who gets to marry you.

SECRETARY

Eat your heart out, Sweetie. You'll never know.

Father ignoring the bantering he responds to Soldier's comments.

FATHER

It is a lot different in Iran than we can imagine, as it is in many places in the world, even today. What amazes me is how those guys in Philadelphia figured out how to separate church and state here. It had virtually never been done.

I'll never know the answer to that, but it was a hell of an idea.

SOLDIER

Yea, you hear that growing up, but you don't really realize or understand it until you see how other people live under such strict intolerance.

Its scary really. And its why the guys I was with were there, including me.

SECRETARY

Yes, and every four years there's an election and we get a chance to throw out the idiot who, excuse me for expressing my opinion, who got us in this mess in the first place. Sorry, but I don't think you should have been asked to go there and come so close to being killed.

(MORE)

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Its not right. Anyway, why does it always seem like the current resident of the White House is an idiot? Hey mister soldier man. When you're not being a soldier are you a history teacher or something?

Girlfriend has been leaning on Soldier but now she sits up and announces.

GIRLFRIEND

He is a school teacher and a darn good one, and a Sunday school teacher, and soon...

She forces it out through her emotion.

He's going to be a great father too.

Soldier is in shock.

SOLDIER

What? Honey, what did you say?

GIRLFRIEND

Oh God. I was going to tell you when we got home. But it just came out. I'm so fucking emotional. God, what's the matter with me?

FRIEND

You're just pregnant Sweetheart. That's all. Just hormones. No big deal.

He's still not comprehending.

SOLDIER
She's what?

He says to her.

Are you ok?

She buries her head in his chest and sobs quietly. Secretary, Vodka Girl, and Friend all spontaneously go to her. Vodka and Secretary sit on either side of her with their arms around her. Friend squats in front of her and takes her hands.

Wine Lady turns to Pete.

WINE LADY
This is truly too much. Nobody could dream this stuff up.

PETE/NARRATOR
I'm just dying to see how it works out for them all, including you and your new business. But I'm going to get off this train in a few minutes and will never know.

Pete to Wine Lady

PETE
Its so personal and dramatic, but its also so anonymous cause we're all going our own way and this group will likely never be together again. I almost feel like we should be collecting everyone's contact information. But that's kind of crazy, right?

*
*
*
*
*
*

WINE LADY

It may be crazy, but look at them

*

*

She refers to the gaggle of girls.

I don't know. Something may come
out of this.

SOLDIER

You mean there's a baby in
there...NOW?

GIRLFRIEND

Yes! Yes! We're having a baby.

SECRETARY

You're gonna be a father Teach.
Better get used to it.

Girlfriend is now laughing through her tears.

GIRLFRIEND

Honey, its ok. I'm ok. I love you.

WINE LADY

Oh my Lord. That is so nice.

*Soldier taps Secretary on the shoulder to let him get to
Girlfriend.*

SOLDIER

Please excuse me.

She slides over to him.

Honey, you've got to stay calm from now on. Oh my God.

He feels her belly.

Oh my God. I've got a child in there. I could have missed ever seeing him..or her.

GIRLFRIEND

Don't you worry. You will see this baby. After what we've been through, there's nothing that will stop you from seeing this baby.

SOLDIER

Oh no!!

COLLECTIVE GROUP

What?

SOLDIER

We're not married. When are we due?

GIRLFRIEND

Not to worry. You think I haven't got that one figured out?

Everyone claps and whoops.

*

SECRETARY

Hey. Its not right that all this just happened and this is it? No! that can't be.

(MORE)

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

I want to see this baby. I want to go to this wedding.

*

She holds her hands up as if asking for a response. There is a general murmuring of agreement.

*

GIRLFRIEND

Of course, you're all invited. But I don't even know anyone's name. Quick. Write down your names phone numbers and email addresses and I'll put together a list and send it to everyone and also send invitations when we work out the details. The one thing I can tell you is that it will happen soon, so you won't have to wait very long to hear from us.

There is a general clamor to get business cards or borrow a pen and paper to write down info. Wine lady reaches for her pen and remarks

WINE LADY

Well so much for never being together again.

Pete reaches for his pen as well.

PETE

Unbelievable.

During the action, Pin Stripe and Button Down notice that Tank Top is hyperventilating and they go to him. Pin Stripe calls for everyone to quiet down. Pin Stripe calls out.

PIN STRIPE

Hey people. We've got a problem here.

He says to to Tank Top.

Hey buddy. Tell me what's up. What can I do for you?

Tank Top is laboring to catch his breath. He gasps in reply.

TANK TOP

Sorry. So sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt the celebration. Its really nice.

Soldier has pulled himself up and hopped over to where Tank Top is sitting.

SOLDIER

Hey soldier. How are you doing? Where are you back from?

Pin Stripe backs off to let Soldier get closer.

PIN STRIPE

He's a soldier too? How'd you know?

SOLDIER

Believe me I know. See that tattoo? That's your outfit right buddy?

Tank Top shakes his head.

Just everyone back it up a little bit. Give him some air to breathe. He's just a little overwhelmed by all the excitement.

He says to Tank Top.

Aren't you buddy?

Tank Top shakes his head'

SOLDIER CONT.

I've seen plenty of the guys in the hospital react like this. I did myself the first few months.

Tank Top is breathing more easily now.

That's it friend. Where were you stationed?

TANK TOP

Falluja.

SOLDIER

When did you get back?

TANK TOP

Six weeks ago.

Tank Top's shoulders start shaking and he is sobbing. He holds up his hands as if to say he's ok, then takes a deep breathe.

BUTTON DOWN

What happened?

TANK TOP

We were going house to house looking for weapons. One of the guys went through a booby trapped gate which exploded and sent him flying. Then all hell broke loose.

They started firing on us from what seemed like all directions.

(MORE)

TANK TOP (CONT'D)

Basically, my whole unit was wiped out except me. I'm the only one who made it out. I wasn't even hit. Its so freakin' weird. I was with those guys for seven months without one loss.

We were like a brotherhood that was protected or something. Then in one moment, wipeout. Except for me.

SOLDIER

Its not your fault. Its really not.

Tank Top goes on as if he hadn't heard Soldier.

TANK TOP

How that happened, I don't know. They just left me there and took off, and that was it. Every one of them dead but me. Like they wanted someone alive to report how they'd wiped us out. Another squad showed up and took me out. The army flew me back and they just released me. I just don't get it. Here you are, all shot up. My buddies are all gone. I want to go back but they won't let me. All my buddies. All gone. I wasn't even hit. Its like...

He looks off to some other place.

SOLDIER

I know. Believe me I know. But none of that is your fault. And you don't need to be shot or killed to prove that you're a brave soldier. I know you are.

*Tank Top looks at Soldier. They clasp hands and embrace.
Secretary jumps in.*

*
*

SECRETARY

He's right. You should not feel
like that. You're wrong to feel
that way.

*
*
*
*

TANK TOP

What did you...

*
*

SECRETARY

You should not feel like you should
have died too, or been shot like
the teacher here. For some reason
God saved you to do something, who
knows what. But you had an angel
with you that day. You have a
purpose for being here.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

TANK TOP

Like what?

*
*

SECRETARY

I don't know, but you're a sweet
guy that will make someone a great
husband and some kid a great
father.

*
*
*
*
*

TANK TOP

Oh I don't know who'd want me. I
never had much luck in that
category.

*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

Well I don't know why. You're not
bad looking. Just that haircut and
those tatoos.

*
*
*
*

TANK TOP
I know, I know. My Mom will go
nuts. She hasn't seen them yet.

*
*
*

SECRETARY
Listen. You're a catch for some
girl and don't forget it.

*
*
*

FRIEND
I agree.

*
*

TANK TOP
Do you really think so?

*
*

Secretary pauses and looks at him seriously.

*

SECRETARY
Yes I do. Listen. Where do you
live?

*
*
*

TANK TOP
I live in Stamford.

*
*

SECRETARY
Ok. So you know where the Landmark
Theater is right?

*
*
*

TANK TOP
Yea, sure.

*
*

SECRETARY
Well they're playing a re-run of
Titanic there tomorrow night at
9PM.

*
*
*
*

(MORE)

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Its my favorite movie and I was
going to go alone, since I don't
have anyone else to go with. Want
to go?

*
*
*
*

TANK TOP

Are you kidding me? You're asking
me on a date?

*
*
*

SECRETARY

Well yea, I guess so. Now don't
tell me no.

*
*
*

TANK TOP

Are you kidding? I'd love to go. I
just can't believe you asked me. I
am honored to take you to see your
favorite movie.

*
*
*
*
*

There is applause from the group.

*

SECRETARY

Ok, box office at 8:45. Don't be
late or I might really slit my
wrists.

*
*
*
*

*

TANK TOP

Don't worry. I'll be there. But let
me have your number so we can talk.
If its ok with you, I'd rather pick
you up to make sure there are no
hitches.

*
*
*
*
*
*

FRIEND

Romance blooms on Metro North. This
is better than any of those
articles.

*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

Wow and a gentleman to boot. Its definitely Ok with me. Here's my number and email address.

*
*
*
*

Boss to Tank Top.

*

BOSS

She's right. This is better than the Post articles, and you are a lucky man.

*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

Hey its just a date.

*
*

TANK TOP

Well, I am lucky and I know it

*
*

Friend jumps in.

*

FRIEND

Hey, so what's with all those bags? For that matter, how can one person even carry all those bags?

*
*

TANK TOP

Oh, I'm going to see my sister and her kids. I wasn't sure what to get them. Its been a while. I guess I over did it.

SECRETARY

See what I said? That's nice. Where are they?

*
*

TANK TOP

They live in Boston, but they're at
my Mom's house in Stamford waiting
for me. They'll be around for a few
days. Maybe you can meet Mom and
them on Saturday.

*
*
*
*
*

SECRETARY

I'd love to, but first things
first. Titanic, tomorrow night.
Pick me up on time so I'm not
disappointed, but don't get there
too early so I'll be ready.

*
*
*
*
*

BOSS

Now there's the girl we know and
love. Careful Buddy, she's tough.

*
*
*

SECRETARY

Shush you. Don't listen to him. He
knows nothing. See this guy
bossman? Watch and weep. So what is
your Mom's name?

*
*
*
*
*

TT enjoying it now.

*

TANK TOP

Lucille. The plan sounds good to
me. I will definitely be on time.

*
*
*

SOLDIER

Have you got a ride home soldier?

*

TANK TOP

Well, I was going to take a cab
from the station.

GIRLFRIEND

There's no way. You're coming with us. My Dad is picking us up in his van. We have plenty of room, bags and all.

Wine Lady nudges Pete.

*

WINE LADY

What's that you were saying about random ride, never see each other again?

*

*

*

Pete Nods.

PETE

What do I know?

*

*

BUTTON DOWN

I'm getting off in Stamford. I'll give you a hand with those bags.

PETE

Me too.

Wine Lady to Pete.

WINE LADY

Oh boy. There we go.

CONDUCTOR

Ladies and Gentlemen. In a few minutes we will be arriving in Stamford. Please be sure to gather all your belongings, including trash and newspapers and kindly deposit them in the receptacles on the platform. Thanks for riding with Metro North.

*

Button Down says to Wine Lady.

BUTTON DOWN

You know, I was very serious. I think this train ride might have done more than just save my life. Can we talk tomorrow and get together to discuss our new business?

*

*

WINE LADY

Why, I'd love nothing better. Here's my old business card but its got my cell number written on it. I'm glad I waited to print the new ones so I could get your ideas first. As a matter of fact, if you're around tomorrow, why don't we grab lunch?

BUTTON DOWN

I am so around. Great idea.

FRIEND

Hey, how about me? I'm the brains behind this you know.

WINE LADY

Yes you are. Of course you're invited too.

Button Down takes out a card and writes.

PETE (V.O.)

Now that I think about it, that guy this morning was right. Those ladies with the wigs should have been riding on a bar car.

(MORE)

PETE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What a sensation they would have caused. They'd probably be in their own hair salon business by now.

BUTTON DOWN

That's great. Here's MY old card with my cell number on it. Just leave me a message where and when to meet you.

He says to Tank Top.

Now let's grab some of those bags.

Then in general wonderment at the proceeding, he says simply.

Wow.

WINE LADY

Wow, indeed.

Father says to Pin Stripe.

(CONT'D)

FATHER

Young man. We're changing trains here for New Canaan. Look. I know you're going to have a rough time tonight with your wife. There's nothing tougher than finding out something bad about your child. But just keep in mind, and help her to do so, that its not the end of the world.

Father hands Pin Stripe a piece of paper.

(MORE)

FATHER (CONT'D)

Here's my number. You can call me.
We know all the ropes when it comes
to autism.

Father says to Vodka Girl.

Right Honey?

VODKA GIRL

Yes Dad. That much is certainly
true.

PIN STRIPE

You're kidding. You mean that even
after I was such an ass?

FATHER

Look. Forget about all that. Life's
too short. What's important is
family and taking care of our loved
ones. I've been through it. If I
can be helpful maybe that makes
what we've been through a little
more worthwhile in some way. Call
if you want to.

VODKA GIRL

Such a good father. Such a good
man.

She squeezes his arm and they head for the door.

PIN STRIPE

Thank you Sir. I'll be in touch.

Father waves as they walk away. Wine Lady jabs Pete again. He grimaces.

WINE LADY
There's another one.

Pete reacts playfully.

PETE
Ouch! Have we become that good
friends already?

Wine Lady answers slyly.

WINE LADY
Well, I am going to need to find an
office. Know anyone who can help me
out?

*They smile as he reaches for his jacket and hands her a card. **

SECRETARY
That was awesome. That's what I
want. A decent man like him. *
*

WINE LADY
You may just have found yourself
one Honey. *
*

Boss, jokingly points to himself.

BOSS
Well, They're not the only ones you
know. *
*

(CONT'D)

*

SECRETARY

Ugh! Are you kidding? You shouldn't even joke about that. Don't you get it? Go take care of your wife and kids and stop with the stupid jokes. They're not cute or funny. Enough!

*

Boss reacts defensively.

BOSS

Ok, ok. Geez.

Then seriously.

Look, you're right. Ok? You're right. I'm not happy about it.

He slumps down in his seat.

PETE (V.O.)

People on a bar car get raucous. They talk on their cell phones, they laugh out loud and yes they drink. And what's more its all ok. Nobody gives a flying hoot.

*

CONDUCTOR

This stop is Stamford. This train will be making all local stops to Bridgeport. Change here for New Canaan. Please be careful leaving the train folks. We'll be stopping here for just a few moments. Take your time getting off the train, have a good night and thanks again for riding with Metro North.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

Wine Lady says to Pete.

(CONT'D)

WINE LADY
Don't worry, I will call you to
look at space.

PETE
Promise?

WINE LADY
Are you kidding. I couldn't do
anything else after this ride. Got
my new partner, may have my
financing, got my new office. Now
all I need are a few customers.

PETE
I have a feeling that will be the
easy part.

He grabs some bags for Tank Top.

WINE LADY
Your lips to God's ear. See ya.

PETE
Sounds good to me. Catch you later.
And heh, take it ease on the hubby.
How could he have known?

FRIEND
Yea, take it easy on the hub. What?
No way.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

WINE LADY
 Good point. Thanks.

*
 *

Pin Stripe and Boss go to Tank Top, clasp hand and embrace. Same with Soldier. The group that are leaving head for the door. There are a chorus of good-by's and good luck. They leave. Just as the door starts to shut there is an uproar as someone sticks their foot between them to stop them from closing and there are shouts to OPEN THE DOOR. The doors burst open and in pours a group of rowdy young traders from the UBS trading floor heading home to Bridgeport. One of them looks in to where the others had been and announces...

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

TRADER I
 Hey there are a bunch of seats in here.

*
 *
 *

As the group boisterously enter to take the seats Wine Lady, Friend, Secretary and Boss all burst into laughter. The traders look quizzically at each other as if to say, what's up with this? Boss can't hold himself back, rubbing his hands together as he practically shouts...

*
 *
 *
 *
 *

BOSS
 Fresh blood!!!

*
 *
 *

Wine Lady trying to control her laughter pulls out her last bottle of wine and says to the newcomers.

*
 *

WINE LADY
 Glass of wine anyone?

*

They look at each other, then at her, not knowing quite what to say when one of the young women in the group responds...

*
 *
 *

TRADER II
 Kendall Jackson? Sure, why not. Thanks.

*
 *
 *

Her friends laugh about her being the party girl and the one who'd never turn down a drink and other good humored wise cracks. Secretary chimes in...

*
*
*

*

SECRETARY

I'll take one, thanks.

*
*

FRIEND

Hey, how about me?

Wine Lady smiles at her and gives her a hug as the train starts to move.

*
*

Cut to:

EXT. STAMFORD TRAIN PLATFORM OF METRO NORTH-DAY

Pete is on the platform watching the train pull out of the station. He looks up...

*

PETE (V.O.)

Wow. Thanks for the tip Buddy,
wherever you are.

THE END

