

The Train Journey

by

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INT: TRAIN - DAY

Here is a bumpy train carriage. Out of the windows is a typical, sunny city view, going by fast. A dozen or so seated COMMUTERS are scattered. Many seats are empty. Friends, BARRY (20) in trendy clothes and JAKE (20), similarly dressed sit side by side. Facing them are two male GERMANS in their 30s, chatting to each other in their native tongue. An OLD LADY stands by the FRIENDS, hanging on a pole.

BARRY

I wonder what those German guys are talking about. I'm a big Rammstein fan, so I should be able to pick a couple of words out of their conversation...

JAKE

Me too. Sounds like a plan...

BARRY and JAKE twiddle their thumbs as they watch the foreigners in silence and with wide eyes. A few awkward moments pass.

BARRY

Just keep waiting...

JAKE nods. The GERMANS seem oblivious to the two FRIENDS, then one of them turns to JAKE and comments.

GERMAN 1

Dummbkopf.

The two FRIENDS look to each other.

JAKE

I know that word!

BARRY

It means idiot, right?

JAKE

Yeah!

Happy enough, the GERMANS talk amongst themselves again as the FRIENDS put their hands on their chins and look thoughtful. After a few seconds, the same GERMAN turns to JAKE and speaks.

GERMAN 1

Dummkopf.

BARRY

I think that was directed at you, Jake...

JAKE

Na...

The train stops by a busy station. The GERMANS looks out the window.

GERMAN 1

Mull.

GERMAN 2

Ja.

BARRY and JAKE look towards each other.

BARRY

Did they just say this place is rubbish?

GERMAN 2 looks at JAKE with narrowed eyes.

GERMAN 2

Schwein.

JAKE

Don't call me a pig!

GERMAN 2 ignores the comment and looks around the train as it starts to move again.

GERMAN 2

Mull.

JAKE

Look, if you two hate this place so much, why are you here?

GERMAN 1

We're on holiday...

JAKE

Having fun?

GERMAN 1

Nein.

JAKE

We don't have to put up with this rubbish, we're moving.

JAKE and BARRY rise from their seat and move to another by the GERMAN'S sides.

JAKE

Ah, this is slightly better.

The OLD LADY takes their old place. The GERMAN'S look at her.

GERMAN 1  
Schwein.

BARRY and JAKE turn to the GERMANS.

JAKE  
Did you call that sweet old lady a pig?!

The GERMANS ignore JAKE and start chatting to each other again. The OLD LADY sings to herself and nods, rythmically.

OLD LADY  
Mein herz brennt!

The GERMAN'S eyes light up.

GERMAN 1  
Ah! A Rammstein fan!

OLD LADY  
Nein. Mull.

GERMAN 1  
Huh?

BARRY and JAKE look towards each other.

BARRY  
She doesn't like Rammstein? I don't know who's side to take, here...

JAKE  
I know, right? A very complicated situation.

The OLD LADY stares through JAKE.

OLD LADY  
Idiot!

JAKE  
Why do people keep picking on me??

BARRY pushes JAKE, lightly.

BARRY  
(to Jake)  
Idiot.

The train stops again and JAKE rises from his seat.

JAKE  
I can't take anymore, I'm outta here. London, here I come!

GERMAN 1

Mull.

The TRAIN announcer speaks through a speaker.

TRAIN ANNOUNCER

Sorry for stopping. We are experiences  
minor delays.

JAKE face-palms.

JAKE

Oh God, I've still got to hang around  
here!

GERMAN 2

Ja!

JAKE

And why didn't the old lady take a  
seat earlier? Many clearly aren't in  
use...

The OLD LADY smiles at JAKE.

OLD LADY

That's dementia for you. I can still  
speak fluent German, though.

JAKE

Go on then...

OLD LADY

Ja...

The GERMANS applaud.

JAKE

Is that it?

OLD LADY

You understood me, didn't you?

JAKE

Touche. Anyway, if I can't leave the  
train, I can do the next best thing:  
Leave the carriage. Bye!