

TUBE X

Written by

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1 INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAY

1

A busy underground train. Noticeable lack of noise: no one speaks.

A woman sits, staring ahead, caught up in her music. Above her is an advert for a dating website: 'YOUR IDEAL GIRL COULD BE SITTING BELOW THIS ADVERT...' She's oblivious to it.

Around the carriage some read newspapers, i-pads, tube maps. Most have music headphones.

As the PoV completes 180 degrees it shows sitting opposite the woman is a man in a smart business suit. Unseen by him but visible to the person opposite is a similar advert: 'YOUR IDEAL MAN COULD BE SITTING BELOW THIS ADVERT'. She smiles, unseen by him, then takes out a book and starts reading.

Moments later the man looks up from the bundle of papers he's reading, spots the sign above her, looks at her and smiles, amused. She's looking elsewhere. As he does so the train jolts and several of his papers fall from his lap to the floor. They both reach to pick them up and exchange brief smiles. Then they return to their previous states.

Unseen by the other, each looks at the advert, then at the person below. But their gazes never quite coincide.

The train nears a station and the woman rises, glancing at the man. But he's now immersed in his business papers. As the train halts and the doors open the man glances to see what station he's reached then rapidly stuffs papers into his briefcase and scuttles from the train glancing only briefly at the now-vacant seat opposite.

2 INT. STATION PLATFORM - DAY

2

Amidst the crowded platform melee the two characters are only a few bodies apart as they scuttle along the platform.. They glance around but fail to see each other, lost in a heaving mass of self-centred humanity.

3 INT. STATION ESCALATORS LEADING TO LIFT - DAY

3

The crowd surges up the escalators and the first group force their way, everyone for themselves into the first lift.

4 INT. THE LIFT - DAY

4

As the doors close, the two characters eventually realise they're now forced up close to each other. They catch each other's eye and smile, this time rather more warmly. Then they look away.

Then separately each looks at the other without quite managing it at the same time and therefore connecting.

Finally they do coincide. They slowly move in towards each other. But they do this just as the lift jolts heavily, the doors open and the occupants surge out, thrusting them apart and separating them in the melee. The moment has passed and they move in different directions towards separate Exits.

There's an audible sigh of disappointment. The camera pulls back and reveals that the PoV has been a bank of cctv camera monitors. A group of train operators has been watching their progress, willing them on. Two of the operators exchange glances, shrug and suddenly kiss each other with some passion - to the cheers of their colleagues as they're silhouetted in front of several Valentine's Day cards.

ENDS