

The Only Way Forward

By

Pete Luckhurst

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+44(0)7963568219

OVER BLACK:

SUPER: 1994

FADE IN:

1 INT. LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION - DAY

YOUNG CANDY (12) is sitting on a London Underground platform, waiting for a train to arrive. She is dressed in light blue denim jeans and a matching jacket, a purple t-shirt and various colourful beaded bracelets. She is holding a brown paper bag full of penny sweets and has a satchel by her side.

A MAN (64) is sitting nearby, dressed mostly in tweed.

STATION ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)
The train now approaching is for
Camden Town.

Young Candy and the Man stand up and board the train.

2 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - DAY

Young Candy sits down and the Man sits nearby again. They steady themselves as the train sets off on its journey.

Young Candy opens her paper bag and begins eating her sweets.

MAN
Got yourself some nice sweets
there, 'ave you?

Young Candy looks up and smiles.

YOUNG CANDY
Yep.

MAN
What you got then, a quart 'o
humbugs?

Young Candy looks at him blankly.

MAN
No? You must've had humbugs before,
ain't you?

Young Candy shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG CANDY

No, I don't think I have.

MAN

Used to love the things when I was
your age.

Young Candy nods politely and continues eating her sweets.

MAN

Course, it wasn't long before the
war started. Couple more years and
I was fighting in it an' all. Put
me age up and volunteered.

Young Candy smiles at him and looks away, still chewing.

MAN

Can't have been much older than
you. How old are you, love?

YOUNG CANDY

Twelve.

MAN

There you go, I was only fifteen. A
lot of boys did the same, put their
age up to serve the country. Lot of
'em didn't come back, either.

(beat)

You got a boyfriend then, 'ave you?

YOUNG CANDY

(laughing)

No!

MAN

No, I suppose - how old did you say
you were - thirteen? Bit too young
for that sort of thing, ain't you,
yet. Still in them days, they all
wanted to marry as soon as
possible, they did.

(beat)

Right then, here's me stop. See you
love.

YOUNG CANDY

Bye.

The Man gets off the train. As it sets off again, Young
Candy opens her satchel, takes out her personal stereo and
puts on her headphones. We hear what she is listening to:
SATURDAY NIGHT by the nineties pop singer WHIGFIELD.

(CONTINUED)

After a few moments, the train comes to a halt. Young Candy gets up and leaves.

3 INT. CANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Young Candy's walls are covered with posters. She enters the room and lies down on her bed. Next to her bed is a desk, which is cluttered with paper, colouring pens and pencils.

She reaches down, picks up a book off the floor and begins reading.

CANDY'S MOTHER (O.S)
Candice! Dinner's ready!

YOUNG CANDY
Coming!

Young Candy jumps off the bed in a hurry and leaves the room.

OVER BLACK:

SUPER: 1999

FADE IN:

4 INT. LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION - DAY

The Man is sat waiting alone on the platform seats. There is now a CCTV camera aimed at the platform.

TEEN CANDY (17) enters the platform, dressed in a black top, black skirt, fishnet nights with holes in and Doc Marten boots. She has a black bag. She looks at the Man in recognition, pausing very briefly before deciding to sit down without saying anything.

As she sits, the Man looks her up and down, taking in the way she looks.

Teen Candy takes out a book from her bag; KAFKA is in large letters on the cover. She begins reading.

STATION ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)
Please report any unattended bags
to a member of staff.
(beat)
The train now approaching is for
Camden Town.

The Man stands up and boards the train.

5 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - DAY

Teen Candy enters the train and deliberately sits several seats away from the Man. As the train heads off, she continues to read her book. The Man glances at her every few seconds.

MAN

Don't remember me, do you love?

TEEN CANDY

Sorry?

MAN

Your name's Candy, isn't it?

TEEN CANDY

Yeah.

MAN

Thought so. I used to see you going home this way quite often.

TEEN CANDY

Oh! It's you. Sorry I didn't recognise you.

MAN

Blimey, you've changed a bit.

Teen Candy smiles.

MAN

You must have left school now, haven't you?

TEEN CANDY

Yeah, I'm at college now.

MAN

Good on you. I didn't do any of that. S'pose about your age now, I'd have been off to Malaya, fighting the Chinese for the rubber. Fought alongside the Gurkhas, I did. Smart lot they were, let me tell you. They used to sneak around at night in the jungle. They'd be crawling along on their stomachs and if they ran into someone - 'cause it was dark, see - to tell if it was the enemy or not, they used to feel your shoelaces.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAN (cont'd)

If they were crossed, it was one lot, if they were laced normally, it was the other. And course, if it was the enemy, they'd take out their blade, and whoomph - take off their 'ead, just like that.

TEEN CANDY

Oh... right.

MAN

Did I ever tell you about the time- Oh bugger, here's me stop. Nice to see you again my love, glad you're keeping well.

TEEN CANDY

You too.

The Man leaves the train. Teen Candy continues to read her book and leaves the train a few moments later.

6 INT. CANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Teen Candy sits at her desk where there is now a computer and a telephone instead of clutter. She taps away at the computer keyboard. The telephone rings and she picks up the receiver.

TEEN CANDY

Hello?

(beat)

Oh hi. Yeah, I'll come out tonight.(beat)

I know! I've always wanted to see them play live.

(beat)

Okay then. I'll meet you there. See ya.

She puts the phone down and continues to tap away on the keyboard.

CANDY'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Candice, dinner's ready!

OVER BLACK;

SUPER: 2014

FADE IN:

7 INT. LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION - NIGHT

WORKING CANDY (32) waits on the platform. There are now two more CCTV cameras aimed in different directions. Working Candy is dressed in typical office clothing and is carrying a handbag and a white shopping bag. She takes out a mobile phone from her handbag and presses buttons as if she is writing a text message.

Further along the platform, OFFICE WORKER #1 is doing the same thing with his phone.

Working Candy yawns.

STATION ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O)
Please report any suspicious
behaviour to the nearest police
officer.

Working Candy and Office Worker #1 both board a train.

8 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - NIGHT

They sit down. A second man, OFFICE WORKER #2 enters in a hurry and sits. He also takes out a mobile phone from his pocket.

Working Candy looks up. She studies the Office Workers, noticing that both of them and herself are all using their mobile phones. She sighs and closes her eyes.

9 EXT. MALAY JUNGLE - NIGHT

A dark Malay jungle. Teen Candy, lit by moonlight, is dressed in a fifties-style army uniform and has shoe polish on her cheeks. A SOLDIER is in the distance, his face obscured by darkness.

MAN (V.O.)
Fought alongside the Gurkhas, I
did.. they crawled on their stomach
at night.

Teen Candy crawls along the ground, periodically getting up cautiously so as not to be seen, and ducking under branches. Eventually she meets the feet of the Soldier.

10 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - NIGHT

Working Candy continues to sit with her eyes closed.

11 EXT. MALAY JUNGLE - NIGHT

MAN

If the laces weren't right... then
whoomph...

Teen Candy feels the Soldier's laces. With widened eyes, she realises that it is an enemy. She slowly moves around behind the Soldier. She stands and carefully withdraws a Kukri knife from its scabbard, raising her arm as if she is about to slice.

FADE TO BLACK

12 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - NIGHT

Working Candy sits up straight with a jolt; she realises that she has zoned out.

She stands and leaves the train.

13 INT. WORKING CANDY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Working Candy enters her kitchen, putting her bags on the counter top. She takes out her mobile phone and fiddles with it before putting it next to the bags.

She yawns and takes out a microwave meal from the white shopping bag.

WORKING CANDY

Pierce film lid. Microwave on full
power for five minutes. Five bloody
minutes? God's sake.

OVER BLACK:

SUPER: 2045

FADE IN:

14 INT. LONDON UNDERGROUND STATION - DAY

A poster is now above the platform seats: "Report any suspicious or unlawful behaviour immediately!"

Another poster further along reads "Is Your Neighbour a Terrorist? Call this number."

A BOY (12) is sitting on the platform. He is dressed in grey. Two OFFICE WORKERS are also waiting and are also both dressed in grey. All of them are expressionless and staring straight forward.

OLD CANDY (63) enters the platform. She is wearing casual, coloured clothes.

STATION ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O)
The train now approaching is for
Camden Town.

They all board the train.

15 INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN - DAY

Old Candy sits next to the Boy.

OLD CANDY
Hello.

BOY
I don't talk to strangers.

OLD CANDY
Sensible, I suppose.

BOY
If you keep talking to me I will
report you.

OLD CANDY
You know when I was about your
age...
(beat)
Well, I don't remember much, but
when I was your age... things were
better.

The Man appears as if out of nowhere to Old Candy's left. He is dressed completely in white. Old Candy looks up.

The Man sits down next to her with a slight smile.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

'Ello my love.

OLD CANDY

What are you doing here?

MAN

You're going the wrong way.

OLD CANDY

No I'm not. I'm going to Camden Town.

MAN

Yes, but you think you're going forward. In fact you're not getting anywhere at all. Sometimes, to make progress we have to go back.

OLD CANDY

Oh, I figured that out a long time ago.

Old Candy takes out a personal stereo; it's the same one that Young Candy had.

BOY

Hey! You're not allowed music on public transport. I *will* report you.

Old Candy ignores him and puts on the headphones. We hear what she is listening to: SATURDAY NIGHT by WHIGFIELD, the song we heard at the beginning.

FADE OUT