

UNDERGROUND - NICK GEAR

SG01001-10

PAGE SAMPLE

INT CARRIAGE

In the distance, a deep rumbling sound grows louder, then a thunderous noise and shock wave strikes and rocks the train. The passengers are flung from their seats as the emergency brakes cut in. Maria desperately cradles her baby. Pieter tries to grab Lola as she falls. Aoki smashes her head against a support pole. Frank and Leroy hold on while James and Harry are flung across the floor. The train grinds to a halt then the lights go out. Darkness. Confusion. Lola screams while Maria's baby cries.

PIETER

Where are you?

LOLA

I'm here.

Frank uses his mobile phone backlight to illuminate the scene.

LOLA (CONT'D)

What's happening?

PIETER

I'm not sure.

HARRY

Jesus, did you hear that noise?

FRANK

Calm down. We're still here so there's no need to panic. Does anyone have a torch?

Maria fumbles in her bag and removes a small LED torch. She turns it on and hands it to Frank. The feeble torch offers minimal illumination. He points it at the faces of the passengers. In the corner of the carriage, Misbah is quite. Harry and James lift themselves back onto their seats. Aoki holds her head.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Anyone hurt?

AOKI

My head hurts, I hit it on this pole.

Frank looks at her injury.

FRANK
Just bruised, you'll live.

Concerned, Frank walks over to Maria.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Is your baby okay?

MARIA
She's fine.

FRANK
And you?

MARIA
A little shaken. What was that?

FRANK
A shock wave from an explosion.
Everyone else?

HARRY
We're all fine. Now what do we do?

LEROY
I say we get out of here.

JAMES
If that was an explosion, maybe we
should evacuate.

LOLA
Pieter, we have to get out.

PIETER
Calm down.

AOKI
Should wait for the emergency
services?

FRANK
It's pitch black out there, we're
more likely to injure ourselves.

HARRY
Who put you in charge?

JAMES
We should take the chance to get
out now, before another one goes
off. While there's no power. What
are we waiting for?

PIETER
We don't even know what happened.

Lola whispers to Pieter.

LOLA
I can't stay in here.

PIETER
Just relax, you will stress out the baby.

Pieter holds Lola close. Frank looks at Maria.

FRANK
And her and the baby?

MARIA
Maria, my name is Maria.

FRANK
What about Maria and her baby? Or the pregnant lady at the end?

PIETER
Her name is Lola.

FRANK
You expect them to walk back in the dark?

LEROY
In that case, why don't you stay here with them hero and we'll get help? I ain't waiting here to get blown up.

HARRY
He's right, if there's been a terrorist attack, what's to say there aren't more of those fanatics?

FRANK
We'd be dead already if there's one on here.

JAMES
How the hell do you know? I'm not prepared to take the fucking chance that you're right.

Harry, James and Leroy stand and head for the door. There is a sudden banging on the door and a light floods the carriage.

DRIVER
Can you hear me?

Harry, James, Frank and Leroy peer out into the light.

LEROY
Yeah. Who's is it?

DRIVER

I'm the driver, there's been an incident at the next station, there's no power.

LEROY

No shit sherlock, what do you mean incident?

DRIVER

Last word I got from control, a bombs gone off. Stay put, I'm heading for Moorgate station. Do not get out just in case the power comes back on. You'll end up frying yourself on the rails. Wait until I return with help.

HARRY

Hey wait!

The driver walks off, the noise of him banging on the other carriages.

LEROY

That's just fucking sweet!

HARRY

Looks like we're stuck here.

FRANK

Looks like it.

JAMES

This is just typical.

Harry, James and Leroy sit back down. Leroy puts his headphones on and listen to music. Silence in the carriage.

FADE OUT.

INT. CARRIAGE

Time passes, Frank glances at his watch (13.02). Pieter comforts Lola. Aoki leans over to Frank.

AOKI

How can you stay so calm and relaxed?

FRANK

It's all a facade, I'm like the proverbial duck, calm on top but under the water I'm paddling like mad.

Aoki smiles.

AOKI
My name is Aoki.

FRANK
Frank Rogers.

AOKI
Nice to meet you Frank Rogers, I
wish it was in better
circumstances.

FRANK
What do you do for a living when
you're not stuck in underground
trains?

AOKI
As of today, I'm not sure.

FRANK
Well, we all have days like that.
I'm meant to be visiting my son for
his birthday. I haven't seen him
since I returned from Afghanistan
last year. My ex will be mad as
usual for being late.

AOKI
I'm sure she will understand when
she finds out what's happened. Were
you in the army?

FRANK
Yes.

AOKI
You don't like talking about it, do
you?

FRANK
It's been hard readjusting.

AOKI
I bet you were a good soldier.

FRANK
From the age of 18, it was my life,
it was all that I knew, all that I
was.

AOKI
And you quit?

FRANK
I had to, I couldn't witness more
friends being mutilated and killed.
I lost too many out there.

MARIA

Excuse me, my baby is hungry, does anyone have a food or drink I could give to my baby?

PIETER

I have some juice, is that any good?

He hands her the carton.

MARIA

I think so. Thank you.

PIETER

How old is your baby?

MARIA

She's nine months. Katrina.

PIETER

Beautiful name, Lola, my girlfriend, our baby is due in eight months. We just found out this morning.

MARIA

That's great. What are you hoping for?

PIETER

I'd like a boy, Lola prefers a girl. Where is the father?

Maria is quite, silent.

PIETER (CONT'D)

I'm apologise, it was rude to ask.

MARIA

It is not your fault.

LOLA

Pieter, I feel sick.

PIETER

Excuse me.

Pieter walks back over to Lola. She is sweating.

LOLA

I feel cold.

Pieter holds her close.

PIETER

It will be alright.

Harry and James are quietly in conversation.

HARRY

I can't sit here. This is ridiculous.

James watches the taciturn Misbah.

JAMES

Hey you.

James points to Misbah. Misbah stares back.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You, Mohammed, is this one of your fucking Islamic brothers fault why we're stuck here? Another one of your radical fools, ready to die for worthless cause. If you don't like it here, go home.

Misbah is silent, he ignores them and holds his bag.

HARRY

Hey, we're talking to you.

AOKI

Leave him alone.

MISBAH

How dare you judge me! This is my country, I was born here.

LEROY

I hope the raghead's blown a leg off.

JAMES

You honestly believe that martyrdom will get you a ticket to heaven where you get to fuck virgins for eternity? It sounds perverse to me. Is that what you people like, to fuck virgins?

MISBAH

You dishonour and mock my religion? What do you know, you think you're so smart and superior, blindly indulging in your western decadence. Yet you lack morals, you are the ones who are sick.

FRANK

Hey, this isn't helping.

LEROY

No the old man is right. You people live here, in my country and you attempt to enforce you fucked up religion, what's it called, Sharia law. Ain't no one going to tell me what to do.

AOKI

Shut all, what's wrong with you. There are probably dead people, mothers, fathers, sons at the next station.

LEROY

Hey chink, stay out of this.

FRANK

You say another word.

LEROY

Hey the hero has a thing for the chink.

Leroy stares at Frank. Leroy realises he's out of his depth.

LEROY (CONT'D)

Whatever.

HARRY

As far as I remember, we live in a democracy, so he can say what he wants.

JAMES

Just who are you? What makes you think you can tell us what to do?

FRANK

I tell you who I am. I'm the man who's going to rearrange your smug, arrogant face if you don't shut up. You're upsetting me.

PIETER

Please, my girlfriend isn't well.

HARRY

How does that work? You're Polish and she's, what, Nigerian probably. That baby is going to be mixed up.

JAMES

We're going to be a minority in our own country soon.

Pieter angrily gets up and heads for Harry and James. Frank steps in his way.

FRANK

Hey calm down, they're deliberately trying provoke you. I'll deal with them.

Pieter returns to his seat. Frank walks over to Harry and James.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I've dealt with your supercilious type before, you consider yourself better than us. I'll let your bigoted comments slide for now, but you're walking a dangerous tightrope, this is your last warning. You say another ill-conceived word and you're both going to need walking sticks for the rest of your worthless lives.

Harry stands up. Frank restrains him.

HARRY

Get off me, this is assault. I'll have you arrested.

He throws Harry to his seat. He glares at James.

FRANK

Anything you'd like to say?

James is silent.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Didn't think so.

Frank returns to his seat. Maria's baby starts to cry again. Harry is agitated.

HARRY

Will you shut that bastard baby up!

Frank starts to get up, but Aoki grabs his arm. She whispers to him.

AOKI

Please don't hurt them, they need someone to blame, they don't know any better, please just sit down.

FRANK

It's no excuse.

AOKI

Please.

Frank calms down and sits. Maria's baby quietens. There is silence in the carriage.