

Apathy

*A drama thriller short*

by Wytemi

**LOGLINE:**

When Death draws a self-absorbed woman into a cryptic conversation of unsettling suicide scenarios, she must confront her apathy before a homeless man chooses suicide by train.

Philadelphia  
(208) 223-1950  
wytemi.co@gmail.com

©2021

Draft #5

**EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - FOGGY**

Outside, A HOMELESS MAN in ragged clothes stands in the gravel between two rumbling rail tracks.

Trains rush past him, blowing dirt on his face. He doesn't even blink.

The wind of the train blows his torn cap off. He notices a RAVEN and a DOVE flying above him in circles.

**EXT. METRO, VARIOUS**

- crowds hound a train schedule board, boarding trains, grabbing coffee, rushing through crowds, impatiently waiting for trains.

A bullet train rushes down the tracks several miles away.

**EXT. CITY - FOGGY**

JANE DOE(30's F); wearing expensive athleisure, is rushing through crowds toward the metro while listening to music.

**METRO**

Jane Doe stops for a break by an empty white bench.

The fog lifts slightly to reveal DAETH; a good-looking man wearing all-black clothes, an overcoat, and a black bowler.

DAETH  
(Cajun accent)  
Good day, madam.

Jane Doe is startled.

JANE DOE  
Oh...shoot. I didn't see you.

Jane Doe removes her earbuds.

Hustling crowds pass by Jane Doe and Daeth. Jane Doe squints at Daeth through the fog.

DAETH  
I'm *Daeth*. What's your name?

JANE DOE

I don't tell strangers my name.  
Especially strange men in all  
black.

Jane is attracted to Daeth's allure. She begins to twirl her hair. She bounces her gaze between her watch and Daeth.

DAETH

Awe, that's a bit hypocritical.  
Alas, if you'd like, I can be your  
John to a Jane Doe...for the time  
being.

Daeth continues to stare at the train tracks.

JANE DOE

Okay...John...

DAETH

Would you like to watch the trains  
with me?

Jane Doe sees a FAMILY walking nearby. They consist of a FATHER in designer athleisure, his WIFE who looks too pretty for him, and an infant son dressed in expensive child-wear.

Jane Doe hides her face with her hand from Daeth and whispers to the Family.

JANE DOE

(whispers)  
Weird creep alert!

The Father looks at the bench.

FATHER

I only see you, madam.

The family moves on.

JANE DOE

Why can't they see you?

DAETH

I rode the train here, and now I'm  
watching the trains pass by.

JANE DOE

What's it with the vague responses?  
Why are you watching the trains?

DAETH

Why are you rushing?

Daeth makes a gesture to Jane Doe to sit.

JANE DOE  
 (rubbing temples)  
 Why am I even talking to you?

She sits and looks around her as the fog lifts, showing more of the metro. Crowds wait frustratingly for the trains.

Daeth points at the train tracks again.

DAETH  
 Look closer...what do you see?

Jane Doe bites her lip and looks towards the trains.

### **TRAIN TRACKS**

A bullet train rushes in the distance towards the Homeless Man standing between the tracks at the Metro.

DAETH (V.O.)  
 Do you see it?

JANE DOE (V.O.)  
 Yeah, a homeless man is standing  
 between the tracks.

### **METRO BENCH**

DAETH  
 Did you already know he was there,  
 or did you only see him when I  
 pointed him out?

JANE DOE  
 He's been standing there a few days  
 now.

Daeth looks at Jane Doe. She now sees a thick black, cleanly cut beard hiding his face.

DAETH  
 Do you know what'll happen to him?  
 Do you care?

JANE DOE  
 (flustered)  
 Uh...hmm...Enlighten me?

DAETH  
Scenario 1...

BEGIN SCENARIO #1

**EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - FOGGY**

DAETH (V.O.)  
One would assume the man is smart  
enough to move out of harm's way,  
but it seems he's hyper-focused on  
a raven and a dove.

The homeless man continued to stare at the circling raven and  
dove above him. The bullet train is fast approaching.

DAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The man could wake up and realize  
his ignorance, saving himself.

The raven glides in circles above the train tracks while the  
dove flies away. The homeless man follows the dove, tripping  
onto his stomach to safety.

The bullet train then flies behind him. Hustling passersby  
don't seem to notice or care.

END SCENARIO #1

**EXT. METRO BENCH**

JANE DOE  
Why doesn't he save himself? It's  
easy. It would also save taxpayer  
dollars from having to clean up his  
blood.

Daeth looks at Jane Doe perplexed.

DAETH  
Why did the locomotive pilot derail  
it for the poor man?

He looks back at the homeless man.

DAETH (CONT'D)  
Scenario 2...

BEGIN SCENARIO #2

**EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - FOGGY**

The homeless man stands between the two vibrating tracks. The bullet train looms ahead.

The raven and the dove circle above the homeless man.

DAETH (V.O.)

It would be fair to assume that a caring passerby runs in to save his life. However, it's uncertain what event could follow.

The dove flies off to fly above a GOOD SAMARITAN. They notice the homeless man hovering his feet over the tracks.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Get out of the tracks!

The homeless man doesn't respond. He leans his foot slowly, closer to contemplating his suicidal decision.

The Good Samaritan runs into the fray, pushing past idle, disinterested crowds. The bullet train is coming close.

She jumps into the tracks, grabs the man's hand, and shoves him out of the way as the bullet train just barely misses.

**END SCENARIO #2**

**EXT. PARK - FOGGY**

Daeth turns to Jane Doe again.

DAETH

Do you think the poor man would be grateful...or angry for being saved by a total stranger?

JANE DOE

Why would the man be angry for someone saving his life?

DAETH

Why doesn't the train stop for this poor man? Why does he stand before it...embracing it?

JANE DOE

Trains can't stop! It's not the fault of the train!

Daeth bellows a deep laugh.

DAETH  
 Would you be willing to derail the  
 train for the life of one man?

Jane Doe looks at the homeless man, unsure of what to say.

DAETH (CONT'D)  
 Scenario 3...

**BEGIN SCENARIO #3**

**EXT. TRAIN TRACKS - FOGGY**

The homeless man stands between the vibrating tracks. The bullet train looms distant and oncoming.

DAETH (V.O.)  
 Considering all options...

The dove and the raven circle above the homeless man. The dove flies off, but the homeless man doesn't follow it.

DAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 ...it's entirely possible...

The raven continues to hover in circles above the homeless man. He hovers his foot over the railing. The bullet train closes in fast.

DAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 ...that this poor, wavering man...

The bullet train speeds closer.

DAETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 ...chooses to be mercilessly killed  
 by the train.

The homeless man is mauled by the train. Blood flies everywhere, and no one seems to care or notice.

**END SCENARIO #3**

**METRO BENCH**

Daeth bellows a harsh laugh; it deeply vibrates through Jane Doe's chest. Her heart beats fast and anxiously.

JANE DOE  
 Why doesn't anyone go and save the  
 man?! Everyone's ignoring him!

Daeth laughs hysterically at her question.

JANE DOE (CONT'D)  
 You're laughing at a life about to  
 be lost! Who even are you?!

DEATH  
 Cultures change and shift, but I  
 have no name to call mine.

He leans in close to Jane Doe with a wide grin.

DAETH  
 I am Daeth...Death itself.

She can finally see his cold, grey eyes. She's terrified.

DAETH (CONT'D)  
 This entire time talking to me, why  
 haven't you done anything about it?

Jane Doe jumps to her feet while Daeth laughs. As she moves  
 away from the bench, the fog thickens again.

Daeth's bellowing laughter reverberates across the metro. The  
 fog shrouds everything as she runs towards the trains.

#### **METRO BENCH - FOGGY**

Daeth smiles widely through the thick fog. He motions a snap.

#### **DENSE FOG**

The sound of Death's snapping fingers matches with the sound  
 of a bullet train and the crunch of human flesh.

#### **TRAIN TRACKS**

The fog lifts a bit to reveal the raven flying above the  
 corpse of Jane Doe.

The dove hovers in a circle above the Homeless man, who lies  
 on his stomach adjacent to the tracks. He sits up and looks  
 behind confused.

He looks above at the dove. It perches on the homeless man's  
 shoulder.

#### **THE END**