

Metro Problems

*(Lights up on a subway car, there are 4 strangers waiting for their stop (two of them know each other, but the audience doesn't know it and they don't know that the other is in the car). All of a sudden the car stops and they are trapped; a metro strike has broken out. **Jacob(American)** looks around questioning if something is truly wrong or not and silently freaking out, **James(British)** keeps playing on his phone with headphones in, **Rebecca(American)** is listening to music in her headphones but begins to look around when the car stops, **Vittorio(Italian)** is sleeping with headphones in, and **Giulia(Italian)** is staring at JACOB while on her phone.*

JACOB: What's going on? Why is the subway stopped? *He looks out the window* We aren't at my stop yet. *Looks around at everyone* Well no one seems to be phased by the fact this subway car just stopped.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: Fix the subway? Why does the car need to fixed?

REBECCA: *takes out one headphone* Is there something wrong with the metro? I didn't hear the announcement.

JACOB: I don't know what's going on with the car, just that the announcement said that they are "working as hard as they can to fix it." *Looks out the window* All I know is the metro is not moving, and we are stuck between stops right now.

REBECCA: Hopefully we will be moving soon.

JACOB notices that GIULIA is staring then crosses to her side of the car

JACOB: Is something wrong with the subway car?

GIULIA: The metro car should be fine, but-

JACOB: Then why isn't this subway moving?

GIULIA: I think it's a strike.

REBECCA: Ohh that makes sense.

JACOB: How does that make sense?

REBECCA: Well for one, at east there is nothing seriously wrong with the car.

JACOB: *back to GIULIA* What kind of strike is this?

GIULIA: A metro strike. They happen here in Milano all the time. The metro drivers stop driving the cars at a scheduled time. Itz real annoying, but itz no big deal, we should be moving soon.

REBECCA: I think I read somewhere that the strike was supposed to happen later today though.

GIULIA: I have no idea what time it was supposed to start.

REBECCA: Hopefully it's a short one. I read that once all the metros were completely closed, and now one could even swipe their cards to get into the underground.

JACOB: *concerned* The whole subway was just closed?

GIULIA: *nods* It was annoying they were closed for almost two hours.

JACOB: *growing in concern* Almost two hours?

GIULIA: Yes, two hours.

JACOB and REBECCA exchange glances, JACOB is clearly getting anxious

JACOB: Um I don't want to freak anyone out, but what if the whole subway system *is* closed and there is no way for us to get in or out?

GIULIA: *sighs* I don't think that will happen.

REBECCA: Hopefully. It would be awful to be stuck down here for 2 hours.

GIULIA nods in agreement then looks back at her phone checking the time, VITTORIO let's out a quiet snore, JAMES continues intensely typing on his phone

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: *(to the announcement)* You remain calm. *Walks over to REBECCA* So explain this to me; these “strikes” are scheduled? How often do they happen?

REBECCA: *shrugs* I guess often enough to make it part of everyday life. Everyone has told me that it’s really not that big of a deal. It just gets annoying sometimes when you have places to be.

JACOB: I don’t know this seems like sort of a big deal. *Beat* This is so bizarre. Milan is a strange place.

REBECCA: I guess it is sort of bizarre, but this is just part of living here in Milan. I mean strikes happen all over the world, especially when workers feel they are being underpaid. *Beat* But like she said this car should be up and running in no time.

JACOB: Still I think Milan is a strange place to be. I hope we get out of here soon.

REBECCA: *gives a soft smile* Sounds like you haven’t given the city a chance to put you under her spell.

JACOB: Oh I’d say she has put more of a curse on me. I have had nothing but bad luck since coming here. *To himself* I shouldn’t even be here right now.

REBECCA walks to a nearby seat and starts to put in her other headphone when—

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

GIULIA makes an audible noise suggesting that she is annoyed, JACOB gives a slight groan as well getting more anxious, REBECCA checks the time and tries to see how exactly VITTORIO is still asleep. JAMES notices they have been stopped for a while, then takes out his earphones and turns to JACOB

JAMES: Sorry, what exactly is going on? We’ve been stopped for a while.

GIULIA: It’s just a metro strike.

JAMES nods understanding, and clearly a little annoyed

JACOB: *slightly freaked* Oh yeah! You know there's *just* a strike going on. So the subway car is stopped, and we may never be getting out of here for another 2 hours. Just a casual Wednesday morning in Milan!

JAMES: Shit two hours really? No, I have somewhere to be.

GIULIA: We won't be stuck in here for two hours! *Motioning to JACOB* This guy is just overreacting.

JAMES: Well when do you suppose they will have it up and running again? I have somewhere to be.

GIULIA: I have no idea.

JACOB: Probably two hours!

REBECCA: Don't listen to him. It shouldn't take more than 15/20 minutes. I've heard these strikes typically don't last that long.

JAMES: That's good to hear at least. I really have somewhere to be, so let's hope they pick it back up soon.

JACOB: Is no one phased by the fact that there is a *strike* happening right now? I mean come on! That guy is sleeping!

GIULIA: Maybe you should try to take a nap too. Make this whole experience less painful for all of us.

REBECCA: Listen, um, what's your name?

JACOB: Jacob.

REBECCA: Listen Jacob, strikes happen all the time here in Milan. Plus, you heard the announcement they will have this metro up and running in no time! Don't worry about it.

JACOB: You all keep saying that, but it doesn't make me feel any better.

JAMES: *Looks at his watch* Hopefully this will be over soon.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

REBECCA goes back to listening music, and there is a physical shift between all the characters on stage

JACOB: *to the announcement* It's getting harder and harder to remain calm! Hurry up and fix whatever is broken, so we can get the hell out of here. *Beat* I don't think this is just a strike.

There is definitely more going on here... I mean just listen to the announcement.

JAMES: I seriously doubt there is anything to worry about. The announcement just said they are trying to fix the metro.

JACOB: Exactly! If this was *just* a strike, then there would be nothing to fix!

GIULIA: Even if there was something to fix, they would fix it! We won't be stuck down here forever, so just lay down and try to take a nap.

JACOB: Take a nap? Who could possibly take a nap right now?!

GIULIA motions to VITTORIO who is still fast asleep

JAMES: Jesus, how is he still asleep?

JACOB: Is he even breathing?

They all get quiet and focus on VITTORIO who is absolutely still

REBECCA: Someone has to check if he is breathing. I vote Jacob.

JACOB: What?! Why me?

REBECCA: Because you are the concerned citizen, and I'm afraid of dead bodies.

JAMES: Woah woah! We don't know if he is actually dead or not. There is no need to jump to any conclusions.

GIULIA walks over to VITTORIO and pokes him, but before she can touch him suddenly—

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

Everyone jumps at the sound of the announcement, then they get quiet as GIULIA goes to poke VITTORIO. When she pokes him, and suddenly VITTORIO shifts his body but remains a sleep, maybe even sniffs a bit. Everyone is startled, then relieved that he is not dead. Everyone shifts into new positions

JACOB: Okay! I am going crazy in here! What the hell is taking so long?!

REBECCA: I'm starting to think there really is something wrong with the car. I mean why else would it be taking this long to get this metro moving again?

JACOB sits down next to Rebecca

JACOB: So you're starting to think that we have something to worry about?

REBECCA: I mean, the longer we're stuck in here the more I start to think there is something wrong...but that could just be my imagination.

JAMES: It is your imagination. The only thing that is going on here is the fact that all of us are missing important meetings! I mean shit this was one of the most important meetings of my life, and now I am missing it! Damn metro!

JACOB: We may never be getting out of here, and you're worried about some stupid meeting? Get your priorities straight man!

JAMES: Listen mate, that "stupid" meeting was going to take me from the bottom to the top in my business. So forgive me, if I get a little worked up about it. I mean you're the one acting like a fool about this whole situation!

JACOB: I seem to be the only one actually concerned about our safety!

JAMES: You're only concerned about your safety! You don't care about anyone else in this damn metro—

JACOB: Oh and you do?

JAMES: I never said I did.

GIULIA: *getting in the middle of them* Stop! Stop both of you!

REBECCA: Arguing like this is not helping! Now, count to 10 and turn down the level of testosterone in here Jesus.

Everyone shifts again, and for a moment goes back to listening to music. Jacob walks over to
REBECCA

JACOB: Sorry about that. I don't know what's gotten into me. I'm just really anxious about this whole situation. I mean this is my first time out of the country, and here I am stuck in this damn subway with random strangers and no way of communicating with anyone back home. I'm just a little freaked right now.

REBECCA: *Taking out her headphones* Sorry what?

JACOB: *beat* Never mind.

REBECCA: Hey this is the first time I have encountered a metro strike since moving here and I'm a little spooked too. But there is no point in working yourself up. Everyone here seems to think we're fine--

JACOB: But how do they know we're fine? *Working himself up again* They could be lying to us.....*(leaning in)* they could be part of the strike!

REBECCA: Now you're just being ridiculous. They are not a part of the strike, and even if there is something wrong why would they be so calm? I mean shit Jacob, that guy is fast asleep.

Gestures to Vittorio

JACOB: *takes a deep breath* You're right...I'm just over reacting that's all.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

During this announcement, there is a physical shift between all the passengers who are awake

JACOB: *getting anxious again* Damn, they are taking their sweet time, aren't they?

JAMES: They are Italians of course they are. *Checking his watch again* And I am missing my meeting because of them.

JACOB: What time is it?

JAMES: Almost 10

JACOB: Shit! I'm missing my train! Oh shit this is bad this is very very bad! I gotta get out of here!

JAMES: Calm down you can always catch the next train.

JACOB: No! You don't understand! That train was my ride to the airport! I was going home today! Now on top of being stuck down here I'm gunna miss my flight home!

He starts banging on the doors of the metro

JACOB: HELLO?! ANYONE OUT THERE?! I NEED TO GET OFF THIS METRO NOW!

GIULIA: I don't think anyone is out there!

JACOB: I don't care! I'm going to keep banging until someone comes to help us! I don't want to be stuck here anymore!!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: *to the announcement* You're not helping!

There is another physical shift, everyone is getting slightly more agitated, and VITTORIO starts to wake up and gives a concerned look to JACOB who is having a complete mental breakdown

REBECCA: *to GIULIA* Yah I am starting to think this is more serious than they are playing it off as. I don't think I can be in here much longer—

Before GIULIA can respond VITTORIO cuts in

VITTORIO: Em excuse me?

REBECCA: Hm?

VITTORIO: *noticing who REBECCA is* Ugh...em *pointing to JACOB who is now curled up in a ball on the floor* what's going on?

REBECCA: *taken aback by who she is looking at* Ugh..oh there is a strike happening and he's freaking out a bit. It's his first time here in Milan.

VITTORIO: Ah okay makes sense. *Beat* I didn't know the strike was happening this early. I would have walked to uni.

REBECCA: Yah, it sucks.

JACOB: Oh this more than sucks! We are stuck in this subway car, and we're all probably going to die here!

GIULIA: We are not going to die! Get up and stop acting like a whiny baby! Strikes suck but they are a part of the Milan way of life—

JACOB: Well I do not appreciate this "way of life." I'd like to go back to the normal way of life right about now. I'm not even supposed to be here! I'm supposed to be going home!

JAMES: Come on mate. We've all got places to be right now, but this isn't a big deal it is just annoying.

JACOB: It's more than annoying "mate." This is turning into life or death.

VITTORIO: *to REBECCA* Well he certainly has a flare for the dramatics.

REBECCA chuckles and JACOB turns to them

JACOB: This is not funny Rebecca!

VITTORIO: *chuckling* Oh I think it is man.

REBECCA: *starting to laugh* I mean this situation still sucks, but you put on quite a show Jacob.

Everyone except JACOB begins to laugh

JACOB: This is not funny guys!! This is serious! We could end up being stuck down here forever!

This makes them laugh harder

JACOB: No one has come down to help us yet, and I don't think they ever will!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

Everyone erupts in laughter, after a beat JACOB joins in laughing at this situation. After a bit of this they start to calm down, and things get quiet they all realize they are going insane

GIULIA: We are going to be fine.

VITTORIO: Yeah the metro should be up and running soon.

REBECCA: Then we can get the hell out here.

JAMES: It shouldn't be more than a few minutes now.

JACOB: We're going to end up living here.

They all give JACOB a look

GIULIA: Just sit down and listen to your music. Everything will be fine.

There is a bang, the metro shakes, some of the lights go off, and there is another everyone falls over

JACOB: We are not fine! We are not fine at all! What was that bang?!

GIULIA: Non lo so! I don't know!

VITTORIO: It could have been the engine?

JAMES: Or maybe another metro car hit us?

JACOB: Or maybe it was an attack!

JAMES and GIULIA exchange looks

REBECCA: Is everyone okay?

VITTORIO: No I'm bleeding.

JACOB: What?! Bleeding?! *To himself* How is this happening right now? *Back to the group* Is anyone here a doctor? *Beat* Too bad Jack Shepard isn't here.

REBECCA: I'm sorry, did you just make a Lost reference?

GIULIA: *to JAMES* What is he saying? This guy is crazy.

JACOB: Yes I did okay?! I'm nervous and Jack Shepard makes me feel better.

JAMES: *to VITTORIO* Where are you cut?

VITTORIO: My arm. I think it snagged on something.

JACOB walks away to the front of the car as GIULIA and JAMES tries to help VITTORIO into a seat

VITTORIO: This cut isn't that bad really.

REBECCA: *hits him on the shoulder* Stop acting like a tough guy. There is a lot of blood, and we have nothing to wrap your arm.

JAMES: I think I might have something to wrap your arm in my shoulder bag.

He crosses to where his over the shoulder bag is

GIULIA: We need to clean it. I'll check my bag for something to clean your wound with.

VITTORIO: *as she is walking away* Aspetta, sto bene!

REBECCA to VITTORIO

REBECCA: Are you sure you're okay? You don't have to put on a tough guy act for me.

VITTORIO: I'm not acting like a "tough guy." I'm fine Becca really.

She puts her hand on his shoulder

REBECCA: Okay, whatever you say. Hopefully we'll get out of here soon.

JACOB cuts into their conversation

JACOB: Listen, I don't want to worry you, but I hope you got your tetanus shot. Otherwise it will be serious. I mean cuts like this should be taken seriously other—

VITTORIO: It's okay man, I'll be fine. I need something to cover this with though.

JAMES comes back to the conversation carrying a navy-blue scarf.

JAMES: I think this'll work.

Handing him the scarf

VITTORIO: It doesn't really go with my outfit.

Confusion

VITTORIO: *chuckles* A joke, I was trying to make a joke. *Referencing to the scarf* Thanks.

JAMES: Ah no problem.

REBECCA: *chuckles* That was a terrible joke.

VITTORIO starts to wrap the scarf around his arm best he can, REBECCA sees he is struggling and helps him wrap the scarf around his arm

JACOB begins to pace again

JACOB: Great this is just great. We are still trapped in here, and now one of us is injured, what could possibly happen next?

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: *yelling at the announcer* Clearly you are not doing your job! We are stuck in this broken-down subway car, and it doesn't look like we are going to get out of here anytime soon.

Ugh this is ridiculous! *Looks around at everyone* Seriously, no one knows what's going on?

GIULIA: Yes! None of us know what is going on. Like I told you before this is just a normal metro str—

JACOB: So, that bang is part of a “normal” subway strike?

GIULIA: I don't know what that was. It could have been another metro car hitting us. *Beat* I don't think we are in danger.

JACOB: That bang could have been anything! And you know what that means? *Beat* We're royally fucked guys.

JAMES: You are overacting.

JACOB: Am I? Am I overreacting...um

JAMES: James.

JACOB: Am I overreacting James?

JAMES: Yes, you are! They just need more time to fix the metro.

REBECCA: Yeah, and that bang could have been a mechanical malfunction—

JACOB: Oh yeah that makes me feel loads better! A “mechanical malfunction” just casually broke down the entire subway system in all of Milan. *To GIULIA* Just a “normal” metro strike in an average day in Milano. How dense are you people?!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

There is another physical shift, and there is a sense of a collective eye roll from everyone

REBECCA: It looks like we are going to be here longer than 30 minutes.

JAMES: *Looking at his watch* Fuckers.

Another light goes out leaving the whole stage in darkness

Everyone turns on their flashlights from their phones, and there has been yet another physical shift

JACOB: You guys still think I'm overreacting?

There is a collective "yes!" from everyone as they all try to get situated

VITTORIO: We just need to get the power back on somehow. Does anyone see a power box of some sort?

JACOB: I can't see anything.

GIULIA: Then use your phone's flashlight.

REBECCA: Even androids have them.

They all search throughout the metro car for a bit

JACOB: Guys, if we don't find a circuit box how are we going to turn the lights back on?

REBECCA: It can't be a good sign if the power went out in the whole metro.

Looking through the door connecting the metro cars

JACOB: Are there even other people on this metro?

REBECCA: I think I found some sort of circuit breaker here, but the writing is all in Italian.

VITTORIO: Let me see.

He makes his way over to where REBECCA is, while GIULIA crosses to where JACOB is and shines her light straight onto his face

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

GIULIA: Is this your first time in Milan?

JACOB: Um...yeah?

GIULIA: This doesn't happen all time here.

JACOB: I find that hard to believe. You keep acting like this happens every day.

GIULIA: To be fair metro strikes do happen a lot.

JAMES: Yeah, but not like this right?

GIULIA: This has never happened to me no. *to JACOB* But you should stop acting like this...you Americans so scared of the world laid out in front of you.

JACOB: I'm not scared of the world. I am just practical when it comes to emergency situations.

JAMES: That's one word for it.

GIULIA: So it is practical to break down when the metro does too?

JACOB: *kinda laughing* Hey, I'd this is a special kind of situation.

GIULIA: This could have been any number of things, but you are so quick to assume the worst.

JACOB: Well at least this way you are prepared for anything.

GIUALIA: How do you fully enjoy life if you are constantly preparing for the worst?

Suddenly most of the lights turn back on

VITTORIO: Ah yes!

REBECCA: That feels soo much better!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

REBECCA: I spoke too soon.

JAMES: Alright, I'm starting to agree with Jacob. I don't think we're getting out of here anytime soon, and I've got places to be.

GIULIA: If we could get out of the car, then we could walk to the next stop and get out.

REBECCA: Isn't that dangerous? What happens if another metro car comes racing toward us?

GIULIA: If this metro is stopped then all the metros on this line are stopped.

JACOB: How would we even get out of here? All the doors are automatic, and I don't think they are going to open anytime soon. I mean our good friends are "working as hard as they can to fix the metro."

VITTORIO: There could be a way to manually open these doors.

JACOB: *sarcastic* Oh yeah sure just manually open automatic doors. So simple why didn't we think of that sooner?

JAMES: No no he's right that could work.

VITTORIO: I don't think I can do it myself, but I think if two of us pull on this
he goes to touch the handle of one of the door and suddenly an alarm starts going off

VITTORIO: What the hell?! GIULIA: Che diavolo?! JAMES: Turn it off!

REBECCA: *to VITTORIO* What did you do?

JACOB: Isn't it obvious?! He set off the emergency exit alarm!

REBECCA: What?! I can't hear you!

JACOB: HE SET OFF THE ALARM!

REBECCA: Yah! No shit Sherlock!

GIULIA: I can't hear anything! *To VITTORIO* What did you do?!

VITTORIO: Nothing! I was trying to get us out of here.

JAMES: How do we turn this shit off?! REBECCA: Is this only happening in our car?!

VITTORIO: I don't know how to turn it off! There are no switches!

JAMES: There must be a way to turn it off!

REBECCA: We can't be stuck in here, AND have this alarm going off.

Out of nowhere JACOB lets out a war like yell, and charges at the circuit box with a fire extinguisher everyone gets the fuck out of his way. As he hits the box the alarm slowly dies out,

and so do the lights except for one. Everyone just stands in shock as JACOB sets the extinguisher down and wipes off his forehead and looks back everyone

VITTORIO: *with a sort of a smile on his face* Feel better?

JACOB: You have no idea.

When this announcement comes on the voice sounds three octaves lower or something because the power box just broke

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

VITTORIO: How is that still working?

JAMES: They're going to have to work extra hard to fix the mess you just made.

REBECCA: If they ever get down here to fix it.

JACOB: That'll teach em to leave me down here in the metro for too long.

VITTORIO: *to JACOB* Remind me to never piss you off ever again.

GIULIA: It's great the alarm is off, but we're still stuck down here. And thanks to Jacob those doors for sure aren't going to open now.

JAMES: Maybe if we can get someone's attention in the other cars they can try to open their doors.

VITTORIO: And we all can leave through a different car.

GIULIA: That might work.

Instantly they all split up going to the front and back end of the car trying to get the attention of the other passengers

JACOB suddenly steps back

JACOB: Okay rude! There is no need for that gesture lady. We're all stuck down here, the least you can do is help us out!

He goes back to the middle of the car with REBECCA and VITTORIO

GIULIA starts yelling phrases in Italian (most like curse words), as JAMES pulls her back from the door, VITTORIO makes a face because he knows what she is yelling

REBECCA: *to VITTORIO* What? *To REBECCA* What happened?

GIULIA: That disgusting pig!

JAMES: This man just started...oh god I don't want to say.

GIULIA: Disgusting piece of shit!

Starts to charge back at the door, but JAMES catches her

GIULIA: I'll kill him!

JACOB: So I guess it's safe to say we're on our own.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: I'm starting to think that announcement is taunting us.

JAMES: It's a wonder it still works after your little stunt.

JACOB: Yeah the only thing that works in this subway apparently.

REBECCA: It's kinda concerning that no one wanted to help us. I mean isn't anyone else starting to worry a little?

JAMES: Apparently not.

GIULIA: It's because they think all this is a normal strike.

VITTORIO: Yes, and I'm starting to think this isn't normal.

REBECCA: I agree.

A moment

JACOB: Oh! So *now* everyone thinks there is something to worry about? Of course, of course it only took two mental breakdowns and me destroying the circuit box to convince you all. But thank goodness you all are *just now* deciding that there is something to worry about.

JAMES: Well your breakdown was a cause for concern. I mean I don't think we have been stuck down here for that long—

JACOB: Well I wouldn't know James. My phone doesn't work and I lost my watch, so forgive me if I don't know how many seconds have gone by since getting stuck down here in this shitty subway.

REBECCA: I know we are all a little spooked, but we have to keep our level heads. So let's just all try to stay positive, and maybe focus on something else.

GIULIA: Something else?

REBECCA: Yah something else. You know like maybe play a game or something just to distract us from our present situation.

JACOB: You mean distract from the fact that we are probably going to be stuck down here for another hour?

JAMES: We haven't even been here for 30 minutes Jacob.

REBECCA: Well its felt like shit down here since getting stuck, and I wouldn't mind playing a little game to take the edge off.

JAMES: Alcohol, that's what we need.

JACOB: It's like 10 in the morning.

JAMES: I thought you said you didn't know what time it is.

JACOB: Whatever, its early for a drink, right?

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: Anyone got a flask on them?

They all shift, some shake their head no, REBECCA goes to find her purse and then pulls out an unlabeled water bottle

REBECCA: *Handing the bottle to JACOB* Here ya go.

JACOB: *confused* Ugh Rebecca, I hate to tell you this, but this is a water bottle.

REBECCA: Well you gotta stay hydrated.

VITTORIO: Yeah Jacob, drink up.

Jacob gullibly takes a giant gulp of the "water," then almost immediately spits it out. But he covers his mouth keeping him from doing so. Everyone laughs at him

VITTORIO: You should have seen that coming Jacob!

JAMES: That was priceless!

GIULIA: Now *that* made me feel loads better!

REBECCA: Haha how's that water taste Jacob?

JACOB: *clearing his throat* Not bad...are you sure this isn't tap water?

REBECCA: Oh give me that. *She takes the bottle from him*

VITTORIO: Why do you have that in your bag?

REBECCA: Leftovers from last night.

She shyly opens the bottle and takes a tiny sip from it

REBECCA: You can always count on vodka take the edge off.

She hands VITTORIO the bottle

VITTORIO: Who needs to stay sober when you're stuck in the metro?

He takes a shot then passes it to JAMES who immediately takes a pull

JAMES: *clearing his throat* All we need is a little music then it's like we're at an underground night club.

He hands the bottle to GIULIA who takes it reluctantly

GIULIA: *with a soft smile she turns to REBECCA* You crazy Americans...always drinking.

She takes a shot from the bottle then hands it back to REBECCA

VITTORIO: Now, what game should we play?

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JAMES: How about "who can turn that announcement off?"

REBECCA: What are they even trying to fix? *She takes another small sip from the bottle then passes it to VITTORIO who takes it and drinks as JAMES says his next line*

JAMES: If I'm being honest it's probably the driver just being an asshole and watching futbol or something.

VITTORIO: That's it James!

JAMES: What did I do?

VITTORIO: You picked the game. How about we each try to guess what happened to the metro, and the person who is the closest to guessing right wins the game.

JACOB: How will we know who guess the closest?

VITTORIO: When they come to get us they will tell us what happened.

JACOB: *If they come to get us.*

REBECCA: *handing the bottle to JACOB* They will come get us. *Beat* I like it, let's play.

There is another physical shift as they all get ready to guess what happened to the metro. As the characters explain what they think happened the others act it out. So think dream sequence feel.

JACOB takes a swig and hands it to GIULIA

GIULIA: *slightly* Okay, okay, okay. *Chuckles* I have an idea.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

Suddenly the lights change and the actors on stage make the set look like they are in the front of the metro car, JAMES sits in the “driver” seat and mouths along as GIULIA tells the story. She can be in the dream sequence as well as on the side where the rest of the characters are sitting “watching.” As they sit around and watch they continue to pass around the bottle of vodka.

JAMES immediately looks unhappy (because all metro drivers do), and he is slouching over the “wheel.”

GIULIA: *talking to the rest of the characters* So we all know this driver is probably a fat old man—

JACOB: Actually, we don’t know that for su—

GIULIA: Silenzio! In my story, he is.

JACOB: Okay jeeze .

VITTORIO: You should go next Jacob.

JACOB nods taking a sip of the bottle

GIULIA: Like I say before, the driver is a fat dirty old man who can’t see where he is even driving probably.

JAMES starts acting like a typical fat old man, grunting and making gross sounds/maybe scratching himself in strange places

GIULIA: All of a sudden he get a call from his wife—

REBECCA moves to the front of the stage, but not in the car with JAMES. REBECCA also mouths whatever GIULIA says. JAMES and REBECCA use their hands to make “phones”

GIULIA/REBECCA: *in an old Italian woman’s voice* Ciao mi amore!

GIULIA/JAMES: *in a bland old Italian man's voice* Ciao.

GIULIA/REBECCA: Mi amore, I want see if you took your pill?

GIULIA/JAMES: Eh? My pill? I don't need to take a pill.

GIULIA/REBECCA: Ascolta! If you want to have fun tonight you have to take that pill.

GIULIA/JAMES: *realizes she is being serious then grunts* eh okay. I'll take your damn pill.

GIULIA/REBECCA: Remember they are the blue ones! Te amo mi amore!

GIULIA/JAMES: Si si! Ciao!

They "hang up" then REBECCA returns to her normal spot on stage

GIULIA: *Turning back to her friends on stage* Then grumbling and moaning the old man struggles to find his little blue pill. *Beat* He finds the pill holder, but sadly he only has one pill left—

VITTORIO: *to JACOB* An active old man eh?

GIULIA: Just as he is about to put the pill in his mouth, the car suddenly runs over a bump or something. The pill falls out of his hands and on to the floor. Not knowing what to do, he starts to look for the pill. Completely ignoring the fact that he is driving a metro car.

JAMES begins by looking around his immediate area, then looks out at the tracks then back inside, and decides that the pill is more important. He leaves his post and begins to look for the pill. He starts looking standing up, but then ends up on all fours when he finds the pill

GIULIA: Because his feet were no longer on the gas, the metro slowed down but did not stop all the way. As he found his precious pill the car hit the back of the metro car in front of this one.

JAMES acts as if he just rear-ended something completely dropping and forever losing the pill

GIULIA/JAMES: Ah vaffanculo!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

Suddenly they bring the set back to the way it was before the sequence

GIULIA: *taking the bottle from REBECCA who was about to take a sip* See? That's what I think happened.

JAMES: So basically, you think we're here because some old fat guy wanted to get laid. *Beat* I don't know whether to hate him or respect him.

He takes the bottle from GIULIA and takes a swig

REBECCA: *laughing* That...was not what I was expecting. I love it!

VITTORIO: Very creative. I almost hope you win.

GIULIA: Grazie.

JAOCB: I don't think you're anywhere near being right. *Take the bottle from JAMES*

GIULIA: Oh? You think you can do better?

JACOB: *bringing the bottle up closer to his mouth* Oh, I know I can. *Takes a giant swig (maybe even finishing the bottle?)*

JAMES: Ooo Mr. Scaredy Cat over here talking some mad shit.

These three continue to have a conversation while we focus on REBECCA and VITTORIO

VITTORIO: *to REBECCA* This should be interesting. *Noticing she is a little tipsy* How you doing over there? Need some water?

REBECCA: No I should be fine. Thanks though. *Beat* I'm excited to see what Jacob comes up with.

VITTORIO: *chuckling* Yeah this was a good idea Becca. Everyone has forgotten we are stuck down here.

REBECCA: Time is flying by! It's almost like we aren't even stuck down here.

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

VITTORIO: Eh just ignore him. They have been all morning.

REBECCA: Too true! *Beat* Hey, I'm really happy to be stuck down here with you. If it was just me down here I might have ended up more like Jacob.

She points to him and we see that JACOB and JAMES are dance battling or something? I don't know he is being weird. REBECCA and VITTORIO crack up laughing

VITTORIO: I doubt you would have acted like him. *Beat* But I'm glad I'm with you too.

They look at each other all cute, then JACOB cuts in about to drop some mad skills

JACOB: Okay friends! Listen up! Before I get started on the real reason we are all stuck down here—I'd just like to say that *that* was the 19th time the *wonderful* announcement went off, and..I don't seem to care anymore. I'm just happy that I'm stuck with you all, and not with those other fools.

JAMES: *sarcastically to REBECCA* Hm I wonder what could have loosened him up?

GIULIA: Was it 19 times really?

JACOB: Oh yeaaa. *Beat* too bad we don't have any more alcohol, I was thinking we would have a toast on the 20th time.

GIULIA: 20th time? *Beat* I thought they'd get us out now...I didn't realize we've been in here so long.

She starts walking around the car slightly starting to freak out

VITTORIO: It's fine. They will be coming for us soon anyways.

REBECCA: Yeah! Besides we still have to finish our game—

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: Happy 20th time kids!

GIULIA: No, no, no. No more!

JAMES: *starting to freak out too* It's fine, we're fine! 20 times is nothing...they'll get us out of here...right?

JACOB: I don't know and I don't care! They could leave us down here forever and I wouldn't mind. We have a pretty good set up going here...all we would need is food and water to live down here.

JAMES: Live? I can't *live* down here. No I have a life out there! A life I need to get back to!

GIULIA: We can't stay down here forever.

They both start freaking out maybe holding each other in a mental break down hug?

REBECCA: *slightly freaked* Who said anything about forever? *Beat* Come on guys! We still have the game to finish—

GIULIA: We're finished!

JAMES: Done for!

JACOB: Now who's over reacting?

VITTORIO: Not helping—

JACOB: What? I'm supposed to help them now that *they're* freaking out? No. If they can't accept the fact we are stuck down here forever that's on them. I'm going to try to finish this game—

GIULIA: Forget about the game! We are stuck down here—

JACOB: True fact—

JAMES: And we're never getting out—

JACOB: Most likely—

GIULIA: Oh my god! How we will live?

JACOB: We won't.

REBECCA: Now you're just being mean! *To GIULIA and JAMES* We are not going to die down here. The maintenance people are just taking their time, trying to fix...whatever is going on out there. But once they do we will be good as gone!

Announcement: Please remain calm, we are working as hard as we can to fix the metro.

JACOB: 21!! I wonder if we can make it up to 100?

GIULIA/JAMES: Ahh! No no no!

JAMES: I've got to get out of here now!

GIULIA: I don't want to die here!

GIULIA and JAMES run to either side of the metro car, so they each are at a door on opposite sides of the stage. Leaving JACOB, REBECCA, and VITTORIO standing in the middle of the stage. JACOB is standing in between REBECCA and VITTORIO and they both start to yell at him about how this is all his fault etc., meanwhile GIULIA and JAMES are trying to open the doors, and are most likely yelling trying to get out. This goes on for a while then at the climax suddenly there is a ding (like they just got to their next stop), and the doors open. Everyone stops in silence looking out at the open doors waiting.

Announcement: Due to an unlikely mechanical problem, we ask everyone to exit the metro.

Grazie.

REBECCA: "Unlikely mechanical problem?" *to VITTORIO* What does that mean?

VITTORIO shrug, everyone looks at each other un sure of what they are going to do next.

Announcement: Due to an unlikely mechanical problem, we ask everyone to exit the metro.

Grazie.

Everyone slowly gets their stuff together and as they head towards the doors they all take one final look around.

JACOB: I knew it was just a mechanical problem.

Everyone groans and laughs and makes fun of JACOB as they all exit the metro.

There is a ding and the doors close and the lights slowly fade

End of Play

