

A trip to Zoo
(short)

by
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FADE IN.

INT. TRAIN STATION

The Station is busy with people rushing to and from the platforms.

INFORMATION ZONE

Two YOUNG MEN stand by a wall mounted rail map and timetable.

DARREN is tall, with short dark hair and carries a rucksack on his back.

PETE is of smaller build with blonde hair, his rucksack is at his feet.

DARREN
Go on then.

PETE
Alright. Just gimme a minute.

Pete takes a wallet of his trouser pocket and pulls out a number of credit cards.

DARREN
You won't do it.

Pete stuffs the cards back in and puts the wallet back in his pocket.

PETE
Bet I do.

DARREN
Think about it. What about Z.

Pete turns and looks at a ticket booth. An elderly man talks to the woman behind the glass.

PETE
I got it covered.

DARREN
X, there's nowt for X.

PETE
Ten quid or not?

DARREN
You won't get from A to Z.

Pete looks at Darren and raises his eyebrows and sighs loudly.

DARREN
Alright ten quid.

PETE
Right.

Pete turns and takes a few steps.

DARREN
Wait. The start of each sentence
or each time you start talking?

Pete stops and his shoulders drop.

PETE
God, it's not that difficult.

Pete turns and looks at Darren.

Darren stares back with a blank expression.

PETE
The latter.

Pete turns and walks to the ticket booth.

TICKET BOOTH

Pete patiently queues behind the elderly gentleman.

After a moment the man walks away. Pete hesitates, he looks to Darren, who eagerly waves him toward the booth.

Pete slowly walks forward and smiles at the woman behind the glass.

She is in her late twenties and wears a smart blue uniform, her hair is hidden beneath a matching blue hat.

WOMAN
Hello there, can I help you sir?

Pete glances round to Darren, who smiles and shakes his head.

WOMAN
Sir, can I help you?

Pete looks back at the woman. He notices she wears a name badge, it reads ANNA. A big smile spreads across Pete's face.

SUPER 'A'

PETE

Anna hi, I was wondering if you could tell me where the closest zoo is?

ANNA

Certainly sir. The closest zoo, that would be Hillington Zoo. You would need to change trains at Clackton.

SUPER 'B'

PETE

But would I need to buy two tickets? Wouldn't that be more expensive?

ANNA

No sir, you could buy a day travel card. You can go anywhere on the underground with that, and it would be cheaper.

SUPER 'C'

PETE

Cheaper, I like the sound of that. How much are they?

Anna types on a keyboard and looks at the monitor.

ANNA

For the blue line, which is what you want...it would be four pound fifty.

SUPER 'D'

PETE

Done, but I'll need two.

Pete pulls his wallet out of his trouser pocket.

Anna types on the keyboard again. She hits a key and a printer beside her starts up.

ANNA

That's nine pounds then please.

Pete opens his wallet and rummages inside.

SUPER 'E'

PETE

Er, do you accept Visa? I've got
no change on me.

ANNA

Yes sir that's fine.

Pete removes a bank card from his wallet and hands it to
Anna.

INFORMATION ZONE

Darren looks on.

DARREN

(quietly)

Go on, give her the wrong one.

TICKET BOOTH

Anna swipes the card through a machine which immediately
sounds out with a buzz.

ANNA

Oh that's strange.

Anna re-swipes the card and again the machine buzzes.

SUPER 'F'

PETE

For Christ's sake, don't tell me
it's not working.

ANNA

I'm sorry sir, it's probably the
machine playing up again.

A lady approaches and stands behind Pete, waiting in line
for the ticket booth.

SUPER 'G'

PETE

God I hope so or we ain't going
anywhere.

Anna looks over at Darren, who turns and traces his finger
along an imaginary route on the rail map.

ANNA

Is that your friend over there,
maybe he can pay for the tickets?

Pete's eyes flick to Darren and back. He remains silent for a moment and then forces out a loud FALSE LAUGH that startles the lady behind him.

SUPER 'H'

PETE

He's more skint than me.

Anna pauses and then holds Pete's card out toward him. Pete raises his eyebrows and smiles.

ANNA

Shall I try it again sir.

SUPER 'I'

PETE

It must be the machine. I know
the card works cos I used it
yesterday.

Anna swipes the card again, and again the machine buzzes.

ANNA

I'm really sorry sir but I don't
think it's going to work.

SUPER 'J'

PETE

Just one more try, please.

INFORMATION ZONE

Darren stares intently at Pete and Anna.

A smartly dressed businessman with a briefcase nears Darren, he talks into his mobile phone.

TICKET BOOTH

A middle aged gentleman joins the queue behind the lady.

ANNA

Once more.

SUPER 'K'

PETE
Kinda need it to work or we're
knackered aren't we.

ANNA
(confused)
Sorry sir?

SUPER 'L'

PETE
Like stuck here. No money means
no travel card.

Anna swipes the card and once again the machine lets out a disappointing buzz.

ANNA
Nope, sorry sir your cards not
working. There's nothing else I
can do.

Anna hands Pete his card back and leans to look at the lady standing behind him.

Pete moves his head to block Anna's view of the queue.

INFORMATION ZONE

Darren notices the smart businessman approaching.

BUSINESSMAN
(into mobile phone)
Yeah I made a mint on it.

The businessman strides past Darren.

Darren quickly stretches his leg out and clips the businessman's back foot. He falls flat on his face, his mobile slides some distance across the tiled flooring.

Darren edges away from the horizontal businessman.

TICKET BOOTH

Anna, Pete and the rest of the queue all spin and see the businessman face down.

Anna looks back at Pete.

ANNA

Sir.

Pete looks down at his feet, his face reddens.

ANNA

Sir, I...

Pete quickly reaches inside his wallet and removes another bank card.

He offers the card to Anna.

SUPER 'M'

PETE

Maybe try this one then.

Anna stares back at Pete and takes the card off him.

A couple, with their two children in tow, join the increasing queue.

ANNA

Lets hope this one works.

Anna swipes the bank card and the machine buzzes.

SUPER 'N'

PETE

No? Did that one not work either?

ANNA

No sir. I'm sorry but if you can't pay for the tickets you'll have to step aside.

Anna hands Pete his bank card.

SUPER 'O'

PETE

OK.

Pete starts to move away from the booth, putting the bank card in his wallet.

The lady behind takes one step toward the booth. Pete suddenly moves across her and faces Anna again.

ANNA

Sir.

SUPER 'P'

PETE
Please, just one more thing.

Anna sighs.

ANNA
Yes?

INFORMATION ZONE

The businessman regains his feet and looks round at Darren.
Darren smiles back.

BUSINESSMAN
Idiot.

DARREN
Sorry?

The businessman dusts his trousers down.

BUSINESSMAN
You deliberately tripped me.

DARREN
Me sir, no. You tripped
yourself.

TICKET BOOTH

Pete stares blankly at Anna. He grabs his hair with
clenched fists and slowly drags his hands over his face.

Anna looks on and shakes her head.

SUPER 'Q'

PETE
Question! Could you please try
this one last card?

Pete smiles widely and removes another bank card from his
wallet.

ANNA
Sir, are you being serious or is
this some sort of joke?

SUPER 'R'

PETE

Really this is not a joke. I only have one more card. Could you please try it, please.

Pete holds out the card.

Another gentleman, wearing a suit, joins the growing queue for the booth.

Anna takes the card and swipes it through the machine. The machine bursts into life and begins to print a receipt.

Pete glances round at Darren. The businessman is confronting him.

INFORMATION ZONE

BUSINESSMAN

Really I should have you arrested.

DARREN

Dream on, is it my fault you can't walk and talk.

The businessman wags his finger in Darren's face.

BUSINESSMAN

Right that's it, I'm going to find a policeman.

DARREN

Yeah you should, that blokes just picked up your phone and legged it.

BUSINESSMAN

What?

The businessman turns in a panic and heads off.

TICKET BOOTH

Pete looks at Darren.

Darren shrugs his shoulders.

Pete shakes his head and looks back at Anna.

ANNA
(surprised)
It's worked.

SUPER 'S'

PETE
Shit, I should have tried that
one first.

Anna tears the receipt from the machine.

ANNA
Yes sir you should have.

She hands over the receipt.

ANNA
Could you please check the amount
and sign it.

Pete looks at the receipt and then back at Anna.

ANNA
(annoyed)
Is there a problem sir?

The queue behind Pete let out a simultaneous groan of
frustration.

Pete mimes a writing movement with his hands.

ANNA
A pen. Sorry, here you go sir.

Anna hands Pete a pen.

SUPER 'T'

PETE
Thanks.

Pete starts to sign the receipt and then stops, mid
signature.

ANNA
What now!

SUPER 'U'

PETE
Unfortunately this is wrong.
You've charged me too much.

ANNA
What. Let me see sir.

Pete picks up the receipt.

ANNA
Can I see the receipt please sir?

SUPER 'V'

PETE
Very sorry, I was just joshing.

Pete completes his signature and hands Anna the receipt, who snatches it from him.

Anna hands Pete the two travel cards and looks to the lady behind him.

ANNA
Next please?

SUPER 'W'

PETE
What time does the train come?

Anna looks back at Pete and sighs deeply.

ANNA
Your friend is stood by the timetable sir. Is there anything else.

Pete opens his mouth but says nothing. He looks round at Darren, who is now still and eagerly watching.

INFORMATION ZONE

DARREN
Lets try one last spanner to see if you fudge it.

Darren takes a mobile phone from his pocket, pushes a few keys and raises it to his ear.

TICKET BOOTH

Pete's breathing quickens and he rubs his brow.

ANNA
If there's nothing else sir, could you please step aside.

Pete's eyes flicker from side to side and his mouth remains ready to speak.

ANNA

Sir.

Suddenly a mobile phone begins to ring.

The gentleman in the suit pushes through the queue and taps Pete on the shoulder.

GENTLEMAN

Look mate, everyone's waiting.

Pete glances back at the gentleman.

GENTLEMAN

Oh and your phones ringing.

Pete removes his phone from his pocket. The screen reads 'Darren calling'.

The old lady looks at Pete.

The couple behind edge forward.

Pete spins back to face Anna.

ANNA

Sir, can you please step aside.

INFORMATION ZONE

A smile broadens across Darren's face.

DARREN

Oh so close but it's over for the young pretender.

TICKET BOOTH

Pete looks down and shuffles his feet. He pushes a button on his phone and the ringing stops, he pauses motionless for a moment. He jolts his head up in a flash.

SUPER 'X'

PETE

Xerox! I bet that card machines a Xerox, they're very temperamental. That's probably why it wouldn't work.

ANNA
 (confused)
 What?

She turns and glances at the machine.

ANNA
 Well it says Wiseman on it sir.

Pete nods.

GENTLEMAN
 Xerox make printers.

SUPER 'Y'

PETE
 You've been really helpful Anna,
 thank you.

Anna smiles reluctantly.

Pete stands facing Anna through the glass. He smiles and repeatedly nods.

There's a moment of uncomfortable silence.

ANNA
 Sir please, you have your
 tickets.
 (shaking her head)
 I can't even remember where you
 wanted to go.

Pete's eyes light up. He turns to Darren and then back at Anna in a flash.

INFORMATION ZONE

Darren's head sinks.

DARREN
 I don't believe this.

TICKET BOOTH

SUPER 'Z'

PETE
 (loudly)
 Zoo! I want to go to the zoo.

Pete looks back at the people queuing and smiles.

They all stare at him blankly.

GENTLEMAN
Dickhead.

Pete swaggers back to Darren, who shakes his head.

INFORMATION ZONE

PETE
Pay up.

DARREN
No way. You can't use Xerox.

PETE
Well you weren't suppose to put
me off but you bloody well tried.

Darren turns and walks away. Pete picks up his rucksack
and chases after him.

PETE
Anyway, course you can use Xerox.

FADE OUT.