

Escape to Wonderland

by  
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## Escape to Wonderland

Characters: (2w)

Jackie: 20s, on her way to the beach at Wonderland.  
On the quiet side.

Cassie: 20s. Has a flair for the dramatic. At the end of  
a long, wild night.

Additional passengers (if you have some extra actors)

Voice of a train announcer (can be pre-recorded).

Time: Early summer.

Place: Boston.

Setting: A car on the Blue Line of Boston's subway system.

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## Escape to Wonderland

A subway car on Boston's Blue Line.  
A few people ride on the car with  
suitcases and backpacks.

JACKIE sits alone at the one end of  
the car. She's dressed for an outing  
at the beach--carries a towel and  
large beach bag. Floppy sun hat.  
Sunglasses.

ANNOUNCER

Entering Maverick. Doors will open on the right side of the  
train.

The doors open. CASSIE stumbles onto  
the train, looking like she's had a  
long night of too much fun.

CASSIE

Screw you! You want me, come and get me. What? No Charlie  
Card? Jump it, you big pussy! Come on. We're at Maverick,  
be a fucking Maverick!

Doors close. She blows a kiss out  
the window and sits with great  
dramatic flair. Notices Jackie  
looking at her.

CASSIE (cont'd)

What? What? What are you looking at?

JACKIE

Nothing. Sorry.

CASSIE

Jackie? Jackie-O.

JACKIE

Hi, Cassie.

CASSIE

Wow. Old times. How are you? What a night. Tony. So  
maybe I looked at another guy at a party, flirted, a little.  
Jesus. It's not like I flashed my tits at him. Just a smile.  
And a touch of the hand. Because I'm like that, you know.  
Some people just are.

JACKIE

Right.

CASSIE

And all of a sudden it's this big deal. And I'm like, "Tony, let it go. Let's get another drink," but he's like, "You wanna do him? You wanna do him?" And I'm wondering why I ever moved in with this asshole, and I don't want to go home, and then it's morning already. How can it be morning? What kind of idiot am I? So here I am... Drama. And there you are. (beat) Going for an early day at the beach?

JACKIE

Yeah.

CASSIE

Beat the crowds. Wonderland?

JACKIE

I guess so.

CASSIE

You never used to go out there with us. The midnight bashes at the beach.

JACKIE

No.

CASSIE

Jackie the good girl. Nice to know we had at least one in our class. Got your sunscreen? Of course you do. You're sensible. Good for you. Study, pay attention, follow the rules, early to bed, early to rise, all that. Yeah. The college girl. Bridgewater State, right?

JACKIE

Until my mom got sick.

CASSIE

Shit. I heard. Yeah... Sorry. I... That's really... But there's a lesson, right? Live while you can. Live! Drink life in, drink everything in! Howl at the moon!

ANNOUNCER

Entering Airport. The doors will open on the right side of the train.

They watch the other passengers  
prepare to leave the train.

CASSIE

Ever go anywhere real? I mean, not just Bridgewater, but, you know, hop a plane and go?

Doors open. The passengers with backpacks and suitcases exit, leaving Jackie and Cassie alone.

Doors close. Train resumes.

CASSIE (cont'd)

Look at those people, with their suitcases. They're on their way. Airplanes... I don't like small spaces. Confinement makes me antsy.

Lights shift as the train moves from the tunnel to outside.

CASSIE (cont'd)

See, for me this is better. When the train gets above ground. I always like it when we get outside.

JACKIE

Maybe Amtrak is what you need.

CASSIE

Right. Amtrak. That would get me somewhere. Not just Wonderland. You ever get off there before?

JACKIE

I never get off anywhere. Sometimes I ride, but there was always... I just ride.

CASSIE

But here you are, on the way to Wonderland. Doesn't that sound like someplace important? Wonderland. And you are prepared, right? A whole bag of preparation, contingencies.

Cassie opens her purse.

CASSIE (cont'd)

What do I have? Lipstick, eye liner, gum, 27 dollars, breath spray, cracker crumbs, receipts--I keep every receipt because the store detectives always stop me and think I lifted something. Like I have "Trouble" tattooed across my forehead. Condom! Prepared? (*she looks more closely*) Expired. Shouldn't they have a little alarm or something. How about you? Expecting a hot date, got some anticipation in here?

Cassie grabs Jackie's bag. Jackie grabs it back. This makes Cassie more determined than ever. A big tug of war ensues.

CASSIE (cont'd)

I wanna see.

No. JACKIE

Maybe you're not going to the beach solo. CASSIE

Stop! JACKIE

Paging Mr. Right. CASSIE

Don't. JACKIE

Gimme. CASSIE

The bag flies out of their hands and spills open onto the floor, revealing wrapped stacks of cash and a pistol.

Jackie? CASSIE (cont'd)

Jackie quickly gathers up the loot and shoves it into her bag.

There's a gun in there. CASSIE (cont'd)

Shut up. For two seconds. Can you please just shut up? JACKIE

Fine. Shutting up. (beat) Where'd you get all that money? CASSIE

The bank. JACKIE

It's yours? CASSIE

It is now. JACKIE

Shit. You didn't. CASSIE

Don't spill your messy life onto mine. You are not my friend, okay? JACKIE

CASSIE

We were best friends.

JACKIE

In eighth grade. Not for much of high school. You were too busy "living."

ANNOUNCER

Entering Suffolk Downs. The doors will open on the right side of the train.

Doors open. Doors close. The train starts moving again.

CASSIE

Where are you taking it?

JACKIE

Wonderland.

CASSIE

That's a lot of...

JACKIE

Living.

CASSIE

What did you do?

JACKIE

Nothing. I am going to the beach. To Wonderland. Who wouldn't want to go to Wonderland?

CASSIE

You didn't. You couldn't.

JACKIE

Exactly. Impossible. You saw me on my way to the beach. With hundreds of other people, admiring the sun.

CASSIE

Jackie. Jackie. Jackie. Living out loud.

JACKIE

Not so loud.

CASSIE

Good girl gone bad. I love it. Love it, love it, love it. Everyone overlooks people like you. Don't pay attention. Not to our little Jackie-O. Even me. I confess. Underestimated.

JACKIE

Scorned.

CASSIE

A little. No. No, I always liked you. I wished I could be you. Smart. Prepared. But I couldn't.

JACKIE

Or at least you didn't.

CASSIE

Ooo. Touche. Right. Choices. Didn't. I didn't. And now where am I? Right where I started. Riding the blue line, pissed at some boy.

JACKIE

And where am I?

CASSIE

On your way to Wonderland. Getting off.

JACKIE

Yeah. Not much farther.

CASSIE

We'll go together. Jackie and Cassie. Hitting the beach, leaving the world. Next stop, who knows?

JACKIE

Jackie and Cassie?

CASSIE

Thelma and Louise. Butch and Sundance. Bonnie and Clyde. Jackie and Cassie.

JACKIE

No.

CASSIE

You did it. Did something. Wild. Took a step.

JACKIE

I did.

CASSIE

And that changes everything.

JACKIE

Does it?

CASSIE

Hell, yes. You're a fugitive.

JACKIE

And that's--

CASSIE

Crazy. Pure craziness. Intense insanity. It's alive. It's movement. Forward movement. We're moving forward. We ought to turn around, skip Wonderland, go back to Airport. Pick a city and fly there. What do you say?

JACKIE

What happened to claustrophobia?

CASSIE

I'll take a pill. A drink. A couple more drinks. Let's go.

JACKIE

You were always like this.

CASSIE

Like what?

JACKIE

Ready to latch on. Hitch your wagon to a shooting star, drawn by the light and the heat. But you never made your own.

CASSIE

I was the life of the party.

JACKIE

No. Patty, Maxine, Gina. They were. You were at the party. Loudly. Vigorously. But it was already going before you got there.

CASSIE

What do you know? You were home studying. (beat) No, come on. I don't mean it. All right?

JACKIE

You want to be my friend again? Where have you been? You knew I was back home. You knew my mom died. That they were taking the house.

CASSIE

What was I supposed to... I have twenty seven dollars. That's it.

JACKIE

You could have called. Asked how I was doing. You could have come to the fucking funeral.