

after people like you

by Jason Pizzarello

after people like you was originally developed
in a workshop at Classic Stage Company in
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characters

tim, wears army dress blues, hides a limp
keri, wears his pain

anna, carries an 8 month pregnancy.
diego, carries her weight

they're all in their late 20's/early 30's.

diego is in a suit. anna and keri in nice dresses, appropriate for a fall wedding.

casting note: please feel free to cast these roles with diverse actors. i'm open to a mixed-race, size, able-bodied, whatever.

time and place

not the present. later.

the r train
running from
bay ridge, brooklyn (95th Street) to
forest hills, queens (71st Street)

it's saturday night at 10:49 pm.
we travel with them in real time.
and the sounds and voices and announcements are all present.

notes

although they are close to each other in the same train car, there are separate conversations going on between pairs. We shift back and forth between them. Shifts are indicated in the script by ////////////////.

when a character's line is represented by "... " this is meant to indicate the unspoken line and the silent moments that replace it.

after people like you

(the doors are open.)

*(anna and diego get on.
anna sits, exhausted. diego sits.
anna closes her eyes.
diego stares out.
anna opens her eyes and looks at diego.
he doesn't notice.
they stare out.)*

sound: **bing bong**

(the doors are about to close.)

*tim and kerri jump into the car.
laughing, stumbling.
they kiss.
over kerri's shoulder,*

*tim sees anna and diego.
they're waiting to be seen.)*

sound: **bing bong**

(the doors close.)

*(tim turns kerri around to see them.
now they all see each other and
they do the pleasant surprise noise thing.)*

*(the trains starts to move out of
the station.)*

anna
we didn't know you guys

kerri
yeah

anna
were taking this.

tim

we are.

diego

where are you going

tim

the queens

anna

you guys live in the queens? we live in the queens!

diego

where are you guys

tim

just before the forest hills.

diego

hey.

anna

we're in the forest hills!

tim

alright.

keri

how about that.

diego

last stop.

tim

yeah.

diego

didn't want to take a cab.

tim

can be expensive.

diego

yeah. like a thousand dollars.

anna

are you kidding, at least.

diego

actually we took a cab out to the field to pick up some supplies last weekend and it cost like fifteen hundred.

anna

we couldn't believe it.

keri

terrible.

tim

yeah it's expensive.

diego

and that's just one way.

tim

i'd say you should buy your own car but

diego

yeah.

keri

good luck.

anna

my family had a car in high school it just seemed like, i don't know. there'd always be cars to buy.

diego

those were the days.

tim

your family had a car

anna

well. yeah. but a lot of people did.

tim

not mine.

keri

we shared one with the neighbors.

tim

yeah not everyone

diego

the *days when the days lasted days*.

anna

yeah. until the *tomorrow rays*.

keri

the *tomorrow rays*?

tim

the tomorrow rains.

anna

what?

tim

not the tomorrow rays. the tomorrow *rains*.

anna

is it?

keri

what is

diego

from school. from like middle school.

keri

oh.

diego

and then the *tomorrow rains* came.

tim

it's called *dry future*.

anna

that's it! how does it go?

tim

(to *keri*)

you never recited it, in school?

keri

no. i guess it wasn't uh

diego

days when the days were todays. right?

anna

days were todays.

tim

*days when all the days were todays
days without morning, days without night
endless days with no end in sight
the tomorrow rains with tomorrows
washed away our same day sorrows
days for one today then yesterdays*

diego

that's it.

anna

the tomorrow rains. right.

keri

....

anna

....

////////////////////

diego

didn't see you on the dance floor.

tim

yeah. no.

diego

place was packed.

tim

too many people. for that space.

diego

probably a hazard.

tim

not for me. i'd throw a chair through the window without thinking twice.

diego

yeah...

tim

.....

diego

how long you been back?

tim

since. march.

diego

march

tim

yeah, about that.

diego

this past march?

tim

uh huh.

diego

oh.

////////////////////

anna

what a wedding.

keri

yeah.

anna

you look great by the way.

keri

oh. thanks. by the way?

anna

if i didn't say that already.

keri

you did.

anna

oh.

keri

when you walked by our table.

anna

duh. sorry.

keri

that's okay. thanks. again. by the way.

....
....
....

(train stops. doors open.)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

////////////////////

tim

you thought i got back more recently?

diego

so what is that.

tim

what is it?

diego

how many months is that?

tim

i was gone a year. thirteen months.

diego

no since you been back?

tim

since march?

diego
yeah.

tim
i don't know. when is it now? like, what, six months.

keri
you've been back six months.

tim
since march.

diego
damn. i'm sorry i didn't

anna
yeah i'm sorry we didn't

tim
it's fine. my family wrote me. keri wrote me. sometimes.

keri
hey i wrote you everyday.

tim
kidding kidding. she did.

anna
that's good, that's nice. i should have. thought of it. i
i knew you were over there. we were thinking of you. it's just
blame it on the pregnancy brain.

////////////////////

keri
what is that? is that a thing?

anna
pregnancy brain?

keri
is that like a real thing or is that something

anna
no it's a real thing.

keri

medically speaking.

anna

i think so.

keri

but it might not be? it might be just like forgetfulness?

anna

lots of women get it when they're pregnant so i guess it's a real thing in that sense.

keri

huh.

anna

sometimes you forget things and sometimes you just mix up things like the order of, how things should come in a certain order, like a to-do list or something and it's just sort of jumbled if that makes sense.

keri

it makes enough sense.

anna

enough for what?

oh!

keri

what?

*(anna takes keri's hand and puts it on her belly
keri does not feel comfortable with this)*

anna

feel that?

keri

no.

anna

huh. it was

keri

kicking?

anna
shifting.

////////////////////

diego
i didn't even know you were back. i'm sorry i didn't. welcome back.

tim
yeah. thanks.

diego
is it good to be back?

tim
of course.

diego
i mean. yeah of course. but are you transitioning still from

tim
no.

diego
oh. that's good.

tim
i am fully transitioned.

diego
that's good. welcome back, man. i'm sorry.

tim
that's okay.

////////////////////

keri
you look great too by the way.

anna
oh. yeah, haha.

keri
no you do.

anna

well. um. thanks. i feel like a house.

keri

you know especially in spite of

anna

this giant belly.

keri

well yeah.

anna

i know i look exhausted.

keri

and in spite of

anna

what?

keri

everything. else.

anna

oh. you mean

keri

yeah.

anna

wait what do you mean.

keri

with everything else. that happened.

anna

ohhhh. duh. you mean with the

keri

right. were you guys

anna

close?

keri
yeah.

anna
yeah we were. not as close as others. we're still here, haha.
but yeah.

keri
no you do. you look good, anna.

anna
thanks.

(train stops. doors open.)

keri
....

anna
no. thank you.

////////////////////

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

diego
i'm sorry i never wrote either.
i'm terrible at that stuff.

tim
don't worry about it.

diego
no really i am.

tim
it's fine.

diego
it's not even personal. it's just i'm bad at that stuff.

tim
okay.

diego
and with everything.

tim
yeah. everything.

diego
everything that's going on.

tim
uh huh.

diego
and everything that's happened.

tim
sure. everything is

diego
i mean, of course, yeah, everything is. but also with

tim
yeah.

diego
(hushed) them.

(they shift over away from anna and kerri)

tim
right.

diego
you know.

tim
yeah.

diego
the drama.

tim
not to simplify it.

diego
no but you know.

tim
sure.

diego
it's been awhile since anyone's

tim
yup.

diego
i didn't want to make things worse. i try and stay out of it.

tim
you try.

diego
but you can't.

tim
nope.

diego
you're in it. whether you like it or not. you try not to take sides. you try to stay neutral. you try and be switzerland. but you're in it. you've already chosen sides. long ago. and so it doesn't matter. even if you keep quiet. try and keep the peace.

tim
there is no peace.

diego
exactly.

////////////////////

anna
You're not still working at the shelter, are you.

keri
yup. still there. nine years.

anna
wow.

keri
yeah. it's been. rewarding.

anna

i'm sure.

keri

it's not easy but. i mean some days

anna

i bet.

keri

but someone's gotta do it.

anna

right. i guess

(train stops. doors open.)

keri

someone's gotta help them.

anna

totally.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

keri

what?

anna

nothing.

keri

why 'i guess'?

anna

huh?

keri

why when i said someone's gotta do it you said i guess.

anna

no i said totally.

keri

no before that.

anna

i guess i just meant i guess.

keri

you guess what?

anna

i guess you're right. i guess someone's gotta do it.

keri

why do you have to guess?

anna

i didn't mean anything.

keri

yes you did.

//////////

tim

so are you ready.

diego

ready?

tim

for you know what.

diego

oh that.

tim

yeah that little

diego

baby. well.

ready is a strong word.

tim

sure.

diego

can't not be ready. can't ever be too ready. or ready enough. the right amount of ready.
can't be ready, really.

tim

no. some things you just have to

diego

right. you just

tim

don't know what's coming. the best laid plans.

diego

right. well

tim

god laughing and all that. so. fuck it.

diego

right.

tim

you deal with what's in front of you. you react.

//////////

keri

you've always been this way about the shelter.

anna

well. it's. it's an animal shelter.

keri

so?

anna

so i don't know. forget it.

keri

no. what i do is important. you *guess*. it's how i've chosen to live my life. so yes, it's an animal shelter. so tell me. tell me what you meant.

anna

i just meant.

keri

what.

anna

that it's an animal shelter.

keri

what does that mean?

anna

tim, keri is getting serious on me about the animal stuff.

tim

yeah. she'll do that.

diego

(turns back to diego)

no such thing as peace right?

tim

exactly.

////////////////////

keri

fucking animal stuff? yes, it is an animal shelter.

anna

and it's important

keri

thank you.

anna

until it isn't.

keri

until it isn't

anna

right.

(train stops. doors open.)

keri

when isn't it?

anna

when it's not.

keri
i don't

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna
when there's something more important.
then it's not important. that's when.

////////////////

diego
(looking out as they pass through the stop)
are we not stopping at

tim
no.

diego
oh. i thought.

tim
not there anymore.

diego
oh. really.
because of the wave?

tim
yeah that and

diego
wait. the wave wave or

tim
right. exactly.

diego
what

tim
and, or, and d., all of the above.
who knows, really.
who can keep track.

diego

i don't know.

tim

even if you could, would you want to.

//////////

anna

i'm sorry. i shouldn't have said anything.

keri

no you're not. you've never been sorry.

anna

i just think like if there's a woman and a dog injured in the street who do you go to first.

keri

that's not fair.

anna

it's completely fair and any rational person values a human life over a stupid animal.

keri

animals are complex beings capable of showing incredible love and loyalty in ways that

anna

uh huh.

keri

but of course i'd go to the woman.

anna

really?

keri

yes.

anna

really?

keri

yes.

anna

one hundred percent of the time?

keri
that's not fair.

anna
see. see?

keri
it depends. it depends alright.

anna
no it doesn't. see this is exactly

keri
i feel like this is college all over again. you don't
how are they injured? maybe one is worse than the other.

anna
they're injured in the same way.

keri
that's not possible.

anna
it's a hypothetical situation.

keri
yeah but. people and animals respond to pain, respond to treatment in different ways.

anna
forget it.

keri
forget it.
diego, anna wants me to forget it.

tim
probably a good idea.

diego
let's all forget it. how about that.

tim
fine with me.
how about you, keri. keri doesn't like to forget things.

keri

i'm not forgetting it.

anna

c'mon, it's been forgotten.

diego

what're you trying to not forget?

keri

anna was making her bullshit argument about the person and the animal in the street again.

diego

ah that old chestnut.

tim

didn't miss that one at all.

keri

animals dying in streets. dogs with their legs blown off and how i shouldn't save them and

anna

that's not what i.

keri

just 'cause anna hates animals.

anna

that's not true at all. i love animals.

diego

we have a cat now.

anna

i love our cat.

diego

more than me actually.

anna

that's true. see?

keri

yeah but

anna

if i had to choose. really choose. in a hypothetical life or death

diego

she'd choose the cat.

anna

that's not true.

diego

i'm not upset. i'd choose the cat too.

anna

over me?

diego

over me.

tim

me too.

keri

you'd choose the cat over me?

tim

no over diego.

diego

so we all agree we'd choose the cat over me.

keri

i wouldn't, diego.

diego

you haven't met this cat.

anna

it's a great cat.

tim

i don't need to meet it.

keri

i'd still choose you, diego.

diego
well thank you, keri.

keri
you're lucky it's not a dog, then it gets complicated.

diego
anyway.

tim
yeah anyway.

(train stops. doors open.)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna
whatever.

keri
forget it.

tim
....

keri
....

diego
....

anna
....

tim
....

keri
....

diego
....

anna
....

//////////

tim

what supplies did you get?

diego

supplies?

tim

at the field. you said you went.

diego

oh. yeah. batteries. mostly. and paper. and the formula. but you can only get two bottles now.

tim

only two?

diego

two liters a month.

tim

i need more batteries but i'm not going there.

diego

not many options.

tim

there's a friend of mine we go to. at the end of the long island.

diego

you can afford that?

tim

i trade in copper pipe. on the side.

(train stops. doors open.)

diego

on the side of what? haha.

tim

yeah, haha.

....

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

diego

no that's, uh, that's a good setup.
i need a connection like that.

tim

.....

////////////////

anna

i liked that room.

keri

the reception one?

anna

yeah. i want something like that. when diego and i

keri

when are you guys going to

anna

soon
really soon.

diego

next year.

anna

we're planning it now. but you know

keri

i'm sure it's hard to find the right venue.

anna

to find a place. absolutely. there aren't many left.
most of the good ones, you know.

keri

washed away.

anna

right. or buried.

keri

right.

anna

and you don't want to find a place that's too

keri

wet?

anna

charred.

some of these places are so
the one's left standing are
the place they had was nice.

keri

it was but
but i don't know.
i'm surprised they had it there.

anna

it was nice.

keri

yeah but i mean.
so close to the spill.

anna

(to tim)

it's not that close. is it that close?

tim

not that close.

diego

no?

tim

i mean i wouldn't drink the water.

keri

see.

tim

not yet anyway.

keri

no.

tim

not for a decade or so.

keri

gotta let it

tim

let nature. you know. do whatever the fuck it does.

diego

not to get scientific.

tim

no.

.....

.....

.....

(train stops. doors open.)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna

there is something in the air though.

tim

there's always something in the air.

anna

no, like a feeling. there's something just
it *is* pretty soon after

diego

yeah it is soon. what is it?

tim

almost a month.

keri

already?

anna

see?

i don't think we would've

diego

no. too soon.

anna

but it worked for them.

diego

totally.

keri

it seemed fine. no one even seemed affected.

anna

no, right?

keri

(to tim)

right?

tim

it was fine. seemed. everyone seemed fine to me. i don't see what the big deal

anna

it's just so

diego

we wouldn't have.

anna

no.

tim

they're not you.

anna

no. they're much

diego

we're much

anna

they're much

keri

different.

anna
braver.

keri
braver?

anna
yeah for having it there. *(to diego)* right?

diego
totally.

tim
brave?

anna
yeah.
(to diego) right?

(train stops. doors open.)

diego
definitely.

keri
i guess.

tim
definitely brave
(a loud laugh)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna
....

diego
....

keri
....

anna
what's so funny?

tim
sorry.

keri
forget it.

tim
forgetting it.

anna
i musta missed something.

diego
no.

anna
was something funny?

keri
tim's just being

anna
'cause i think it's brave? you think it's funny that i think it's brave.

diego
it's too bad we don't have any drinks.

keri
what were we thinking.

anna
i don't see why that's funny.

tim
you think they're brave.

anna
yes.

tim
why, 'cause the had a wedding?

anna
yes.

tim

throwing a party is not brave.

anna

i'm sure you've seen brave things.

tim

i have.

anna

i'm sure.

diego

(to tim)

we don't have to uh talk about your

keri

no

diego

unless you want to uh.

tim

(to anna)

what's brave about it?

anna

to have it there. so soon. after. it's like making a stand i don't know. it's like saying, forget it, forget worrying about every stupid event that happens, like every week it seems now, and forget worrying about the possibility of some disaster at any moment. forget living your life that way. that's just not a way to live. in fear of the. whatever. the rains. the waves, the quakes, the eruptions, freezes and melts, and blasts and droughts, spills and sinkholes, and mudslides, and water terrors, electric shakes, and night rumbles, and stupid tectonic shelf tilts, whatever the hell those are, and the damn moon pulling us in every which direction, making decent people mad, just mad with chaos in their heads. i mean who can live like that? we all do, right? we all do. except anthony and miceala said not today. today we're going to just live our lives like it was yesterday, we're going to throw a big party and invite our friends and our families and celebrate life even if it all ends tomorrow in desperation, death and despair.
so. yeah, i think it's brave.

tim

okay, i get that.

keri

.....

anna

or

i don't know

maybe they didn't want to lose their deposit.

diego

definitely the deposit.

keri

(laughs)

diego

(laughs)

anna

(laughs)

tim

....

(train stops. doors open.)

diego

babe, what was that song. they were playing.

anna

that song?

diego

yeah.

sound: ***bing bong***

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna

oh.

diego

(to keri and tim)

they were playing our favorite song.

keri

which one.

diego

ahh... which one was it. i can't think of it. but you know which one right?

anna

yeah. oh. yeah, it's our favorite.

diego

why can't i. dammit.

tim

how does it go?

diego

(singing)

something in the night. waiting for you.

anna

no!

diego

yes.

(singing)

something's in the night.

anna

no!

diego

it's our favorite.

keri

sounds like a good one.

diego

(singing)

strangers in the night

anna

yes!

diego

(singing)

strangers in the night

anna

not *something's* in the night. that sounds so creepy.

tim

strangers in the night is just as creepy.

diego

(singing)

strangers in the night

keri

(singing)

strangers in the night, exchanging glances

(to everyone)

let's dance.

anna

ooh i wanna dance.

(train stops. doors open.)

keri

(to tim)

dance with me.

tim

no. why are you

anna

i wanna dance.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

keri

(to tim)

c'mon dance with me.

diego

i'll dance with you.

keri

thank you.

tim

go for it.

anna

hey what about me.

(diego takes keri's hand and they dance and sing)

diego

strangers in the night

keri

exchanging glances

anna

hey what about me.

diego

join us.

anna

help me up.

keri

(dancing with diego, but looking at tim)

something in your eyes, do da do do

something in your smile, la di da di da

(keri and diego attempt a swirl of sorts)

anna

hey.

keri and diego

strangers in the night, da di da do da

anna

(singing)

two lonely strangers

(anna manages to get up by herself)

anna

(to tim)

c'mon dance with me. you'll dance with me.

(diego and keri are ignoring them and dancing)

tim

no, i can't. i don't know why she

anna

sure you can.

tim

no really

anna

you're gonna turn down an eight month pregnant woman.

tim

it's just that

anna

you don't have to lift me or anything.

keri and diego

(louder now)

strangers in the night

anna

c'mon soldier.

(anna practically throws herself in tim's arms.

tim does his best to hold her.

anna starts to dance. she moves with surprising grace.

tim attempts to keep up)

anna

(competing with keri and diego)

something in my heart, told me i must have you...

(keri and diego have moved back into their area, still dancing)

anna

wond'ring in the night what were the chances

keri

ever since that night...

diego

dooby-doooby-doo

(tim can't support anna anymore)

tim

stop.

anna
c'mon

tim
no stop!

diego
c'mon tim, we're just having.

tim
(to anna)
here. just.

anna
what.

(tim moves anna to sit down with a thump)

anna
hey.

diego
be careful.

keri
what's wrong.

tim
nothing.

(tim is clearly in pain)

(train stops. doors open.)

keri
you alright?

tim
i'm fine.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

(tim moves to another part of the car)

anna
what's wrong.

diego
what's wrong.

keri
his leg.

tim
i'm fine. just.

diego
is he alright.

keri
he will be.

anna
i'm sorry.

keri
it's fine.

anna
i'm so fat.

diego
no you're not.

anna
i shouldn't have

diego
he didn't have to

anna
thrust my fat ass on him.

tim
i'm fine. i'm fine. i'm fine. just

keri
just leave him.

anna
(shrugs to diego)

diego
(makes a shrug face)

keri
just leave him.

diego
did he just
or is it from

keri
from before.

diego
oh.

anna
oh.

diego
i thought i noticed.

keri
yeah. just
let's just

anna
okay.

....
....
....

(train stops. doors open.)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

diego
....

keri
....

anna

....

tim

(rubs his leg)

anna

(rubs her belly)

diego

....

keri

....

tim

....

anna

(rubs her belly)

tim

(rubs his leg)

keri

....

diego

....

anna

....

keri

....

tim

....

diego

....

anna

....

keri

i thought maybe your parents would be there tonight.

anna

oh.

keri

weren't they close with

anna

oh. yeah. they were close but

keri

is your family still close by? were they

anna

no they're

keri

they're still

anna

oh. yeah. they. they were fine when it, uh. they were upstate. so.

keri

i always liked your mom.

anna

yeah she always liked you too. she would've liked us. together. being

keri

tell her i say hi.

anna

yeah. i.

diego

anna's mom passed.

keri

oh. i'm sorry.

anna

that's okay. thanks. she. uh. she went... quick. peacefully.

diego

as peacefully as you can go.

keri

that's good. i guess, if

anna

if you're going to go that's the way to go haha.

keri

definitely.

tim

sorry to hear that.

anna

thanks.

keri

my aunt went. recently. too.

anna

ah. i'm sorry.

keri

i. yeah thanks.

but your mom. i'm so sorry.

anna

thanks.

.....
.....
.....

(train stops. doors open.)

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

diego

ah. well. it's like you said, anna.

anna

right.

tim

what was that?

diego

if you're gonna go...

tim

huh?

diego

you know.

tim

what?

diego

anna was saying. before.

tim

i musta missed it

keri

yeah she said

anna

we were saying, that's a way to go. a nice way to go.

diego

if.

tim

if what?

diego

you know.

tim

if what?

diego

we were just saying

tim

saying what?

what were you going to say? if you're going to go...

diego

no what anna was saying.

tim

no you were saying.

diego

ha, i don't even know.

keri

who cares.

tim

i do. you were saying if you have to die. if we have to die

diego

i don't know.

anna

it'd be a nice way to go.

tim

what would be?

anna

to go quick. peacefully.

tim

is that what you were saying?

diego

i think so.

tim

oh.

diego

hahaha.

anna

who knows.

tim

or was that just a thing to say?

diego
what?

keri
tim.

tim
what?

diego
was it

tim
a thing to say?

keri
let it go.

tim
or did you mean it?

diego
mean it?

tim
yeah did you mean it? is that how you'd prefer to die or were just saying it like it's a thing to say?

keri
tim

tim
what?

keri
he just said it.

anna
it was just a thing to say.

diego
yeah, i don't know. i just said it.

tim
so you didn't mean it.

diego

i guess i meant it.

tim

did you?

keri

let's talk about something else.

anna

yeah. i don't know even know who is saying what or who means what.

tim

what?

keri

let's talk about something else.

tim

why?

keri

because, tim.

tim

i want to talk about this.

diego

it's fine.

anna

no it's annoying.

keri

i agree.

tim

i'm talking to diego.

diego

it's fine we're just talking.

tim

see?

diego

i don't know what we're talking about but it's fine.

tim

i asked you to clarify how you'd prefer to die.

keri

tim.

tim

if that's what we're all meant to do. if that's what we're all gonna do sooner or later.

keri

drop it.

tim

should i?

keri

yes.

tim

i should?

keri

yes.

tim

(stares at keri for an uncomfortably long time)

....

okay.

keri

okay.

tim

.....

diego

.....

anna

.....

keri

.....

tim

.....

diego

.....

anna

.....

keri

.....

tim

.....

diego

.....

anna

.....

keri

.....

tim

.....

diego

.....

anna

.....

(train stops. doors open.)

.....

.....

.....

sound: ***bing bong***

(doors close. train pulls out.)

keri

did you see joey mancuso?

anna

yeah. my god.
what happened to him?
so fat, right?

keri

pete says he was in an accident.

anna

he was?

keri

that's what pete says.

anna

oh. well. if that's what pete says then that's what musta happened haha.

keri

that's what happened.

anna

what happened?
what kind of accident?

keri

they had to replace part of his brain.

anna

really?

keri

apparently.

anna

is that why he was dancing like that?

keri

i guess.

anna

i can't believe i just. that's terrible.

keri

he was working one of the rescue boats. after the first wave. shuttling people down near the canal street. apparently. and he was on his uncle's shitty fishing boat and you know joey he probably put too many people on and it must've capsized or something. or something.

anna

oh.

keri

yeah.

anna

that's awful.

keri

one day you have everything and the next day you don't.

anna

yeah everything is

//////////

tim

you should draft up.

diego

ha. me?

tim

yeah.

diego

i know i should have.

tim

no you should.

diego

now?

tim

yeah. why not?

diego

'cause i just. it's not.

tim

not what?

diego

not for me, i guess.

tim

you're capable. not everyone is.

diego

don't get me wrong

tim

okay.

.
(train stops. doors open.)

diego

i see why you drafted yourself.

tim

do you?

diego

yeah, man. i respect what you've done.

tim

thank you.

diego

it's just not for me.

tim

that's

diego

that's my opinion.

tim

which you're entitled to.

diego

thank you.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

tim

but.

at the same time, you're not.

diego

i'd rather not get into

tim

oh no?

diego

i'm free to have whatever opinion i want.

as are you.

tim

yes. but.

diego

what

tim

that freedom comes at a cost.

diego

freedom's not free, right dude.

tim

right. it's not.

diego

no one made you draft up.

tim

nope. but i did.

diego

and good for you.

tim

good for me

and good for you.

diego

and good for everyone that makes whatever the fuck choices they want.

tim

.....

diego

.....

tim

.....

diego

how's your leg?

tim

it'll be alright.

diego

good.

tim

knock on wood.

(knocks on his leg)

anna

(see this and looks to keri)

tim

actually it's a carbon fiber composite.

(tim lifts his pant leg to reveal a prosthetic.)

tim

okay for walking. shitty on the dance train.

anna

oh.

tim

that's alright.

(train stops. doors open.)

anna

i feel so stupid.

tim

don't worry about it.

keri

you didn't know.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna

i had no idea

keri

how could you.

diego

i didn't know.

tim

that's alright.

diego

damn.

tim

how would you know unless you were humping my leg or something.

diego

well now i won't.

tim

thank you.

anna

diego.

diego

what?

anna

don't hump his leg.

diego

i'm not going to. not now, anyway.

tim

just hump the other one. you know, if you can't resist.

diego

i will make sure of it.

anna

diego

diego

what?

anna

this isn't something to

keri

oh it's fine.

tim

it's fine.

anna

i mean

tim

it's fine.

anna

is it from

tim

yes.

anna

when?

tim

you got it.

keri

he's fine. really.

anna

okay.

diego

so does that mean you can't

tim
fuck?

diego
no. serve.

tim
oh.

anna
that's

keri
no.

tim
i'm done.

diego
damn.

(train stops. doors open.)

tim
time to

keri
move on.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

tim
anyway.
(pointing to anna's stomach)
when is that due?

anna
when is

keri
it's called a baby, tim.

diego
not to get scientific.

keri

no.

tim

a baby.

anna

she's due october thirty first.

keri

ooooo

tim

spooky.

diego

yeah. our little ghoul.

anna

i prefer pumpkin.

that's what it feels like anyway.

keri

i bet.

anna

ugh. you have no.

keri

no i don't.

anna

i didn't mean it like that.

keri

i know.

anna

i bet you will soon.

keri

me?

anna

yeah. of course. no?

keri

no, i don't think so.

anna

no?

keri

no.

anna

oh you should.

diego

yeah come on, man.

tim

no i don't think so.

diego

yeah, draft up.

tim

no, no, no.

diego

yeah, take the plunge.

tim

not us. we don't

diego

c'mon, why not. our little ghoul will need some company. some fellow

anna

that's true. wouldn't that be fun. wouldn't that be adorable. playdates.

keri

yeah.

anna

oh, yeah, you're gonna love it.

keri

being pregnant?

anna

why not. of course. i do.

keri

no i don't think we

anna

what?

keri

i don't think we, uh.
want to.

anna

what?

keri

no.

(train stops. doors open.)

anna

oh my god. why not?

keri

we just

anna

really?

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

//////////

diego

no kids

tim

um. well. no.

diego

well. i guess. huh.

tim

it's just. not for us.

diego

not for everyone. i guess. but.

tim

nope.

//////////

anna

i didn't know that. did i know that?

keri

i don't think you knew that.

anna

did you always

keri

no. i don't think so. it's just
with all the

anna

the

keri

going on in the world.

anna

uh

keri

we just don't want to bring another life into it.

anna

(looks down at her stomach)

keri

i mean.

anna

that's okay.

keri

to each their own.

diego

(sits down next to anna)

you guys totally should though.

anna

yeah you guys totally should.

diego

(rubs anna's belly)

anna

you guys'd be great parents.

keri

i really don't think that's true. i mean we wouldn't be bad parents but we certainly wouldn't be great. we'd be mediocre. and what kid wants mediocre parents.

anna

that's not true!

diego

you guys'd be great.

keri

i'm too selfish

tim

she is.

and i'm a cripple.

keri

and tim's a cripple.

anna

besides the world has always been messed up. or always seemed that way when really that's life. and life goes on.

keri

i don't think that's true.

anna

of course it is!

keri

it used to be a better place.

diego

that's just a thing people think about things when they're in them because they lack perspective.

(train stops. doors open.)

keri

i don't lack perspective.

tim

we don't lack perspective.

diego

of course you do.

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

diego

we all do. it's not a judgement. it's just. we can't possibly understand what it's like to live in another time.

tim

yeah but we have basic facts. to make judgements about other times.

diego

and so it just seems like other times were better. grass is greener.

anna

but actually this is a great time to be alive.

tim

.....

keri

do you really believe that?

anna

yes.

diego

we do. most of the time.

tim

maybe you're just lucky. to not be on the shittier side of things. the privileged class always thinks it's a great time to be alive.

diego

i wouldn't say we're privileged.

anna

well.

keri

you are.

tim

so are we. i guess. compared to

diego

so you're privileged but you think that life is shit. doesn't that just make you ungrateful?

tim

no it just means we have perspective.

diego

i see.

anna

even with certain, uh, privileges, it's still a struggle. you still need to be resourceful.

diego

definitely.

keri

some days you just wake up and

(train stops. doors open.)

anna

.....

keri

i don't see how it can get any worse.

anna

.....

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

keri

ever since the surge, it just
i don't want to say hopeless.

anna

nothing's hopeless.

tim

she didn't say hopeless.

keri

every week's there's some new disaster or tragedy or everything is

diego

some of the tragedies are tragedies and some of these disasters are really just acts of god.
you can't blame people for

anna

everything. everything is

keri

acts of god?

anna

and acts of good.
people are inherently...
we're part of a community.

keri

acts of god?
i don't see acts of god.
or even acts of goodness.
i see a void.
i see empty churches.
mobs of the faithless wandering the streets.
i don't see families
i see women on last resorts
with sick children and no cures
so many monopolies selling nothing.
the government
stripping us of the most basic services
every day i wake up
and it just feels like
our lives
the ones we used to know
have been sabotaged

and replaced
with a land of rubble.
there's no escaping from it.
marriages without life and
occupations until death
old newborns and new born-again.
less minds and more bodies.
i see plenty of heroes
but no saviors
no answers
you say
you see communities
i see deserted villages
raising no one
not even self.
not awareness.
not anything.

anna

.....

keri

.....

(train stops. doors open.)

.....

.....

anna

but don't you think

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna

despite all the
i don't know.

diego

what.

anna

as a woman. or as the human race. i mean, nature.
don't you think it's sorta why we're here. to repopulate. despite all the

keri

i think. well. i think nature will carry on just fine without us multiplying.

tim

nature hasn't had a say in what we've been doing in a long long time. we've spun off course from whatever

anna

so what then. what are we expected to do. just

tim

but hypothetically. i guess the original intention, of nature, was for us to repopulate.

anna

see.

(train stops. doors open.)

keri

(to tim)

do you believe that?

tim

yeah. ya know

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

tim

strictly looking at it from nature's view.

keri

how nice that you have the ability to do that.

tim

it's a gift i have.

diego

it's called perspective.

tim

but you know. despite nature's best intentions. everyone's not meant to

anna

so you agree that.

tim

hypothetically.

diego

everyone's not meant to because...? are you talking about economics or health reasons, or.

keri

or just shitty people. shitty people shouldn't get together with other shitty people and repopulate and make little shitty children.

anna

but they do.

keri

i guess the hope is that the children are less shitty.

diego

or like, are you saying people are genetically not meant to?

keri

nature has no control over us. we're not little baby turtles trying to pull ourselves into the ocean past all the predators and dangers. this isn't survival of the fittest.

tim

or maybe it is.

maybe that's exactly what this is.

keri

stop, tim.

anna

which is why good people like yourselves should have kids.

diego

yeah, outbreed the shitty people.

tim

yeah outbreed the shitty people.

and the poor.

diego

well

tim

and the retards.

anna
that's not what

tim
and the weak and the disadvantageded.

keri
tim

tim
outbreed the immigrants and minorities. 'cause they're certainly trying to outbreed you.

diego
okay that's

tim
(to diego)
and definitely outbreed the cripples.

anna
(nervous laughs)

(train stops. doors open.)

tim
if that's what nature wants right, anna?

anna
.....

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna
i didn't mean

tim
to what? to push the issue again and again?

anna
well yeah.

tim
huh. well you

diego
dude.

tim
what

diego
you need to sit down.

tim
do i?

diego
yeah.

tim
do i?

diego
yes!

keri
we were pregnant.

anna
you were?

keri
yeah.

anna
oh my god. when

tim
yeah we were pregnant alright.

keri
before we were married actually.

anna
oh you. and you

keri
no we didn't.

anna
oh. good.

keri

we wanted it. we wanted to keep the baby.

tim

for all eleven weeks and three days.

anna

have you ever. been to a doctor. there are.

keri

have i? yes, anna, i've been to a doctor. we aren't

tim

(to keri)

they recommend a doctor.

anna

i'm just asking.

diego

she was just saying. if you haven't.

tim

why wouldn't we've been to a doctor?

diego

i don't know. some people don't.

anna

not everyone

keri

can afford it?

we've been to a doctor.

anna

great. that's great.

keri

the doctor was the problem.

tim

everyone runs to doctors.

diego

not all doctors are bad.

tim

but some of them are. and isn't that enough?

anna

to avoid them altogether?

keri

we don't avoid them but

(train stops. doors open.)

tim

fuck doctors.

anna

did something

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

keri

what?

anna

i mean did something

diego

what do you mean the doctor was the problem?

you know, we can recommend a good doctor if you, i mean if you had, some sort of. of course there are bad doctors but

tim

rich people have good doctors everyone else has licensed crooks.

anna

is everything okay?

keri

everything is

anna

you could try again.

keri

yes, but. no, we don't

tim

we don't want children. anymore. that's our fuckin choice not yours.

diego

.....

anna

why didn't you tell me. i know we weren't talking but still

diego

you should have

tim

called you?

diego

yeah.

tim

we did. right after the surge.

diego

the surge.

tim

right after.

keri

during the surge. after it. during.

tim

when we called you. for help. remember?

anna

....

diego

....

(train stops. doors open.)

.....

.....

.....

sound: **bing bong**

(doors close. train pulls out.)

anna

(looks at diego)

diego

(looks back)

anna

during the surge.

keri

do you remember or have you

anna

i remember.

diego

you called us.

tim

we called you.

diego

but

tim

but you didn't.

diego

we were uh

anna

....

keri

we didn't have anyone else.

anna

you were pregnant.

keri

we were.

diego

we didn't know.

anna

how could we know.

tim

we called you for help. you were our best friends.

anna

....

diego

well. yeah.

tim

and when we were evacuated. when we lost our apartment. and our belongings. when we were stranded on the street and eventually stuffed keri's shirt with discarded newspapers to keep warm because the shelter was full and then closed and we thought who should we call. who can we call. who will come to help us. and keri said anna and diego. they'll come. they're safe where they are. and so we called.

we learned a lot that day.

keri, she. the next day she still thought you'd come. she kept hoping.

but not me. i knew. there's something i always knew. when you really need someone are they there? no matter what, are they there. and with you, i guess i always knew the answer was no.

but keri, she.

you really broke her heart.

and that broke mine.

but we didn't totally and completely break until we went to the doctor. eventually found a way to the doctor. and. well. that

(the train comes to jerking halt.

everyone jolts

anna holds her belly. a contraction)

anna

oh.

diego

oh?

anna

yeah.

diego
what's

tim
....

keri
....

diego
why are we stopped.

tim
who knows.

keri
perfect. let's just get stuck here. in this.

anna
ooh.

(they watch anna.)

diego
you alright?

anna
yeah. yeah. it's just. yeah i'm okay.

diego
....

(tim exits to the other end of the car.)

anna
(breathes)

keri
....

diego
....

keri
(to tim)
what is it?

(tim comes back.)

tim

(shrugs)

anna

(sighs)

(the contraction passes)

diego

you good?

anna

yeah.

diego

....

anna

my mother died.

keri

right. you said.

anna

no.

keri

what?

diego

that day.

anna

she died that day.

keri

what day?

anna

that day of the surge.

keri

what? i thought she

anna

she was visiting. fighting with my dad. he was being. well nevermind. he was being himself. who he is. and my mom needed a break from that. from him. so she and then the surge. and i don't know she had some.

diego

preexisting.

anna

had some preexisting.

diego

weak immune system.

anna

the toxins in the air that day were just enough to she was in agony for and we got your phone call and we wanted to help but

keri

i thought you said she went peacefully.

anna

that's what i say, yeah. to myself.

diego

we wanted to help. dude. we really did.

keri

i'm sorry i didn't know your mom was if i would've know i

anna

wouldn't have given me the silent treatment for five years?

keri

well i

anna

wouldn't have flushed our friendship down the toilet?

keri

that's not

tim

that's not fair.

you could have called us back.
you could've picked up.

diego

dude her mom was bleeding out of her eyes.

anna

diego. i really don't

diego

sorry. it's just. you guys have been.

you call us privileged. and maybe we are but who are you on your horses and loving the smell of your own shit. just 'cause you drafted up and you save animals and you couldn't even save yourselves. you don't know what we've been through. you have no fuckin idea. just 'cause some stupid dorm room and false memories.

you want us to feel guilty. and i wish there was something. i wish it didn't happen like it did. we were good friends. but really i don't.

tim

don't what?

diego

don't know if you would have come for us. either.

tim

.....

keri

we would have come for you.

anna

if you could. and we would have come for you. but we couldn't.

tim

you don't think we would have come for you?

diego

i don't know. we were good friends.

tim

right.

diego

but really.

tim

.....

diego

what does that mean?

keri

....

anna

(breathing)

diego

....

tim

....

keri

.....

(diego walks to the other end of the car.)

anna

(breathing)

keri

your breathing is.

anna

yup.

(diego comes back.)

anna

(looks to diego)

diego

(shrugs)

tim

probably just

*(a huge explosion off.
their car is rocked.)*

keri and anna are thrown from their seats

*they grasp for the poles for stability.
tim and diego are thrown to the ground.
tim crashes into a pole hard. a snapping sound. he doesn't move.*

*broken windows.
steam and smoke and hissing.*

*everything is dark except for
a cracked, flickering light*

confused yelling from off.

diego makes his way to his knees. coughing.

*anna is breathing heavily and moaning.
keri takes her hand.)*

keri

it's okay.

diego

what. happened.

anna

ah. i. ah. i.

diego

anna. what.

tim

(moans)

keri

tim.

diego

tim. are you

tim

(moans)

keri

are you.

(tim pulls himself up against a seat.)

keri

what was
what happened.

tim

(moans)

keri

are you

tim

i'm. fine. i.
are you

keri

i'm fine.

(diego has helped anna up.)

diego

anna. are you

anna

(breathing)

diego

are you

anna

(breathing)

diego

are you okay. are you hurt
why are you. are you

anna

i'm okay. but i'm

diego

are you. are you sure?

anna

diego. yes. it's
the baby is

diego

....

tim

....

diego

the baby is? what? the baby is what?

keri

the baby is coming.

diego

i. but you're okay.

considering. i mean. are you hurt?

anna

(breathing)

keri

she's okay. right. you're okay.

anna

i'm okay.

(breathing)

the baby is. okay. but the baby is. don't let me do it like this.

i don't want to have the baby like this. please diego please.

diego

okay.

tim

you need to go get help.

diego

what?

tim

you need to go get help.

diego

what do you mean?

what was that.

was it?

tim

it doesn't matter what it was. what it is. does not matter.

diego

what's wrong with your
you're bleeding.

tim

my leg is broken. my prosthetic. but it cut my
i'll be fine. but i'm bleeding and. for now.

keri

put pressure on it.

tim

i am. i know what to

diego

but what if the explosion. if it.

tim

that's what you have to go find out.

keri

i'll stay with anna.

diego

i don't think i should.
don't think i can.
better if i stay here...

keri

i'll stay with anna. this way if something.

tim

diego look at me.

diego

(looks at anna)

anna

(breathing)

keri

(breathing with her)

tim

look at me.

diego

(looks at tim)

tim

you need to go get help now.

diego

but if.

tim

you find help. you find us help.

diego

i.

tim

you're the only one that can go.

diego

someone should be coming for us.

tim

no one's coming for us.

diego

(watching)

anna

(breathing)

keri

(breathing with her)

tim

go.

diego

okay. i'll go.

tim

okay.

(diego stands up. gets his footing.)

tim
go.

diego
okay.

(diego stumbles off and out of the car.)

anna
where's he going. why is he leaving.

keri
he's going to get help.

anna
i don't want him to go.

tim
he's gone.

anna
he's not supposed to be gone. he's supposed to be here. with me. when. i can't. i can't do this with out him. i. this is not how we practiced it.
ahhhhhhhh.

keri
okay. breathe. don't push. just breathe.

anna
(labored breathing)

keri
that's it.

anna
i.
don't.
want.
this.
to.
happen.

keri
it's not going to happen right now. okay. just don't. don't push.

anna

WHERE THE FUCK DID DIEGO GO?!!!

keri

okay, stay calm.

anna

I AM FUCKING CALM!!

tim

diego went to get help.

anna

why would he leave me.

tim

he went to get help.

anna

why didn't you go you piece of shit. you make diego go. is this some sort of payback. i'm sorry we didn't help you. my mother's throat collapsed in my hands.

tim

my leg broke off and i'm bleeding pretty severely.

anna

oh. i'm sorry. it's just

tim

it's fine.

anna

(breathing again)

oh. oh. oh. oh.

keri

that's fine. don't apologize. just relax.

anna

stop telling me to fucking relax. i know what you're doing and it's not working. i'm not one of your fucking animals. spaniel cocker whatever.

keri

okay.

anna

i'm sorry. i.

oh.

oh.

oh.

keri

breathe. breathe.

anna

(breathing)

tim

....

keri

good.

anna

(breathing)

(there is shouting off and something loud. metal banging against metal.)

anna

wha.

what. wha.

keri

that's nothing.

tim

it's nothing.

anna

where is. okay.

where is diego. why isn't he back yet.

tim

he'll be back.

anna

i know he's coming back. why would you fucking say that. i didn't ask IF he was coming back. i asked when like in why is not back yet. like in already. like in he should already be back with fucking help i can't believe he left me.

keri

he had to.

anna

i know i just can't believe it. we had such a great plan. we would be in the forest hills. we should be

keri

things don't always go to plan.

anna

right. i know. right. i know that.

oh.

because you mean. with your. i'm sorry. i'm so sorry.

keri

it's okay.

(anna tries to hug keri.)

anna

okay.

okay. okay.

(breathing)

(breathing)

(breathing)

tim

....

(more shouting from off.)

keri

what's happening.

anna

(breathing)

tim

i don't know.

keri

....

tim

....

anna
(breathing)

keri
is this how it ends?

tim
i don't know.

anna
*(breathing slows.
contraction subsides.)*

tim
....

anna
we used to be such good friends.

keri
yes.

anna
such good. friends.

keri
uh huh.

tim
(listens to the shouting)

keri
what are they saying?

tim
i don't know.

anna
can we be that again?

keri
uh huh.

anna
good. good. that makes me

keri

....

anna

....

tim

....

anna

don't leave me.

keri

i'm not going to.

anna

i know tim is hurt and maybe you want to take care of him and maybe you just want to get out of here, the both of you, together. but i. i understand that. but

keri

anna. we're not going to leave you. okay?

anna

okay. it's just that i. thank you.
can you deliver my baby.

keri

i. what

anna

i'm going to have the baby now. can you deliver it?

keri

you're not. you just need to

anna

keri you're not listening to me i'm going to have this baby now because that's what is happening and it's not up to me or you or fucking disappearing diego or cripple tim. this baby is coming out of me. do you hear this?

keri

yes. i hear you.

anna

good because this is.

(the doors to their car are being pryed open.)

keri

what is that. is someone trying to get in here.

tim

i can't see.

keri

someone is breaking in.

anna

what?

keri

don't let them in here.

tim

i can't.

keri

tim i don't have a good feeling about this. you.

tim

what do you want me to do.

keri

i want you to stop them.

(the doors pry open and steam pours in.)

diego

(from the other side)

hey. hey. is that you guys. is this the right.

tim

diego is that you.

keri

be careful it could be. be someone else.

tim do something.

do something.

anna

is that diego.

keri

(shaking tim)

do something.

do something.

do something.

(diego climbs through the doors and into the car.)

anna

diego.

you came back.

diego

are you okay baby.

anna

i'm okay. no baby yet.

keri

she's doing okay. we.

tim

what's going on out there.

diego

c'mon we have to go.

(we can see more of his head now and it's bloody.)

keri

what happened to your head.

diego

oh. i. there was a

it doesn't matter. we need to go. we need to get out of here.

anna

yes. yes. let's please.

(keri helps anna.)

diego

(to tim)

can you walk.

tim

not really i

(diego helps tim up.)

(keri helps anna up.)

(diego supports tim.)

tim

is everything

diego

everything is

tim

...

diego

...

(diego helps tim out of the doors first.)

(then helps anna and keri climb out.)

(they're gone.)

(more shouting.)

*(the lights flicker.
and out.)*

end.