

**DWS AUDIO**

**“IN TRANSIT”**

CHARACTERS:

KATIE...Eloise Thody

HARLEY...Alex Savine

STATION ANNOUNCER...Sebastian O'Discoll-Henderson

F/X FADE UP INTERIOR ACCOUTIC. A RAILWAY STATION CAFÉ. IN B/G THE  
INTERMITTENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRAIN DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS.  
CLOSE TO MIC. A CHAIR SCRAPES ACROSS THE FLOOR.

HARLEY *(Sips coffee, beat)* Good book?

KATIE Are you talking to me?

HARLEY It sounds like you're talking to *me*. *(Beat)* I think it's very brave of you to make the first move.

KATIE *(Like he's stupid)* What?

HARLEY I could be anybody.

KATIE I'm not making any kind of move.

HARLEY You started the conversation.

KATIE You parked yourself there. Didn't even ask.

HARLEY: What?

KATIE: If the seat was taken.

HARLEY Is it?

KATIE That's not the point. The point is --

HARLEY You're still talking to me. *(Beat)* My name's Harley...

KATIE I have to go.

HARLEY ...Davidson. *(Beat)* Like the bike.

KATIE *(Amused)* Harley Davidson? Real name Harvey Davidson. God's gift to women everywhere.

HARLEY *(Wary)* Do I know you?

KATIE *(Toys)* You mean you don't remember?

HARLEY Did we ever...?

KATIE ...go out? You tell me.

HARLEY *(Brainwave)* New Year's Eve. Crown and Anchor. You did that thing with a balloon. Or was it Duke of Marlborough?

KATIE            Neither I hope.

HARLEY         Are you the girl with the sister?

KATIE            Only child.

HARLEY         No, wait. You work behind the bar at The Zap Club. Right? *(Beat)* Corals? The Stadium? Grenadier?

KATIE            Now you're just naming pubs.

HARLEY         The Pink Coconut?

KATIE            Do I look like I'd go somewhere called 'The Pink Coconut'?

HARLEY         Classy girl. *(An idea.)* Have we ever been to a Harvester?

KATIE            You were never the sharpest knife in the draw.

HARLEY         What drawer?

KATIE            At school. St. George's? You sat behind me in English. *(Beat)* Katie. Perry. Like the singer. Only with a with a fringe and nasty specs.

HARLEY         I can't believe I don't remember you.

KATIE            Because I never looked this good in Year Ten?

HARLEY         *(Yes.)* No. *(Beat)* I weren't that stupid.

KATIE            *(Corrects)* Wasn't.

HARLEY         I had other qualities.

KATIE            Must have been very hard for you, being the resident heart-throb. All those girls laughing at your so-not-funny jokes.

HARLEY         Jealous?

KATIE            *(Yes.)* No.

HARLEY         Is that all you remember me for: smooth talk and bad jokes?

KATIE            ...And the Caveman of Year Eleven.

HARLEY         You remember the Caveman?

KATIE            Everyone remembers the Caveman. Alan Carter. Terroriser of Year Seven boys. You thumped him.

HARLEY            (*Proud*) Terroriser no more.

KATIE            So what do you do in the real world?

HARLEY            I work in the...fashion industry.

KATIE            As in clothes? Designer? Buyer?

HARLEY            Retail.

KATIE            You work in a shop?

HARLEY            (*Don't knock it*) Twenty percent staff discount.

KATIE            How long have you being doing that?

HARLEY            Since I left school.

KATIE            You've been there five years?

HARLEY            It won't be forever. I've got a job interview. In London. Today. (*Beat*) What do you think of the suit?

KATIE            What's the job?

HARLEY            Company are opening up two new branches. They need new managers.

KATIE            Where?

HARLEY            (*Thinks.*) Somewhere beginning with 'G'. I think.

KATIE            Management. That's great. (*Beat, puzzled*) Isn't it?

HARLEY            What about you? Where are you going?

KATIE            Good question. (*Beat*) Like you. Another interview, for another job I won't get. Six months out of university and completely unemployable.

HARLEY            Where are you living?

KATIE            Why?

HARLEY            Nothing wrong with living with the old folk.

KATIE            (*Defensive*) Who says I'm living at home?

HARLEY           What you need is a loft conversion with on-suite facilities.

KATIE            What I need is to start living my life. You're lucky. The chance to go somewhere new. I'd take anywhere beginning with 'G'. Or any letter of the alphabet.

HARLEY           I'd happily stay here.

KATIE            Why? Promotion. More money.

HARLEY           More rent.

KATIE            New people, new opportunities.

HARLEY           I like my old friends. Everyone here knows me. I'm the...

KATIE            ...kid who thumped the Caveman.

HARLEY           People still buy me drinks.

KATIE            And when they stop buying you drinks?

HARLEY           *(Beat)* How come I never noticed you in school?

KATIE            You only spoke to the pretty girls. Like Linda Price.

HARLEY           *(Beat)* Up there, the streets aren't all paved with gold. Stay here. Find a job here.

KATIE            What's in this town for me?

HARLEY           I can think of one thing.

KATIE            *(Confesses, coy)* You know the girl with the fringe and the nasty specs couldn't even talk to you. She wasn't brave enough.

HARLEY           You're talking to me now. *(Beat)* Would you like to go out for a coffee with me?

KATIE            We're having coffee.

HARLEY           I mean like sometime...on a date.

KATIE            Wow. Harley Davidson asking me out. On a date.

HARLEY           What do you say?

KATIE            I say 'yes'

HARLEY           Great. Problem solved.

F/X HE TEARS UP HIS TICKET.

KATIE What are you doing?

HARLEY I don't need my ticket. Forget the job.

KATIE (*Shocked*) What? You'd give up somewhere beginning with 'G' just to be with me?

HARLEY I'm not going anywhere.

KATIE And if you stay, you won't.

HARLEY Won't what?

KATIE Go anywhere. (*Beat*) I'm sorry, this is my fault. I didn't mean to lead you on.

HARLEY I thought you and I –

KATIE You and I, we're both treading water. Waiting for something to come along and rescue us.

HARLEY Hello. Lifeguard.

KATIE I'm not the answer. (*Beat*) And you're not the answer to my situation. I'm sorry.

HARLEY You can't just go. What about our date?

KATIE I'm so sorry.

HARLEY A minute ago you wanted to go out with me.

KATIE I know.

HARLEY I won't take 'no' for an answer.

F/X IN B/G ANNOUCEMENT OF IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF THE TRAIN TO LONDON.

KATIE Then you leave me no choice.

F/X SHE SLAPS HIM AROUND THE CHEEK.

HARLEY (*Static mouth*) What was that / for?

KATIE You lying, cheating dirt bag.

HARLEY What on –

KATIE Messing around with that Linda Price!

HARLEY I didn't do –

KATIE It's okay. I forgive you, you're only human.

HARLEY I haven't been –

KATIE But I think we should take a break, see other people.

HARLEY What are you talking about?

KATIE It's over. I'm breaking up with you.

HARLEY But we just –

KATIE I know.

HARLEY (*Rubs his cheek, winces.*) Why did you do that?

KATIE Trust me, this is the quickest way to make you understand. You've got a train to catch.

HARLEY I get it. You're doing this to get back at me for not noticing you at a school.

KATIE Getting together with me gives you an opt-out. You don't want to go for this job because you're scared.

HARLEY Me? Scared? Scared of what?

KATIE Going outside of what's easy.

HARLEY How about this for scary? Move in with me. It's a great loft conversion.

KATIE You were brave once. You stood up to the Caveman. You need to be brave again. (*Beat*) And so do I. I need to find a different path. Like you.

*Silence.*

KATIE Take *my* ticket. You have an opportunity.

HARLEY My life is here.

KATIE Where everything is safe. But safe only leads to disappointment. You have to get on that train before it leaves.

HARLEY What about your interview?

KATIE I can afford to miss my train.



HARLEY        Were you always this smart?

KATIE         You really don't remember me, do you?

HARLEY        My loss.

KATIE         No, my loss.

F/X            IN B/G ANNOUNCEMENT OF A TRAIN TO LONDON ABOUT TO LEAVE...

KATIE         Go. Now! (*Calling after him*) Good luck. (*Pause, more to herself; wistful*) Have a nice life.

F/X            FADE OUT.