

Before Sunrise

INT. TRAIN LOUNGE. DAY

Céline: You know my parents have never really spoken of the possibility of my falling in love, or getting married, or having children. Even as a little girl, they wanted me to think of a future career, as a, you know, as an interior designer, or a lawyer, or something like that. I'd say to my dad, 'I want to be a writer.' and he'd say journalist. I'd say I wanted to have a refuge for stray cats, and he'd say veterinarian. I'd say I wanted to be an actress, and he'd say TV newscaster. It was this constant conversion of my fanciful ambition into these practical, money-making ventures.

Jesse: Hmm. I always had a pretty good bullshit detector when I was a kid, you know. I always knew when they were lying to me, you know. By the time I was in high school, I was dead set on listening to what everybody thought I should be doing with my life, and just kind of doing just the opposite.

Céline: Mm, hmm.

Jesse: No one was ever mean about it. It's just, I could never get very excited about other people's ambitions for my life.

Céline: But you know what, if your parents never really fully contradict you about anything, and like are basically nice, and supportive...

Jesse: Right...

Céline: It makes it even harder to officially complain. You know, even when they're wrong, it's this, it's this passive-aggressive shit, you know what I mean, it's... I hate it, I really hate it.

Jesse: Well, you know, despite all that kind of bullshit that comes along with it, I remember childhood as this, you know, this magical time. I do. I remember when, uh, my mother first told me about death. My great-grandmother had just died, and my whole family had just visited them in Florida. I was about 3, 3 and a half years old. Anyway, I was in the backyard, playing, and my sister had just taught me how to take the garden hose, and do it in such a way that, uh, you could spray it into the sun, and you could make a rainbow. And so I was doing that, and through the mist I could see my grandmother. And she was just standing there, smiling at me. And uh, then I held it there, for a long time, and I looked at her. And then finally, I let go of the nozzle, you know, and then I

dropped the hose, and she disappeared. And so I went back inside, and I tell my parents, you know. And they, uh, sit me down give me big rap on how when people die you never see them again, and how I'd imagined it. But, I knew what I'd seen. And I was just glad that I saw that. I mean, I've never seen anything like that since. But, I don't know. It just kind of let me know how ambiguous everything was, you know, even death.

Céline: You're really lucky you can have this attitude towards death. I think I'm afraid of death 24 hours a day. I swear. I mean, that's why I'm in a train right now. I could have flown to Paris, but I'm too scared.

Jesse: Oh, come.

Céline: I can't help it. I can't help it. I know the statistics say na-na-na, its safer, whatever (*Jesse laughs*). When I'm in a plane, I can see it. I can see the explosion, (*Jesse gives explosion sound effect*). I can see me falling through the clouds, and I'm so scared of those few seconds of consciousness before you're gonna die, you know, when you know for sure you're gonna die. I can't stop thinking that way. Its exhausting.

Jesse: Yeah, I bet.

Céline: Really exhausting. (*she looks out window, points, as train slows down*) I think this is Vienna.

Jesse: Yeah.

Céline: You get off here, no?

Jesse: Yeah, what a drag. I wish I had met you earlier, you know, I really like talking to you.

Céline: Yeah, me too. It was really nice to meet you.

(*train stops*)

Jesse: Alright, I have an admittedly insane idea, but if I don't ask you this, it's just, uh, you know, it's gonna haunt me the rest of my life.

Céline: What?

Jesse: Um.. *(thinks)*. I want to keep talking to you, you know. I have no idea what your situation is, but, uh, but I feel like we have some kind of, uh, connection. Right?

Céline: Yeah, me too.

Jesse: Yeah, right, well, great. So listen, so here's the deal. This is what we should do. You should get off the train with me here in Vienna, and come check out the town.

Céline: What?

Jesse: Come on. It'll be fun. Come on.

Céline: What would we do?

Jesse: Umm, I don't know. All I know is I have to catch an Austrian Airlines flight tomorrow morning at 9:30, and I don't really have enough money for a hotel, so I was just going to walk around, and it would be a lot more fun if you came with me. And if I turn out to be some kind of psycho, you know, you just get on the next train.

(Céline smiles, still unsure)

Jesse: Alright, alright. Think of it like this. Um, uh, jump ahead, ten, twenty years, okay, and you're married. Only your marriage doesn't have that same energy that it used to have, you know. You start to blame your husband. You start to think about all those guys you've met in your life, and what might have happened if you'd picked up with one of them, right? *(Céline starts laughing a bit)* Well, I'm one of those guys. That's me, you know. So think of this as time travel, from then, to now, uh, to find out what you're missing out on. See, what this really could be is a gigantic favor to both you and your future husband, to find out that you're not missing out on anything. I'm just as big a loser as he is, totally unmotivated, totally boring, and, uh, you made the right choice, and you're really happy *(motions to towards the door)*.

Céline: *(thinks)* Let me get my bag.

Jesse: Yeah.

(They leave train, go into train station)