

The Triumphant MTA

By Ian Stroud

Int. Q Train, Evening

A typical NYC subway car is packed with commuters on their way home from work. In typical NYC fashion, they are all nonchalant and ignoring each other.

Conductor (V.O.)

Due to a signal outage at Lexington Avenue, we will hold in the station momentarily. Please be patient.

We see a few beats of the passengers not even affected by this news.

CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

Thanks for your patience folks. Turns out that the wiring of the signal has been disrupted by flooding waters from last night's storm. We've got the pumps working overtime, so it shouldn't be long now.

Still no reaction. Everyone is such a New Yorker.

CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

Bad news. We've just received word from dispatch that a mass migration of rats is on it's way through our tunnel, in an attempt to escape the rising flood waters. Please be patient.

Is anyone even listening? It sure doesn't look like it. After a beat, hundreds of rats somehow pour into the subway car, running from one end to the other and exiting. A few people halfheartedly pick their feet up. Another absentmindedly flicks at a rat that runs over his lap. Pretty quickly, all the rats leave and we see that they have also managed to chew through a lot of clothing and bags and such. Still, no one really reacts, outside of some minor glances to inspect the damage.

CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

The train in front of us has confirmed that, with no rats to maintain their tunnels, they have collapsed. NYFD is on it's way to help dig us out. We're expecting to be stuck here for the next few days. Thanks for your patience.

A few people roll their eyes and then go back to their iPhones and newspapers. Someone

coughs.

CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

Well folks, since we have some time on our hands, we're going to give an update on the MTA's new policies. Beginning next month, the L will be running express from 14th to Bedford. The 4, 5, 6 will be under construction from 3am-5am. And finally, we will be raising the rate of the unlimited Metro Card from \$104 a month to \$110 a month.

The train car erupts. People curse, throw things, tear off the ads, etc.

CONDUCTOR (V.O.)

Please be patient.