

LONDON IS RUDE

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. A BUSY LONDON STREET IN THE CITY - DAY

ARCHER, a thirty-something man who looks like he's missed several hours sleep, is hurriedly making his way through the crowd. It's rush hour and he continually bumps into people. His journey to work is the thread of the story throughout.

INT. A CROWDED BAR - NIGHT, FLASHBACK

ARCHER is sitting at the bar, looking a little worse for wear. He's talking to someone out of shot.

ARCHER

You know the problem with London?
It's rude, is the problem. Rude.
No one helps anyone. No one talks
to anyone. I've lived here for 25
years and it's always been the
same. Rude bastards at every turn.
Hey! Where are you going? Huh.
Just like everyone else. Bloody
rude.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. UNDERGROUND STATION ENTERANCE - DAY

Archer is struggling to get past a couple who are holding hand.

ARCHER

Sorry. Excuse me. Sorry, can I
just...?

He brushes past them, slightly nudging the man.

MAN

Hey! Watch it.

ARCHER

Sorry. I'm in a rush.

MAN

Just watch where you're going,
arsehole.

Archer mouths something inaudible to the man as he races on. More and more people get in his way as he makes his way down the stairs and into the station.

INT. RESTUARANT - NIGHT, FLASHBACK

Archer arrives at his table where his boyfriend, MARK is waiting. Mark is a similar age to Archer, handsome and dressed smartly.

MARK

Seriously? Half an hour.

ARCHER

Sorry. I had to finish things up.
I was late in again. And the
bloody tube is up the swanny
again.

MARK

You knew we had the table booked.

ARCHER

I'm so pissed off with this place.
It's no way to live.

MARK

You used to love it.

ARCHER

I know. But it was different ten,
fifteen years ago. Fewer people.
They were nicer too.

MARK

(Laughs)

Don't be absurd. London's always
been like that. You were just
younger. More tolerant.

ARCHER

I've never been tolerant.

MARK

True.

ARCHER

Anyway, let's eat.

Archer beckons a waiter over, who's flirting with a colleague, but the waiter ignores him and continues his

conversation accompanied with a little eye roll. Mark shrugs.

ARCHER
This is exactly what I was
talking about.

END FLASHBACK

INT. UNDERGROUND STATION - DAY

Archer is looking at the status board of the trains.

ARCHER
Jesus Christ!

Someone barges past him, nearly knocking him off his feet. He composes himself and looks for a STAFF MEMBER, which he soon tracks down.

ARCHER
Excuse me, do you know what's
happened to the Central Line?

STAFF
Dunno. Delays somewhere near
Hainault I think.

ARCHER
You think it's worth me waiting it
out or trying the Victoria Line
and changing?

STAFF
Dunno. Up to you.

ARCHER
(Pissed off)
Right. Thanks then.

Archer takes off.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY, FLASHBACK

LAUREN, a smartly dressed professional is waiting in the boardroom, staring up at a projector. Archer bursts in.

LAUREN
Evening.

ARCHER
Sorry. Trains were down.

LAUREN
Arch, we can't afford to lose this one. I need you to be here for the meeting tomorrow. Someone's already complained to Glenn about you being late to these things.

ARCHER
Who?

LAUREN
I have no idea.

ARCHER
So, what, Glenn mentioned it to you?

LAUREN
He did. And he's fairly fucked off.

ARCHER
Shit.

LAUREN
Quite. Listen, just make sure you're here on time tomorrow.

ARCHER
All right. What time is it?

LAUREN
9. Sharp.

ARCHER
9. Right.

END FLASHBACK

INT. UNDERGROUND PLATFORM - DAY

Archer is making his way down the platform, which is rammed. He looks at his watch, which reads 8.45

ARCHER

Shit.

He races down the platform in search of an exit and an alternative route. People still get in his way.

INT. ANOTHER UNDERGROUND PLATFORM - DAY

Archer makes his way to another platform just as a train is pulling in.

ARCHER

Thank God.

The doors open and, as he attempts to get on a LARGE LADY barges in front of him, forcing him back off the train.

ARCHER

Hey! Do you mind?

LADY

Pardon?

ARCHER

That was my spot.

LADY

Are you serious?

ARCHER

Please, I'm going to be late. Can you just move down a little?

LADY

There's no room.

ARCHER

There is.

LADY

Sorry.

ARCHER

Please.

LADY

It's tough mate. Get the next one.

Archer literally steps back, disbelieving. The train pulls away. Archer looks at his watch again.

ARCHER
Shit.

He runs off.

INT: ARCHER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT, FLASHBACK

Archer and Mark are lying in bed.

ARCHER
I got a load of abuse from those
kids again.

MARK
I told you to ignore them.

ARCHER
It's difficult. I'm so unhappy
here. I really think we should
move.

MARK
This again? You know you don't
really want to do that.

ARCHER
I don't know. I just can't live
with these people anymore.

MARK
So you want to move to the
country. Raise pigs?

ARCHER
Better than living with them.

MARK
Oh, give-over. Go to sleep.
Haven't you got the ROSCO
meeting tomorrow?

ARCHER
Yeah. And you can guarantee
there'll be a problem on the
trains again.

END FLASHBACK

INT: UNDERGROUND PLATFORM - DAY

Archer is running for a train, but the look on his face says he's not going to make it. The doors start to close and Archer gives up the chase. Suddenly a MAN puts his arm out and holds the door. Archer looks at the man and the man gestures with a 'hurry up' sign. Archer runs again and gets on the train. The man smiles.

ARCHER

Hey, thanks!

MAN

(With slight accent)

No worries.

ARCHER

Really appreciate it.

The man smiles, but says nothing. Archer smiles to himself and looks at his watch. The exhales, relieved that he might make it to work after all. He then looks at the man and smiles at him again.

ARCHER

You're the first helpful person
I've met all morning.

MAN

Yes. People can be rude, can't
they?

ARCHER

Exactly!

The man starts rummaging around in his backpack. Archer, still smiling, looks over the man's shoulder. We see a c/u of Archer's POV of the inside of the man's bag. He sees something with wires protruding from it. Archer's face drops.

ARCHER

Oh no.

There is a huge explosion.

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END.