

The train has been stopped for an hour now, but the doors aren't opening. It doesn't make sense; we've been sitting at the platform this whole time. I have good spot, near one of the windows. I can see the paramedics outside, helplessly trying to look through the glass. A while ago I saw a group of people on the platform scrambling through a staff door, trying to avoid looking at anyone. They haven't come out yet. Initially, there was a rush, the rush that always comes when a group of people realizes that it's trapped. People were banging on doors, shouting, trying to get people's attention through the windows, trying to get the conductor's attention. That's all stopped now. One of the guys on the train, young, an employee, says that there is no conductor, that the company wanted to save money and let the computers do it. He seemed to disagree with the decision, but that didn't get him any sympathy. He was bombarded with questions, who's, why's, and when's, that he couldn't answer. The train keeps making announcements, telling us to stand clear of the doors with a calm voice.

An old man collapsed during the panic. We don't think his family is on this train. I've looked outside through my window a few times, trying to guess which nervous crowd is his. If he even has one. We managed to call 911 for him, but I don't think he's going to make it. He's been breathing heavily on the metal floor for a long time now, sweating coldly. Some nursing student leans over him, trying to act as if her classes prepared her for anything like this. She keeps looking around as if someone is going to magically pull out whatever tools she needs, as if the doors are going to open any second. He keeps looking up at her apologetically, as if it's his fault this happened.

It shouldn't be anyone's fault, really. I know that in my head. I know why it happened, some part of the train broke. The part that tells the train to open its doors, in this case. Even if the train does have to stop for an hour or two because of a glitch, the odds of it actually happening while people are using it are incredibly low, let alone in a real life or death situation. Nobody can be blamed for not seeing the future, or for not predicting something with one in a million odds. Nobody can be blamed as long as they've been following all of the government safety regulations. Nobody can be blamed for wanting to

save a little money when they're already investing so much into a new train. This man will die on the floor and it will be nobody's fault at all.