

## Chapter ?: The Deepest Part of NYC

Now when I say the deepest part of New York I am not talking about the mafia, no I mean it a little more literally. The deepest part of NYC is the subway and Battery Tunnel, but that's not important. So for some context the subway is like the one here in Philly but leagues better. There are more places to go when riding the subway with 36 lines compared to Philly's 4, so in short it's pretty big. But the subway is also where the crackheads of New York can be found, not actual crackheads most of the time, but like just really weird people. So now with all of that background info imagine me, a small child who's never stepped foot in a large city, now living in the 9th largest city in the world. Yeah pretty big 'culture shock'. After probably half a year living in NYC we took the subway for the first time, or well me and my sister did. While we were on it, some guy went to the emergency break at the back of the cart and said 'this train ain't going nowhere' as he pulled it. Then the most ear piercing sound occurred. It was like we had nails going across a chalkboard. As the train came to a screeching halt all of the passengers were not even concerned. They were just 'c'mon man we got places to be'. So as a first experience on the subway, I mean ehh could have been worse. Like the time we saw two guys fighting at a bus stop, and you know how some bus stops have like a glass barrier, so one the guys was thrown through the glass barrier and then was literally thrown under the bus. And, I kid you not, the busdriver actually just said to the men 'can you please get out from under the bus, thank you' in the most monotone way possible, but that is off topic, so back in the subway you would commonly hear people play music and not like on the radio. Nah, they just play it out right. Like one time I remember someone playing a didgeridoo and if you don't know what it is it is just a really loud and long pipe instrument. All I remember was that I was extremely Impressed. But y'know all these stories really remind me that there is like no other place like New York in the world. No other place with as much personality and stuff to do. I think Philly is a great city but it is kind of hard to compare it to New York. I mean New York has practically made me who I am today, now that might be a pretty large claim to make but it is true at least in my eyes. New York not only taught me basic city etiquette and a minor disdain for sme tourists, but it also taught me how to navigate places and to read public transportation maps. But those things are skills not who I am, things that make me are the fact I kind of act then think most of the time. I am also really cautious of every human being I don't know, and those are just a few examples. I don't think I will ever be able to live in a place that is not a big city. New York will always hold a special place in my heart for all of time, and if I could move back there again even for just a short time I would in a heartbeat.

### Artist's Statement

Wow I wasn't expecting to get emotional over a city. I mean that's what nostalgia does to you. Before we get into the statement I just want to say that this was a fun project and I would do it again on a different topic of course so I am excited to see what the next quarter has in store for us, but let's talk about Trevor Noah and how his memoir "Born a Crime" Influenced this vignette. One thing I liked about Born a Crime was his ability to mix comedy and really heartfelt moments without ruining the flow of the book so I tried to do that albeit not as good. Like how in chapter 2, I think, he tells a story about him and his mom were on a bus and had to literally jump

out of it. That single story was a huge inspiration for my vignette in and of itself. Another thing was his way to flow seamlessly through his stories. I also tried that but I don't know if I did all that well. For this story I decided to use humor because why waste the near infinite amount of comedic moments I have had in New York on telling a serious story, there are a very small amount of stories that I have about NYC that don't have at least one pinch of comedy so it'd be hard to make a serious story without artificially stretching the word count. Another major part of this was explaining New York culture to an outsider. So you know how people always say New Yorkers are in a rush at all times well that's surprisingly accurate. But I think the main purpose of my vignette was to show people how fun and how many things can happen in New York so I've learned to be on my feet and to always expect the unexpected, But hey sometimes is more fun to be surprised