

THREE PEOPLE ON A TRAIN – ONE A WELL TRAVELLED MAN

My customary rage and criticism kicked in on the train as a conversation, mainly lead by a well travelled man, infiltrated my thinking about flat pack sofa beds. The well travelled man was well travelled and had an answer, fact, opinion or statistic ready and prepared for more or less every single thing to enter into sight, sound or speech. Subsequently, the conversation was continuous and grimly free flowing. In situations such as this — the ones in which you know you are trapped - I sometimes gather together whatever shreds of addled patience I may have retained and direct them toward the production of a private artwork, pieced together from certain components of so otherwise an infuriating a sequence of events. I see it as a form of strange revenge exacted on their oblivious disturbance of my own quiet thinking: the way they rub their freedoms and leisure in my face with the dull, greasy thud of their well worn social comforts; no doubt forged through much, much TRAVEL.

I was astounded at the well travelled man's continued questions; repeated, rephrased and followed upon toward a mainly silent, shy woman who, if I was her, would have told the chatty fucker I was wide to his game and uninterested in his SHIT. My heart sank when the well travelled man mentioned their final destination was the same as mine: I'd have to endure this for my whole journey. Therefore, with my mind now well lodged into extracting artistic merit from his smug abundance, I had no choice but to transcribe a snatch of their dialogue on my computer, which was luckily an important article required by this particular trip into the city, and reconstruct it in terms of the most uttered words, listed in descending order until singularly uttered words are arranged alphabetically and according to any punctuation left over from the original text. The results are as follows:

Volleyball! volleyball volleyball volleyball? volleyball
volleyball volleyball volleyball
beach beach beach beach beach beach beach
the the? the The the?
you you you you
Do do Do
it It's it's
to to to
a a
at at
good good
In in
is is
sport. sport
ago
and are at? Basketball? brazil British Court Did does don't
enjoy few football.
for games?
Germany get girls.

growing how hours.
huge I like, live long most near next no Olympics? or.
out popular second surprisingly take them there.
they think two video was what weeks you're

It took me a long time and they were still discussing sport when I finished.

(...THE LATER REALISATION THAT SPORT MAY HAVE BEEN THEIR
PROFESSION)