

MORNING COMMUTE

Written by

Ryan Watkins

Address
Phone Number

INT - BUS DAY

Mark (The kind of guy who works through his lunch breaks) enters a empty city bus at a stop.

BUS DRIVER
Good Morning.

MARK
Morning(Sleepily).

He pays the fare through cash and takes a seat in the back and looks out the window. The bus moves to the next stop and Kate (a super friendly women who is always ready to make a new friend) enters the bus.

BUS DRIVER
Good Morning.

KATE
Good Morning(Cheerfully)

She pays the fare with a bus pass and takes a seat 4 seats in front of Mark and begins reading a book. The bus then hits gridlocked traffic.

BUS DRIVER
You two better get comfy we are going to be here for a while.

KATE
Well I'm definitely going to be late. I have this big account due for the company so man are they going to be upset when I'm not there.

Mark shuffles awkwardly in his seat trying to muster up the courage to have a conversation. There is a small silence.

MARK
Yeah. I don't like being late.

KATE
Hey have you heard of this book I'm reading. I can not get enough of this book it's got everything. It's got fight scenes, daring chases and escapes, mysteries, and even a bit of romance.

Kate holds up the book and Mark is uninterested.

MARK

That's cool I guess.

Kate gets up and moves to the seat in front of Mark.

KATE

You ever go to the library? I go there all the time.

MARK

Sometimes. I used to go all the time to study.

KATE

Cool. So what's your job? Mine's just boring office work in sales.

MARK

I work in accounting.

KATE

Thats cool. You know I don't think I ever asked you what your name is. My name is Kate. What's yours?

The bus slides forward just a bit as gridlocked cars continue to idle in place.

MARK

Mark.

KATE

Well thats a cool name. I love taking the bus since I always meet someone new. That's why I always take the bus to work. Why do you take the bus to work?

MARK

The only reason I'm taking the bus to work is because my car is in the shop and I needed some way to get to work.

KATE

Well at least you get to try something new. It's always fun to change up your routine. It gets boring doing the same thing over and over. Changing it up a little really helps brighten up your whole day.

MARK

Yeah.

Marks looks back to the window attempting to get out of the conversation he's in.

KATE

Alright I better get back to my seat then.

Kate starts to meander back to a different seat on the bus. She counts seats as she moves to the front of the bus.

KATE (CONT'D)

(Yelling) Hey did you know that there are fifteen rows of seats on this bus. I actually thought there would be more.

Mark continues to face the window and he smiles a bit.

MARK

I can tell being stuck on this bus is very boring for you.

Kate dashes back to where Mark is seated.

KATE

You have no idea how boring this bus is.

MARK

So have you done anything new lately?

KATE

Well this is a different bus than the one I normally take.

MARK

Really?

KATE

Yeah, this route is apparently supposed to be a little quicker but I guess the traffic right now really doesn't make the best first impression.

The traffic outside the bus continues to get worse as the bus is surrounded by cars. A bike is seen weaving in between the stopped cars.

MARK

Maybe I should have biked to work instead of taking the bus. I really don't want to be late and I should really be at work by now.

KATE

Yeah but you can't meet people riding a bike. I mean who doesn't like talking to others while riding the bus.

MARK

Riding the bus doesn't really bother me as much as being late bothers me. I like being able to stay on a schedule and being stuck here really messes with that. My whole day is going to be messed up. I feel like I'm powerless to do anything right now.

KATE

I find that sometimes roadblocks come up in a daily commute. Things that mess up what you thought would be a smooth ride. The thing is you shouldn't focus on the roadblocks. The real thing you should focus on is how you can overcome them and continue on with your morning commute to go and do the same job you do everyday.

MARK

You know I never really thought about it like that before. I should look more on the happier side of commuting to work every morning.

The traffic on the street is at a standstill. Many people are seen leaving their cars to stretch or to talk to others.

KATE

I don't know about you but for me working in sales is just so boring. I mean all you do is type on a computer. It never changes or gets more interesting. You just type on the computer until it's time to go home for the day. I've thought about looking for another job but I don't even know where to start looking for a new job.

MARK

Personally I like just doing the same thing everyday but I get what your saying about it being a bit boring. Even I get tired of my job sometimes.

KATE

I just don't like sitting around all day doing a boring job. I want to go and do something I actually enjoy working on and not just doing math at a desk all day.

MARK

You know the more you mention how boring your job is the more I realize how unhappy I am with my boring job in a boring building that I don't enjoy working at.

KATE

I always wanted a job with more variety. Where everyday is a new and completely different and fresh experience. Like someone who writes cool books similar to the one I'm reading or an artist who gets chances to make new and unique pieces each day.

Traffic outside the bus moves a bit as if the road is beginning to get cleared up ahead. Many people who were standing outside of their cars begin to get back in anticipating the chance to begin moving again down the road.

MARK

It looks like we may still be going to be able to get to work on time.

KATE

I don't even know if I want to go back to my boring job.

MARK

I bet you could really make something that could make a lot of people happy. I mean you brightened up my day by just talking to me on this bus.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)

I never realized how nice it really is to actually talk to someone about whats been going on lately. It really goes to show you how fun it can really be to be stuck in traffic on an empty bus on a daily morning commute is sometimes.

KATE

Thank you so much, Mark. You're right maybe I should write a book. I've always wanted to be a writer. It always seemed like a fun job. Do you have a job you wanted to do?

MARK

Personally I never really liked doing accounting. It's like everyday there's something new that is there just to make everything just a bit more difficult for me. You know I always wanted to do something that didn't involve staring at numbers all day. I always wanted to make and direct films. The idea of making a piece of art that could be watched by everyone at any movie theatre always seemed like a such a fun and really cool job.

KATE

What a cool job! I would see any movie you worked on if I could.

MARK

I just don't think I have enough experience for a job like that. Maybe I should learn how to make and direct my own film.

KATE

Did you always want to make films?

MARK

When I was younger I would write stories to make into films. I would assign parts to family members and have them act out a script while I filmed it. The whole family would gather around and watch my films. Nothing ever made me so happy than to share my films with others.

KATE

I could tell your whole face lit up when you told that story. Why didn't you pursue film in college and make a career out of it?

MARK

I wanted to but my parents said I could never make a living out of it. I needed to pick a practical degree to pursue as my job. So to make my family happy I went for a business degree. I never was happy going that direction.

KATE

That really is a shame you ended up having to go on a career path you weren't even interested in and that you couldn't have done film. You could still probably create an incredible film if you had an great idea to work with.

MARK

Thank you for saying that. I have so many great ideas for films I could make but no real way of making them. I hope one day I could get the chance to make a film and make the best film you have ever seen.

KATE

I hope that one day you get your chance, Mark. I feel like you could create an amazing film that everyone would enjoy and see if you got the chance.

MARK

I just know that one day I'll get the chance to make a amazing film. I hope that you will be able to write an great book as well, Kate.

KATE

I hope one day we both will get the careers we alway wanted to do and make some great things that everyone will want to enjoy.

The bus weaves through the traffic and begins to travel down the street back on to it's scheduled route.

MARK

You know maybe I should go back to school and study film.

KATE

I mean why not. You seemed to really enjoy making films. You should pick a career that makes you happy. It seems to me both of us didn't.

MARK

I feel like being on this bus with you has really made me think about what really makes me happy and the fact that I need to change my career to something different.

KATE

We need to change. That's the most important thing.

After Kate finishes speaking both hers and Mark's phones ring. They both pick up their phones at the same time.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hi. Sorry I haven't made it to work yet.

MARK

The bus got stuck in traffic. I should hopefully be at work soon.

KATE

I'm glad the account went well. It's almost like I didn't even really need to show up to work today.

MARK

I didn't even know that there was more than one person in my position in case I didn't show up. I guess that goes to show how often I talk to the other departments here.

KATE

So I take it you don't need me to work today.

MARK

Man I haven't had a day off of work in so long.

KATE
Well thanks for letting me know.

MARK
I'm glad everything is going well.

KATE
See you tomorrow at work.

MARK
Bye.

Kate and Mark both put their phones away at the same time as the bus approaches a stop.

KATE
I didn't realize they didn't need me at work today.

MARK
Yeah I didn't either, it's been so long since I've had a day off.

The bus proceeds to stop in front of a coffee shop.

MARK (CONT'D)
Well since we don't have to go to work today. Do you want to get some coffee?

KATE
That actually sounds like a great idea.

MARK
Want to try this coffee shop right here. Apparently they have some of the best coffee in the entire city. Although I did read that in an advertisement for the shop. They might of just been exaggerating a bit to sell me on their coffee.

KATE
Oh yeah this place is one of my favorites. You know I didn't expect to meet someone new on my commute today.

MARK
Who did you not expect to meet?

KATE
A friend.

Kate and Mark step off the bus much more happier than before.
They step through the door of the coffee shop together.