

Trains

 **r/autism** · 2 yr. ago
misplaced_pretzel

 ...

Why do we all like trains.

Discussion

I used to be offended by the stereotype that we all like trains (I think it feeds into the whole 'autistic male brain' thing) until I attended ASAN's autism campus inclusion thing a few years ago. We were doing icebreakers and someone asked if anyone else liked trains. I fully thought it was a joke until I realized everyone around me was enthralled in conversation and unironically fawning over the choo choos. I cut off the conversation in my group and blurted out "are you kidding me?" And after a pregnant pause, someone pointed out that I LITERALLY study the history of public transportation. And boy do I love to ride the metro.

I feel silly but I literally think about it all the time. It's just baffling to me.

So like... why? Why do we like trains? Why do you like trains?

The more I think about it, the more I realize it has to do with rhythm and frequency. Combined with the landscape rushing past, the train gives me a grounded sense of where I am, and where I am going.

There is also something about its gradual, analogue movement. A train journey is flexible. It can be adjusted along the way, reconsidered. You can step off midway if you realize you're on the wrong track. You can get off anywhere that looks interesting. Unlike flying where you board in one place and emerge in another, detached from everything in between. With a plane, you have to go all the way to the destination before you can evaluate your decision — and by then, you've already spent immense resources on an idea that may not even have been the right one.

Notice the train's vibration,
the screeching hum,
the flicker of the view,
all animating the inner.

Test its rhythm with your toe.
Unravel a thread of attention,
let it fall on the passing ground.
The spool spins within you,
laying its line along the rails.

The earth glides by like fabric
beneath a sewing machine's foot.
Your toe, a needle,
catches the running thread
and begins to stitch —
through the floor,
into the soil,
up again with every beat.

Up and down,
train and ground are sewn together
with all you see, think, feel.

Commuting,

each journey adds a seam,
the fabric thickening,
a curve defining
Sometimes it wavers,
yet over time
patterns form
even from the drifts.

The yellow station house,
the bay with rounded cliffs,
the new-built district,
each holds its layers
from previous passings.

Moods and thoughts return,
pressing into the present,
leaving their trace,
on the embroidering
of another layer.

[illegible]

As it

det gula stationshuset

den långa viken med de runda klipporna

den nybyggda stadsdelen

bär på lager på lager

från varje förbipassering.

lager på lager av sinnesstämningar och tankar, gör sig påminnda

och färgar av sig på de nuvarande.

medans de broderas in

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- (everytime you pass by a red building, take a bite of your snack, if you don't have a snack, just clench your teeth a bit. mamma, varje gång jag tar en tugga möter vi en bil! by aligning our gestures to things that happens in the environment we start tracing a pattern of this environment, using our full organismic registering, this registering is so rich and deep that it can enable a prediction of the future. Notice that gradually you will start taking a bite of that snack more and more in synch with red buildings appearing. Notice how you have now come to take a bite of your snack, slightly before the red building even appears! Every time you pass by a gap in the architecture and you spot the sky press your toes into the floor. Etc etc.
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- . resonance vibrations, trains, Why do we all love trains?

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[Go to autism
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[Discussion](#)

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transportation. And boy do I love to ride the metro. I feel silly but I literally think about it all the time. It's just baffling to me. So like... why?

-Why do we all like trains? Why do you like trains?

- H: Am I interested in the trains themselves? No. But I'm a sucker for public transit and rather leftist. So I do love trains.
- Lina: same. I love trains, and bikes. And when picking this interest apart it leads me to my deeper interests in sustainability and equality, both social and environmental. but part of this love could also be some kind of preconceived attraction to the autistic community I guess. A subconscious desire that led me towards learning the fact that I myself am autistic.
- The more I think about it, the more I feel it depends on the rhythm and frequency of the train. Together with watching the landscape rush by, It gives me a kind of grounded feeling, of where I am and where I'm going.
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