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# Austrian Woman on a Train

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## Austrian Woman on a Train

*JEREMY BANKS*

She washes her shoes  
with orange Fanta, the spittle  
at the end of a German boy's bottle.

Her scent is musty  
perfume mixed with urine and  
many days of dried, sticky sweat.

"Danke," she says repeatedly when  
I move my legs from her path  
out of the boxcar door

Or help her throw a half-closed  
suitcase into the bin above,  
her world held within its jaws.

Juice from the orange she eats  
drips rhythmically to the floor,  
leaving a thick, sticky film below me.

She wipes her hands together  
and sits straight, arms folded, eyes closed,  
so proud of her freshly cleaned shoes.