

# Italics

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Volume 2002  
Issue 1 *Spring 2002*

Article 27

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2002

## Austrian Woman on a Train

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### Recommended Citation

Banks, Jeremy (2002) "Austrian Woman on a Train," *Italics*: Vol. 2002: Iss. 1, Article 27.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/italics/vol2002/iss1/27>

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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.