

# Pick Me

FAW play

## Characters:

**Alice** - An old lady who rides the train everyday. She takes lots of notice into the people around her and is very kind. She enjoys the company of Maria and dislikes the mannerisms she's witnessed of the other women on the train. She carries a purse with knitting supplies in them.

**Maria** - The ticket collector on the train. She's young, probably in her mid-twenties. She appears shy but also very sweet and welcoming. She wears a work uniform.

**Caroline** - A flustered new mother in her early thirties. She holds a baby throughout the scene who she clearly is stressed about. She is snappy but also clearly apologetic. A very anxious personality.

**Eva** - A spunky young teen. Visibly bratty. Appears to be coming home from practise of a sport (presumably dance or cheer). She doesn't talk to the women she sticks to herself. Has an air of overconfidence as if she thinks she's better than the other women. She wears a school athletic uniform.

**Gracen** - A stubborn business lady in her middle ages. She holds herself high and sits farther away from the other women. She clearly thinks she is superior to everyone else as if her money and job can make her more important. She wears business formal attire and carries files.

**Death** - The grim reaper. They carry a person from life to the after life. Appears to lack emotion but for some unknown reason has a soft spot for Alice. Wears black robes and face is mostly covered.

*Four women enter a train at the same time, it is late at night*  
***Gracen** wears work clothes and is looking at files*  
***Eva** is high school aged, popular girl type, she listens to music*  
***Alice** is a very old women knitting*  
***Caroline** is a stressed mom rocking a small baby*  
***Maria** enters to collect tickets and stops at Alice*

Maria: How are you today Mrs. Alice?

Alice: Just wonderful. And you Maria?

Maria: Very good thank you.

Alice: These women are on the train every night and all they do it focus on themselves, people just don't care anymore do they?

Maria: I suppose not.

***Maria exits***

Alice: That baby is absolutely darling sweetheart, what's its name?

Caroline: Thank you. Her name is Maria.

Alice: How old is she?

Caroline: She's 2 months.

Alice: Very precious, I'm Alice (*Alice extends her hand*)

Caro: Caroline.

*All of a sudden a cold air rushes through*  
*All of the women visibly shudder*  
*A black hooded figure enters slowly from stage left*  
***Eva** is the first to notice, she walks toward it*

Eva: What is... who is... what is that?

Gracen: Get away young lady. (**Gracen** pushes herself in front of **Eva**) Who are you?

Death: Why isn't it obvious, I'm death. And I'm here to take someone away.

*All the women look towards Alice*

Death: No, no. Not her.

Gracen: But she's an old woman.

Death: Not her.

Eva: Then... who.

Death: Maria.

***Caroline lets out a shriek***

Caro: You can't do that. She's just a baby. She's perfectly healthy.

Death: My sheet says undetected heart defect. I'm sorry ma'am, please hand over the child.

Caro: You can't do that I won't let you leave with my baby, please there must be another way.

Death: Well ma'am I have to leave with someone. I can't show up to headquarters empty handed. It's the baby or someone else.

Eva: Take me.

Caro: What?

Eva: That baby, Maria right, well she doesn't deserve to die. She's done nothing wrong. My name is Eva. Sir or ma'am or death, whatever I should call you. I'm not a good person. There's this girl at school and we used to be best friends, but then one day we just weren't anymore. It wasn't either of our faults. But as we got older I found new friends and they didn't like her very much. I bullied her. I bullied her really badly. She had to change schools and leave town. That baby did nothing to anyone, ever. Maybe kept its Mom up a little late, but me, I'm a bad person death. Pick me, please, take me

Death: So, you're volunteering yourself.

Eva: Yes. She's so innocent, she has much good to give. I'm afraid my good might have run out.

Caro: No you can't do that. How old are you?

Eva: Seventeen.

Gracen: Honey teenagers make mistakes.

Eva: I made a big one.

Caro: Don't do this.

Gracen: Take me.

Caro: What?

Gracen: I'm Gracen. I'm not a happy person. I'm 45 years old, I work all the time, I never had a husband or kids. I lost touch with my parents after I moved out when I was 18. I have no satisfaction in life, there's no reason for me to be here. I'm just part of a corporation, just a moving part that's all I am. But these kids Eva and... (*visibly forgets name*) the baby, they have lives to live. I've given mine up years ago, I don't know if there's any coming back from this. So take me. I've decided that you're going to take me because I want to contribute something good to the world and this will be my last contribution. Pick me, please, take me.

Death: I really don't care who I take just make a decision already.

Gracen: I'm ready, lets go.

Caro: I'm not letting you do that.

Death: Oh come on lady, you get to keep your baby now let's hurry this up.

Caro: No, this is my responsibility. Take me.

Gracen: What?

Eva: No...

Caro: You are all very sweet for sacrificing yourselves for the life of my child but it isn't your place. I didn't have a good mother and ever since I got pregnant my goal was just to be a good mother. To make sacrifices for my child. Sacrifices that my mother would have never made for me. You're all very kind but I'm ready to make a sacrifice. You'll all understand one day why I did this. Eva one day you'll have children of your own and they'll be beautiful and bright and they won't care about your past. They will just love you for who you are. And Gracen, there's time for you. Sure you're middle-aged or whatever they call it but I'm sure somebody can guide you on your way home. Let me do something for my daughter. Pick me, please, take me.

Death: You are all making this much more difficult than it has to be. If you can't make a decision I'm just going to take the child.

Caro: No!

Gracen: Just let us talk.

Eva: We will come to a decision.

***Gracen, Eva and Caroline move stage left in a huddle  
Death sits next to Alice who is knitting quietly***

Death: You aren't going to sacrifice yourself? How bold.

Alice: Why would I?

Death: I suppose you just aren't as brave as them.

Alice: No I just have reason to believe I deserve my life.

Death: I don't understand.

Alice: They didn't volunteer themselves because they were brave, they volunteered themselves because they're terrified. They're not terrified of death, they're terrified of life. Eva it's so scared of the person that she's going to become that she's trying to avoid being a person all together. Gracen has given up hope that she can be a happy person, she hasn't made an effort because deep down she's afraid that she won't be able to. And Caroline, Oh sweet Caroline. She's afraid, she's afraid that she'll be just like her mother, and that her daughter will resent her for it. It's hard to be a terrible mother when you don't exist. Then again sometimes those ones are the worst.

Death: I suppose they're getting better, sacrificing themselves and all.

Alice: No they aren't

Death: Explain...

Alice: The name on your list, it's Maria Leonard is it not.

Death: It is...

Alice: It's not the baby, it's the ticket collector. Those people ride this train everyday to and from wherever they're going, and they don't even know her name. She's been feeling dizzy lately, I

suppose it has something to do with that heart defect. I watch those people. Even without talking they have so much to say.

Gracen: We've made our decision.

Caro: I'm going, I'm her mother, I have to do it.

Alice: She'll resent you just as much as you resent your mother.

Caro: Excuse me?

Alice: You're leaving her. Being there but distant, is still better than being gone.

Gracen: Then I'm going.

Alice: Don't you see.

Eva: See what.

Death: I'm ready to go.

Eva: But we haven't chosen anyone yet.

Caro: You are not taking Maria.

Alice: When did all of you become so concerned about the world around you?

Gracen: Excuse me.

Caro: What do you mean?

Alice: Do any of you even recognize each other?

Eva: Why would we?

Alice: You all ride the same train at the same time every night.

***Maria enters in the shadows***

Caro: Why does this matter?

Alice: Because if you paid any attention you would know that she's not the only Maria that's riding tonight.

Gracen: Who then?

Maria: Me.

Eva: Ticket girl?

Alice: Maria Leonard, and have some compassion she's dying tonight.

Maria: I'm what?

Death: Maria Leonard?

Maria: Yes?

Death: I'm death, I'm here to take you away.

***Death reaches for Maria's hand**  
she takes it nervously, they walk off together*

Alice: I hope you never forget her name.

**Alice** grabs her purse and knitting and storms off  
Lights down on the ladies looks bewildered