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NEW YORK



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## METROPOLITAN DIARY

### To the Creep Who Pushed Me

BY ALISON GRAMBS OCTOBER 7, 2014 8:38 AM 48

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Dear Diary:

To the Creep Who Pushed Me On the Street:

You may think you won today.

But you didn't.

You may think that you intimidated me with that glare you gave me as I sat stunned on the ground.

But you didn't.

You may think you're tough. That hurting a woman who did nothing to you but accidentally bump into you on a crowded street somehow makes you Lord of the Streets now.

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But you would be wrong.

This is New York City, pal. To survive the chaos, each of us has to decide which kind of New Yorker we want to be: the kind who deals with the crowds politely, or the kind who resorts to violence. You chose aggression, finding joy in making someone else feel weak. Vulnerable. Perhaps, you were having a bad day? Well, Mr. Creep, a lot of people are having even worse days. And yet, none of those people are going around hurting others.

I bet you're at home right now smirking to yourself because you scared a woman today. Shame on you. But if you think I'm at home right now loving N.Y.C. any less because of you, you would be wrong.

About 20 blocks after you shoved me, I had another encounter. This time a woman accidentally bumped into me. But here's the difference, Mr. Creep. I didn't shove her to the ground or curse at her. Instead, I just stepped aside and gave her a wide smile.

Guess what?

She smiled back.

I win, Mr. Creep. I win.

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