

This happened back during the time when I still believed, if it could properly be called believing, that humans were the sole repository for a person, and that there was only one person filling each repository, a single person crammed into each casing of blood and flesh and bone. Before I understood that everyone, whatever the nature of their casing, was legion.

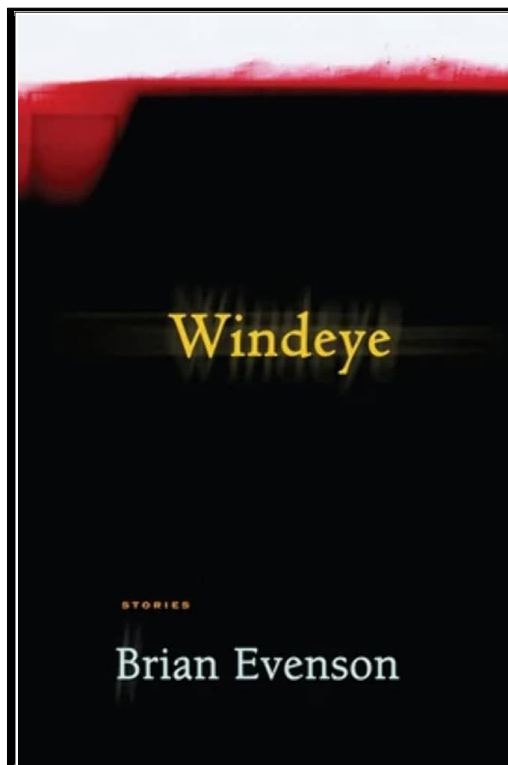
The only way this will make sense to you is if I tell the story not how I understand it now, but tailor it to the way my research suggests you think. But then, if I am not careful, it becomes a story that, while starting to reveal something, will still always miss the point.

Be that as it may. Considering what our interactions are soon to be, we should make an effort.

There is another story I will tell first, one that will perhaps help you to make the leap. A fable of sorts.

Once a man found himself standing in a thin channel between a train going one direction and a train going the other. He realized that if he stood perfectly still and didn't breathe, the train on the one side would touch him softly but neither hurt nor kill him, and the train on the other side, equally severe and polite, would do the same. He stood there as long as he could, not breathing, counting the train cars moving toward him on one side and the train cars moving away from him on the other. He was still counting when, having gone too long without air, he fainted.

When he came conscious again, both trains were gone, the tracks empty in both directions. Incredibly, he had pitched down perfectly, like a felled tree, to land in that narrow space between tracks, unharmed.



1. In groups, read the beginning of the short story and collect clues before you try and guess the identity of the narrator.

2. Imagine the rest of the short story. What happens to the man who fainted? Why is the narrator telling stories? What is going to take place? Develop with as many details as you can and choose a spokesperson to deliver your story.

3. To accompany your story and hypotheses, generate a picture that sums them up. You may use DeepAI for instance.