

10 Minutes From Paradise

Synopsis
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Billy, Jerry and Sherry leave Cleveland, Ohio to "score big" in New York City. Billy and Sherry are lovers, and Jerry, their lifelong friend, is gay. Once in New York, Sherry finds a job at Ray's Diner as a waitress, and Jerry struggles to survive a devastating illness. This small "family" lives a desperate existence and Billy, their leader and a man of imagination, who is always "in between" jobs, scrambles to give dignity to their lives.

On a dark, frozen Christmas Eve, Billy is fired from his latest job at a hospital laundry when he refuses to work a second shift. He's in the Christmas spirit and has a party planned for Jerry and Sherry, and he lets his boss know he's not missing it. While the other workers applaud his courage, Billy rushes into the night to his tiny apartment, where he and his loved ones celebrate one last, peaceful evening together under the blinking lights of a small, frail Christmas tree.

Two nights later, Billy begins a job tending to the carriage horses that take visitors around the city. Just before dawn, he learns that Jerry has been rushed to a hospital after collapsing in a Soho club, and Billy panics. He dashes to his apartment but when he reaches the stoop, he stops dead in his tracks as he watches a terrified Sherry step into Mr. Ray's Cadillac. Billy now knows why there are steaks in the fridge and a "bonus" every week. As he races toward them, the car takes off.

Billy spins around in pain and blindly makes his way to the LIR. He jumps onto a car, any car, finds a seat and as the train pulls out of the station, Billy realizes that his "family" is at stake. At a random stop, Billy gets off the train, lights a smoke and watches the morning commuters get out of their beautiful cars and wave goodbye to their beautiful wives. At that moment, he devises a plan that he is sure will rescue him from his crushing poverty.

In their small apartment, in a wild, frantic scene cluttered with subway maps and Kentucky Fried Chicken, Billy persuades Jerry and Sherry to accompany him on a heist that will afford them a brand new life in sunny Jamaica. Once implemented, things go array and in one explosive moment, New York City is brought to its knees and these three dreamers are sent to a sudden and unexpected paradise.