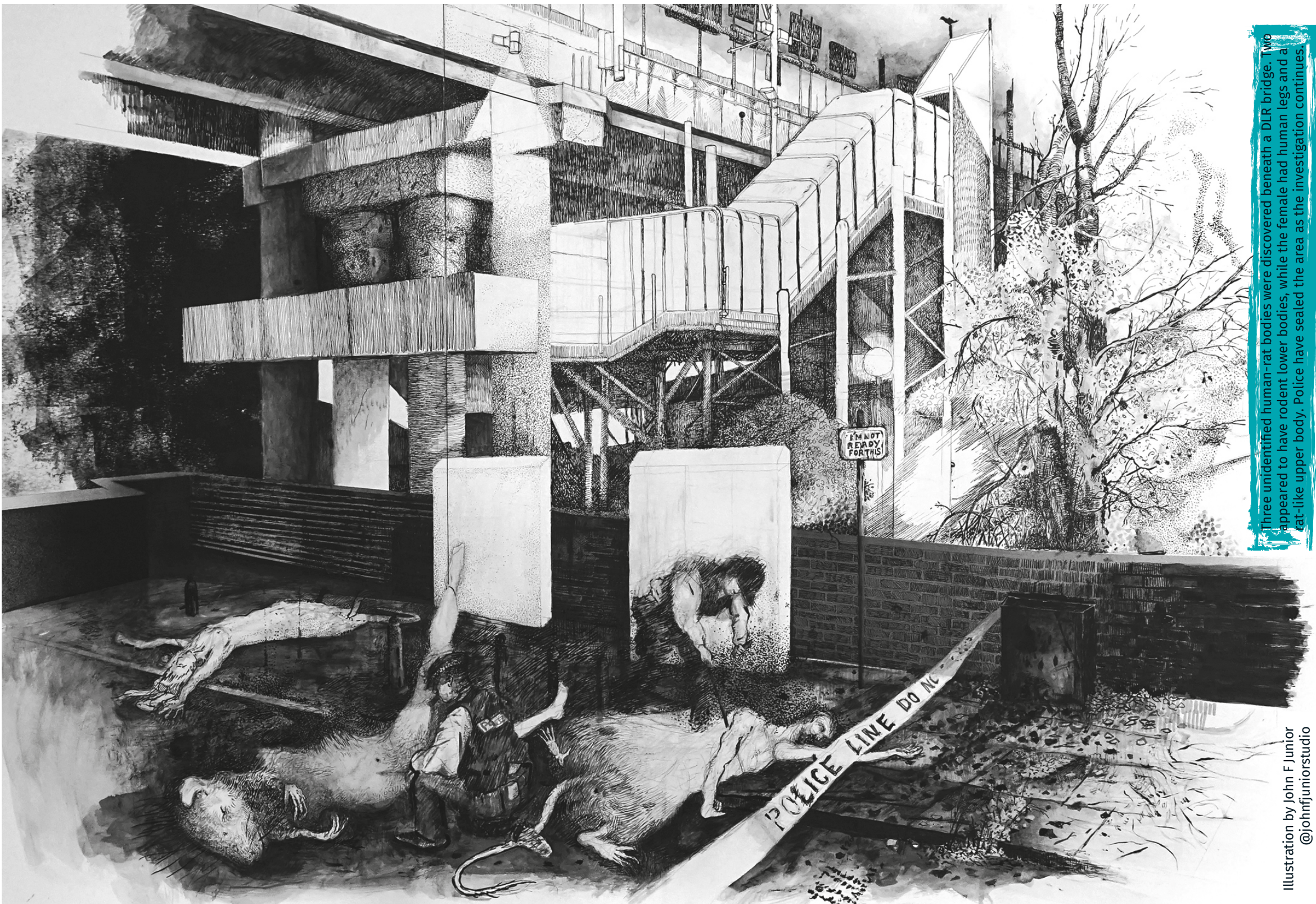


DLR STATION SIGHTINGS
OF STRANGE PHENOMENA



Three unidentified human-rat bodies were discovered beneath a DLR bridge. Two appeared to have rodent lower bodies, while the female had human legs and a rat-like upper body. Police have sealed the area as the investigation continues.

Illustration by John F Junior
@johnrjuniorstudio

LOCALS REPORT SEEING A SERIES OF STRANGE PHENOMENA
NEAR THE DLR IN EAST LONDON. **AUTHORITIES ADVISE**
CARRYING ON WITH NORMAL LIFE BUT REMAINING VIGILANT
AND READY FOR ANY **POSSIBLE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**

East-London
3th October 2026

The docks have become a place of uncertainty in recent weeks. For almost a month, authorities have received an increasing number of reports describing bizarre and unrelated incidents around stations on the Docklands Light Railway.

At first, the reports were dismissed as isolated events. But as the number of incidents has grown, investigators have begun to question whether there is a connection between them.

Witnesses have reported strange apparitions, unexplained deaths, sudden outbreaks of illness and even showers of meteorites in areas surrounding the DLR network. In several cases, authorities have reportedly encountered unidentified creatures or phenomena for which there appears to be no conventional explanation.

One local resident described seeing what appeared to be “a figure standing motionless on the platform” moments before the station lights went out. Another witness claimed to have found an unfamiliar animal near the tracks, although officers have so far declined to comment on the nature of the creature.

Police and emergency services are currently examining the incidents case by case, while refusing to rule out the possibility that some of the more unusual reports may be connected.

The number of police patrols has been increased across several districts,



particularly around areas considered vulnerable to further occurrences. Authorities from the offices of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich have urged residents not to panic and to continue with their normal routines.

However, members of the public have been advised to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour, unexplained phenomena or possible attacks immediately.

Voluntary lockdown under consideration. Officials are reportedly considering introducing a form of voluntary stay-at-home protocol in the coming days should the number and severity of

incidents continue to increase. Particular attention is being given to Canary Wharf, Wapping, Royal Docks, Limehouse, Blackwall and Leamouth, where several of the most unusual reports have been concentrated.

No decision has yet been made, and authorities stress that there is currently no reason for residents to abandon their daily routines.

Nevertheless, with each passing day bringing new reports, one question is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore: What exactly is happening along the DLR? For now, the answer remains unknown.

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

The team behind The Thames Observer is currently looking for partners and collaborators for Issue 01, DLR Stations: Sightings of Strange Phenomena, launching in Spring 2027. A one-off edition of 1,000–2,000 free copies, bringing together articles, fictional accounts, illustrations and visual artworks through the aesthetics of a sensationalist newspaper will be distributed. Our aim is to create a playful and immersive experience for the communities of the Docklands and East London—inviting readers to explore the area through a strange, humorous and fictional lens. We are looking for partners who would like to become part of the project in one of the following ways:

PROJECT PARTNER A major contribution towards printing and core production costs, or support through providing and producing a space for an exhibition or event.

SUPPORTING PARTNER A smaller contribution towards specific project costs, such as artists' fees, insurance, production or events.

DISTRIBUTION PARTNER Helping us distribute copies through local venues and networks, including pubs, record shops, cafés, galleries and independent shops.

COMMUNITY PARTNER Helping us reach local audiences by sharing the project through social media, newsletters, online communities and other local platforms. All partners will receive visibility within the publication and relevant project communications, according to their level of involvement.

GET IN TOUCH Interested in becoming a partner or collaborator? We'd love to hear from you. Whether you're interested in supporting the project financially, helping with distribution, providing a space, or simply finding out more, please get in touch: gestionfuster@gmail.com. Let's talk about how we can work together and become part of The Thames Observer.

SCOTLAND YARD CONFIRMS THE IMPOSSIBLE: WAPPING HANGED MAN WAS GEORGE JEFFREYS DEAD SINCE 1689

Police are investigating more than 20 murder cases involving unidentified victims in London and elsewhere in Britain.

By Santiago Díaz-Bravo, crime reporter
@sdiazbravo

Scotland Yard has confirmed that the unidentified man found hanging above the Thames in Wapping last year was Judge George Jeffreys, who died in the Tower of London in 1689.

The discovery follows a year-long investigation into the body, found by cleaners at the Prospect of Whitby pub on the morning of 4 July 2025. The finding has prompted an unprecedented investigation involving forensic scientists, historians and physicists. How a man who died more than three centuries ago came to be murdered in modern-day London remains unexplained.

Peter Smith, head of the Department of Physics at King's College London, told reporters yesterday that the case could have implications for the study of space and time.

“From now on, our concept of reality may have to change,” he said.

Scott Travis, Director General of the National Crime Agency, was more cautious.

“This is not witchcraft,” he said. “It is worse.”

Scotland Yard, the National Crime Agency and MI5 have been working with historians and physicists from several London universities. The Catholic Diocese of Westminster has also provided assistance to investigators, with Father Thomas Whitfield, an experienced exorcist, reportedly consulted during the investigation.



The post-mortem examination, carried out at Poplar Public Mortuary, established that the deceased was a white British male, approximately 40 years old and 5ft 7in tall. He was dressed in medieval clothing and had died between 1am and 3am from mechanical asphyxia caused by hanging.

No identification was found on the body. There was no missing-persons report anywhere in London or elsewhere in Britain matching his description, while his fingerprints and DNA produced no matches in the relevant national or international databases.

The case appeared to have reached a dead end. Investigators later discovered, however, that nine different sets of fingerprints had been recovered from the body, the man's clothing and the gallows itself. None matched any existing record.

In August 2025, Scotland Yard asked MI5 for assistance after investigators began considering whether the case might involve an unidentified foreign intelligence operative. Around the same time, a witness came forward.

Andy Preston, 75, a retired literature professor living in the neighbouring Merchant Court building, told detectives that he had seen a boat approach the riverbank in the early hours of 4 July. There were ten men aboard, all dressed in medieval clothing.

Mr Preston said that nine of the men brought a tenth man ashore. The prisoner was bound hand and foot. According to his account, the men then placed a rope around the prisoner's neck and hanged him from the gallows. One of the men climbed onto another's shoulders to place the noose over the victim's head. Mr Preston said the nine men shouted at the prisoner in a language he did not recognise. He could make out only a few words. After the man had stopped moving, the group returned to the boat and rowed west along the Thames.

Mr Preston did not contact police at the time. He later told investigators that he had remained silent because he feared reprisals and had promised his wife, who subsequently died, that he would say nothing. Detectives initially treated the account with caution. However, several details were found to correspond with evidence already recovered from the scene, including the number of people involved — information that had not been made public.

The first major breakthrough came in March 2026, when forensic genealogists identified distant genetic matches on GEDmatch, a private database used to establish family relationships. The matches connected the unidentified man to three families: the Watsons of Salisbury, the Claridges of Portsmouth and the Smith family of Millbrook, Alabama.

The families were unrelated to one another and said they had never heard of the dead man. Investigators then asked the Society of Genealogists to establish how the three families could be connected. Researchers spent months examining parish registers, historical documents and genealogical records.

Their conclusion was unexpected.

The unidentified man was George Jeffreys, 1st Baron Jeffreys, better known as the “Hanging Judge”.

There was, however, a problem.

Jeffreys had died in the Tower of London on 18 April 1689.

Mitochondrial DNA analysis supported the genealogical findings. The identification was further strengthened by kidney stones discovered during the post-mortem examination. Historical records indicate that Jeffreys suffered from kidney stones during his lifetime.

Investigators then turned to radiocarbon dating. The result did not resolve the matter. The analysis indicated, with 95% certainty, that the biological material dated from a period between approximately 1660 and 1790.

The body could therefore have belonged to a man who lived during Jeffreys' lifetime.

But it had been found hanging in Wapping in 2025.

The Government has since assembled a multidisciplinary team of physicists, historians and forensic scientists to determine how this could have happened. According to sources familiar with the investigation, one of the leading scientific hypotheses involves an Einstein-Rosen bridge — more commonly known as a wormhole. Such a structure is a theoretical solution in

physics that could, under certain conditions, connect distant points in space-time. Until now, no evidence has been found that such a phenomenon exists. Investigators are now examining whether one could have been responsible for the appearance of Jeffreys in modern London.

Historians involved in the investigation believe the nine men seen by Andy Preston may have been connected to the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685.

The rebellion was led by James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth and illegitimate son of Charles II, in an attempt to overthrow the Catholic King James II. The uprising was defeated and hundreds of rebels were subsequently executed, many of them following sentences imposed by George Jeffreys.

Researchers are now considering whether the men seen in Wapping could have been among the rebels who sought revenge against the judge. One possibility under investigation is that the men travelled through an Einstein-Rosen bridge and arrived in London centuries after their own deaths.

If that is what happened, the killing of Jeffreys would not have been an act of revenge from the past.

It would have been an act of revenge carried out from the future.

The location may also have been significant. Wapping was close to areas associated with executions during Jeffreys' lifetime, and investigators believe the site may have been deliberately chosen.

The investigation has now taken a further turn.

The Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that Scotland Yard is examining more than 20 cases involving unidentified murder victims in London and elsewhere in Britain. Police have not established a connection between the cases, but investigators are examining whether some of the victims may have originated from different periods of history.

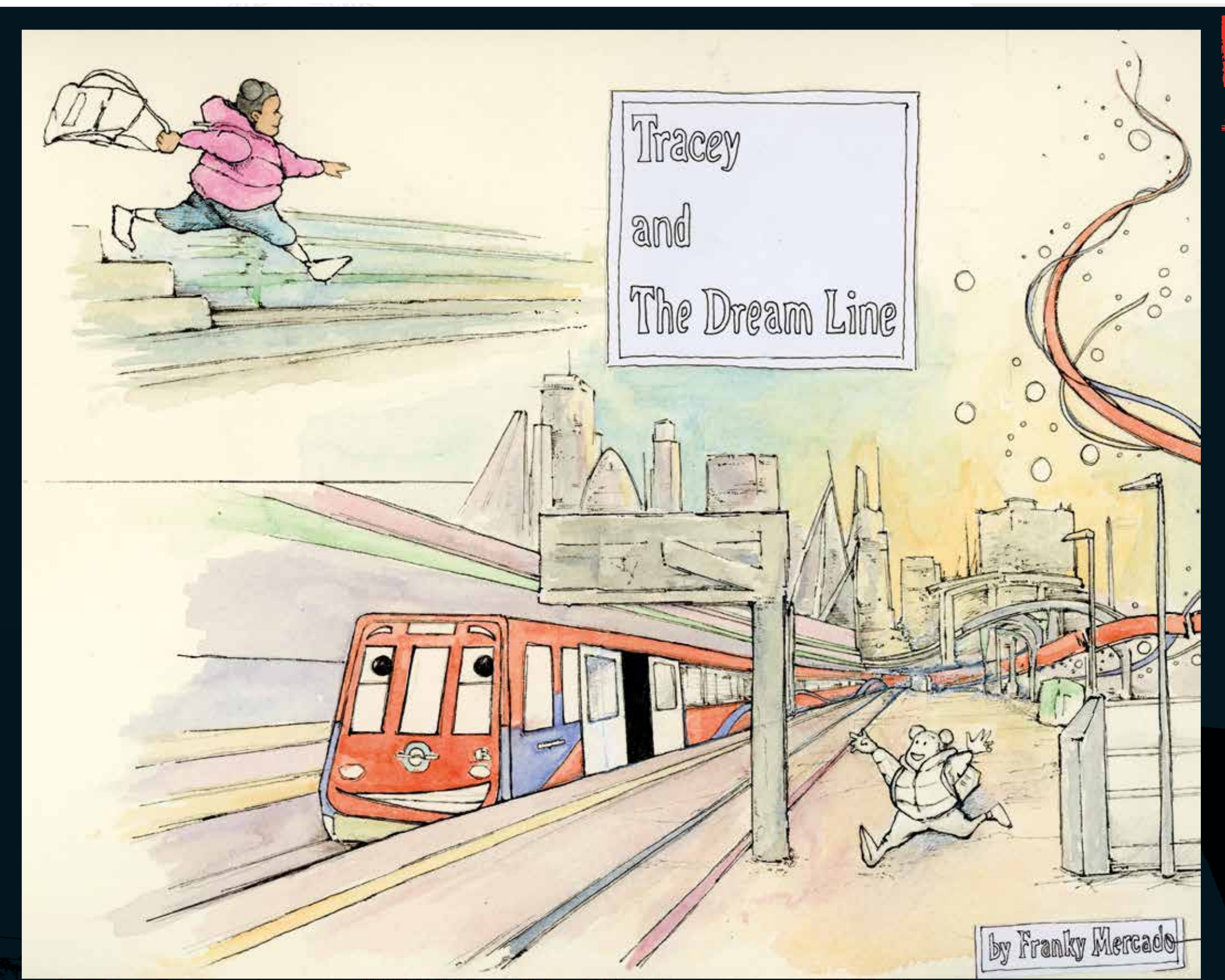
“Criminals are no longer even stopped by time,” the Prime Minister said.

The Government has declined to comment on whether investigators believe the phenomenon could still be active. For now, Scotland Yard has urged the public to remain calm.

But if the theory being examined by investigators is correct, the question is no longer whether someone can travel through time.

It is whether someone already has.

And who else may have come through. Exercise caution, dear readers.



Tracey lives with one foot in her dreams and the other in reality. Hop on the DLR and join her adventures!

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RAILBAIT

By Maggie Kuzan,
@thinkingflesh

Why are places tainted and stained with such shame? Abject things - like the furry inside seat of the train carriage. Great Uncle Stan's wet kiss. Burning cheeks when the spell breaks and you are all but a wicked disfiguration to your one true love. Adopting the tomboy stance while strapped in fishnets. Head held high, like an aristocrat, with Sophia, high priestess of wisdom, beside me. “What a crass girl. Sitting like a man.” A man. A lad. A bloke. Why, these blokes are omnipresent - manspreading all over my sacred, self-sufficient vessel. Sometimes I would plug a little too much of the potent stuff - great, big gulps, it went down seamlessly... It was so delicious: surely my throat and chest was made for this. A flash of heat would stoke my stomach, wake the engine, and then every note became brighter, deeper, realer. Melody escaping the tinny stringy plastic - like the rapid fizz of air slipping out of a rubber balloon-coursing into the arms and legs of one drunk trunk of life.

Then, as inevitable as the dull close of the summer, or the vivid burst of a coral sunset signalling another day gone, the stares arrive. Lengthy, heavy eyes. Don't you know I'm a tower, a monolith of steel and light brightening the darkness and the void? Don't stare directly at the sun, it will blind you. You can't handle it and I live in the void; the crashing of tides, the white sparks of electricity. My home is in the incomplete phrases, the undelivered sentences, the bold and playful cascade of nylon fabric that tugs and pulls and creates berserk interruptions on my surface.

But it is no excuse to measure this surface with your clumsy eyes, which dart up and down like bewitched buffoons. The storm ascended upon my clock tower, a tricky beast was greeting me. “Legs”, they'd say. Again, that feeling. The devil's punch was swivelling deep inside of me. Some misconstrued agreement, some uncertain laughter, some beckoned invitation and there I would be, in somebody's frieze. As if set in alabaster, those times I would turn to stone, my arms and legs became a separate act, in sick anticipation of the encore.

When entropy is all that's certain, can the cool aluminium shelter my burden?

I rest my head against the teal-chipped metal, caress the cool railing with my hot cheek. Close my eyes and sway and bobble like the tide with every turn and bend along the ride. I don't dare abandon my steely, screeching shield. My protector, twisted and troubled like me, who sucks up and spits out the kind that disrespect our rhythm. “The next stop is Beckton, where this train will terminate.” But nothing terminates, only spirals, decays and breaks away. My trusted companion, we soar to new heights in the void, leaving the frieze, bursting through the seams. Be gone, shame, you're more than railbait.