

LAST TRAIN

Written by

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INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Commuters are scattered throughout the traveling subway carriage.

ANDREW, a clean-shaven businessman in his mid-40s, sits with crossed legs, engrossed in a financial newspaper.

He glances up, making eye contact with an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN. When he smiles at her, she dismissively looks away.

The train's PA SYSTEM announces the upcoming station.

Andrew folds his newspaper, hiding the book he was secretly reading behind its pages, and slips it into his briefcase. He stands, checks his wristwatch, and moves to the doors.

He notices a tabloid headline on another passengers newspaper "Underground muggings on the rise."

Spotting two SHADY INDIVIDUALS at the far end watching him, Andrew subtly secures his wallet, phone, and keys in his inner jacket pocket.

As the train slows, he readies himself, staying alert.

INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT

The train glides in, doors opening. Andrew is the only passenger to disembark onto the deserted platform.

Just before the doors close, the two shady characters slip out of the carriage.

Andrew briskly heads down a passageway, aware they are trailing him.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew strides purposefully, glancing over his shoulder. He quickens his pace, turning down an adjoining walkway.

To his relief, the shady individuals keep on walking, seemingly uninterested in him.

His tension subsides, and he casually continues onwards. Suddenly, he spots a burly, THUGGISH MAN loitering at the other end of the walkway.

Sensing danger, Andrew turns back to the main passageway.

He strides briskly, briefcase swinging, and quickens his pace after glancing at his watch.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew arrives to see his train departing, its lights fading into the tunnel. He notices the loitering thug is gone from the walkway.

Disappointed, he turns around and ambles back the way he came.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Andrew sits by the window on a late-night bus. A portly man slumbers beside him, head resting on his shoulder, mumbling in his sleep, heightening Andrew's unease.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Andrew sits on the train, pretending to read his financial newspaper.

The PA announces the next station.

He checks his wristwatch, slips his reading material into his briefcase, and stands by the doors, reassuringly patting the secure contents of his bulging jacket pocket.

The train stops, the doors slide open, and he steps onto the empty platform.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew strides purposefully, but halts upon seeing the same loitering thug at the far end of the walkway.

He checks his watch and reluctantly opts for the longer route to circumvent the potential danger.

Andrew hurries with a greater sense of urgency, briefcase wildly swinging, striving to catch his train on time.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew arrives to find the train still stationed with its doors wide open. He rushes towards the nearest entrance, but they close unexpectedly, thwarting him.

Frustrated and disappointed, he watches the train depart. Noticing the thug is gone again, he curses under his breath and stomps off annoyed.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Andrew sits in the rear seat of a moving taxi.

Suddenly hit by a noxious odour, he shields his nose with his sleeve and looks to the footwell.

An empty beer bottle rolls in a pool of vomit, splattering his shiny shoes with nauseating chunks of barf.

Reacting swiftly, Andrew rolls down the window, thrusts his head out, and retches violently.

INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT

A train pulls in at the station. As the doors open, Andrew nimbly disembarks with his briefcase. Glancing at his watch, he briskly walks down the passage with determined speed.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew reaches the walkway. The thug is there yet again.

Without pausing, Andrew pivots and sprints down the passage, briefcase securely tucked under his arm.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew sees the train with open doors. Determined, he bolts towards an entrance.

Suddenly tripping over his untied shoelace, he's propelled headfirst into the side of the unforgiving train.

Lying motionless on the empty platform, immobilized, the doors slide shut and the train pulls away.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Andrew lies glumly on a gurney in a speeding ambulance, sirens blaring and lights flashing.

A paramedic leans over him, tending to his head injury with utmost care.

## INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

The thug leans nonchalantly against the wall at the far end of the walkway.

Andrew casually appears with his briefcase and a conspicuous bandage on his forehead. Spotting the thug, he sighs dejectedly.

Checking the time, he takes a deep breath and summons the courage to continue down the walkway. The sound of his measured footsteps draw the attention of the menacing thug.

Avoiding eye contact, Andrew discreetly yanks his keys from his bulging jacket pocket, holding them defensively.

Anxious and on guard, he passes the thug, gripping the keys between his fingers.

Suddenly, the thug grabs his shoulder, causing him to freeze momentarily. Andrew clenches his fist, prepared for a confrontation.

To his surprise, the thug points to something on the ground-- Andrew's wallet. He pats his jacket pocket, confirming its absence.

Relieved, Andrew retrieves his wallet and thanks the thug with a grateful nod.

## INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew joins a few other commuters waiting for the train.

It arrives, doors sliding open.

He courteously allows a WOMAN in a nurse's uniform, bidding farewell to another passenger, to disembark before he satisfyingly boards the last train home.

## INT. TRAIN 2 - NIGHT

Several passengers are scattered around the stationary carriage.

Andrew takes a seat and observes as the woman approaches the thug. They affectionately greet each other, then stroll off down the walkway holding hands.

Opening his briefcase, Andrew takes out his folded newspaper and secret book, but his attention is suddenly captivated by a different female NURSE sitting opposite him.

Appearing exhausted, she leans back and closes her eyes. In that moment, the passenger beside her, their face hidden by a hoodie, swipes her handbag and bolts from the train.

She gasps in shock, her expression helpless. Her eyes meet Andrew's, silently pleading for help.

Andrew leaps up, jamming his arm in the closing doors. They reopen, and he gives chase, leaving his belongings behind.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew closes in on the unsuspecting fleeing thief and seizes hold of the handbag's dangling shoulder strap.

The resistance causes the thief to spin around, their grip unyielding. A struggle ensues as they tug back and forth, items tumbling out of the bag, each vying for possession.

The thief's hood slips, revealing a young teenage girl who suddenly brandishes a small knife, compelling Andrew to relinquish his hold.

She flips her hood up and escapes with the stolen handbag.

Andrew collects the spilled items, including a book. He gazes at the title 'Working Late And Finding Your Soulmate.'

Approaching footsteps make him turn. The nurse whose bag was stolen stands before him, holding his briefcase and reading material.

They exchange a warm smile, both holding the exact same book.

**THE END**