

PERFECT STRANGERS

written by

John Stone

Short Film

(c) 2025

INT. NOISY COMMUTER TRAIN - MORNING

A packed carriage races along the track with every seat occupied with commuters.

Suited Caucasian LEONARDO (30's) sits and plays chess on his cellphone.

Opposite: Stunning Asian female MODI (20's) taps a message using her iPhone. English is her second language.

POP UP: Leonardo's phone. He sighs and clicks the message.

MODI

Hello, how are you?

Without looking up, he quickly taps a reply:

LEONARDO

Who is this?

She raises a brow.

MODI

It's Modi here. How are you doing?

LEONARDO

Who is Modi? I don't know you.

MODI

I'm Nina's friend. Is this Nina's cousin from London?

LEONARDO

Nope. Who's Nina?

MODI

I talk about Nina Alum. I think she gave me wrong number.

LEONARDO

Yep, afraid so.

EMOJI- Brown haired girl prays.

LEONARDO (CONT'D)

(smiles)

No problem.

He carries on playing chess. She taps another message.

MODI

*Thanks for your kind response.
Glad you don't blame and rude to
me for wrong number.*

He sighs his frustration and closes his game.

LEONARDO

*Sure. And thanks for being so
kind and polite also.*

MODI

*I'm really impressed, you humble
behaviour. Seems like you are not
British.*

LEONARDO

(chuckles)

*Ha! Irish blood, English Heart
makes me very British.*

MODI

*Very nice. Singaporean blood,
Swiss culture I experiencing my
life. Hehehe.*

EMOJI- Smiling face.

LEONARDO

(joyful grin)

Very nice too. Are you in London?

MODI

*I often visit London. Have been
here two month and plan to leave
next month. I live in Zurich.
Have you been there before?*

LEONARDO

*No. I'm planning a trip next
month to Geneva on business.*

MODI

*Good choice in Geneva. Lots to do
and see. If you have plan to
visit Zurich I can guide you
there. Are you also from London?*

LEONARDO

*Sounds great! I'm from London,
but live outside the city now.*

MODI

*I have been some interesting
places, Wembley, Greenwich and
Brixton. If you have some spare
time in February I want to treat
you a cup of coffee.*

LEONARDO

Oh really? Just coffee?

She gasps and glances at other commuters with a look of embarrassment.

MODI

*Maybe you can show me around the
city where you live? Btw, May I
ask your name?*

LEONARDO

*Sure. My name is Leonardo. And
yours?*

MODI

(smiles)

*It's Modi here remember?. Nice to
meet you by wrong number in this
new year.*

LEONARDO

*Yes, agree. It's nice to meet you
too, Modi.*

MODI

*How is your day going? Leonardo
DiCaprio. You've got my favourite
name.*

LEONARDO

(checks watch)

*I'm afraid he is better looking
than me.*

MODI

*Everyone have different
experiences and skills. I am also
ugly lol.*

EMOJI. Laughing tears.

LEONARDO

(chuckles)

Ha! I didn't say I was ugly.

MODI

I just talk about mine.

LEONARDO

I must go now. I'm on a train and arriving at my station soon.

Maybe we can speak again sometime? Take care. Send me a pic if you like.

MODI

Me too. I'm sorry for disturbing you. Hope we can keep in touch if you have no problem. It's nice to talk with you.

TRAIN MESSAGE V.O

The next station is Tottenham Hale. Please mind the gap when exiting the train.

He ends the chat and climbs to his feet. Modi does the same. As the train comes to a stop, she stands directly behind him.

POP UP: PHOTOGRAPH.

He smiles at her unblemished beauty as he exits the train and walks towards the ticket barrier.

She follows him off the train. His phone slips from his grip and falls to the ground as she steps forward. In unison they bend down to reach for the phone when their eyes meet.

LEONARDO

(embarrassed)

Oops. Sorry.

MODI

(coyly)

Oh. Sorry.

She walks off. He receives another message

MODI (CONT'D)

Send me photo please.

He looks at the message and smiles to himself.