

**LAST TRAIN**

by

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INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

A handful of passengers are scattered around the carriage of a speeding tube train.

ANDREW, mid 40's, a clean shaven chap, wearing a business suit and tie, is sat reading a financial newspaper.

The trains tannoy announces the next station.

Andrew folds the newspaper and uses it to cover the book he was secretly reading behind its pages.

He reaches down and picks up a briefcase. He pops it open and slips in his reading material.

Andrew stands ready by the doors, briefcase in hand.

His eye is caught by the front page headline of a tabloid newspaper one of the other passengers is reading.

'Muggings Rise On The Underground'

Andrew suspiciously glances at a couple of unsavoury looking characters sat at the end of the carriage.

Andrew discreetly gathers his wallet, phone and keys, and wedges them all into his inside jacket pocket.

The train comes to a gradual stop. The doors slide open and Andrew steps out.

INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT

Andrew's the only passenger to disembark. He makes his way along the empty platform.

The doors slide shut and the train pulls away.

Andrew warily glances over his shoulder before heading down a passage.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew strides along the passage. He turns down an adjoining walkway and stops in his tracks.

A thuggish looking black man in his 20's is loitering at the other end.

Andrew checks the time on his wrist watch. He backs out of the walkway and continues along the passage.

Andrew briskly strides down the passage, his briefcase swinging in his hand.

He glances at his watch and quickens his pace.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew arrives at a different platform just as a train pulls out of the station. He stops and dithers, unsure of what to do.

He checks the time, turns around and ambles back the way he came.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Andrew's sat beside a window on the late night bus. Some fat bloke's asleep beside him, his head resting on Andrew's shoulder.

The bloke coughs and mumbles in his sleep.

Andrew clearly feels uncomfortable but doing his utmost to ignore the situation.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Andrew's on the train again, wearing his suit and tie, reading a financial newspaper.

The tannoy announces the next stop.

Andrew folds the newspaper, discreetly covering the book he was reading. He opens his briefcase and slips them in.

He stands by the doors and reassuringly pats his bulging inside jacket pocket.

The train stops and the doors slide open. Andrew steps out onto the empty platform.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew strides along the passage. He turns down the adjoining walkway and halts.

The thug is loitering at the far end again.

Andrew checks the time then reluctantly sets off the longer way around.

Andrew hastens down the passage, his briefcase flailing around in his hand.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew arrives at the platform. The train's still there, its doors wide open.

He darts for the nearest entrance but the doors suddenly slide shut.

Andrew abruptly stops and watches the train pull away.

He curses under his breath and stomps off back the way he came.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Andrew is sat in the back of a moving taxi.

He suddenly catches a whiff of an unpleasant odour. He glares down at his feet and immediately holds his sleeve to his nose.

An empty beer can rolls around a lumpy pool of vomit in the foot-well. Chunks of sick splash onto his shoes.

Andrew rapidly unwinds the window, sticks his head out and violently retches.

INT. PLATFORM - NIGHT

A train arrives at the station. The doors open and Andrew steps out, his briefcase in hand.

He checks the time and hastily makes his way down the passage.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew reaches the walkway.

The thug is in the same spot.

Andrew doesn't even break his stride, instantly turning and marching off the other way.

Andrew pelts it down the passage, his briefcase tucked up under his arm.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew arrives at the platform. The train's there, its doors open.

He bolts for it. Andrew's going to make it in time but suddenly trips over his own foot. He stumbles over and slams face first into the side of the train.

The doors close and the train pulls away.

Andrew lays motionless on the empty platform.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Sirens wail.

A rather glum looking Andrew is stretched out on a gurney in the back of a speeding ambulance.

A paramedic leans over him, treating his head injury.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

The thug is loitering in the walkway.

Andrew casually steps around the corner with his briefcase in hand and a big white bandage wrapped around his head.

He spots the thug and dejectedly stares down the other passage.

Andrew takes a deep breath and summons the courage to walk towards him.

Andrew's steady footsteps echo around the walkway, causing the thug to notice him approaching.

Andrew droops his head, trying not to make eye contact. He discreetly reaches into his bulging inside jacket pocket and yanks his keys out.

He anxiously passes by the thug, clasping the keys in his hand, ready to use them in self defence.

The thug suddenly grabs hold of Andrew's shoulder.

THUG

Oi mate, your wallet.

Andrew freezes. He clenches his fist and spins around.

The thug is pointing at Andrew's wallet on the ground.

Andrew pats his pocket and realizes he must of dropped it when he pulled his keys out.

He goes back, picks his wallet up and slips it into his trouser pocket along with his keys.

Andrew gives the thug a appreciative nod and carries on down the walkway.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew steps onto the platform. A couple of people are already waiting for the train.

Andrew hears the train approaching.

It pulls in at the station. A set of doors open right in front of Andrew. He allows a young lady in her 20's, wearing nurse scrubs, to disembark before he steps on.

INT. TRAIN 2 - NIGHT

A few passengers are sat around the carriage.

Andrew takes a seat and watches on as the thug emerges from the walkway and approaches the young lady.

The thug lovingly greets her and they walk off together hand in hand.

Andrew smirks at himself and shakes his head.

He opens his briefcase and takes out his newspaper and book. He pauses, spotting an attractive middle aged woman wearing nurse scrubs, sat further along the carriage.

She lethargically rests her head to one side and closes her eyes.

Another passenger sat near her, wearing a hoodie concealing their face, suddenly swipes the woman's handbag and bolts off the train.

The woman springs to her feet and gasps with shock.

Andrew's hesitant but he leaps out of his seat and jams his arm between the closing doors.

They automatically re-open and Andrew gives chase, leaving his briefcase and reading material behind.

INT. PLATFORM 2 - NIGHT

Andrew pursues the fleeing thief along the platform and down the passage.

INT. PASSAGEWAY - NIGHT

Andrew gains on the thief. He reaches out and grabs hold of the handbags dangling shoulder strap.

The thief's forcefully spun around, still clutching onto the bag.

They tussle over the bag, tugging it back and forth between them. A few items drop out as it twists and turns in the air.

The thief's hood falls back in the scuffle. Andrew freezes.

It's a white teenage girl.

She pulls a small knife. Andrew relinquishes his hold.

The girl flips her hood up and scarpers down the passage with the handbag.

Andrew kneels and gathers the items from the bag, one of which is a book. He takes a good look at the cover title.

'Working Late And Finding Your Soulmate'

Andrew hears footsteps rapidly approaching from behind. He rises and turns around.

The woman from the train stands before him, holding his briefcase and reading material.

They step toward each other. Andrew hands over her belongings. She hands him his.

They have the same book.

They gaze into each others eyes and smile.

**THE END**