

RICKY

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INT. MOVING TRAIN - NIGHT

The train glides through the darkness, wheels clattering steadily against the tracks.

INT. STEWARDS' CABIN

MARGARET (20s), brown hair, blue dreamy eyes, sits on the lower bunk, folding linens. A phone on a table plays Barney's song: "I love you, you love me, we're a happy family..."

RAJ (20s), dark-skinned, tall and handsome, a train steward, walks past the open door. He glances inside.

Margaret looks up, sensing him, and smiles.

RAJ (V.O.)
They say the life of a train
steward is a hard one.

The train stops.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - NIGHT

Passengers board. Raj greets them. Among them, RICKY (58), Indian, athletic, wearing a baseball cap, sports jacket and jogger pants. A sharp, unreadable face.

RAJ (V.O.)
As you never know who'll step on
board next.

INT. STEWARD'S CABIN

Margaret watches as Raj pulls a worn, black-and-white photo from his backpack. A man and woman in their 30s, she's blonde, he's dark-haired, strong features. Ricky's features. Raj runs his finger over the woman's face in the photo.

Margaret slides closer, hugs Gabe, plants a soft kiss on his head. Raj pockets the picture and moves into—

INT. TRAIN CORRIDOR

Raj glances at Ricky's room. The door is ajar.

RAJ (V.O.)
It might be someone you've waited
for all your life.

Inside, Ricky grips the metal luggage rack, doing slow, controlled pull-ups. He drops down, adjusts his baseball cap. His eyes flick to the door.

The same Barney song plays on a loop.

RICKY

Kill the fucking song, will ya? And
send the simple one with my tea.

Raj stares. Ricky smirks. Raj heads into his cabin.

STEWARDS' CABIN

Raj unzips his backpack, pulling out a gun. He tucks it under a pillow. Margaret watches, her eyes wary. When Raj meets her gaze, she gives a silent shake of her head.

CORRIDOR - LATER

Margaret delivers the tea. From a few steps away, Raj watches. He sees her exit Ricky's room.

Margaret glances at Raj, heads towards the bathrooms. Ricky trails her. Ricky's door remains open.

RAJ (V.O.)

That's why you need someone
watching your back.

RICKY'S ROOM

Raj sneaks inside. Ricky's jacket hangs loose. A wallet peeks out. He pulls out Ricky's ID. It reads "Ricky Agustian." Raj checks the back of the photo, it's the same name. A scream.

INT. TRAIN BATHROOM - NIGHT

Raj bursts in to see -- Margaret sits on the sink. Ricky between her legs.

She sees Raj, shoves Ricky away, slides off. Raj catches her. Him and Ricky lock eyes. The song still plays.

RICKY

Don't make me ask twice about the
fucking song.

INT. STEWARDS' CABIN - NIGHT

Dark. Quiet. The train barrels forward. Raj lies awake. Margaret sleeps across from him. She's deep in her sleep.

Raj's hand rests beneath the blanket, fingers brushing the cold grip of a gun hidden in the folds.

RAJ (V.O.)
The rule is simple – you do
anything for the ones you love.

A noise. Gabe grips a gun beneath the blanket. The lock turns. The door slides open–Ricky storms in, knife in hand.

RICKY
Get out, boy.

Raj pulls the gun. Ricky freezes. Margaret, jolts awake, shakes her head, pleading silently.

RAJ (V.O.)
Even if it means keeping their mind
at peace.

Gabe lowers the gun as Ricky backs away.

EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM – DAWN

Raj and Margaret watch the passengers dismount in silence.

RAJ (V.O.)
You can't do it if she couldn't
live with it.

Ricky, bag slung over his shoulder, exits with a sly grin.

RICKY
I'll be back, boy. You know that.

INT. MOVING TRAIN – STEWARDS' CABIN – DAY

Barney's song plays again. Margaret sits beside Raj. They share a quiet embrace.

EXT. FIELD – DAY

Ricky lies in the middle of nowhere. A bullet hole in his head.

RAJ (V.O.)
Unless you make sure she never
finds out.