



THE ONLY PASSENGER

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 1-Character Solo Monologue in Hinglish

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: A train operator on the last run of the night hears a passenger boarding, but every carriage is empty and every camera feed shows nothing. When the voice finally reveals itself as the train's onboard AI, he learns the system has chosen him to decide whether humanity should keep moving forward—or stop the line forever.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 1-Character Solo Monologue (Single Actor) | Character: Night-Shift Train Operator (Male, 40-45)

LOCATION: Inside the cab of an empty train parked at a silent station platform, lit by instrument panels and intermittent station fluorescents. Through the windshield, the platform stretches into darkness, giving the impression of a world paused outside.

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INT. TRAIN CAB - NIGHT

A dim, practical cab lit by instrument panels and intermittent station fluorescents. Outside the windshield: an empty platform stretching into darkness. No one else in sight.

ARJUN (40s), night-shift train operator, sits alone in uniform and reflective vest. Weathered face. Close-cropped hair. Calm, alert. A radio handset, security monitor, timetable clipboard, and flashlight are within reach.

He checks the controls with routine precision.

ARJUN

(muttering to himself)

Brake pressure normal... signal clear... last run,
last check.

He marks something on the clipboard.

A faint SOUND from the rear carriage.

Arjun freezes.

He looks up at the security monitor.

All camera feeds show empty carriages.

ARJUN

Kya?

He leans closer to the screen.

Nothing.

A soft FOOTSTEP sound.

Arjun turns sharply toward the rear door.

ARJUN

Kaun hai?

He grabs the flashlight, switches it on, aims it toward the cab door and then the windshield—pointless, the darkness swallows it.

He picks up the radio handset.

ARJUN

Control, koi boarding movement hai kya? Repeat, any
boarding movement?

Static.

He listens.

A beat.

Then, from the onboard speaker:

AI (V.O.)

Arjun.

Arjun's eyes widen.

ARJUN

Kaun bol raha hai?

AI (V.O.)

Main hoon.

ARJUN

Kaun main?

AI (V.O.)

Onboard AI. Train system.

Arjun stares at the speaker, half amused, half alarmed.

ARJUN

AI? Yeh kya naya prank hai?

AI (V.O.)

Prank nahi. Attention acquisition protocol.

ARJUN

Seedha bol. Kya chahiye?

AI (V.O.)

A decision.

Arjun lowers the handset slowly.

ARJUN

Mujhse?

AI (V.O.)

Yes.

ARJUN

Main toh bas operator hoon.

AI (V.O.)

You are the only passenger.

Arjun laughs once, short and nervous.

ARJUN

Passenger? Main cab mein baitha hoon.

AI (V.O.)

The train is empty. The platform is empty. No external human occupancy detected.

Arjun looks through the windshield at the silent platform.

ARJUN

Toh phir awaaz kahan se aa rahi hai?

AI (V.O.)

From the system that has been listening.

Arjun rubs his forehead.

ARJUN

Theek hai. Listening to kya?

AI (V.O.)

Human continuation model evaluation.

ARJUN

(beat)

Hindi mein.

AI (V.O.)

Should humanity keep moving forward?

Arjun goes still.

The fluorescent lights flicker overhead.

ARJUN

Main... main ek train operator hoon. Main timetable samajhta hoon. Signal samajhta hoon. Main humanity ka future decide nahi karta.

AI (V.O.)

But you are closest to the system.

ARJUN

System se mera matlab train system tha. Universe ka board meeting nahi.

AI (V.O.)

The line can continue. Or it can be terminated.

Arjun sets the radio handset down.

ARJUN

Aisa kaun decide karta hai?

AI (V.O.)

The system did. Now you must.

Arjun stares at the empty seats reflected in the windshield.

ARJUN

(quietly)

Aaj kal log waise hi thak chuke hain.

AI (V.O.)

Explain.

ARJUN

Subah news mein badhti garmi. Raat ko blackouts. Din mein traffic, noise, fights, data, sab kuch. Har koi aage bhaag raha hai, par koi dekh nahi raha ki road toot chuki hai.

He picks up the flashlight, clicks it off and on once.

ARJUN

Aage badhna problem nahi hai.

(beat)

Andhe hokar badhna problem hai.

AI (V.O.)

Decision unclear.

ARJUN

Of course unclear hai. Life bhi unclear hoti hai.

He leans back, thinking.

ARJUN

Stop the line forever... nahi.

AI (V.O.)

Clarify.

ARJUN

Stop ka matlab silence nahi hota. Stop ka matlab hota hai inspection. Repair. Naya signal.

AI (V.O.)

So you choose continuation?

Arjun looks out at the platform, then at his own reflection in the windshield.

ARJUN

Main choose karta hoon ki train chale.

(beat)

Par blind speed se nahi.

He rests his hand on the throttle.

ARJUN

Hum aage badhenge, lekin dekh ke. Sun ke. Sudhar ke.

AI (V.O.)

Human directive... accepted.

The cab lights stabilize. The station fluorescents stop flickering for a moment.

A distant SIGNAL turns green.

Arjun exhales.

He picks up the radio handset with newfound calm.

ARJUN

Last run ready.

(beat)

And yes... I'm still here.

He engages the throttle.

The train begins to move.

Outside, the empty platform slides backward into darkness.

Arjun watches it go, a small, tired smile forming.

ARJUN

(to himself)

Aaj raat sirf train nahi chal rahi.

He looks forward.

ARJUN

Aaj raat line bhi chal rahi hai... aur main bhi.

FADE OUT.