



THE QUIET CAR

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A train car enters a tunnel and comes out with all sound gone, leaving three men unable to hear each other, the brakes, or the world outside. They use gestures, notes, and instincts to argue over whether they are trapped, dreaming, or dead. The twist reveals the quiet car is a prototype for a disaster response test, and one of them has been chosen to decide whether the train should ever be allowed to reach the next station.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Captain Arvind (46)

LOCATION: A single train compartment at night, lit by cool fluorescent strips and passing station lights streaking through the windows. The carriage is nearly empty, with vibrating metal surfaces and a futuristic hum.

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INT. QUIET CAR TRAIN COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

Cool fluorescent strips. Nearly empty futuristic train compartment. Metal surfaces vibrate softly. Passing station lights streak across the windows.

CAPTAIN ARVIND (46), uniform cap, lined face, alert but weary, stands near the control panel.

NILESH (33), office bag, stressed expression, earphones around neck, sits by the window.

OMAR (39), reflective vest, grease smudges, calm eyes, checks a maintenance flashlight near the door.

The train HUMS.

Arvind glances at the route display, then at the tunnel ahead.

Nilesh taps his phone, exhausted.

Omar hums softly to himself.

The train ENTERS a TUNNEL.

Instantly, the HUM CUTS OFF.

Total SILENCE.

Arvind blinks.

Nilesh looks up.

Omar freezes.

Arvind

(looking around, confused)

Kya...?

No sound. His own voice is gone.

Nilesh stands.

NILESH

(trying to shout)

Arre! Arre! Sun raha hai koi?

Nothing.

He touches his ears, terrified.

Arvind rushes to the control panel, slaps it, checks the train keys.

OMAR

(very calm, mouthing words)

...

He points at the ceiling, then the door seals, then the panel.

Arvind tries the EMERGENCY BRAKE LEVER.

Nothing.

Nilesh sees him and panics harder.

NILESH

(half-shouting, helpless)

Main bol raha hoon ya mime kar raha hoon?

Arvind grabs a NOTEBOOK from the side compartment and writes fast.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - ARVIND'S HANDWRITING:

"AWAAZ KYUN GAYAB HAI?"

He shows it to Nilesh.

Nilesh snatches the notebook, writes underneath.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - NILESH'S HANDWRITING:

"KYA HUM DEAD HAIN?"

Omar leans in, takes the notebook, writes below.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - OMAR'S HANDWRITING:

"DEAD LOG ITNA ARGUE NAHI KARTE."

Nilesh stares.

Then, despite himself, he snorts a laugh.

Arvind almost smiles.

Arvind gestures: calm down.

Nilesh gestures back: HOW?!

Omar opens his maintenance flashlight, checks the walls, the floor, the door frame.

He kneels near the seat base, notices something.

He points at a tiny hidden indicator light under the panel.

Arvind notices it too.

He leans closer.

The light is not part of the normal system.

Arvind writes in the notebook.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - ARVIND'S HANDWRITING:

"YEH NORMAL NAHI HAI."

Nilesh writes immediately.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - NILESH'S HANDWRITING:

"WELL, THANK GOD."

Omar takes the notebook, writes.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - OMAR'S HANDWRITING:

"THANK GOD NAHI. TEST HAI."

Arvind looks sharply at Omar.

Omar points to the hidden plaque under the seat.

He uses the flashlight.

INSERT ON PLAQUE:

"QUIET CAR PROTOTYPE / DISASTER RESPONSE SIMULATION"

Nilesh's face drains.

NILESH

(mouthing)

Simulation?

Arvind's jaw tightens.

Omar reaches inside his vest and pulls out a laminated CARD.

It slips from his fingers.

Arvind picks it up.

INSERT CARD:

"CAPTAIN ARVIND - FINAL DECISION AUTHORITY"

Arvind stares.

Nilesh stares at Arvind.

Omar stares at Arvind, still calm, but now serious.

Arvind's breathing changes.

He flips the card over.

INSERT CARD BACK:

"If silence persists after tunnel exit, decide whether the train proceeds."

Nilesh violently gestures: WHAT?

Omar points to the tunnel end approaching through the window.

Arvind looks out.

The station lights become brighter streaks.

They are nearing the tunnel exit.

Nilesh writes fast in the notebook.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - NILESH'S HANDWRITING:

"IF THIS IS A TEST, WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE?"

Omar writes under it.

INSERT NOTEBOOK - OMAR'S HANDWRITING:

"IF SYSTEM IS FAILING, STOP."

Arvind reads both lines.

He grips the train keys.

His eyes move from the EMERGENCY BRAKE LEVER to the window.

He is trapped between duty and doubt.

The tunnel ends.

Light floods the compartment.

For one second, all three men are suspended in silence.

Arvind pulls the EMERGENCY BRAKE LEVER.

A violent JOLT.

Lights flicker.

Metal SCREAMS.

Then—sound returns all at once.

The train's mechanical GROAN. Distant STATION ANNOUNCEMENT. Air rushing.
Human voices outside.

Nilesh gasps.

NILESH

Oh my God! Oh my God!

Omar exhales, almost smiling.

OMAR

Toh... dead nahi the.

Arvind looks shaken, but determined.

The compartment doors SLIDE OPEN.

INT. PLATFORM / TRAIN DOORWAY - CONTINUOUS

Emergency staff and a SUITED OBSERVER stand outside, waiting.

The suited observer gives Arvind a small, formal salute.

SUITED OBSERVER

Decision logged.

Arvind freezes.

He understands.

This was never just a train ride.

It was a human decision test.

Nilesh grabs his bag, furious and relieved.

NILESH

(angry, to nobody)

Meri office meeting miss ho gayi aur main prototype
ka guinea pig tha?

Omar switches off his flashlight, calm as ever.

OMAR

At least ab sound aa rahi hai.

Arvind looks at both men.

A beat.

Then a tired, bitter smile.

ARVIND

Chalo... next station tak ka faisla bhi sun lete
hain.

They step out into the night.

The quiet car stands behind them like a secret.

FADE OUT.