



THE LAST TRAIN HOME

A Slice of Life/Family 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Stuck on the last train after a long day, three generations of women share one compartment and too many unfinished conversations. Madhavi wants tradition, Anu wants rest, and Kriti wants to be taken seriously, but the journey slowly reveals how much they depend on one another. The ending lands softly when Kriti quietly chooses to sit beside her mother instead of by the window, signaling a first real truce.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Madhavi (62)

LOCATION: A nearly empty suburban train compartment at night, lit by cool fluorescent lights and passing station flashes through the windows. The bench seating and gentle motion of the carriage create a contained, reflective atmosphere.

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FADE IN:

INT. SUBURBAN TRAIN COMPARTMENT - NIGHT

Ek nearly empty compartment. Cool fluorescent lights. Windows ke bahar station flashes. Train ki gentle ghoomti hui awaaz.

Madhavi (62), cotton sari mein, seedhi, composed. Cloth bag godh mein. Anu (39), simple kurta, ID lanyard, thaki hui. Kriti (14), school uniform mein, earbuds neck par, attitude on.

Teenon alag benches par, lekin same compartment mein phanse hue.

MADHAVI

Kriti, seedha baitho. School mein kya sikhaya hai?

KRITI

School mein kaafi kuch sikhaya hai, Nani. Lekin train mein bhi inspection chal raha hai kya?

Anu thak ke aankh band karti hai.

ANU

Maa, please. Shift ke baad lecture mat.

MADHAVI

Lecture nahi. Sanskaar.

KRITI

Haan, wahi. Free with every generation.

Anu ek weak smile dabati hai.

Train ek station cross karti hai. Window par white light flash.

Anu apna lunch box bag se nikalti hai.

KRITI

Abhi bhi khana?

ANU

Haan. Hospital mein patient ko dekhke khud ko bhool jaati hoon. Khana bhoolna allowed nahi hai.

MADHAVI

Nurse ho, machine nahi.

ANU

Aap dono ke hisaab se main ya to machine hoon ya criminal jo phone nahi uthata.

MADHAVI

Phone uthati nahi ho, isliye phone karta hai.

Kriti chhota sa snort karti hai.

KRITI

Main bhi phone uthati hoon. Bas aap log hi call karke interrogation karte ho.

Anu lunch box kholti hai. Simple ghar ka khana.

KRITI

Wah. Hospital shift ke baad bhi tiffin. Maa, aap superhero ho ya fool?

ANU

Dono. Depends on the salary slip.

Madhavi apni cloth bag mein haath daalti hai. Ek folded TRAIN TICKET nikalti hai.

ANU

Yeh kya hai?

MADHAVI

Extra ticket. Tumne bola tha late hogi. Kriti akeli wait karegi. Toh main agle station tak aa gayi.

Anu ko ek second ke liye bolna nahi aata.

KRITI

Aapne... sirf isliye?

MADHAVI

Sirf isliye? Tum logon ko lagta hai ghar bas address hota hai? Ghar wait karta hai.

Anu ticket ko dekhti hai. Thodi guilty, thodi touched.

ANU

Maa, aapko bolna chahiye tha.

MADHAVI

Aur tumhe bhi bolna chahiye tha ki itni late ho jaogi.

ANU

Main bolti toh aap tension leti.

MADHAVI

Main tension leti hoon, isliye maa hoon.

Kriti apne earbuds ko ungli se kheenchti hai.

KRITI

Main bhi kuch bolun?

ANU

Bol.

KRITI

Aaj school mein presentation bigad gaya. Sab ke saamne.

Anu turn karti hai.

ANU

Kya hua?

KRITI

Kuch nahi. Bas... maine earbuds pehen liye. Taaki koi poochhe nahi.

Silence.

Train ki awaaz aur zyada clear.

MADHAVI

Jo baccha sabse zyada attitude dikhata hai na, aksar sabse zyada hurt hota hai.

Kriti aankh ghumaati hai, par is baar soft.

KRITI

Aapko sab pata hai kya?

MADHAVI

Nahi. Par principal thi. Bacchon ke chehre padhna aa gaya tha.

Anu ek tukda khana leti hai, phir dheere se bolti hai.

ANU

Main bhi roz logon ke beech invisible feel karti hoon. Nurse hoon, par ghar aake strong bhi banna padta hai.

Madhavi uski taraf dekhti hai.

MADHAVI

Aur main? Principal banna easy tha. Ghar aake maa banna sabse mushkil exam tha.

Kriti dono ko dekhti hai. Pehli baar bina mask ke.

KRITI

Toh... hum sab thak gaye hain?

ANU

Haan.

MADHAVI

Haan.

A beat.

Train ek slow curve leti hai. Window reflection mein teenon ek frame mein dikhte hain.

Kriti apni seat se uthti hai. Window ke paas jaane ke bajay Anu ke paas bench par chupchaap baith jaati hai.

Anu usse dekhti hai, surprised.

ANU

Yahan?

KRITI

Haan. Aaj window se zyada... yahin theek lag raha hai.

Anu ke face par relief.

Madhavi halki si smile karti hai. Apna lunch box beech mein rakh deti hai.

MADHAVI

Chalo. Ab khana share karo.

Anu lunch box khol deti hai. Kriti bina naatak ke ek piece leti hai.

KRITI

Maa... kal school ke baad aap mujhe pick kar lo.

Anu ek second rukti hai, phir nod karti hai.

ANU

Haan.

Madhavi window mein dekhte hue muskurati hai.

MADHAVI

Last train hai. Par ghar ab bhi aa hi gaya.

Train aage badhti rehti hai. Station lights unke faces par soft flashes deti hain.

FADE OUT.

THE END.