

The 12:15 Train Ride

By

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1 FADE IN: 1  
2 INT. TRAIN - NIGHT 2

TITLE CARD #1 (over scene): Tuesday. 12:15 AM.

LILLIAN (16), a plain looking shy girl who has her nose buried in a book every time you see her, is riding her usual train ride home.

Tonight's book is LOLITA by Vladimir Nabokov. She seems to be completely enthralled in it, unaware that TAXI MAN is trying to talk to her. The audio around her is muddled.

TAXI MAN

Hello? M'am? Anyone there?

She finally hears this and comes to realize he is talking to her. She is very startled.

LILLIAN

Oh! Um, sorry...

TAXI MAN

This is my business card. Take this and call the number any time anywhere and I will come get you. I do rides to the airport for about \$30

Lillian remains quiet, obviously uncomfortable that this man is talking to her

TAXI MAN

Can I give this to you?

She finally reluctantly takes the card from him

He mutters something under his breath and walks away, finding the next target he can give his card to.

Lillian suddenly sits up very straight and realizes what stop they are at. She checks her watch. It reads 12:15 AM.

She sits up straight and fixes her hair. Her eyes are fixated on the train door as people are starting to file on.

We see DANIEL (32), a handsome young man who knows how far his charm and wit can get him, get on the train.

His eyes meet with Lillian's and she quickly looks away, darting back to her book. Its obvious she has seen this man before.

(CONTINUED)

Daniel makes his way over to Lillian and takes the seat next to her. He remains calm and collected while Lillian is silently freaking out.

DANIEL  
Ahhh... "The softness and fragility  
of baby animals caused us the same  
intense pain"

Lillian looks surprised that he knew a quote from the book she was reading.

LILLIAN  
You've read this before?

DANIEL  
Not all the way. I couldn't get  
through it. Something about it  
freaked me out. I just like that  
quote.

Lillian nods and starts to go back to reading.

DANIEL  
I've seen you a couple times on  
this train. Seems like we may have  
the same route.

Lillian, again nods but doesn't say anything.

DANIEL  
So, what are you doing on a train  
this late at night?

LILLIAN  
Oh well, I work the late shift at  
the University Library. It closes  
at midnight, and then I take this  
train home.

DANIEL  
The Library. You must really love  
books.

LILLIAN  
Yeah I guess, it keeps my mind  
occupied.  
(beat)  
Why are you on this train?

SFX: PHONE RINGING.

Daniel ignores her question and takes out his phone. He silences it and puts it away.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Oh just some... business

He then settles into a comfier position and starts to close his eyes. Lillian admires him for a moment. He is slouched, but still has a charming presence.

Lillian realizes that the train is coming to a halt. She glances at the display screen, and outside. This is her usual stop.

DANIEL

Will you read your book out loud to me?

LILLIAN

What?

DANIEL

Well, it's a late night train, I'm tired, I could use a bedtime story. And you happen to have one. Unless, this is your stop?

Lillian looks around as people are filing off the train. Her eyes dart outside and then back to Daniel.

LILLIAN

(hesitantly)

Uhhh...

Shots quicken to show people packing their stuff up, leaving the train, and the doors starting to close.

LILLIAN

No it's not.

But- I don't know if Lolita is really bedtime story material

DANIEL

Well maybe I'll like it better if I hear you read it.

The train starts to move again.

LILLIAN

Ok. Well I was just finishing up chapter 8...

Daniel gets comfy in his seat and closes his eyes as we hear Lillian start to read to him.

TIME CUT TO:

3 SAME SCENE - 30 MINUTES LATER 3

Lillian is admiring Daniel, who is fast asleep. She notices his wrinkled shirt, and lack of wedding ring.

SFX: INTERCOM ANNOUNCEMENT

We hear an announcement come on about the next stop. The noise wakes Daniel.

DANIEL  
What stop are we at?

LILLIAN  
Pine Station

DANIEL  
Oh this is where I get off, are you getting off?

LILLIAN  
Uh.. Yes!

DANIEL  
Hey, sorry I fell asleep. I guess I'll just never get into Lolita. Next time bring me some coffee instead.

He playfully nudges her and she giggles.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT (MINUTES LATER) 4

Daniel and Lillian step off the train.

DANIEL  
So, I never caught your name!

LILLIAN  
Lillian

DANIEL  
Well Lillian, I'm Daniel. Can I give you a ride home?

LILLIAN  
Oh no, I'm-a, someone is coming to pick me up

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Alright, well in that case, I will see you tomorrow Lillian. Same time, same place?

Daniel chuckles at his own joke and starts to walk away. Lillian waits until he has turned the corner to take out the business card the taxi man gave her. She dials the number.

LILLIAN

Hi yes, can I get picked up at Pine Station?

CUT TO:

5 INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

5

TITLE CARD #2 (over scene): Wednesday. 12:15 AM.

It is the next night. Lillian is sitting in her usual spot with Lolita, but she is distracted from reading. Instead, she is carefully watching the door as people get on.

Finally Daniel gets on the train. Lillian immediately pretends to be reading her book, unsure if he will sit with her or not.

He makes his way over to Lillian, stumbling a little bit and sits down next to her.

DANIEL

So where's my coffee?

LILLIAN

What?

DANIEL

I told you to bring me coffee if I was gonna be able to make it through Lolita tonight.

LILLIAN

(laughing)

Oh, my bad. Well we don't have to read that tonight.

DANIEL

Yeah that's a good idea.

(beat)

So, do you like to write?

(CONTINUED)

LILLIAN

Um... I guess. I'm not very good. I like reading better.

DANIEL

Right of course. But writing is just mimicking all your books. I'd love to take a look at your writing sometime. I'm an English high school teacher, I do it for a living.

LILLIAN

Oh... well I wouldn't really want anyone reading my writing...

DANIEL

Do you have many friends Lily?

LILLIAN

What?

DANIEL

Well you seem to really like to read. You work in a library. But do you have a life outside your books?

LILLIAN

Well... I just like reading better. It's easier for me. I don't really see the need for friends.

DANIEL

You know what I think? I think you should put your books down every once in awhile. If you're living your life through a story you are always gonna be disappointed when the ending doesn't work out like you hoped.

Lillian is very taken aback by this unsolicited advice and looks shocked. Daniel is unaware and feels around in his jacket before taking out a flask. He takes a couple sips before offering Lillian some.

DANIEL

Want some?

Lillian shakes her head, still thinking about his comment.

DANIEL

Didn't think so.

(CONTINUED)

Daniel settles in his seat, intending to fall asleep, but suddenly turns towards her.

DANIEL

You know what Lolita-i'm gonna call you that-, you intrigue me. What are you doing this weekend?

Daniel places his hand on Lillian's thigh. The action causes her to tense up, but she relaxes when she see's his charming smile.

LILLIAN

I get off work at the Library at noon on weekends...

DANIEL

Perfect. Ill pick you up then. Take a break from your books. Go live life.

He starts to say something else but decides not to. Instead, he removes his hand from her thigh and settles back into his sleeping position. Lillian is beaming.

DANIEL

Well wake me up at our stop. And don't forget my coffee tomorrow.

Daniel flashes his charming smile which makes Lillian laugh. As Daniel falls asleep Lillian puts away her book and instead takes out a notebook.

She looks at Daniel, who is already asleep, and then back at her paper. She finally writes "Dear Daniel..."

We PULL BACK from the scene, seeing other people on the train, but still focused on Lillian who is writing away.

CUT TO:

6 INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

6

TITLE CARD #3 (over scene): Thursday. 12:15 AM.

It's the next night and Lillian is sitting in the same seat, however instead of her book, she is holding a cup of coffee and a folded piece of paper. She is anxiously looking at the door waiting for Daniel.

Lillian looks nicer than usual. Her hair is brushed and she has a pink lipstick on.

(CONTINUED)

She sees Daniel board the train. She sits up in anticipation and tries to make eye contact with him.

Daniel does not seem like his usual charming self. He is more ragged and looks upset. He avoids looking at Lillian and sits in a seat diagonal from her.

Lillian slumps down disappointed. She adjusts in her seat so she can still see him.

Meanwhile, AMANDA approaches the seat next to Lillian and sits down. Amanda smiles at her but Lillian ignores her, trying to look past at Daniel.

Daniel's phone rings and Lillian can barely hear his conversation, but still picks up bits and pieces.

DANIEL

(on the phone)

No I'm coming home now... I don't  
know why they were there... calm  
down I'll be home soon I'm sure  
it's nothing...

Amanda has taken out a pack of gum and offers a piece to her.

LILLIAN

What? No thanks

Lillian dismisses Amanda as she leans forward and tries to see what Daniel is doing.

Daniel fishes around in his pocket for a while until he finally pulls out a ring and puts it on his ring finger. This is new information.

Finally, the train comes to the stop and Daniel starts to get off, even though it's not his usual stop. Lillian notices this and starts to gather her stuff.

Lillian pushes past people that are in between her and Daniel until she is finally right behind him.

LILLIAN

Daniel, I finally remembered to  
bring you coffee today...

Daniel, startled at the sight of Lillian, looks at the coffee but doesn't take it. Instead he turns around and keeps frantically walking.

Lillian is stunned for a moment but then again tries to catch up to him.

(CONTINUED)

LILLIAN

And oh, also I brought a little piece of my writing. You said you could look at...

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EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS ACTION)

7

They exit the train and Daniel finally stops walking and cuts Lillian off.

DANIEL

Look, Lillian, I think you're a really great kid but I think this might be a bad idea...

Before Daniel can finish his sentence, 4 police officers approach him. POLICE OFFICER 1 grabs Daniel.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Daniel Dunlap? You are under arrest. You have the right to remain silent.

DANIEL

Oh boy... I'm sorry Lolita...

The sound of the Miranda Rights being read to Daniel fades out as they take him away.

Daniel locks eyes with Lillian one last time before the policemen turn him around.

Lillian is very distraught as the audio in the scene is blurred and muddled.

POLICE OFFICER 2 approaches Lillian and at first his audio is muddled as well, but soon it becomes clear what he is saying.

POLICE OFFICER 2

Miss? Can you hear me? I said, do you know Daniel Dunlap?

LILLIAN

What? Sort of, Well, I just sat next to him on the train.

POLICE OFFICER 2

How old are you miss?

LILLIAN

I'm- sixteen! Wait, why are you taking Daniel, what did he do?

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER 2  
You're a minor?

Again, the audio muddles as Police Officer 2 calls into his radio. Lillian starts to walk away from him toward where Daniel was lead.

POLICE OFFICER 2  
Miss? You need to stay here. I'm gonna need to ask you a couple questions.

LILLIAN  
Why are you taking him! He didn't do anything, he's a good guy!

POLICE OFFICER 2  
Did you have a relationship with Daniel Dunlap?

The question stuns Lillian. She thinks about the plans they made for the weekend.

LILLIAN  
Well... not really but...

Lillian looks off to where Daniel is being handcuffed by the police.

POLICE OFFICER 2  
Look, I don't know who you thought this guy was, but he is not a good guy. He's a creep. Has been for a long time. Multiple offenses. Sad too. Feel bad for his wife.

LILLIAN  
Wife?

POLICE OFFICER 2  
Mhmm. Been married for 6 months but the whole time he was running around with minors and prostitutes. Now I'm gonna ask you one more time, and you need to tell me the truth, did you know Daniel Dunlap?

Lillian looks one more time over at Daniel who is looking directly at her. She quickly looks away and locks eyes with Police Officer 2.

LILLIAN  
No. I didn't know him.

CUT TO:

8 INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

8

TITLE CARD #4 (over scene): Friday. 12:15 AM.

Lillian is sitting on her regular train, in her regular spot. Lolita is open in front of her but she isn't reading it. She is back to her makeup free, messy haired self.

Amanda, the same girl as the night before is sitting next to her.

Amanda takes out a pack of gum and takes a piece out for herself. She then turns to Lillian.

AMANDA  
Want a piece?

Lillian at first dismisses her, but then changes her mind.

LILLIAN  
Sure.

AMANDA  
What book are you reading?

LILLIAN  
Oh... I wasn't actually reading this. I didn't like it very much. I was gonna give it away or something, do you want it?

AMANDA  
No, I don't really like reading

The train stops and Lillian realizes this is her stop. She starts to gather her stuff.

LILLIAN  
You ride this train a lot?

AMANDA  
Yup. Every night. I dj a late night shift on the campus radio.

LILLIAN  
Cool. See you around.

Lillian turns around and walks away with a slight smile on her face.

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EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS ACTION)

9

As she gets off at her stop, her actual stop, the note she had originally written Daniel falls out of Lolita.

She picks it up and looks at it for a moment. Then she puts it back into Lolita and throws both the book and letter in the trash can next to her.

FADE TO BLACK: