

RUSH HOUR

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. KENMORE STATION - MORNING

A man, GEORGE (25), stands on the platform. He wears a worn out, brown, leather coat, jeans, sneakers and a watch. George looks at the digital clock at the station. It reads 8:00 a.m.

George observes a MAN with an open backpack pocket right in front of him.

The B train approaches. The man gets on along with the crowd. George stands right behind the man, puts his hand in the open backpack pocket and takes out a wallet.

INT. B LINE TRAIN - MORNING

George holds on to the railing and looks around the crowded train.

He sees a lady, LEILA (50) who dozes off by the window. She wears a flowery dress and a tan tote bag sits next to her seat.

The train arrives at Park St. All passengers get off except Leila.

EXT. B LINE TRAIN PARK STREET STATION - MORNING

George observes Leila from the platform. A few seconds later, she wakes up startled and looks around. She picks up her bag and leaves with the crowd.

INT. B LINE TRAIN PARK STREET STATION - NIGHT

George gets on the 10:00 p.m. B train at Park Street. He sees Leila also get on. The train is almost empty.

George sees Leila sit down near the window and place the tote bag in the empty seat beside her. Within a few minutes, Leila falls asleep.

George gets off at Kenmore. Leila is still asleep.

INT. B LINE TRAIN KENMORE STATION - MORNING

It is 8:00 a.m. George again observes Leila who dozes off by the window with the tan tote bag next to her seat.

INT. B LINE TRAIN PARK STREET - NIGHT

It is 10:00 p.m. George sees Leila. She rests her right elbow on the window sill and her head is in the palm of her right hand. Her left hand rests on her lap. Her head bobs up and down. The tote bag sits in the seat next to her.

The train comes to a slow halt at Kenmore. George

STEALS THE BAG.

He exits the train.

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

George places the bag on the table that is cluttered with other stolen items.

He sits on the couch, sips an open can of beer and turns the TV on. He swipes the stuff off the messy table. He unzips the bag and dumps the items from the tote bag on the table.

He takes the money and credit card out of the wallet and places it in his pocket. He throws the grocery store coupons away. He sees a manila folder, which he flings across the room. Hospital bills and some paperwork fall out, along with a PHOTO.

George picks up the photo off the floor. He sees an elderly woman smile in a hospital bed flanked by Leila and a young girl.

His face turns red. He places his hand on his forehead. He sighs and places the photo on the table and sees an

EVICTION NOTICE.

He picks it up.

A CASHIER'S CHECK is stapled to the notice.

He skims the notice and looks closer. The notice reads

9/27 by 5:00 p.m.

He looks at his watch. It is

9/27 2:30 a.m.

He runs his hand through his hair and

PUNCHES the wall.

He leans against the wall, drops the notice, slides down and places his face in his hands.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

George wakes up with a startle from the couch. It is 7:30 a.m.

George picks up the notice and all of Leila's belongings and stuffs it in the bag. As he rushes out, George takes the money and credit card out of his pocket and places it in the bag FORGETTING TO ZIP it. He slams the door behind him.

EXT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

George runs through crowds. He bumps into multiple people which slows him down. He runs into someone again, but this time the contents of the bag

FALL OUT.

George gathers everything and places it in the bag.

He sees the eviction notice with the check still attached. George sighs in relief and CLOSES THE ZIPPER. He continues to run.

The direct road to Kenmore station from his apartment is cordoned off. There are construction workers. George runs around the block.

He reaches the signal and notices a sea of cars blocks the crosswalk. The traffic signal blinks red and cops manage the flow of traffic. George looks around and avoids eye contact with the cops.

His looks at his watch. It is 7:50 a.m. George places his hands on his head and taps his foot on the ground. He paces.

George sprints down the sidewalk to another signal and holds the tote bag close to his chest. The walk signal has a red hand and the number "1" written next to it. With a flushed face, he runs through the signal.

INT. KENMORE STATION - CONTINUOUS

He runs down the stairs to the turnstyle gate. He puts his hand in his pocket and feels for his wallet. It is not there. The train schedule says "Boston Col ARR."

He walks close behind another PASSENGER who swipes her pass and makes it through the turnstyle gate. The gate beeps.

As he makes long strides down the stairs, he trips and rolls down. He sees the B line already there. He picks up the bag.

The doors start to close before George places his hand in between and opens them again. He gets in and looks around the crowd.

INT. B LINE TRAIN KENMORE STATION - MORNING

He looks over people's heads. When he does not see Leila, he purses his lips. George shoves people aside and breathes heavily as he walks further into the crowded train. He spots Leila and sighs. His eyes soften.

Leila stares out the window. Her eyes are swollen, red and she bites her nails.

The train reaches Copley.

As the crowd disperses, George notices the seat next to Leila is empty. In a swift movement, he

PLACES THE BAG near Leila.

He finds a spot to stand across from her.

Leila shifts in her seat and smooths her skirt. Her elbow bumps the tote bag. Her eyes widen and her jaw drops. She looks around before she unzips the bag.

George observes Leila.

She rummages through the bag. She holds the eviction notice with the check still attached. Leila laughs and a tear rolls down her cheek.

The train pulls up to Arlington. George gets off.

EXT. B LINE TRAIN ARLINGTON STATION - MORNING

He sees Leila through the window. She smiles with the notice in her hand. He leaves.

FADE OUT.