

NOWHERE

By

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INT. SLEEPER CAR, ROOM #2 - NIGHT, BLIZZARD

POV Rani wakes up in a mysterious room. She is wearing a black turtleneck.

Looking around, she sees she is in a larger-than-normal sleeper car bedroom made of wood and has the basic necessities.

Rani's hat is on a table on the other wall and her coat is hanging in the closet.

A roll of toilet paper burst into her sight.

PASSENGER

What do you think this is?

Rani follows the hand holding the toilet paper to a male PASSENGER sitting near her bed with an almost crazy yet curious stare.

PASSENGER

Is it too early to ask? I can wait a few more minutes if you are not fully awake. I have never been unconscious, so I don't know how it feels.

Rani hesitates to respond.

RANI

Toilet paper?

Passenger pulls the roll to himself.

PASSENGER

Aha. That is what you would think.  
Passenger finagles with the toilet paper.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

You see, what something looks like may not be what it actually is. For what may appear to be a roll of toilet paper could be something more. It could be a safe to a mouse's fortune. Or a viewfinder into another world. Or...

Passenger pokes into the toilet paper and pulls out a gumball.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

It could be a sweet tooth's paradise.

Passenger chews the gum. Passenger offers some to Rani. Rani refuses.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

Yeah, I don't blame you. Gum after waking sounds more dangerous. Plus, it does ruin your appetite. Don't understand why people brush their teeth before they eat breakfast. Though grape juice is not bad after brushing. Summer camp makes you learn a lot.

Passenger shoots gum into trash can.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)

Except how to tell if gum is good or not.

Rani stares at Passenger.

RANI

Where am I?

Passenger looks into toilet paper.

PASSENGER

*Nowhere.*

Rani continues to stare. Passenger takes notice.

PASSENGER

Oh. You mean "where in the world am I."  
You are on the *Nowhere*, a train bound to its name. It just keeps on rolling. Destination: anywhere... and nowhere. When it will get their...

(leans towards Rani)

Only time knows. While we are on names, what is yours?

RANI  
(hesitantly)

Rani.

PASSENGER  
Rani. That is an interesting name. You  
don't see many 'Rani's around.  
(beat)  
As a matter of fact, you don't see many  
yous around.

Passenger stares at Rani. Rani is entranced.

Passenger stands and dances to the door.

Rani staggers up in bed.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)  
Well Rani, you can call me anything.  
You can call me Bob, you can call me  
Dave, you can call me a fool, you can  
call me dead, you can call me a cab,  
you can call me for dinner, just don't  
call me Mom or on the phone.

Passenger leans in doorway.

PASSENGER (CONT'D)  
Though I suppose that last one goes  
without saying.

Passenger checks a pocket watch.

PASSENGER  
You are free to roam around. Three  
rules: no stealing, you break it you  
bought it... and be careful.

Passenger puts the pocket watch away and closes the door.  
Rani slides out of bed. She glances some more around the  
room.

Rani checks the closet. Only her coat & a little iron are  
inside.

Rani checks the drawers. Nothing except dust inside.

Rani checks under the bed and sees something. Rani reaches and grabs a bullet casing.