

SILENT SHORT

Prithvi G. Tikhe

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INT. HOUSE-PRESENT DAY

MARYANN RICHARDS, a woman in her mid-60s sits on a leather couch. She hears her doorbell ring and receives a package at her door. She heads back in and sits down. She opens the package.

The package contains a wallet and a card. MaryAnn opens the wallet to reveal a picture of a young woman. After a few quivers, she breaks down with tears of joy.

FLASHBACK-INT. TRAIN

MaryAnn is travelling in a crowded train, holding a tote bag and shopping bags from Nordstrom. She looks around for a seat but is not able to find one. She sighs in frustration, before a woman in her early twenties, REHAM, wearing a hijab smiles at her, gets up and offers MaryAnn her seat.

MaryAnn shakes her head repeatedly despite Reham's insistence. After a while, the train stops at a station and the man sitting next to Reham gets up and walks out of the train. MaryAnn sees the empty seat, but opts to stand. The train doors close and continues down the tracks.

After a few minutes, a man sitting diagonally across from Reham offers MaryAnn his seat. She smiles and sits down. She places her shopping and tote bags on the ground. She takes a deep breath and looks out the window. In her reflection, Reham is looking at her. MaryAnn looks the other way.

MaryAnn removes her wallet from her tote bag. She sighs as she lovingly runs her hand over a picture. When MaryAnn realizes Reham is watching her, she looks at her disgustedly, quickly closes the wallet and puts it in the tote bag.

The train stops at South Station. MaryAnn gets up from her seat quickly and heads to the doors. She stands in front of a large crowd and as soon as the doors open she briskly walk out. Reham gets off the train as well.

EXT. TRAIN-SOUTH STATION

The clock reads 5:30 p.m. and throngs of people walk in different directions as they try to catch their trains. In her rush, MaryAnn bumps into a man which causes her to drop all her shopping bags and tote bag. She quickly gathers her bags and hastily heads to the ticket counter not realizing that she has left her wallet behind.

At the ticket counter, she cuts the line not noticing Reham is right behind her.

The man pushes a ticket that reads 5:45 p.m. Stamford, CT under the glass and holds on to the ticket. MaryAnn places her shopping bags down and puts her hand in her tote bag. She rummages and panics as she looks through the tote bag. When MaryAnn combs through her other shopping bags she starts to worry. She then checks her coat pockets only to not find her wallet.

The man pulls the ticket back. She points to the timings table listing arrivals and departures and looks back and forth. People standing behind her start to fidget, wave their hands and roll their eyes.

She picks up her bags and moves aside out of the line, teary-eyed and disappointed. Reham is watching MaryAnn.

MaryAnn stands with her hands folded over her mouth with her bags by her feet. She sighs nervously and starts to pace. Someone taps her on the shoulder. MaryAnn turns around and sees Reham, arm stretched out, holding a ticket that reads 5:45 p.m. Stamford, CT.

MaryAnn nervously stares at Reham for a while. She looks around and sees everyone either on their phone or purchasing their own ticket. She looks at Reham who smiles. MaryAnn cautiously reaches, takes the ticket from her and abruptly leaves.

As Reham walks towards her platform, she stumbles over the wallet. She opens the wallet and sees a picture of a young woman about her age.

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MaryAnn puts the wallet aside and opens the card. She sees a drawing of a young lady in a hijab and smiles. MaryAnn then looks at a photo of a smiling young woman on the mantle with tears rolling down her eyes. The caption reads "SAMI RICHARDS: 6/10/1976-9/11/2001"