

Tokaido Line

INT. LIMITED EXPRESS TRAIN (TOKAIDO LINE) - SUNSET

MISATO (23) is sitting on the train coming from Hamamatsu on her way home to NICHU KOZAKAI. She is listening to music on her ear pods. The weather is terrible - a typhoon is passing through central Japan. It is almost as if every raindrop carries with itself a bucket's worth of water.

The inside of the train are the same people as always, since she can't see anything outside, MISATO directs her gaze towards the inside of the train. To the habitual faces that are unsure about how to dress, after all it's the middle of August but the wind is in charge of the rain, tossing it everywhere. Making everything look cold.

The train is zooming towards Osaka, passing through unassuming houses turning on their lights. Exuding warmth from within. The fields are becoming invisible, little by little the cars that drive on the roads with their lights on seem to metamorph into figures of light flying through the void.

The train slows down to stop at the SHINJOARA station.

In walks a Salary Man - MR. SATO. Everyone in the train recognizes him, smiling gently to him as he takes his hat off then making a small bow, almost as a great pianist at the end of a concerto. He sits down next to MISATO, that takes the earphones off.

MR. SATO

How is it going?

MISATO

I'm preparing mentally.

MR. SATO

To run home?

MISATO smiles. After the stop, the train continues onward.

Made in Highland

MR. SATO
Yeah I also didn't bring an umbrella.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO CONT'D
The weather is getting worst and worst.

MISATO
And also unpredictable.
Especially in the summer. I just simply don't know what to wear. It's too hot and humid for pants, but it's too cold for dresses.

MR. SATO
Tomorrow I think I will be wearing a dress. Regardless of the weather.

MISATO
Exactly, fight the power.

MR. SATO raises his wrist. MISATO laughs.

MR. SATO
We can't let the gods tell us what to wear!

MISATO
You shouldn't say that very loud, they might hear you!

MR. SATO
I'm starting to think that they are getting deaf. Senile.

MISATO
That's very likely, they died in Germany and all across Europe.

The both snicker.

MISATO
Look at us so intelectual. Have you ever read Nietzche?

MR. SATO
I carried around with me some books of his when I was your age. I read a bit but got bored of it. And you?

MISATO takes off her brief case a Nietzche book. Both laugh.

SILENCE.

MR. SATO
I would like to wear a dress.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO CONT'D
When women wear them in the summer they look so airy. So fresh. Very elegant. If you don't want to show your legs that much you wear a longer dress.

MISATO
Why don't you ask your wife to borrow one of her dresses?

MR. SATO
We switched clothes once. At home.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO
She looked like a deflated balloon in my suit. And I looked like a really fat, hairy woman that insists in buying clothes 4 sizes below her number.

MISATO
How sexy!

MR. SATO
Don't joke with it. Is the same as you growing a mustache.

MISATO
What do you mean?

MR. SATO
It's as if forbidden. What would people think if I wore a dress?

MISATO
I see.

PAUSE.

MISATO CONT'D
Times are changing.

MR. SATO
In Tokyo maybe.

Chuckles.

MISATO looks at the train.

MISATO
Things here don't really change
much...

PAUSE.

MISATO CONT'D
This train is probably as old as
I am.

MR. SATO
To be fair they redid the
interior a few years ago.

MISATO
Yeah I guess. It feels new.

MR. SATO
What matters is that it keeps
rolling.

The rain outside intensifies, the wind is visibly carrying the rain like a river in the sky that discharges against the windows of the train.

MISATO quivers. MR. SATO looks at her.

MR. SATO
It's getting pretty tricky out
there.

MISATO
There were reports of flooding in
FUNAMACHI. Do you think they
closed the bridge?

MR. SATO
No. I don't think so. I've seen
worse than this. Don't worry
about it.

MISATO
We'll find out when we get there.

SILENCE.

The two look outside concerned. All they can see are distorted images made by the rain clashing against the glass.

MISATO
I would like to be a man.

PAUSE.

MISATO CONT'D
Not forever. Just for a day or
two.

MR. SATO

It is good to be a man. Lots of perks.

MISATO

I just want to feel the seeming confidence that man have.

MR. SATO laughs.

MR. SATO

It's not confidence. We are simple.

MISATO laughs.

MR. SATO CONT'D

Really! Even to a biological level. Woman go through a lot of changes, hormonally. And that isn't bad. Just makes things more complex.

MISATO

I would like to be simple for a change. Simple people have simple problems.

MR. SATO

Yes but sometimes they don't see them as simple problems. Simple people are just that. Simple. Not that all man are like that. But yes in general we man are simple. We have simple pleasures.

MISATO

I know this is silly, but I still see it as confidence. And it kind of is. You have to put aside all conceptions of the self to be able to be confident.

MR. SATO

Women can also be confident.

MISATO

Women can't piss standing up.

MR. SATO laughs.
The train suddenly stops.

INTERCOM

Dear passengers, we had to stop due to a disturbance in the tracks. We appreciate your patience.

MISATO

Knew it.

MR. SATO

You can almost call it
foreshadowing.

MISATO

Maybe I should become a witch.
Read people's fortunes.

MR. SATO

Stoped in the middle of nowhere
during a typhoon.

The rest of the people in the train car start to murmur to
one another.

MISATO

Could be worst. We could be
outside.

MR. SATO

True. But we could be sitting in
one of those cushy GRANCLASS
seats sipping champagne.

MISATO

Could you imagine? It's a shame
those trains don't come here.

MR. SATO

I wouldn't mind being in Tokyo.
Have you ever been to the
Imperial Hotel?

MISATO

No.

MR. SATO

You heard of it right?

MISATO

Yes of course. On the TV.

MR. SATO

Exactly.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO CONT'D

I went there on a business trip.
I got to stay there for one
night.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO CONT'D
Luxury, just luxury. For one night, I felt like a minister, or a fancy business man.

MISATO
Do you feel better by having gone there?

MR. SATO
I don't really know.

MISATO
Would you like to return?

MR. SATO
Not really. Only for nostalgia, maybe. The thing is that I didn't spend enough time to miss it. And besides I've seen some videos on YouTube, it's completely changed. Looks like a Holiday Inn.

MISATO
There's probably a new trendy hotel.

MR. SATO'S phone rings.

MR. SATO
Excuse me.

He picks it up.

MR. SATO
Yes, it is delayed.

PAUSE.

MR. SATO CONT'D
I'm stuck in Funamachi. Yes the train is stopped in the tracks... I don't know. We'll see. I'll send you a message whenever the train starts moving again... Ok, thanks. Bye.

MR. SATO hangs up the call.