

INT. TRAIN CAR - NIGHT

Inside a 1950s-style train car, complete with benches facing each other and passengers in era-accurate business attire, KATHLEEN looks out the window, completely engrossed by the scenery.

The train window shows a breathtaking view of the galaxy: ringed planets in candy colors, twinkling stars, glowing nebulas. It moves past slowly, showing more new planets by the minute.

Aside from Kathleen, none of the passengers even glance at the view. Some read, and some talk quietly in little groups.

The train smoothly glides to a stop, and some passengers get off while even more get on. The empty seat next to Kathleen is filled by a BUSINESSMAN with a briefcase. She doesn't look over, and he chuckles.

BUSINESSMAN

First time on the train?

The train starts moving again, and Kathleen answers without looking.

KATHLEEN

No. I ride it every day.

He gives her a strange look and retrieves some documents from his briefcase, reading and scribbling in the margins. A CONDUCTOR in a smart hat walks through the cabin, checking tickets. Kathleen hands him hers and goes back to the window.

The businessman dozes off. Passengers exchange through the aisle at every stop. The conductor periodically checks Kathleen's ticket. Soon enough, the businessman exits. On the conductor's next round, Kathleen tries to hand over her ticket. He stops her and laughs.

CONDUCTOR

No, I remember you, ma'am. Couldn't stop looking out the window. Did you leave your book back at the station?

KATHLEEN

I didn't bring a book.

CONDUCTOR

Hmm. Seems like you're taking a pretty long trip without anything to do.

KATHLEEN

I like the scenery.

She turns back to the window, and he moves on. The couple behind Kathleen begins talking, and she listens while continuing to stare out the window.

WIFE

It's nearly five.

HUSBAND

The train never runs on time when we need it to.

WIFE

Charles and Donna won't wait at the restaurant if we're late.

HUSBAND

If the train would just hurry up-

The conductor stops next to them.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets, please.

The WIFE hands over the tickets as the HUSBAND crosses his arms.

WIFE

When do you anticipate the train will arrive at PA-99-N2?

CONDUCTOR

Planet arrival is scheduled for 5:25, ma'am. Sorry for the delay.

The husband huffs and grumbles softly to his wife as the conductor walks away and the train glides to a stop. Two giggling schoolgirls sit across from Kathleen. Both are wearing blazers and pleated skirts.

SCHOOLGIRL

The program on TV last night was really good. Didn't you see?

FRIEND

Dad made me switch the channel to the football game.

SCHOOLGIRL

That's too bad. The new Ed Sullivan show was so funny.

FRIEND

Too bad.

The FRIEND readjusts in her seat, squinting toward the open window, now with a mesmerizing view of glowing dust clouds with slightly pink-tinted stars.

FRIEND (CONT'D)

The window glare is right in my eyes. Would you mind-?

The SCHOOLGIRL reaches up to close the blinds from her side, but Kathleen puts a hand on her own, stopping it.

KATHLEEN

Don't.

The two girls stare at her, and Kathleen corrects herself.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

Please...the stars-

SCHOOLGIRL

Whatever.

The girls turn away and the blind stays open. The conductor asks for the girls' tickets and they get off at the next stop. Kathleen is blissfully left in peace for a few minutes, then the sound of snoring breaks her concentration.

She looks across the aisle at the ELDERLY MAN napping in the next booth over, then at the window and back incredulously. The snoring continues as the train continues on, and Kathleen is visibly annoyed. The chatter from passengers around her only increases.

CONDUCTOR

Tickets, please.

The snoring stops, and the elderly man hands over his ticket.

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)

This is only good until our last stop.

ELDERLY MAN

Sorry, I must have dozed off. Too much of a rhythmic motion on these newfangled trains.

The conductor laughs sympathetically and helps the man purchase a ticket to get back to his original destination. When the train stops, the elderly man hurries off and new passengers arrive.

The last to get on the train, an energetic BOY and his harried MOTHER, take the seats across from Kathleen. The boy looks out the window with the same awestruck expression as Kathleen.

BOY

Wow! Do you see that, Mom?

MOTHER

That's the Andromeda Galaxy, dear.  
Are you hungry?

BOY

It's so pretty!

The mother doesn't notice, digging through her oversized purse for snacks. The boy turns to Kathleen.

BOY (CONT'D)

Isn't it pretty?

Kathleen smiles for the first time.

KATHLEEN

It really is.