

VIDEOSCRIPT

Queensland Rail

TALES FROM THE TRACK: END OF THE LINE

We're in a gritty, noir graphic novel world. Everything is black and white, except for James' backpack (yellow) and safety/warning signs and lights (red).

Teenage friends, Nick and James, are on their way to Chloe's for a party. It's night time, raining hard, and they're running late. Nick leads his friend across the tracks in an attempt to make the train...

Nick's VO is performed by a teenage boy, and also appears as comic-style supers.

[visual: open on black background with white disclaimer text.]

Disclaimer text: The following is a fictional account based on real behaviour. Some viewers may find it confronting.

[visual: opening title sequence - Queensland Rail; TALES FROM THE TRACK: END OF THE LINE]

[visual: tight frame of Nick's eyes. Rain falling in background of frame.]

Nick VO: ***Me and James.***

We did everything together.

[visual: motion panels of Nick and James hanging out, playing in a band, and laughing with Chloe.]

Nick VO: ***But that day...***

[visual: a close up of Nick's face - focus in on the eyes.]

Nick VO: ***We were running late...***

[visual: hard rain, Nick's hand holding a phone showing the time changing from 8:21 to 8:22.]

Nick VO: ***The rain.***

[visual: hard rain, reveal the train crossing. Safety and warning signs are coloured red.]

Nick VO: ***It didn't help.***

[visual: mid frame of Nick and James looking determined, soaked in rain.]

Written SFX: ***DING DING DING DING DING DING DING DING***

[visual: level crossing sign, lights and gate. The colour red is prominent.]

VIDEOSCRIPT

Nick VO: *My eyes were stinging.*

[visual: Nick with drenched clothes and hair, shielding his face from the rain.]

Nick VO: *The train was coming in.*

[visual: sequence - the train menacingly approaching; the train light whites out the frame.]

Written SFX: *SPLOOOSH*

[visual: motion panels of Nick and James running through puddles - James' backpack is yellow; we see the RED person on crossing light - signalling to stop walking.]

Written SFX: *DING DING DING DING DING*

[visual: Nick leading James towards the closing NO ENTRY gate at the crossing.]

Written SFX: *CREEEEEACK...*

[Visual: the pedestrian crossing gate swings - it's closing.]

Written SFX: *KER-CHACK!*

[Visual: the pedestrian crossing gate slams shut.]

Nick VO: *We had to get to Chloe's party.*

[visual: motion panels of Chloe texting; Nick checking his phone - message from Chloe "where r u??? 🤔";

Nick VO: *We cut across the tracks.*

[visual: Nick pulling James towards the tracks.]

Nick Speech Bubble: *This way!*

Nick VO: *I didn't want to be late.*

[visual: Nick and James running across the tracks - Nick is leading, James is falling behind. We see James' yellow backpack.]

Nick Speech Bubble: *Come on!!*

[visual: Nick's face in foreground panel - determined. Close up of the train moving in the background frame.]

James Speech Bubble: *Wait!*

[visual: James' face in frame in the foreground panel - we see the yellow backpack. Close up of the train moving fast in the background frame.]

VIDEOSCRIPT

Nick VO: *I swear he was right behind me!*

[visual: a tight frame of Nick's head and shoulders while running. He looks back...]

Nick VO: *I swear!*

[visual: a closeup of Nick's face - absolute horror.]

Written SFX: *SKKKRRREEEEEEEE!!!*

[visual: "SKREEEEE" in large red writing moving through the frame. It's the squealing train breaks. Inside the large moving text, we see glimpses of the boys running/moving.]

Nick VO: *The sound...*

I'm trying SO HARD to NOT remember.

He called out...

Nick! Nooo

James Speech Bubble: *Nick! Nooo* (with Nick VO)

[visual: the "SKREEEEE" continues. We see a motion panel sequence of Nick's back as he runs ahead, and James' face as he falls behind. There's a quick flash of white, then everything is black...]

Nick VO: *I turned around.*

[visual: split screen. Nick is on one side of the tracks - white background with some detail of the environment; James is on the other side of the tracks - with a stark black background...]

Nick VO: *He wasn't there...*

[visual: James disappears, fading into the black background]

Nick VO: *He isn't here...*

Any more.

Ever.

[visual: Rain continues. We see James' yellow backpack, some paper and a shoe, strewn across the tracks, broken and soaked. Nick is standing still, looking at the remnants...]

VIDEOSCRIPT

Nick VO: ***James.***

[visual: motion panels of the train stopping, staff running, and a close up of Nick's pained face.]

My friend.

[visual: people running to console Nick collapsed on the ground, emotionally broken.]

Nick VO: ***He's gone.***

[visual: closeup of James' yellow backpack and papers on the tracks.]

[visual: we zoom out from the yellow backpack to a bird's-eye view of the level crossing at the station with emergency vehicles and personnel. All safety/warning signs are red. James' yellow backpack remains in the centre of the frame.]

GOV VO: ***Mates don't let mates cut across the tracks.
Cross safely.
Read the signs.***

[visual: Government message supers appear in red panels with the VO.]

[visual: fade to black. Queensland Rail logo appears.]

[End of film]