

LOVE

by

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FADE IN:

**EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT**

A city. Could be anywhere . . . past, present, or future.

A MAN, late 30s, backpack, dark clothes, dark demeanor . . . waits.

A bus arrives. The Man checks. Half-empty. Not the one.

A SIREN.

The Man puts sunglasses on. At night? Takes them off.

Another bus arrives. This one full. Good.

The SIREN stops. Was nothing.

Casually watches others board, then smoothly slips aboard  
the --

**BUS**

The Man spies, takes an empty seat. Across the aisle a LITTLE  
GIRL, 7, stares right at him.

LITTLE GIRL (O.S.)  
Happy Valentine's Day.

Her small voice hangs in the air. The Man pretends to not  
hear.

But, the Little Girl holds out a red paper heart. It  
flutters. Hangs.

The Man says nothing. Glances at the MOTHER. She shrugs,  
apologetic smile.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)  
Please?

The Man's eyes rapidly scan the interior of the bus. Some  
of the other passengers hold similar hearts. A few look his  
way.

He snatches the paper heart from her small pale hands. Angry,  
yet sad, eyes read the large black crayon letters: "LOVE"

The Little Girl giggles, squiggles. Mother kisses her head.  
The Little Girl kisses her back.

The Man stares at the ground. Shuffles his feet. Taps his  
feet.

A slight lurch forward. Bus stop.

The Man pushes the paper heart into a coat pocket.

He watches a few passengers get off the bus. He waits.  
Then as the last one gets to the door he shoves the backpack  
under his seat and bolts off onto the --

### **SIDEWALK**

Rushes past people. Careful. But rushed.

A KNOCK on the bus window draws his attention.

The Little Girl. On her Mother's lap. At the window.  
Waving. The Man blinks. She waves harder. Her mother holds  
up the backpack.

The bus pulls away.

He moves with the bus. Gait uneven. Fast. Faster. Fast.

Pulls out a cell phone. No. Not a cell phone. Definitely  
not. Wires. Red button. Blinking light.

A DETONATOR. Fingers hover.

FINGERS SHAKE.

Then he notices that the red paper heart has escaped his  
pocket. "LOVE" visible as it floats to the ground.

Eyes the trigger, the heart, the trigger, the heart. "LOVE"

FADE OUT.