

Dan's English Student Original Story

DO NOT FALL ASLEEP!?



Starter



Chapter 1: The Train Ride

Wakako, a forty-two-year-old office worker in Osaka, was returning home on the usual crowded commuter train. The rhythm of the train's wheels, the dull announcements, and the tired faces around her made her eyelids heavy. She told herself she should stay awake, but the warmth of the seat and the rocking motion lulled her into sleep.

When she opened her eyes, the train was strangely quiet. The passengers had vanished. The fluorescent lights flickered, and the station outside the window was not Osaka at all. She stepped out, confused, and found herself in a place filled with noise, colors, and scents she had never known. It was India.

Chapter 2: An Unexpected Invitation

Bewildered, Wakako sat on a bench, clutching her bag. The air was thick with spices, the streets alive with music and chatter. She wondered if she was dreaming. At that moment, a woman approached her.

"Excuse me," the woman said with a smile. "We are filming a movie. We need more dancers. Would you join us? Just stand behind the star and dance."

Wakako blinked. She had never danced on a stage, let alone in a film. But she was too stunned to refuse.

Chapter 3: The Strange Dance

Soon she was dressed in a glittering costume, her face painted with heavy makeup. The lights blazed, the cameras rolled, and the music thundered. Wakako tried to follow the rhythm, but her feet betrayed her. Her arms moved in odd directions, her steps clumsy and off-beat. The other dancers kept perfect timing, while Wakako looked like she was dancing to another song entirely. The director shouted, "Cut!" His face was red with anger. Staff members shook their heads. Wakako felt her cheeks burn with shame. She wanted to disappear. Yet she kept trying, sweat dripping, heart pounding.

When the film was released, something unexpected happened. The audience roared with laughter. Children imitated her strange moves. Adults shared clips of her dance on social media. What had been a mistake became a sensation. The movie was a huge hit, and Wakako was suddenly famous. She was called "India's Number One Comedy Dancer."

Chapter 4: The Palace

One day, she received a royal invitation. The Maharaja himself wanted to meet her. She was taken to a palace of marble and gold, with chandeliers that sparkled like stars. Servants guided her through halls decorated with paintings of gods and heroes. A banquet awaited her, with dishes

of biryani, tandoori chicken, samosas, and sweet mango lassi. Wakako ate with delight, overwhelmed by the richness of the feast.

After the meal, the Maharaja presented her with a gift. He opened a golden box, and inside lay a ruby as large as her palm, glowing like fire.

“Your dance brought joy to my people,” he said. “This jewel is a symbol of that joy.”

Wakako held the ruby, trembling. Its red light reflected in her eyes. She could hardly believe it was real.

Chapter 5: Back to the Train

On the way back, she sat in a car, gazing at the ruby. The city lights outside shimmered, blending with the jewel’s glow. She felt as if she were floating between dream and reality. Slowly, her eyes closed, and she drifted into sleep.

When she awoke, she was back on the commuter train in Osaka. The familiar announcements echoed, the passengers stared at their phones. Everything was ordinary again. But Wakako opened her hand, and there it was—the ruby, shining softly in her palm.