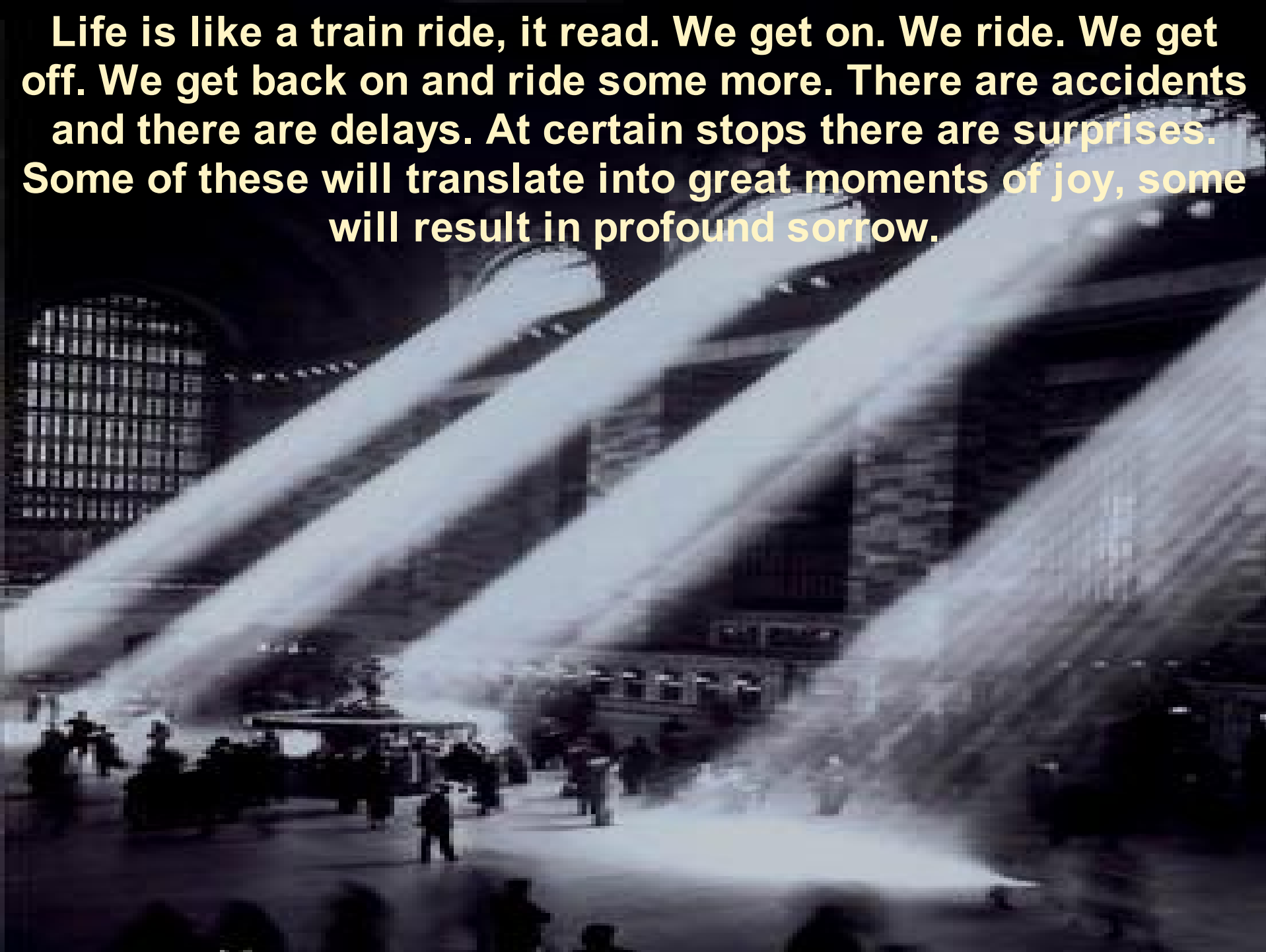


Life on the train



A while back, I read a very interesting book that compared life to a train ride or a series of train rides.

Life is like a train ride, it read. We get on. We ride. We get off. We get back on and ride some more. There are accidents and there are delays. At certain stops there are surprises. Some of these will translate into great moments of joy, some will result in profound sorrow.





When we are born and we first board the train, we meet people whom we think will be with us for the entire journey. Those people are our parents!

**Sadly, this is far from
the truth.**

**Our parents are with us
for as long as we
absolutely need them.
They too have journeys
they must complete. We
live on with the
memories of their love,
affection, friendship,
guidance and their ever
presence.**



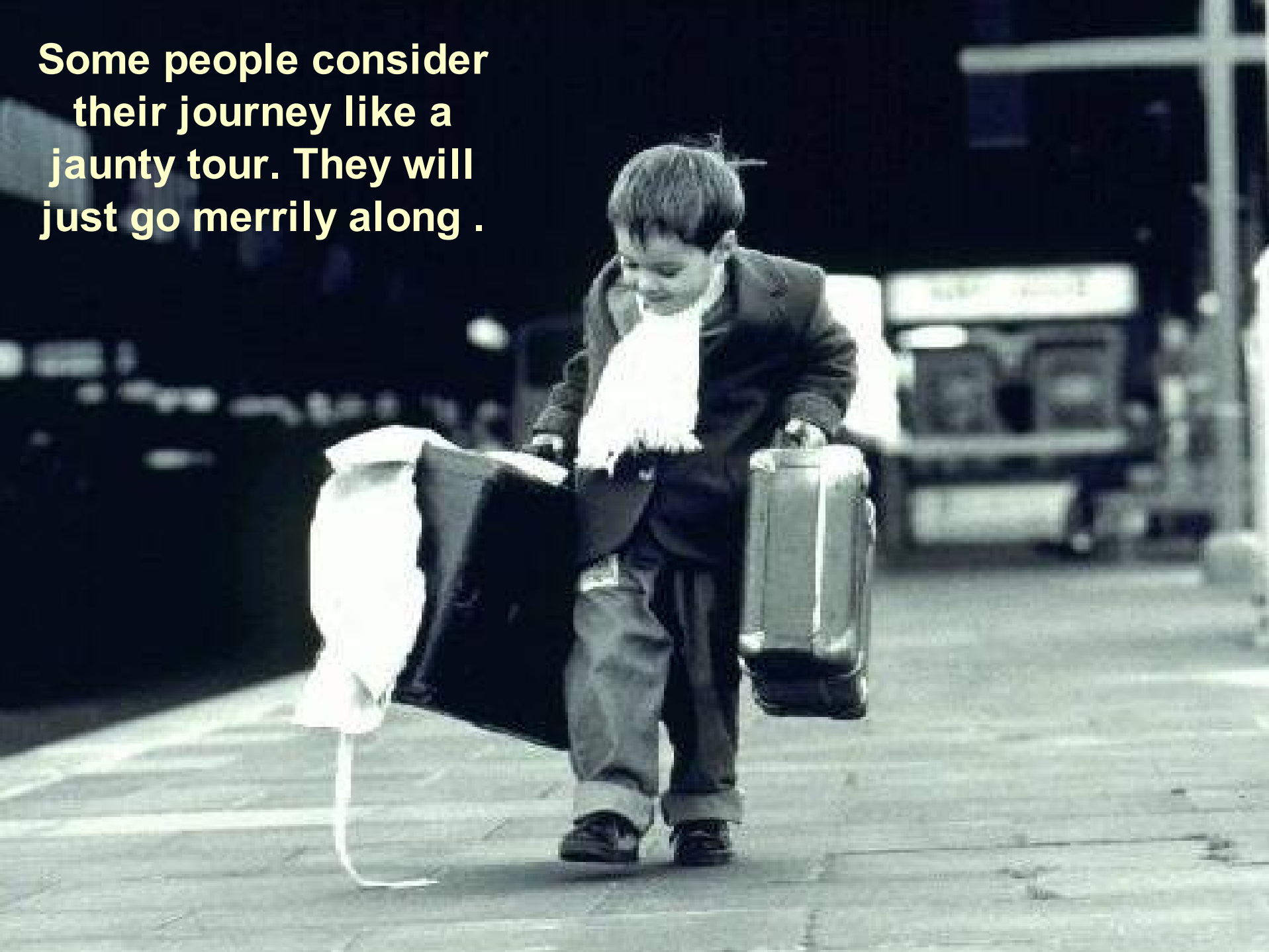
**There are others who board
the train and who
eventually become very
important to us, in turn.**





These people are our brothers, sisters, friends and acquaintances, whom we will learn to love, and cherish.

**Some people consider
their journey like a
jaunty tour. They will
just go merrily along .**





**Others, will encounter
many upsets, tears,
losses on their journey.**

**Others still, will linger on
to offer a helping hand to
anyone in need.**

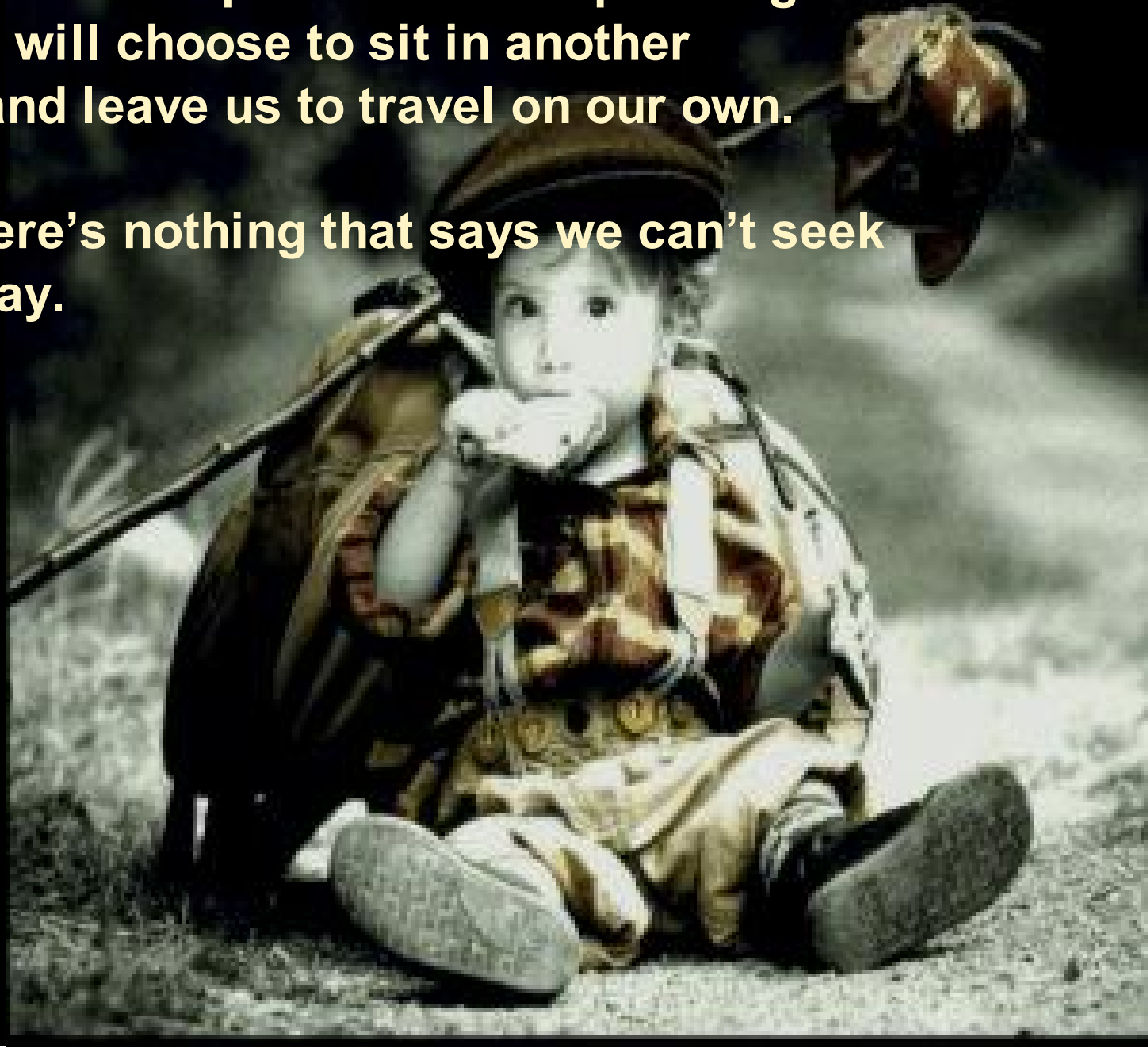


**Some people on the
train will leave an
everlasting impression
when they get off....**

**Some will get on and get
off the train so quickly,
they will scarcely leave
a sign that they ever
travelled along with you
or ever crossed your
path...**

We will sometimes be upset that some passengers whom we love, will choose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own.

Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out anyway.





Nevertheless, once sought out and found, we may not even be able to sit next to them because that seat will already be taken.

**That's okay ...everyone's journey will be filled with hopes,
dreams, challenges, setbacks and goodbyes.**



We must strive to make the best of it... no matter what...



**We must
constantly strive
to understand
our travel
companions and
look for the best
in everyone.**



Remember that at any moment during our journey, any one of our travel companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help.

**We too may vacillate or
hesitate, even trip...
hopefully we can count on
someone being there to be
supportive and
understanding...**





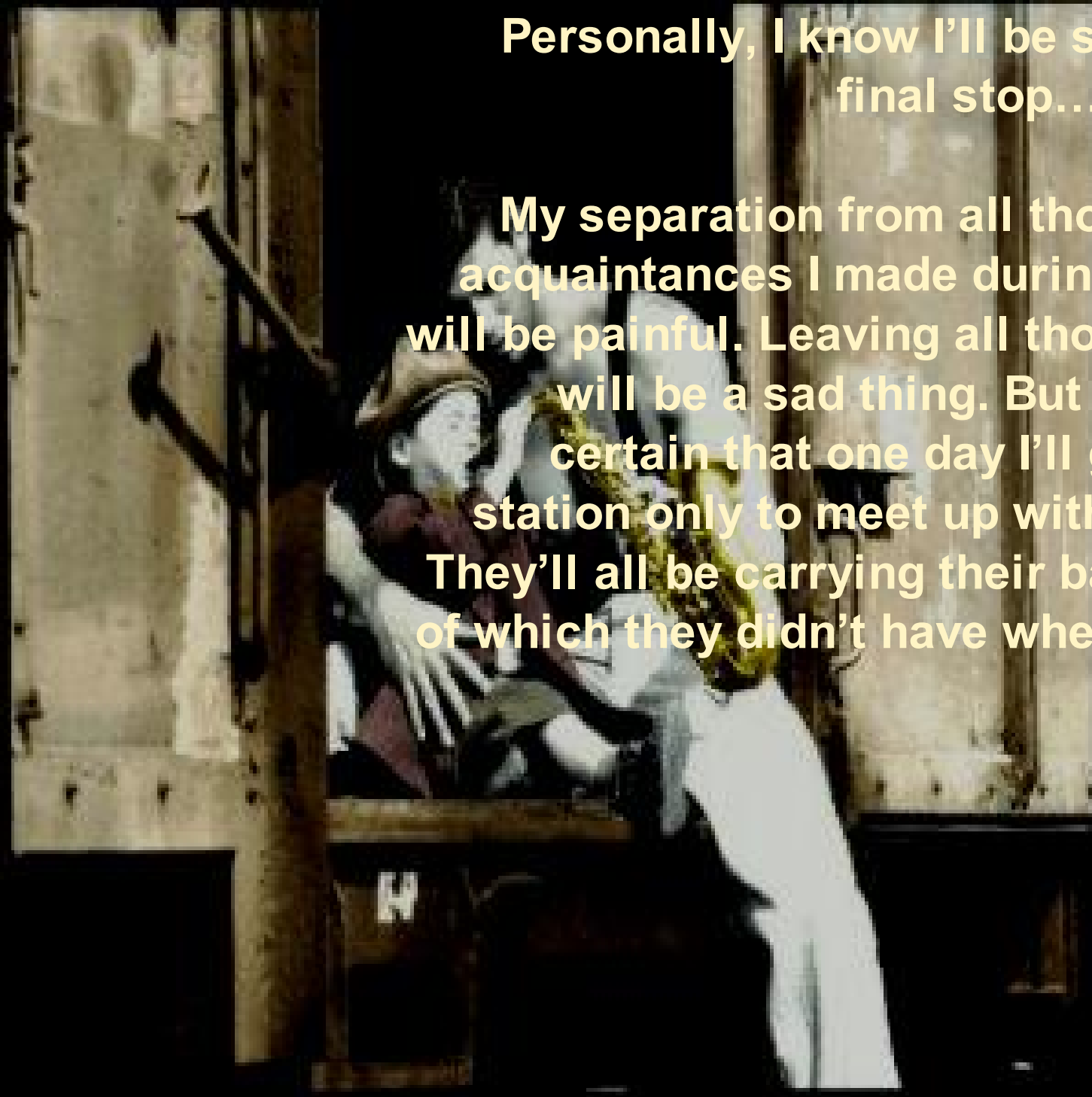
The bigger mystery of our journey is that we don't know when our last stop will come.

Neither do we know when our travel companions will make their last stop.

Not even those sitting in the seat next to us.

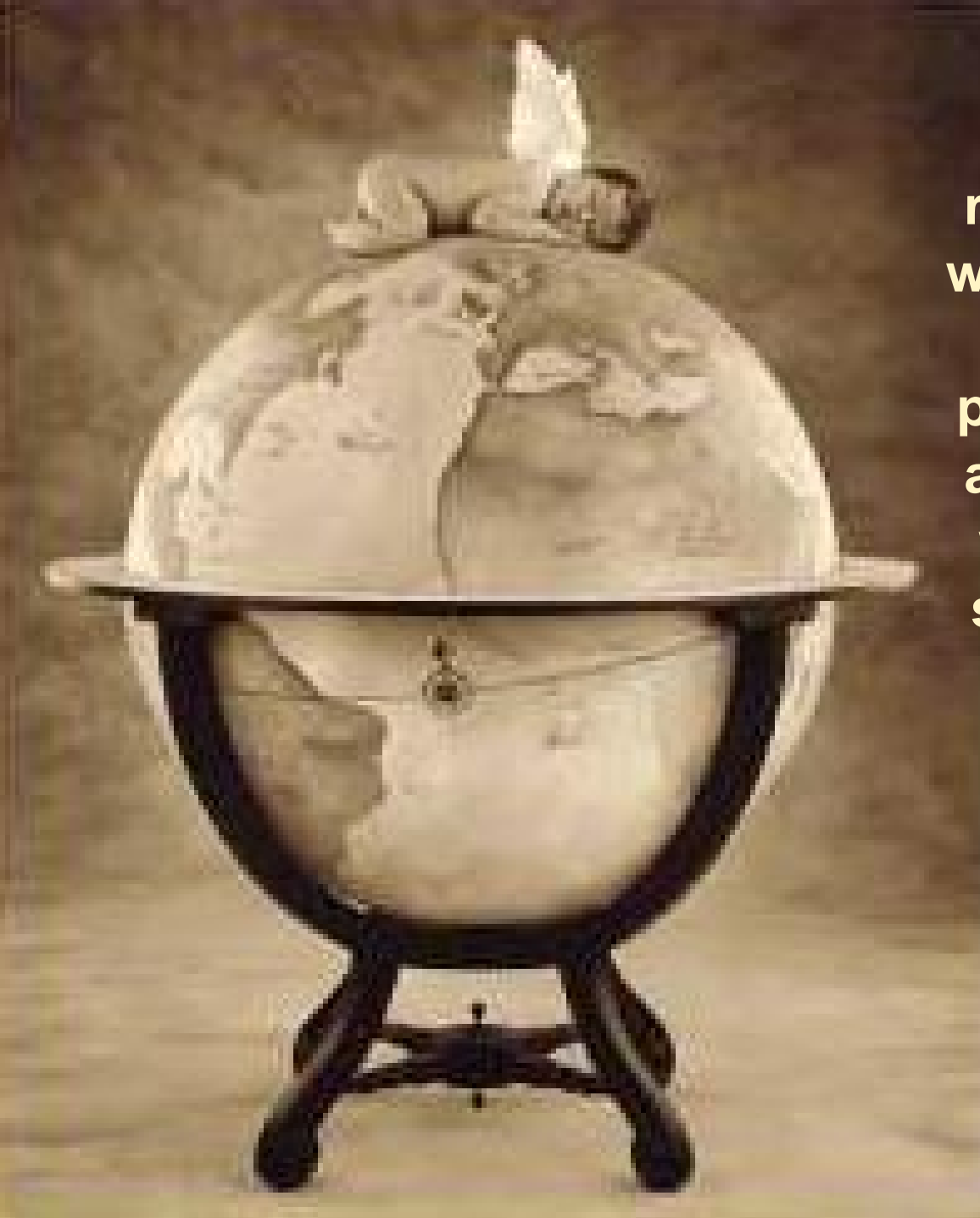
Personally, I know I'll be sad to make my final stop.... I'm sure of it!

My separation from all those friends and acquaintances I made during the train ride will be painful. Leaving all those I'm close to will be a sad thing. But then again, I'm certain that one day I'll get to the main station only to meet up with everyone else. They'll all be carrying their baggage... most of which they didn't have when they first got on this train.





I'll be glad to see them again. I'll also be glad to have contributed to their baggage... and to have enriched their lives, just as much as they will have contributed to my baggage and enriched my life.



We're all on this train ride together. Above all, we should all try to strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until we each make the final stop and leave the train for the last time.



All aboard!

Safe journey!!

BON VOYAGE!