

THE FAKE URBAN LEGEND

Platform 0 — The Train That Arrives at 3:17

A completely fictional urban legend presented in a realistic documentary style.

Title:

Platform 0: The 3:17 Train

The Legend:

According to the story, the legend began in **Osaka in November 1987**, when a maintenance worker named **Kenji Morita** was inspecting an abandoned branch line scheduled for demolition.

The station had officially closed years earlier. Only Platforms 1 and 2 remained visible, both covered in weeds and rust.

But Morita reportedly discovered something strange behind a locked maintenance gate.

A narrow staircase led underground to a platform marked:

0

There was no platform number on the station's surviving blueprints.

At **3:17 AM**, Morita heard a train approaching.

He later told another worker that the train had no headlights, no visible destination sign, and made almost no noise as it entered the station.

The doors opened.

Nobody got off.

Morita never reported the incident officially.

Three days later, he quit.

What Locals Say:

The rumor eventually became more specific.

People claimed that **Platform 0 appears only between 3:17 and 3:19 AM**.

A train supposedly arrives exactly at **3:17**.

The station announcement is always the same:

"This train will make one final stop."

Nobody knows where the train comes from.

Nobody knows where it goes.

But there is one rule:

Never board the train if your reflection appears in the window before the train arrives.

At first, locals considered this an absurd superstition.

Then people began comparing stories.

They noticed that passengers who claimed to have seen Platform 0 all remembered the same thing:

There were no clocks on the platform.

Except one.

And that clock always showed **3:17**.

Witness Accounts:

Masao Takahashi, railway technician, 1988

Takahashi claimed he accidentally reached Platform 0 while checking electrical equipment.

He said the platform looked completely ordinary—concrete, yellow safety markings, an old vending machine.

But he insisted the vending machine was selling a brand of canned coffee that had been discontinued **in 1981**.

He remembered buying one.

He said it was still warm.

Yuki Nakamura, university student, 1991

Nakamura said she and two friends deliberately searched for Platform 0 after hearing the rumor.

Only she found it.

She described hearing a train before seeing it.

When it stopped, she noticed every passenger inside was sitting perfectly still.

Then one passenger slowly turned toward her.

According to Nakamura, it was **her father**.

Her father had been asleep at home that night.

She ran.

Her friends later insisted that she had disappeared for only **four minutes**.

Nakamura maintained that she had been underground for nearly an hour.

Hiroshi Endo, construction worker, 1998

Endo claimed the strangest detail.

He said Platform 0 wasn't underground.

He said it was **above the station**.

When asked how that was possible, he became irritated and replied:

"I never said the station was underneath the tracks."

He refused to explain further.

The Evidence:

A photograph supposedly taken during demolition in **1999** shows the abandoned station from the eastern side.

In the background is a narrow staircase descending behind a concrete wall.

A faded sign appears above it:

0

The demolition company later claimed the staircase wasn't present when the photograph was taken.

Another alleged artifact is a fragment of a **1987 maintenance log** containing a handwritten entry:

03:17 — Platform occupied. No scheduled service.

The next line has been scratched away.

There is also a cassette recording supposedly made by a local radio technician.

For approximately eleven seconds, the recording contains nothing except electrical static.

Then comes the sound of a train arriving.

A station announcement follows.

But the announcement doesn't name the station.

It says:

"Please collect your belongings before returning home."

The Cover-Up:

When the railway company was questioned about Platform 0, officials reportedly dismissed the entire story as a combination of trespassing, old maintenance tunnels, and exaggerated rumors.

The abandoned section was eventually sealed.

The station was demolished.

The railway maps were updated.

Platform 0 disappeared.

The story should have ended there.

But in **2006**, a former railway employee supposedly contacted a local historian with a photocopy of an older track diagram.

There was no Platform 0.

Instead, the diagram contained something stranger:

A short branch line extending **toward the station from a direction where no railway line existed.**

Someone had drawn a circle around it in red pencil.

Beside it were two handwritten numbers:

03:17

The Escalation:

Years later, the historian compared several witness accounts.

The details didn't match.

Some remembered green tiles.

Others remembered white tiles.

Some said there were three train doors.

Others remembered four.

But almost every witness remembered the same ridiculous object:

a yellow umbrella leaning against the vending machine.

Nobody could explain why.

Then the historian discovered an old photograph taken in **1987**, months before Morita supposedly found Platform 0.

In the photograph, workers were standing outside the abandoned station.

Behind them was the same yellow umbrella.

It was leaning against a wall.

The disturbing part?

It was raining in the photograph.

Yet the photograph was taken according to the station's weather records on a completely dry day.

The Unanswered Question:

The historian eventually found one final document.

A demolition inventory dated **1999**.

Among the listed objects was:

“One yellow umbrella — Platform 0.”

But Platform 0 had officially been sealed **twelve years earlier**.

And the document was signed by **Kenji Morita**.

The same maintenance worker who supposedly quit in 1987.

There was only one problem.

Morita had died in 1994.

The final page of the inventory contains a handwritten note:

“Do not remove the umbrella before 3:17.”

No explanation was ever given.

And according to the legend, if you stand near the former station at exactly **3:17 AM**, you may sometimes hear the sound of a train arriving somewhere beneath the city.

There is no railway there anymore.

There hasn't been one for decades.

But occasionally, just before the sound disappears, an automated voice can supposedly be heard saying:

“Platform 0. Please mind the gap.”

And that leaves the question:

What if someone actually started the rumor for a reason? 🗨️