

**BURTON SIDE**

**BURTON**

(pauses)

You may be right, Mrs. Mallard. I'm sorry now that I didn't check the cart. I didn't think - I was preoccupied by the new engine and the boiler explosion.

LOUISE

That you didn't think to check if children were stowing aboard? / How could -

**BURTON**

(interrupting her)

Mrs. Mallard. There's something I need to tell you. I was going to keep it to myself, but now that your husband and your children are aboard the Night Train. I - I think I should tell you. I don't think the boiler explosion was accidental.

*As they talk, we hear the sound of the RPO mail train driving into the station.*

LOUISE

What do you mean?

**BURTON**

That boiler wasn't rusted. It was new. Pullman was lying to save face. There was absolutely no reason for it to overheat and explode like it did. It was inspected at 4pm and was approved for the journey. Someone must have damaged it between four and six o'clock yesterday, I'm certain. Someone wants to -

LOUISE

To sabotage The Night Train.

**BURTON**

Yes.

LOUISE

My whole family is in danger. Mr. Burton, what are you doing about it? What can you do? Did you tell George Pullman?

**BURTON**

Mr. Pullman has requested there be no formal investigation into the matter until the Night Train has reached Sacramento.

LOUISE

Because he wants to win. He doesn't want the delay. So it won't be investigated until - until it's too late. Whoever damaged the boiler won't stop at -

**BURTON**

*Finishes her sentence*

Damaging the boiler. If someone has it out for the Night Train, then everyone on board that train is in danger.

LOUISE

Yes. What can you do?

**BURTON**

I can't do anything. I'm the stationmaster here in Chicago. That's as far as my authority reaches. Without proof, we can't do anything. I can't reach Will until he arrives in Omaha and Pullman has forbidden me to share my suspicions with anyone.

LOUISE

What do you mean? My family is on that train! Their lives are in danger!

**BURTON**

I'm sorry, Mrs. Mallard. I can't do anything. My hands are tied.

LOUISE

And what happens if this person - if they try again?

**BURTON**

It would be easy to blame your husband, ma'am. The railroad is a dangerous business.