

EDITH MALLARD, SIDE TWO

EDITH

I'm mad at Mr. Pullman too, Paul, but Mama told us to sleep so we should at least try to rest and be obedient.

PAUL

It's 10:48 in the morning. It's not time to sleep anyway.

EDITH

Responsibly

We got up at four o'clock in the morning. Mama brought us to her room so we could nap so we wouldn't be grumpy. Just close your eyes, Paul.

PAUL

Snaps back

I've been trying to, Edie!

EDITH

Sorry.

PAUL

I'm sorry back. I guess we're already grumpy from Mr. Pullman firing Dad.

They're quiet for a moment. PAUL snuggles down under the blankets and puts his watch away.

EDITH

Mumbles her words anxiously.

What is Mr. Pullman going to do to us, Paul? Now that he knows we're on the train. Do we - do we have to stay out of his sight for the rest of the journey? Will he let us stay on the Night Train to go back to Chicago? He might kick all of the Mallards off the train and leave us stranded in Sacramento. And how would we get home then?!

PAUL

I don't know, Edith. Maybe we'll just get on the Midnight Express -

EDITH

The Midnight Express? Don't be ridiculous, Paul. That's the Wagner train! Wagner trains are dangerous and reckless and they drive too fast and we'll never make it back to Chicago alive! And anyway, Webster Wagner is the one that's trying to sabotage the Night Train! We *can't* ride on the Midnight Express.

PAUL

I don't know what we'll do, Edith! We're not in Sacramento yet. And we might not even get there. Not if Wagner succeeds in wrecking the Night Train so he can win the race.

EDITH

I wish it wasn't a race. Everything would be so much calmer and nicer if it wasn't a race.

PAUL

Exasperated

Dad's doing his best. He's had to deal with the boiler explosion and avalanche; the damaged Union Pacific bridge; and the wrong coal and the bison. George Pullman should help him, not yell at him and take away his job.

EDITH

George Pullman is only worried about the race and the reputation of the Pullman company.

PAUL

Seems pretty selfish of him! Why's the race so important anyway? I mean - I want to win too. I don't like Webster Wagner. But Dad's working as hard as he can!

EDITH

You heard what Mama said last night. It's only about being first and being the best. This is George Pullman's train -