

EDITH MALLARD, SIDE THREE

EDITH runs out of the mouth of the tunnel, clutching a sheet. She is warning the Midnight Express train that they will run into the Night Train if they continue, because it is stalled on the tracks.

EDITH

As she runs

I'll just stand right at the front of the tunnel. If I see the Midnight Express, I'll wave the sheet and they'll stop. I'm - I'm sure they'll stop.

EDITH stops at the front of the tunnel.

It's so bright! I can hardly see a thing.

EDITH rubs at her eyes

I wish I wasn't by myself. What - what if the Night Train leaves without me and I'm stranded in Summit Tunnel with - oh dear. I wonder where Sam is right now. Did the Midnight Express pick him up?

Squinting

I don't see the Midnight Express.

The Midnight Express comes into view for the first time, chugging towards her and Summit Tunnel.

EDITH

Gasps

Wait! There it is. The Midnight Express. It's coming so quickly!

Terrified, but resolute.

I'll - I'll wave the sheet! They'll know to stop. And if they picked up Sam, Sam will tell them they are in danger. They won't crash into us. They won't!

EDITH frantically waves the sheet back and forth.

Shouts

Stop! Stop! The Night Train is stuck in the tunnel! Stop!

To herself

They're - they're not stopping! I wish I hadn't got off the train. Oh no. Oh no!

Shouts

You're going to wreck! Stop! Stop!

SOUND of WILL's running feet echo through the tunnel.

EDITH

Nervous

And now I can't see them any more and they can't see me. I - I'll just wait until they come up over the next rise and - and if they don't stop then I'll just run back and get back on the Night Train.

Hears WILL getting closer.

What's that sound?

WILL

Shouts

Edith! Mary Edith!

EDITH

Turns around

Daddy?

WILL runs into the light, out of the tunnel. He scoops up EDITH in his arms and holds her tight.

WILL

Edith, you gave me such a scare. What are you doing off the train?

EDITH

Voice muffled against his coat

Daddy you're squeezing me so tight I can't breathe!

WILL

Loosens his grip a little, putting EDITH down.

Sorry!

EDITH

Looking up at her dad.

I got off to warn the Midnight Express. Phillip was going to do it, but Mr. Pullman forbade him. He said it was useless. I know Wagner will do whatever it takes to wreck the Night Train, but there are passengers and nice people on that train. I don't want them to smash into us and - and die. I'm sorry I got off without telling you.