

## MADDIE CROCKER, SIDE ONE

*MADDIE catches sight of Louise and pushes through the crowd to greet her.*

**MADDIE**

Oh yes it *is* you! I could tell by your sweet little antique hat. Louise Mallard you are *adorable*.

LOUISE

*Surprised*

Maddie? Maddie Crocker!

**MADDIE**

Ooh, yes it's me! I wouldn't miss such a fabulous event for the world. I was hoping I'd see your sweet, freckled face here! You're just the cutest, Louise Mallard. Now why are *you* here?

LOUISE

*Shy and fumbling*

It's good to see you too, Maddie. I - ah - I came because my husband is -

**MADDIE**

Yes! Will is the ringleader of this whole shebang, isn't he?! You must be so proud of him!

LOUISE

Yes, I am very proud of his work -

**MADDIE**

A self made man. Up from nothing!

LOUISE

Oh I'd hardly say -

**MADDIE**

It's really amazing the sheer *luck* some people have. My George should spend more time with Will. Maybe some of his luck would have rubbed off!

LOUISE

Will has worked very hard to get to where he is.

**MADDIE**

Yes, yes he has. Never stops! He just never stops working. It must be so lonely for you, isn't it?

LOUISE

Ah, I am happy to support him, Maddie -

**MADDIE**

So selfless! This trip is very important for him. I do hope he wins the race - otherwise George Pullman won't be too pleased with him any longer!

LOUISE

Yes, it's a - it's a great challenge.

**MADDIE**

*Coming to the point of her speech.*

Now tell me, dear, one friend to another... are there any extra seats on this Pullman beauty?

LOUISE

I - I don't think so, Maddie.

PAUL

Mama, is that Daddy over there? Near the engine?

**MADDIE**

*Suddenly registering Edith and Paul's presence*

Are you bringing the children, Louise?

EDITH

Yes! We're going on the Night Train all together as a family.

**MADDIE**

*A frozen smile*

Well. Well isn't that nice.

LOUISE

*Faintly*

It'll make for some wonderful family memories, don't you think?

**MADDIE**

*Her tone shifts suddenly to a whisper*

If you think better of it, let me know. I'll buy the tickets off you for twice what they're worth - even though I know you got them for free.

LOUISE

Oh - I don't - I don't plan to...

**MADDIE**

Bye sweeties!

*MADDIE swirls away into the crowd.*