

GEORGE PULLMAN, SIDE ONE

PULLMAN

With the air of a patient, condescending, school teacher, calling for his student's attention.

My friends! My friends! Please. No one was hurt. Aren't you glad this happened *before* the train departed?

MADDIE

Imagine! The horror!

PULLMAN

Train travel is a dangerous business, as you all well know.

PREACHER

I'm going home! To be where God wants me - right where he planted me!

GEORGE

Me too! C'mon Maddie. Reverend Winthrop is right.

PULLMAN

Good preacher! My friends! Don't be hasty. Don't lose this wonderful opportunity to see your beautiful country just because of a momentary delay.

PREACHER

Momentary delay? The hand of God reaches out to stop this catastrophic journey and George Pullman calls it a 'momentary delay'!

PULLMAN

My good man. We were testing the engine for precisely this reason - to ensure the safety of our guests. *Your* safety. A train engine has been destroyed, sure, but engines are replaceable. I treasure each one of you, our valued Pullman passengers, and I know that *you* are irreplaceable! Pullman *means* safe. We are safe. We will always be safe.

MRS. HEINZ

Safe! Safe! You call that smoking heap of iron *safe*?

PULLMAN

I pledge my life on it, madam! Now, as you all know, we are in a race to the West Coast with Mr. Wagner's train corporation. Do you think that Mr. Wagner is as concerned about the safety of his passengers?

GEORGE

I know that his trains don't have a habit of exploding!

PULLMAN

I am sorry to have to inform you, but you are mistaken there, my dear friend. Why, the Wagner train corporation had to pay for the funerals of four of its workers only last month. Train travel may be inherently dangerous, but I will not let that endanger the lives of my passengers. We have a Pullman Promise to keep: Safety. Luxury. And Reliability.

The crowd erupts once again, a mixture of cheers and anxious yelps. The news reporters cut to the front to get the scoop.

PULLMAN

The train will leave at midnight. Until then we will continue to prepare for departure and clean up the debris from the explosion. I will complete a thorough inspection of the train myself before I wave you all adieu.