

Side 6

Scene Six

(And now we see MICHEL at the end of the sleeping corridor. He is trying to work with the train's two-way radio, a clunky old-fashioned piece of machinery subject to problems.)

(First we hear the whining screech of the radio trying to find a signal – Owweeee, Owweeee! – then the crackle of the static when the signal is found.)

MICHEL. Orient Express to Belgrade Station. Orient Express to Belgrade Station. Emergency call number 867. Alert Code Blue. This is important. Do you read me? Hello? Are you there, Belgrade?

RADIO. *(With much static.)* We read you, Express. Pray continue.

MICHEL. We've just left Sofia and the snow is becoming heavier by the minute. I am getting concerned as we head into the mountains. Please prepare your rescue equipment in case of stoppage. Hello? Do you read me?

(Owweeeeeeee!)

Belgrade?

(Owweeeeeeee!)

Belgrade, can you hear me?!