

SHORT ONE-ACT PLAY

entitled

"THE SLEEPING CAR ATTENDANT".

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Dramatis Personae

M. G. Bennett - a weary traveller.  
A Car Attendant.

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Carlisle Station, 8.30pm, February 15th, 1937.

Scene I.

M.G.B. discovered waiting for the sleeping car, which he enters before it is coupled to the rear of the 5.40pm ex Glasgow (Central) for Euston. C.A. accompanies M.G.B. to compartment.

C.A. (fiddling with punka-louvre) "It'll come hot in a minute, sir".

M.G.B. "Not till the steam train pipe is connected up, will it?"

C.A. "Oh, that doesn't matter, sir. It's all automatic".

M.G.B. "But the air is steam heated".

C.A. "Yes, sir. That's right, sir".

M.G.B. "Has the car been preheated?"

C.A. "Oh, yes, sir".

M.G.B. "Well it feels cold in here".

C.A. "Yes, sir, but we've only just come off the shed".

M.G.B. "How long was it preheated?"

C.A. "I don't know, sir, but it'll soon warm up. Excuse me, sir, but are you from Euston?"

M.G.B. "Yes".

C.A. "Well, sir, we get a lot of difficulty with this heating arrangement. Come and have a look at the controls".

CURTAIN.

Scene II. The Car Attendant's compartment.

M.G.B. "Well, now, what's the trouble?"

C.A. "Some of our people have been taught specially how to work this outfit, by some H.Q. men - I don't know who they were - and the instructions were passed on to us. Well, one thing we were told was, if that dial (which is supposed to show how hot the air is) shows more than 130<sup>0</sup>, we must shut down the steam with this handle here. But it doesn't make any difference what you do with the steam".

M.G.B. "Oh, but it must do - the only source of heat is the steam".

C.A. "It doesn't, sir. Lots of our men will tell you the same".

M.G.B. (wearily) "Well, I've got a cold coming on and I'm going to turn all the heat on and go to bed".

C.A. "Alright, sir. You'll find it'll get nice and warm. Goodnight, sir".

CURTAIN.

Scene III. M.G.B.'s compartment in the middle of the night.

M.G.B. awakes cold, feels the punka-louvre, finds it is cold, groans, puts his overcoat on the bed and tries to go to sleep again.

CURTAIN.

F I N I S.