

Andrew Lloyd Webber

"Skimbleshanks The Railway Cat"

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Skimbleshanks the Railway cat the cat of the railway
train
There's a whisper down the line at eleven thirty - nine
When the night mail's ready to depart
Saying, "Skimble, where is Skimble has he gone to hunt
the thimble
We must find him or the train can't start"
All the guards and all the porters and the
stationmaster's daughters
Would be searching high and low
Saying "Skimble where is Skimble for unless he's very
nimble
Then the night mail just can't go."
At eleven forty-two with the signal overdue
And the passengers all frantic to a man
That's when I would appear and I'd saunter to the rear
I'd been busy in the luggage van!
Then he gave one flash of his glass - green eyes
And the signal went "all clear"
They'd be off at last to the northern part of the northern
hemisphere!
Skimbleshanks, the Railway cat the cat of the railway
train
You might say that by and large it was me who was in
charge
Of the Sleeping Car Express
From the driver and guards to the bagmen playing
cards
I would supervise them all more or less
Down the corridor he paces and examines all the faces
Of the travellers in the first and the third
He established control by a regular patrol
And he'd know at once if anything occurred.
He would you watch you without winking and he saw
what you were thinking
And it's certain that he didn't approve
Of hilarity and riot so that folk were very quiet
When Skimble was about and on the move
You could play no pranks with Skimbleshanks
He's a cat that couldn't be ignored
So nothing went wrong on the Northern Mail
When Skimbleshanks was aboard

It was very pleasant when they'd found their little den
With their name written up on the door
And the berth was very neat with a newly folded sheet
on
And not a speck of dust on the floor
There was every sort of light you could make it dark
and bright
And a button you could turn to make a breeze
And a funny little basin you're supposed to wash your
face in
And a crank to shut the window should you sneeze
Then the guard looked in politely and would ask you
very brightly
Do you like your morning tea weak or strong
But I was just behind him and was ready to remind him
For Skimble won't let anything go wrong
When he crept into their cozy berth and pulled the
counterpane
They ought to reflect that it was very nice
To know that they wouldn't be bothered by mice
They can leave all that to the railway cat
The cat of the railway train
Skimbleshanks the railway cat the cat of the railway
train
In the watches of the night I was always fresh and
bright
Every now and then I'd have a cup of tea
With perhaps a drop of scotch while I was busy keeping
up the watch
Only stopping here and there to catch a flea
They were fast asleep at Crew
And so they never knew that I was walking up and down
the station
They were sleeping all the while I was busy at Carlisle
Where I met the stationmaster with elation
They might see me at Dumfries if I summoned the
police
If there was anything they ought to know about
When they got to Gallowgat there they did not have to
wait
For Skimbleshanks will help them to get out
And he gives you a wave of his long brown tail
Which says "I'll see you again"
You'll meet without fail on the Midnight Mail
The cat of the railway train
You'll meet with outfail on the Midnight Mail
The cat of the railway trail

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