

The Great Train Journey



Heuston

Hi I am Squeaks. I'm a mouse who lives in a train station, Heuston Station in Dublin. Once I had a feast of food but now I do not have any at all because of the new cleaning woman. She cleans every bit of food off the ground. One Monday morning I decided to go on a train to see if I could find some. I was waiting behind a bin at the end of a long line of humans when the station master saw me. 'WHISKERS!!!' he called. 'Whiskers, what kind of name is Whiskers?' I thought. Then when I saw Whiskers running towards me I discovered that he was a CAT!!!

When he saw me I took off in a blink of an eye. I saw an evil look on his face. As I ran further and further more and more people saw me. I saw the staff room door open and I ran in. I saw a hole in the cupboard door. I climbed in and Whiskers shoved his paws in the hole. But before he stuck his paw in, I saw a hole on the top of the cupboard. I climbed up and out of the hole. I was on top

of the cupboard. Then I saw cat food. I pushed the bag of cat food down on top of Whiskers. ‘MIAOW!!!’ Whiskers cried. ‘Ha ha!’ I called. I ran onto the platform and jumped through the first open door. The door nearly cut my tail off as it closed! It was 14.15. I crawled under a table. No one saw me the whole trip. (Gavin)

Hazelhatch and Celbridge

The train travelled on for twenty minutes. It finally slowed down. Suddenly I heard “Bing Bong” This is your conductor speaking. We will reach Hazelhatch and Celbridge station in six minutes. ‘YES finally’, I said. In six minutes I was off the train.



I walked cautiously out of the train trying not to get trampled. I saw a sign that said: Hazelhatch and Celbridge train station. I looked around and yet another clean platform! I had no use for a place like this.

I ran around trying to find a shop. After what felt like hours I found a shop outside

the station, right on time as the shop was about to close. I ran in without being seen. The shopkeeper closed the door. All the food was mine!!! The next morning when the shopkeeper opened the door I sneaked out again but ran into a problem straight away. There was a big cat guarding the entrance to the station. I had seen him the day before. He was skinny and hungry looking. I knew that he was waiting for a good meal. It would not be me!

I ran down the path and found a small opening in the fence. I crawled through, climbed up onto the platform, looked up and saw that the next train coming was going to Naas. I jumped on and yes, I was safe yet again. It was 08.55 (Eoin & Senan)



Naas/ Sallins

So I was on a train again. A mouse could get used to travelling around like this. Seven minutes came and went and then a tall guy at the top of train started roaring out that the next stop is Naas/ Sallins. I'd heard rumours back in Heuston about a big black cat that roamed around

this station. My cousin had warned me that this cat was wicked. The train stopped. Oh no I thought. It was going to be hard to get off the train because everyone hates mice. I'd have to make a run for it. I was nearly off the train when a man saw me. He called the station master. I was out in a flash.

Yes! I'm just scurrying along the road now. Oh look an Italian restaurant. I think I'm going to try to find my dinner there. Strange the door won't open. I'll try going around the back and see what's there. Oh, oh. The Chef is sharpening his knife. I bumped against a can and it fell over. The chef looked around. Oh no, he's seen me, I'd better run. The chef is chasing after me. Great, there's a vent. I might be able to fit in it. Phew! I'm in.

SNAP eeeeeekkkkk a mouse trap. I can't go that way. I pulled myself deeper into the shadows hardly able to breath. The chef ran past waving his sharp knife in the air. I edged around past the trap, through the vent and slipped down onto a counter just beside an open window. I jumped out the window and hurried back to the station. I caught the next train out. It was 12.33. (Séamus & Robbie)

Newbridge

The train slowed down again and an announcement came from the loud speaker. It said we will reach Newbridge





station in one minute. Everyone got their bags as the train came to a halt. Bing bong the door opened. Passengers rushed to the door and I did too. I was nearly crushed by a woman's high heel but luckily I got out alive. Out on the platform I saw a sign for Newbridge station and one for a deli.

Another spotless station! I went over to the deli and I looked around. I saw a bin and once inside I found a

tasty cheese sandwich. I checked just to make sure that there was no trap attached. You can't trust these humans you know. The sandwich was delicious. As I nibbled, the bin rocked from side to side and I heard a long whoosh. A child outside laughed as the express roared through the station. Something fell against the bin and it tumbled over. I ended up on my head on the platform



just as a train pulled up. I was lucky that I didn't roll all the way over the yellow line and in under the carriage. I stood up, shook myself and flew through an open door. It was 12.41 (Ciarán & Jack)

Kildare

I could feel the floor rocking from side to side as the train rumbled through the countryside. I heard some of the passengers saying that we had only been moving for 10 minutes when I heard the conductor announce that we were arriving in Kildare station.

Conductor: If you would like to get off for some refreshments we will remain at the platform for seven minutes.

Strange I thought as I crawled under the seats to get off the train and find some food. I would have to build up my energy for the next leg of the journey. I located a well-stocked bin and found left over salads, carrots, potato skins and gone off pasta with a hint of mould. It felt like I was in paradise. I stayed so long in my fantasy world that the train left the station without me. I didn't panic, I just checked the time table on the waiting room wall! All well-educated, 21st Century station mice are taught to read you know. The next train to Galway would depart at 12.59. I spent the time reading the sports page of a newspaper left by a passenger rushing for the last train. I forget to keep an eye on the station clock as I lost myself in the latest story from Manchester. The 12.59 arrived beside the platform with a rattle and I boarded a passing wheelie bag and once through the doors found a safe corner where I could wait until the doors opened once again. (Róisín & Shauna)

Monasterevin



‘Monasterevin, next station Monasterevin’. This must be my stop. O NO??? There's a cat at the door. What am I going to do? Does every station have to have a cat? Maybe I can sneak into someone's bag. Yes!

I got out. Now all I have to do is get out of this bag. The inside of the bag was like a waterslide because a 7Up bottle was leaking. It seems that I had joined a family picnic. I eventually climbed up the slippery slope to the top and squeezed out past the Velcro. A little boy saw me running down the side of the bag. He began to shout and point at me but no one believed him and I escaped out through the door and off down the street to find somewhere to eat. I had given up on train stations. **They were just too clean.**

I found a shop around the corner and went in to look around. I saw cracker crumbs on the ground so I went over and feasted on them. Luckily I looked up because I saw a





huge Rottweiler coming and started to panic. I jumped into a bin. When he was gone I jumped out of the bin and made my way back to the station. It was time to get out of here. Once again I checked the station time table, hid in a quiet corner, waited and boarded the next train. It was 17.52 (Jeremy & Jack)

Portarlinton

I heard the bell ring. The conductor announced that we had arrived at Portarlinton station. The doors opened I crawled under all the seats so I would not get squashed like the last time. I jumped out onto the platform. A woman



noticed me and screamed mouse in the house. The station master grabbed a broom from the cleaner and tried to hit me but I escaped, crawled up the bin and jumped in. I waited until the station master had disappeared. Then I peeped out of the bin. I looked around and there were trains coming from every direction. A small voice asked if I was all

right. I looked around and there for the first time on this journey I saw another mouse. She had a small case and was heading to Killarney on a short break. We didn't have time to chat as a group of girls came clicking up the platform and she disappeared up a nearby drainpipe.

I ran behind the main platform and found some old storage sheds. As I looked around I noticed that this part of the station was completely deserted. However Odlums Mills rose into the sky straight ahead of me. It was like heaven staring me in the face. I couldn't miss this opportunity. I had to spend a night in this palace like factory. I avoided the children who were waiting in the car park and made my way across the road forgetting all about trains. When I reached the factory I used the cover of a passing truck to sneak in without being seen. Inside I was greeted with the smell of oats. This delicious smell called to me. I soon bumped into a number of local country mice who were lucky enough to live beside this great store house. I told them that I had met their friend heading off

on her holidays. I stayed and shared many adventures with my new found friends. I even played in goals at a challenge match on the local pitch.

Full to the brim I headed back to the station three days later. I quickly checked the time table and discovered that the approaching train was heading for Tullamore. I jumped on board. It was 08.10 (Finnán & Oisín)

Tullamore

I can hear everybody talking about this place called Tullamore. After a while the train stopped. I heard a man yell “we have reached Tullamore Station”. Suddenly I felt a breeze. I peeked around the leg of the table and saw that the doors were open. So that’s where the breeze was coming from. Some people started to get up from their seats and rushed towards the door. I was about to run to the door but suddenly a big, huge, enormous foot nearly stepped on ME!!! EEK I screamed and ran back to where I was hiding all along. When the people were finally off the train I quickly scuttled out the door very quietly. As I was half way out the door, a lot of people



started to get on. I thought I would never get off. The life of a travelling mouse is not as easy as it seems. I finally escaped onto the platform. I felt hungry as usual, so I went in search of food yet again. I crawled around Tullamore station. After a while I saw it, a big huge bin full of glorious food!!! Lucky me!!! I sneaked to the bin and squeezed in under the lid. It was heaven for me. Well I am a mouse of course! I found a half-eaten biscuit, a burger with a bite taken out of it, an ice-cream cone and there, I saw it under all of the food, a big, huge piece of CHEESE!!! I dived in and nibbled the cheese but not too fast because I wanted to enjoy it. It was a bit mouldy but I still enjoyed it. I was still munching when I heard the cat. I peeked over the lid and saw her prowling around the bin. I needed to escape but I couldn't. So I stayed in the bin all morning. Every few minutes something got thrown on top of me. The worst thing was a big sloppy

sandwich!! That afternoon the cat was with the station master checking out the far end of the platform. I quickly jumped on to a pole without being seen. I lay down on top of the camera to wait. Just at that moment a train pulled into the station. The station master and the cat were distracted. I quickly scampered down the pole and jumped on the train. I think it was a train going to Athlone. It was 13.35 (Ava & Sarah)

Clara

I am in Clara station now and there is a big election on. There are people all over the station. I'm not going to bother going in there otherwise the speakers

will have a fit. I can't get any food because there is a cat sitting guarding the bin. That's it I can't take this anymore. I will have to get train out of here. So I waited and waited at the edge of the marquee until the election speeches were over to see if there were any left overs on the floor. I went in and found; a half-eaten sandwich, a quarter of a biscuit and some cheese. I went to sleep curled up in a large piece of coloured paper with a face on it. Later that day I saw lots of these posters tied to poles all around the car park beside the station. I got up and waited for



the 16.42. Good bye kitty! Good bye Clara Station. Chu! Chu! (Sarah Jane)



Athlone

I arrived in Athlone 19 minutes later. It was evening. I used my mouse skills to get away from the station. I slipped out into the town. I had to be careful. At one stage I was nearly run over by a car! I was startled, but I went on. After a while, I found an old bridge. I went under

and fell asleep. I had nightmares of tigers and lions. When I woke up I thought I would be less scared. I was wrong. I heard a moaning voice. It said 'HHHEEELLPPPP MMMEEEE...' I was terrified. I had heard stories of ghosts and ghouls, but I had never seen one.

And then I saw one!

It looked human, but I could see through it, literally. It said something, but I didn't hear it. Why didn't I hear it? - I was running too hard. I ran as fast as my paws would carry me. I ran to the train station. I got into the train standing at the platform not caring where it was going. It was 07.30 (Michael & Eoghan)

Ballinasloe

The unpleasantly loud conductor shouted out 'Ballinasloe Station up next'. A few minutes later the train came to a halt. Everybody rushed off the train and I got squashed into a hole. It was rather disgusting and had all sorts of mouldy chewing gum in it. So I jumped out of the hole. When I got off the train my eyes saw lots of women in frilly dresses with flowers



growing out of their heads! I suddenly felt dizzy but I shook it off and scurried away. I kept running until I ran into some sort of arena. But then I stopped because something astonishing appeared before my eyes. A giant hoof nearly stepped on me! I ran away as fast as I could. Horses were going everywhere. Suddenly I saw horses racing towards me. I was dumbstruck. Suddenly they were right in front of me and a lady screamed MOUSE! All the horses ran backwards!! I ran as fast as the wind. Eventually I got to the train station and hopped onto a train. The conductor shouted out 'ladies and gentleman Woodlawn station is up next. It was 16.23 (Brendan & Emily)



Woodlawn

I had just jumped on the Galway train. We were heading to Woodlawn. The train was click clacking along. We got out of the train and the journey felt like it had gone on forever. In fact it had only lasted for

eleven minutes. When the doors opened I jumped out and I looked around the railway. Here we were at yet another very clean station. I looked along the railway and there was no dirt or rubbish anywhere. I went between peoples legs but I wasn't watching and bang I hit my head off someone's legs. I got a fright and I was really scared. You should have seen that person run. I ran too, right back onto the same train. We left the station at 16.35 (April, Simon & Daryl)



Attymon

We have just pulled in at Attymon station. The place is all boarded up so it looks like I've somewhere to stay tonight. There were so many people on board I'm very lucky because I was nearly squashed. It was scarier than Woodlawn. Now I think

that I'll explore that little house. Ahhhhh there are so many mice it looks like a mouse hotel. It's crazy!!!!. I asked the first mouse I bumped into all about it.

Local Mouse: Why it's the 5 STAR mouse resort. It's the best in town.

Squeaks: Is it free?

Local Mouse: Only to the mice travelling on trains.

Squeaks: I'm travelling on the train and I'm looking for somewhere to stay tonight because I'm leaving tomorrow.

Local Mouse: Ok, I'll show you your room. Night, don't let the bed bugs bite, night, night, night.

Next Morning

Squeaks: Yawn morning everyone

Local Mouse: Good morning hope you had a good sleep.

I got myself ready and said goodbye to my hotel buddies. It was nearly time to leave for Athenry. I wonder if Athenry is a busy place. I wonder if this ride is 7 minutes like the last time. Maybe I should check the time table. Good I don't have too long to wait. The first train leaves at 10.43 (Isabelle & Emily)



Athenry

As the train arrived I decided that maybe this time I would try to meet some of the locals. As I emerged from the train I heard shouts coming from somewhere nearby. The local hurling team 'The Luch Gaels' were playing a match and all the local mice had gathered at the back of the stand to enjoy the sight. I joined

in the party and we after the match we feasted long into the night. I reluctantly headed for the station and the last leg of my journey the next morning. I caught the 08.20.



Galway

I came to Galway about fifteen minutes later and boy was I tired!

All the adventures I had been through had been exiting. Like when I was chased by Whiskers the cat in Heuston station, or the Italian chef with the knife, or the ghost under the bridge in Athlone. I stepped off the train and onto the platform. A woman saw me. She screamed. I ran. I made my way to the beach. I could hear music. But then I heard something else. It was a cry for help: a mouse's cry for help. I ran as fast as I could. The cry led me to a circus. I walked in. There were a few mice stuck in the ring. Beside them.....Was a lion.

Now I'd love to say that I scampered in with a battle cry and faced the lion. But I didn't. I ran to the mice and said 'Don't worry' but I was worrying myself. The mice were terrified. The pups (that's what mice call their children) were huddled in the middle of their mothers. One of them was crying. The lion pawed the ground. 'I'm going to eat you, little mousies!' the lion said. He patted his stomach. 'Yeah, and I'm a turkey sandwich!' I shouted. 'You will taste like one,

little mousey!’ the lion growled, and then he lunged. It was then that an idea came to my head. It was crazy, but I tried it. I took a deep breath and then...

I squeaked.

The lion stopped. The humans covered their ears. Nobody could bear it, except for me and the other mice. We ran off, cheering. A few mice lifted me up on their shoulders. We went looking for a home. We went across the Atlantic, on a boat this time – but that’s another story, to America and now we live in not a train station, not a circus, but a Starbucks. (Eoghan & Michael)

The End

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