



My name is Whistle, your narrator for this story and travelling companion to Albert (The Guard) Copperwaite. You should know that I might look the worse for wear, but that doesn't mean I don't have a full sense of what is going on around me. People say I have an encyclopedic memory. I'm not sure that is true. I enjoy reading and somehow the information sticks in my memory.

So here we are down under in Oz, me and Albert as a result of the events that happened in Yorkton recently. (No doubt the editor will stick his oar in at this point). (See issues 48 to 50. Editor). Thank you. Albert's still in an unengaged mood after these events. Brooding, concentrating on his day job. So it falls to me to set the scene and do the introductions. So pay close attention, there's a lot to get through.

Albert's joined the Australian Coast to Coast Railway as a conductor, working passenger and freight trains across the Nullarbor Plain. (Which is an aborigine word for no trees). An arid, hot desert, with little animal or plant life or towns, except small villages, which exist only to serve the railway. The railway in turn serves the villages.

Which is why the train Albert is working is known locally as the **Tea and Sugar train**. As well as transporting passengers and goods, one of the wagons has been converted into a supermarket, carrying food and household goods for these communities.

The route will take us through the **Nullarbor Plain** along the Golden Mile, so called as the line runs straight for 478 kilometres or 297 miles. This is the longest straight piece of railway in the world.

(Told you I knew a thing or two about facts. And we will all be clued up on many other facts before his train journey is finished).



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