

Selection from *Home-Cooked: A Cautionary Tale*

By Greg Edwards

DORA

*Okay, why don't you start then, William? Joanna? Here's how it works. Without saying any of the other words on a card, you have to make your teammate guess the word at the top. Whoever gets through the most cards in sixty seconds is the winner. Do you understand?*

JOANNA

I'm not qui—

DORA

Good. Ready? Set. Go!

*(JOANNA draws a card and looks at it. DORA watches over her shoulder.)*

JOANNA

It's an ani—a mammal.

WILLIAM

Bird! Cat! Bicycle!

JOANNA

*(Scrupulously avoiding the forbidden words)*

*Types of this mammal include Poodle, Yorkie—*

DORA

Can't say "poodle"! Next card.

*(Flustered, JOANNA draws the next card.)*

JOANNA

Oh, oh! It's a famous train—

WILLIAM

Amtrak! Thomas the Tank Engine!

JOANNA

It was an Agatha Christie story—

WILLIAM

Mousetrap! And Then There Were None!

JOANNA

Agatha Christie's "Murder on the *Blank Blank*"

WILLIAM

Mousetrap! And Then There Were None!

JOANNA

Okay, okay! Let's break it up. First word. A politically-incorrect term for where Chinese people are from.

WILLIAM

Japan!

JOANNA

Forget that. Second word. Musical by Andrew Llo—

WILLIAM

Phantom-of-the-Opera-Joseph-and-the-Technicolor-Dreamcoat-Jesus-Christ-Superstar-Evita-The-Beautiful-Game-The-Woman-in-White-Starlight-Express—

JOANNA

Yes! Yes, *Express*! Second word *Express*! Now, think—famous train. The *Blank* Express. Murder on the *Blank* Express.

WILLIAM

Polar?

DORA

Time!

JOANNA

The *Orient* Express.

WILLIAM

The Orient Express? Like I should know a train?

ROBBIE

Murder on the *Polar* Express? Did your parents hate you?