

Back on the Train

[As shadowplay, the mother and father are fighting about the Aspie child. The Aspie is sitting just outside of the light, but they don't know he's listening.]

Mother: Jackson, I can't keep doing this. This isn't the child I wanted!

Father: I know, Mary, I know, he's a difficult boy, but we've got him now. He's a part of our household. We can't just put him back on the train.

Mother: Why not? My baby is frightened of him!

Father: She's not that scared, she's just unused to having him here. Once he's been here a while that will wear off.

Mother: Been here a while! Jackson, I don't want him here for a while. I don't want him here at all. It's not our fault that he's wrong!

Father: He's an orphan, Mary. We can't just send him away. Where's he going to go?

Mother: And you think we can take care of him? We brought him out here with the best of intentions—we wanted to give him a home, and a family, and a chance at a new life. But we can't take care of him! He won't let me hug him, he screams every time I feed him the wrong food, he disappears and scares the daylights out of me. Someone out there can take care of him, but it's not us.

[Beat]

Father: Is Josephine really afraid of him?

Mother: She won't go in a room if he's there.

Father: [Heavy sigh] When does the next train come in?