# Thessaloniki Station, Greece, 1943 *by David Crann*

*In 1943, an estimated 58,585 Jews boarded trains from*

*Greece’s second-largest city of Thessaloniki to concentration*

*camps in Poland. To add insult to grave injury, the Jews*

*were forced to pay for their train fare*

We sleep in one room, the *Fräulein*

in another – two rooms beside a platform

at a station in Thessaloniki.

Night. A door uncloses. Hollow feet.

At my woman’s urging, I dare my head out.

I glimpse *her* shadow in a waning doorway –

momentarily.

Morning light. I shave fraught stubble

through a scurrilous looking-glass.

My woman scales her teeth.

Day. A door uncloses. Hollow feet.

Carriage doors clap. A guard whistles.

And *her* train creeps southbound –

momentously.

In only moments, guard dogs bray.

Coshes. The lethal shunt of waxen feet.

And our train creaks on Icarus wings north

to melt us far from Thessaloniki…