

# Children on the Train

JEWISH · Walter J. Kin · Rigli Publishing

<https://jewishthemovie.com/music/russian/children-on-the-train>

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← Jewish Songs in Russian

Russian Songbook · Sung by Elechka

Едут дети

Children on the Train

A lullaby melody carried out of the Lodz ghetto, sung now in Russian so the children are not forgotten.

"Children on the Train" (Едут дети) belongs to the Songs of the Holocaust cycle. According to the song's history, it was written in the Lodz ghetto in Poland after the mass deportation of September 1942, when nearly all of the ghetto's children, along with the elderly and the sick, were taken away. Most were sent to the Chelmno death camp.

The words are attributed to Miriam Harel, who set her verses to a Polish folk melody, an everyday children's tune known before the war. The original is remembered for its painful contrast: a bright, familiar melody set against a text in which the sun looks into the children's faces but is indifferent to them. The song is said to have been sung quietly, in a small circle. After the war Harel reached Israel, and according to the history she performed it for the researcher Gila Flam in 1985, which is how it was preserved.

The Russian text heard in this recording is a poetic interpretation rather than a literal translation, intended to carry the meaning of the original into Russian.

Elechka sings it here as part of a project bringing these Jewish songs into Russian for listeners who do not know the originals. The English film JEWISH grew out of these Russian recordings. This song is offered with restraint, as a small act of remembrance.

## Lyrics, line by line

The full Russian text of the recording, with a plain English translation under each line.

Едут дети свет струится

Children are riding, light streams

В пыльное окно

Into the dusty window

Солнце детям смотрит в лица

The sun looks into the children's faces

Солнцу всё равно  
The sun does not care  
Солнце всходит на востоке  
The sun rises in the east  
Провода гудят  
The wires hum  
Едут едут по дороге  
They ride, they ride along the road  
И сестра и брат  
Both sister and brother  
Может это всё ошибка  
Maybe all of this is a mistake  
Небу вопреки  
Against the will of the sky  
Эти жёлтые нашивки  
These yellow patches  
Эти башмаки  
These shoes  
Вой сигнала над платформой  
The howl of a signal over the platform  
Резок и уныл  
Is sharp and dismal  
И качнулся ящик чёрный  
And the black box swayed  
И поплыл поплыл  
And it floated away, floated away  
По дороге едут дети  
Along the road the children are riding  
Знать бы мне куда  
If only I knew where to  
Но в туманном жёлтом свете  
But in the hazy yellow light

Таут поезда

The trains melt away

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## What listeners say

Real comments left under the recording on YouTube, translated into English, with the original Russian beneath each one.

It's impossible to breathe.

♥ Невозможно дышать.....♥

@Fanyp2903

Thank you so much. Very sad. But this must be remembered forever, so that it never happens again.

Спасибо огромное очень печально Но Это надо помнить Вечно что бы больше не повторялось

@АнатолийРанецкий-ч8о

This song reminded me of the war of 1941 to 1945. The yellow patches. I am a lawyer and I know my country's history well, and so I will not forget the horror I saw with my own eyes back around 1985, when my colleagues and I came to Lithuania for the weekend and were taken on a tour of the camp at Salaspils. To this day I remember that horror. It was inhuman, to treat the imprisoned Jewish people that way.

,,,😞 Эта песня НАПОМНИЛА мне о войне 1941-1945.. Жёлтые нашивки..😞 Я юрист. Неплохо знаю историю Родины. И поэтому НЕ ЗАБУДУ тот ужас, к-рый видела своими глазами аж ~в 1985 году.. Когда мы с сотрудниками приехали на выходные в Литву. И нас повели на экскурсию в фашистский лагерь Саласпилс..😞😞... До сих пор ПОМНЮ ТОТ УЖАС! ЭТО БЕСЧЕЛОВЕЧНО!!! ТАК издеваться над заключёнными евреями - народом Божьим!😞😞

@НадеждаКовалёва-ф7ц

A beautiful song, Elya.

Красивая песня, Эля

@ivarzmay3749

This recording has fewer published listener comments; the ones above are what we found that fit.