Dear Literary Agent,

The captain has orders to take Aulden's last train south empty because, according to railway engineer Elnai Senn's own signature, everyone in town has a heated shelter. Elnai signed so the hospital patients could stay indoors while the town waited for its heating glass, but the glass never came. Now families are freezing on the platform, so while her sister Lume loads six coaches, Elnai opens the throttle.

Elnai gives the captain a hand up, and only then does Lume recognise his name. Six years ago, Caiven Kest ordered the rails cut at Hemfall while people were still crossing the bridge. Sixty-three people died, and Lume lost a leg. But Caiven knows the line south, and something is following the train's warmth along the rails. By the time it calls to a child in his dead father's voice, Elnai is glad to have Caiven beside her. Explaining that to Lume is another matter.

When Elnai finally learns where the glass went, she discovers that her own signature gave the authorities grounds to send Aulden's share to the coast. Now those same authorities are offering the workers a warm place to sleep if they leave their families behind. To keep the passengers together, Elnai has to tell them what she signed and what it cost them. And Caiven, the man she's come to love, has to decide whether he'll obey another order to leave people behind.

WE DON'T ANSWER THE COLD is an adult dark fantasy novel with a tragic love story, complete at 93,000 words. Its uncanny railway journey will appeal to readers of Sarah Brooks's *The Cautious Traveller's Guide to the Wastelands*, and its story of what survivors owe the dead to readers of Katherine Arden's *The Warm Hands of Ghosts*.

I live in Melbourne, Australia, where I work in IT. I write fantasy under the name Naria Khan. Thank you for considering my work.

Kind regards,
Naria Khan