**2024 Short Story Challenge  
*Starting Prompt***

**Title**

**Author:**

1. **Chapter Title -**

The Parisians never seem to run; instead, they walk briskly, heads held high. Trying and failing to emulate the confident ease of the woman in front of me, I hurry towards the station across the cobblestone streets of France.

It is the *\_\_[Season; fall, winter, spring, summer]\_\_* of *\_[year]\_\_*, and the station buzzes with *\_\_\_[emotion /feeling]\_\_\_\_*. Boarding the train, the conductor tweets his whistle and announces, “tous à bord.” Unbeknownst to me at the time, today marks the beginning of an adventure that would reverberate across the world.

As the train jolts forward, I settle into a window seat and watch the world passing by. Glancing around the compartment, I find an eclectic mix of passengers – from impeccably dressed businessmen engrossed in the daily news to artists with paint-stained smocks and dreamy expressions.