

## Bulgarian Shakedown

police came aboard  
our coach, overnight non-stop  
—or so we'd been told

checking our passports  
foreigners just passing through  
“you have no visa!”

as if offended  
“but you are in my country  
without permission!”

“you must pay your fine  
or I'll take you off the train”  
“how much, sir?” I smiled

through window I watched  
a man is taken away  
I've wondered his fate

Setting: In Sofia, Bulgaria, with Trish enroute from Ljubljana, Slovenia, to Istanbul, Turkey,  
summer 1981



Photo: Sofia, Bulgaria, train station today (rail.cc)

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