

BACKSTORY

# RIDE ON

Brian Donovan catches rail cars snaking across Canada

I WAS SHOOTING at Canada's Banff National Park for a few days in February 2013 and really wanted to try to capture a winter railroad scene while I was there. So I went to a spot known as Morant's Curve and sat in the snow shooting various perspectives

of trains as they funneled past. They arrived unpredictably and few were photogenic. This train came during the only time I saw blue sky. The red stood out, creating an interesting contrast to this winter scene. After getting an initial shot of the engine,

I estimated 2 to 3 seconds to blend the cargo containers together and get some translucency. I stacked the 2- and 3-stop ND filters I had with me, then quickly dropped the ISO and stopped down the lens. Its apt title: "Snake on a Train." —As told to Meg Ryan

