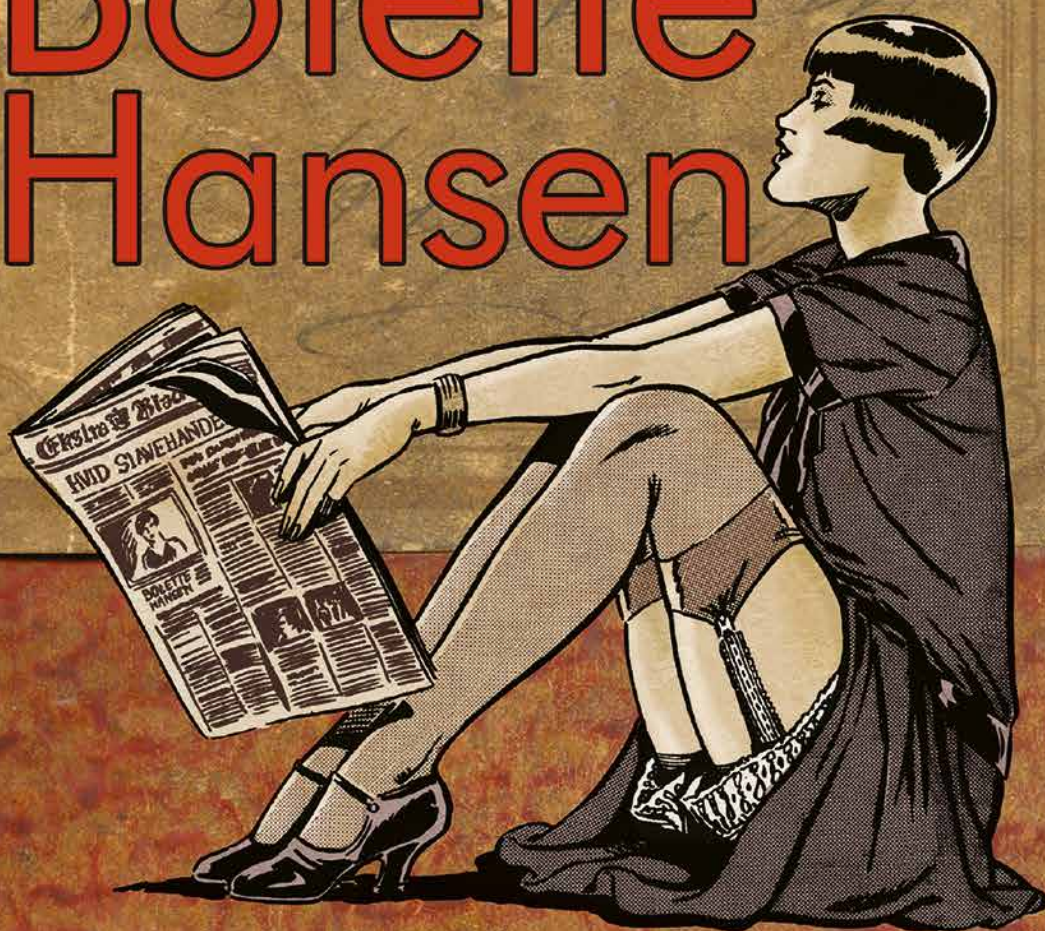


Paul Arne Kring

Bolette Hansen



Forlaget Fabel

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The Man
on the Beach





THILDE! COME ON!
THE WATER IS LOVELY!

BE RIGHT
THERE.



I JUST WANT TO
HAVE A LITTLE
LOOK AT THE NEW
'LADIES' FIRST.



MATHILDE!
WHY ARE...
CHEAT!



WE HAD A DEAL. NO PEEKING IN
THE MAGAZINE. WE READ IT
TOGETHER.

IT WAS JUST A
PEEK. ONLY SAW
THE PICTURES OF THE
CONTESTANTS FOR
THE 'LADIES'
PAGEANT.



OOH, I CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE THOSE. LET ME PUT A
RECORD ON THE
GRAMOPHONE.



THESE ARE THE
CONTESTANTS?
I SUPPOSE THAT ONE
IN THE BOTTOM COULD
DO.

SURE, BUT LOOK AT THE
REST! WOULDN'T BE HARD
TO WIN IF WE ENTERED. I
MEAN, LOOK AT HER KNEES
≡GIGGLE≡



KEEP GOING. LET'S READ THE NEW
CHAPTER OF THE MAHARJAS FAVORITE
WIVES.

YEAH!



?!
NEVE

NEVE



GOOD MORNING, LADIES. GOOD DAY FOR A SWIM.



I HOPE I'M NOT BEING TOO FORWARD, BUT I WAS JUST STROLLING ALONG, WHEN I HEARD THE FAMILIAR MELODY OF MY FAVORITE SONG. DARE I ASK IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO PLAY IT ONE MORE TIME... FOR ME?

UHM...

WHY, YES. WE'D LOVE TO. RIGHT, BOLETTE?



LET ME CHANGE THE NEEDLE AND WIND IT UP AGAIN.

UH, TELL ME MISS...



WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY IF I DID IT? I DON'T HAVE A GRAMOPHONE MYSELF. IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL TO TRY IT OUT.

BE MY GUEST.



THAT WAS AN ABSOLUTE DELIGHT, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE SMUDGED THE RECORD. LET ME JUST WIPE THAT OFF.



THAT SHOULD DO IT. - OH, MY. TIME SURE DOES FLY. I WON'T TAKE MORE OF YOUR TIME, LADIES. THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC. IT WAS A REAL TREAT.



BUT...HE WORE GLOVES.

OF COURSE.



THAT'S BECAUSE HE WAS A REAL GENTLEMAN.

A 'REAL GENTLEMAN' DOESN'T SMUDGE A RECORD WITH GLOVES ON.



WHAT A STRANGE MAN. WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

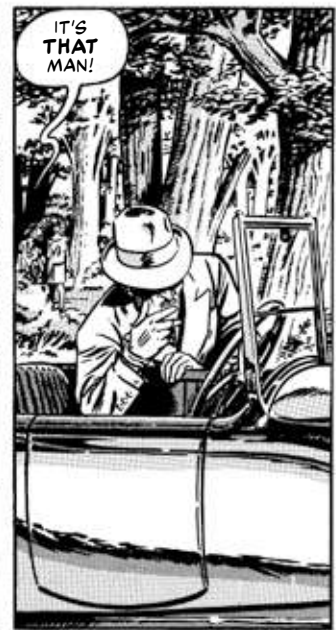
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I THINK WE'D BEST LEAVE BEFORE MORE SHOW UP.

BESIDES IT'S NEARLY 11AM.



HELLO! YOU THERE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT FELLAH!

HE WENT THAT WAY.



DIDN'T WE PARK AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE?

IT'S THAT MAN!

THERE, IN THE CLEARING. B-BUT... BOLETTE! LOOK!!



YOU THERE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY CAR ?!

HE'S TRYING TO STEAL IT!

STEAL IT? I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS A GENTLEMAN.

THEY ARE OFTEN THE WORST. LOOK! HE'S RUNNING!

I SUPPOSE HE WAS JUST HAVING A LOOK. -AND IF HE WANTED TO STEAL IT, HE'S LONG GONE BY NOW.



OH, THANK GOODNESS. I'D LEFT MY PURSE WITH MY KEYS, MONEY AND ADDRESS ON THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

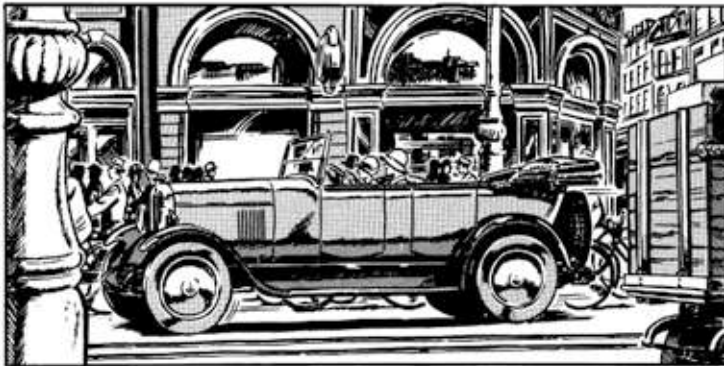
IF YOU'RE CERTAIN, NOTHING'S MISSING, GET IN. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

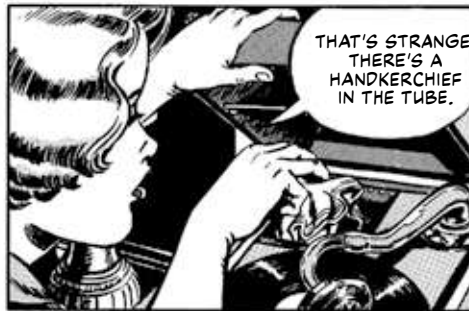
LISTEN, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A MOTORCYCLE.

NO, THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE AN S.E.5A WITH A WOLSLEY VIPER-ENGINE, BUT I COULD BE WRONG, MATHILDE.

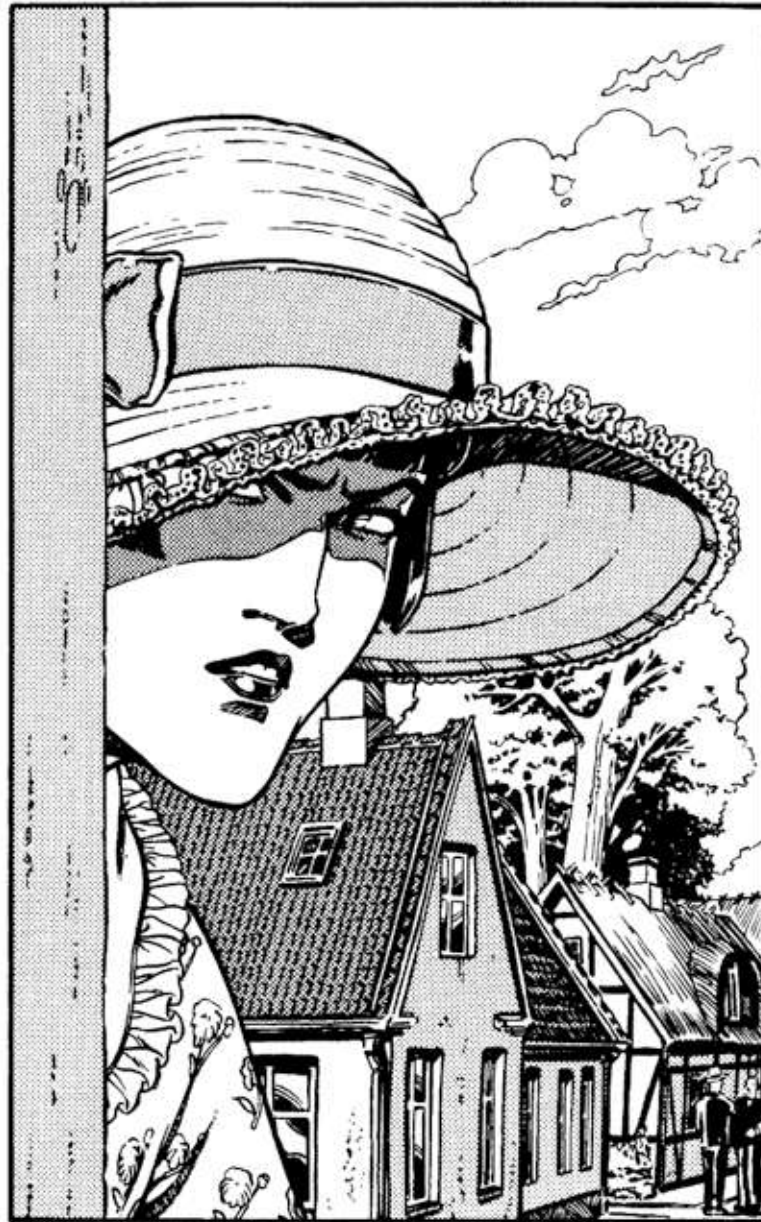
WHAT'S THAT?!







Sleepwalker





WELCOME MISS, PLEASE TAKE A SEAT AND WAIT. THIS GENTLEMAN IS NEXT, BUT I'LL HAVE -

NO. PARDON, I'M... I'M NOT HERE FOR A... I MEAN, I WAS TOLD I COULD FIND SOMEONE HERE.



I SEE, MISS. AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?

I DON'T THINK HE'S HERE. HIS NAME IS... WELL, HIS NAME IS B. HANSEN.



YES?!

THAT'S ME!



I BEG YOUR PARDON, THERE MUST BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. I'M SEARCHING FOR THE B. HANSEN WHO PLACED THIS ADVERTISEMENT. I MEAN, **SURELY** THAT CAN'T BE YOU.

LET ME SEE!



WELL, YOU HAVE YOUR "MAN". MY NAME IS BOLETTE HANSEN - AND SINCE YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE OF MY ADVERT, PERHAPS WE SHOULD TALK MORE PRIVATELY? YES?





RRING! RRING!!
 MATHILDE, BE A DEAR AND SEE WHO IT IS? BUT DON'T LET ANYONE IN!
 I WON'T.



I'M SORRY, YOU CAN'T - STOP!! I - UHM - I FORBID IT! YOU CAN'T JUST WALK IN! YOU MUST LEAVE AT ONCE-!!!



THAT'S A LOT EASIER TO SAY THAN TO DO!!



T-THERE'S A GENTLEMAN...
 I TOLD YOU NOT TO LET ANYONE IN. WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?



AH, THERE YOU ARE CHILD. YOUR DISAPPEARANCE HAD US WORRIED. YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T LEAVE ON YOUR OWN.
 IT TALKS!



PLEASE ALLOW SISTER OTHILIA TO WALK YOU TO THE CAR. I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.



AS THE YOUNG LADY REMARKED, I CAN SPEAK...SISTER OTHELIA, IF YOU PLEASE.
 COME ALONG, DEAR.



AND SPEAK WE SHALL. YOU BARGE INTO OUR HOME, WITHOUT AN INVITE AND KIDNAP OUR GUEST. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
 PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY DICTATE A DISREGARD OF WHAT ONE MAY PERCEIVE AS POLITE BEHAVIOR. CASE IN POINT...



MY FAILURE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. DR. MATHIAS FICKEL AT YOUR SERVICE.



I AM THE YOUNG LADIES PRIVATE PHYSICIAN. I TEND TO HER EVERY NEED.
 A DOCTOR?! - SURELY YOU HAVE ATTENDED A FAIR SHARE OF CROOKED NECKS. MY NAME IS BOLETTE HANGEN. NOW TALK.

THE YOUNG LADY IS QUITE FRAGILE, HER MIND, I'M AFRAID. THAT IS WHY I RARELY LEAVE HER SIDE. A **SECRET** MEETING WITH SOMEONE SHE HARDLY KNOWS WORRIES ME. WHY WAS SHE HERE?



SHE DIDN'T SAY.

AND EVEN IF SHE HAD, SHE CAN COUNT ON MY **DISCRETION** ON THE MATTER.

PERHAPS YOU COULD TELL ME HER NAME?

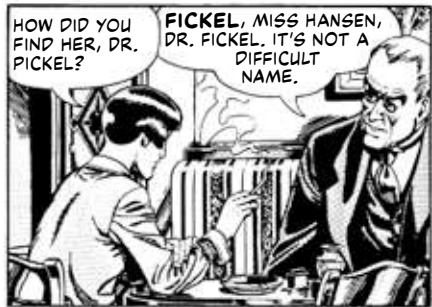


THAT - OUMPH!

OH DEAR. I THOUGHT YOU'D PREFER A SEAT ON THE SOFA.



THANK YOU. YOU SAY THE LADY DID NOT GIVE HER NAME? THEN I THINK IT BEST THAT WE ALLOW HER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. TO PROTECT THE FAMILY.



HOW DID YOU FIND HER, DR. PICKEL?

FICKEL, MISS HANSEN, DR. FICKEL. IT'S NOT A DIFFICULT NAME.

OF COURSE HE WAS RETICENT AT FIRST, BUT I - PERSUADED HIM. HE REALIZED IT WAS IN HER BEST INTEREST AND GAVE ME YOUR ADDRESS. BUT I WAS UNABLE TO GLEAN THE PURPOSE OF THIS VISIT.



WHO WAS HE? IS THE GIRL ENGAGED?

SHE MOST CERTAINLY IS NOT. WE HAVE BEEN ABROAD FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS, AND I KNOW FOR CERTAIN SHE HAS NOT FOUND A SUITOR IN THAT TIME. WE RETURNED ONLY LAST NIGHT. AS FOR HIM, HE DIDN'T GIVE HIS NAME.



EIGHT MONTHS...AND SHE BUMPS INTO AN OLD FRIEND ON HER RETURN. - SURELY PEOPLE KNEW YOU AND YOUR MISTRESS HAD RETURNED?



I NOTICED MY MISTRESS TALK TO A STRANGE MAN AT OUR HOTEL. MOMENTS LATER, SHE WAS GONE.

AND HE TOLD YOU, SHE CAME HERE?



NO, WE WERE NOT DUE TO RETURN FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS. WE HAVE BEEN HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD - IN BRITISH MALAYA WITH THE LADY'S UNCLE. HE OWNS AND RUNS A LOGGING COMPANY THERE, WITH ITS HEADOFFICE IN **KUALA LUMPUR**.



THE CONVALESCENCE WAS MEANT AS A MEANS TO STRENGTHEN MILADY'S FRAGILE HEALTH, BUT TERRIBLE EVENTS HAD THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON HER, I'M AFRAID. HENCE OUR EARLY AND QUIET RETURN TO FAMILIAR SHORES.

WHAT AILS THE POOR DEAR?



MATHILDE!

PLEASE, IT IS NO TROUBLE. YOUR QUESTION IS QUITE RELEVANT. YOU HAVE PROBABLY WONDERED, WHY I'VE SACRIFICED SO MUCH OF MY PRECIOUS TIME ON THIS CONVERSATION. HER ILLNESS AND SUBSEQUENT RECOVERY ARE QUITE RELEVANT IN THAT REGARD.

?! ?!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, THAT I SPEND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME, TALKING WITH ANYONE WHO COMES IN CONTACT WITH MILADY - FAMILY, FRIENDS... ANYONE SHE MEETS. THEY TELL ME EVERYTHING, IN THE HOPE THAT IT WILL HELP HER RECOVERY...



AND I WARN THEM, AS TO WHICH SUBJECTS THEY SHOULD AVOID.

YOU SEE, MILADY'S ILLNESS IS NOT PHYSICAL. IT IS FOUND IN THE DARKEST RECESS OF HER MIND. SHE WALKS THE LINE BETWEEN DREAM AND REALITY. BUT IT DRAINS HER LIFEFORCE. -SHE'D DONE SO WELL, THANKS TO PHYSCOANALYZIS AND ELEC-TRIC CONDUITS.



AND THE TERRIBLE EVENTS OF YOUR STAY IN KUALA LUMPUR?

I SHAN'T GET INTO THAT. BUT IT WAS A DISASTER FOR MILADY. SHE SHUT OUT THE REAL WORLD, SOUGHT REFUGE IN HER DREAMS. LIKE A SLEEPWALKER, BUT FULLY AWAKE. I'M SURE YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS WAKING THEM CAN BE.



IT MUST BE DONE WITH UTMOST CARE. SAME AS MILADY. A SUDDEN CONFRONTATION WITH REALITY COULD CAUSE HER TO GO INTO CHOK, AND EVEN KILL HER. AMONGST THE THINGS THAT SHE CANNOT STAND TO HEAR IS THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL HAPPENED, **KUALA LUMPUR**. NEVER MENTION THAT NAME TO HER. -NOT UNLESS SHE HAS RECOVERED ENOUGH FOR ME TO ALLOW IT.



NOW, MY PATIENT AWAITS. AND REMEMBER - NO KUALA LUMPUR! GOOD DAY.



GOOD DAY.

WHAT A SHAME. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR FIRST REAL CASE, BOLETTE. POOR GIRL, OUT OF HER MIND.

I'M NOT SURE... SHE DID MENTION A FIANCEE. THE DOCTOR DENIED IT. BUT-THERE WAS A MAN, THE DOCTOR SPOKE WITH HIM AS WELL.



WHO IS HE? AND WHAT WAS SO GRAVE THAT HE THOUGHT TO SEND HER HERE?!



THE DOCTOR AGAIN, YOU THINK?

I'M HERE ABOUT THE YOUNG LADY WHO LEFT A MOMENT AGO.



YES? WHAT OF HER?

PLEASE BELIEVE THAT MY INTENTIONS ARE ENTIRELY HONORABLE, WHEN I ASK THAT YOU TELL ME WHAT SHE WANTED. IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME.



AGAIN?!



MAY I COME IN?

UHM, YES... COME IN!

Mette, Bolette and the Lion





PACK OF
ADLON,
PLEASE.



DO YOU HAPPEN
TO KNOW, WHERE
TO FIND
SKOVBOGAARD
AVENUE? -NO. 9.

WHY YES, IT'S
JUST ACROSS
SOENDERMARKEN
PARK, TOWARDS
CARLSBERG
BREWERY.



ISN'T NO. 9, MR. BOEGGILD? -HE'S A
FUNNY ONE. CERTAINLY THERE ARE
THOSE WHO THINK HE'S OFF HIS
ROCKER, BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE
HE'S SO VERY FOND OF HIS CATS.

CATS?!



INDEED, AND HE MUST
HAVE QUITE A FEW.
JUST ASK THE
BUTCHER. MR.
BOEGGILD ORDERS
MORE THAN 60 LBS
OF HORSE AND BEEF
FOR THE CATS.



MAYBE HE'S
GOT A LION.

YES,
MAYBE.
HA! HA!



THIS IS
IT. NO. 9.



WHETHER OR NOT HE'S
TRYING TO BE FUNNY
REMAINS TO BE SEEN,
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN
A SIGN LIKE THAT
BEFORE.





I SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T LIKE INTRUDERS IN THE GARDEN. I WONDER WHERE THE CATS ARE. I THOUGHT THEY'D BE ALL OVER THE PLACE.



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?!



MY NAME IS BOLETTE HANSEN. YOU RANG AND ASKED ME TO COME, AS YOU WERE IN NEED OF A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

I'LL BE A GNU'S ARSE!!

YOU ARE B. HANSEN! I, UHM, THOUGHT B. HANSEN WAS A MAN.

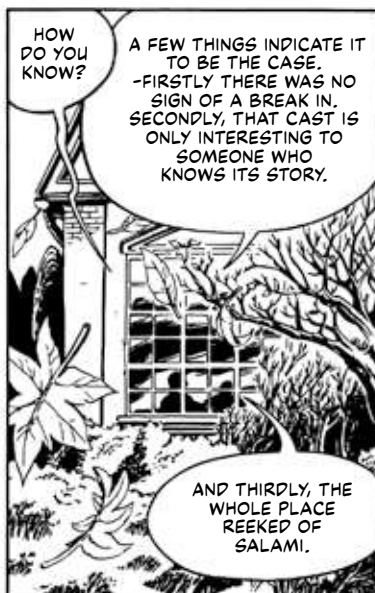


I MEAN, WHEN WE SPOKE ON THE TELEPHONE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE B. HANSEN'S SECRETARY. COME IN! I WAS JUST MAKING SOME COFFEE.



FEEL FREE TO WAIT IN THE STUDY. MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.





SALAMI! -THAT'S THE DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT THE THEFT WAS COMMITTED BY ONE OF MY ACQUAINTANCES. THE SMELL OF SALAMI! ONLY PEOPLE WHO COME TO THIS HOUSE REGULARLY KNOW THAT KITTY LOVES SALAMI MORE THAN ANYTHING. THE THIEF BROUGHT THE SALAMI FOR KITTY, SO KITTY WOULD LET HIM GO ABOUT HIS BUSINESS IN PEACE.

ODDS ARE IT'S ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION TO AFRICA, WHERE WE FOUND THE FOSSIL, THIS CAST WAS MOLDED AFTER.

I SEE... UHM, BEFORE YOU GO ON -DO YOU HAVE AN ASHTRAY?

YES, LET ME JUST...**GODDAMNIT!!** NOW I REMEMBER WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR EARLIER! I NEED TO GET A BOOK!

HMM...

SNEEZE!!

UHM, MR. BOEGGILD, THERE'S SOMEONE BEHIND THE SOFA.

YES, THAT WOULD BE KITTY.

HE ALWAYS HIDES BEHIND THE SOFA, WHEN WE HAVE STRANGERS OVER.

YES?

OOOH, KITTY, ARE YOU DOWN THERE? HERE KITTY-KITTY-KITTY-KITTY!

THERE HE IS.

BE A DEAR AND SAY HELLO TO MISS HANSEN, KITTY?

G-G-G-GOOD KITTY...

MIAOOW?

YES, YES, HA! HA! HA! I SEE YOU ARE QUITE USED TO CATS, MISS HANSEN. KITTY IS SUCH A WONDERFUL CAT. INDEED!



JUST LET HIM HAVE A WHIFF BEFORE YOU PET HIM.

I'VE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF PETTING HIM! MR. BOEGGILD, PLEASE, WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO - !!



HAVE A LOOK HERE. THIS BOOK CONTAINS AN ILLUSTRATION OF A FOSSIL LIKE THE ONE THAT WAS STOLEN.



MR. BOEGGILD! PLEASE STOP HIM BEFORE HE GET'S A TASTE OF MOR' THAN MY FUR COAT!!



KITTY! NO KITTY! -DON'T MIND HIM, MISS HANSEN. IT JUST MEANS HE LIKES YOU. NOW HAVE A LOOK AT THE BOOK -ILLUSTRATION NO. 23.



WELL...AS LONG HE LIKES ME.

~GASP~

OUUUUM...

UHM, THAT LOOKS KINDA FUNNY...



WHAT IS IT?



A PETRIFIED CRINOID, OR SEA LILY IF YOU WILL, DATING BACK TO THE CARBONIFEROUS ERA, NEARLY 300 MILLION YEARS AGO. -AH, NOW LOOK AT THIS! I DARE SAY THIS IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE THIEF!

