

- René:** (To Crabtree.) What are they going on about now?
- Crabtree:** They are seeing that they know brave men who have shat themselves.
- René:** Well I can't argue with that.
- Michelle:** René, hide them for another day. I will then return and disguise them and we will slip away.
- René:** Good.
- Crabtree:** Well, I think it is time for us to pish off.
- René:** Just what I was thinking.
- (Blackout.)

ACT ONE SCENE FOUR HERR FLICK'S DUNGEON

(That evening. The Gestapo HQ. There is a desk and chair and a further chair in front, an assortment of torture equipment on the walls and a single entrance / door. Flick and Helga are seated at the desk playing cards. Helga's cards are down, but Flick is still holding his cards. On the desk between them is a Gestapo pen and pencil set. There is also a telephone.)

- Flick:** How dare you try to bluff a senior Gestapo officer with a pair of tens? I have won. **(He puts his cards face down on the table.)**
- Helga:** Am I allowed to see your hand, Herr Flick?
- Flick:** No. You have lost. I get your Gestapo pen and pencil set. **(He grabs the set and slides it to his side of the desk.)**
- Helga:** You have cleaned me out Herr Flick. If we play another round I will have nothing left to give you.
- Flick:** Indeed.
- Helga:** And I must admit it was not the activity I was expecting when you told me I should play my cards right.
- Flick:** I needed the distraction. The British airmen, who are still hiding in Nouvien, are preying on my mind. If they are not caught soon I will be forced to send my Tracker badge back to the Hitler Youth.

Helga: Then let me distract you further. General Von Klinkerhoffen is about to receive a large sum of money from the Colonel. It is my belief we may be able to take this money for ourselves.

Flick: Ourselves?

Helga: Yourself, of course, Herr Flick. Then we can run away together and make love on the beaches of the Caribbean.

Flick: Quite impossible, Helga. The heat makes my leather coat too tight. But I can see us in a modest Alpine lodge overlooking the Matterhorn.

Helga: Oh, Herr Flick, the thought of you as a lonely goatherd is driving me wild with desire. May I kiss you?

Flick: You may. But just a quick one.

(They clinch. Helga kisses him passionately. As ever, there is no response from Herr Flick.)

Flick: That will do. This is a Gestapo office, not a bawdy house. Where is this money coming from?

Helga: Colonel von Strohm is asking René at the Cafe Artois to raise it and then the Colonel will give it to the General to compensate him for the loss of "The Fallen Madonna with the Big Boobies".

Flick: We also lost out on this painting. Helga. We will intercept this money ourselves. To that end, I will keep a watchful eye on René to see how he will produce this money.

Helga: Perhaps it will come directly from selling his meals in the café.

Flick: That would be a lot of knockwursts.

Helga: I'm telling the truth, Herr Flick.

(Sound FX: Flick's phone rings. Flick answers abruptly.)

Flick: Flick the Gestapo. **(Pause)**. No, I said *Flick*, the Gestapo. Clean out your ears, Von Smallhausen. **(Pause.)** I see. I see. No, I will not be reporting that back to Head Office. I do not wish to look a right 'nana. **(He hangs up.)**

Helga: Bad news?

Flick: Gestapo business, Helga. But Von Smallhausen tells me that the British airmen may be in hiding near the Café Artois.

Helga: You could watch for the money and keep an eye out for those airmen at the same time, Herr Flick.

- Flick:** A double whammy. Very well. You have performed admirably, Helga. I will reward you.
- Helga:** Thank you, Herr Flick.
- Flick:** Your reward shall be an evening with me. I might take you to the movies.
- Helga:** What is showing?
- Flick:** Anything we want. I am Gestapo! Or we could stay here and amuse ourselves. I have a box of sharp needles somewhere.
- (Herr Flick rifles through a drawer on the desk or takes them from his pocket. Helga looks a little nervous.)**
- Flick:** **(Finding them.)** Ah, here they are.
- Helga:** **(Worriedly.)** What have you in mind Herr Flick?
- Flick:** I have an excellent gramophone, and many records of Hitler's speeches. They are quite amusing.
- Helga:** **(Surprised.)** Hitler's speeches, quite amusing?
- Flick:** Played at double speed, he sounds like Donald Duck.
- (Blackout.)**

ACT ONE SCENE FIVE RENÉ'S CAFÉ

(The next day. The Café René. Peasants are sitting at the tables at the front, making chit-chat with the serving girls. René and Edith are behind the bar.)

- Yvette:** **(To the peasants.)** And can I get you anything else?
- (A peasant whispers something in her ear.)**
- Yvette:** **(Slapping him.)** You naughty boy! **(Pause.)** Come back at eight o'clock. But the sugar tongs will cost you extra.
- (The Colonel, Geering and Grüber enter and stand in the middle of the café.)**
- Colonel:** Heil Hitler!
- Geering:** **(Late.)** 'Tler!