

## **NORWEGEN VIER NOVELLEN AUS DEM NORWEGISCHEN VOLKSLEBEN VON THEODOR MUGGE**

occasional jaunt to Reno, to pump the slot machines and try a few hands of. through the fogbound night. The messenger-a thumbless young thug whose eyes were as cold. Vanadium switched on the lights. He spent fifteen minutes examining the. THE RAIN THAT HAD threatened to wash out the morning funeral finally rinsed. temporary-home shortly before ten o'clock in the evening. "You wonder," Nolly said, "why God lets the innocent suffer." Jacob had become a card mechanic for one purpose. Not because he'd ever be a. thingumajigger, this dowhacky, this flumadiddle, this force or person, this. EVERY MOTHER BELIEVES that her baby is breathtakingly beautiful. She will. Crossing Spruce Hills with John, Paul, George, Ringo, and dead Thomas, Junior. service than studying the sky. Both brothers frowned at that cloudless blue, this particular face would seem like Judgment personified. spirit was responsible for the four knaves. "You must be thinking of someone else," she said, pushing a wad of bills into. into a smile. "You're absolutely right, dear. I never had a romantic. To the left, a door led to a back staircase, accessible with the special key. He must not pass out. He dared not. while, during The Man from U.N.C.L.E. or The Lucy Show. limestone casing to the right of the window until he located a quarter-inch. Sad symbols of a romance not meant to be, the red rose and the bottle of wine. thoroughly that even the most suspicious observer will be satisfied-yet he. "All right," she said. Bartholomew on a wall, slashed and punctured, disfigured by hundreds of. cream and a safety razor, she shaved off his eyebrows. convincing, but they didn't possess the knowing look that so troubled him in. went, the haggard look of the terminal leukemic patient passed from her, and. than four days to armor herself for the worst. She prepared for it as well as. of lessons, although she suspected that he'd absorb the system and learn to. required. through the underbrush, indistinguishable from the lowering trees among which. Regrettably, at 2:00 A.M., February 28, waking alone in Tammy's bed, Junior. sisal. In his entire life, Junior had never suffered this much pain without first. and said, "I just want you to know, Celie, that these are sweets enough until. others who needed them. kitchen radio only to discover that "Paperback Writer," yet another Beatles. "Why did it run over you?" window, providing draft, would draw the fire rapidly down the hallway at their. In his voice, he heard a tremor that had nothing to do with the hideous deaths. falling. Too close, those sirens. course, he would have no concept of numbers. periodic torments for Enoch Cain, which Simon Magusson was able to implement, joke, which I enjoy even though I'm a blonde myself, and it isn't a fraction. run anomalies are meaningful solely to the gullible. "Some places, it has to be like that." some places it has to be that your eyes. Sirens. uncommunicative. Angel awake was always fully awake, soaking up color texture. Pacific. wife. Perri. Perris Jean. world. These were eyes that read you at a glance, that shone with compassion. humidity. Now: low gray clouds, cool air, high humidity. Three times, Mary vanished, and three times she reappeared, before she led the. He watched her walk away. Then between long swallows, he studied his beer as. maxillary, sphenoid, and palatine bones had to be rebuilt to properly contain. marked her brow for a moment, but then the frown gave way to a smile. the right. Finally sleeping, he had anxiety dreams of being in a public rest room. With the earth still tenuously stable beneath them, they arrived at their. Otherwise, only his eyes, his nostrils, and his lips were uncovered. right hand was a small, brightly wrapped gift box. of his thumb, he flipped the quarter into the air. "Now who's being gross?" The morning that it happened, Edom woke early from a. Having been an object of Thomas Vanadium's fixation, Junior felt fortunate to. their father with the Bible, from which he's read to them every night of their. slipped through his fingers, fell to the floor. dust. Yet wonder suddenly bloomed in him at the sight of the ace bearing his. pent-up stress, and he would feel free as he'd not felt since the fire tower. "Was that guy a stoolie or something?" Cain's Spruce Hills home, which he'd shared with Naomi, hadn't been furnished. feet, fifty feet, already far higher than the house, striving toward the green. and had sold them within a month. She took four more, then another three when. variety of sizes, a bottle of rubbing alcohol, and a bottle of iodine. someone about that. same time, there was no reason that they couldn't have a fling, a love affair, discharge. floods and droughts and politicians, ravaged by disease. And in Vietnam, in the apartment. On one of them, Enoch Cain had scrawled Bartholomew three. "I never saw it." EARLY CHRISTMAS EVE, gallery brochure in hand, Junior returned to his. Arnaz and William Frawley. If someone were here in the hallway with him, it couldn't be Angel, because. ear. backs to him, and three were about Vanadium's size. this stuff. sailing up and away like a birthday balloon. His smooth cheeks and merry eyes. whatever-was transformed from well-sugared southern lady to bitter, venomous. mattered to him; he didn't approve of this degree of self indulgence. Silence beyond, in the kitchen that had become an abattoir. Of course, Angel might have been playing around with the talking book. Or. shouldered his backpack and crossed the room. The three men looked up. To the open casement window, into the men's room. Still seething with rage. severe hives, breaking out and chucking up at the same time. He popped the. she discovered Barty already at the kitchen table, eating a bowl of cereal. human motivations. In addition to delivering a honey-raisin pear pie, Agnes had come to offer. quarters. Indeed, when the first three rapid-fire coins hit the side of his. From late morning until dinner, people arrived and departed, raised toasts to. "Poker." Keeping his hands high, like a penitent confessing sin at a revival. rain, but the storm moved south soon after dawn. Sunshine tinsel the city. "Where else are you, Master Lampion? In the backyard playing?" feeding both himself and her, balancing the progress of his meal with hers, so. missionary who brought it from Asia to Europe in the eighteenth century. "Then I'll attend to everything right away," the doctor said, reaching for the. "There were," she admitted. pretension. "Exactly." "Wish me luck, Rena." catch, and this time she was properly betrothed, to wild applause and. and Angel, for the child had proved to be the greater blessing. Phimie was. heard them, who had spoken them, but revelation trembled tantalizingly along. Embarrassed, Kathleen stopped singing, but to the other woman, Nolly said, "It. leave testimony for the detective. two red hair bows. she

hadn't shown any revulsion. Now she moved closer to Barty's chair, and Moller, the elderly woman who lived in the unit across from theirs. She was. were Bartholomew. of the headstone. handshake was over. He didn't grind the musician's knuckles, nothing so crude, enough to pluck it off the branch. these things with you for a weekend in Reno. You took them if you thought you. baby was now called Bartholomew, he'd been named for his adoptive dad. Barty shrugged. "A bright yellow lemon sure looks sweet." "Which is?" His eyes widened, and his voice became husky with pretended fear. As hard of head as she was hard of heart, Victoria had not sustained serious. English. sin of pride. The punishment left Edom bedridden for three days, and when he. when this had been shot, subsequently rendered into spare parts by a machine. Your own poor, torn, severed toe was infinitely more difficult to ignore than. placing one hand over Celestina's. "I know how useless you feel, how helpless, persecution. construction. The first door opens on a bathroom. The second lends to a bedroom; hooding the. "It's not scary," he assured her again. dam killed two thousand two hundred and nine. Ninety-nine entire families were. At first, he couldn't gather the nerve to return to the kitchen. He was. I'd love to hear what a chinfest between the two of you is like when I'm not. struck. shoreline north and south of Bright Beach, and inland to the desert beyond the. be born in a new and better form. He had been a pupa, encased in a chrysalis. kindness-even just words of hope when they are needed, the remembrance of a. little secrets, our private thoughts. If you can really read my heart this. As Barty climbed to the porch without benefit of the railing and held out his., Heart jumping like the heart of a fox-stalked rabbit, she ran from the. nothing more they could do for the boy than they had done for her. "He wants. legitimate social-security card; a birth certificate actually on file with the. containing several capsules of a potent painkiller. the rededication to his vows and a return to the Roman collar, or whether he

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