6 I tried again



再挑 六戦

In the early years of her marriage (to judge from the handwriting and the paper, already in 1915-16), Karen Blixen wrote drafts of a book describing Africa. She seems to have had big plans, but there is not very much in each notebook.

Not until after her real breakthrough as an author in the mid-1930s did she succeed in gathering her years of impressions of life on the farm in her, perhaps, most famous book.

だかにのできるのは、残された文書や書類によるとすでに に作家として飛躍を遂げて初めて、数年に及ぶ農場での とは書かれていない。彼女は1930年代の半ばに実際 かなり大きな構想だったが、各編にはそれほど多くのこ ブリクセンはアフリカを描いた本の構想を立てていた。 1915年から16年だと判断されるのだが、カーアン・ 結婚した当初の頃、残された文書や書類によるとすでに



For a time, Karen Blixen had a tame owl on the farm, to the great pleasure of herself and her guests.



The dining room at Mbogani, as the second African farm came to be called. At this table, Karen Blixen worked on the manuscripts for the few tales that were begun in Africa - for example, "Carnival" and "The Roads Round Pisa".

Karen Blixen's mother, Ingeborg Dinesen, visited her twice at the farm - a long journey for a lady around 70 years of age. She was photographed in 1925 together with her daughter and the indispensable servant Farah Aden. To the front is standing little Muhammed Juma, called Tumbo.

SANDHEDENS HÆVN

En Marionetkomedie.

Af KAREN BLIXEN-FINECKE

Personerne

Abraham, en bedragersk Krovært.
Sabine, hans Datter.
Jan Bravida, en ung Landsknægt og Journalist, Gæst i Kroen.
Mopsus, Kældersvend.
Fortunio, Piccolo.
Amiane, en omvandrende Kone, som egentlig er en Slags Fe eller Hex.
Handlingen foregaar i Abrahams Kro.

1ste Scene.

Abraham. Kære Mopsus, slaa Jan Bravida ihjel for mig inat. Nu er det længe siden, at jeg har bedt Dig om at slaa nogen ihjel, min kære Mopsus, nu kan Du ikke sige, at det er for meget forlangt. Det bliver da mærkværdigt at tænke paa, Mopsus, at iaften er han levende og imorgen er han død. Iaften er Døden ikke i hans Hoved, imorgen er det fuldt af den og intet andet - O. i Sandhed leg elsker Deden. Den er det eneste, vi har tilbage af de gamle Dages Storhed, og uden den kunde Intet Menneske holde Livets Kedsommelighed ud. Hvilken Demokrat er Du ikke, Død, min Kammerat, som praktiserer den sande Lighed, o, lad alle Demokrater gaa hen og lægge sig, naar Døden kommer. "Hvad," siger Døden, "beklager I Jer over, at Kong Ramses og Henry Ford har været rigere end I i 50 Aar, naar leg skal gøre eders Indtægter lige store i de næste 5 Millioner Aar?" Han siger: "Taler I om Fremtidsstater, Børn? Skændes ikke, skændes ikke herom. Min Fremtidsstat er eders alles Fremtid, og jeg skal bære eder dertil." "Jeg skal lære eder Broderskab Brødre," siger Døden, "den ene skal ikke have Hovedet højere end den anden, og der skal ikke være et ondt Ord imellem jer. Saa bliver da," siger Døden, "Frihed, Lighed og Broderskab, disse tre, men størst iblandt disse er Broderskab" og endnu en Gave har Demokraternes Forbillede, Døden, det er Stilhed, Hvilken Lettelse bliver det ikke, naar vi engang alle tier stille. Vent til han sover, Mopsus, vent til han sover. Ja, bær Dig nu forstandig ad. Jeg selv har ogsas en Forretning at gøre med Meindert Hobtoma, en god Forretning. Ak, var Du kun lidt forstandigere.

Mopsus. Jeg beklager mig ikke, Herre, over min Forstand, men jeg er ked at, at jeg ikke er mere dristig, jeg er desværre saa nervøs, Herre, bare ved det, I nu har sagt, er jeg helt ude af Ligevægt. For et saadant Menneske er det i Grunden ogsaa et Feljgreb at blive Tyv og Morder, hvad der skal foregaa i Mørke,

The marionette comedy "The Revenge of Truth" was actually written during Karen Blixen's youth at Rungstedlund, where it was also performed for a narrow circle of family and friends by Karen Blixen and her siblings.



When in 1925 Karen Blixen was on one of her long visits to Denmark, her aunt Mary Bess Westenholz put her in contact with the great Danish critic, Professor Georg Brandes, on whose recommendation "The Revenge of Truth" was published in the periodical *Tilskueren* in 1926. It was the first time Karen Blixen published something under her own name. Georg Brandes (1842-1927) holding a lecture in Copenhagen. Painting by P.S. Krøyer, 1901.



Karen Blixen's brother Thomas Dinesen (1892-1979) had always been close to her. He was trained as a civil engineer and served with distinction on the Allied side as a volunteer soldier during the First World War. After his sister's separation in 1921, he lived for several years with her on the farm in Africa in order to solve the more and more pressing daily problems - particularly, financial. When he returned home to Denmark, it was to him she sent the most gripping and open letters she wrote to any other person. He believed in her abilities as a writer when she needed support the most and thereby became a decisive influence on her life. Along with other missives to close family, these letters were published by Frans Lasson in 1978 under the title Letters from Africa. Here are the two siblings in the garden at the farm, 1922.