

INTERVIEW

with Lady Albertina Karpp in the presence of Count Sinistrone

Time: 12.15 a.m.

Date: May 1st 1996

POLICE: Your Esteemed Ladyship, allow me to express my sympathy for your sudden loss. I am acting under orders from the Chief Minister of the Peace himself, and must ask you to describe the events of last night.

LADY KARPP: My late husband was very distressed. Yesterday a courier had delivered a letter from the Grand Duke, refusing to adopt his latest invention, even though it offered the perfect defense against our deadly enemy, Prince Hektor of Klixxenfeldt. We had dinner at half past eight, as always. The Professor went to his bedroom immediately afterwards, complaining of a stomachache.

POLICE: Did you and your husband dine alone?

LADY KARPP: No, we were fortunate enough to be in the company of Count Sinistrone and Rupert Tarling, the Professor's assistant.

POLICE: Is Count Sinistrone your guest here?

LADY KARPP: The ministry of Peace has sent the Count to us. He comes here frequently in order to oversee and approve the Professor's many inventions. It is a requirement of the law here in Richtenburg that a government representative must witness every stage of any potentially dangerous experiment. But it is always a pleasure to have the Count as our dinner guest. Last night, I remember we were just about to have dessert when he pointed out a passing communications satellite owned by the Grand Duke and insisted we go onto the terrace with him to view it crossing the starry sky. It was inspiring; we stared up at it all the way from east to west..

POLICE: And now I must ask for your whereabouts between 10 p.m. and midnight last night.

LADY KARPP: I was escorted by Meister Tarling to visit my confessor, Bishop Magnus, at the Lady Chapel, and thank heaven for my husband's time on earth.

POLICE: You knew already that he was dead?

LADY KARPP: Not at all, I was praying for his safety.

POLICE: Can you explain, please?

LADY KARPP: I'm not sure whether I am allowed to. Perhaps Count Sinistrone can comment as he is in charge of state security matters.