

Title: Quotes from the “March Violets” Author: Philip Kerr Date: 2017-05-11 21:23:52 Dp: 13815 Status: published Image: /img/header-15.jpg

Although it’s a work of fiction, telling a private detective during pre-war Nazi era, some of the sentences deserved attention.

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You always eliminate the obvious. That’s fundamental to detection. (p. 133)

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‘It’s just typical of the bloody Nazis,’ said Inge, ‘to build the People’s roads before the People’s car.’ (p. 160)

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Sometimes he managed to catch himself; but this time he fell into a spasm of coughing that sounded hardly human at all, more like someone trying to start a car with an almost flat battery, and as usual it seemed to afford him no relief whatsoever. (p. 40)

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In my experience you can never flatter any woman too much, just as you can never give a dog too many biscuits. (p. 49)

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I’m not much interested in The Past and, if you ask me, it is this country’s obsession with its history that has partly put us where we are now: in the shit. (p. 56)

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the Social Democrats had their clenched fist raised high above the head; the Bolshies in the KPD had their clenched fist raised at shoulder level; the Centrists had their two-fingered, pistol-shaped hand signal, with the thumb cocked; and the Nazis had fingernail inspection. (p. 62)