

THE NORTHERN DARK #1



THE ANGEL OF FEAR

The Northern Dark

Part 1



The Angel of Fear / Dennis Gustafsson
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It's the 1920's.

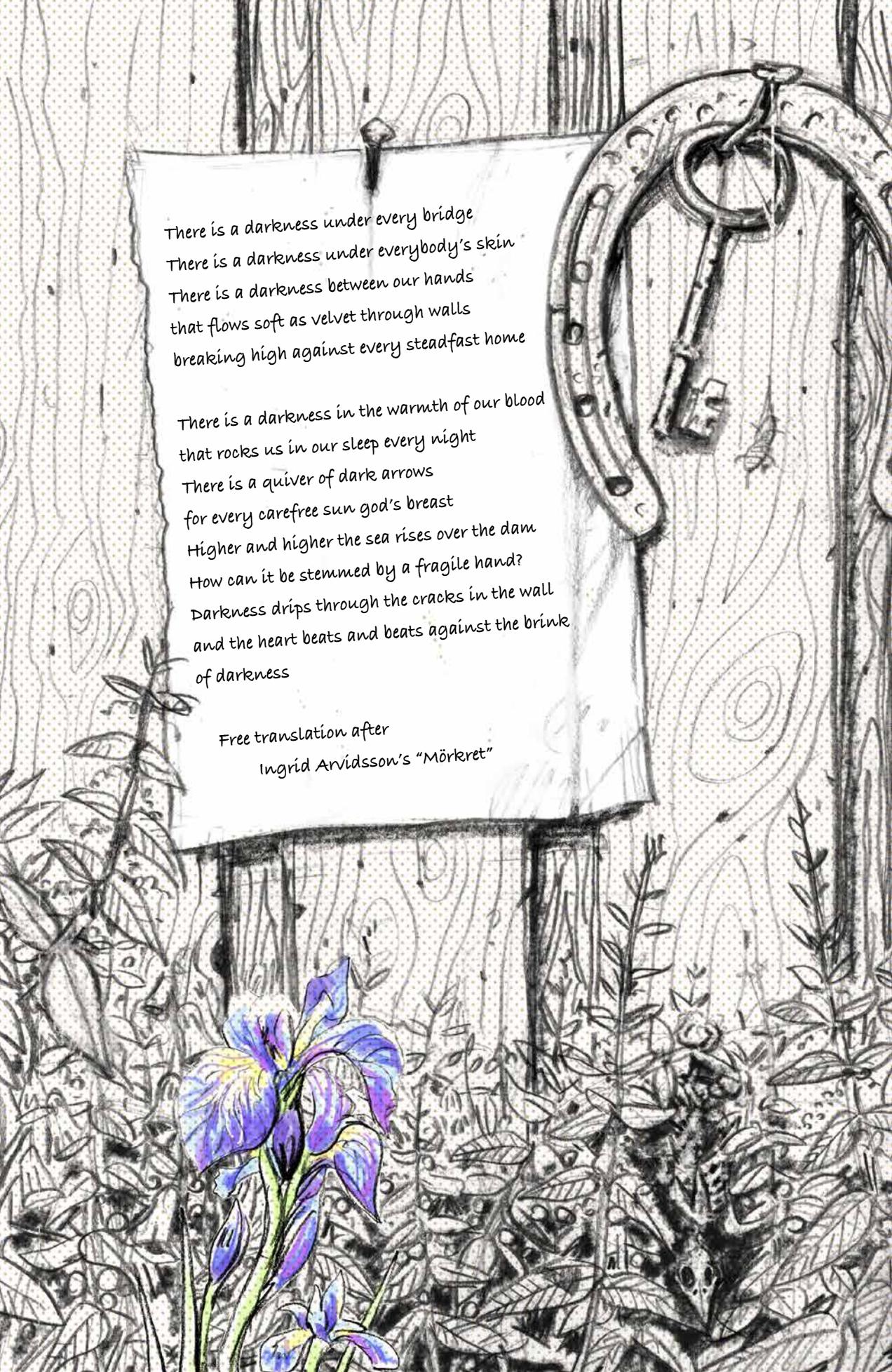
The western world is ripping
through "The Roaring Twenties"
in wild abandon.

Unnoticed by the blight of
"The Great War" the black forested
backwaters of Sweden must soon
face up to it's own terrors.

The pacts of it's pagan past
is about to give birth
to dark horrors.







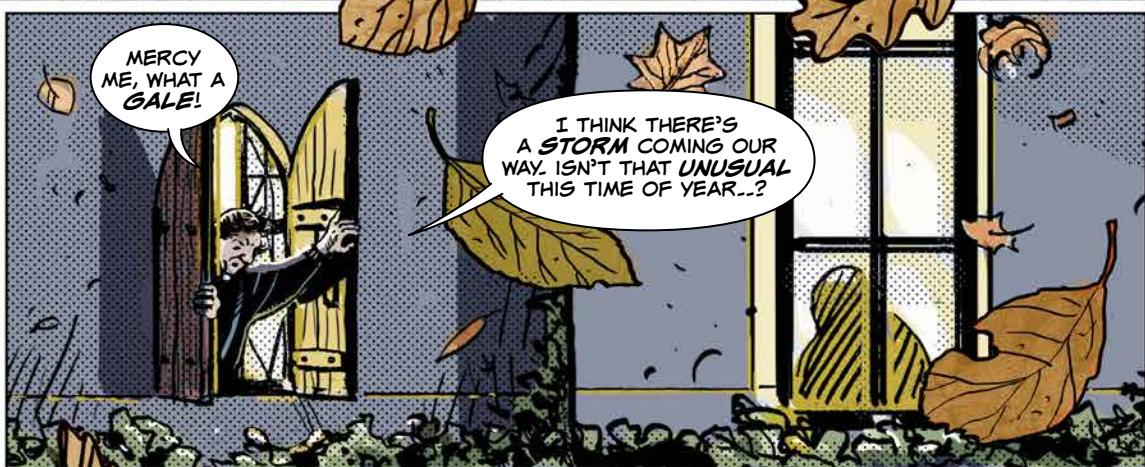
There is a darkness under every bridge
There is a darkness under everybody's skin
There is a darkness between our hands
that flows soft as velvet through walls
breaking high against every steadfast home

There is a darkness in the warmth of our blood
that rocks us in our sleep every night
There is a quiver of dark arrows
for every carefree sun god's breast
Higher and higher the sea rises over the dam
How can it be stemmed by a fragile hand?
Darkness drips through the cracks in the wall
and the heart beats and beats against the brink
of darkness

Free translation after
Ingrid Arvidsson's "Mörkeret"



SVARTMÅLA, AUTUMN 1924

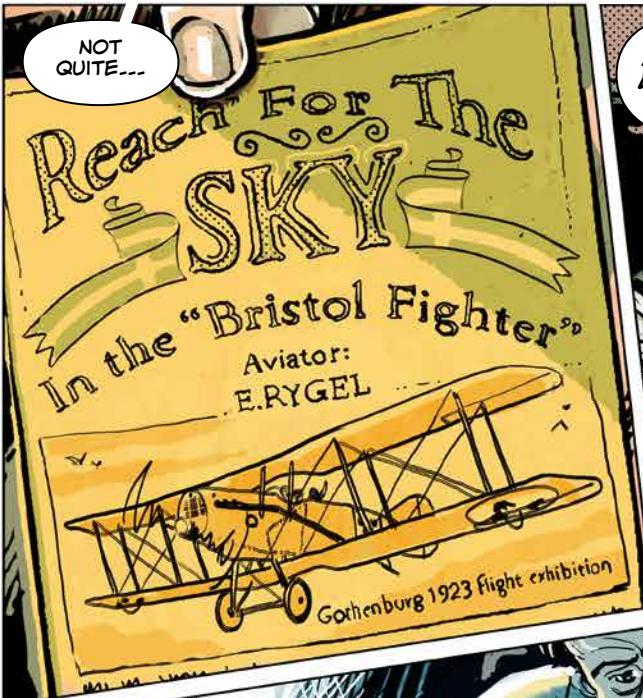


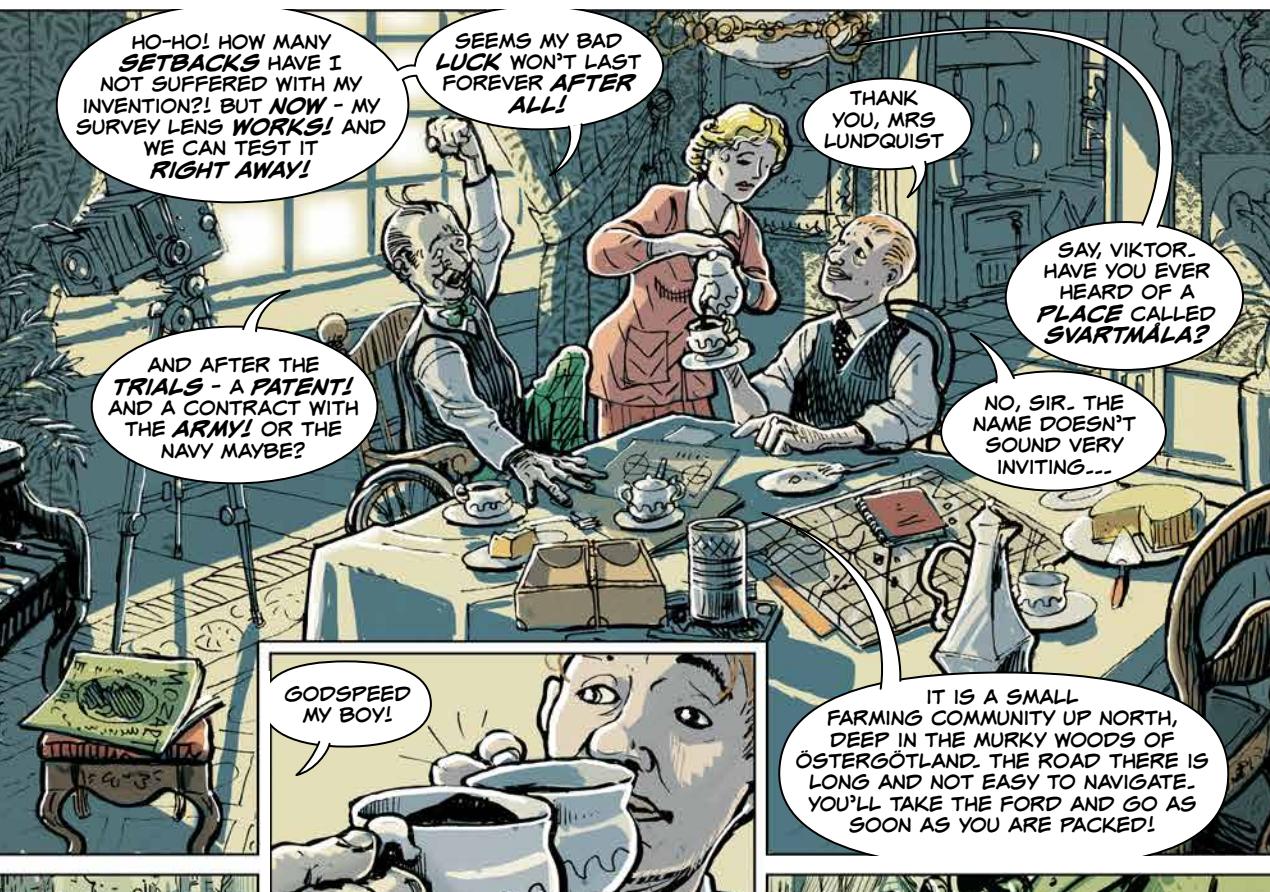


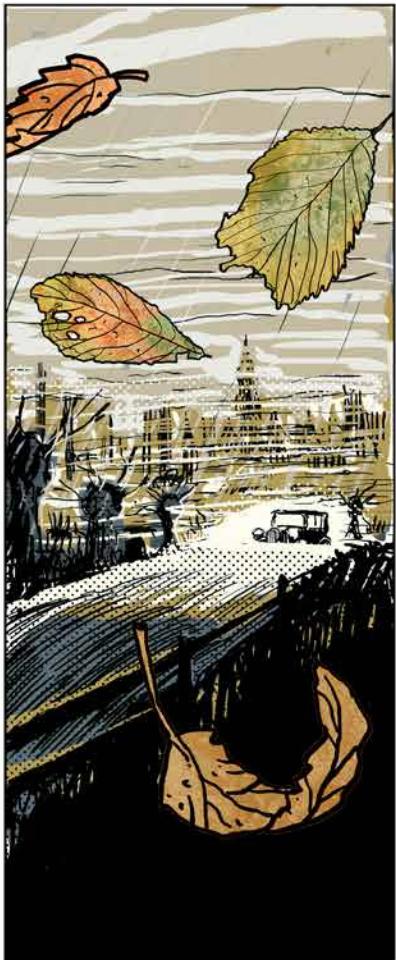
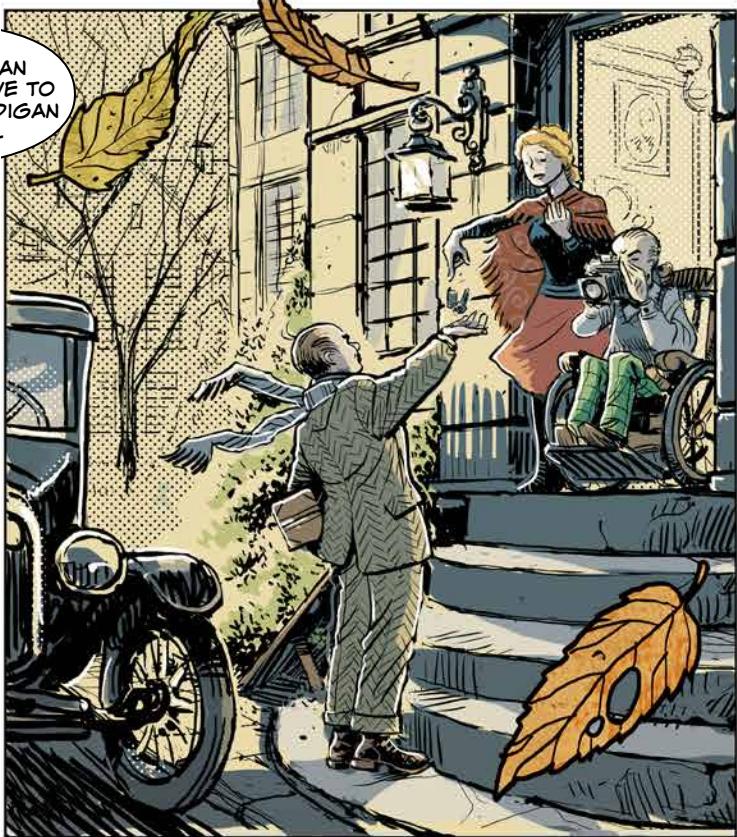
HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN'S
GATEWAY TO THE CONTINENT













YES SIR! JUST
LET ME GET THIS
LAST STORM
BOARD UP...

A FULL
TANK, PLEASE.
I'M NOT EXACTLY
SURE HOW FAR I
HAVE TO GO...

GRRRRR...

NICE DOG!
STAAY...

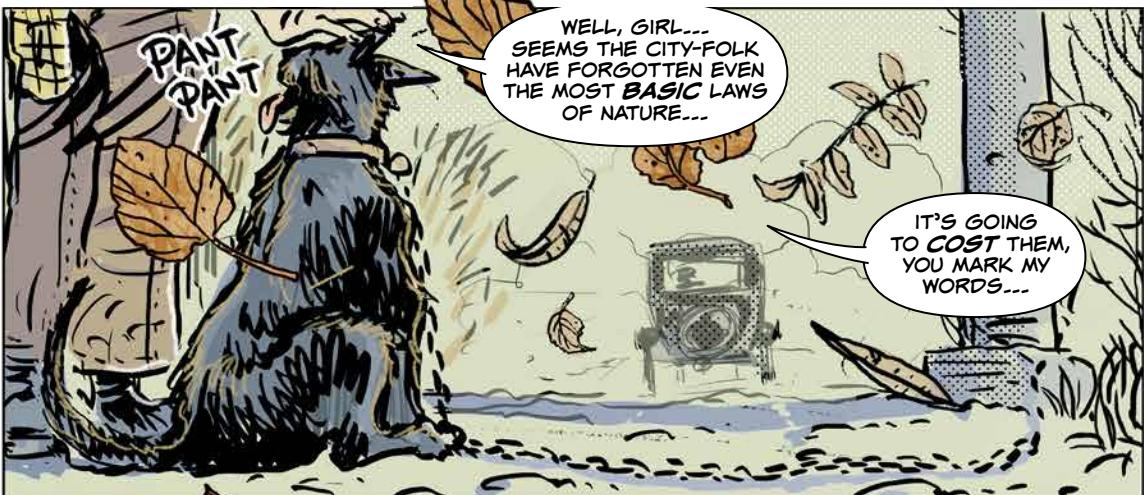
NO, NO.
SIT, BOY!
PLEASE...

UH,
SORRY,
BUT YOUR
DOG...

GOOD
GRIEF!

ROAR











HERE SHE IS!

--BUILT IN BRISTOL,
ENGLAND IN 1917. SHE SERVED
IN THE GREAT WAR. TIN, LEATHER
AND CANVAS, WITH A 12 CYLINDER,
220 HORSEPOWER ROLLS-ROYCE
ENGINE. RELIABLE AS A MORA
CLOCK!

I JUST
REFITTED THE
SCARFF RING OVER THE
OBSERVER'S PIT. I FIGURE
WE CAN MOUNT YOUR
CAMERA THERE.

VERY KIND, MISS RYGEL.
UMM... ISN'T IT MIGHTY
COLD IN THE SKY THIS
TIME OF YEAR?

NO WORRIES.
A SNUG LEATHER
VEST AND GOGGLES
ARE INCLUDED IN THE
SERVICE!

A LEATHER
VEST?

PERHAPS NOT
TOP FASHION, BUT
THE ALTERNATIVE
IS DOUBLE PNEUMONIA!

NOT AN
OBVIOUS
CHOICE...

HA-HA!
NOW COME
SAY HELLO TO
SVEA!

YOU SEEM
TO HAVE DONE
THIS SORT OF THING
QUITE A LOT, MISS
RYGEL?

NO... I MOSTLY
DO FLIGHT EXHIBITIONS,
AND SKY-TOURS AT FAIRS.
NOT EXACTLY A DREAM
JOB... BUT IT PAYS
MY BILLS.

WHAT ABOUT
YOU? SOME KIND OF
INVENTOR DREAMING
UP NEW MODERNITIES
DAYS ON END?

NO, THAT'S
MY BOSS. I'M JUST
AN ASSISTANT IN
HIS PHOTO LAB...

WELL, IF
THIS THING
WORKS, MAYBE YOU
CAN JOIN THE BOOZE
POLICE AND CHASE
SMUGGLERS DOWN
THE COAST.
JUST LET ME KNOW
IF YOU NEED
A PLANE!

THE GUN MOUNT
APPEARS TO WORK
GREAT! BOTH STABLE AND
MANOEUVRABLE!

HE-HE,
I WILL...

I NEED TO
TAKE A TEST
PLATE. DO YOU
MIND?

NO... I
SUPPOSE

CLICK!

ENOUGH OF
FREEZING OUR BUTTS
OFF OUT HERE. I NEED
A HOT BATH, AND
SOME FOOD.





I HAVE PREPARED
THE WARDROBE OVER
THERE FOR YOU TO USE
AS A DARKROOM.

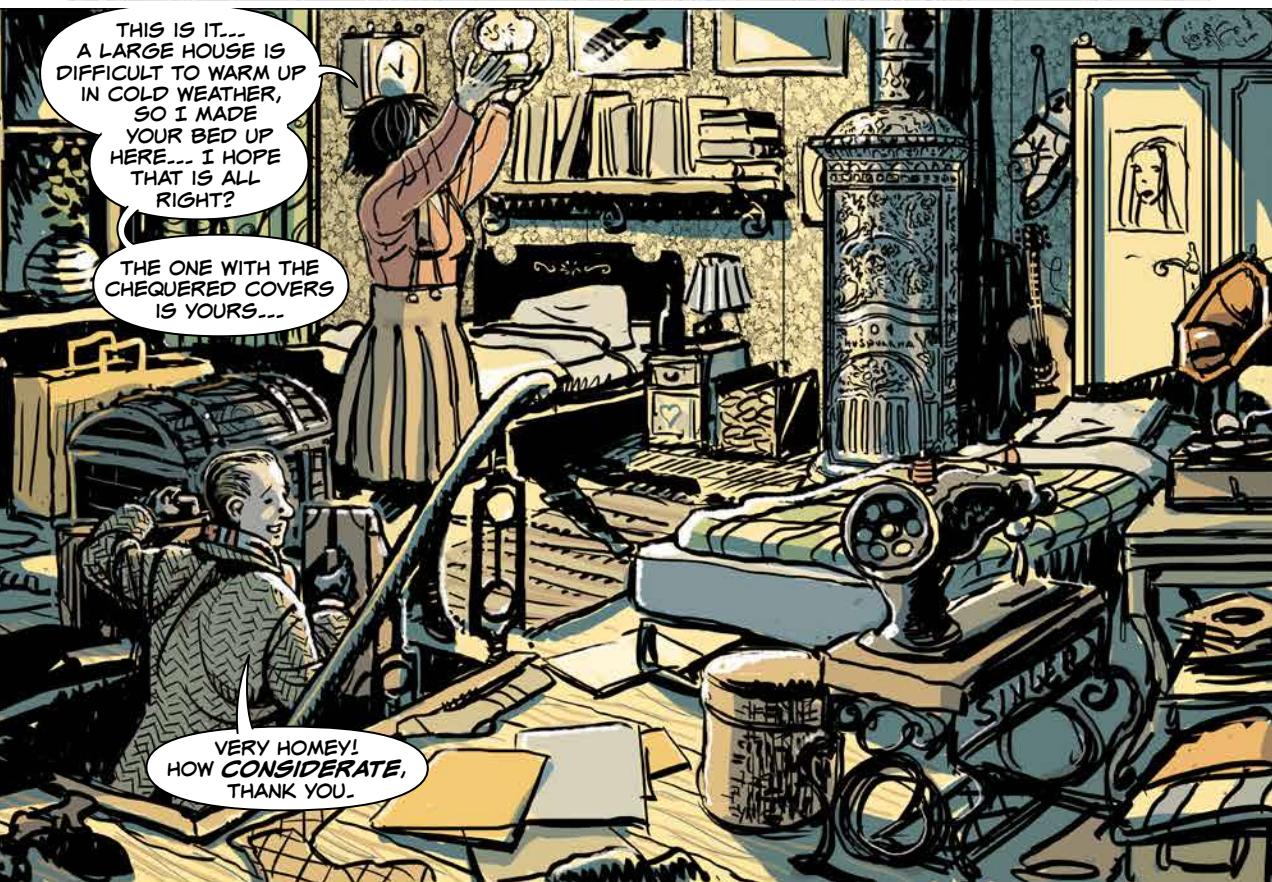
MUCH
OBLIGED...
AND THIS IS THE
FRONT ROOM?

GOOD EVENING,
MR RYGEL! LET ME
PLEASE INTRODUCE
MYSELF...

NO,
KASPARSON.
LEAVE BE...

COME...











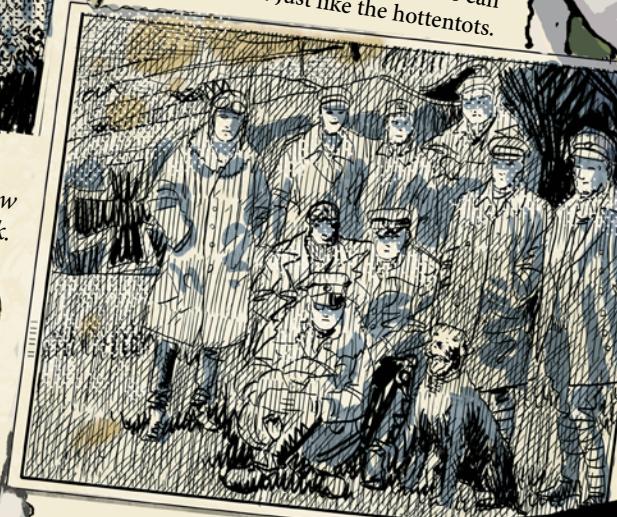
The British field hospital, just after Captain Rygel's operation - 1917.
I'm wearing my brand new uniform.

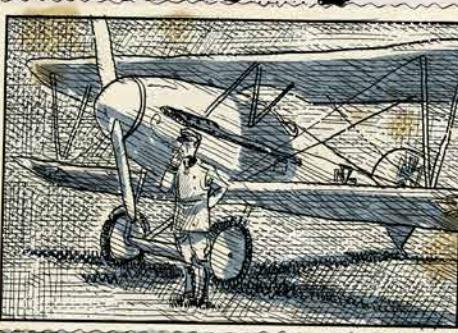


Heinrich Rygel and the one who shot him down, the French ace; Charles Nungesser. Below, a rare interview with captain Rygel by our foreign correspondent C.C. Fisk.

CF: - You have been called "the knights of the sky". In your opinion, how well does that epithet fit you fighter pilots?

HR: - I rather see us as the greatest WARRIORs of our time. We have more in common with blackest Africa's native warriors than with the fairytale knights of the romances. Their spears are our machine guns, the skies our savannah. We wage war for the survival of our tribes, with our courage and the best weapons our societies can supply us with. Just like the hottentots.



CF: - What are your thoughts on death, captain Rygel?

HR: - Nothing lasts forever, not even a star that shines as brightly as mine. The main thing is to set heaven ablaze the short time we have on this earth.

CF: - What is, in your opinion the one thing that decides who is victorious in an aerial contest?

{Here Captain Rygel's face takes on a sombre air behind his bandages as he seems to consider his answer at length.}

HR: - ...The greatest cause is undoubtedly... Fear. The warrior that can keep his fear in check will triumph. The one who succumbs to fear makes himself automatically a victim - No matter what machine he pilots, his experience or his previous victories. The one that fear first takes hold of, death will surely claim.

CF: - A very interesting theory. It is said, amongst other things, about Charles Nungesser, the pilot who finally shot you down, that he was unable to know fear. Could that be why he became victorious in your air duel?

HR: - No further comments.

CF: - Here I get somewhat forcibly removed from the German air captain's sick bed by his stern nurse, Swedish volunteer, Elisabeth Malm, who chastises me for having tired out Herr Rygel. I can't help wondering what she would say if she came face to face with Monsieur Nungesser.

- Charles. C. Fisk

SWEDISH NURSE KIDNAPPED - FEARED DEAD

In a dramatic escape from a British field hospital, a German flight officer by the name of Heinrich Rygel used a stolen reconnaissance aircraft in a daring bid for freedom. With him he took Swedish volunteer nurse, Elisabeth Malm from Svartmåla.

The aircraft, last spotted travelling northeast has not been seen again, nor has it been reported having arrived in Germany.

It is believed that both the pilot and his hostage, Ms (divorced) Malm lost their lives during the flight attempt. Ms Malm is survived by a daughter, Emma Malm (14).





who is he, truly?

Standing over me in
such an awful rage, his
hands clenched into
fists

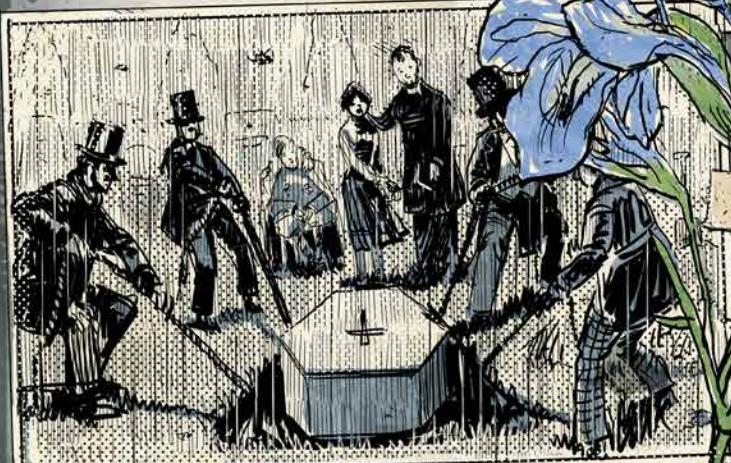
Where is the mild
mannered man with the
sincere blue eyes?

The one I cared for such a long
time - That I got so close to

I pray my strength won't fail, that he
does not pass me by and lets his
temper fall on Emma

May I find the strength to tell her
before it is too late for her
to escape

If not - may god forgive
us both



KASPARSON!

VIKTOR...?







CONTINUED IN PART 2

Next issue available soon:

THE NORTHERN DARK #2



BETWEEN HEAVEN & HELL

Very special thanks to:
Heather McGrath, Grant LaFarge, My Eklund
& Tobias Green

