

Cliff, Ernst, German Customs Officer

CLIFF

Not exactly. I'm a writer ... and I give English lessons.
(ERNST looks out of the window)
Care for a cigarette? Herr Ludwig?

ERNST

Ja?

CLIFF

A cigarette?

ERNST

No, thank you.

(A GERMAN CUSTOMS OFFICER enters and turns to CLIFF)

Begin
└

OFFICER

Deutsche Grenzkontrolle. Ihre passe bitte.
(CLIFF passes him his passport)

Welcome to Germany, Mr Bradshaw.
(He indicates CLIFF's bags)

Yours?

CLIFF

Yup.

(The OFFICER puts a Customs mark on CLIFF's bag and typewriter without even looking in them. Then he turns to ERNST, who is deep in his newspaper)

OFFICER

Ihren passe bitte.
(ERNST hands over his passport)
Sie waren geschäftlich in Paris?

ERNST

Nein. Auf einer urlaubsreise.

OFFICER

Bitte öffnen sie ihren koffer.
(ERNST takes his suitcase from the floor, places it on a seat and opens it. The OFFICER goes through it. While the OFFICER's back is turned, ERNST takes his briefcase from under the seat and puts it on the floor in front of CLIFF's bags. CLIFF is surprised but says nothing. The OFFICER marks ERNST's case.)
Haben sie nur diesen koffer?

ERNST

Ja. Das ist alles.

OFFICER

(To CLIFF)

I wish you will enjoy your stay in Germany. And a most Happy New Year.

(The OFFICER exits. As he exits, we hear him ...)

Deutsche Grenzkontrolle

(ERNST, very relieved, retrieves his briefcase)

CLIFF

What's in the bag?

ERNST

Baubles from Paris: perfume ... silk-stockings ... But more than it is permitted.

You understand?

CLIFF

I guess I've done a little smuggling myself.

ERNST

(relaxing)

You are most understanding. I will thank you very much. You have been before to Berlin?

CLIFF

This is my first time

ERNST

Then I will see to it that it will open its arms to you! We begin tonight -- New Year's Eve -- the Kit Kat Klub! This is hottest spot in the city. Telephones on every table. Girls call you - boys call you - you call them - instant connections.

CLIFF

Thanks -- but I've still got to find a room

ERNST

You have no room! But this is no problem!

(HE takes out a card and writes on it)

I know the finest residence in all Berlin. Just tell Fraulein Schneider that Ernst Ludwig has spoken for you.

CLIFF

I can't afford the finest residence in all Berlin. I need something inexpensive.

ERNST

But this is inexpensive! Very inexpensive!

CLIFF

I don't care if it's awful -- as long as it's cheap.

ERNST

But this is awful. You will love it!
(ERNST hands CLIFF the card.)

CLIFF

(reading card)
Fraulein Schneider.

ERNST

You see! You see! You have a new friend -- Ernst Ludwig! You have
a fine place to stay! And you are having perhaps even your first English pupil!
So welcome to Berlin, my friend. Welcome to Berlin!

EMCEE

—end

(Spoken)

Welcome to Berlin!

(Sings)

WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME.
FREMDE, ETRANGER, STRANGER.
GLUEKLICH ZU SEHEN, JE SUIS ENCHANTE
HAPPY TO SEE YOU,
BLEIBE, RESTE, STAY!

ACT ONE

Scene Three

A Room in FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER's Apartment

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

So you see, Herr Bradshaw: all comforts! And with breakfast only one hundred marks.

CLIFF

It's very nice, Fraulein Schneider. But you don't have anything cheaper?

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

... but for a friend of Herr Ludwig ...

CLIFF

I've very little money.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

But you will give English lessons. And you will have many pupils. And they will pay you ... and then you will pay me. Ja?

CLIFF

Fifty marks. That's my absolute limit. If you've anything else ... I don't care how small -- how far from the bathroom ...

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

But for a Professor -- this is more suitable.

CLIFF

I'm not a Professor. Think of me as a starving author. What do you have for a starving author.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

An author! A poet! You have the look!

CLIFF

A novelist.

FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER

A novelist! And you will be most famous. It will be like years ago -- when in all my rooms -- persons of real quality ... this is your room! Here is for you to write. And look -- your window! You can see the whole of the Nollendorplatz! And there -- that little