

LOVE IN A FISH BOWL

KLEANERS CORNER

by Ed Orlowski

What we read into a story is perhaps the extent of our own particular thought through experience. I was recently mumbling away to myself, and happened to grate the wheels of my new 1979 arrival of a 1929 Hoover Vacuum cleaner, whom I just call "J. Edgar." He seemed to say, as he grated, "We'll have no mumbling here please," and so I said to J. Edgar, "Well, it happened in a room that you never get to clean. It's called the Marine Lab. 1-428."

I had just brought up a brand new playmate whose name was "Betsy Brush", and now she is in charge of cleaning the large windows on the huge circular circus maximus acquarius tank. Betsy is the best fitted for

the job because of her extra long handle, and long, soft, soft hair. This enables her to reach deeply into the "Duffy circus maximus acquarius", and her hair is soft enough that she will not scratch the glass. She glides through the water, like an enchanting mermaid, and sings her merry notes on the glass surface.

In the Duffy circus maximus acquarius there are two, or four, or five, or..? hey! the fish are almost the shape of the seaweed around them. Yes, they are fish. They are very, very spiny looking, and mottled. Yes, there are only two of them, probably a pappa one, and a mamma one. Now, as Betsy does her dance in the circus, the bigger of the fish, which is about a foot long and about eight inches in circumference, has his eye on Betsy Brush. He slowly

and cautiously follows her, hiding, yet out in the circus performing. Oh, his name is Lemon. Why Lemon? Well, people who cast their eyes on him for the first time screw up their faces like one would on sucking half a lemon. Lemon has large eyes shaped like door-knobs at the top of his head and a large half moon crest mouth.

By the time Betsy had started the fourth and final window Lemon seemed to want to talk to her, so Betsy stopped her task for a minute and was still. By this time Lemon was directly beneath her, so in friendship, she extended her long, soft, soft hair and gently, ever so gently, stroked his sleek body. He responded like a lovely, lovely kitten to her overtures of friendship. The spines on his back motioned like someone's fingers playing soft gentle music on a flute, and I said to

Betsy Brush, "Aw! It's almost like a little love story, such a simple little thing can trigger a friendship." J. Edgar interjected, "Well, no one, that is no one, ever "Betsies" my back for beating clean all the carpets around this establishment." I was quick to come back, by saying "And you never tell anyone about the little spurts of oil I give you in the back room, when no one is around. Just be thankful that your wheels are rolling smoothly, J. Edgar."

A mop-like silence dusted the "Kloset", and I thought of the fish and brush again, and of a little story told by Rebazar Tarzs, that the physical clothing of looks should not stave off the need to give of ourselves, our time, and our kindnesses because when all the bonds that bind us to this earth are dissolved, we are all equal = EQUAL.

A TALE OF THREE TYRANTS

By Toks Akpata

A year ago, the racist governments in South Africa and Zimbabwe, Rhodesia could raise three arguments against majority rule in their countries. These were embarrassing to black Africans as well as to those who were in support of democratic majority rule in Southern Africa. The arguments concerned people. Three men, all Africans, who in the guise of ruling their countries had raped them and murdered their citizens.

Francisco Macias Nguema was one of these men. He led the Equatorial Guinea from independence in 1968 until he was deposed by his nephew two months ago. He¹ deported citizens of Iboh origin before confiscating

their property. He enjoyed burying opponents alive.

Jean-Bedel Bokassa overthrew David Dacko in 1966 to become the ruler of the Central African Republic. The former French army Sergeant changed the name of the country to the Central African Empire and proclaimed himself Emperor Bokassa I. His 20 million dollar Napoleon style coronation drove his impoverished country to bankruptcy. In April Bokassa murdered 100 children who had refused to wear uniforms with his picture on them. These uniforms had been made in Bokassa's wife's factory. Last month Bokassa was overthrown by the French backed troops of David Dacko.

Idi Amin deposed Milton Obote in 1971 to become the President-for -Life of Uganda. He eliminated thousands of people because they were members of Obote's tribe. He also murdered thousands of other citizens including a Chief Justice and an Archbishop. In 1972, Amin ejected Ugandan citizens of Asian descent and nationalized their property. His personal correspondence with other world leaders (notably Her Majesty the Queen) made him a subject of ridicule. Last April Amin was ousted by Tanzanian backed Ugandans in exile.

Not only did these men cause terror and destruction in their own countries, they also subjected the concept of legitimate African rule

to ridicule. At a time when other Africans were bravely fighting and dying for their freedom, they gave racists the opportunity to dismiss the freedom fighters as bandits who would only succeed in imposing regimes such as theirs.

Although these men are still alive, their whereabouts are unknown. Hopefully they will never return to power and their departure will bring about a new sense of respect in and for black Africa.

¹The Iboh's are a tribe located in the crook of the African continent. They can be found in Nigeria, the Camerouns and in Equatorial Guinea.

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