

## Out of Africa

*It's not the other women. It's the freedom?*

*Is Ardash like Denys?*

*Karen...after Syphilis treatment, etc., is back in Africa...encounters Denys...*

"Your man ..."

"Kanuthia."

"He's not Kikuyu."

"No."

"Shall I see that he's given supper?"

"Don't do anything for him, thank you, Baroness."

...

*... encounters Denys, in town, after war...*

"Where is Kanuthia?"

"He's dead."

...

*New Year's Eve party at the club. Bror slips off with a woman, so Karen and Denys kiss happy new year ... and she walks away ... asks Bror to take a place in town.*

...

*Denys visits, with gramophone ...*

Karen: "Did you think you would spend the night."

"Can't, thanks. I have to go to the Mara."

*Karen initially declines to join him on Safari:*

"I would be wasting your time."

“Why don’t you get your things.”

“If you like me at all, don’t ask me to do this.”

*But she joins him – it is wonderful...*

“When I’m out with Kanuthia ... used to be, we didn’t use them [tents].”

“I remember him ...there was something...”

“Masai. He was half Masai, that’s what you remember about him. They’re like nobody else. We think we’ll tame them, but we won’t. If you put them in prison, they die.”

“Why?”

“Because they live now. They don’t think about the future. They can’t grasp the idea that they’ll be let out one day. They think it’s permanent, so they die. They’re the only ones out here that don’t care about us, and that is what will finish them.”

“What did the two of you ever find to talk about?”

“Nothing.”

...

“So, you knew I would come.”

“It’s an early day tomorrow. Why don’t you get some sleep.”

“What happens tomorrow?”

“I have no idea ... good night.”

*Safari dinner next night. Wine, Mozart on gramophone, they dance. Denys toasts:*

“To rose-lipt maidens.” *Later, he enters her tent. They kiss.*

Karen: “If you say anything now, I will believe it.” *(Assume they made love.)*

*Driving later, Karen:* “I need to know how to think about this.”

“Why?”

...

*Dennis visits her house. Hug, kiss, loving tryst, evening together.*

Karen: "Can you stay?"

"For a day or so, is that all right?"

"No." (*but it is*)

...

Karen: "Are you packed?" ...

"I have been thinking. With all of the safari work I have little use for the room at the club ... I don't know if I would be any good at this, but how would it be if I kept a few things with you?"

"You would come and go from my house?"

"If that's all right."

"When the gods want to punish you they answer your prayers." *They Hug*

*Karen: In the days and hours that Denys was at home, we spoke of nothing ordinary. Not of my troubles with the farm, my notes due and my failing crop, or of his with his work, what he knew was happening to Africa. Or of anything at all that was small and real. We lived disconnected and apart from things. I had been making up stories while he was away. In the evenings, he made himself comfortable, spreading cushions like a couch in front of the fire, and with me sitting cross-legged like Scheherazade herself, he would listen clear-eyed to a long tale, from when it began until it ended.*

...

*Denys takes her for biplane ride ... then in bed:*

Denys: "Don't move."

"I want to move."

"Don't move."

...

*Bror stops by ... for money ... wishes her luck*

Bror to Denys: "You might have asked first."

"I did. She said yes."

...

Karen: "When are you leaving."

"Tomorrow."

"Doesn't it matter to you that I am another man's wife?"

"No. What matters to me is that you tried so hard."

...

Karen: "When you go away on safari, are you ever with someone else?"

"I'd be with you if I wanted to be with anyone."

"Do you ever get lonely?"

"Sometimes."

"Do you ever wonder if I am lonely?"

"No, I don't."

"Do you think about me at all?"

"Often."

"But not enough to come back."

"I do come back, all the time. What is it?"

"Nothing. Bror has asked me for a divorce. He has found someone he wants to marry. I just thought we might do that someday."

"Divorce? ... (chuckles) How would a wedding change things?"

"I would have someone of my own."

"No. You wouldn't."

"What's wrong with marriage anyway?"

*[discussion about marriage and animal mating ... Denys: "I'd mate for life."*

Karen: "I'd just like someone to ask me once, that's all. Promise me you'll do that if I promise to say no?"

“Just trust you?”

...

“When you go away, you don’t always go on safari, do you?”

“No.”

“Just want to be away.”

“It’s not meant to hurt you.”

“It does.”

“Karen, I’m with you because I choose to be with you. I don’t want to live someone else’s idea of how to live. Don’t ask me to do that. I don’t want to find out one day that I’m at the end of someone else’s life. I’m willing to pay for mine. To be lonely sometimes, to die alone if I have to. I think that’s fair.”

“Not quite. You want me to pay for it as well.”

“No, you have a choice, and you’re not willing to do the same for me. I won’t be closer to you, and I won’t love you more because of a piece of paper.”

...

*[don’t mend my shirt]*

“Maybe I’ll try Samburu day after tomorrow.”

“You just got back.”

“Felicity asked to come along, and I almost said no because I thought you wouldn’t like it. There’s no reason for her not to come.”

“Yes there is. I wouldn’t like it. You want her along?”

“I want things that don’t matter not to matter.”

“Tell her no, do it for me.”

“Then what else would it be?”

“Why is your freedom more important than mine?”

“It isn’t. And I’ve never interfered with your freedom.”

“I’m not allowed to need you or rely on you or expect anything from you! I’m free to leave? But I do need you.”

“You don’t need me. If I die will you die? You don’t need me. You confuse, you mix up, you confuse need with want. You always have.”

“My god. In your world, there would be no love at all.”

“Or the best kind. The one we wouldn’t have to prove!”

“You’d be living on the moon then.”

“Because I won’t do it your way? Are we assuming there is one proper way to do this? Do you think I care about Felicity? Do you think I’ll be involved with her?”

“No.”

“Then there’s no reason for this, is there?”

“If she’s not important, why won’t you give it up? ... I have learned a thing that you haven’t. There are some things worth having, but they come at a price, and I want to be one of them. ... I won’t allow it.”

“You have no idea the effect that language has on me.”

“I used to think there was nothing you really wanted, but that’s not it, is it? You want to have it all.”

“I’m going to Samburu and she can come or not.”

“Then you’ll be living elsewhere.”

“All right.”