



Men – Mischief – Murder

Satiric Short Stories from Woman to Woman

Queen of Heart Trumps Jack of Spade

The Ground Meat Dog

The Seduced Seducer

Bye-Bye Boss!

The Wine Red Death

The Black Hole

Divorced – Deceased

False Delight Leads to Fright

"Männer – Mobben – Morden"

Bitterböse Kurzgeschichten von Frau zu Frau

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Caustic humour coupled with tricks: smart women defend themselves and manipulate, slander, and murder their own or somebody else's husband. But women are not safe from women, either!

In Elsegret Ruge's *Short Stories from Woman to Woman* men are hauled over the coals: Woe betide those who go too far with women, down with those nasty, misogynistic characters! The degraded women aim their malicious craving for vengeance at them without mercy and finally do them in. A feeling of satisfaction grows in the mind of the female reader, for undoubtedly these men have not deserved anything else

...

Hide this book from your partner - as a woman to protect secrets - as a man in order to avoid dangerous moods. But definitely, read it!

***"Imaginativeness with surprising turns in an expressive, vivid language!
A carefully developed plot captivates the reader until the end - and beyond."***

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Elsegret Ruge, German champion of powered aircrafts in 1974 and PADI Master Scuba Diver, writes realistic novels and crafty short stories in order to balance her job in Quality Management for a big North German shipyard.

Exposé: Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Four young women are playing bridge, and they enjoy chatting about their actual lovers. Claudia, the pharmacist, Amelie, the doctor, and Madeleine, the lawyer are single, Rachel is married. Her friends have fun, she has Max. Claudia decides: "Max is in your way, Max has to go!" His death sentence! They begin their game "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade".
- With sex appeal and cleverness, Claudia entices Max into a hotel and pours knockout drops into his champagne. Max is in the middle of his wildest fantasy, and she reports to Rachel: "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade, part 1!" When Max awakes, he does not remember anything, but given the chaos in the hotel room, he thinks it must have been an orgy. In the bathroom he finds some dried blood and a note from Claudia confessing that she has been infected with SARS. Panicking, he runs home to Rachel and wails for a doctor. Now it is Amelie's turn. She examines him thoroughly, takes a lot of his blood, and tells him bluntly that in case of an infect, his situation would be hopeless. Max is scared to death! Rachel wears protective clothes when nursing him: "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade, part 2!"
- On Wednesday, they play bridge as usual, and Amelie tells her friends how she had lied to Max the day before: that he suffers from an extremely dangerous pneumonia, from which he would die within one week. In his medical records she entered correctly that Max is healthy and a hypochondriac. "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade, part 3!" The girls supply Rachel with artificial theater blood, a strong purgative, a fluid which causes lung irritation, and good advice: butter his glasses, so he believes he is growing blind! Through her protection mask, Rachel hums a little song, while Max in the face of death suffers from diarrhea, fever, debilitation, and visual disorder. Everywhere he finds his blood - in his bed, in the lavatory, in his clothing. An unknown smell seems to burn his lungs and makes him cough in growing pain.
- On the following Wednesday, Max cannot walk without help to his doctor. In weeping with sympathy for her dying patient, Amelie increases his fear and promises to organize immediately a bed in a hospital, where he can die in peace. Max comes to his end. Just as he leaves the doctor's, his lover Claudia staggers into his arms, hollow-cheeked, madness in her eyes, bloody foam at her lips. She clings to Max and spills a lot of blood over him, faking that she dies in his arms. Madeleine, who accompanies her, flees in panic and cries: "I touched her blood, now I must die in awful pain like her!" Max is mad with fear. Rachel drives him home, whistling a cheerful song. "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade, part 4" has been a great success!
- In the evening, Rachel makes his bed near the open door of the roof garden of their penthouse, pins the cordless phone to his pyjamas, looks down to the far distant street below and says: "If you jumped down from here, you would not feel any pain. It would be a quick and merciful end." She leaves for her bridge party and dumps all the bloody evidence on her way. After an hour, Amelie calls Max and announces that the ambulance will arrive shortly to take him to hospital. This carries his fear to extremes. Finally, Max jumps from the roof garden, the women listen at the cell phone. They have won their game "Queen of Hearts Trumps Jack of Spade" - Rachel is free! They touch their glasses with champagne and begin their game of bridge.

Exposé: The Ground Meat Dog

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- The malicious, imperious Uncle Arthur treats his elderly niece and heir, Elsie, like a slave, though she maintains his house perfectly. She is forced to keep company with him, while he insults her as usual. Elsie hates his pug dog Aldo, who looks exactly like Uncle Arthur.
- The pug bites Elsie in her leg. Sobbing with pain she flees downstairs, into the arms of the family doctor, Dr. Willis, who comes to care for Uncle Arthur. He attends to the wound and encourages Elsie to talk seriously to her uncle about her rights and her position in the house. Uncle Arthur threatens to throw her out and rages: "Even in his little curly tail, my pug Aldo possesses a longer pedigree and much more education and elegance than you will ever have, you grey and ugly hippopotamus!"
- Dr. Willis leaves in a hurry for an arriving baby and runs over the pug with his car. Elsie stays alone in the laundry with the deceased dog. Uncle Arthur's terrible words still sting her like a knife in her heart. In a sudden attack of hate she cuts off the curly tail, throws it violently into a corner, and weeps in despair. She comes back to her senses as the woman she has been, before she became dependant on Uncle Arthur. She acts as if she were under hypnosis. To revenge all the humiliations she has suffered, she converts the pug into her uncle's favorite dish, spicy meat balls. She feels really bad, but she must do this to regain her self-respect. After serving this "special" meal, she intends to leave the house for good.
- She ignores the growling of her uncle and serves him his ground pug, but this time he is delighted at the especially tasteful meal. Elsie is on her way to fetch the dessert, when she remembers the pug tail lying in the laundry. A disgusting idea comes to her mind: she garnishes the chocolate pudding with the cut off curly tail.
- As Elsie enters the dining room, Uncle Arthur takes a mouthful of meat and smacks his lips like the pug did. She asks maliciously with exaggerated emphasis: "Well, Uncle Arthur, I guess you like your ground pug?" The uncle takes it for a bad taste joke, but Elsie presents him the chocolate pudding. "Joking apart, dearest uncle: Only long pedigree brings taste to a sauce!"
- Totally upset, Uncle Arthur stares at Aldo's curly tail in the chocolate pudding. Suddenly he understands this monstrosity, his mouth opens, he wants to cry, the air flows deeply into his lungs, together with the voluminous mouthful of pug. With a sound of suffocation he falls forward, his face in the middle of the mashed potatoes and the pug meat. Finally, Aldo and his master are reunited in death.
- Elsie informs Dr. Willis that Uncle Arthur has not survived the bad news about the death of his adored pug, and the doctor signs the death certificate with the diagnosis of cardiac arrest and a touch of remorse. Now, Elsie is rich and free. She does not know yet what to do and where to go, but one fact she definitely knows: Never again will she eat ground meat.

Exposé: The Seduced Seducer

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Olaf Melzer is a womanizer. He chases every skirt, enchants the women, infatuates, and seduces them, afterwards he discards them. This happened to Doris, Rita and Marlene, his colleagues at the car dealership, where he sells expensive cars preferably to women. His three victims crave for revenge. They spread the rumor that Olaf is bisexual and that he belongs to the sadomasochistic scene. They put obscene advertisements in special magazines to find thrilling partners for him.
- Olaf flirts with a homely, middle-aged woman, when his first contact from the magazine appears: Detlef is a true bird of paradise! In a deep, seducing voice Detlef whispers: "Hi Olaf, my sweetheart, why are you messing around with a woman? Did I catch you betraying me?" Olaf is upset! Like a madman, he hits poor Detlef, who tumbles backward into a huge flower pot. Like a plucked rooster, Detlef lies in the destroyed plant. Onlookers flee in panic.
- The manager threatens to fire Olaf without further notice, if anything similar happens again. Olaf is very concerned, he desperately tries to answer a lot of competent questions asked by an elderly gentleman who wants to buy a used car. The loudspeaker sounds: "Mr. Melzer, an urgent call for you at the switchboard! Mr. Melzer, please!" The phone operator, who also has been one of his victims, switches the call to the loudspeaker system. Everywhere in the workshops, offices, and showrooms the speakers come to life when a deep male voice whispers: "Hi, dearest Olaf, here I am, your strong and sexy pink panther with the long tail! I am as hot as you are, and I will satisfy every special demand!"
- An inhuman scream nearly ruins the loudspeakers, then silence - still as death! Now roaring laughter, Olaf's colleagues are cheering with delight, their malicious joy does not end. In the showrooms, people are frozen in embarrassment. Blushed with shame, Olaf hurries back to his customer, who looks at him reproachfully: "I just learned that you have an interesting date with your pink panther tonight. I would not rob you your time with him". The customer hurries away, and Olaf is shocked. How did he get the news?
- The manager dismisses Olaf immediately. Marlene gleefully enlightens Olaf that his appointment with the pink panther has been transmitted over the speaker system, and that everybody has laughed about his secret private life. Cheers of malicious joy accompany his departure.
- In the evening, Olaf's apartment is besieged by wild-looking men with chains, leather clothes, and helmets. Marlene hands them the key to the apartment: Now Olaf would no longer seduce harmless women, he would be seduced himself! The three avengers leave him to his lovers.
- Next morning, the headlines of the tabloids read: "Crime in Homosexual Scene! Car Seller Brutally Raped, Chained to his Bed, and Robbed by his Lovers!" A photo shows Olaf in his dark blue custom suit in front of his sports car. The working day in the car dealership goes on, but the content smiles of his colleagues do not disappear.

Exposé: The Wine Red Death

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Yvonne is young, sexy, and - most of all - relaxed. Clara is nothing like her - she is Hubert's wife. Hubert is Yvonne's boss, she wants to have him by all means, because he has influence and money. At first, she seduces him with her erotic behavior, and for a while, she holds him in hopeless bondage to her; then she bluntly rejects him. Hubert is enraged. One evening in the office, he takes her violently. Yvonne threatens to notify the police that her boss has raped her. Better she decides to blackmail him: "Marry me!" she declares.
- Clara is fed up with her sad life in Hubert's dark house under his loveless tyranny. She is desperate, and plans to commit suicide by taking weed-killer. Hubert comes home, together with Yvonne, and demands a divorce. At once, Clara sees the opportunity to get rid of him. But she will not agree to a divorce without a lot of money. She fights with all of her female cunning. To get rid of her, Hubert promises her a sensational high compensation, and Yvonne agrees to transfer her comfortable apartment to Clara. Yvonne is sure that she will have lots of money as Hubert's wife.
- After her divorce, Clara leaves the house. Her last act is to take special care of Hubert's red wine, a Châteauneuf-du-Pape. He keeps a year's supply in his cellar, and he shares it with nobody else.
- As a rich, elegant, and attractive lady, Clara enjoys her new life. But she cannot forget or forgive. Covertly, she watches how Yvonne suffers from being Hubert's wife. Ten months later, Clara sees Yvonne pushing Hubert in a wheelchair. Clara feigns to meet them just by chance. "Hi, Old Man, are you too weak to walk? It seems that your red wine and your perverted sex games are too much for you! You look as if you could die quite soon!"
- A short time afterwards, Hubert dies from the weed-killer used to poison his red wine. Yvonne is sentenced to life in prison. Everything has worked according to Clara's plan! She celebrates her success by drinking a bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape.
- Clara wants to brag about her victory. She visits Yvonne in prison. To hurt Yvonne even more, Clara announces that she would go to Hubert's grave that evening to bring him a purple red rose. Yvonne's eyes flame with hatred as she hisses: "You will pay for it, you murderess!" Clara senses the chilly breath of death.
- In spite of her premonition, and though it is already too late in the evening, Clara craves to fulfil the last step of her revenge. In the dusk, she visits Hubert's grave, kneels down, and sticks a ruby rose into the soil.
- Suddenly, a huge man bows over her. He holds a full bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape in his hand: "Regards from Yvonne to the killer of her husband! I am her brother, and she asked me to execute you murderess with her own weapon!" Clara collapses on Hubert's grave, and the warm blood from her cracked skull mixes with the dark-red wine.

Exposé: The Black Hole

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Elvira and Manfred want to marry, her love to him is total. He is a masseur in a health resort catering to the rich and beautiful. She is jealous of his good-looking patients, who are always trying to seduce him. Manfred is faithful, but Elvira is craving for a normal life in a large town with a clientele of elderly housewives, who would not jeopardize their love.
- The young and glamorous Miranda Summer, a millionaire's widow, has picked out Manfred to be her lover, until she finds her next rich husband. She settles down in the Resort Hotel, and books massages for every single day. Elvira is afraid of losing Manfred.
- Elvira and Manfred work in a spacious fitness area which has a special attraction outdoors, a hot, bottomless mud-bath, where Miranda uses to relax in the evening. She stays there by herself even in the dark, when nobody is around.
- Elvira clocks out for the day, then returns unseen. In the darkness, she strangles Miranda to death, shifts one of the heavy floor elements of the mud bath aside, and pushes her victim into the endless deep black hole - a murder without a corpse.
- Because of the darkness, and because both women are of similar figure and hair color, Elvira succeeds in leaving the fitness area as Miranda. Throughout, she wears thin latex gloves to avoid fingerprints. Elvira takes a taxi to the Resort Hotel, and enters Miranda's suite with the leaving key card. She prepares the bathroom, the bed, and the clothes, as if Miranda had been there. Finally, Elvira leaves the hotel unseen through an emergency exit.
- At home, Elvira relaxes in a fragrant oil bath. Her remorse disappears soon; she accepts the murder as a necessity. She did it for her love, to protect her future with Manfred. After he comes home from work, she lies comfortably in his arms and decides: "Should another woman try to steal my man from me, I would do it again - there is space for all of them in the mud bath."
- Just then, Manfred tells her with overwhelming happiness that he finally got rid of Miranda Summer, who came too close to him: "I made an arrangement for her and a wealthy widower - they will marry next month. Mrs. Summer is so happy that she wants to transfer to us a building with ten apartments, one of them includes rooms for a massage studio. Tomorrow afternoon, you and I will visit the notary together with Mrs. Summer to sign the deed of gift! Then we can make our own living, and we will marry at once!"
- In Manfred's arms, Elvira freezes. Her world collapses, and she feels herself being sucked into a bottomless black hole of despair - as if someone was drowning her in a mud bath.

Exposé: Divorced – Deceased

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Vera and Susan Wagner are close friends as a result of being divorced from the same husband. His present wife is Evelyne, and they feel deep sympathy for her. They think about freeing Evelyne from her prison. "Evelyne would look lovely as a widow. Do you think we should eliminate George for her?" Their plan is based on the destruction of George's garden, a small plot of land he maintains on the outskirts of the big city. Susan advertises in the local newspapers: "Hobby garden to close due to owner's death. Give away of all plants and furniture - dig out and transport yourself – beginning Friday morning at 7 a.m."
- Vera and Susan watch the trek of people with wheelbarrows, spades, and shovels sprinting through the narrow paths of the garden colony. At 6 o'clock a.m., the first sod is turned - it is like the bursting of a dam! As soon as the first hole is torn into the tall hedge, the crowd plunder the entire garden. When George arrives, he finds people carrying his belongings away. Roaring in frenzy, he beats his way with a club to his destroyed patch of land. George rages like a madman among the plunderers. A huge man is carrying a heavy floor lamp away. George knocks him out with the club. Bloodstained, the man cries for vengeance.
- Vera and Susan have booked a weekend trip to Paris to prove an alibi, because they expect a bloody aftermath. They read the news on their homeward flight, in a local tabloid: "Gardener Slain with Floor Lamp!" The huge man has taken revenge, while George guarded his garden during the night, against the warnings of the police.
- With a bunch of flowers and a bottle of French Champagne, Vera and Susan visit the widowed Evelyne. Evelyne confesses that she feels great relief about George's death. Vera and Susan indicate that they have created the garden drama. The three women touch glasses and empty their champagne in one draft. "To our freedom!"

Exposé: False Delight Leads to Fright

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- Mathilda is rich, but unhappy. Her husband William married her for her money. But he neglects her and has pretty young things on the side without hiding it. William now threatens her with divorce. Mathilda desperately tries to formulate a plan to make her husband dependant on her. William suffers from a severe allergy to insect bites. When he is ill, he is plaintive and very scared: then he really needs her. Mathilda buys an aquarium, and she feeds the fish with dried red mosquito larvae, which contain the full amount of their venom. William likes the aquarium. Mathilda encourages him to feed the fish with mosquito larvae. She leaves the food box open near his place. As planned, her husband begins to show symptoms of dyspnea. William watches the fish, Mathilda watches William. It works!
- Mathilda rubs the dust fine poison of the dried mosquito larvae onto the cushion in William's bed. During the night, William gets his first asthmatic attack. She nurses him with all her love, and William, who needs her now, is friendly and grateful.
- Three days after William is able to return to his former life with his mistresses, he suffers from the next asthmatic attack. He recovers slowly under the tender care of his wife. William stays home more often now, Mathilda begins to flourish, and they come closer to each other.
- As soon as William meets one of his sweethearts, a subsequent asthmatic attack threatens him with death. His family doctor is too lazy to consult a specialist. He tries to explain the attacks as due to William's increasing age and the stress of his love affairs. He advises William to stop, or one day suffer the ultimate consequence. Now William needs Mathilda urgently, and he decides to be always very kind to her.

Exposé: Bye-Bye, Boss!

Satiric Short Story from the book "Men - Mischief - Murder" by Elsegret Ruge

- The typists adore their friendly boss, Mr. Goodman, but such happiness does not last forever: unhappiness comes with their new boss, Mr. Murdock. He is an aggressive and unfair man, who insults and suppresses them day after day. The ladies try to ignore him, but he continues to humiliate them. Mr. Murdock threatens to fire Karen, because the fragrance of her perfume reminds him of the horrifying smell he remembers from gas drills during his army days. The ladies are now fed up with him. They gather for council of war in a restaurant. The hearts of the harmless ladies have frozen: they crave revenge.
- On the following Monday morning, they look like grey shadows of themselves: They are dressed in dark clothes, wear no makeup or perfume, and they eagerly follow the harsh commands of their boss. Mr. Murdock appreciates their behavior, he enjoys his success.
- For two weeks, the ladies collect facts about their boss; they interview people in the company and in his neighborhood. They find out that after a nervous breakdown, he had been in a mental hospital for one year. He is anxious, insistent on cleanliness, and he reacts with panic to distasteful smells. Now they know how to get rid of him!
- Step by step, the ladies contaminate Mr. Murdock's office with butyric acid, which smells disgustingly like old sweat. They soak his chair, his desk, his towel, and finally his fur coat and boots. The awful stench drives him into despair and isolation. In spite of the ice cold winter, he leaves his window open. He promptly catches a heavy case of flu. Eagerly, the ladies intensify his runny nose by dusting his office with sneezing powder.
- After one week, on a stormy, frosty Friday, Mr. Murdock comes to his end. Desperately, he tries to escape from the stink: he leans much too far out of the window into the cold air. He presses the towel full of butyric acid, sneezing powder, and Karen's perfume against his sore nose, and the horrifying smell of the army gas drill hits him like a hammer. In an awful sneezing fit, Mr. Murdock loses his balance: he falls out of the window!
- The ladies are disappointed that they hear no reaction from Mr. Murdock. They wonder why he does not leave his office, even after closing time. Finally, they enter his office: the window is wide open, their boss is gone. They find him hanging headlong outside the building between two stories, trapped with his foot in a pigeon net. Mr. Murdock still struggles a bit, but this will soon come to an end. A weak cry for help comes to their ears: "Help me, ladies! Please, help me!" - "Have a nice weekend! Bye-bye, boss!" The ladies wave him a last good-bye. After cleaning the office of the sneezing powder, they leave without remorse.
- On the following Monday, Mr. Murdock is missed. On Wednesday he is found: he is of no further use. After the office has been cleaned from the smell of sweat, the new boss arrives. Beaming with joy, their former boss Mr. Goodman enters his old office! The ladies welcome him with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

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