

# Eine Frau

## Hanka Grothendieck

### I. Matrix

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-22

Lotte (born 1900) recalls early memories from the age of two (a day of revolution? shooting?) The day of the financial breakdown of her father. The chapter breaks off to recall the story of her mother's parents, with their farm, their four sons and two daughters, the way they brought up their daughters to be superior, how they accepted that Anna (Lotte's mother) go to work in a grand hotel and then eventually that she marry the hotelkeeper, their acute anger and disappointment when she bore Lotte just seven months later, forgiving her only after the bankruptcy. Lotte recalls vacations at her grandparents' farm, particularly mentioning "purity" and associating it with the beauty and freedom of nature. Washing day. The superiority of the family, never going barefoot, forbidden to associate with other children. The grandfather's store.

*Kap. 2* ..... 23-47

Description of Anna Babendeerde as a wife, as a mother, her illness. How her husband had to work humiliatingly as a hired waiter all winter, even though they had managed to preserve their Gartenrestaurant which functions well during the summer. Anna, exhausted, works there on Sundays, but collapses the rest of the week; her medical bills are large. Description of the children, their personalities, Lotte's stubbornness and moods. The terrible winters when their father came home on weekends and one never knew when he would storm around in rage and fury. Memories of Christmas. Lotte's adoration of her father. Betty, Lotte's half sister from her father's first marriage, six years older than Lotte, how miserable she was upon her father's remarriage, and hints (more than hints) about what later became of her. The younger brothers Hans and Peter.

*Kap. 3* ..... 48-72

Lotte's memories about the change of lifestyle after the bankruptcy. Change from private school to Volksschule. How she loved schoolwork, especially writing, but had no friends. The weird friendship with Erna. Lotte learns to "play doctor", and even discovers on vacation that all her girl cousins do it already, but the friendship makes her so uncomfortable that she feels relieved, to her shame, when Erna is run over and killed. Another weird fascination with the idiot Viktoria; Lotte feels herself a knight. Finally, a true friendship, with Lieschen. They play games of imagination and fairy tales until alas, Lieschen becomes more interested in Olga, and Lotte suffers the torments of the abandoned, plus feeling misunderstood by her mother. Her secret love for Hermann, and Leo the Jewish boy's secret love for her. At age ten, the Lyzeum. Lotte the stubborn. The unpleasant cigar merchant. Lotte's astounding capacity for sitting motionless and displaying inner mastery when invaded by wasps.

*Kap. 4* ..... 73-92

Lotte goes to the Lyzeum, tries (at ten) to seduce her teacher, succeeds only in annoying him. She's also dreamy, forgetful and a liar, however already passionate about memorizing, writing, and inventing endless stories for her (few) friends. Difficulty in separating dreams from reality. She half believes that she can fly. Description of very cheerful vacations with the various aunts, uncles and cousins. Hints at certain dangerous games. Theaterspielen and mysterious, silent fetching of Osterwasser. Reading and daydreams about her own self-sacrifice and heroism. The last few pages are repeated from earlier chapters (nighttime stories for her brothers while they comb her hair, cigar merchant, wasps).

## II. Sich gebären

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-19

Lotte is twelve or thirteen; the entire chapter is devoted to her permanent, intensive masturbation and desperate, unsatisfied curiosity about sex. Suddenly, while on vacation, her aunt tells her that her mother has had a baby boy, Helmut. Lotte cannot believe that nobody told her before, and that she herself never noticed her mother's pregnancy.

*Kap. 2* ..... 20-44

War is declared. Lotte's father, Robert Babendeerde, goes to front with a first aid dog (Sanitätshund-Führer). The family is poor; Lotte has the bitterly humiliating task of fetching soup from the Volksküche. Her moods are blacker and blacker, her tantrums worse, her mother despairing. She sits up late in her room writing in the icy dark. Her mother enrolls her in the Pfadfinderinnen (long rambles in nature, girlfriends, sulking and self-pity), and her group leader then persuades her to attend a course for studying Kinderpflege. She also takes care of wounded soldiers, but feels shy. Five marks are stolen from a drawer and her mother suspects her; already the mother has drawn nearer to Hans. But then Lotte, shopping, learns that for months Hans has been doing the shopping on credit and stealing the shopping money. Family despair.

*Kap. 3* ..... 45-64

Lotte returns to her grandparents home in Steenbeek for vacation, although they are dead and the house now belongs to an uncle. She recalls that the previous year, she had gone to Tante Marie's instead; she remembers earlier vacations there, then last year's, with particular emphasis on her cousin Ernst and certain suggestive garden games. However, she's delighted to return to Steenbeek, especially to show off the new patriotic fashion: bare legs and feet in wooden sandals. The family is highly impressed at so much patriotism. But she gets in big trouble when she takes a nocturnal walk in the woods with romantic young Herbert.

*Kap. 4* ..... 65-83

Lotte helps a miserable duckling, then decides to give up school for a few months and work in an arms factory like her father. But the factory turns her down sneeringly. Then her father gets called up to the Landsturm and the family is poor once again. Lotte wants to be an actress, but her mother doesn't agree. So she seeks for a job which will allow her to express her burning sentiments of chivalry, and chooses Kinderpflege. She receives her first love letter, from Herbert. She makes friends with Luise, while being obnoxious in her class. Lotte ceases, painfully, to believe in the warm, loving God of her childhood.

*Kap. 5* ..... 84-101

Lotte is seventeen, and rebellious against the social order. She joins the Freideutsche Jugend and finds others who share her ideas. Her mother doesn't want her to come home late, generating a mixture of lies and quarrels. She meets a girl who puts her in contact with her brother Helwig, who is at the front in Turkey. Passionate exchange of long letters, followed by a hilarious though sad description of his arriving on leave to meet her for the first time, dirty, unkempt and suffering from a bad cold. Long reflection upon the effect of this cold on her feelings, mingled with self-contempt. In the meantime, Hans is fired from the bank for stealing. But his boss takes pity on his mother and finds him a job in another bank.

*Kap. 6* ..... 102-125

Short reminiscences of children; having boots made, going on summer family trip. Description of semi-abandoned children of Granatendreherin mothers (women working in arms factories). Transition to Lotte's studying to become a Kindergarten teacher. The class is taught by a Kindergarten teacher, Fraülein Rasmussen, whom Lotte likes on sight,

but then despises because her teaching is so hesitant. Lotte amuses herself by constantly interrupting to display her superiority. However, when she then becomes a student teacher under this lady, she discovers that she herself is not good with the children (in spite of all her good will and belief in the worth of the job, and all her principles), whereas Fräulein Rasmussen is absolutely wonderful. Description of some frightful little kids. Lotte feels guilty and stupid, the more so because she starts wondering if this is really the right job for her. She much prefers taking a day off to run around in nature, singing loudly in storms and rain, or going on rambles with comrades from the Freideutsche Jugend.

Lotte is annoyed with herself for being strongly physically attracted to a handsome young man of very average intelligence, who furthermore is a “Blüher-Junge” which means he reads Blüher and considers women fundamentally inferior. Lotte partly agrees with this, she finds women’s souls full of “Formlose und Unklare”, contrasted with the “scharfe männliche Geist”. She even blames all her own defects on this; she has no fondness for the beauties of femininity, she would like to be strong and bold and keen. Nonetheless, she resents Ludwig’s assumption of obvious superiority over her since (intellectually) she feels greatly superior to him, in spite of also feeling “mies und schwer und plump”. She also makes a friend of a certain kind and intelligent Robert (same name as her father). Her mother approves highly, but no love is in sight.

*Kap. 7* ..... 126-150

As long as Hans is given pocket money, he behaves well. But Anna has enough of pawning her linens and silver and borrowing from her sisters, and finally talks it over with Hans, who swears he doesn’t need pocket money. But the next thing they know: Hans has stolen money from the bank and disappeared. Reminiscence about how he once disappeared when he was four. Lotte goes to visit Tante Marie hoping to see cousin Ernst again, but he isn’t there (however, she learns that Hans was there). Meets Harry Landsberger instead, an interesting veteran from Berlin who has retired to the country for his health. She is not in love with him, but he interests her because he’s so irreverent, including of the ideals with which she has replaced the social ideals of which she herself is so irreverent. He dares to criticize her “Freideutsche” clothes: a simple dress tied around the waist with a string and sandals, and has gall to suggest she dress fashionably, which she rejects with ideological horror. Lotte is becoming “schwer und üppig” because of wartime food, but now she feels beautiful, and is grateful to her mother for never trying to impose a corset on her natural shape.

Lotte passes her exams for her teacher training. She never studies, but her good memory helps her pass the theoretical exams brilliantly. Her practical teaching exam is a disaster; she has to teach her little class on a prepared theme, and in front of the jury she feels stiff and unnatural and can’t say anything. Fortunately the children, impressed by the jury, are very well-behaved, so she doesn’t fail. For her crafts exam she makes a farm-girl doll and a pair of miniature bellows that really works. She’s very proud of her earthy, earnest creations, but everyone else has made enchanting little objects that would charm children. She decides to take one more semester of classes, in order to earn a diploma which would qualify her to teach privately in homes. She hates any kind of educational system, but at best she does approve of the Montessori system, which encourages free and individual development. She works in a “Hort”, with older children, and find she dislikes the girls (flattering and inconsequent), but likes the boys (steady and trustworthy). She wonders why she was born a girl, but decides that she can still make the best of it. She dances her heart out at a family gathering.

*Kap. 8* ..... 153-184

End of the war (1918). German women’s new feelings about independence. Lotte writes poetry during the freezing nights. Hans returns to the family at Christmas. Helmut, Lotte’s baby brother, is now four. Lotte quarrels with her father over boyfriends’ visits to her while she is home with a hurt foot. She runs away from home, and spends several days

sleeping in the ladies' waiting room in the train station, or in the freezing meeting room of the Freideutsche Jugend, gnawing nothing but bread and carrots. Makes the discovery that human beings eat far too much. She tries to travel to stay with a friend; it's forbidden to travel without a Bescheinigung, but her friend Ludwig fakes her one, but the other friend has moved away.

Lotte is still studying to be a Kindergarten teacher. She was also temporarily working as a nanny for the children of a wealthy lady, but this lady won't receive her any more. Lotte doesn't know why. Finally, she decides to return home on the condition that her father leave her free to do as she likes. Her mother tells her that the wealthy lady thinks that Lotte stole 300 Marks, but believes her when she swears that she didn't. It is the moment of her closest relationship with her mother. The lady later finds the 300 Marks. Lotte visits Robert, but when he finds out that she doesn't love him, he never wants to see her again. She fears she might never be able to fall in love. Helwig, the boy who was at the front in Turkey, now has a new girlfriend.

*Kap. 9* ..... 185-209

Lotte makes friends with Friedel in her class and they discuss boyfriends. She learns from Friedel's example that a girl can be discreet and well-mannered, yet by no means an idiot. In class, however, she stops listening altogether. At the end of the year, the students are supposed to hand in their carefully written up notes, but Lotte didn't take any, so in a couple of nights she copies Friedel's in shorthand, adding her own scathing remarks. She is called in and treated kindly, so humbly agrees to write the notes up properly, but when she does it, she leaves in all the scathing remarks. So in the end she is not awarded a real diploma, but merely a paper saying that she attended the course.

She goes to the country with the family she works for, but finds that they treat her like an inferior. For example, they are very rich, and there are extra good things on the table which she is not offered, but if any remain after the meal they are given to the dog. She makes friends with the maid, but then overhears the maid discuss her nastily with the grandmother. Lotte disapproves of the maid because the maid steals silk stockings, but then, after seeing that the grandmother has a desk full of luxurious soap when everyone else has to make do with a bit of hard, scratchy wartime soap, she asks the grandmother for some, dreaming of it for her little brother Helmut's soft skin. But instead of soap she gets a lecture for being spoiled, so she decides to steal some: "Jetzt war Krieg." She gets caught red-handed in the act, and is deadly embarrassed. They do not fire her, but she ends up leaving the job at the end of the summer vacation, and taking the children home by train.

Lott decides, again, that she wants to be an actress. She receives a phone call from Harry Landsberger saying he'll accompany her home. As a final revenge, she steals a quantity of lard and butter to carry to her mother, but is so terrified of having her suitcase searched that she forces herself to eat it all at the last minute, after which her suitcase is not searched.

*Kap. 10* ..... 210-235

Harry accompanies Lotte home, and her mother approves of him. He offers to take her on a two-week vacation. Lotte's mother says she trusts him, after which he of course seduces her, as well as convincing her to drink and smoke (which she had renounced) by the manipulative phrase "Du bist doch keine Spiesserin!" They spend a wonderful time together, she is more and more in love. Description of her shoulderless dress, her blond braids to the hips. He tells her he's Jewish and that's why he's often cold and mocking. If that's a sign of Judaism, she wonders if she isn't a little Jewish herself. But at the end of vacation, he confesses that he's deeply attracted to another girl, and she decides they should not see each other for two months, and then only if they are still as much in love as they are now.

### III. Der Weg

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-17

Lotte sees Harry again. Mad lovemaking. But when he says “Du bist ja ein Tier” she gets very upset and walks out on him.

*Kap. 2* ..... 18-34

Lotte goes to Berlin and auditions for an acting professor called Deutsch. He says she acts with her nerves and needs to go and work the land for six months. She considers a certain artists’ colony, but can’t go there because she has no money. So she thinks of becoming a prostitute, but ends up with a ludicrous, embarrassing, horrible failed attempt. Then she decides to commit suicide and goes wandering around countryside villages looking for one which has gas in the rooms. She meets a friendly man called Paul Ackermann.

*Kap. 3* ..... 35-59

Instead of killing herself, Lotte spends weeks wandering from village to village, everything paid for by Paul who accompanies and desires her. She keeps refusing him, but allows him to continually tell her that she is a virgin.

*Kap. 4* ..... 60-99

Paul takes her to Berlin, where she finally agrees to take the step. But at the critical moment, she screams and runs away. He gives up, and she leaves him. She then meets a very handsome young man she calls Heyo. They spend three heavenly days making love on the beach, although after this she has an idea that she is actually still a virgin. At this point Lotte returns home to her sorrowing mother and desperate father.

*Kap. 5* ..... 100-111

Settled at home again, her mother allows the defrocked Pastor Findeler to take care of her, which means deep slurping kisses and lessons on philosophy. Harry comes to her, but after hearing all about Heyo, leaves forever. Lotte feels psychologically damaged after her experiences and seeks to become healthy again. She writes poetry.

*Kap. 6* ..... 112-134

Continued psychological problems of self-blame. Poems. Kisses of Pastor Findeler. Classes in the Fichte-Hochschule.

*Kap. 7* ..... 135-154

Lotte gets a short haircut. Polite courtship of Edwin Bartels from the Fichte-Hochschule. To feel free from her parents, Lotte moves in with a friend, Frau Elly, who lives in a filthy, disgusting apartment. They quarrel over housework. Robert Babendeerde, out of a job, now undertakes Stiefelputzerei in the Hauptbahnhof. This is humiliating but surprisingly successful; he earns enough for the family.

*Kap. 8* ..... 155-177

Lotte goes to the Kampfbühne, a new association created by Lothar Schreyer to develop the “Neue Bühnenkunst”. There are five actors: apart from Schreyer and Lotte, there is Schreyer’s assistant Beatrice and two men. The group paints backdrops, creates masks and puts on modernistic plays. Lotte had found a job painting silk, but she gives it up to be paid for full-time work in the theater. She is thrilled. But as she is continually held up as an example and told to show the others how to act, Beatrice finally has enough, and there is a quarrel. Beatrice then leaves the theater for good, and she followed faithfully by the younger actor. Forward flash: they get married, then later commit double suicide with a horrible, deforming poison.

In the meantime Lotte falls madly in love with the other actor, Hermann Dürkopp.

*Kap. 9* ..... 178-213

The Kampfbühne plays in Berlin. Lotte meets Harry again: he now has a very ordinary girlfriend. Brief discussion of anti-Semitism. Then Lotte takes a week's vacation in the country picking mushrooms. She returns to Hamburg, makes plum jam and learns that during her absence Dürkopp has become engaged to the other actress, Fräulein Martin.

Lotte soon starts quarreling with the three new additions to Schreyer's company: Emil Haupt, his wife and his wife's sister Fräulein Martin. She disapproves deeply of Schreyer's judgment when he gives a major role to the simple-natured Fräulein Martin, and prefers her bare feet (important for the role) to Lotte's. Of course Fräulein Martin can't play the role to Schreyer's satisfaction. Lotte keeps hoping that Schreyer will see the light, but he gives up the play instead. She mopes because of the engagement and writes poetry.

Schreyer starts work on a new play: an Andersen tale with only one role, "die Mutter". At first he naturally chooses Lotte for the role, but then he changes it; the heavy mask will be worn by a strong man, and the woman will speak from behind the stage. In fact, he decides to share out the role between three different women, sometimes speaking in unison. Schreyer considers voices like the materials he uses for making masks; things to be modeled and shaped. Lotte thinks that he has no consideration for the art of acting, and she quits, protesting a little too much that it isn't for any reason of "Star-Eitelkeit".

*Kap. 10*..... 214-239

Lotte's brother Hans shows her a copy of a newspaper, *Der Pranger, Zentralorgan der Kontrollmädchen*. Naturally sexual freedom is one of the topics covered. Lotte is excited, sends in a poem and wants to join the staff. They are only too happy to have her; in fact they put her in charge of the whole paper for a salary of 300 Marks a week. Lotte encounters some well-known communists. She meets Karl Ross.

Running the newspaper is bliss, even though it gets confiscated regularly, and the police come and lecture Lotte's parents about her work there. She meets an old friend from the Freideutsche Jugend and goes to visit the group's meeting place. Smoking in dark rooms. She meets a painter called Ernst Linkert and decides that she wants him, although he seems only modestly interested. (He takes her to a homosexual nightclub where the boys take her for a boy, to her great offence). Hans is court-martialed for embezzling army money, having sold his service revolver. Lotte goes to the Weihnachtsmarkt, and meets a random man who takes her home and tries to shock her with dirty stories, but then she coldly disdains him.

*Kap. 11*..... 240-261

This chapter begins with several pages of thoughts about Lotte in the mind of the communist Ketty Guttmann, who would like her to join the Party. Next, Lotte makes love (in her mind, losing her virginity) with Ernst Linkert. However after this, Ernst begins to share his philosophy with her, and it is very mystical and strange. Entirely based on the notion of 'Selbstaufgabe', he explains to her that his rejection of every possible value is only part of his personal theory, that in fact he is aiming for something much harder: total Selbstaufgabe. He says that for a woman, this can be achieved by prostitution (p. 255: Für die Frau gibt es *eine* Art sich aufzugeben: allen Eigenwillen und allen Wunsch, der aus ihrer sexuellen Definiertheit entspringt, aufgeben. Nicht mehr wählen. Sich jedem geben, der sie will.'), whereas a man can only do it by suicide, and he is trying to bring himself there, but is not ripe yet.

In an interlude, the *Pranger* has again been confiscated because of a poem that Lotte wrote, and she is reciting her poem aloud in court. Ketty Guttmann is defending the paper. Lotte is released, and organizes a poetry reading. A famous man recites first, then Lotte recites; it is a huge success, people are enthusiastic and she feels that she holds them all in her hand. She feel her power. But she organizes a second poetry reading, this time in Plattdeutsch, but she doesn't master it, and the evening is a failure.

As she discusses with Ernst every night by candlelight and incense, she becomes bewitched. She falls for his ideas completely, and tries to enter a brothel. Ernst persuades

her that she need not choose a miserable, horrible one but can go to a luxurious one. She does this, however they do not want her, and tell her that since she is a minor, she will need her parents' written consent. Lotte decides to go to Berlin and do it her own way.

*Kap. 12*..... 262-294

Lotte's way of trying to be a prostitute is to move into the Jugendherberge in Berlin, where a large room is shared by a group of half-a-dozen young men and women, and (ostensibly because the walls are so damp it is always necessary to heat) remain permanently naked. Quite soon everyone, from the boys and girls in the room to the carpenter is used to it. However, visitors from outside are sharply taken aback, as she calmly serves them tea. One elderly gentlemen is very willing to be Lotte's first client, but then he is disappointed because in the end, she cannot do it.

Eventually the Jugendherberge has enough of her (too much smoking and drinking), and she decides to go to the artist's colony in the countryside where she had meant to go after meeting Deutsch. But it doesn't exist any longer; the director now receives a few disadvantaged young people in his home instead. She manages to find a job as nanny to a family with three children. But it is exhausting, and then after three weeks she loses a passionate letter from Heyo and one of the children finds it and gives it to Mamma, so she is ejected. She almost becomes housekeeper to a refined elderly couple, but they suspect her somehow and change their minds. So she goes back home to the *Pranger*, whose circle introduces her to a new kind of social life consisting of homosexual clubs, nightclubs, poetry reciting evenings and so on.

*Kap. 13*..... 295-350

Lotte goes to a poetry reciting evening and the organizer is an attractive young man. He seems to like her, but when they all go to dinner together with the artists, he is also the only one who does not seem subjugated by her wit and charm. She returns to see him again. He is witty and charming and also fragile and, seemingly, a virgin. This person's name is Alfred, called Redy. A discussion about clothes: "Ernst Linkert hätte gewünscht, dass sie sich Korsett und alles sowas zulegt, weil es das Begehren eigenartig stachelt, wenn man die geliebte Frau erst aus einem komplizierten Panzer herauschnüren muss. Nein, für so etwas ist Lotte eben zu primitiv. Sie liebt es, mit einer Schulterbewegung und einen Über-die-Hüften-Streichen alle Hüllen auf ihre Füße fallen zu sehen."

Redy charms Lotte with stories about how he stole a boat and tried to sail to South America but it broke down and he was picked up by fishermen and returned and arrested and went to prison. He likes machines, flying, boating and stealing. He actually writes a little poetry as well. We hear about Redy's mother and father.

Heyo telegraphs that he is coming. He comes and he and Lotte make love madly for days, while Redy and his friend Bobby hang around them the whole time, Redy spending a large amount of money which he stole from work.

Lotte and Redy leave Hamburg together because of the stolen money, and go somewhere (page missing). They go to a hotel and Redy is gloomy. Lotte is challenged by this: how dare a man not be happy when he is with her? "Sich so machtlos sehen, sie, Lotte!" Partly from pride, she falls in love. But Redy is in love with another girl, an innocent young thing called Tamara. Lotte writes to Heyo that she has given her body to Redy and her soul to him, while Redy's soul belongs to Tamara, with the consequence that she never hears from Heyo again.

But Lotte and Redy are now in trouble, because they are staying in a hotel but have no money to pay. They try to earn money by organizing a Hermann-Löns-Abend, but nobody comes, so they now owe money to the printer who made the advertising posters and the proprietor of the room they rented for the Abend as well as the hotel. Redy solves this problem by sneaking out at night and running away, leaving Lotte to explain that he has abandoned her leaving her with nothing. He says "Du wirst es glänzend tun, die grösse

Tragödin”, she answers “Ich prostituieren mich nicht”!) She hates doing it, but fortunately along comes “ein unkomplizierter Mann”, pays the hotel, and takes her off to bed with him. Lotte thanks God that she always meets such nice people. This man lectures her and gives her money to get home, but instead she uses it to pay off the debts of the failed Hermann-Löns-Abend and to travel to find Redy. She spends one night in a hotel and steals a box of cigarettes.

Redy joins her there, and they sit in the room with cigarettes but no money. Then Redy goes out and spends hours looking for work, but comes back empty-handed. Lotte is surprised; she thought he would succeed. Feeling a rush of pity for him, she says she’ll go out and find money herself. So, she goes out, late at night, meets a lecherous drunk wearing a gold watch and chain, pretends to be ready to accommodate him, quietly unhooks the watch and chain, slips it into her pocket and runs. (“Geschieht ihm recht, dem Schwein”.)

Lotte and Redy pawn the watch, get some money, and wander around. Redy is ill and Lotte is delighted to take care of him, but then he gets better and reverts to glooming. Lotte is gloomy too. She wanders off alone and gets picked up by a notary. He is interested in her, so she invites him to sneak into the Jugendherberge at night. He comes, bringing wine. The three of them sit alone drinking. The two men are on eggs. Lotte is brilliant, the notary interested, Redy frigid.

Finally Lotte takes this man to bed in a tiny room, but then she spends hours telling jokes and laughing hysterically to stave off the sex act, while Redy paces back and forth in the big room adjoining. After this, Lotte is proud of not having prostituted herself. But they still have no money, so she wonders if she hasn’t been stupid.

They decide to separate and each fend for himself. Lotte goes to a little hotel where a lot of students that she knows live. Hans and Kurt adore her and she wants to initiate them to passion. She collects them all around her and lectures them on literature and sex. This is all very well, but there’s still no money. Then, a young farmer arrives. He desires Lotte. She doesn’t mind, although her friend Hans is miserable, and sleeps with him. When she wakes up, the farmer is gone, and he has left her some money! Lotte thinks, “So that’s how it’s done”. After this, the young man comes every afternoon, and always leaves money. Hans finds out and is deeply shocked, and says she should have asked him or her parents for money rather than this. But Lotte says that you have to manage things by yourself, and that now she knows that the articles she wrote about prostitution for the *Pranger* were about herself, too. She goes on sleeping with the young man, but then suddenly finds that all the money has disappeared from her drawer. She wonders if the farmer took it all back.

She again has no money to pay for the hotel, so the young men help her sneak her things out; they give her some money and a train ticket, and she joins Redy in Bremen. Redy meanwhile has obtained a revolver and some money, although she never learns how. But they get caught by a hotel owner and forced to pay him, and once again they are broke. Desperate to smoke, they use a pipe to smoke spit-out tobacco that they pick up in the street. In despair, Lotte says to Redy “Du hast den Revolver –”. He says “Ja und?” He hands it to her and she points it at her heart, but she can’t shoot. Then Redy becomes tender and loving, but it’s raining and they still have no place to go.

*Kap. 14* ..... 351-389

This chapter begins with Lotte’s work on the newspaper, and her political thoughts about crime, punishment and other issues.

She has interesting conversations with Redy about modern women’s issues such as ‘Huren’, ‘Abtreibung’, ‘Frauenrauchen’ and so forth. He writes a poem that she loves: (“Wir sind da und wissen nicht: warum”). We learn a little about Karl Ross. In the meantime, Lotte’s father has become the head of the boot cleaners in the Hauptbahnhof. He also rents out bits of soap and clean towels. He hires Lotte to work for him, washing and ironing 100 towels per day. She also writes for the *Pranger*, and spends all her evenings



in the club. Basically she never sleeps.

Redy is still in love with Tamara, and Lotte is eager to meet her but then she is very disappointed to find that Tamara is gentle and sweet, not her type at all. Redy takes Lotte home with him, but he is very depressed; he cries. Lotte's heart is wrenched; she is really in love with him. She reflects on her idealistic view of mankind and her contempt for individuals: "Ich liebe den Menschen und glaube an ihn in eben dem Masse, wie ich die Leute verabscheue und lächerlich finde."

Redy and his friend Bobby go on a two-week walking tour, during which Lotte gets two postcards asking for money and food, while Tamara gets long passionate letters. Then Redy returns, but has no place to live. Lotte hides him in a basement room at her parents' house, and brings in and out all that is necessary, no details spared. Then she has the humiliation of hearing Redy refer to her as his 'Waschfrau'. Next, Lotte's mother tells her that she asked Redy to take some money and send it to Tante Grete, but he stole it. Redy admits this, explaining that he needed the money. Lotte is ashamed and wants the money back: she manages to borrow it from her old friend Edwin Bartels who is still in love with her.

*Kap. 15*..... 390-410

An evening in the H.-K.-Diele (the club), with sparkling conversation. But Lotte is in a black mood because of unrequited love. Finally, her mother calls on Redy to actually come and console her, as only he can. At this point Redy has left the hiding place, and now has a small job working in a tiny sordid bookstore lending out adventure books and a little illegal porn.

Lotte wanders around going to bed with different men to console them for their 'Weltschmerz', and considering herself a heroine for not using any contraceptives, but giving herself entirely and generously to the man. When the men worry about the possible consequences, she tells them that it's her problem, and there are doctors for such things. This is her version of feminism: not requiring protection.

Suddenly Lotte is distracted from her private life by a new cause: the government puts forth a proposition to close the government-organized brothels. Lotte is thrilled, and wants to make use of the *Pranger's* influence. But Karl Ross advises her to meet and talk with the Kontrollmädchen first. She does so at length, and finds herself in a terrible dilemma: the girls are terrified of finding themselves delivered over to the abuses of "private enterprise" and radically against the closing of the brothels.

In order to defend their rights, Lotte finds herself using the paper to support the rejection of the new law, as the principle of direct human aid vanquishes that of a higher humanity ("Lotte entscheidet sich für die Butterstullen-Menschlichkeit, gegen das Prinzip.") The chapter ends with Lotte meeting a vain young hunchback sculptor who infuriates her by boasting vainly that he works on converting bourgeois young girls into prostitutes. She tries to tell him that this is idiotic since prostitutes have as bourgeois a mentality as any, if not more, but of course that misses the point (which is this gentleman's own personal titillation). She comes to realise that her real anger against him is because it means that her own experience was not a unique destiny but a kind of "scheussliche Modenspielerei".

*Kap. 16*..... 411-432

Lotte has a dream about the Lotte-Redy-Tamara triangle. She begins to study anarchist literature; she admires it, but cannot feel herself becoming involved in political action. She feels that her way is to make an example of her own life, and to fight and vanquish every obstacle coming from social injustice and prejudice that she personally encounters, so as to contribute to a gradual changing of the face of society. The Communist party offers her first-class papers and an apartment in Berlin if she will do a vague job for them; live there and meet certain people, with details to be communicated to her in due time. They say there is no need for her to even join the party. She is tempted, but Redy thinks it's absurd, that she would immediately sleep with someone, fall in love and get in trouble.

Furthermore, he believes that if she has enough of the job, they will liquidate her. He convinces her of the danger.

Lotte's mother comes to see Redy (who is sitting on the very mattress he stole from her house, still warm from the 'discussion' with Lotte), to ask for help because she thinks Lotte is working too hard and mingling too much with evil things. Redy convinces her that Lotte is a noble idealist. He hates working in the bookstore, and Lotte feels that by allowing him to do it, she is destroying with her left hand what she's building with her right. Then Karl Ross proposes them both to be paid (a little) for writing for the *Pranger*, and to rent a room over his apartment together, in an apartment upstairs belonging to an old woman called Hulda. To Lotte's surprise, in spite of his attraction to Tamara, Redy agrees with delight.

Elegant, pretty Erna from the apartment upstairs, appears, desperate because her husband is drunk and has locked himself inside the apartment and she can't get in. Redy climbs up the wall on the outside to face the dangerous drunken giant, enters, unlocks the door and happily brings out the key and hands it to the young lady in front of the admiring crowd which has collected to watch him. He is very much at ease with people who are drunk, violent or suicidal.

The next day, Redy and Lotte enter their new room. It is absolutely disgusting, filthy and smells of vomit. There is a large window but it can't be opened. Lotte spends the day scraping, washing and scrubbing, and the room improves slightly. As furniture, she and Redy have the stolen mattress, a large writing table that is a gift from Karl, three chairs from Hulda, and an old, broken chocolate machine to use as a cupboard. They decorate with a rug offered by Karl, and a pretty bedcover that Lotte brought from home. She sprays perfume around the room, and buys wine and flowers. But the prettier she makes the room, the heavier and bitterer her heart becomes, until finally she and Redy are alone in bed together, and he tells her that he loves her and no one else.

## IV. Zu Berlin

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-28

A lot about a man that Lotte and Redy meet in a Kneipe; a failed actor ruined by the war called Freund Jule, who lives by singing and reciting in bars every evening with a desperate, broken voice. They take him in and insist on keeping him even though he comes home dead drunk and wails out his life story for hours every single evening, not to mention vomiting and smelling horrible. Still, he also brings in some money and cooks very nicely. Lotte is persuaded (to her own surprise) to organize a ridiculous, old-fashioned, "spiessig" Christmas party with Karl Ross and his wife, who live downstairs, and Lotte's friend Maria. But the party is a horrible failure, with Freund Jule falling on his knees and Maria spitting at him in disgust and dashing out of the house, then Karl Ross getting dead drunk and attacking his wife and little daughters and smashing everything in the house. Everybody rushes upstairs for safety and Redy undertakes to soothe Karl: "Höchste Zeit, dass der Papa runterkommt und bisschen Ordnung schafft. Mit Besoffenen, Verrückten und Selbstmördern weiss ich ganz gut umzugehen."

*Kap. 2* ..... 29-67

Daily life, with little to eat, and even that must be shared with friends. Visits from various people (prostitutes etc.) asking for help with writing letters. Suddenly one day – a visit from Betty! Betty is no longer a prostitute, she is now permanently kept by a kind sailor who only comes every six weeks or so. Very pretty and elegant, but with a disastrously broken voice. And yet she has moral standards and is shocked by Lott's opinions on sex and marriage. Visit by a seventeen-year-old boy who got Redy's sixteen-year-old sister pregnant. He helps them steal wood for the fire, brings them butter and cheese. Lotte and Redy discuss unfaithfulness; he wants never to know, she wants to know

and then “wir gehen voneinander”. “Ich – Ja. Du – Nein.” Betty is homesick and takes to visiting home, Lotte goes also but mostly to work and earn a little money housecleaning, and steal briquets. She and Redy write a lot for the *Pranger*, but earn little. Fortunately, they supplement it a bit with graphology. Appearance of the Heilige (the Saint), Louis Häusser. Description of his vocal powers and influence, his group of devoted women. He tries but fails to conquer Lotte. Eye to eye. They catch lice from him. Shame, followed by interesting necessity of shaving. Freund Jule comes home at a particularly untactful moment, and ends up thrown out. Lotte and Redy feel guilty but pleased. Horrible evening in a bar with gloomy drunk Betty. When they return, they hear the return of old Hulda’s ancient boyfriend, newly released from prison. They hear talking and singing, followed by horrible screams. They rush in and rescue Hulda whose face is smashed.

*Kap. 3* ..... 68-93

Lotte is pregnant. She wonders if it is not from a one-time event with the seventeen-year-old. She wishes that Redy would get a regular job, to ensure her a little rest, and a calm and happy pregnancy. But he doesn’t even think of it. She eventually realizes that their love is beyond such things. She doesn’t want to bring up a child in their disgusting room at old Hulda’s, but Redy thinks that what matters isn’t where you bring up the child, but how. Karl Ross kidnaps a child who is about to be separated from its mother and taken to the orphanage. Reflections on children; Lotte feels that they should all be removed from their parents and brought up in lovely homes with eight or ten children to two or three understanding adults. A strange lady comes, having left her family and sold her house, to give her entire fortune to the Heilige. She wants him to make her pregnant. He takes all the money, throws her out and spends it in a brothel. Redy spends a week in Berlin at a sexology conference (photos of him with Magnus Hirschfeld). They write so much for the *Pranger* that they almost run out of ideas. But they always refuse to publish anything written by the Heilige, even though he offers to pay generously. Lotte’s father decides to rent a decent room for them, in spite of his loathing of Redy. But the new landlady insists that they get married (accusing them of “Kuppelei”). So they do, although both their fathers are strongly against it. Hans comes out of prison and after working on a farm, and returns home to join his father in the successful Bahnhof-Stiefelputzerei.

*Kap. 4* ..... 94-112

Unbelievably, Karl Ross got drunk and sold the *Pranger*. Redy and Lotte have to stop working for it, and slowly begin to starve. The newspaper, taken over by a couple of idiots, fails after a few months. The couple sells their things, and visits friends to eat or even just for tea and sugar. They eat at most once a day. Out of idealism, Lotte refuses to write for other papers under a pseudonym, but no other paper wants to openly publish articles by the lead journalist of the *Pranger*. Reappearance of Tamara the pure. There is an odd scene where Lotte accompanies her to an art dealer who caresses her; she allows it and Lotte feels the role of chaperone to be degrading, useless and inexplicable. She mentions her later self, Charlotte Babendeerde as an elderly woman, thinking that perhaps she could have helped Tamara instead of despising her. She has a moment of panic that Redy might still love Tamara, the fresh young girl, now that Lotte is starving, weary and heavily pregnant. But no – Redy is in love with her and no other. Happiness. Having nothing to do, Lotte reads literature all day, is stunned by Knut Hamsun. One day on a visit, Lotte faints and is fed eggs and pea soup by the lady of the house. It is a revelation: she realizes that she and Redy are children playing at being adults, and they are being taken seriously as such. Redy finally goes to ask his father for work. Joy! But his father refuses. Despair! His mother persuades his father to accept. Joy! Redy now makes plenty of money, Lotte spends two weeks in a pension in the country, relaxing and writing poetry. They buy some pretty things, dishes and a samovar. Alas, their landlady, who had sixteen children, doesn’t want children in her house, and rooms are unbelievably hard to come by. Lotte becomes obsessed with rooms: four walls to hold her life, her child.

She looks in vain for a room. But then the birth pains set in, and in bliss and agony, she and Redy walk the long, long road to the hospital.

*Kap. 4 (continued)* ..... 113-129

*Geburt.* Lotte's baby is born in the hospital, with unbelievable pain and forceps. They name him Alf. The quiet, solid little baby boy is never really alert nor hungry, and dies after just nine days. Lotte leaves the hospital early, to move into a room which Redy located in the meantime; a room with a kitchen, rented from a strange old man. They paint it dark red, but the consequences of the birth are serious and Lotte becomes so ill and weak she feels she is dying. The doctor is called, and slowly she gets better. But Redy gives up working for his father to stay with her.

*Kap. 5* ..... 130-157

Together with friends, they start the "Jungfrau" cabaret. Unfortunately, neither of them are paid, as they don't act; Redy is handyman, and Lotte wanders around livening things up, giving ideas, and lugging her home-made, anatomically correct doll Fanzelum. The participants come over to Lotte and Redy's after the evening show, with alcohol stolen from the nightclub, and drink and talk all night. Lotte tries cocaine but isn't into it; she feels her brain's already sharp and clear enough. Young Bert Reinicke visits; he's very taken with the nursing Lotte in her dark-blue room. But again Redy and Lotte are desperately short of money: they live on inexpensive hen food (Geflügelersben und Kükenreis). Redy temporarily adopts a furious little monkey (- "Mich? Beisst sie nicht. Sie kennen noch nicht meine geheimnisvollen Beziehungen zu Tieren und allem Animalischen"), but the monkey is insanely jealous of Lotte, and attacks her when she undresses, and they end up having to give it back. Lotte finds out that she's pregnant again, and the cabaret closes down.

*Kap. 6* ..... 158-183

Lotte finds work selling subscriptions to a magazine for doctor's waiting rooms. She is less and less successful at this exhausting job, until finally one doctor buys ten subscriptions and tells her to stop working. She vainly dreams of Redy's going to work at boot-cleaning with her father in the Hauptbahnhof, but her pride won't let her actually suggest it, and Redy much prefers to lie on his bed in his favorite position, hands behind his head. A friend visits and accidentally leaves his sandwich behind. They devour it, then sit tense and rigid with terror when the doorbell rings. Lotte lies to her mother about a funny show in the cabaret for which they need sheets; she borrows all her mother's sheets and pawns them. Then she has to confess the lie. Sometimes they visit a couple of friends, students who have a tiny baby and who are as poor as they are, but one day they find out that the parents have killed their baby and committed suicide. This adds depression to semi-starvation. Lotte, invited home for Peter's birthday, steals one of her mother's only two rings and pawns it, then lies when her mother asks her if she knows where it is. In one last desperate attempt to make some money and to budge Redy, Lotte and her friend Grete undertake to be prostitutes, but it is a total failure. Then they try making pornographic drawings to sell, but are too embarrassed ever to sell them.

*Kap. 7* ..... 184-207

For a while Lotte finds work as a nanny to two sweet little kids for a rich lady, and in spite of all her principles, she's very happy there. But when she becomes too obviously pregnant, the lady says she must stop working, little realising that she's condemning her back to starvation. They sell absolutely everything in their room, even the oven; winter comes and they are freezing and starving. Lotte is seven months pregnant. Suddenly, finally, Redy breaks down and decides to clean boots. Lotte's father can't stand him, but makes a big effort nonetheless, and for a while things do go well. They have money, and they even rent another room adjoining the one they live in, and paint it indigo. Lotte wants Redy to clean the filthy windows, but he feels lazy, so she does it herself, and it

starts the birth. The midwife is called. The baby comes out very easily, but the placenta doesn't follow, and Lotte is dying. The midwife is desperate and Redy races like a madman through the streets digging doctors out of their beds until he finds one who comes. The doctor says it's too late and tries to leave, but Redy forces him stay, and he saves her (very graphically) in extremis. The next day she feels fine and the baby girl, named Frigga, is tiny but healthy. But then catastrophe strikes again: Lotte's father is ejected from his job, and the whole family is unemployed again. Redy tries to clean boots on a bridge, but there are some pages missing here and we don't know why he gives it up.

*Kap. 8* ..... 208-229

Broke, Lotte moves back home. She irons shirts and mends socks for her brothers. She's extremely attracted to her brother Peter, but continues to see Redy secretly (he whistles out in the street, she dashes outside). She also steals food for him. She's still very much in love with him ("Armer, Liebster"). Her father can't stand Redy, and hates it when she goes out for the day (or the night) with him. The mother thinks the father behaves like a jealous lover. Finally it comes to a head, and the father agrees to pay rent for a room for her and Redy for one month, and then "schluss", he doesn't want to see them any more. Lotte spends one month of happiness with Redy, after which they are again starving, broke and despairing. Redy leaves her with the intention of living as a homeless person ("In die weite Welt, auf die Grosse Strasse – Vagabund. Die ganze Erde unter mir und Gottes weiten Himmel über mir.") But he comes back, and there, for the first time, she feels a prick of contempt: "Auch das hat er nicht gekonnt."

*Kap. 9* ..... 230-245

The two of them decide to make their way to Berlin. In an unbelievable chapter, they spend six weeks "auf die Grosse Strasse", on the way to Berlin on foot, pushing a collapsing baby carriage. They undergo every misery imaginable; they starve, they can't find milk, they huddle at night on the edge of the road under the pouring rain, they beg, they eat nothing but potatoes and mushrooms gathered from the edges of fields. They are exhausted and utterly despairing. On the way, they meet some helpful people and some awful ones. Finally they reach Berlin. Lotte can't find milk or diapers for the baby, and takes her to the hospital in despair; they take the baby in for a few days.

*Kap. 10* ..... 246-271

More about the terrible journey. Walking along the endless Haveldeich. A germ of resentment against Redy is definitively born within Lotte. She describes some of the people they meet. They sleep in prisons and shelters and homes and railway waiting rooms. Several pages about a remarkable old lady. Lotte writes an article about these experiences on the Landstrasse (the article is actually given verbatim at the beginning of the preceding chapter, whose style is very difficult from the rest of the book). Redy's big mouth and stubbornness ruins their chances yet again. In Berlin, without the baby, they spend one night in a homeless shelter. This is a horrible experience for the men, but not so dreadful for the women, although Lotte does have a painful feeling of being deprived of her personality. Lotte visits someone she knew from Hamburg who used to seem very fond of her. She quickly tells him that she's married and happy, but she feels her resentment of Redy grow.

*Kap. 11* ..... 272-296

Lotte and Redy visit offices of newspaper people they were acquainted with in Hamburg, or were recommended to. Success! Lotte's article is accepted and paid for (by Hans W. Fischer of the *Welt am Montag*). He sends them to Bubeling of the *Volkszeitung*, at Mosse-Verlag. Upon these hopes, they go out and rent one of their usual miserable rooms. Then, rested, with ironed clothes, they go to Mosse. But when they get there, Redy refuses to go in, so Lotte goes alone, lips pressed together. It's a success; he'll take anything she writes, and Redy can work as a theater critic (she mentions his panning the

actor Alexander Moissi). However, Lotte finds that she can't work enough, because she has to take care of Frigga all day, and moreover, to her surprise, she is turning into a perfectly typical housewife. She remembers saying that she would never do that; that if she worked professionally, then she and her husband would always share the housework, that any man could mend socks as well as she could. But suddenly, she notices that she's cooking and mending socks. She talks it over with Redy very reasonably, but he answers, also very reasonably, that he would rather have holes in his socks than mend them himself. She is annoyed that he always seems busy and yet doesn't really do much. Some of Lotte's best stories are rejected because they are too artistic; then they are accepted by the *Welt am Abend*, but it turns out to be a communist paper, and Lotte quarrels with the redaction. She decides to take Frigga back to her parents for a while so as to be able to work harder, and to buy Redy a proper suit, as she thinks maybe his tired, wrinkled suit may be psychologically responsible for his tired, wrinkled soul. This earned, she offers herself her first ever self-earned custom-tailored suit. She wears it to Hamburg to bring the child to her parents. When there, she meets with all her old friends, particularly Bert Reinicke. That night she's in bed with him. The next day is her parent's silver wedding, and that is when Lotte realizes that her mother is not happy, has never been happy...

*Kap. 12*..... 297-318

Lotte can't keep a secret from Redy; Bert's love letters and his eager visit to Berlin are soon revealed. Redy proposes a one-night triangle, Lotte accepts, Bert finds himself caught up in it. Details of the triangular event; Bert seems anguished (by prejudice, thinks Lotte). He leaves. She decides to follow him back to Hamburg. Redy says he's coming too. It takes them three weeks to get the money together, then they go, only for Lotte to receive a letter from Bert saying that he has met another girl. Redy is naturally pleased. They spend their evenings in the H.-K.-Diele. Little Frigga doesn't recognize her mother any more after her long stay with her grandparents, and Lotte determines to rent a little house in Berlin and bring her home.

*Kap. 13*..... 319-339

Lotte and Redy have rented a little house with a garden, in readiness for Frigga's return to her parents. Redy brings home a charming new friend, Richard. A few days later, Redy having gone upstairs to his room, Lotte and Richard fall into each others arms passionately. But Redy comes back downstairs again. He walks out, and Lotte continues a very casual affair with Richard, until a couple of weeks later. This is the day when Lotte's mother arrives, bringing Frigga. Lotte has to tell her that Redy is gone, and why. Her mother is amazed, remembering how her daughter and wanted to have her Redy at any price, but not absolutely displeased. She spends a while in the peaceful garden, and prepares a nice chicken for dinner. But Redy reappears and demands that Lotte make her mother leave for Hamburg at once. Tears. Lotte does it, against her will, then feels guilty and is furious with Redy.

*Kap. 14*..... 340-376

Redy is by this time totally incapable of working. He spends all day at his desk or in his atelier, frequently rearranging his papers, and that's it. Nor will he ever take care of the baby. Lotte takes care of her, walks two hours to the newspaper offices and then back, and writes all night, hardly sleeping. In the morning when she wakes up, she finds the baby in its bed, happy but filthy, because she simply can't sleep even less than she already does. Even so, she alone can't make enough money to pay the rent on the house. By chance, she runs into Freund Jule and they take him in, but eventually they are obliged to leave the house, and move to a tent in a camping site on a lake. Lotte meets Dr. Fischer on the street and he tells her that he was looking everywhere for her; he put together a whole special issue on "die grosse Strasse". But now it's too late; it has to be ready in three days. For three days and nights, she and Redy write like mad; one thousand lines. But they

know that what they're writing isn't very good, and it comes back rejected. Redy enjoys the camping site, which makes good use of his talents for pottering around. It becomes harder than ever for Lotte to write anything, except in the middle of the night. Finally, at the newspaper office, Lotte is sent to meet Christine Gebhard, a woman who devotes her life to the work of a dead poet and playwright called Brennmacher. A saintly figure, Christine lives in a large, beautiful apartment of glass cubes, and she invites Lotte to come and live in half of it, together with Redy and Frigga. It's like a miracle. Alas, even in the handsome apartment, with a desk of his own, Redy does nothing; less, even, than before. He lies on the bed with his hands behind his head and refuses to feed the baby even when Lotte has to go to the newspaper. Furious, she calls him a word starting with A. Then she can't believe that her marriage, and her endless all-resistant love for Redy has now come to this.

## V. Die Übergabe

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-33

This volume begins with Redy all alone in Berlin, as Lotte has departed furiously back to Hamburg with the baby, and Christine Gebhard naturally put him out. In the Antikriegsmuseum, he meets Hannes, who lets him sleep in his small room. Through Hannes he meets the circle of anarchists: Gerd\*, Rolland, Margot, Icke, Otto and others. Redy hangs out with them, and writes long letters to Lotte in the hopes of impressing her with his anarchist tendencies, so that she will return to him. He visits a dying youth in the hospital with Margot.

*Kap. 2* ..... 34-57

In particular he tries to impress her by frequently mentioning the soon-to-arrive Russian anarchist Sascha, who looms larger than life over the anarchist milieu. Sascha arrives and comes to sleep in Hannes' room. Redy shows him pictures of Lotte, and tells him about his miseries. Sascha looks at the pictures and says "I will steal your wife from you". He then takes his revolver and goes to do the business he came for, which involves revenge against a miserable Russian anarchist called Andrej. The revenge fails because he feels sorry for Andrej.

*Kap. 3* ..... 58-76

Lotte returns, and Redy picks her up at the station and takes her back to Hannes' place. She is horrified at the miserable situation, but they have no choice, so she installs herself there, adopting the armchair as her personal throne, and allows all the anarchists to come and pay court. Sascha soon comes, and they fall in love.

*Kap. 4* ..... 77-101

In this chapter, we visit Margot in her own miserable room, and learn about Sascha's history ten years earlier, prison in Russia and so forth. Lotte and Sascha are now madly in love, and share wild kisses.

*Kap. 5* ..... 102-132

Lotte has left Redy for Sascha. Hannes comes to her, saying "Redy ist in einem schrecklichen Zustand". Lotte feels that she has to see Redy. He weeps, grovels, and then goes to see Margot for consolation. She tells him terrible stories from her own childhood. Redy comes to where Lotte is now staying with Sascha, and watches them through the window. Then he asks Sascha to leave, and threatens to kill himself if Lotte doesn't come back to live with him. Faced with the threat, she goes, but leaves again after one day and

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\* Gerd has been identified as the writer Theodor Plievier

wanders off to Margot's, having decided that Sascha must despise her for having gone and that he won't want her back. After various adventures such as getting arrested, she runs into Sascha accidentally on purpose, and they live together again.

*Kap. 6* ..... 133-158

Christine Gebhard has committed suicide. Lotte and Redy visit her at the morgue. Sascha tells Lotte to stop writing for the papers, in order to improve her own artistic writing, and also because, as an anarchist, he will not accept any salary but only money directly from people on the street who will take what he offers. She first tries to sell a communist newspaper, the *Schwarze Fahne*, but there are no buyers and she's desperate, until Sascha rescues her. We learn more information about Sascha's life in Russia, and the story of the manuscript he lost in Belgium.

*Kap. 7* ..... 159-182

More information about Sascha's life in Russia, this time with all his women. Mutual demand for fidelity. Sascha shouts at Lotte for even thinking about getting him a doctor when he's ill. At Margot's, Lotte meets Redy. He shows her that he has bought a revolver, and says he intends to go threaten to kill himself in front of Sascha. He takes to throwing obscenities at Lotte to annoy her, and refuses to give her the money received for an article which she herself wrote. This infuriates her. Sascha says he understands how Redy must feel, and recalls his own hunger strike (against himself) when his former girlfriend Lia left him for another man. Then he tells her about Rachill and how horrid he was to her, and how angry he was when she finally got sick of him. "Ich verlange zuviel von Menschen", "mich hält man am besten damit, dass man viel von mir verlangt."

Next come some memories of Sascha's arrival from Russia, his first stay in Berlin, his friend Gezzi, being sent away, his trips to Paris, Germany, etc., ending with his deciding to remain illegally in Berlin until the next winter, when they can make enough money to go to Paris.

*Kap. 8* ..... 183-202

Description of Sascha's social life in Paris: he was sculpted in bronze by the sculptor Brzkinsky, sat chatting in the Dôme with Scholem Asch. Lotte gives her clothes away because Sascha says "ich liebe nicht geschmückte Frauen", and resolves to crush her "geistreiche Ader" because Sascha gives her a nasty look when she says "ich bin gerne boshaft", but it turns out that it was lost in translation: he actually meant "geschminkte" and thought that "boshaft" means "böse". Sascha tells her that possesses immense power over him. A description of Alexander Berkman's visit, with mention of Emma Goldman. But after the visit, a terrific quarrel breaks out because Lotte removed her glove to shake hands with the visitor.

*Kap. 9* ..... 203-212

A short chapter devoted to another, similar quarrel, this time with visiting Bulgarians and Lotte's suggestive behavior. There is a grand separation, followed by a humble changing of mind. Lotte decides to alter the direction of her willpower stream.

## VI. Sascha

*Kap. 1* ..... 1-19

Gerd rents the Keller, a basement where the anarchists collect to socialize, party, plan strategy, store their printed pamphlets, drink, smoke, and talk. "Wir sind das Salz der Erde".

*Kap. 2* ..... 20-38

Lotte is offered a regular newspaper job, but Sascha insists that she refuse it for reasons of anarchist principle explained earlier ("Er dreht den Kopf von links nach rechts,



von rechts nach links”). We hear a story from the past, about Sascha’s experience with Bolsheviks. Lotte and Sascha quarrel severely over her dancing and accepting a cigarette. Needing money, they decide to try singing in bars.

*Kap. 3* ..... 39-60

Sascha harangues sailors. Richard visits Lotte. More descriptions of Keller-life, which is degenerating badly. Freezing and exhausted after Kneipe-Sängerei, Lotte accepts Gerd’s offer to sleep in his comfortable bed. Sascha furious. ‘Ehe er kam, tat sie alles selbstsicher nach ihrem Willen’. ‘Wir gehen voneinander’. She walks out into the freezing night in her light jacket. Sascha goes to the Kneipe with the Jungen.

*Kap. 4* ..... 61-90

After the bar, Sascha and Gerd wander all over the freezing streets till they find Lotte. He promises her to find a room for the two of them. They get a miserable room. Redy comes with his foolish revolver. Then the police come and arrest everyone there; they were denounced by the Wirtin. They move out and into a minuscule Kochstube.

*Kap. 5* ..... 91-107

A description of their experiences singing in bars and asking for money at the tables. They quarrel because Sascha gives money to his friends, but they have none to send to Lotte’s mother for Frigga. Sascha lectures Lotte about her values: family should not be closer than any other needy person. They continue to sing, but quarrel again, because after singing splendidly and getting money from the tables, Sascha goes rushing out of the bars without waiting for Lotte, leaving her to be smirked and stared at while she gathers up her things.

*Kap. 6* ..... 108-133

Sascha is arrested, but sent to the hospital due to serious ill health. Lotte makes a little money by selling the anarchist brochures. Redy comes to the room she rents with Sascha, and insists on sleeping over. Lotte is cold and rigid, but gives way for a single night. The next night he goes to Margot’s. There he finds Albert, a high-minded cripple surrounded by women. Margot tells Redy that a beggar just died in a miserable tiny attic room just over hers, and says he can sleep in a horrible tiny room over hers, and says he can sleep there.

*Kap. 7* ..... 134-161

Sascha returns, furious because wanted to play cards in hospital but wasn’t allowed. Lotte proudly tells how she got permission from the head doctor to visit Sascha every day, even though they are not married. “Und falls es Dich interessiert: er hat gnädige Frau gesagt. Jawohl!”

Lotte and Sascha quarrel due to Lotte being invited to a girlfriend’s house and spending six hours there, having a rare warm bath and getting a pretty grey tailored suit from her friend. Sascha is furious with himself for having worried about her. Lotte, unable to feel guilty, punishes herself with razor-blade cuts, into which then then rubs salt and paprika. Sascha discovers the wounds and forbids her ever to harm herself again. He receives a letter with news of Rachill and Dodik, now out of prison camp but with neither work nor residence permits. Lotte’s brother Hans comes to stay with them. Sascha welcomes him warmly, and sets him up with a street camera to earn money. Lotte has an abortion and is told to rest for six days. Sascha is surprised at such weakness, and contrasts her behavior with Lia’s, who under similar circumstances got up every day to make and bring him food. Sascha also accuses Lotte of sleeping with Redy, but she gives him a heartfelt denial, thus avoiding another quarrel.

*Kap. 8* ..... 162-177

Sascha has the absolutely brilliant idea of selling the photos he takes of people on the street for just 10 Pfennigs instead of the usual 35. Now he has an enormous line of people eagerly waiting for pictures. Lotte helps him wet and develop the pictures, and offer them to the people in little frames. The money pours in. The evening is spent in a literary scene, with Sascha helping Gerd improve his writing.

*Kap. 9* ..... 178-211

Sascha is illegal, so Redy, now friendly again, gives him his papers. Lotte and Sascha buy a photography atelier from a woman for a total of 350 Marks. It's a run-down place, so they spend weeks with their friends, fixing the roof, plugging holes in the wall, and painting it. They buy furniture in the bazaar. To earn the money for the work, they go together "auf den Schock", to summer-fall fairs, with the camera. They have an enormous quarrel when Lotte goes to a restaurant alone. Sascha has a painful ulcer, and Lotte takes care of him in bitter silence for days. They have another quarrel when Sascha suggests they have dinner in the Casino, which is a chic place, and Lotte - glancing at his ragged appearance - says "You have no feeling for style." This quarrel again leads to a heavy silence that lasts for days until it also fades away. The little house is now ready, and Lotte is pregnant. But winter is arriving, it's impossible to take street pictures, and again they have no means of making money.

*This fascinating text unfortunately ends at this point.*