

Chapter 36_Everything But the Squeals ...

In the chapter titled "EVERYTHING BUT THE SQUEALS," the protagonist engages in a heated conversation with Wirtanen, expressing anger over the alteration of his work due to its illustration. He feels that the illustrations mutilate the essence of his writing, as if reducing his artistic expression to mere commercial utility, akin to how a pig is used entirely except for its squeal. This metaphor profoundly resonates with him, making him feel stripped of his identity and integrity as an artist. The process has transformed his genuine sentiments into something grotesque; his memories of Helga, once cherished, now feel tainted and worthless in the service of propaganda.

In an emotional moment, he reveals to Wirtanen that "Resi killed" his treasured memories, making them devoid of their original beauty and meaning. This feeling of loss is juxtaposed against his bittersweet acknowledgment of Bodovskov, an artist who at least managed to live with the remnants of what the protagonist used to possess. When discussing Bodovskov's fate, Wirtanen explains how he was executed for originality rather than plagiarism, as he had repurposed the protagonist's work, leading to his downfall when his new, audacious writing on the Red Army was discovered.

The conversation takes a pressing turn as Wirtanen informs the protagonist that Jones' house is about to be raided, urging him to leave immediately for his safety. Wirtanen advises against returning to his flat, as the situation there has become dangerous. The fate of several characters—Resi, Kraft, Reverend Jones, and others—is discussed, revealing a grim future for those involved. Each character is expected to face consequences for their affiliations and actions, reflecting the era's harsh realities.

In a closing exchange, the protagonist inquires about the identity of the agent who notified him, but Wirtanen, ever the enigma, declines to share this information, citing the protagonist's past as a spy. This leaves the chapter with an air of suspense and uncertainty regarding alliances and the toll of betrayal amid a tumultuous political landscape.