

# Ingeborg von Zadow

## HOUSE OF GREAT SUPRISE

English translation by the author

Original title: HAUS BLAUES WUNDER

(...)

*Mr. Goldypurse wants to close the door. Mr. Peppercorn puts his foot in the door.*

MR. PEPPERCORN Just a moment.

MR. GOLDYPURSE Anything else?

MR. PEPPERCORN With all due respect, the person who is mistaken, is you.

MR. GOLDYPURSE Well, that's enough now, Peppercorn.

MR. PEPPERCORN I agree, I absolutely agree. *A pause.* What are you doing in my little house anyway? How did you get in in the first place?

*A pause.*

MR. GOLDYPURSE I'll show you my sale contract.

MR. PEPPERCORN All right. Then I'll also show you my sale contract.

*Mr. Peppercorn presents his sale contract. Mr. Goldypurse is still searching for his.*

MR. PEPPERCORN Then we'll see who's right. *A pause.* Don't you think?

MR. GOLDYPURSE Yes, we'll soon see that.

*A pause.*

MR. PEPPERCORN Well, where's your sale contract?

MR. GOLDYPURSE Just a moment.

*Mr. Goldypurse searches for it. A pause.*

MR. PEPPERCORN If you can't find it, we could just keep to this one, Mr. Goldypurse.

MR. GOLDYPURSE That would suit your needs, wouldn't it, Peppercorn, to rob me of my property?

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MR. PEPPERCORN *reads* „The House of Great Surprise was sold today to the honest Mr. Peppercorn for a good sum of money. Signed: Mr. Seller”.

MR. GOLDYPURSE But that’s exactly what it says on mine, too!

MR. PEPPERCORN Well, then we know who this little house belongs to, don’t we?

MR. GOLDYPURSE *has found his sale contract* „The House of Great Surprise was sold today to the honest Mr. Goldypurse for twice as much money. Signed: Mr. Seller” *A pause*. What do you have to say now?

MR. PEPPERCORN Now I say – *A pause*. Why - you paid more.

MR. GOLDYPURSE Really?

MR. PEPPERCORN Twice as much as me. It says so here, in black and white.

MR. GOLDYPURSE Well, if that isn’t the biggest -

MR. PEPPERCORN There must be some mistake. The same little house, sold to two people. *A pause*. Who does something like that?

*A pause.*

MR. GOLDYPURSE WHAT A BASTARD! WAIT TILL I CATCH HIM!

MR. PEPPERCORN WE’LL GIVE HIM HELL!

MR. GOLDYPURSE WE’LL MAKE HIM PAY FOR THIS!

MR. PEPPERCORN THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS, OUTRAGEOUS!

*A pause.*

MR. GOLDYPURSE I’ll give him a call.

MR. PEPPERCORN Good idea.

MR. GOLDYPURSE This Mr. Seller.

MR. PEPPERCORN Quite right, quite right.

*Mr. Goldypurse is on the phone. Of course, no one answers the call. Then a recording: “Hello, you have reached Mr. Seller’s answering machine. Win a dream holiday, capture a ship, buy a house at the sea front. Unfortunately there is nobody in. Please try your luck again later.”*

*A pause. Nobody knows what to do.*

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