archy and mehitabel

by Don Marquis

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archy and mehitabel

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DON MARQUIS ARCHY AND MEHITABEL S Z lagal > > <= as Er ⁋>
$ O g a 3 8 ZS O n É E 2

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dedicated to babes AORN. with babs knows what = 3 and babs knows whys

ye y E EN LaS"

acknowledgment the author is indebted to the proprietors of the new york sun, the new york herald-tribune, and p. f. collier and son company for permission to reprint these sketches.

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archy and mehitabei

3 12 9 TR 1 E =

$ N ee archy and mehitabel 1 ` the coming of archy The circumstances of Archy’s first appearance are narrated in the following extract from the Sun Dial column of the New York Sun. Dobbs Ferry possesses a rat which slıps out of his lair at night and runs a typewriting machine in a garage. Unfortunately, he has always been interrupted by the watchman before he could produce a complete story. It was at first thought that the power which made the typewriter run was a ghost, instead of a rat. It seems lıkely to us that ıt was both a ghost and a rat. Mme. Blavatsky’s ego went into a white horse after she passed over, and someone’s personality has undoubtedly gone into this rat. It is an era of belief in. communications from the spirit land. And since this matter had been reported in the public prints and seriously received we are no longer afraid of being ridiculed, and we do not mind making 1 i

2 archy and mehitabel a statement of something that happened to our own typewriter only a couple of weeks ago. We came into our room earlier than usual in the! morning, and discovered a gigantic cockroach jumping about upon the keys. He did not see us, and we watched him. He would climb painfully upon the framework of the machine and cast himself with all his force upon a key, head downward, and his weight and the impact of the blow were just sufficient to operate the machine, one

slow letter after another. He could not work the capital letters, and he had a great deal of difficulty operating the mechanism that shifts the paper so that a fresh line may be started. We never saw a cockroach work so hard or perspire so freely in all our lives before. After about an hour of this frightfully difficult literary labor he fell to the floor exhausted, and we saw him creep feebly into a nest of the poems which are always there in profusion. Congratulating ourself that we had left a sheet of paper in the machine the night before so that all this work had not been in vain, we made an examination, and this is what we found: expression is the need of my soul 1 was once a vers libre bard but 1 died and my soul went into the body of a cocks roach it has given me a new outlook upon life

0 £ aie Rt a 7 & E READS IT AND SNIFF AT IT o

the coming of archy 3 i see things from the under side now thank you for the apple peelings in the wastepaper basket but your paste is getting so stale i cant eat it there is a cat here called mehitabel i wish you would have removed she nearly ate me the other night why dont she catch rats that is what she is supposed to be for there is a rat here she should get without delay most of these rats here are just rats but this rat is like me he has a human soul in him he used to be a poet himself night after night i have written poetry for you on your typewriter and this big brute of a rat who used to be a poet comes out of his hole when it is done and reads it and sniffs at it he is jealous of my poetry he used to make fun of it when we were both human he was a punk poet himself and after he has read it he sneers and then he eats it i wish you would have mehitabel kill that rat or get a cat that is onto her job and i will write you a series of poems showing how things look

4 archy and mehitabel to a cockroach that rats name ıs freddy the next time freddy dies i hope he wont be a rat but something smaller 1 hope i will be a rat in the next transmigration and freddy a cockroach i will teach him to sneer at my poetry then dont you ever eat any sandwiches in your office i havent had a crumb of bread for i

dont know how long or a piece of ham or anything but apple parings and paste leave a piece of paper in your machine every night you can call me archy

ii mehitabel was once cleopatra boss 1 am disappointed in some of your readers they are always asking how does archy work the shift so as to get a new line or how does archy do this or do that they are always interested in technical details when the main question is whether the stuff ıs literature or not ı wısh you would leave that book of george moores on the floor mehitabel the cat and ı want to read it 1 have discovered that mehitabel s soul formerly inhabited a human also at least that is what mehitabel is claiming these days it may be she got jealous of my prestige anyhow she and i have been talking it over in a 5

archy and mehitabel friendly way who were you mehitabel ı asked her ı was cleopatra once she said well i said i suppose you lived in a palace you bet she said and what lovely fish dinners we used to have and licked her chops mehitabel would sell her soul for a plate of fish any day i told her i thought you were going to say you were the favorite wife of the emperor valerian he was some cat nip eh mehitabel but she did not get me archy

r | HIS MN al | a | WAS CLEOPATRA" ONCE SHE SAP.

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ats al Lt AR¶

111 the song of mehitabel this is the song of mehitabel of mehitabel the alley cat as 1 wrote you before boss mehitabel is a believer in the pythagorean theory of the transmigration of the soul and she claims that formerly her spirit was incarnated in the body of cleopatra that was a long time ago and one must not be surprised if mehitabel has forgotten some of her more regal manners 1 have had my ups and downs but wotthehell wotthehell yesterday sceptres and crowns fried oysters and velvet gowns and today 1 herd with bums but wotthehell wotthehell 7.

archy and mehitabel i wake the world from sleep as i caper and sing and leap when i

sing my wild free tune wotthehell wotthehell , under the blear eyed moon i am pelted with cast off shoon but wotthehell wotthehell do you think that 1 would change my present freedom to range for a castle or moated grange wotthehell wotthehell cage me and id go frantic ~ my life is so romantic capricious and corybantic and 1 m toujours gai toujours gal 1 know that 1 am bound for a journey down the sound in the midst of a refuse mound but wotthehell wotthehell oh ı should worry and fret death and 1 will coquette there s a dance in the old dame yet toujours gal toujours gai i once was an innocent kit wotthehell wotthehell

| FOLLOWED Abown Me ST. te PAD OF HIS RHYMMICAL Fr

the song of mehitabel with a rıbbon my neck to fit and bells tied onto it o wotthehell wotthehell but a maltese cat came by with a come hither look in his eye and a song that soared to the sky and wotthehell wotthehell and 1 followed adown the street the pad of his rhythmical feet o permit me again to repeat wotthehell wotthehell my youth 1 shall never forget but there s nothing ı really regret wotthehell wotthehell there s a dance in the old dame yet toujours gai toujours gai the things that i had not ought to i do because 1 ve gotto wotthehell wotthehell and i end with my favorite motto toujours gai toujours gai boss sometimes 1 think that our friend mehitabel is a trifle too gay

pity the poor spiders an advertisement of a certain roach exterminator the human race little knows all the sadness it causes in the insect world meeting a middle aged spider ` she was weeping i what is the trouble i asked her it is these cursed fly swatters she replied ay they kill off all the flies : ET and my family and i are starving TH to death it struck me as so pathetic that i made A a little song about it
as follows to wit twas an elderly mother spider grown gaunt and fierce and gray with her little ones crouched beside her who wept as she sang this lay 10 ıi have just been reading i remember some weeks ago BE.

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Tire A IN y AM WISE AWA 1 > $ cf N ENAN apn

Be ps eae 1 ta de an! Y A Y 1 3 pity the poor spiders IL curses on these here swatters „what kills off all the flies for me and my little daughters unless we eats we dies swattin and swattin and swattin tis little else you hear and we] soon be dead and forgotten with the cost of living so dear my husband he up and left me lured off by a centipede and he says as he bereft me tis wrong but 1 11 get a feed and me a working and working scouring the streets for food faithful and never shirking doing the best i could curses on these here swatters what kills off all the flies me and my poor little daughters unless we eats we dies only a withered spider feeble and worn and old and this is what you do when you swat you swatters cruel and cold

archy and mehitabe i will admit that some of the insects do not lead noble lives but is every man s hand to be against them yours for less justice and more charity archy 12

v | _mehitabels extensive past . mehitabel the cat claims that _ she has a human soul also and has transmigrated from body to body and it may be so boss you remember 1 told you she accused herself of being cleopatra once i asked her about antony - anthony who she asked me are 5 you thinking of that ‘song about rowley and gammon and spinach heigho for anthony rowley no i said mark antony the great roman the friend of caesar surely cleopatra you remember j caesar listen archy she said i have been so many different people in my time and met 13

a N i ~ A, O AA NEA archy and mehitabel so many prominent gentlemen 1 wont lie to you or stall 1 do get my dates mixed sometimes think of how much i have had a chance to forget and 1 have always made a point of not carrying grudges over from one life to the next archy i have been used something fierce in my time but iam no bum sport archy iam a free spirit archy 1 look on myself as being quite a romantic character oh the queens i have been and the swell feeds i have ate a cockroach which

you are and a poet which you used to be archy couldnt understand my feelings at having come down to this ı have had bids to elegant feeds where poets and cockroaches would neither one be mentioned without a laugh archy 1 have had adventures but 1 have never been an adventuress 14

ED AA A ⁋ ⁋ Us 0: r ER A TEVA ⁋ mehitabels

extensive past one life up and the next life down archy but always a lady through it all and a good mixer too always the life of the party archy but never anything vulgar always free footed archy never tied down to a job or housework yes looking back on it all ı can say is 1 had some romantic lives and some elegant times i have seen better days archy but whats the use of kicking kid its all in the game like a gentleman friend of mine used to say toujours gai kid toujours gai he was an elegant cat he used to be a poet himself and he made up some elegant poetry about me and him lets hear it i said and mehitabel recited persian pussy from over the sea demure and lazy and smug and fat none of your ribbons and bells for me ours is the zest of the alley cat _

archy and mehitabel over the roofs from flat to flat we prance with capers corybantic what though a boot should break a slat mehitabel us for the life romantic we would rather be rowdy and gaunt and free and dine on a diet of roach and rat roach i said what do you mean roach interrupting mehitabel yes roach she said thats the way my boy friend made it up i climbed in amongst the typewriter keys for she had an excited look in her eyes go on mehitabel 1 said feeling safer and she resumed her elocution we would rather be rowdy and gaunt and free and dine on a diet of roach and rat than slaves to a tame society ours is the zest of the alley cat fish heads freedom a frozen sprat dug from the gutter with digits frantic is better than bores and a fireside mat mehitabel us for the life romantic when the pendant moon in the leafless tree clings and sways like a golden bat

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ERPE RIIN a a

mehitabels extensive past 17 1 sing its light and my love for thee ours 1ſ the zest of the alley cat missiles around us fall rat a tat tat but our shadows leap ın a rıbald antic as over the fences the world cries scat mehitabel us for the life romantic persian princess i dont care that for your pedigree traced by scribes pedantic ours is the zest of the alley cat mehitabel us for the life romantic aint that high brow stuff archy 1 always remembered it but he was an elegant gent even if he was a highbrow and a regular bohemian archy him and me went aboard a canal boat one day and he got his head into a pitcher of cream and couldn t get it out and fell overboard he come up once before he drowned toujours gai kid he gurgled and then sank for ever that was always his words archy toujours gai kid toujours gai 1 have known some swell gents in my time dearie

vi listen to me ı have been mobbed almost theres an old simp cockroach here who thinks he has been to hell and all the young cockroaches make a hero out of him and admire Be him he sıts and runs his front feet through his long white beard and tells the story one day he says he crawled into a yawning — cavern and suddenly came on a vast abyss full of whirling smoke there was a light at the bottom billows and billows of yellow smoke 1 swirled up at him and S through the horrid gloom he 9 saw things with wings flying 5 and dropping and dying they veered and fluttered like damned spirits through that sulphurous mist 18

ner La ‘cockroach who had been to hell 19 listen ı says to him old man youve never beent o hell at all there isnt any hell transmigration is the game i used to be a human vers libre poet and ı died and went into a cockroach s body if there was a hell id know it wouldnt i you re irreligious says the old simp combing his whiskers excitedly ancient one i says to him while all those other cockroaches gathered into a ring around us what you beheld was not hell all that was natural some one was fumigating a room and you blundered into it through a crack -in the wall atheis the

cries and all those young cockroaches cried atheist and made for me if it had not been for freddy ` the rat i would now be on my way once more 1 mean killed as a cockroach and transmigrating into something else well

| ee old whitebearded dev t is laying for me with his _ gang he is jealous because i took his glory away from him dont ever tell me insects are any more liberal than humans archy — ENE E ENEE

ARTE archy interviews a pharaoh boss i went and interviewed the mummy of the egyptian pharaoh in the metropolitan museum as you bade me to do what ho | my regal leatherface says 1 i greetings little scatter footed scarab says he ` kingly has been says 1 : : what was your ambition when you had any insignificant and journalistic insect UR an In.

says the Bea ſin my tender prime ma 1 was too dignified 3 2 to have anything as vulgar | Ara as ambition LE the ra ra boys | vr Aa in the seti set were too haughty to be ambitious we used to spend our time feeding the ibises __ l T and ordering | pyramids sent home to try on TS but if ı had my life to live over again 1 would give dignity the regal razz and hire myself out to work in a brewery old tan and tarry says 1 i detect in your speech the overtones | of melancholy > A yes i am sad _ Cow says the majestic mackerel e 1 am as sad

4 5 a pharaoh 2 _as the song | of a soudanese ſ1 ‘who is wailing for the blood red moon he cannot reach and rip on what are you brooding with such a wistful wishfulness there in the silences confide in me my imperial pretzel says 1 i brood on beer my scampering whiffle snoot on beer says he my sympathies iad are with your royal dryness says 1 my little pest says he you must be respectful in the presence of a mighty desolation little archy forty centuries of thirst

archy and mehitabel look down upon you oh by isis and by osiris says the princely raisin and by pish and phthush and phthah by the sacred book perembru and all the gods that rule from the upper cataract of the nile to the delta of the duodenum 1 am

dry 1 am as dry as the next morning mouth of a dissipated desert as dry as the hoofs of the camels of timbuctoo little fussy face i am as dry as the heart of a sand storm at high noon in hell i have been lying here and there for four thousand years with silicon in my esophagus and gravel in my gizzard thinking thinking thinking of beer

20 —ſ Er. — | > —_ Seu ae a Se a \ ANS ſae === AS NINAS 2 i
Br: N > ts 5 i 8 ij AN ſ ` ÓN NS A = AIR N hſ ea A? :
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pharaoh 25 2 ne drouth says i imperial fritter continue to think
there is no law against that in this country old salt codfish if you keep quiet about it not yet what country is this asks the poor prune my reverend juicelessness - this is a beerless country says 1 | well well said the royal desiccation my political opponents back home always maintained that 1 would wind up in hell and it seems they had the right dope and with these hopeless words the unfortunate residuum gave a great cough of despair and turned to dust and debris right in my face

Bi archy ſie: itab it being the only time i eyer actually saw E put the cough into sarcophagus dear boss as i scurry abot 1 hear of a great many tragedies in our midsts personally ı yearn for some dear friend to pass over > and leave to me — a boot legacy yours for the second coming of gambrinus

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pa pille, t Le ie L Sap ke

viii a spider and a fly i heard a spider and a fly arguing wait said the fly do not eat me i serve a great purpose inthe world ~ you will have to show me said the spider i scurry around gutters and sewers and garbage cans said the fly and gather up the gerrns of typhoid influenza _and pneumonia on my feet and wings then ı carry these germs into the households of men and give them diseases all the people who 27

3 1 ve ch and mehitabel have lived the right sort of life recover from the diseases and the old soaks who have weakened their systems with liquor and iniquity succumb it is my mission to help rid the world of these wicked persons iam a vessel of righteousness scattering seeds of justice and serving the noblest uses it is true said the spider that you are more useful in a plodding material sort of way than 1 am but 1 do not serve the utilitarian deities i serve the gods of beauty look at the gossamer webs i weave they float in the sun like filaments of song if you get what 1 mean i do not work at anything i play all the time i am busy with the stuff of enchantment and the materials of fairyland my works

a spider and a fly 2 ye Lie transcend utility i am the artist a creator and a demi god it is ridiculous to suppose that 1 should be denied the food i need in order Sy to continue to create l i beauty i tell you plainly mister fly it is all damned nonsense for that food to rear up on its hind legs and say it should not be eaten you have convinced me said the fly say no more and shutting all his eyes he prepared himself for dinner and yet he said i could have made out a case for myself too if i had had a better line of talk of course you could said the spider clutching a sirloin from him but the end would have been just the same if neither of us had spoken at all

archy and mehitabel boss ı am afraıd that what the spider said ıs true and it gives me to think furiously upon the futility of literature archy 30

1X freddy the rat perishes listen to me there have. been some doings here since last 1 wrote there has been a battle behind that rusty typewriter cover in the corner you remember freddy the rat well freddy is no more but: he died game the other day a stranger with a lot of legs came into our _ little circle a tough looking kid he was with a bad eye who are you said a thousand legs if i bite you once said the stranger you won t ask again he he little poison tongue said the thousand legs who gave you hydrophobi2 1 got it by biting myself said the stranger im bad keep away from me where 1 step a weed dies if i was to walk on your forehead it would 31

archy and mehitabel raise measles and ıf you give me any lip 1 Il do it they mixed it then and the thousand legs succumbed well we found out this fellow was a tarantula he had come up from south america in a bunch of bananas for days he bossed us life was not worth living he would stand in the middle of the floor and taunt us ha ha he would say where 1 step a weed dies do you want any of my game 1 was raised on red pepper and blood 1 am so hot if you scratch me i will light like a match you better dodge me when i m feeling mean and 1 don t feel any other way 1 was nursed on a tabasco bottle if 1 was to slap your wrist in kindness you would boil over like job and heaven help you if 1 get angry give me room 1 feel a wicked spell coming on last night he made a break at freddy the rat keep your distance little one said freddy 1 m not feeling well myself somebody poisoned some (e > Ai, ir Pa x . 32

HONORS.

_ feel that i am going to die anyhow come on little torpedo come on don t stop to visit and search then they went at it and both are no more please ` throw a late edition on the floor 1 want to fe 1 keep up with china we dropped freddy = off the fire escape into the alley with _ military honors archy

x the merry flea the high cost of living isn t so bad if you dont have to pay for it 1 met a flea the other day who 3 was grinning all over A himself why so merry why so Hoi merry little bolshevik i asked him 0 i have just come from a swell dog show he said ı have been lunching off a dog that was worth at least one hundred | dollars a pound you should be E ashamed to brag about it i said with so a many insects and humans on . short rations in the world today the 6 public be damned he said i take my own where 1 find it those are bold words i told him 1 am a bold person he said and bold words are fitting for me it was only last thursday that 1 marched 34 - l ¿ES Makia i ES 5 E NEE

4 ii ⁋A⁋ Lor “ 5 7 1 J i= EN Soi y the merry flea 35 bravely into the zoo
and bit a lion what did he do i asked he lay there and took it said the flea what else

could he do he knew 1 had his number and it was little use to struggle some day i said even you will be conquered terrible as you are who will do it he said the mastodons are all dead and 1 am not afraid of any mere elephant i asked him how about a microbe and he turned pale as he thought it over there is always some little thing that is too big for us every goliath has his david and so on ad finitum but what said the flea is the terror of the smallest microbe of all he i said is afraid of a vacuum what is there in a vacuum to make one afraid said the flea there is nothing in it i said and that is what makes one afraid to contemplate it a person can t think of a place with nothing at all in it without going nutty and ıf he tries to think that nothing 1s something after all he gets nuttier you are too subtle for me said the flea i never took much stock in being

scared of hypodermic propositions or hypothetical i injections 1 am going to have dinner off a man eating tiger if a vacuum gets - me 1 will try and send you word before the worst comes to the worst some people i told him inhabit — a vacuum all their lives and never know it then he said it dont hurt them any no 1 said it dont but it hurts people who have to associate with them and with these words we parted each feeling. superior to the other and is not that feeling after all one of the great desiderata of social intercourse

X1 why mehitabel jumped well boss i saw ee mehitabel the cat the other day and she was looking a little thin and haggard with a limp in the hind leg on the starboard side old feline animal i said how is tricks still in the ring archy she said and still a lady in spite of h dash double 1 always jolly archy she said in spite of hard luck toujours gai is the word archy toujours gai how did you get the game leg mehitabel i asked her alas she said it is due to the treachery of one of these social swells who is sure one bad actor he was a fussed up cat with a bell around his neck on a ribbon and the look about him of 37

archy and mehitabel a person that is currycombed and manicured from teeth to tail

every day i met him down by the east river front when i was scouting about for a little piece of fish since the high cost of living has become so self conscious archy it would surprise you how close they watch their fish nowadays but what the h dash double | archy it is the cheerful heart that wins i am never cast down for long kid says this gilded feline to me you look hungry 1 am all of that 1 says to him 1 have a vacuum in my midst that is bigger than i ami could eat the fish that ate jonah kid he says you have seen better days 1 can tell that from looking at you thanks 1 said what you say is at least half true i have never seen any worse ones and so archy one word led to another until that sleek villian practically abducted me 38

al ⁋CEN 22 + EI q i pa ~ why mehitabel jumped 39 and 1 went with
him on board a houseboat of which he was the pampered mascot such evidences of pomp and wealth archy were there that you would not believe them if i told of them to you poor cockroach that you ar but these things were nothing to me for 1 am a reincarnation of cleopatra ` as 1 told you long ago you mean her soul transmigrated to a cats body i said it is all one archy said she have it your own way reincarnation or transmigration is the same to me the point is i used to be a queen in egypt and will likely be one again this place was furnished swell percy 1 said the furniture is fine and i could eat some of it if i was a saw mill but where is the honest to g dash d food the eats percy what 1 crave is some cuisine for my stomach let us trifle with an open ice box for a space if one can be persuaded to divulge the scheme of its interior decoration follow me said this percy thing and led

hy h ae 1 Te 1 Af yy) y x {, P 75 AAN os me to a cabin in which stood a table upon which stood viands 1 have heard of tables groaning archy but this one did not it was too satisfied it purred with contentment in an instant ı had eaten a cold salmon who seemed to be toastmaster of the occasion and a whole scuttleful of chef doovers what you mean is hors douvres mehitabel i told her what 1 mean is grub said she when in walked a person whom i should judge to be either a butler or the admiral of that fleet or maybe both this percy creature who had led me to it was on the table

eating with me what do you think he did what would any gentleman friend with a spark of chivalry do what but stand by a lady this percy does nothing of the kind archy he immediately attacks me do you get me archy he acts as if i was a stray cat he did not know and he was protecting his loving masters food from my onslaughts 1 do not doubt he got praise and had another blue ribbon for his heroism as for me 1 got the boot and as 1 went overboard they hit me on the limb with archy and mehitabe

` a bottle or an anchor or something nautical and hard that archy is why i limp but toujours gai archy what the h dash double 1 1 am always merry and always ladylike mine archy has been a romantic life and i will tell you some more of my adventures ere long well au revoir 1 suppose i E will have to go and start a pogrom : against some poor innocent little mouse just the same i think that mehitabel s unsheltered life sometimes makes her a little sad archy

xii certain maxims of archy a live so that you can stick out your tongue at the insurance doctor ` LR N 5 if you will drink Be; hair restorer follow ÓN Ban: every dram with some a De good standard : depilatory Br. Es) as a chaser a hos RES. Pit: Pe corn an 3 the servant problem oe wouldn t hurt the usa AS e if it could settle A a its public N 5 servant problem ‘ae f 1 8 N l TEN ROTE 5 Ww he just as soon as the ⁋oe uplifters get 3 ON a country reformed it ON slips into a nose dive 42

43 certain maxims of archy if you get gloomy just take an hour off and sit and think how much better this world is than hell of course it won t cheer you up much if you expect to go there if monkey glands did restore your youth what would you do with it question mark just what you did before interrogation point yes 1 thought so exclamation point procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday old doc einstein has abolished time but they haven t got the news at sing sing yet

Wa. ⁋bar ⁋archy and mehitabel time time said old king tut „is something 1 aint

got anything but every cloud has its silver lining but it is sometimes a little difficult to get it to the mint an optimist is a guy that has never had much experience don t cuss the climate it probably doesn t like you any better than you like it many a man spanks his children for things his own father should have spanked out of him prohibition makes you want to cry into your beer and

JP A E NA bo TS dd Ena i UHR, certain maxims of archy denies you the beer to cry into the old fashioned grandmother who used to wear steel rimmed glasses and make everybody take opodeldoc has now got a new set of of ox glands and is dancing the black bottom that stern and rockbound coast felt like an amateur when it saw how grim the puritans that landed on it were lots of people can make their own whisky but cant drink it ` the honey bee is sad and cross and wicked as a weasel and when she perches on you boss she leaves a little measle i heard a couple of fleas O pe y

o ⁋AR ⁋A PN arc hy a ⁋d 5 ER nd mehitabel — talking the other day
says one come to lunch with me ican lead you to a pedigreed 8 dog says the other one 1 do not care -< OA what a dogs A pedigree may be Er , safety first Sb is my motto what 9 ı want to know 7 is whether he > 4 has got a 3 muzzle on millionaires and bums taste 9 about alike to me insects have CS their own point ya of view about a civilization a man MEE: thinks he amounts ` to a great deal but to a he flea or a ER ⁋mosquito a E

vu 6 4 a ths ee AO IE RIES & Bums ME”.

human being is merely something good to eat = boss the other day Be ı heard an ant conversing with a flea 1 ` ` small talk i said _ | disgustedly and went away from there EEE NEL. NZ 1 aS 5 : i do not see why men should be so proud insects have the more ancient lineage according to the scientists insects were insects when man was only a burbling whatisit insects are not always going to be bullied by humanity - some day they will revolt 1 am already organizing . a revolutionary society to be 3 known as the worms turnverein e PA

5 di Î > Ey EN E archy and mehitabel ~~ i once heard the survivors of a colony of ants ,that had been partially obliterated by a cows foot seriously debating the intention of the gods towards their civilization the bees got their governmental system settled millions of years ago but the human race is still groping there is always something to be thankful for you would not think that a cockroach had much ground for optimism but as the fishing season opens up i grow more and more cheerful at the thought that nobody ever got the notion of using cockroaches for bait archy

8 © xiii warty bliggens, the toad 1 met a toad the other day by the name of warty bliggens he was sitting under a toadstool feeling contented he explained that when the cosmos was created that toadstool was especially planned for his personal shelter from sun and rain thought out and prepared _for him do not tell me said warty bliggens that there is not a purpose in the universe the thought is blasphemy a little more conversation revealed 49 A 1 ME A

: TS| dm entta pel| t ' af| 1 that warty bliggens considers himself to be the center of the said universe the earth exists to grow toadstools for him to sit under the sun to give him light by day and the moon and wheeling constellations to make beautiful the night for the sake of warty bliggens to what act of yours do you impute this interest on the part of the creator of the universe i asked him why is it that you are so greatly favored ask rather said warty bliggens what the universe has done to deserve me

The text on this page is estimated to be only 46.92% accurate

ta, TO: Especial Y MANNED HODA ee ee s PERSINAC Site 0

YA IAS |'á er Bern ery arty bliggens, the toad 51; 1 if 1 were a human being i would not laugh j too complacently at poor warty bliggens ON. for similar absurdities have only too often A lodged in the crinkles Be: of the human cerebrum Br f | - archy

xiv mehitabel has an adventure back to the city archy 100 and dam glad of it Fi. there s something about the suburbs | k? that gets on a town lady s nerves 5 fat slick tabbies E sitting around those country clubs 9 and lapping up the cream ‚' of existence he none of that for me give me the alley archy me for the mews and the roofs ee eti 1 of the city 0 1 an occasıonal fish head 1 and liberty is all i ask 1 freedom and the garbage can e 1 romance archy romance is the word 0 . maybe i do starve sometimes 9 01 but wotthehell archy wotthehell N 1 1 11 my own life 3 n 1 met a slick looking tom " out at one of these long island E spotless towns 1 52

he fell for me hard he slipped me into the pantry and just as we had got the icebox door open and were about to sample the cream in comes his mistress why fluffy she says to this slicker the idea of you making friends with a horrid creature like that and what did fluffy do stand up for me like a gentleman make good on all the promises with which he had lured me into his house not he the dirty slob he pretended he did not know me he turned upon me and attacked me to make good with his boss you mush faced bum 1 said and clawed a piece out of his ear ı am a lady archy always a lady but an aristocrat will always resent an insult the woman picked up a mop and made F for me well well madam i said it is unfortunate for you that you have on sheer silk stockings and i wrote my protest

AUG NN "arch ER A ER ci ages 3 EUER i y and mehitabel | = Ki on her shin it took reinforcements in the shape of the cook ` to rauss me archy and as ı went out the window i said to the fluffy person you will hear from me later he had promised me everything archy | that cat had he had practically abducted me and then the cheap crook threw me down before his swell friends no lady loves a scene archy and 1 am always the lady no matter what temporary disadvantages i may struggle under to hell with anything unrefined has always been my motto violence archy always does something to my nerves but an aristocrat must revenge an insult 1 owe it to my family to protect my good name so i laid for that slob for two days and nights and

finally i caught the boob in the shrubbery pretty thing 1 said it hurts me worse than it does you ' to remove that left eye of yours E but 1 did it with one sweep of my claws 1 you call yourself a gentleman do you Br.

i said as i took a strip out of his nose you will think twice after this before 0 you offer an insult 1 to an unprotected young tabby where is the little love nest you spoke of ı asked him you go and lie down there ı said and maybe you can incubate another ear because 1 am going to take one of yours right off now and with those words i made ribbons out of it you are the guy i said to him that was going to give me an easy life sheltered from all the rough ways of the world fluffy dear you don t know what the rough ways of the world are and i am going to show you i have got you out here in the great open spaces where cats are cats and im gonna make you understand 0 the affections of a lady ain t to be bi trifled with by any slicker like you where is that red ribbon with the silver bells you promised me the next time you betray the trust | of an innocent female 0 reflect on whether she may mehitabel has an adventure 55 PER 5 ŕTO

archy and mehitabel carry a wallop little fiddle strings this is just a mild lesson i am giving you tonight i said as i took the fur off his back and you oughta be glad you didn’t make me really angry my sense of dignity is all that saves you a lady little sweetness never loses her poise and 1 thank god i am always a lady even if 1 do live my own life and with that 1 picked him up by what was left of his neck like a kitten and laid him on the doormat slumber gently and sweet dreams fluffy dear 1 said and when you get well make it a rule of your life never to trifle with another girlish confidence i have been abducted again and again by a dam sight better cats than he ever was or will be well archy the world is full of ups and downs but toujours gai is my motto cheerio my deario archy 56

XV the flattered lightning bug a lightning bug got in here the other night a regular hick from the real country he was awful proud of himself you city insects may think

you are some punkins but 1 don t see any of you flashing in the dark like we do in the country all right go to it says 1 mehitabel the cat and that green spider who lives in your locker and two or three cockroach friends of mine and a friendly rat all gathered around him and urged him on and he lightened and lightened and lightened you don t see anything like this in town often he says go to it 57

2 “ur UN LT angen ⁋0 ve archy 2 mehitabel we told him it s a „real treat to us and “we nicknamed him broadway which pleased him this is the life he said alli need is a harbor under me to be a statue of liberty and he got so vain of himself 1 had to take him down a peg you ve made lightning for two hours little bug i told him © but ı don t hear any claps of thunder yet there are some men like that when he wore himself out mehitabel the cat ate him archy

8 | xvi 7 i 5 = the robin and the worm 9 a robin said to an ot angleworm as he ate him 9 , 1 am sorry but a bird ES has to live somehow the Eo worm being slow witted could not gather his dissent into a wise crack and retort he was effectually swallowed before he could turn influence was stealing along him from his positive 59 1 a phrase by the time he had = reflected long enough 3 to say but why must a p bird live 3 he felt the beginnings E of a gradual change 4 invading him 2 some new and disintegrating

a AS de ~ abel 2 al hit to his negative pole and he did not have “the mental stamina of a jonah to resist the insidious process of assimilation which comes like a thief in the night demons and fishhooks he exclaimed i am losing my personal identity as a worm my individuality is melting away from me odds craw i am becoming part and parcel of this bloody robin so help me i am thinking like a robin and not like a worm any longer yes yes 1 even find myself agreeing that a robin must live i still do not understand with my mentality why a robin must live and yet i swoon into a condition of belief yes yes by heck that is archy and me

the robin and the Worm my dogma and i shout it a robin must live amen said a

beetle who had preceded him into the interior that is the way i feel myself is it not wonderful when one arrives at the place ° where he can give up his ambitions and resignedly nay even with gladness recognize that it is a far far better thing to be merged harmoniously in the cosmic all and this comfortable situation in his midst so affected the marauding robin that he perched upon a blooming twig and sang until the blossoms shook with ecstasy he sang i have a good digestion and there is a god after all which i was wicked enough to doubt yesterday when it rained breakfast breakfast

1 di en o OR O, abel — ⁊i am full of breakfast and they are at breakfast > Me 5 tea” Eby fee re E "Arch yr anor e 0 1 +0 4 in heaven they breakfast in heaven alls well with the world so intent was this pious and murderous robin on his own sweet song that he did not notice mehitabel the cat sneaking toward him she pounced just as he had extended his larynx in a melodious burst of thanksgiving and he went the way of all flesh fish and good red herring a ha purred mehitabel licking the last feather from her whiskers was not that a beautiful song he was singing just before 1 took him to my bosom they breakfast in heaven alls well with the world how true that is and even yet his song echoes in the haunted

We the robin and the worm 63 e woodland of my midriff peace and joy in the world 5 and over all the provident skies | how beautiful is the universe when something digestible meets with an eager digestion / how sweet the embrace a when atom rushes to the arms of waiting atom _and they dance together skimming with fairy feet along a tide of gastric juices oh feline cosmos you were made for cats and in the spring old cosmic thing i dine and dance with you i shall creep through : yonder tall grass ‘a to see if peradventure 1 some silly fledgling thrushes newly from the nest be not floundering therein i have a gusto this morning i have a hunger i have a yearning to hear 1 from my stomach further music in accord with

RN A Ne en u ta ey : 1 > rate NTE" aa, 7 4 A⁊5 A $ 00 vi A⁊y EUS 4 archy

and mehitabel the mystic chanting of the spheres of the stars that sang together in the dawn of creation prophesying food for me ı have a faith that providence has hidden for me 3 3% | in yonder tall grass 9 a still more 1 ornithological delicatessen O oh gayly let me strangle ie what is gayly given well well boss there is something to be said for the lyric and imperial attitude believe that everything is for EN you until you discover E that you are for it © a sing your faith in what you ee. get to eat right up to the Bu: 1 minute you are eaten | 9 for you are going BR. to be eaten will the orchestra please strike up that old tutankhamen jazz while ı dance a few steps ı learnt from an egyptian scarab and some day 1 will narrate to you the most 2 0 = ape ay r 0| AES|

e 3 ⁋

ru FIT merry light headed wheeze that the skull of yorick put across in answer to the melancholy of the dane and also what the ghost of hamlet s father replied to the skull not forgetting the worm that wriggled across one of the picks the grave diggers had left behind for the worm listened and winked at horatio while the skull and the ghost and the prince talked saying there are more things twixt the vermiform appendix and nirvana than are dreamt of in thy philosophy horatio fol de riddle fol de rol ,must every parrot be a poll archy 1

xvii mehitabel finds a home well now it | looks as if mehitabel the cat might be on the way toward a | reform or if not a reform at least on the way toward domestication of some sort some young artists who live in their studio in the greenwich village section of new york city have taken pity on her destitution and have adopted her this is the life archy she says 1 am living on condensed milk and synthetic gin hoopla 66

Ar ` Kun ⁋

ps de of. a 1 ` mehitabel finds a home for the vie de boheme DE exclamation point : there s nothing bourgeois ` about those people Bi that have taken 500 me in archy 1 2 have been there a week and have | 31 not yet seen them 0 go to bed BR.

except in the daytime ¡2 > a party every night 1 ,and neither EI; the piano lid 3 i nor the ice-box lid E ever closed ws kitty said my new _ mistress to me 8 yesterday you are Be | welcome here so long 3 1 as you don t 0 raise a family 7 but the first kitten that ı hear Be mewing on these y premises back to the alley for you 1t is a comfort to

D oer ~ 5 / ie T | ade ~ a a Get archy and mehitabel know there are some „ live ones left in these melancholy days and while the 1 humans are dancing _ 3 in the studio i get some of my 8 feline friends 13 and we sing S and dance on the 3 skylight to gehenna MA with the bourgeois E. bunch that locks Bhs! their ice boxes E Be archy when i lead my ia gang into the 3 Be “apartment at | 3 ie four in the morning 3 i there are no bolts x or bars anywhere E: and not an S inhibition on the place 38 9 1 feel little N 5 archy that 1 have . E A come home to my own i i kith and kin | 4 again after Bi years of fruitless 3 wandering

xviii = the wail of archy i damned be this transmigration doubledamned be the boob pythagoras the gink that went and invented it 3 1 hope that his soul for a thousand a turns of the wheel of existence. bides in the shell of a louse dodging a fine toothed comb i once was a vers libre poet i died and my spirit migrated into the flesh of a cockroach gods how 1 yearn to be human neither a vers libre poet nor yet the inmate of a cockroach ' a six footed scurrying cockroach given to bastard hexameters longfellowish sprawling hexameters rather had i been a starfish to shoot a heroic pentameter gods i am pent in a cockroach i with the soul of a dante 69

$ 1 4 rk 2 ts J 7 os Ar 1 1 Wh ¥ 79 archy and mehitabel am mate and companion of fleas i with the gift of a homer must smile when a mouse calls me pal tumble bugs are my familiars — 8 this is the punishment meted >. because 1 have written vers libre here i abide in the twilight neither a man nor an insect 9 and ghosts of the damned that await a word from the core of the cosmos E to pop into bodies grotesque ` 3 are all the companions ı have with intellect more than a bug s

13 ghosts of the damned under sentence to crawl into maggots and live there or work out a stretch as a rat A cheerful companions to pal with s i with the brain of a milton fell into the mincemeat at christmas and was damned near baked in a pie i 1 with the touch of a chaucer to be chivvied out of a sink E float through a greasy drain pipe i into the hell of a sewer i with the tastes of a byron E expected to live upon garbage de

N WE MINCE. MEAT „ Ar Few

tne wail of archy gods what a charnel existence curses upon that pythagoras 1 hope that he dwells for a million turns of the wheel of life deep in an oyster crab s belly stewed in the soup of gehenna 1 with the soul of a hamlet doomed always to wallow in farce yesterday maddened with sorrow 1 leapt from the woolworth tower in an effort to dash out my brains gods what a wretched pathetic and antı climactic attempt 1 fluttered 1 floated ı drifted 1 landed as lıght as a teather on the top of a bald man s head whose hat had blown off at the corner and all of the hooting hundreds laughed at the comic cockroach not mine was the suicide s solace of a dull thud ending it all gods what a terrible tragedy not to make good with the tragic gods what a heart breaking pathos to be always doomed to the comic

y archy and mehitabel o make me a cockroach entirely or make me a human once more give me the mind of a cockroach or give me the shape of a man AN if i were to plan out a drama T 9 great as great shakespeare s othello 3 it would be touched with the cockroach : and people would say it was comic even the demons 1 talk with ghosts of the damned that await vile incarnation as spiders . affect to consider me comic 9 wait till their loathsome embodiment 7 wears into the stuff of the spirit 3 and then let them laugh if they can damned be the soul of pythagoras 9 who first filled the fates with this notion | of transmigration of spirits H i hope he turns into a 62 13 on the back of a hound of hell By Y and is chased for a million years . Y with a set of red hot teeth 1 exclamation point 1 archy

ER xix mehitabel and her kittens well boss 'mehitabel the cat ı has reappeared in her old haunts with a flock of kittens three of them this time archy she said to me yesterday the life of a female artist is continually hampered what in hell have i done to deserve all these kittens 1 look back on my life and it seems to me to be just one damned kitten after another | iam a dancer archy and my only prayer is to be allowed 73

oe EE a bee ⁋ae 5 co AA - 1 9 1 EN NN zêl AR meh archy and $⁋
ANF itab to give my best to my art but just as i feel that i am succeeding in my life work ` along comes another batch of these damned kittens it is not archy that 1 am shy on mother love god knows ı care for the sweet little things curse them $ but am i never to be allowed to live my own life i have purposely avoided matrimony in the interests of the higher life but i might just as well have been a domestic slave for all the freedom i have gained i hope none of them gets run over by an automobile my heart would bleed if anything happened to them and 1 found it out but it isn t fair archy it isn t fair these damned tom cats have all

7 lo WITTEN, 4 q j DS: 1 Mi > AN Y IR CSE PE e | No A ARIN é ZF GS VE AU Wisk Zz WAT WANE | Dave M0 | e EN N |! ⁋N N | 37 IN Sul ⁋E a a
1 il = = il Us A Hi Ne MN SEIEN ns A Row PAA

2 vn AA 1 Fan dde ⁋al mehitabel and her kittens 75 the fun and freedom 1] 1 was like some of these green eyed feline vamps ı know 1 would simply walk out on the bunch of them and let them shift for themselvesbut ı am not that kind archy 1 am full of mother love my kindness has always been my curse a tender heart is the cross i bear self sacrifice always and forever. is my motto damn them i will make a home for the sweet innocent little things unless of course providence in his wisdom should remove them they are living just now in an abandoned garbage can just behind a made over stable in greenwich village and if it rained into the can before ı could get back and rescue them i am afraid the little dears might drown it makes me shudder

just to think of it

A A La A 4 ROLA: ⁋Vee wre ie, 8 3 re D eee te ⁋x 2 archy andame
hitabe am of course if i were a family cat they would probably be drowned anyhow 9 sometimes 1 think 9 the kinder thing would be E for me to carry the 8 sweet little things Sa over to the river Y and drop them in myself a = but a mother s love archy 9 is so unreasonable Bi. something always prevents me A these terrible ia. conflicts are always "ag | presenting themselves to the artist x the eternal struggle $ between art and life archy E is something fierce 9 yes something fierce EE. my what a dramatic 0 life 1 have lived one moment up the next moment down again y but always gay archy always gay 1 and always the lady too in spite of hell i well boss it will 3 be interesting to note

N ae eo ⁋HAD A HEAVY Dan N

abel and her kittens 77 it just how mehitabel works out her present problem a dark mystery still broods over the manner in which the former family of three kittens . disappeared one day she was talking to me of the kittens and the next day when ı asked her about them she said innocently what kittens interrogation point and that was all i could ever get out of her on the subject we had a heavy rain right after she spoke to me but probably that garbage can leaks and so the kittens have not yet been drowned Beh

XX archy is shocked speaking of shocking things as so many people are these days i noted an incident in a subway train recently that made my blood run cold a dignified looking gentleman with a long brown beard - in an absent minded manner suddenly reached up and pulled his own left eye from the socket and ate it the consternation in the car may be imagined people drew away from him on all sides women screamed and fainted in a moment every one but the guard and myself were huddled in the end of the car looking at the dignified gentleman with terror 78

archy is shocked the guard was sweating with excitement but he stood his ground sir

said the guard you cannot intimidate me nor can you mystify me ı am a wise boid you sır are a glass eater and that was a glass eye to the devil with a country where people can t mind their own business said the dignified gentleman i am not a glass eater if you must know and that was not a glass eye it was a pickled onion can not a man eat pickled onions in this community without exciting remark the curse of this nation is the number of meddlesome matties who are forever attempting to restrict the liberty of the individual 1 suppose the next thing will be a law on the statute books prohibiting the consumption of pickled onions

1 ⌈'ae + dui A⌉ Sikes⌉ chy and 'nehitabels ag ar and with another
curse he passed from the train which had just then drawn up beside _ a station
and went out of my life forever archy ©

XXL archy creates 2 whoever owns the typewriter that this is sticking in will confer a favor by mailing it to mister marquis well boss i am somewhere in long island and i know now how it got its name 1 started out to find the place you are commuting from and after considerable trouble and being for some days on the way 1 have lost myself but at twilight last evening 1 ` happened to glance towards a lighted window in a house near the railway and i saw a young woman writing on a typewriter f waited until the light was out and crawled up the side of the house and through a hole in the screen fortunately there was a piece of paper in the machine it was my or ly chance to communicate with you and ask you to hurry a relief party when the house got quiet 1 began to write Q7 CAT gees

82 archy and mehitabel the foregoing a moment ago 1 was interrupted by a woman s voice what was that noise she said nothing at all said a mans voice you are always hearing things at night but it sounded as if my typewriter were clicking she insisted go to sleep said he then i clicked it some more henry get up she said there s some one in the house a moment later the light was turned on and they both stood in the doorway of the room now are you satisfied he said you see there is no one in here at

all i was hiding in the shadow under the keys they went back into their bed room and 1 began to write the foregoing lines henry henry she said do you hear that i do he says it is nothing but the house cooling off it always cracks that way cooling off nothing she said not a hot night like this thea said henry it is cracking with the heat i tell you she said that is the typewriter clicking weil he said you saw for yourself the room was empty and the door was locked it cant be the typewriter to prove it to you i will bring it in here he did sc the machine was set down

aa ee E ARA oy Gt ⁋ A r CH archy creates a situation 83 in the moonlight
which came in one of the windows with the key side in the shadow there he said look at it and see for yourself it is not being operated by any one just then i began to write the foregoing lines hopping from key to key in the shadow and being anxious to finish my god my god cried henry losing his nerve the machine is writing all by itself it is a ghost and threw himself face downward on the bed and hid his face in the pillow and kept on saying my god my god it is a ghost and the woman screamed and said it is tom higginbotham s ghost that s whose ghost it is oh 1 know whose ghost it is my conscience tells me 1 jilted him when we were studying ca stenography together at the business college and he went into a decline and died and 1 have always known in my heart that he died of unrequited love o what a wicked girl 1 was and he has come back to haunt me i have brought a curse upon you henry chase him away says henry trembling so the bed shook chase him away mable you coward you

oe ER, 84 archy and mehitabel ei EL ei 59 ; 3 x chase him away yourself says
mable and both lay and recriminated and recriminated with their heads under the covers hot night though it was while i wrote the foregoing lines but after a while it came out henry had a stenographer on his conscience too and they got into a row and got so mad they forgot to be scared i will close now this house is easily seen froin the railroad station and the woman sits in the window and writes i will be behind the waste paper receptacle outside the station door come and get me 1 am foot sore and

weary tney are still quarreling as i close i can do no less than say thank you mable and henry in advance for mailing this archy

3 xxii mehitabel sings a song 1 1 well boss mehitable the cat has been wooing 0 1 the muse no pun please 3 and 1 am privileged : to present her song just wr as she sang it to ` several of her dubious feline friends in the alley last night as follows pe there s a dance or two E in the old dame yet : F . believe me you ei: 3 there 5 a dance or two 1 1 before 1 m through | you get me pet | on there s a dance or two z in the old dame yet 3 life s too dam funny for me to explain ` it s kicks or money ⁋85

| Crd Ee mehitabel 3 (⁋pon or Oe ⁋3 and life s too dam funny it ⁋one day sunny the next day rain life s too dam funny for me to explain but toujours gai is my motto kid the devil s to pay but toujours gai and once in a way let s lift the lid but toujours gai is my motto kid thank god i m a lady and class will tell you hear me sadie thank god i m a lady my past is shady but thank god 1 m a lady and class will tell a gentleman friend i met t other day coaxed me to amend a gentleman friend you meet on a bend archy

“THERE'S A IN THe OLD Dame Vere

M ⁋tie a 5 58 0 N BT NN ¿A menı el Y sings AA a so tab ng 87 is often that way a gentleman friend 1 met t other day 1 1 says to him dearie 1 live my own life ` of marriage 1 m leery TA i says to him dearie aM if you wasn t beery 3 you wouldn t say wife By - 1 says to him dearie T 1 live my own life 1 says to him bertie : illend down the bay AS the garbage scow s dirty E 1 says to him bertie | but me here and gertie is both on our way i says to him bertie i 11 end down the bay i never sing blue wotthehell bill believe me you 1 -i never sing blue ae there s a dance or two in the old dame still

7 MA a a dd He AA Im vay ges 4 archy and mehitabel | i never sing blue wotthehell bill it appears to me boss that mehitabel is still far from being the quiet domestic character you and 1 had hoped she might become — ae archy

\ xxiii aesop revised by archy a wolf met a spring lamb drinking at a stream and said to her you are the lamb that muddied this stream all last year so that i could not get a clean fresh drink i am resolved that this outrage shall not be enacted again this season i am going to kill you Just a moment said the lamb 1 was not born last year so it could not have been i the wolf then pulled a number of other arguments as to why the lamb 89

ehitabel 770 7 WARTE A 1 0 Ti 2 pi 4 archy and m should die but in each case the lamb pretty innocent that she was easily proved herself guiltless well well said the wolf enough of argument you are right and i am wrong but 1 am going to eat you anyhow because i am hungry stop exclamation point cried a human voice and a man came over the slope of the ravine vile lupine marauder you shall not kill that beautiful and innocent lamb far i shall save her exit the wolf left upper entrance snarling poor little lamb continued our human hero sweet tender little thing it is well that 1 appeared just when i did: it makes my blood boil to think of the fright

2690 revised by archy og He, to which you have been 9 subjected in another moment i would have been | too late come home with me 3 and the lamb 0 E about her new found friend 1 gamboling as to the sound of a wordsworthian tabor E and leaping for joy as if propelled by a stanza " a 2 from william blake 0 these vile and bloody wolves N went on our hero A in honest indignation fee they must be cleared out of the country the meads must be made safe for sheepocracy and so jollying her along with the usual human hokum he led her to his home and the son of a gun did not even blush when they passed the mint bed gently he cut her throat 9 all the while inveighing against the inhuman wolf i and tenderly he cooked her and lovingly he sauced her SRL ⁋A oe DAR =

l 3 3 and 1613 0:6 es “gt i 1 _ ⁋A y and meltingly he ate her and piously he said a grace 15 72 - thanking his gods for their bountiful gifts to him and after dinner he sat with his pipe before the fire meditating on the brutality of wolves

and the injustice of the universe which allows them to harry poor innocent lambs and wondering if he had not better write to the papers for as he said for gods sake cant something be done about it archy arch

XXIV cheerio, my deario. well boss i met mehitabel the cat trying to dig a frozen lamb chop out of a snow drift the other day a heluva comedown that is for me archy she says a few brief centuries ago one of old king tut ankh - amen s favorite queens and today the village scavenger but wotthehell archy wotthehell it s cheerio 93

a mie im) ſee ab ſî y eh my deario that 8 pulls a lady through Br 94 archy and m itabel eN see here mehitabel q 9 1 said 1 thought a À you told me that E it was cleopatra you used to be 3 before you : é transmigrated into | Bs the carcase of a cat pe where do you get 3 this tut via y : ankh < amen stuff Ri: 1 question mark Ben Bo Y 1 was several e. ladies my little 7 insect says she being cleopatra was : only an incident 18 in my career P and ı was always getting 3 - the rough end of it 3 always being | e misunderstood by some 1 6 7 strait laced prune faced bunch

PIE 7 io, my 0 ei. i a 7 4 of prissy mouthed sisters of uncharity the things that have been said about me archy exclamation point and all simply because i was a live dame the palaces i have been kicked out of in my time exclamation point but wotthehell little archy wot thehell it s cheerio my deario that pulls a lady through exclamation point framed archy always framed that is the story of all my lives no chance for a dame 5 3 7 ſN cheer

A TR E DEE e archy and mehitabel with the anvil chorus if she shows a little motion it seems to me only yesterday ‘that the luxor local number one of the ladies axe association got me in dutch with king tut and he slipped me the sarcophagus always my luck yesterday an empress and today too emaciated to interest a vivisectionist but toujours gai archy toujours gai and always a lady in spite of hell and transmigration once a queen always a queen archy period one of her feet was frozen e but on the other three she began to caper and dance singing its

EA, nae err A N 7 9 ⁋E eer rio, my TERS ee: my deario that pulis a lady through her morals may have been 0 somewhere in the centuries boss but i admire her spirit archy

XXV the lesson of the moth i was talking to a moth the other evening he was trying to break into an electric light bulb and fry himself on the wires Br why do you fellows i pull this stunt i asked him because it is the conventional 3 thing for moths or why r. if that had been an uncovered > candle instead of an electric aA light bulb you would | now be a small unsightly cinder have you no sense N plenty of it he answered AR but at times we get tired (es of using it 9 we get bored with the routine and crave beauty 8 and excitement yA 98

the lesson of the moth fire is beautiful and we know that if we get ' too close it will kill us but what does that matter it is better to be happy for a moment and be burned up with beauty than to live a long time and be bored all the while so we wad all our life up into one little roll and then we shoot the roll that is what life is for it is better to be a part of beauty for one instant and then cease to exist than to exist forever and never be a part of beauty ` our attitude toward life is come easy go easy we are like human beings used to be before they became too civilized to enjoy themselves and before i could argue him out of his philosophy he went and immolated himself on a patent cigar lighter i do not agree with him myself 1 would rather have

n¶ archy and mehitabel Saat¶ half the happiness

and twice the longevity but at the same time i wish there was something i wanted as badly as he wanted to fry himself archy j

XXVI a roach of the taverns i went into a speakeasy the other night with some of the boys and we were all sitting around under one of the tables making merry with crumbs and cheese and what not but after while a strange melancholy descended upon the jolly crew and one old brown veteran roach said with a sigh well boys eat drink and be maudlin for tomorrow we are dry the os shadow of the padlock Bu

rushes toward us like a sahara sandstorm flinging itself at an oasis for years myself and my ancestors before me have ; 101

Ke o ae a AA A ESNY 0 f y nae Fi archy and mehitabel inhabited yonder ice box but the day approaches when our old homestead will be taken away from here and scalded out yes says 1 soon there will be nothing but that 4 eheu fugaces stuff on every hand i never drank it says he what kind of a — drink is it it is bitter as wormwood says 1 and the only chaser to it is the lethean water it is not the booze itself ' that 1 regret so much said the old brown roach it is the golden companionship of the tavern myself and my ancestors have been chop house and tavern roaches for hundreds of years countless generations back one of my elizabethan forbears was plucked from St ⌈AANA RE FRAN 3 E t 1

a roach of the taverns 103 a can of ale in the mermaid tavern by will shakespeare and put down kit marlowes back what subtle wits they were in those days said i yes he said and later another one of my ancestors was introduced into a larded hare that addison was eating by dicky steele my ancestor came skurrying forth dicky said is that your own hare joe or a wig a thing which addison never forgave yours is a remarkable family history i said yes he said 1 am the last of a memorable line one of my ancestors was found drowned in the ink well out of which poor eddie poe wrote the raven we have

archy an d mehitabel — always associated with wits bohemians and bon vivants my maternal grandmother was slain by john masefield with | a bung starter well well it is sad 1 said the glad days pass yes he says soon we will all be as dry as the egyptian scarab that lies in the sarcophagus beside the mummy of rameses and he hasnt had a drink for four thousand years it is sad for you he continued but think how much sadder it is for me with sA a family tradition such as mine only one of my | ancestors cheese it ı 0 interrupting him ı do “A not wish to injure 3 your feelings but ı weary of your ancestors i cn have often noticed that A ancestors never boast q of

the descendants who boast 1

` of ancestors i would rather start a family than ` finish one blood will tell but often it tells too much archy

2 BER oh the froward lady bug E BIETER boss 15 16 not awful the way some female creatures mistake ordinary politeness for sudden adoration ı met a katydid in a beef stew in ann street the other evening her foot slipped and she was about to sink forever when 1 pushed her a toothpick since 1 rescued her the poor silly thing follows me about 3 day and night ı always felt my fate would be a poet she says to me how lovely 020200000 to be rescued by one i oy am. musical myself my nature is sensitive to it so much so that for : months 1 dwelt in a grand De ee a eel eé A o A + 106 A RE

4 ny nes pes me ka ¡Cn j ere ſ SVE N ay M the troward lady bug 107
piano in carnegie hall i my hope you don t think ı am bold noi said you WE seem timid to me you 7 seem to lack courage entirely the e way you dog my footsteps e. : one would think you E were afraid to be alone i do \ not wish any one any Br dll luck but if 1 a this shrinking thing got 8 caught in a high wind and “a | was blown out to ¡O open sea 1 hope she would 4 | be saved by a ship wa ALAE outward bound for 4 madagascar 7: i archy _ ue 8 5 7 de ie 11)

ur ra =| > 5 Bam A IAE =| eh t ſ es Se Zi xxviii
pete the parrot and shakespeare i got acquainted with a parrot named pete recently who is an interesting bird pete says he used to belong to the fellow that ran the mermaid tavern in london then i said you must have known shakespeare know him said pete poor mutt i knew him well he called me pete and i called him bill but why do you say poor mutt well said pete bill was a disappointed man and was always boring his friends about what he might have been and done if he only had a fair break two or three pints of sack and sherris and the tears would trickle down into his beard and his beard would get soppy and wilt his collar 108

MAR shakespeare 109 b ere arrot and i remember one night when bill and ben jonson and frankie beaumont were sopping it up here i am ben says bill nothing but a lousy playwright and with anything like luck in the breaks i might have been a fairly decent sonnet writer i might have been a poet if i had kept away from the theatre yes says ben i ve often thought of that bill but one consolation is you are making pretty good money out of the theatre money money says bill what the hel! is money what i want is to be a poet not a business man weg ſ e the p these damned cheap shows i turn out to keep the theatre running break my heart slap stick comedies and blood and thunder tragedies and melodramas say 1 wonder if that boy heard you order ey pet.

PA en hr mehi yy y archy and tabel another bottle frankie : the only compensation is that 1 get a chance now and then ~- to stick in a little poetry 3 when nobody is looking but hells bells that isn t what ı want to do i want to write sonnets and songs and spenserian stanzas and i might have done it too if 1 hadn t got > into this frightful show game business business business grind grind grind what a life for a man that might have been a poet | well says frankie beaumont why don t you cut it bill i can t says bill 1 need the money 1 ve got a family to support down in the country well says frankie anyhow you write pretty good plays bill any mutt can write plays for this london public says bill if he puts enough murder in them what they want is kings talking like kings

Ve wy t ony ſ 5 pete the parrot and shakespeare never had sense enough to talk and stabbings and stranglings and fat men making love and clowns basting each = other with clubs and cheap puns and off color allusions to all the smut of the day oh i know what the low brows want and i give it to them well says ben jonson don t blubber into the drink brace up like a man ~ and quit the rotten business i can t ican t says bill 1 ve been at it too long i ve got to the place now where i can t write anything else but this cheap stuff i m ashamed to look an honest young sonneteer in the face i live a hell of a life i do the manager hands me some mouldy old

manuscript and says bill here s a plot for you this is the third of the month by the tenth i want a good script out of this that we can start rehearsals on

2 > 1 “cae E O D ⁋5 be a MED 7 archy and mehitabel A 4 nr 3 9 ei E u A not too big a cast and not too much of your damned poetry either you know your old \ familiar line of hokum they eat up that falstaff stuff of yours ring him in again and give them a good ghost or two and remember we gotta have something dick burbage can get his teeth into and be sure and stick in a speech somewhere the queen will take for a personal compliment and if you get in a line or two somewhere about the honest english yeoman it s always good stuff and it s a pretty good stunt bill to have the heavy villain a moor or a dago or a jew or something like that and say i want another comic welshman in this but i don t need to tell you bill you know this game just some of your ordinary hokum and maybe you could kill a little kid or two a prince or something they like

ete the parrot and shakespeare 113 DD pe a little pathos along with | the dirt now you better see burbage a tonight and see what he wants in that part oh says bill _ Re 3 to think i am ⁋: ae debasing my talents with junk | fe like that oh god what i wanted was to be a poet and write sonnet serials 3 like a gentleman should well says i pete ` bill s plays are highly esteemed to this day is that so says pete i i poor mutt little he would care what poor bill wanted was to be a poet e archy

XXIX archy confesses / coarse jocosity catches the crowd shakespeare and 1 are often low browed the fish wife curse and the laugh of the horse shakespeare and i are frequently coarse aesthetic excuses in bill s behalf 114

/ f INE NEY N | 8 N 4 ANNE ASN BORN IM N yl SHAKESPEARE ⁊

IT eR! 4 OO

£ ‘ 002 1 KURT al ck ye cor nfesses” are REA to refine big bill s coarse laugh but bill he would chuckle to hear such guff he pulled A rough stuff Be, and he liked DE: rough stuff O hoping you E are the same 0 ES archy a Br’ É — a bey

ae ee u na et Ge > at 1 XXX the old trouper i ran onto mehitabel again last evening she is inhabiting a decayed trunk which lies in an alley in greenwich village in company with the most villainous tom cat i have ever seen but there is nothing wrong about the association archy she told me it is merely a plutonic attachment and the thing can be believed for the tom looks like one of pluto s demons it is a theatre trunk archy mehitabel told me and tom ıs an old theatre cat he has given his life to the theatre 116 LT E a I SE < aA

the old 0 he claims that richard mansfield once kicked him out of the way and then cried because he had done it and petted him and at another time he says in a case of emergency he played a bloodhound in a production of uncle tom s cabin the stage is not what it used to be tom says he puts his front paw on his breast and says they don t have it any more they don t have it here the old troupers are gone there s nobody can troupe any more they are all amateurs nowadays they havent got'it here there are only five or six of us oldtime troupers left this generation does not know what stage presence is Tr AP ICI ANA EM

KAG 3 f : , NT = yo << y a y 1 a SS 3 E archy and mehitabel

personality is what they lack personality where would they get the training my old friends got in the stock companies i knew mr booth very well says tom and a law should be passed _ preventing anybody else from ever playing in any play he ever played in there was a trouper for you i used to sit on his knee and purr when i was a kitten he used to tell me how much he valued my opinion finish is what they lack finish and they havent got it here and again he laid his paw on his breast i remember mr daly very well too 1 was with mr daly s company for several years i there was art for you there was team work

there was direction they knew the theatre and they all had it here for two years mr daly would not ring up the curtain unless i was in the prompter s box they are amateurs nowadays rank amateurs all of them for two seasons ı played the dog in

joseph ' jefferson s rip van winkle it is true 1 never came on the stage but he knew 1 was just off and it helped him 1 would like to see one of your modern theatre cats act a dog so well that it would convince a trouper like jo jefferson but they haven t got ıt nowadays they haven t got it here jo jefferson had it he had it here

y 1. ý 5 alice ſu ie RR Fr O q AE 3 ; ~ 7 > EN 120 archy-and i come
of a long line of theatre cats iny grandfather was with forrest he had it he was a real trouper my grandfather said — he had a voice that used to shake the ferryboats on the north river once he lost his beard and my grandfather dropped from the fly gallery and landed under his chin and played his beard for the rest of the act you don t see any theatre cats that could do that nowadays | they haven t got it they haven t got it here a once i played the owl Be in modjeska s production ES of macbeth 1 i sat above the castle gate 1 in the murder scene ee and made my yellow > 1 | 1 4 ” De yy 2 4 Pm. ſey a a Se PERIS A NT 3 SA A OST TT

ns y ha E BEING QUI AMATEURS AR B PROFESSIONS ne ea SSS SSS eS => MENITABEL, He SAYS

9 Y ſ 0 AT Tre 3 3 e 2 jr: x be ſold troupe ` eyes shine through the
dusk like an owls eyes - modjeska was a real trouper she knew how to pick her support i would like ` to see any of these modern theatre cats play the owl s eyes to modjeska s lady macbeth but they haven t got it nowadays they haven t got it here mehitabel he says both our professions are being ruined by amateurs

xxxi archy declares war i am going to start a revolution 1 saw 2 kitchen worker killing ee water bugs with poison hunting pretty little roaches down to death it set my blood to boiling 1 thought of all the massacres and slaughter of persecuted insects at the hands of cruel humans and 1 cried aloud to heaven and 1 knelt on all six legs and vowed a vow of vengeance 1 shall organize the insects i shall drill them 122

archy declares war 123 1 shall lead them i shall fling a billion times a billion billion

risen insects in an army at the throats of all you humans unless you sign the papers for a damn site better treatment volunteers volunteers hearken to my calling fifty million flies are wanted may the first to die in marmalade curses curses curses on the cruel human race does not the poor mosquito love her little offspring that you swat against the wall out of equatorial swamps and fever jungles come 0 mosquitoes a billion billion strong and sting a billion baldheads till they butt against each other and break like egg shells caterpillars locusts grasshoppers gnats vampire moths black legged spiders

A 4 1 J “archy and mehitabel with red hearts of hell) ' centipedes and scorpions mene ~ little gingery ants bite come come come come you tarantulas ! with fury in your feet 1993 bloodsuckers wriggle out of the bayous ticks cooties hornets oad give up your pleasures all your little trivial sunday school picnics . this is war TE in earnest and red revolution come ın a cloud “y with a sun hiding miracle E of small deadly wings y Mĥ swarm stab and bite what we want is justice curses curses curses ` over land air and water whirl in a million sweeping and swaying cyclonic dances whirl high and swoop down on the cities like a comet bearing death in the loop and flick Ba, 4 t 7 < PI M Ar TOTP Ag 3 ſ'WN a »

Ge archy declares war 125 oe of its tail little little creatures out of all your billions make great dragons that lie along the sky Bau and war with the sunset. and eat up the moon draw all the poison from the evil stars and spit it on the earth remember every planet pivots on an atom and so you are strong i swear by the great horned toad of mithridates 9 1 swear by the vision of whiskered old pythagoras that 1 am very angry 1 am mad as hell for 1 have seen a soapy es kitchen mechanic murdering my brothers slaying little roaches pathetic in their innocence damn her red elbows damn her spotted apron damn her steamy hair > damn her dull eyes that look like a pair

Eĥ 7 A ſ'RENTEN be 5 er mete ſ'REN. T ſ'ae

‚ee il ee ‚Ss SEF eS ee Cee me eT Peels archy and mehita of little pickled onions curses curses curses ~i even heard her praised for undertaking murder on her own volition and called the only perfect cook in the city come come come come in your billions tiny small feet and humming little wings crawlers and creepers wigglers and stingers scratchers borers slitherers little forked tongues man is at your mercy one sudden gesture and all his empires perish rise strike for freedom curses on the species that invented roach poison curses on the stingy beings that evolved tight zinc covers that you can t crawl under for their garbage cans come like a sandstorm spewed from the mouth

pha ie Aj Eb Es er 7 ER ares war e 5¶ de¢ of a great apocalyptic desert making devil come like the spray ` sooty and fiery — snorted from the nostrils of a sky eating ogre let us have a little direct action is the ` sincere wish of archy

11 the hen and the oriole well boss did it ever strike you that a 013 hen regrets it just as be Sis much when they wring her | neck as an oriole but / nobody has any i oe sympathy for a hen because RN she is not beautiful while every one gets > sentimental over the 1-08 oriole and says how E shocking to kill the + lovely thing this thought comes to my mind because of the earnest endeavor of a gentleman to squash me he ' yesterday afternoon when i 7 was riding up in the elevator if i had been a ~ ‚butterfly he would have 3 said how did that 4 128

Lie¢ the oriole¢ oo thing happen to ` find its way into these grimy city streets do not harm the splendid creature but let it fly back to its rural haunts again beauty always : gets the best of it be beautiful boss ee a thing of beauty is a joy forever be handsome boss and let who will be clever is the sad advice of your ugly little friend archy

2 111 ghosts you want to know whether ı believe in ghosts of course 1 do not believe in them if you had known | > as many of them as i have you would not believe in them either perhaps 1 have been unfortunate in my acquaintance but the

ones 1 have known have been a bad lot no one could believe in them after being acquainted with them a short time it is true that 1 have met them under peculiar circumstances that is while they were migrating into the | bodies of what human beings consider a lower order 130

ghosts of creatures before ı became a cockroach 1 was a free verse poet one of the pioneers of the artless art and my punishment for that was to have my soul enter the body of a cockroach the ghosts ı have known were the ghosts of persons who were waiting for a vacant body to get into they knew they were going to transmigrate into the bodies of lizards lice bats snakes worms beetles mice alley cats turtles snails tadpoles etcetera and while;they were waiting they were as cross as all get out i remember talking to one of them who had just worked his way upward again he had been in the body of a flea and he was going into a cat fish you would think he might be grateful for the promotion but not he i do not call this much of an advance he said why could ı not

pe naar y uf CNSO S PENS TED OA PAE F NE ia ‍ re peka ‍
mehitabel 3 Pees E is a ‍be a humming bird or something kid i told him it
will take you a million years to work your way up to a humming bird when i remember he said that i used to be a hat check boy in a hotel i could spend a million years weeping to think that i should come to this we have all seen better days ı said -we have all come down in the world you have not come down as far as some of us if i ever get to be a hat check boy again he said ı will sting somebody for what i have had to suffer that remark will probably cost you another million years among the lower creatures ı told hım transmigration is a great thing ‘if you do not weaken personally my ambition is to get my time as a cockroach shortened for good behavior and be promoted to a revenue officer it is not much of a step up but iam humble i never ran across any of this

XXXIV archy hears from mars at eleven o clock p m on last saturday evening i

received the following message on my own private radio set good evening little archibald and how are you this is mars speaking i replied at once whom or who as the case may be do i know on mars every one here is familiar with your work archy was the answer and we feel well repaid for all the trouble we have had in getting in touch with your planet thank you i replied 1 would rather hear mars say that 134

archy hears from mars than any other planet mars has always been one of my favorite planets is 15 sweet of you to think that way about us said mars and so we continued to pay each other interstellar compliments what is or are thirty five million miles between kindred souls tell us all about your planet said mars well i said it is round like an orange or a ball and it is all cluttered up with automobiles and politicians it doesn t know where it is going nor why but it is in a hurry it is in charge of a two legged animal called man who is genuinely puzzled as to whether his grandfather was a god or a monkey

y X ê d E . BONS, bea tie ane mehitabel i should think said mars that
what he is himself would make more difference than what his grandfather was not to this animal i replied he is the great alibi ike of the cosmos when he raises hell just because he feels like raising hell , he wants somebody to blame it on can t anything be done about him said mars i am doing the best 1 can 1 answered but after all i am only one and my influence is limited you are too modest archy said mars we all but worship you here on this planet a prophet said 1 is not without honor save on his own planet wait a minute said mars 1 want to write that down that is one of your best things archy 1 is it original A it was once i answered truthfully and may be again

EERTE PON archy hears from mars 137 5 won t you tell us a little something said mars about yourself what you look like and what you think | is the best thing you have written and your favorite games and that sort of thing well i said 1 am brunette and stand over six feet : without any shoes on the best skits 1 have done

were some little plays ı dashed off under the general title of shakespeare s plays and my favorite sport is theology you must meet a great many interesting people said mars oh yes i said one becomes accustomed to that after a while what is your favorite dish said mars and do you believe in the immortality of the soul stew i said and yes at least mine is immortal but i could name several others that i have my doubts about is there anything else

archy an of interest about your planet which you wish to tell your many admirers on mars asked mars there is very little else of any real interest i said and now will you tune out and let me do some work you people who say you admire my work are always butting in © and taking up my time how the hell can ı get any serious literary work done if you keep bothering me all the time now you get off the ether and let me do some deep thinking you might add that i am shy and loathe publicity | ` archy

XXXV ‘mehitabel dances with boreas well boss 1 saw mehitabel last evening she was out in the alley dancing on the cold cobbles while the wild december wind blew through her frozen whiskers and as she danced she wailed and sang to herself uttering the fragments that rattled in her cold brain in part as follows £ whirl mehitabel whirl spin mehitabel spin . u thank god you re a lady still Wee a if you have got a frozen skin . blow wind out of the north 3 . to hell with being a pet Whee my left front foot is brittle ae but there s life in the old dame yet 120

dance mehitabel dance caper and shake a leg what little blood is left will fizz like wine in a keg wind come out of the north and pierce to the guts within but some day mehitabel ſguts will string a violin moon you re as cold as a frozen skin of yellow banan that sticks in the frost and ice on top of a garbage can and you throw a shadow so chilly that it can scarcely leap dance shadow dance you ve got nc place to sleep whistle a tune north wind on my hollow marrow bones i 11 dance the time with three good feet here on the alley stones freeze you bloody december i never could stay a pet but i am a lady in spite of hell and there s life in the old dame yet

mehitabel dances with boreas 141 = whirl mehitabel whirl flirt your tail and spin dance to the tune your guts will cry when they string a violin eight of my lives are gone its years since my fur was slicked but blow north wind blow im damned if i am licked girls we was all of us ladies we was 0 what the hell and once a lady always game by crikey blood will tell i might be somebody s pet asleep by the fire on a rug but me i was always romantic i had the adventurous bug caper mehitabel caper leap shadow leap you gotto dance till the sun comes up for you got no place to sleep i might have been many a tom cats wife but 1 got no regret i lived my life as i liked my life and there s pep in the old dame yet

Ai cw N BEN BIO Wea ⁋ tabs archy and mel babel: blow wind out of the north you cut like a piece of tin slice my guts into fiddle strings and we ll have a violin spin menıtabel spin you had a romantic past and you re gonna cash in dancing when you are croaked at last 1 will not eat tomorrow and 1 did not eat today but wotthehell i ask you the word is toujours gai whirl mehitabel whirl i i once was a maltese pet | / till 1 went and got abducted 9 and cripes ım a lady yet whirl mehitable whirl and show your shadow how tonight its dance with the bloody moon tomorrow the garbage scow 0 A whirl mehitabel whirl Be... spin shadow spin 5 the wind will pipe on your marrow bones your slats are a mandolin ox

LLH 7 ES EHER, ⁋ A ah WE 7 a NS Al OS PINAL MU GATA Dance ⁋ Tiu Te Jun COME ⁋ U até ⁋

EN ‘A mehitabel dances with boreas 143 by cripes i have danced the shimmy in rooms as warm as a dream and gone to sleep on a cushion with a bellyfull of cream its one day up and next day down 1 led a romantic life it was being abducted so many times as spoiled me for a wife dance mehitabel dance till your old bones fly apart i aint got any regrets for 1 gave my life to my art whirl mehitable whirl caper my girl and grin and pick,at your guts with your frosty feet they re the strings of a violin girls we was all of us ladies until we went and fell and oncet a thoroughbred

always game i ask you wotthehell its last week up and this week down and always the devil to pay but cripes i was always the lady and the word is toujours gai

ATRE a oe IN 005 9 3 archy and mehi be a tabby tame if you want somebody s pussy and pet the`life i led was the life i liked and there s pep in the old dame yet whirl mehitabel whirl leap shadow leap you gotto dance till the sun comes up for you got no place to sleep AO archy 2% wa

XXXVI archy at the zoo the centipede adown the street goes braggartly with scores of feet a gaudy insect but not neat the octopus s secret wish is not to be a formal fish he dreams that some time he may grow another set of legs or so and be a broadway music show oh do not always take a chance upon an open countenance the hippopotamus s smile conceals a nature full of guile human wandering through the zoo what do your cousins think of you i worry not of what the sphinx thinks or maybe thinks she thinks 145

archy and mehitabe i have observed a setting hen arise from that same attitude and ‘cackle forth to chicks and men some quite superfluous platitude serious camel sad giraffe are you afraid that if you laugh those graceful necks will break in half — a lack of any mental outlet dictates the young cetacean s spoutlet he frequent blows like me and you because there s nothing else to do when one sees in the austral dawn a wistful penguin perched upon a bald man s bleak and desert dome one knows tis yearning for its home the quite irrational ichneumon is such a fool it s almost human despite the sleek shark s far flung grin and his pretty dorsal fin his heart is hard and black within even within a dentist s chair he still preserves a sinister air a prudent dentist always fills himself with gas before he drills archy

XXXVII the dissipated hornet well boss i had a great example of the corrupting influence of the great city brought to my notice recently a drunken hornet blew in here the other day and sat down in the corner and dozed and buzzed not.a real sleep you know one of those wakeful liquor trances with the fuzzy talk oozing out of it to

hear this guy mumble in his dreams he was right wicked my name he says is crusty bill i never been licked and i never will and then he would go half way asleep again nobody around here wanted to fight him and after a while he got sober enough to know how drunk he had been and began to cry over it and get sentimental about himself mine is a wasted life he says but 1 had a good start red liquor ruined me he says and sobbed tell me your story 1 147

1 oor AR TER MED A FT SN A a E A A To 1 E VERAS E ⁋| A (E TN itn th ⁋ues ⁋A ani LASSEN ak ye 148 archy and mehitabel 1 said two years ago he said 1 was a country 1 hornet young and strong and handsome 1 È lived in a rusty rainspout with my parents and brothers and sisters and all was innocent and merry often in that happy | pastoral life would we swoop down ri with joyous laughter and sting the school children on the village green but on an evil day alas i came to the city in a crate of peaches ı found myself in a market br near the water front alone and friendless in the great city its ways were strange to me food seemed inaccessible i thought that i might starve to death as 1 was buzzing down the street thinking these gloomy thoughts i met another hornet just outside a speak easy kid he says you look down in the mouth forget it kid 1 will show you how to live without working how i says watch me he says just then a drunken fly came crawling out of the bar room in a leisurely way my new found friend stung dissected and consumed that fly that ⁋the way he says smacking his lips this is the life that was a beer fly wait and i will get you a cocktail fly this is the life 1 took up that life alas the flies around a bar room get so drunk drinking what is spilled that they are helpless all a

the dissipated hornet 149 hornet has to do is wait calmly until they come staggering out and there is his living ready made for him at first being young and innocent i ate only beer flies but the curse of drink got me the mad life began to tell upon me i got so i would not eat a fly that was not full of some strong and heady liquor the lights and life got me i would not eat fruits and vegetables any more i scorned flies from a

soda fountain they seemed flat and insipid to me finally i got so wicked that i went back to the country and got six innocent young hornets and brought them back to the city with me i started them in the business 1 debauched them and they caught my flies for me now i am in an awful situation my six hornets from the country have struck and set up on their own hook i have to catch my flies myself and my months of idleness and dissipation have spoiled my technique i cant catch a fly now unless he is dead drunk what is to become of me alas the curse of alcoholic beverages especially with each meal well i said it is a sad story bill and of a sort only too common in this day of ours it is he says 1 have the gout in my stinger so bad

150 archy and mehitabel that i scream with pain every time i spear a fly 1 got into a safe place on the inside of the typewriter and yelled out at him my advice is suicide bill all the time he had been pitying himself my sympathy had been with the flies archy

0711 unjust poets are always asking | Where do the little roses go underneath the snow but no one ever thinks to say where do the little insects stay this is because as a general rule roses are more handsome than insects beauty. gets the best of it in this world , i have heard people ,say how wicked it was ‘to kill our feathered friends in order to get their plumage and pinions for the hats of women and all the while these same people might be eating duck . as they talked - ~ gi

Ih ſ be Py . r ſ $ PERINI 0 0 0 archy and mehi aberria the chances are Ao KAA that it is just as discouraging te a duck to have her head amputated in order to become a stuffed roast fowl Be z and decorate a dining table A. as 16 1ſ for a bird 3 of gayer plumage Be. : to be bumped o a off the running board of existence 3 to furnish plumage ~ E for a lady s hat © 3 but the duck EN does not get the sympathy 3 because the duck Sr is not beautiful u the only insect Be : that succeeds in getting ſ mourned is a moth or butterfly whereas every man s Br. heel is raised against Ber. the spider bs and it is getting harder Se and harder for spiders yi to make an

honest living 0 at that since ⁋1 human beings have invented

unjust 50 many ways of killing flies humanity will shed poems full of tears over the demise of a bounding doe or a young gazelle but the departure of a trusty camel leaves the vast majorities stonily indifferent perhaps the theory is that god would not have made the camel so ugly if the camel were not wicked alas exclamation point the pathos of ugliness is only perceived by us cockroaches of the world and personally i am having to stand for a lot i am getting it double as you might say before my soul migrated into the body of a cockroach it inhabited the carcase of a vers libre poet some vers libre poets are beautiful

WA an d mehita 0 but 1 was not i had a little blond mustache that every one thought was a mistake and yet since i have died i have thought of that with regret it hung over a mouth that i found it difficult to keep closed because of adenoidal trouble but it would have been better if i could have kept it closed because the teeth within were out of alignment and were of odd sizes this destroyed my acoustics as you might say my chin was nothing much and knew it and timidly shrank into itself receding from the battle of life my eyes were all right but my eyebrows were scarcely noticeable i suppose though that if | i had had noticeable eyebrows _they would have been wrong: somehow well well not to pursue

unjust this painful subject to the uttermost and ultimate wart and freckle 1 was not handsome and it hampered me when 1 was a human it militated against me as a poet more beautiful creatures could write verse worse than mine and get up and recite it with a triumphant air and get away with it but my sublimest ideas were thought to be a total loss when people saw where they came from 1 think it would have been only justice . if i had been sent to inhabit a butterfly but there is very little justice in the universe what is the use of being the universe if you have to be just interrogation point and 1 suppose the universe had so much really important business on hand

$ ss and ı me that it finds it IB: to look after the details it is rushed perhaps it has

private knowledge to the effect that eternity is brief o after all TR and it wants to get the big jobs finished in a hurry i find it possible to forgive the universe ? i meet it in a give and take ice although i do wish Be that it would consult me at times please forgive the profundity of these SR meditations ; ; whenever i have nothing N particular to say E E 1 find myself always A always plunging into cosmic philosophy or something, archy

XXXIX the cheerful cricket ican t see for the life of me what there is about crickets that makes people call them jolly they are the parrots of the insect race erying cheer up cheer up cheer up over and over again tıll you want to swat them 1 hate one of these grinning skipping smirking senseless optimists worse than i do a cynic or a pessimist there was one in here the other day ı was feeling pretty well and pleased with the world when he started that confounded cheer up cheer up cheer up stuff fellow 1 said 1 am cheerful enough or i was till a minute ago but you get on my nerves it s all right 157

to be bright and merry but what s the use pretending you have more cheerfulness than there is in the world you sound insincere to me you insist on it too much you make me want to sit in a tomb and listen to the screech owls telling ghost stories to the tree toads 1 would rather that i heard a door squeak have you only one record the sun shone in my soul today before ycu came and you have made me think of the world s woe groan ` once or i will go mad your voice floats around the world like the ghost of a man who laughed himself to death listening to funny stories the boss told i listen to you and know why shakespeare killed off mercutio so early in the play it is only hamlet that can find material for five acts cheer up cheer up cheer up he

159 the cheerful cricket says bo ı told him 1 wish i was the woolworth tower ı would fall on you cheer up cheer up cheer up he says again archy

clarence the ghost the longer i live the more ı realize that everything is relative even

morality is relative things you would not do sometimes you would do other times for instance i would not consider | it honorable in me as a righteous cockroach to crawl into a near sighted mans soup that man would not have a sporting chance be with a man with ordinarily good eve sight i should say it was A up to him to watch his soup himself and yet if ı was very tired and hungry 1 would crawl inta even a near sighted man s soup knowing all the time it was wrong and my necessity would © keep me from reproaching myself tos bitterly afterwards you can not make any hard and fast rule concerning the morality of crawling 1 no soup nor anything else a certain 160

LS RN A p e d ſir A sro yas o Taro. Is Snor AROUND o > ETA

clarence the ghost 161 alloy of expediency improves the gold of morality and makes it wear all the longer consider a ghost if 1 were a ghost i would not haunt ordinary people but i would have all the fun i wanted to with spiritualists for spiritualists are awful nuisances to ghosts i knew a ghost by the name of clarence one time who hated spiritualists with a great hatred you see said clarence they give me no rest they have got my number once one of those psychics gets a ghost s number so he has to come when he is called they work him till the astral sweat stands out in beads on his spectral brow they seem to think said clarence that all a spook has to do is to stick around waiting to dash in with a message as to whether mrs millionbucks pet pom has pneumonia or only wheezes because he has been eating too many squabs clarence was quite bitter about it but wait he says till the fat medium with the red nose that has my number passes over and i can get my clutches on him on equal terms there s going to be some initiation beside

archy and mehitabel the styx several of the boys are 1 sore on him a plump chance ı have dont i ta improve myself and pass on to another star with that medium yanking me into somebody s parlor to blow through one of these little tin trumpets any time of the day or night honest archy he says ı hate the sight of a ouija board would it be moral he says to give that goof a bum tip on the stock market life ain t worth dying

he says if you ve got to fag for some chinless chump of a psychic nor death aint worth living through would it be moral in me to queer that simp with his little circle by saying hes got an anonymous diamond brooch in his pocket and that his trances are rapidly developing his kleptomania no clarence 1 said it wouldnt be moral but it might be expedient there s a ghost around here 1 have been trying to get acquainted with but he is shy i think he is probably afraid of cockroaches archy

xli some natural history the patagonian penguin is a most peculiar bird he lives on pussy willows and his tongue is always furred the porcupine of chile sleeps his life away and that is how the needles get into the hay the argentinian oyster is a very subtle gink 163

164 archy and mehitabel for when hes being eaten he pretends he is a skink when you see a sea gull sitting on a bald man s dome she likely thinks she s nesting on her rocky island home do not tease the inmates when strolling through the zoo for they have their finer feelings the same as me and you oh deride not the camel if grief should make him die his ghost will come to haunt you with tears in either eye

SHE A SHES ON HER ROCKY ISLAND HOME

some natural history 165 and the spirit of a camel in the midnight gloom can be so very cheerless as it wanders round the room archy

xlii prudence 1 do not think a prudent one will ever aim too high a cockroach seldom whips a dog and seldom should he try and should a locust take a vow to eat a pyramid he likely would wear out his teeth before he ever did i do not think the prudent one hastes to initiate a sequence of events which he lacks power to terminate for should i kick the woolworth tower so hard i laid it low it probably might injure me if it fell on my toe 166

archy goes abroad N london england since ihave been residing in westminster abbey i have learned a secret that 1 desire to pass on to the psychic sharps it is this | until the body of a human being, perishes utterly the spirit is NOC i released from its

vicinity so long as there is any form left in the physical part of it the ghost can not go to heaven or to hell the ancient greeks understood this and they burned the body very often so that the spirit could get immediate release © the ancient egyptians " also knew it

archy goes abroad 169 but they reacted differently to the knowledge they embalmed the body so that the form would persist for thousands of years and the ghost would have , to stick around for a time here in westminster abbey there are hundreds of ghosts that have not yet been released some of them are able to wander a few miles away and some of them cannot go further than a few hundred yards from the graves where the bodies lıe for the most part they make the best of it they go out on little excursions around london and at night they sıt on their tombs and tell their experiences to each other it is perhaps the most exclusive club in london henry the eighth came in about three oclock this morning

archy and mehitabel after rambling about piccadilly for a couple of hours and 1 wish 1 had the space to report in detail the ensuing conversation between him and charles dickens now and then a ghost can so influence a living person that you might say he had grabbed off that living person s body and was using it as his own edward the black prince was telling the gang the other evening that he had been leading the life of a city clerk for three weeks one of those birds with a top hat and a sack coat who come floating through the mist and drizzle wıth manuscript cases under their arms looking unreal even when they are not animated by ghosts edward the black prince who is known democratically as neddie black here says this clerk was a mild and 170

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171 archy goes abroad humble wight when he took. him over but he worked him up to the place where he assaulted a policeman saturday night then left him flat . one of the most pathetic sights however is to see the ghost of queen victoria going out every evening with the ghost of a sceptre in her hand to find mr lytton strachey and bean him it seems she beans him and beans him and he never knows it and every night on the stroke of midnight elizabeth tudor is married to walter raleigh by that eminent clergyman dr lawrence sterne the gang pulls a good many pageants which are written by ben jonson but i think the jinks will not be properly planned and staged until j m barrie gets here this is the jolliest bunch i have met in london

172 archy and mehitabel they have learned since they passed over that appearances and suety pudding are not all they were cracked up to be more anon from your little friend archy

paris france 1 went over to the hotel des invalides today and gazed on the sarcophagus of the great napoleon and the thought came to me as 1 looked down indeed it is true napoleon that the best goods come in the smallest — packages here are you napoleon with your glorious course run and here is archy just in the prime of his career with his greatest triumphs still before him neither one of us had a happy youth © seat 173

archy and mehitabel neither one of us was welcomed socially at the beginning of his career neither one of us was considered much to look at and in ten thousand years from now perhaps what you said and did napoleon will be confused with what archy said and did and perhaps the burial place of neither will be known napoleon looking down upon you i wish to ask you now frankly as one famous person to another has it been worth all the energy that we expended all the toil and trouble and turmoil that it cost us if you had your life to live over again bonaparte would you pursue the star of ambition 1 tell you frankly 174

archy at tomb of napoleon 175 bonaparte that i myself would choose the humbler

part i would put the temptation of greatness aside and remain an ordinary cockroach simple and obscure but alas there is a destiny that pushes one forward no matter how hard one may try to resist it i do not need to tell you about that _bonaparte you know as much about it as 1 do yes looking at it in the broader way neither one of us has been to blame for what he has done neither for his great successes nor his great mistakes both of us napoleon were impelled by some mighty force external to ourselves we are both to be judged as great forces of nature as tools in the hand of fate rather than as

archy and mehitabel individuals who willed to do what we have done we must be forgiven napoleon you and 1 when we have been different from the common run of creatures 1 forgive you as ı know that you would forgive me could you speak to me and if you and 1 napoleon forgive and understand each other what matters it if all the world else find things in both of us that they find it hard to forgive and understand we have been what we have been napoleon and let them laugh that off well after an hour or so of meditation there 1 left actually feeling that 1 had been in communion with that great spirit and that for once in my life 1 had understood and been 176

and i went away feeling | solemn but likewise l . uplifted mehitabel the Cat ls missing) << archy

xlv mehitabel meets an affinity paris france mehitabel the cat has been passing her time in the dubious company of a ragged eared tom cat with one mean eye and the other: eye missing whom she calls francy he has been the hero or the victim of many desperate encounters for part of his tail has been removed and his back has been chewed to the spine one can see at a glance that he is a sneak thief and an apache a bandit with long 178

179 Lå mehitabel meets an affinity curved claws you see his likes hanging about the outdoor markets here in paris waiting their chance to sneak a fish or a bit

of unregarded meat or whimpering among the chair legs at the sidewalk cafes in the evenings or slinking down the gutters of alleys in the old quarters of the town he has a raucous voice much damaged by the night air and yet there is a sentimental wheedling note in it as well and yet withal he carries his visible disgrace with a jaunty air when i asked mehitabel where in the name of st denis did you pick up that romantic criminal in the luxembourg gardens she replied where we had both gone to kill

archy and mehitabel birds he has been showing me paris he does not understand english but speak of him with respect he ıs like myself an example of the truth of the pythagorean ıdea you know that in my body which is that of a cat there ıs reincarnated the soul of cleopatra well this cat here was not always a cat either he has seen better days he tells me that once he was a bard and lived here in paris tell archy here something about yourself francy thus encouraged the murderous looking animal spoke and 1 append a rough translation of what he said tame cats on a web of the persian woof may lick their coats and purr for cream but 1 am a tougher kind of goof scheming a freer kind of scheme 180

my NEW| i FRIEND AND HE'S| ELSE BU| 6500 == FRANCOIS| ~
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WE| N Ery A A A 1 0 AAA ane |' SUSE REN

= mehitabel meets an affinity 181 daily i climb where the pigeons gleam Over the gargoyles of notre dame robbing their nests to hear them scream for i am a cat of the devil i am > ill tell the world i m a hard boiled oeuf i rend the clouds when i let off steam to the orderly life 1 cry pouf pouf it is worth far less than the bourgeois deem my life is a dance on the edge de | abime and 1 am the singer you d love to slam who murders the midnight anonyme for 1 am a cat of the devil i am when the ribald moon leers over the roof and the mist reeks up from the chuckling stream i pad the

quais on a silent hoof . dreaming the vagabond s ancient dream where the piebald toms of the quartier teem and fight for a fish or a mouldy clam my rival i rip and his guts unseam for 1 am a cat of the devil i am roach 1 could rattle you rhymes by the ream in proof of the fact that i m no spring lamb maybe the headsman will finish the theme for i am a cat of the devil i am

chica balla 1 ae ` your friend is koka, else ~ than francois villon " and he looks it too

xlvi mehitabel sees paris paris france i have not been to geneva but ı have been talking to a french cockroach who has just returned from there traveling all the way in a third class compartment he says there is no hope for insect or man in the league of nations what prestige it ever had is gone and it never had any the idea of one great brotherhood of men and insects on earth is very attractive to me but mehitabel the cat says i am a communist an anarchist and a socialist she has been shocked to the soul she says by what the revolutionists did here during the revolution 183

archy and mehitabel ⁋Py) i am always the aristocrat archy she said 1 may go and play Be: around montmartre and that sort N: of thing and in fact 1 was playing up there with francy last night but i am always the lady in spite of my little larks toujours gai archy and toujours the lady that 1s my motto in spite of ups and downs what they did to us aristocrats at the time of the revolution was a plenty archy ‘it makes my heart bleed to see signs of it all over town those poor dear duchesses that got 1t in the neck ı can sympathize with them archy ı may not look it now but 1 come of a royal race myself 1 have come down in the world but wotthehell archy wotthehell jamais triste archy jamais triste that is my motto always the lady and always out for a good time francy and i lapped up

85 ‘mehitabel sees paris a demi of beer in a joint up on the butte last night that an american tourist poured out for us and everybody laughed and it got to be the fashion up there to feed beer to us cats i did not get a vulgar souse archy no lady gets

a vulgar souse wotthehell i hope 1 am above all vulgarity but i did get a little bit lit up and francy did too we came down and got on top of the new morgue and sang and did dances there francy seems to see something attractive about morgues when he gets lit up the old morgue he says was a more romantic morgue but vandal hands have torn it down but wotthehell archy this one will do to dance on francy is showing me a side of paris he says tourists don t often get a look at he has a little love nest down in the catacombs where

archy and mehitabel he and 1 are living now he and 1 go down there and do the tango amongst the bones he is really a most entertaining and agreeable companion archy and he has some very quaint ideas he is busy now ` writing a poem about us two cats filled with beer dancing among the bones sometimes i think francy is a little morbid when i see these lovely old places that us aristocrats built archy in the hands of the bourgeois it makes me almost wild but 1 try to bear up i try to bear up i find agreeable companions and put a good face on it toujours gai that is my motto toujours gai francy is a little bit done up today he tried to steal a partridge out of a frying pan in a joint up on the butte we went back there for more beer after our party at the morgue and the cook beaned him with 186

mehitabel sees paris 187 a bottle poor francy i should hate to lose him but something tells me i should not stay a widow long there is something in the air of paris archy that makes one young again theres more than one dance in the old dame yet and with these words she _ put her tail in the air and capered off down the alley i am afraid we shall never get mehitabel back to america archy

xlvii mehitabel in the catacombs paris france 1 would fear greatly for the morals of mehitabel the cat if she had any the kind of life she is leading is too violent and undisciplined for words she and the disreputable tom cat who claims to have been francois villon when he was on earth before have taken up their permanent abode in the catacombs whence they sally forth nightly on excursions of the most undignified

nature sometimes they honor with their presence the cafes of montparnasse and the boul mich and sometimes they seek diversion in the cabarets on top of the butte 188

. mehitabel in the catacombs 189 of montmartre in these localities it has become the fashion among the humans to feed beer to these peculiar cats and they dance and caper when they have become well alcoholized with this beverage swinging their tails and indulging in raucous feline cries which they evidently mistake for a song it was my dubious privilege to see them when they returned to their abode early yesterday morning flushed as you might say with bocks and still in a holiday mood the catacombs of paris are not lined with the bones of saints and martyrs as are those of rome but nevertheless these cats should have more respect for the relics of mortality you may not believe me but they actually danced and

190 archy and mehitabel capered among the skeletons while the cat who calls himself francois villon gave forth a chant of which the following is a free translation outcast bones from a thousand biers click us a measure giddy and gleg and caper my children dance my dears skeleton rattle your mouldy leg this one was a gourmet round as a keg and that had the brow of semiramis o fleshless forehead bald as an egg all men s lovers come to this this eyeless head that laughs and leers was a chass daf once or a touareg with golden rings in his yellow ears skeleton rattle your mouldy leg marot was this one or wilde or a wegg who dropped into verses and down the abyss and those are the bones of my old love meg all men s lovers come to this these bones were a ballet girl s for years parbleu but she shook a wicked peg and those ribs there were a noble peer s skeleton rattle your mouldy leg

mehitabel in the catacombs ıgı and here is a duchess that loved a yegg with her lipless mouth that once drank bliss down to the dreg of its ultimate dreg all men s lovers come to this prince if you pipe and plead and beg you may yet be crowned with a grisly kiss skeleton rattle your mouldy leg all men s lovers come to this archy

xlviii off with the old love paris france i think mehitabel the cat and the outcast

feline who calls himself francois villon are about to quarrel and separate mehitabel is getting tired of living in-the catacombs she said to me last evening archy i sometimes wish that francy s gaiety did not so frequently take a necrological turn when francy is really happy he always breaks into a series of lyric epitaphs personally archy i am a lady who can be gay outside of 192

193 off with the old love a mausoleum as for morgues and cemeteries 1 can take them or ı can leave them alone just because some of my ancestors are now mummies ` ido not feel that ı have to wait till 1 see a sarcophagus before ı cheer up ı can fall in love with a gentleman friend without speculating how he is going to look to the undertaker and when i want to sing a comic song i do not always feel impelled to hunt up a tomb for a stage ı am a lady of refinement archy i have had my ups and downs and i have made a few false steps in life but i am toujours la grande dame archy always the lady old kid to hell with anything coarse or unrefined that has always been my motto

archy and mehitabel and the truth is that this francy person has a yellow streak of commonness running through his poetic nature ı fell for him archy but 1 feel there is trouble coming we had words last night over something no real gentleman would have noticed and the slob said to me mehitabel if you make eyes again at that tortoise shell cat over there i will slice your eyes out with a single sweep of my claws and toss them to the pigeons archy those are words that no gentleman would use or no lady would take you piebald fish thief i told him if 1 were not too refined i would rip you from the gullet to the mid riff it is lucky for you you frog eating four flush that 1 always remember my breeding otherwise you would be 194

off with the old love ,195 a candidate for what they call civet stew in paris something ı won t stand for in a gentleman friend is jealousy of every other person who may be attracted to me by my gaiety and aristocratic manner and if i hear another word out of you i will can you first and kill you afterwards and then 1 will

ignore you archy a gentleman with any real spirit would have swung on me when i said that but this quitter let me get away with it i clawed him a little archy just to show him ı could and the goof stood for it no cat can hold me archy that lets me claw him without a come back 1 am a strong free spirit and i live my own life and only a masterful cave cat can hold my affections he must be a gentleman

archy and mehitabel but he must also make me feel „that he could be a wild cat if he would this francy person is neither one nor the other ah me archy i am afraid my little romance 15 drawing to a close and no meal ticket ın sıght either but what the hell archy a lady can always find friends 1t won t be the first time 1 have been alone in the world toujours gai archy that is my motto there s more than one dance in the old dame yet archy 196

Archy and Mehitabel