

## **Mord an Bord (Cruisin' for a Bruisin')**

Alberta Smith, a music teacher and member of a small town choir in southern Iowa, was accidentally hired (hey - there are a lot of Smiths!) as a singer on a grandiose cruise ship. The "MS Royal Blood" is a ravishing, white, dream ship which includes an even more ravishing, white uniformed Cruise director! The good looking Officer allures country bumpkin Alberta, who is married to a boring choir director. She disgraces herself terribly as a singer, because the guests on board don't want "Go Tell it on the Mountain", rather "My Private Affair" and even more frivolous songs! Nevertheless she feels like she is in heaven, far away from the dull routine of daily life and close to her Greek god, Fred Hacker, on the vast, velvety ocean. The Officer begins a love affair with the gullible singer, and she considers him to be her, and herself to be his, great love.

That is when the first rumors begin from envious old passengers. It has been said that there is a precarious picture of her and Fred. Surely her husband would be interested in seeing that? Alberta is bound and determined to stop anyone from getting in the way of her piece of paradise. Obviously her only solution is to start knocking off one blackmailer after the other. One of them falls overboard in the early morning. The second one disappears in an inexplicable manner into the anchor shaft. Yet another is washed in boiling water and hung out to dry, and the fourth one found a cold grave in the deep freezer ...

Alberta murders with the pleasure of a newcomer, until she notices that Fred Hacker is letting a few other ballet rats, diseuses and stewardesses see the Southern Cross. Then her longing for revenge suddenly takes a different turn...

Hera Lind's seventh novel might be especially attractive to the American reader: They love cruises!

"Mord an Bord" was made into a movie for German television and is regularly aired.