

With a sudden sickening sense of shock she realized that her passport was no longer there! The brand new passport that Aunt Harriet had impressed upon her that she must on no account let out of her keeping, and which she had carried about in the new lizard-skin bag for the last three days.

5 She hunted through the bag with desperate, shaking fingers and finally emptied the entire contents on to the dressing-table. But there was no passport.

It must be there. It *must* be! thought Dany frantically. I couldn't have lost it. It's never been out of my sight and it was there last thing last night—I saw it when I was checking the plane tickets. *The tickets!* Had those gone too?

10 She tore open the pocket-book with hands that were so unsteady that she could barely control them. But the tickets were still there. Everything else was there. And none of it was any use without a passport!

Dany dropped the pocket-book and began a frenzied search through the dressing-table drawers. But the action was purely a panic-stricken one for she knew quite well that it had been in her bag when she had checked over all her various forms and tickets before turning out the light last night. She had taken the bag down with her to the dining-room at breakfast time, and it had never since been out of her sight except—

Dany straightened up and stood gripping the edge of the dressing-table. She had been locked out of her room for nearly three-quarters of an hour this morning, and during that time Lash Holden had entered it and turned all her things upside down for a practical joke. Had he taken her passport too, as part of it?

She gathered up the scattered contents of her bag in feverish haste, crammed them back into it and ran out of the room and across the passage.

Mr Holden's door was shut and she hammered on it, terrified that he might have left and that she might have to wait the best part of the day before catching him again.

M. M. Kaye, *Death in Zanzibar*, 1983

brand-new: completely or obviously new.

cram: fill to bursting, stuff.

dressing-table: a table with a mirror, drawers, etc., used while applying make-up etc.

form: a shape, an arrangement of parts; the outward aspect or shape of a body; the mode in which a thing exists or manifests itself; a species, kind, or variety; a printed document with blank spaces for information to be inserted; a class in school; a customary method, what is usually done, procedure; condition of health and training; formality.

frenzy (*n.*): mental derangement, wild excitement or agitation; (*v.*, usually as *frenzied*, *adj.*): drive to frenzy, infuriate.

impress: affect or influence deeply; evoke a favorable opinion or reaction from (a person); emphasize (an idea etc.).

pocketbook: a notebook; a booklike case for papers or money carried in a pocket; (*US*) a purse or handbag; (*US*) a paperback or other small book.

scatter: throw here and there, strew, disperse.