

"Nap's standing dinner all round," said Armtage, "so there's no need for ill-feeling. What happened to you, Kitten, after you left me to go to Victoria?"

In his turn the Kitten described how Pat had peremptorily dismissed him from the canteen and how, after dawdling about the station in the hope that she would relent, he had finally acted on her advice to go back to the flat in St. James' Street. It was as he walked dejectedly along Buckingham Palace Road that he became conscious, in an exquisite moment of terror and passion, that furtive footsteps were pattering behind him. There was no time to be judicial. He accepted Henley's presence in that place and at that time as a proof of guilt and only concerned himself to get in first blow.

"We heard you arguin' with the bobby," Osborn struck in here. "What happened when they got you to Tullis Street?"

The Kitten dwelt lovingly on his engagement with the Inspector and gave a picturesque description of the deference inspired by his off-hand appeals to Legrange, culminating in the general dismay when Prince Christoforo of Catania begged Lord Eynsham to deliver him from the excessive zeal of the London police.

"I thought that would do them," he admitted "and the only trouble was to keep Henley from apologizing and skipping away. I never dreamed that they would take my references up, and it was