

PIPPY GOES ABROAD

Astrid Lindgren translated by Marianne Turner

Outside a tent nearby a man stood shouting:

'Another performance starting in five minutes! You must not miss the unique drama! The Murder of the Countess Aurora, or Who is Creeping in the Bushes?'

'If anyone's creeping in the bushes, we must find out who it is straight away,' said Pippi to Tommy and Annika. 'Let's go in!'

Pippi went up to the box-office.

'Can I go in half price if I promise to look with one eye only?' she enquired, with a sudden attack of economy.

The ticket lady would not hear of it.

'I don't see any bushes, and no one creeping in them either,' said Pippi crossly when she and Tommy and Annika had placed themselves in the front row close to the curtain.

'It hasn't started yet,' said Tommy.

At that moment the curtain went up, and they could see the Countess Aurora pacing the floor of the stage, wringing her hands and looking very worried.

'I think she'd unhappy about something,' she said to Tommy and Annika, 'or else she's got a safety-pin sticking into her.'