

SMUK - MEN FARLIG  
BEAUTIFUL - BUT DANGEROUS

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## Smuk - men farlig

ørnefødselsdag. Børn og glad latter. På et tidspunkt kommer jeg til at sidde ved siden af en ældre mand – bedstefaderen til fødselsdagsbarnet.

Den ældre mand var fanger fra byen Ilulissat. Han begyndte at fortælle. En lav, rolig stemme. Et langsomt, men fortrinligt godt dansk, selv om hans førstesprog var grønlandsk. Pludselig var jeg opslugt af hans fortælling. Jeg oplevede en stemning af fortrolighed og intensitet. Det var lige som at blive trukket væk fra det højlydte selskab ind til en anden verden. Der var kun ham og jeg.

Han fortalte om oplevelser fra sit erhverv som fanger. Et godt liv med gode fangster i næsten alle år. Primært den attraktive spisefisk hellefisksken. Men altid med geværet med i jollen, hvis en sæl eller en isbjørn kom inden for rækkevidde.

Farvandene omkring Ilulissat er vanskelige for både små joller og større skibe. Isfjorden spytter hele tiden store isbjerge og i tusindvis af isskoser ud i farvandet. Gode sejlbetingelser på udturen kan i løbet af få timer forandre sig til et isfyldt farvand, hvor hjemturen er en umulighed.

Med ærefrygt i stemmen fortalte han om, at han en gang var tæt på at omkomme. Han havde været dumdristig, og hans jolle var blevet fanget mellem nogle store isskoser. Til sidst knuste isen jollens tynde glasfiber. Han fik sig bjerget op på en stor isskosse, inden båden forsvandt med alt hans udstyr og dagens fangst. Han havde været snarrådig og fået geværet og en åre med sig op på isen. Isen bevægede sig mere, end han havde forventet, og det var vanskeligt at stå fast.

Hele tiden spejdede han rundt i tusmørket for at se, om der var andre både i nærheden. En enkelt gang affyrede han sit gevær for at få opmærksomhed. Men der var tilsyneladende ingen, der ænsede lyden af skuddet.

Først næste morgen fik han med geværskud og fagter kaldt et par fangere til sig, og han blev reddet med på land. Der var ingen tvivl om, at han denne nat havde set døden i øjnene.

For lige som om at bryde stemningen storsmilte han pludselig og rettede sig op. Jo, så var der jo så også dengang, at han var med til at redde en læge, der havde dummet sig med sin jolle. Det var specielt morsomt, fordi den kække, unge danske læge med hans høje uddannelse, havde mindre erfaring end et stedkendt barn på ti år. De havde holdt lidt øje

med ham, og det blev lægens redning, da han blev spærret inde i ismasserne.

I de seneste år har Isfjorden fået stor international opmærksomhed. Fjorden har opnået status som Unesco Verdensarv. Samtidigt er Ilulissat Isfjord – eller som den hedder på grønlandsk Kangia – blevet et symbol for klimaforandringerne på vores planet og den smeltende grønlandske indlandsis.

Isfjorden munder ud lige syd for Grønlands tredje største by Ilulissat – en by med næsten fem tusinde mennesker og et par tusinde slædehunde. Turister strømmer til på krydstogtskibe og i fly for at se den hurtigt bevægende is og de enorme isbjerge, når de skubbes ud i havet.

Den store bevågenhed har fået den grønlandske regering til at udvide den eksisterende lufthavn, så den kan tage de større fly, der kan flyve over Atlanten.

Den dag i dag kan turisterne følge de små joller mase sig igennem isen til og fra fangstpladserne omkring Isfjorden. Fangst og fiskeri er fortsat et vigtigt erhverv for mange i den lille by.

## *Beautiful - but dangerous*

A child's birthday party. Children and happy laughter. After some time, I am placed to sit next to an older man – grandfather to the birthday boy.

The older man was a hunter and fisherman from the town of Ilulissat. He began to tell. A low regular voice. A slowly but excellently good Danish language, although his first language was Greenlandic. Suddenly, I was no thought for anything but his story. I experienced a feeling of confidentiality and intensity. It was just like being pulled away from the loud party into another world. There was only him and I.

He told about his eventful life as hunter and fisherman. A good life with good catches in almost every year. Primarily the attractive edible fish Greenland halibut. But always with the rifle in the dinghy, if a seal or a polar bear came within reach.

The waters around Ilulissat are difficult for both small dinghies and larger ships. The Icefjord is constantly spitting large icebergs and thousands of ice floes into the waters. Good sailing conditions on the outward journey can change in a few hours to icy waters, where the return to the town is an impossibility.

With awe in his voice, he told me, that he once was close to be frozen to death. He had been foolhardy, and his dinghy had been caught between some big ice floes. Finally, the ice crushed the thin fiberglass of his dinghy. He rescued himself on a big ice floe before the boat disappeared with all his gear and the catch. He had been quick-witted and carried his rifle and an oar up on the ice floe. The ice floe moved more than he expected, and it was difficult to stand firm.

He constantly scouted around the twilight to see if there were other boats nearby. Once, he fired his rifle to get attention. But apparently no one responded to the sound of the shot.

Not until the next morning, when he fired a shot and made gestures, he succeeded to call a pair of hunters, and he was rescued ashore. There was no doubt. This night he faced the death.

To break the spell, he suddenly smiled and stretch himself out at full length. Oh yes, then the incident, where he helped to save a doctor who had made a fool of himself with his dinghy. It was especially funny, because the young Danish doctor with his high education had less experience than a local child of ten years. They had kept a watchful eye on him,

and this was the rescue of the doctor, when he was trapped in the masses of ice.

In recent years, the Isfjord has received great international attention. The fjord has acquired status as UNESCO World Heritage. At the same time, The Ilulissat Isfjord or - as it is called in Greenlandic – Kangia, has become a symbol of climate change on our planet and the melting Greenlandic Ice Sheet.

The Icefjord flows out just south of Greenland's third largest town of Ilulissat – a town with nearly five thousand inhabitants and about two thousand sledge dogs. The tourists flock to the town by cruise ships and by planes to watch the fast-moving ice and the huge icebergs, when they are pushed into the sea.

Because of the great attention the Greenlandic government has decided to enlarge the existing airport so that it can service the larger aircrafts, which are able to cross the Atlantic.

To this day, the tourists also can follow the small dinghies make their way through the ice to and from the fishing grounds around the ice fjord and the town. Hunting and fishing remain an important work for many inhabitants in the small town.



*Ilulissat, Grønland, september 2010*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, September 2010*



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*Ilulissat, Grønland, juni 2007*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, June 2007*



*Ilulissat, Grønland, juni 2007*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, June 2007*



*Ilulissat, Grønland, marts 2012*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, March 2012*





*Ilulissat, Grønland, marts 2012*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, March 2012*



*Ilulissat, Grønland, februar 2009*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, February 2009*



*Ilulissat, Grønland, juni 2002*

*Ilulissat, Greenland, June 2002*

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Smuk - men farlig  
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Beautiful - but dangerous  
By Keld Jensen*

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