

Ethel and the Merman



The marriage between Ethel Dinklaker and Meptang, the Merman from Atlantis, should've been a big deal. After all, it was to be the first official interspecific union in London's history. (*Unofficial* trans-species nuptials, on the other hand, were embarrassingly common.) But on the couple's wedding day, January 27, 1930, local hero Mick the Miller won his second English Greyhound Derby, and no one in the city seemed to care about anything else. Even the bride and groom were unnaturally reserved, which didn't bode well for these two normally irrepressibly free spirits. Sure enough, after only five weeks Ethel requested a divorce, citing irreconcilable differences plus way too much krill in her diet. Keeping her husband's surname (i.e., Merman, not Meptang), Ethel moved to the U.S., where she made it big on Broadway and especially in movies, so long as they featured no underwater scenes.