

# Prelude to Guernica



Rags the Tiger was feeling confident as he allowed Dr. Dinklaker to position his head a little to the left. For two hours he had managed to remain absolutely motionless, fooling the doctor and his assistants into thinking he was just another stuffed animal for the museum's African Savanna exhibit. For two hours he had willed his stomach not to rumble in anticipation of the upcoming kill. Sure, three tasty humans were within easy claw's reach, but he had his sights on the plump curator, Mr. Jacoby, for dessert because he'd wandered off looking for an aardvark to add to the display. The fool! Didn't he know that aardvarks lived far south of his savanna ecosystem?! It was that inattention to detail that made Rags want to top off his meal with Mr. Jacoby. Suddenly, the curator ran gasping into the room, the aardvark's powerful tongue wrapped tightly around his throat. Apparently the aardvark was alive and well and also had her prey right where she wanted it. 'Well,' thought Rags, turning on Dinklaker, 'might as well join the fray!' The subsequent carnage was graphically depicted in a painting by a young museum guide named Pablo Picasso, who later toned down the slaughter and reinvented it in monochrome as "Guernica."