

1.3 Adele

1.3.1

Julie was not the first person from the past. She was just the first one to bring some real information.

When he came home from the hospital five years ago, he went through his **mail**, hoping to find some clues.

He found a message from the law firm that represented him in the Czech Republic. There were several messages in his mail – all work-related. They were about the business which he came to handle. He also found emails from lawyers in Melbourne about the same thing. Of course, that did not help him with his lost memory. But at least it was something.

He **looked up** the address of the Prague office in the online map. He did not remember it, and after finding it, it still did not **ring a bell**.

He called them to make an appointment. Luckily, there was a **landline** in his uncle's antique shop. James never cancelled it because he liked this old way of communicating. He also liked the retro phone. Actually, it looked terrible, but it fit here perfectly.

It seemed like they knew him well at the law office. The receptionist called him by his name and was interested, knowing he had been unavailable for a long time.

Even the lawyer agreed to meet him the **very next** evening.

LEARNING TIP

mail – pošta (ne jen elektronická)

it rings a bell / it doesn't ring a bell – něco mi to připomíná / nic mi to nepřipomíná

very next evening – hned ten další večer (very se používá i ve významu "úplně" – very new = úplně nový)

1.3.2

He was excited to start learning about his life. He was nervous because he couldn't find anything in his closet. No documents, no bills, no notes. He didn't know what his phone number was. He didn't know the phone operator, so he couldn't block his SIM card or get a new one. He didn't know if he had any online accounts.

He opened the laptop with his fingerprint. **If it had asked** for a password, **he would have had** bad luck. The password for his mailbox was saved in the browser, and he found the link in his bookmarks. Modern technology **at its best**.

Too bad he wasn't more organized. He **could have found** all the folders and documents ready to go. But no. The only bookmark was for his mailbox on seznam.cz, the most popular Czech web search engine. He inherited the mailbox from his uncle. It was the business email for the bookshop.

He checked the search history, but he could only find ordinary things, like lunch menus from restaurants. It seemed like a good idea at first to find out about his past, but the restaurants were not useful. Nobody recognized him. He probably never went there and **had his food delivered**.

In the end, he didn't **find out** anything.

LEARNING TIP

Všimni si použití minulého kondicionálu (vysvětleno v předchozí kapitole)

too bad – škoda, že....

he had his food delivered – nechal si jídlo dovézt (nechával si jídlo dovážet)

to have something done – dát si / nechat si něco udělat odborníkem

I had my car washed = nechala /dala jsem si umýt auto = udělal to někdo jiný, většinou profesionál

1.3.3

The lawyers had everything in order, **unlike him**, so the business affairs were fine. They helped him get a new passport. They knew his phone number, and the accountant had the bills from the supplier. So, they could renew his **cell number**.

As James had only given them his affairs two months before the accident, they didn't really know him. They just couldn't reach him for a long time.

The receptionist was told to make an appointment with him as soon as they heard from him. She didn't know him personally. He was just a name on her list. Her task was: When James Column calls, make the appointment.

The lawyer knew him personally because they had arranged everything together when he left the unreliable firm hired by his uncle. Still, she knew nothing about his life. He was just a client. A new client they knew nothing about.

He was disappointed. But at least they gave him access to his bank account. He had lost his wallet with all the papers and money, so he **must have lost** his credit card too. But no money had been taken from the account. It looked like nothing had happened.

His head was **stitched up**, he could manage without his wallet, and getting new documents was easy. Just that memory! It was gone completely, and he had no idea how to get it back.

True or False?

- a) James could log into his mailbox only because the password was saved in the browser.
- b) The receptionist at the law office knew James personally and remembered many details about his life.

1.3.4

He bought a new **cell phone**; or rather, the lawyer's company got it for him. **He didn't feel like shopping**, and the phone they gave him **suited him well**. He was glad they didn't bother him about it.

He explained to the lawyer, who introduced herself as Adele, what had happened to him and that he didn't remember anything. He was a good client, and when he got back into the business matters, he saw that he was paying them quite a lot of money, though he still didn't understand the Czech currency very well. From the way they treated him, he felt that they **cared about** him and helped him with everything more than they needed to.

Adele tried to remind him why and how he had chosen them and how the transfer from the old manager had happened, but it felt like she was telling him someone else's story.

He accepted it as fact as there was nothing else to do. She said that her husband was an American, and James wanted a firm where he could speak English to deal with serious matters in his native language. At that moment, he realized that he had been speaking English to Adele the whole time. His mother was Czech, so in fact his native language was Czech. He knew he had spoken Czech to his mother, but he wasn't very good at it.

Most of their clients were foreigners. Adele explained that he had been looking for a firm as professional as the one he had in Melbourne, because the previous Czech firm seem to be an **untrustworthy** business. The documents were handed over in good shape, but Adele had quickly brought them to the higher standard as James had expected.

LEARNING TIP

To feel like something – mít na něco chuť / náladu

Care about (frázové sloveso) – starat se ve smyslu zajímat se o...

Care for = mít o někoho péči/starost ve smyslu mít ho rád, záležet na někom

Take care of = o někoho pečovat

1.3.5

Apparently, he and Adele had agreed to meet once a month to discuss all matters. He remembered what his mother had taught him: Always have your – he paused to think how do you say it in English – maybe **fortune**? His mother spoke Czech, and he wasn't sure how to translate "bohatství". He couldn't even pronounce the word.

Always keep your **wealth** under control. Maybe **assets** sounded better, and maybe it meant the same thing...

When he missed his regular appointment for the third month with the lawyers, they started looking for him, but they could not find him. His phone was unavailable, and he did not answer emails. Someone even went to see him in person, but the shop was closed. No one in the house knew him, and no one in the neighborhood could help. So, Adele waited. Until he finally called.

Now it was **his turn**. Now he had to wait for his memories to return, or for someone to come and help him recover them. At least he belonged somewhere now. He was connected to them, and they were connected to his lawyers in Melbourne. He felt a little safer now that he belonged somewhere. Not that it helped much, but it was **comforting**.

He told Adele that he was going to write everything down just in case he started to forget. He was really afraid of that, even though the doctors said that his brain was fine.

Adele immediately took a new **notebook** from her desk and gave it to him. She told him to start writing his journal. She handed him a pen.

LEARNING TIP

Všimni si, že není jednoznačný překlad pro jedno slovo a záleží na kontextu, na situaci, na emoci

Notebook – sešit, pozor na záměnu

1.3.6

James began to write, noticing with interest that he was **left-handed**. He understood that he had forgotten a year of his life, but how could he forget himself?

He had to ask her for the date, as he was still confused. He looked at his handwriting. Then he tried signing his name and asked Adele to compare his signature with the one on the contracts. It was ok.

He was holding the pen awkwardly. It was a heavy Parker pen, which was too much for his slim fingers. He was interested because he could recognize the brand Parker so easily. He thought he had a pen like that before. But it **must have been** a lighter model. Next time, he would have to look for small things like that in his room. Such as, what kind of pen he had.

He did find a Parker pen on the counter at the bookshop. But that surely was not a memory from the lost year. He **could have used** it a long time ago, back in Australia. He still remembered that.

The strange thing was, he couldn't find a single piece of paper with his handwriting. Not even a scrap. Nothing. Did he have a pen but never write anything with it? He didn't take **consignments**, so he didn't have to keep customer records. He didn't write receipts either.

Luckily, he didn't owe anyone anything.

Who did it?

- c) Who gave James a notebook and a pen so he could start writing his journal?
- d) Who was left-handed?

1.3.7

He searched the shop and his room, **focusing on** small details. He found a phone charger in the drawer of his bedside table. That wasn't much help.

Next, the refrigerator. He had already thrown out the spoiled food yesterday. He didn't find anything else.

In the bathroom: toothbrush, toothpaste, razor. Half-used men's shower gel. He had already used all these things yesterday. A couple of hairs were stuck in the shower tray. Too bad he hadn't checked earlier – if there had been someone else's hair. They were all gone by now. Maybe they were long, feminine hairs. He would like to know if he had a girlfriend. But what kind of girlfriend? If she hadn't looked for him while he was in the hospital. Maybe she was going to come, soon.

He looked in the mirror and touched his smooth chin. He had shaved yesterday. It didn't go well; the razor wasn't made for longer beards.

His beard had grown a little during his time in the hospital, but his fair hair didn't grow much. In the end, he managed. It will be interesting to watch how his new hairstyle grows. With half his head shaved and the other half with longer hair. He couldn't find a comb, so yesterday he had washed his head and ran his fingers through his hair. His fine blond hair. It wasn't a problem.

He arrived at the lawyers' office shaved, cleaned, and in fresh clothes, like a decent man. The receptionist was a little shocked by his appearance. It was the scar. The pink scar stood out on his white skull. It wasn't ugly, but it was very long. Maybe it would hide in his hair. And maybe it would fade overtime.

LEARNING TIP

Focus on – zaměřit se na něco, i ve významu "soustředit se"

Pozor: **concentrate** vyjadřuje intenzitu a úsilí nevnímat nic jiného, nejen zaměřit pozornost

1.4 Julie

1.4.1

For a moment, he thought he was back in his Melbourne apartment, on the 42nd floor, looking at the ocean. He woke up because of the sun, something that didn't happen in his basement room.

When he woke up, before he opened his eyes, he expected to see the tall buildings through the window. Some were close, and others far, and none of them blocked the view of the ocean. But he couldn't see out the window because it was covered by a **thick**, glowing white curtain, something he had learned about in Prague.

The room was full of light, and everything smelled sweet. It was really nice, after spending so many years in his dark basement room. Almost two thousand gloomy mornings. He liked it there, and he liked being alone. But this was a nice change. A clean bed and a sweet-smelling girl. A woman. Not another young girl with low confidence.

He still couldn't remember anything from his past. He had spent three weeks getting to know Julie again, but it still felt new. It didn't feel **familiar**.

LEARNING TIP

Thick – ne jen tlustý/silný, ale i hustý, například thick fog = hustá mlha
(zde hustá, průsvitná bílá záclona - tento popis je pro Jamese zajímavý, protože v Austrálii záclony nejsou běžné)

1.4.2

She said they were dating **back then**. Really? And he never met any of her friends?

"To be honest, I was a proud and selfish woman," she said. "I didn't know it then. I only realized it later."

She pointed at her legs: "Then I understood that I deserved it."

"You can't say that!" he yelled. "How could you deserve something like that?"

"I don't mean the accident. I mean that I was alone afterwards. I didn't need anyone before. I thought (that) you were an interesting man. A foreigner. You were allowed in my life. Like I said, I was selfish. You lost your memory, I lost my legs, and I was alone. It was a terrible life."

"Come on, it will be okay," he **comforted** her.

"I know. I promised myself I wouldn't complain. I'm over it. That's why I came to you. Not before. Do you remember me? Anything at all? I did what I know you liked. I mean, what you **used to like**."

He couldn't lie to her. He didn't remember anything. For him, this was a new relationship.

It was amazing how she **managed**. She walked a bit unsteady... **No wonder!** She needed to keep balance on two prosthetics. The good thing was that her legs were amputated below the knee, so she could walk naturally, except that she didn't bend her ankles. She was still a bit unsure. But you couldn't tell that she had artificial legs. **Not at all**.

She didn't wear the prosthetics in her apartment. She used a wheelchair to move around. She said it hurt; the pressure was uncomfortable. Still, she kept trying.

LEARNING TIP

You used to like – co jsi míval rád (minulý čas, česky něco jako "bývávalo")

Nezaměňovat "I **used to do** something" x "I **am used to doing** something" = něco jsem dělávala x jsem přivyklá, uvyklá něco dělat

Not at all – vůbec (jako reakce na poděkování je to zastaralé a neoužívá se)

1.4.3

She was learning to walk so she could come to him. She was clearly ashamed. What would he say to the girl he had loved in the past when he saw her without legs?

James didn't understand her fears at all. He understood the pain, but how could anyone stop loving their partner just because they lost their legs? He only stopped loving her because he had forgotten her **due to** the accident.

Something had erased a year of his life, but even if this was their first meeting ever, he couldn't imagine that her artificial legs would stop him from **caring**.

He also wondered why she called herself "proud and selfish with no friends". What did that say about *him*? What was *he* like before the accident when he was **supposed to** love her? He couldn't figure it out, but perhaps he wasn't perfect either. After all, he didn't have any friends, either.

Did something bigger happen to make them both become better people? He still wanted to know what had happened, wanted to remember everything. But somehow, he stopped worrying about it with Julie.

He knew that he couldn't find out anything worse than what had already happened to her. She didn't want to remember. But she promised to tell him everything they **had been through** together.

He wrote it all down. It was strange, because they were not *his* memories.

True or False?

- e) Julie sometimes used a wheelchair at home because wearing prosthetics was painful.
- f) James thought that he could never care for Julie after she lost her legs.

1.4.4

Her story was much scarier compared to his.

He was found by the car with his head injured. But she was found in the river a few miles away, a couple of days later. She was unconscious, with broken legs. That's why no one thought their cases were connected. Each of them was found in a different **county** and taken to a different hospital.

They took her to the Military Hospital by helicopter, where the best surgeons in the country worked.

He couldn't remember a year of his life, but he went home from the hospital in a few weeks.

But they spent a whole year putting Julie back together. She could remember everything, except the accident. As she didn't know that James had lost his memory, she was afraid that he could come and see her in such bad condition.

Thank goodness for the quiet days, he thought. The days when I open the shop at eleven and close at seven. And **nothing ever happens**. Nothing worth remembering.

I **might as well** forget everything and just remember one day, because every other day is the same. Five very boring years. Compared to what she has been through.

LEARNING TIP

County = něco jako *okres*

Region = něco jako *kraj*

I might as well forget / You might as well go now / He might as well kill her
= klidně můžu zapomenout / Můžeš klidně jít / Klidně ji může zabít – ve významu "*a nic se nestane, nic se nezmění*"

1.4.5

I'll have to call Dana.

He wanted to tell her that his girlfriend finally showed up, but then he changed his mind. He wanted to be sure first. Then, the next few days were so nice, and he didn't want to spoil them by talking to someone else about it.

Besides, he couldn't just tell Dana that he started dating this stranger who he didn't remember. Or that he ended up in bed with her last night.

He smiled when he realized that he might not be alone on his birthday this year. That he already had his "cake with candles". He didn't even think about the Crochet princess anymore.

REFLECTION

1. Jakých alespoň 5 slov ses při čtení románu dosud naučila (pochopila, zapamatovala a použila v praktickém tréninku)?
2. Jaké alespoň 2 obraty nebo gramatické jevy jsou ti teď jasnější?
3. Cokoli je ti nejasné, to si označ a konzultuj s Katkou 😊