

1.5 Pat

1.5.1

Pat hung up the phone. She didn't like that woman. It was possible that James had an affair with her. That she was his girlfriend.

Pat was **jealous**, even though she knew she had no reason to be. She had no claim on him. And she was happily married. But James had a special place in her heart, and he always would, even if they never saw each other again.

When he left for Prague that day, she didn't know it would be forever. She had prepared all the documents he needed to settle his estate in Prague, and they didn't even **say goodbye** properly. She hadn't seen him since.

But why would they say goodbye? He was a client of her office, and she **oversaw** his business.

Even though she was a mature, educated, and experienced woman, she felt awkward around James at first. He was so attractive! If you analyzed his physical features, he was just a regular thin guy with light hair. If you wanted to create the perfect body, you probably wouldn't pick any of James' individual features.

But together, **they worked** in a mysterious way.

Learning tip:

Even though – ačkoli

na nižší úrovni by se klidně dalo nahradit spojkou ale na začátku druhé věty; zkus se naučit zjednodušovat, v hlavě ti běží "ačkoli, i když, přestože..., tak..." a řekni anglicky "...., but...")

1.5.2

She remembered... James asked her if she could come to his flat for their regular monthly business meetings. He didn't explain why, and she didn't ask. She thought, "What an arrogant guy who only cares about money! **He's bossing me around!**"

As a result, she sometimes had to carry a heavy briefcase full of papers to his place and back. His mother never asked them to meet her anywhere else. They could always rely on her coming to the office. She was their client, but that didn't mean they were her servants.

Pat agreed to come to his flat, but she didn't like it. James was a good client, and **she didn't dare say no**. She hated that. She was sure that he wouldn't ask any of her male colleagues. Maybe he thought that she was an easy target because she was a short, clumsy Asian woman. He was the "idol," and she had to jump when he gave orders.

The first time she entered his apartment on the 42nd floor, she was pretty angry. The elevator went up so quickly that she didn't have time to check her looks in the mirror. She decided to give him a hard time and dressed up in her best clothes.

On the outside, he was a social extrovert and an idol, but inside he was a quiet boy, afraid of the world. As soon as she saw this private side of him, she fell in love.

Learning tip:

She didn't dare say no – neodvážila se říct ne

Na nižší úrovni se dá říct "couldn't say no" – nemohla říct ne, nedokázala...

Běží ti v hlavě "**neodmítla** jsem?" ale neznáš pokročilé slovíčko "odmítnout"?

Řekni: "I didn't say no." = znamená to to samé

1.5.3

Then he went to Prague and never came back. At least he called her once a month on Skype, and their business meetings continued. For about a year.

One day, he told her that he had hired local lawyers in Prague to manage his estate. Pat was to contact them. **And that was it.** She never heard from him again. She thought that maybe he had started dating one of the lawyers and gave her control of his estate. That's why he stopped talking to Pat.

That's the reason why she didn't like Adele. She **cursed** her every time they met online. She **found Adele attractive** and was jealous of her.

"I was foolish to believe that James and I were friends. That there was something between us," she thought. But **apparently**, it meant nothing.

In Melbourne, James had been kind to her, except for the times when she had to carry a heavy briefcase of documents. She understood that he was afraid to go out. She didn't know why. But she knew that she was doing him a big favor by visiting him.

He had been going through a tough time. A friend of his had died recently, and it had made him very sad. There **must have been** days when he was happy, considering what he was doing in public. But Pat never saw him like that in private. She always saw a shy young man, lonely, and very grateful that she came to see him.

Learning tip:

She found Adele attractive – zkuste odhadnout z následujících vět s podobným významem: "I found the film very boring. I find the course quite difficult. How did you find the dinner?"

Česky se používá slovíčko, které má podobný základ jako v angličtině "find", vydedukuješ ho?

Apparently – podobné jako "obviously" (sekce 1.1.9)

1.5.4

She didn't feel ugly anymore. James didn't seem to notice what others saw. That she was fat. Yeah, she's not **gonna** fool herself. Well, she wasn't *fat*, she just had a funny figure, firm but bulky. She exercised, she dieted, nothing much changed. It was unusual for her ethnicity, but she certainly wasn't happy to be special in this way. She would prefer to be normal, perfectly average, like thousands of other Asians.

If men ever stared at her, it was because of her big chest. How she wished to have smaller breasts! It was uncomfortable. She was so out of proportion, and men didn't seem interested in her. That's how she felt until the age of thirty.

Then one day, **five hundred feet above the ground**, a tall, slim man made her feel pretty. Not beautiful or sexy, but attractive enough to be noticed and appreciated.

She got married about a year after James left Australia. She sent him a wedding invitation, but he never responded. She was upset.

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Nevertheless, when she stopped feeling sorry for herself, she understood that they owed each other nothing. They had helped each other once, and now they lived on opposite sides of the world. She got married, so why couldn't he marry that awful Adele? **As long as** he was happy and not scared of the world anymore.

Sometimes she laughed at the idea. Why did she care so much about James's relationship with Adele? Adele could have just been a lawyer who he hired. Maybe James was doing... who knows what?!

Learning tip:

Gonna – americké "going to"

1.5.5

Maybe he married some woman who loved books and was taking care of the bookstore which he had inherited. He called it "his heaven on earth" during the first year. He might not have made any money there, but he didn't need to. It was his safe place.

It was definitely safer than his apartment on the 42nd floor, with its great view of skyscrapers and the ocean. She didn't like the look in his eyes when he got near the railing on the balcony. His friend's death still affected him, and sometimes she was afraid that he would decide to jump. The railing was high enough for her, it reached her chin, but with James' height, it wouldn't stop him if he really wanted to... She **shuddered** at the thought.

Why don't I ask Adele about James sometime? she thought. If I ask carefully, so I don't sound like a stalker, why wouldn't she tell me what she knew? But why would I ask? **What good would it do** me to find out? I have my family – my husband and children. Well, that doesn't mean I can't have friends.

But her husband wouldn't like that kind of friendship. He wasn't jealous, but like Pat, he didn't look like someone on the cover of a fashion magazine. And if he ever got an idea about what Pat had been doing with that tall, thin, blond man...

Okay, I won't ask her. It's over.

True or False?

- a) Even though Pat was married, she still felt jealous of James's girlfriend.
- b) Pat refused to visit James's apartment because she didn't like carrying heavy papers.
- c) Pat thought that Adele was good-looking.
- d) Apparently, James never replied to Pat's wedding invitation.
- e) James felt safe and peaceful in the bookshop, as if it was the best place in the world.

1.6 The Vault

1.6.1

"You're getting better at walking down the stairs," he said.

He quickly crossed the store to help her. She didn't need help anymore, but he wanted to be polite. She smiled at him.

"Training is one thing, but motivation is another." She winked.

He knew what she meant.

"But it's only six. The store will be open for another hour."

The idea of them having fun before closing the shop made him smile. She guessed what he was thinking and said sweetly, "You're a pig."

He imagined her sitting half naked in the old chair at his counter, facing the dirty window. In this position, only he could see her, not the customers. He also imagined himself at the counter, watching the Crocheted girl choosing a book, then touching her hand when she paid, all while looking at topless Julie.

She loves **to show off**. Actually, she is obsessed with it. He was surprised because it took her so long to come to him, standing on the corner for weeks to get ready. But maybe it was normal. She couldn't wear short skirts and show off her legs, so she was showing off what she was always proud of.

He smiled at the slightly naughty image of her.

Learning tip:

Vault, strongbox, safe – sleduj v této kapitole tahle slovíčka; znamenají totéž a mohla jsem použít opakovaně jen jedno z nich, ale chtěla jsem ti ukázat, jak lze z kontextu porozumět, když se fakta zopakují vícekrát s použitím podobných slov (metoda READ – apply context clues)

1.6.2

"Do you think we'll open the **vault** today?" she asked hopefully.

"The **strongbox**? Is that some kind of Czech game I haven't played before?"

"You mean a word game?"

"Word game? No, I was thinking of an erotic game," he laughed. "I thought it was a kind of sex toy or game."

"Well, you're not far off. But a **vault** is just a **safe**."

"Oh. And what about it?"

She lowered her head. He guessed that she was sad because he didn't remember something important.

"Maybe it's not the right time yet," she said and sat down in the old chair. To James's disappointment, she stayed fully dressed.

Then he forgot about her for a while because a customer needed help. He wanted to know what books were on the top shelves, but he was too short to see or reach them. For the tall James, it was easy to help, so he read the titles to him, one by one. The man nodded, and when James finished reading the whole shelf, he pointed to the next one.

James shrugged his shoulders. He understood strange people because he was one himself. He liked customers who wanted something from him. It made time go faster. He didn't care if the man bought anything or not. The customer kept him company and was interested in books. That's what mattered.

But in the end, the customer surprised him by asking for three titles from the two shelves. James found the books and brought them to the counter, and the man paid.

Only then did James realize that Julie was waiting for him. She was playing with the **zipper** on her jumpsuit.

Learning tip:

V této sekci jde v konverzaci mezi Jamesem a Julií o hru se slovíčky, což může být na úrovni A2/B1 ještě těžké pochopit, proto konzultuj s českou verzí.

1.6.3

"What about that **safe**?" he asked.

"Just that. What's the sex toy?" she replied.

"You gave me that look when you said 'open the **strongbox**'. I can tell. Sex was in your eyes at that moment."

"Good," she nodded. "We had toys hidden in there. Erotic ones. Maybe they're still there. I was wondering if you might... remember."

His eyes went wide.

God, he didn't know that! And no, he didn't remember anything. For five years, he had only flirted a little with the students, and that's all. He had lived most of the year like a saint.

"Where's the **safe**? I don't know about any. Is it in your place?"

She smiled. "Shall we open it?"

"Of course!"

"But it's not seven yet," she teased him, knowing that he was always on time.

He quickly glanced at his watch. He had lost his money and IDs in the accident, but he still had his watch. It wasn't even scratched. His head was a mess, but the watch survived. It was a present from his dad. James couldn't remember him.

Not at all, actually. All he could remember was just a photo of him.

His dad was much older than his mom. He was **in his 80s** when he died about ten years ago. And he had been sick for a long time before that. They thought about a kidney transplant, but in the end, **it wasn't worth it**. His dad died, and it was like he had never been in James' life. All that was left was the watch. And an awful lot of money.

"You're **cheeky**," he said to her playfully.

1.6.4

She leaned back in her chair to show that she was not in a hurry. She played with the zipper of her jumpsuit, moving it up and down. She could have been playing with a ring or a necklace, but she didn't. Instead, she played with the zipper below her neck, teasing him. The jumpsuit had wide legs and was tight at the ankles, so it hid her handicap well. But it was also a bit awkward. When she needed to use the bathroom, she had to take off the whole top.

Julie never missed a chance to show off her breasts. Even after the accident, nothing changed. She had a scar on her stomach, but her breasts were beautiful. They were the perfect distraction from everything else. And she knew it.

After helping another customer, James checked his watch again. Only a few minutes left. He walked up to the counter and winked at Julie. She was still playing with the zipper, but now it was lower. He could see more of her chest, and she wasn't wearing a bra. She said that she never wore one, but he didn't know for sure.

James thought about closing the shop earlier. He couldn't wait much longer! But then he remembered the other day when he had been so focused on a book that he forgot to go to the bathroom. He waited until the last minute then, and he could do it now too. Plus, this foreplay was making him more excited, and the relief would be even better.

True or False?

- f) James helped Julie down the stairs, even though she didn't really need help.
- g) When Julie mentioned the vault, James knew she was talking about a safe.
- h) The watch was the only thing that survived the accident without damage.
- i) In the end, James closed the shop before 7 pm.

1.6.5

They opened the **safe** and Julie laughed. He really trusted her to find some sex-toys in there. For a moment, he was upset because she had lied. Then he realized that it was just a joke. He really believed at first that opening the safe meant something like opening Pandora's box. He didn't even know that he had a safe behind the military book rack – an old **strongbox** with volcanic ash between two thick steel walls. He made a quick note of this information, thinking that maybe it could help him remember something more.

Inside the safe, they found some old books. He thought for a second that they could be some valuable **volumes**, but when he opened them, he saw that they were his uncle's personal **journals**. That couldn't be the reason why Julie wanted to open the safe today. She could have told him about his family history long ago. Why did she wait until now?

Julie reached inside the safe and pulled out a thinner, newer notebook. She waved it in front of him.

"These are our notes. I thought you might want to see them."

His first thought was, why did she wait so long? But then he had a **flash of memory**.

"Something's missing from the safe."

He took out all the books and placed them on the counter, but there was nothing else inside the safe.

Learning tip:

volumes = books

journal = diary

1.6.6

"You don't really think there were toys in there, do you?" Julie laughed again.

"No. There's **jewelry** missing. My mom's jewelry."

Julie folded her arms and looked at James. He was staring at her.

"I hope you don't think that I stole your jewels," she said.

"Of course not. Either I gave them to you or..."

Before he could finish, she interrupted, "Or you gave them to another woman?"

He shook his head. "I feel like I put them here to sell them later. And I guess, I did. You really don't know anything about that?"

"Yeah, I keep the diamond **necklace** under my mattress, and I wear the ring on my prosthetic toe," she said calmly.

She knew that he wasn't accusing her. She wanted to make a joke, but he didn't notice. He was deep in his thoughts, trying to remember.

He closed his eyes, imagining a package in the shape of a small bag. It was sitting on his **palm**. Then, with his other hand, he tied it up and placed it on the top shelf of the **safe**. Then he pushed it to the back.

"I know I put the jewels there. I just don't know when or why I took them out. Maybe if we visit the antique jewelry stores nearby, someone might remember... But what?" He paused. "That I sold them some jewels five years ago?"

He scratched his chin. He realized that it wasn't a real **clue**. He was disappointed.

Learning tip:

jewelry – americký spelling; britský – jewellery

palm – dlaň

1.6.7

"I don't think so," Julie said. "Why would the jewelry be antique? Maybe your mother wore modern jewelry. And why would you sell it? You didn't need the money. And why would you bring it here? You came to Prague with a small suitcase. You didn't pack anything useful. And you think that you had a **pouch** of jewels in your suitcase?"

"How do you know it was a pouch?" he asked. He still believed the jewelry had been in the **vault**. He saw it clearly in his mind.

Julie shrugged. "You showed me earlier. You held an imaginary pouch in your hand, like this. You put it in the **safe**, and you pushed it to the back."

"Yes! I remember it clearly, so it must have happened!" he said.

"Maybe," she replied. "But it still seems strange to me."

"What about our notes?" He remembered the notebook she had shown him.

"Maybe there's something in there." He quickly grabbed the notebook.

"You will be disappointed," she said. "There is nothing about jewels in there."

James opened the notebook and read a few lines. He smiled. No, he wasn't disappointed at all.

"How vulgar!" he said, raising his eyebrows. He winked at her.

True or False?

- j) They found some old books and James's uncle's journals inside the safe.
- k) Julie really found some sex toys hidden in the safe.
- l) James believed the missing jewelry had been his mother's.
- m) Julie guessed that James was holding a small pouch in his imagination.

1.7 Kevin

1.7.1

At the next meeting with Adele, they talked about renovations. He didn't care about it. He let her invite an architect and get a builder. He didn't want to handle it. He listened to her reasons, then agreed. He would be happy to stop this business, but he was making very good money.

He liked working with old books, but he didn't earn much. And if he didn't want the property, he would have to sell it. But he didn't want to sell it. It was his last and only **bond** to his family. His family might not exist anymore, but he was still a part of it. Selling the property was not an option for him. He never wanted to sell it. Even though Adele suggested it after his accident.

"When Kevin comes back, we can make it simple. Just sell it all," she said.

James looked tired and confused. It seemed like he didn't want to deal with any of it anymore.

"Who's Kevin?" he asked, but then he realized that it was a wrong question. **He was supposed to remember** Kevin, but he didn't. He felt embarrassed about his memory problem.

Adele didn't answer. She looked at him, trying to see if he had really forgotten or was pretending to avoid a difficult conversation. She decided to believe that he really didn't remember.

"Kevin is my husband," she said. "You've seen him a few times. He went to the States for work, but he'll be back soon. He understands business. I just keep things going." She then flipped through her papers.

Learning tip:

To be supposed to do something – konzultuj s českou verzí a vyzkoušej si pár vět s touto formulací ve stejném významu; bude se ti to hodit, protože je to jedna z nejčastějších frází, které moje klientky potřebují použít i na nižší úrovni, než ji zařazuje CEFR

1.7.2

James waited. He didn't know if Adele had anything else to talk about. He had nothing. She looked up from her papers.

"Do you want to meet Kevin?" she asked.

He shrugged his shoulders. "Do I have to? I don't want to sell anything. I just need to start living a normal life again and try to remember. I don't think I want to change anything."

"Okay," she said, but she didn't look happy.

He noticed that something was wrong. As he stood up, he asked, "Did I say something wrong?"

This time, she didn't hesitate. It seemed like she had prepared what to say.

"You and Kevin **got along well**. It will be a shock for him that you don't know him. But I understand," she added quickly, "it's a shock for you, too. I'll see you next month, all right?"

He was surprised that he still remembered most things from the time *after* the accident. He could even hear her voice in his mind now. He remembered how she sounded when they **came across** something he didn't remember.

Luckily, the things that happened *before* the accident didn't matter for his business. They met regularly, they talked about what was happening now and what would happen tomorrow. Each time, he remembered what they discussed the last time. It was like a memory test every month, and he always passed.

Curious questions

- n) Who is Kevin?
- o) What he can help James with?
- p) Does James remember him?
- q) In your opinion, are James and Kevin going to meet?

1.7.3

James met Kevin for the first time after the accident. It was strange. It would be easier if they had just met for the **very first time**. Maybe, they could become friends.... But the fact that they had once known each other made it difficult. James was nervous. He didn't know what to say or how to act. He didn't even know what it really meant that they "got along well." Did they go to the pub? For a drink or to play pool?

Kevin tried to be kind. He didn't mention the past. But they also couldn't start a new relationship.

One day, Adele told James that she **wasn't going to be able to** help him for a few weeks. She asked if they could skip a meeting.

Of course, James agreed. Everyone needs a break. But **he wondered** why.

Then she gave him that same long look again. She put her hands on her stomach and said, "I know you've forgotten a lot. But surely you didn't forget how babies are born. **I'm about to give birth!** The baby **is due** in two weeks."

Learning tip:

to give birth – porodit, rodit

I'm about to do something – chystat se něco udělat, málem začít, velmi brzy

something is due... – něco má termín... (an invoice is due... – faktura je splatná, má termín splatnosti...)

Jendodušeji: "I will give birth soon / I am going to give birth in two weeks."

Ještě jednodušeji: "I will have a baby soon."

1.7.4

He was surprised for a second. He thought that she had just **gained some weight**. Her **belly** wasn't very big. She had grown all over, not just her belly. He didn't really notice before. He didn't think about it. But now, he noticed her breathing heavily.

"I'm clueless!" he thought.

Adele laughed. "Well, it's better that you didn't notice. I've heard enough about my weight from other people. You're a **true friend**," she said. And for the first time, she gave him a real hug.

Kevin **Jr.** was now five years old. Every year, James gave him a birthday present. James had written the boy's birthday in his **memory book**. He also added the baby's birth date as an apology for not noticing Adele's **pregnancy**. He always brought a present on the right day.

Other than at their monthly meetings, James didn't see Adele or Kevin much. They couldn't rebuild the old friendship.

But every year, Kevin Jr.'s birthday reminded James to care about other people. **Although** he wasn't very good at it. The birthday presents had become his way of pretending that he cared about people.

Learning tip:

memory book = journal, diary

pregnancy = 9 months in woman's life before giving birth

although = even though

Jr. = junior; česky používáme slovo "mladší"; zkratka je "džej ár" – nepřipomíná vám to někoho? 😊