



# **A NOD TO THE WISE**

**Level B1**

with explanation of B2+ vocabulary

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*Kateřina Havlová*

## Čtete jen pro potěšení?

You can read this book *just for pleasure*, to enjoy what you have already learned in English. You're welcome to jump right in!

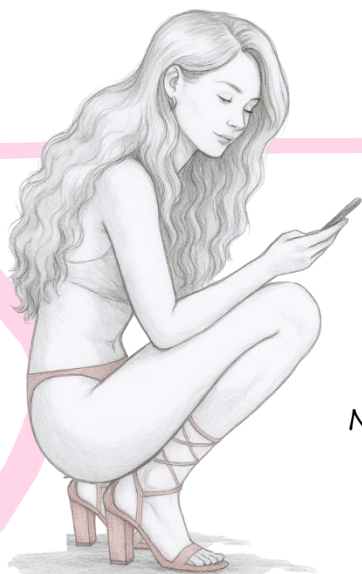
[Go to Chapter 1](#)



## Chcete se při čtení i učit?

If you want to use this book *as a textbook*, taking advantage of all the learning tips, exercises, vocabulary lists and online bonuses, please read the instructions!

[Go to Instructions in the "Amendments" section](#)



*Co když zjistíš, že je to pro tebe zatím těžký?  
Pořád hledáš význam slov a nemůžeš příběh  
pořádně vnímat, natož dočíst?*

*Nejspíš potřebuješ ovládnout metodu R.E.A.D –  
podrobnosti najdete na konci.*

# CHAPTERS

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## AMENDMENTS

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## THE AUTHOR



# 1. Unbelievable Peter

## 1.1

I almost did it. I wanted to put my head on his shoulder and wait to see how long he would bear it. What he would say. What he would do. But the jumping of the train has postponed the moment of truth and because of the long intervals at which I find the courage, perhaps forever. My head moved just a little towards him, and at that moment, the jumping of the train threw me in the opposite direction. And the opportunity was gone. Just how many more of these opportunities will I have? How much longer can I wait?

So far, I have only fallen on him on the escalator. It was winter, freezing temperatures, so unfortunately no heat went through the thick clothes. But it was a good time to let him know I was a great girl. Smart and kind. Ready to share. In the spring, I'll surprise him with my sexy body, but there's time for that. I don't want **one-night stands**. I want this handsome guy to come back to me.

So far, just my hands in thick gloves and a scarf up to my chin. **Even though** I had already tried to put my hand on his cheek for a second during our conversation about cold hands; **it did no good**, because it was only a moment, and besides, my hand was icy, and his face was frozen. Today I wanted to approach him with a clear signal.

one-night stands – známosti na jednu noc  
even though – ačkoli  
it did no good – nebylo to k ničemu

B2+  
courage  
escalator  
sexy  
signal



## 1.2

With an invitation: don't fight it! How many more opportunities like this will there be? How many more guys like him will I meet? I'll be forty this year.

I must add a **thumb-down** in my diary again today for another wasted day without a man. Ever since I met Peter, I have turned down all the invitations for dates, but there's no point. I have tried twice and was thinking of Peter. I'll do it tomorrow. I'll tell him what I want from him. I have always said what I want, why am I so afraid of what he'll say? Do I care about him or am I just not as confident as I was a few years ago?

I have never wanted a man all to myself. I just need a half of him. And that's exactly what I learned from men – they don't want to give everything. And I don't want them to.

Sometimes I think Peter will fall in love with me, not a crazy kind of love, just an easy, nice, and quiet love without being nervous. But sometimes I think it won't come. That he won't feel it. I'll just be a woman on a train for him and that's all. And in that case, it would be better not to wait anymore and just do it, and in the worst case, just find another object.

It shouldn't be hard because there are a lot of married men between thirty and forty, not too short, not too tall, every morning on the train. Why don't I just put my head on one of their shoulders? No – I don't know why, but only *he* inspires me to hang on him and kiss him. Only Peter. My friend's husband.

I can't sleep. Two in the morning. It's in my head. Should I, or shouldn't I do it? Why don't I start dating one of those men who are trying to date me? Why am I instead hanging on **the one-and-only**? Haven't I grown up yet?

thumb-down = place dolů, negativní znamení 👎

the one-and-only = ten jediný

B2+

date(s)

dating

inspires



### 1.3

Peter has a family of his own and he certainly shows no signals of displeasure, no provocative looks. He obviously doesn't want another woman in his life, so why did I decide to destroy his peaceful world?

Why don't I live in my own world and why don't I start **dating** one of those reasonably tall handsome men – someone who has already made up his mind and accepted the idea of finding a quiet and honest lover?

For three long months now, my only company has been my coming 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, and it's really hard. And I feel crazy. I can't go on like this. I'll tell Peter tomorrow morning that... what? I'll find someone else tomorrow. On the train, on the street, at lunch. But urgently. Otherwise, I'll have to admit that I'm in love with Peter.

Six in the morning. I didn't sleep at all. I have fought **tooth and nail** against the truth. I fell in love with him for real. That's the only right answer to all my questions so far. That's why I'm so attached to him and refuse everyone else. That's why I'm so careful. If he were to refuse me, it would be the end of our mornings together. And I'd rather spend that morning half hour in the false hope day after day with him; than alone, refused, and disappointed, with the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on my back. **What is the point** of my body trained by jogging or my flat stomach? What's the point of my gorgeous firm breasts? **There's no point!**

Because the guy, the man whose aura will not let me rest, prefers the woman at home. He doesn't mind at all that; that she has been exhausted by the daily boring work with their two little boys. She is his wife. And I'm nobody's wife.

dating somebody – randit s někým

tooth and nail – zuby nehty

What is the point? – Jaký to má smysl? K čemu to je?

There's no point! – Nemá to žádný smysl! Je to k ničemu!

B2+

provocative

aura



#### 1.4

I need to find someone else. Someone in my category. I don't want to get married, and I don't want to find a man for love and family, for good and bad days. But I don't want to go looking for some guys to have sex with anymore. I want a nice, handsome man who comes once a week to hug me. It can't be Peter.

I'll go back to Mark. I'll be on the train with Peter in an hour, but now only to look at him with no interest. If I'm in love with him, I can't fight it. It wouldn't be fair. To him. To me.

He put his hand down on my knee. See how simple it is – stop fixating on one sharp chin, open your eyes and **open your mind**. It was just a moment, when asking whether my pants were made of real leather. But suddenly there was the heat. Not burning yet, but the signal was sent. I could really feel it.

I can't believe it. Just when I decided to give him up after a sleepless night. I don't want to start dating a married guy I'm probably really in love with. That would be a catastrophe.

I just wanted to have fun with him. Look into his brown eyes and make love with him. That's what I wanted. And then take a shower and know that when I leave the bathroom, he'll be gone until the next time. A reliable routine for a nice and easy relationship based on sex. That's what I wanted. That's what I want. But without the emotions. He put his hand down on my knee for a moment to get the answer whether my pants were leather. It would be better if he didn't do that. The signal was sent but it wasn't received.

I glanced out the window and suddenly remembered Richard, his hands, his fingers. The eyes. And his age. Could I still get his number out of the old phone records?



open your mind – otevři svou mysl



B2+

category

sleepless

catastrophe

emotions





## Relax, or do this EXERCISE (1)

This is Peter. Would you like to describe him?

Describe his looks as well as his personality based on Chapter 1.



## LEARNING TIP



### DIFFERENT SPELLING



|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| colour                | color               |
| favourite             | favorite            |
| neighbour             | neighbor            |
| centre                | center              |
| recognise             | recognize           |
| organise              | organize            |
| travelling, travelled | traveling, traveled |
| programme             | program             |



## 2. Ginger Sidney

### 2.1

Gingers were never my type. I couldn't follow his speech at all. He was confident, had a firm voice, a direct look, red hair, and eyes so blue that I just wanted to be in bed with him. **For goodness' sake!** I'm at work, I can't think about sex right now!

I still can't believe it was exactly the same in reality as it was in my imagination. But that was a totally crazy week. I'm calling it *'goodbye to 30'* because I'm not going to experience anything like that again in my life after forty, and I don't really want to. His girlfriend was abroad. Six nights that Sidney spent in my bed. With him, I forgot all about my worries.

He was just thirty, had the car of his dreams and was looking for destinations near and far when I suggested that he could **combine pleasant with useful** and **give me a lift** home. *'And driving you home will be the useful part or the pleasant?'* He asked. And so, we went.

He didn't kiss very well, which surprised me; he should have hot lips and a tongue that would fill my mouth softly. But his kiss was very sharp and his tongue dry. Even though he pushed it almost all the way down my throat, I felt like we were not touching inside at all. But everything else was amazing, although I can't speak of technique. I don't know why, there was something about it... It represented why a man and a woman want each other, why they need to do it again and again. I don't think he had many women, but I didn't want to teach him anything. I wanted to return him to his sweetheart without any change. I enjoyed it. It was a perfect goodbye to 30!

ginger – zrzaavý, zrzek, zrzka (i zázvor)

For goodness' sake! – něco jako "propánajána"

to combine pleasant with useful – spojit příjemné s užitečným

to give somebody a lift – někoho svézt autem

B2+

reality

sweetheart



## 2.2

Our morning meetings have changed a little. Now it is Peter, who actively starts every conversation. We talk friendly, as before. I don't blame him anymore. The last week when Sidney drove me to work, did me good.

I realised that I would ask more of Peter than I was allowed to ask. That it would never be enough for me to have it with him like with Mark or with Sidney.

With every other guy, the time-limited relationship was an advantage. But I'd like to have Peter completely. Maybe. Maybe not, who knows. He would probably **get on my nerves** about something too. But I'm really stupid, almost forty, in love with a handsome guy, my friend's husband, a father of two kids. I have never really wanted to go that far. I decided to stop.

I'm going to try and find Richard's phone number today. We have never dated; we have both been playing the game for too long. If I call him now and he comes, I'll win the old fight. Well, not really. It was never a fight between us. We both wanted it. None of us just wanted start. On the other hand, I was just thinking that starting would be nice. I have been running my life too seriously for too long.

Yes, I'm emotionally broken but on the outside I'm a normal sensible woman, single **by choice**. But if I call Richard, I'll be right back where I am, perhaps richer for a new sexual experience, but it will put my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday not a single day away, and it won't bring me closer to a peaceful, nice and easy relationship.

to get on my nerves – jít mi na nervy

by choice – z vlastního rozhodnutí

B2+

actively

dated

emotionally

sexual



## 2.3

I feel that the comfortable relationship which I want so much, I can have with the one and only, and I cannot allow it. But maybe I could only be happy with someone I really love. That would be a catastrophe because I don't want to fall in love, it's too late for that. I just want to be happy. And I want Peter. I really do!

Peter doesn't take the usual train in the morning. I hope that this is true: **out of sight, out of mind**. I don't really know him. Of course, I know that he is not just a sweetheart, and that dealing with normal problems with him is probably difficult. I can see a little bit of hysteria in the corner of his mouth. I can imagine that he shouts at the children at home when he needs a moment of peace. But this is just my imagination, I don't really know anything about that. All I know is that I like him. I loved him from the first moment. I was supposed to understand that it wasn't just physical. But I didn't. He hasn't been on our train since Monday.

I found Richard's number. It's not available. Mark is divorced, so he is out of my repertoire. I just want a guy with his own home, a place where he likes it. I'm almost forty, and I'm not looking for love for the rest of my life. I'm just looking for a man! I should have a lot of choice; I have what guys want and I don't hide it. I tolerate imperfections. But men have gone. They have disappeared. There's only one left; intelligent, handsome, in relationship, happily married, just the ideal man. For me. And I refused him. Am I stupid?

out of sight, out of mind – sejde z očí, sejde z mysli

B2+

hysteria

physical

repertoire

tolerate

imperfections

ideal



## 2.4

Day five. He's definitely not *out of my mind*. I miss him. But it's not just Peter who is not going today. Nobody is going anywhere because there are no trains.

This was one of the opportunities which I have been waiting for – to spend more time with him when he cannot go away, waiting for a train, and enjoying his company. Instead, I'm standing here alone, sad that I'm going to miss an important meeting, that my ankles hurt in these heels which aren't made for **tap dancing** on the platform for hours. Enough. I give up. I'll try to wave at a passing car and either hitchhike or go home. I'm going to hide under my blanket like a little girl and try to sleep. I have to get Peter from my head. I just have to stop thinking about him and start acting like an adult again. I have to start *feeling* like an adult again.

The last attempt to get to work, I wave at an old green Volvo **station wagon**. It's passing me, but no... It has stopped. I run to the passenger's door, register the empty child seat in the back. Within ten minutes of driving, I know everything about him. He doesn't have a ring. He says: "*I live*" not "*we live*". Elegant casual outfit, a kind smile, and beautiful straight teeth. Big hands. Yeah, this guy knows what he wants. I also say: "*I live*" and "*I often go in this direction*". He says he works most evenings; the signal has been sent. I don't ask what his name is. I know the **license plate** of his car, which I instinctively remember every time when I get into a stranger's car. I politely refuse his invitation for a cup of coffee, perhaps next time. The signal has been received.

tap dancing - stepování  
station wagon - kombík  
license plate – poznávací značka

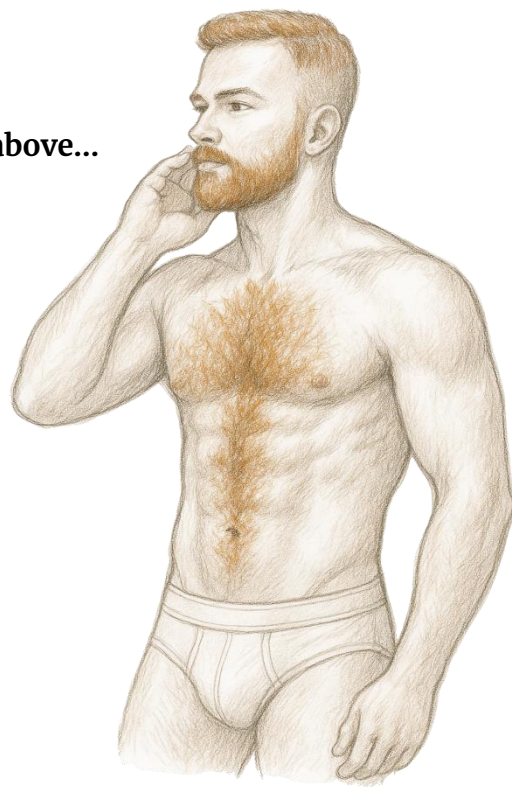
B2+  
elegant  
instinctively



## EXERCISE (2)

This is Sidney. Would you like to describe him?

His looks as well as his behaviour based on the text above...



## LEARNING TIP



### Proper names

= names of people usually don't translate or rewrite.

However, in this short story I have decided to show you the English equivalents of some Czech names.

*No surprise* 😊

Jane – Jana

Mark – Marek

Michael – Michal

Peter – Petr

Johnny – Honza

Lucille – Lucinka

Tony – Tonda

Martin – Martin

Richard – Richard

*Shocking, right?* 🤯

Sidney – Zdeněk

*But this one is a surprise,  
isn't it?* 😏



### 3. Bitter Betrayal

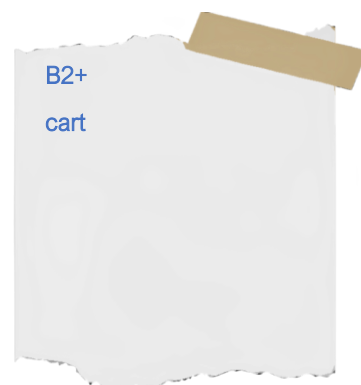
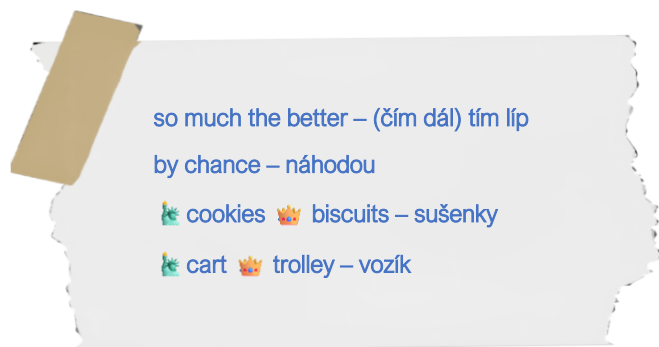
#### 3.1

I stopped thinking about my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. I feel beautiful. Peter still doesn't take our train. Good. Maybe he takes an earlier train. Or a later one. He doesn't want to meet me, **so much the better**.

I met the man with the Volvo in Tesco's yesterday. He had a basket almost full of stuff, his kids are probably coming for the weekend. I didn't ask. He was already paying when I came, we just smiled at each other. I had a chance to notice how tall he was. I think that standing on my tiptoes it would be ok. He is a little taller than I like, but I forgive him because of his beautiful teeth. Because of his smile which allows me to see those teeth.

I often imagined where and how we might meet **by chance**, but I wasn't ready. I was shocked, unable to do any normal shopping and just walked through the aisles, watching the food on the shelves, and pushing the empty **cart**. When I realized how I was behaving, I took my cart to the exit and got out without buying anything. I'm going for a walk.

Life is amazing, I can still live these moments like I did when I was twenty. I don't have to hide my feelings; I can be excited with every new man as long as I like it and until I meet a new man again. I'm still myself, and that's the best. Both my sisters are ideal mothers. They would have to finish shopping and run home to their families. I can forget about the shopping for an hour or three days. I can go for a walk and think about the cookies which Mr. Volvo would like to have in the morning with his coffee in bed.





### 3.2

One of my sisters recently told me that I was silly. That I should grow up. That I am not responsible. Well, yes, she's right. So what? It's better not to have kids if I don't want them and not to marry a man who can't make me happy all the time. Instead, I am free and get the best from every man. Is that silly? I don't mind. I'm happy, at peace with myself, at peace with the risk of my lifestyle. Which my sister, always arguing with her husband who had more free time in the past week, definitely isn't.

**A blow to the head.** Peter. I can't even think about it. I tried Richard's number again. Without wanting to talk to him, just an attempt **to let off steam**. There's still no answer.

It was quite a successful day. I did a lot of work and secured my living again for some time. Still, I'm nervous. I feel like a fool. Because of Peter. Like a blow to the head. I met him at the **town hall** when I went to get my new passport. He was changing his driver's license. He just said that he didn't take the train anymore because he lives somewhere else. But I see Jane almost every day in their garden. Once a month she pays a babysitter, and we go out together. She didn't tell me that Peter moved out! Of course, I never asked her about him, and the last time we met was three weeks ago. But I cannot believe that she didn't know anything and that she was surprised. I don't believe that. Jane had problems with him and said nothing. And Peter moved out.

a blow to the head – rána do hlavy (šok)

to let off steam – upustit páru, uvolnit se

town hall – radnice, městský úřad

B2+

risk

lifestyle





### 3.3

I was approaching him slowly because I didn't want to shock him. I wanted to put my head on his shoulder, my darling, a man who probably had *another woman* all this time! Taking the shower didn't help. I lie naked on the bed and cry. After a long time, I'm crying again. I feel like he did it to *me*. He hurt me!

I must go on. **No matter** how sad I am. Go to work. Without crying, if possible.

At today's meeting, which Sidney attended again, I wasn't thinking how good it was with him. I could hear his confident speech and see his blue eyes. Otherwise, nothing. I didn't even think about his sexy body trained by surfing, covered with red hair, which I liked so much. At the end of the meeting, when everyone started shaking hands, I noticed the ginger hair showing from under the sleeves of his shirt and I remembered the moments, when we made love. Then he took my hand saying *thank you*, and I thought for a moment that he was thanking me for the sex and not for the work I was doing for their company. But he didn't look me in the eye again. Just a brief glance, a smile out of the corner of his mouth. He was no **Don Juan**. Maybe he only did it once. The first and maybe the last time. With me. And it took him a lot of effort to deal with it. He's a nice, honest guy. Not like Peter, that **Judas**.

I can't understand. I feel like a fool. Because of a friend who didn't tell me that she was in trouble, because of Peter who didn't tell me that... No, I cannot stop thinking about him. And when I met him just now, it broke my heart. Because I'm hopelessly in love with my friend's husband, father of two kids.

no matter – bez ohledu / nezáleží...

Don Juan – svůdník

Judas = Jidáš, zrádce

B2+

darling

naked

hopelessly



### EXERCISE (3)

Do you know ladies like the storyteller?

Do you understand them?

Do you agree with their lifestyle?



### 💡 LEARNING TIP 💡

#### Tyto předpony dávají slovům opačný význam

UN-

unknown, unshaven, unavailable, unable, unfair, unlucky, unfortunately,  
unbelievable

IM-

imperfection= not perfect, impersonal = not personal, impossible = not possible

IN-

incompetent, indefinitely

DIS-

disbelief, disappear, displeasure

IR-

irresistible, irregular



## 4. My First Johnny

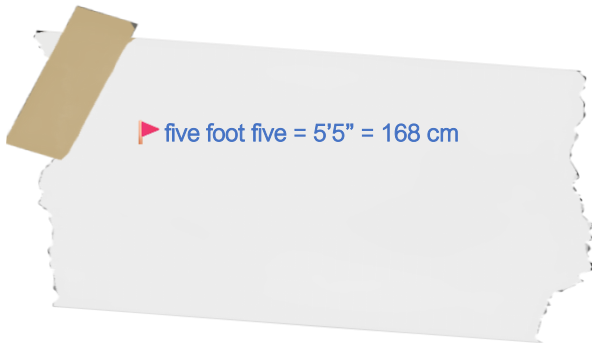
### 4.1

I almost forgot how short Martin is. He's not even **five foot five**, well below my limit of ideal male height. He's really cute, but I'm definitely not attracted to him. He knows that. I like him. He's a handsome man, or rather a miniature of a handsome man. If he was in a poster and I couldn't compare his size with regular objects, I could let him enter my imagination. But not in the real world. When he sometimes tries it on me, I laugh. But he is ok with it. He smiles at me and says: *maybe next time*.

Today he called me and said that there was a new person moving in the ground floor apartment in our house which he owns. He asked me to open the flat for the **movers** who were going to bring some furniture and a carpet. Well, why not, I would do anything for Martin. He has rented me a beautiful flat at a great price, I'll happily help him.

I woke up later than usual. There was still enough time to do my work. It's better to stay in bed little longer than to go to work on a crowded city train. I am working from home today.

Around ten o'clock, I was interrupted by the ringing of the phone. Unknown number, it's the movers. They're here. It's not a good time at all. I'm trying to complete my sentence quickly, hopefully I'll remember what I wanted to write next. I took my keys and the keys to the downstairs apartment and ran out the front door.



▶ five foot five = 5'5" = 168 cm



B2+

attracted to

miniature

movers



## 4.2

A guy with no shirt, just **overalls** and a pair of sandals, was already opening the car and when he turned around, I was shocked and looked at him with my mouth wide open. He made two quick steps towards me as if he wanted to hug me and then paused. '*What a surprise*' he just said, and I closed my mouth. His hair was longer than before and he had an earring in his ear, but it was him. And on a chain around his neck, he had my ring with snakes and lilies. I got it from my grandmother who found it hidden in the old drawer.

I made the ring a symbol of my virginity, and when Johnny and I first made love at sixteen, I gave it to him, and I said that I belonged to him. But after a few weeks, I realized I didn't really want to belong to anyone. And I broke up with him. And then I never saw him again. For over 20 years. I had almost forgotten that there was a Johnny, my first boyfriend. And now he was here.

I'm looking for the last guy of my life, for a safe, nice and easy love affair, and life brings to me my first lover. I took the furniture and said goodbye to him. I didn't say anything about the ring. I suppose that he just liked it. Nobody is so crazy to think that a woman still belongs to him after more than twenty years. It was a symbol not only of my virginity, but also his; so maybe during those long years he remembered only *what* it symbolized – the transformation of a boy into a man.

overalls – laciáce, overal, montérky

B2+

symbol

virginity

love affair

transformation

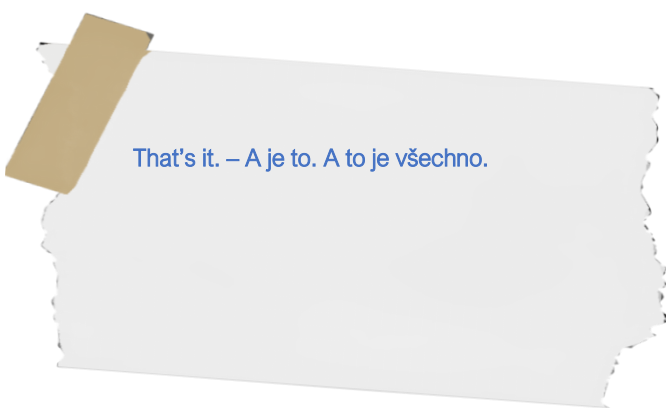


### 4.3

I signed the papers, he jumped in the car, I waved at him again and he was gone. I forgot about him as quickly as I had twenty-three years ago. I sat down to my work and without much effort continued the work which I had to stop an hour ago when my phone rang. Wait! I have his phone number now! I reached for my mobile phone and deleted the whole history of calls. **That's it.** And life can go on.

In the afternoon I finished my work and spent the rest of the day in meditation. It was a wonderful day; I was very pleased with myself. Until Peter knocked on my door that evening. What!?

He came to take the keys to the downstairs apartment. He's going to live there to be closer to the kids! He misses them so much – for God's sake, find someone else who is interested! I gave him the keys, and I wanted to close the door, but he stopped me. I wondered what else he wanted from me. He said that he understood that I was Jane's friend and that I would be on her side, but that he.... I quickly shut the door. Asshole! I was lucky when my attempt to put my head on his shoulder a few months ago was spoiled by jumping of the train. I was lucky to escape. Poor bastard. And I cried a few nights for him. It's over now. Thank God.





#### 4.4

I wanted to call Richard, but when I deleted the whole call history from my phone a few days ago, I didn't save his number and now it was lost forever. Peter lives right below me now. I try to avoid him as much as possible. He looks devastated. If we meet on a train, we don't talk. Fortunately, my job now rarely requires me to go by train in the morning, I usually work afternoons and evenings now.

I never heard from Jane again. I don't call her; we agreed that she would always call when she found a babysitter for the night. She didn't tell me what happened. I don't know what to say. And I don't even know if I want her crying on my shoulder that the bastard cheated on her. He cheated on me too. Metaphorically, but I was hurt – and I can't cry on anyone's shoulder. I had to deal with it myself. I'm almost forty. I can't believe what has happened to me in the last few months. I had long-term relationships in the past and now I just wanted to find another relationship. And instead, I fell in love, had my heart broken, met my first love again, had a crazy week with a guy ten years younger than me and I had dinner with Michael a few times.

Instead of the Volvo he now drives a Mercedes **convertible**. His ex-wife moved to Austria with the kids. We're not lovers. Michael is a friend. A real friend. We're exactly the same. We want the same things in life. We do almost the same job. We even have the same cleaning lady. And we don't have much time for each other.



convertible - kabriolet



B2+

devastated

cheated on

metaphorically



## 4.5

My 40<sup>th</sup> birthday is approaching quickly. I don't know why I have thought that I have to solve my life by 40. Why did I think that? Nothing important is going to happen on my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will be a day like any other and I won't exactly be a *year* older, I'll just be a *day* older, like I'm always a day older than yesterday. The morning train is full of sexy happy dads, and I like chatting with them every now and then, flirting.

My 40<sup>th</sup> birthday is coming. We will celebrate it with Michael in Cuba. He's the best friend. And his birthday is the same day as mine. We see each other when we both have time, which is rarely. In the morning, he likes to go back to his house. I have that casual relationship with him which I wanted. I have found my peace, and there has been no change at all.

Jane has taken Peter into her arms. He has moved back, but whenever I see him, he gives me that broken look. As if I dragged him away from his family and then left him. I played no part in it. I was emotionally deep in it, but I only touched his freezing face with my icy hand once, so physically our relationship was really cold!

You can't talk about *heat* with Michael either. It's *warm*. We are like a married couple who have been together for years and nothing can surprise them. We made this conclusion after knowing each other for a few months. It's like we have been together since always and could stay that way forever. When we make love, it's not wild. Temporary passion, temporary harmony. Friendship, peace, and happiness. Our 40th birthday is on December 24th.





### EXERCISE (4)

This is Johnny. Would you like to describe him?

His looks as well as his personality based on the text above...



## LEARNING TIP



### Imperial vs. Metric System

#### Length and distance (délka a vzdálenost)

1 inch = 2.5 centimetres

1 foot = 30 centimetres

1 mile = 1.6 kilometres

#### Expressing people's height

 5 foot 5 inches = 168 cm

 6 foot 6 inches = 180 c m

#### Volume (objem)



1 pint = 0,568 l = velké pivo

half pint = malé pivo



glass of wine = 175 ml

large glass of wine = 250 ml





## 5. Selfish Michael

### 5.1

I think I have been happy for too long. Since I was young, I have been trying to keep my life in balance and fit into the grey average. I can see the bearded grandpa, or maybe the spaghetti monster, just a materialized idea of God, looking at the world statistics every Sunday when he's resting after work, and as soon as someone gets more happiness, he sends something bad to us. On Monday. That's probably why most people hate Mondays.

I guess I was out of average for a long time and that's why my flat is ruined. A pipe broke in the wall when I was on a **business trip**, and when Martin got inside the apartment, it was too late to save anything. The things that mattered to me. But **what the hell**, it's just material things, maybe my God wants me to rise above it and start enjoying real, essential values again.

When I returned to my destroyed apartment, I wanted to cry. Martin had taken care of everything, as the owner of the house and my close friend he had the keys to my apartment, he had called me and started to fix up the mess, he had already arranged for the renovation, but I still felt terribly sorry for it – the apartment is all I have. I mean I don't own it, I'm renting it, but it was my home. I loved it. It was my **heaven on earth**. And now I have nothing. I have nowhere to go. But yeah, I do – It's just... Not where I would like to go under any other circumstances.

business trip – služební cesta

What the hell! – Sakra! K čertu!

heaven on earth – nebe na zemi, ráj na zemi

B2+

balance

statistics

ruined

renovation

heaven



## 5.2

Martin offered me the small apartment on the ground floor, no one had lived there since Peter had moved out. However, I probably couldn't live in an apartment with a window only **three feet** above the ground, I would be afraid. And **on top of that** – maybe I should say *especially* – I couldn't stay in an apartment where Peter once lived.

Even though nothing actually happened between us, I just couldn't forget what he had meant to me. When Martin mentioned the apartment on the ground floor, my pulse went faster. I refused his generous offer, but I wasn't refusing the apartment, I was refusing Peter, and my feelings for him.

But the worst part is that I'm here anyway, and I couldn't leave the memory of Peter behind the door. It was here with me, in the small room, in every corner, sitting behind my neck, getting in my way all the time. And I don't know whose fault it is. If it is my fault or God's, or if it was Michael's fault, because he was a selfish asshole.

He never said he loved me. So, he wasn't responsible for me. I don't blame him. I wasn't looking for love, I was looking for peace. And with Michael, I got it, and for a long time, I was happy. Only the flooded apartment showed me who he really was. Maybe that was my God's goal – maybe he didn't want to destroy my apartment. Maybe he just wanted to show me the person who I trusted. Who I shared my life with. My partner. My friend. My **soulmate**.

three feet = cca 1 metr  
on top of that – navíc ke všemu

B2+  
pulse  
asshole\*  
soulmate



### 5.3

In short: whatever my God wanted, he started by flooding my apartment, taking a friend away from me, taking peace away from me, and now, perhaps, taking the logical sense from me. I have been thinking about it a lot, and this time I refuse to admit that I love Peter. God is just testing me. If my character is strong. If I capitulate. But I won't.

I know it's just a memory. I know it was only platonic. It was crazy, and I should laugh about it today. Why am I crying then? It's clearly Michael's fault. He left me and refused to help me. No, that would be unfair. He never promised me anything. He wasn't responsible for me. He is just a selfish man who doesn't care about anyone else.

*Your apartment is flooded, oh no, that's terrible. What are you going to do? Where are you going to go?* I couldn't believe my ears. Where am I going to, my friend? Where am I going to, you bastard? Don't worry, I'm not going to your place. **Shove your house up your ass!** We're not partners. I wanted a relationship without crazy love, but **for God's sake**, I didn't mean completely without emotions! With no respect. And I guess I didn't say that loud enough in the beginning. And I was wrong. I was living in an illusion which I didn't share with anyone. I didn't know that there wasn't a friend next to me in bed. It was an enemy. I want to cry again.

Shove (something) up your ass! \*  
= Strč si (to) *kamsi*

B2+  
capitulate  
platonic  
illusion



## 5.4

I have never wanted a man all to myself. If he didn't belong to another woman, it was important that he at least belonged to himself. Michael was brilliant, smart, and intelligent, reserved, and careful. I needed him. And he turned his back on me. I didn't say that I wanted to change our relationship. That I wanted him all to myself, that I was going to control him from now on. **Hell**, I just said my flat was in ruins! And he turned his back on me.

He didn't give me a single word of excuse because when I really needed something, I became a problem.

And so here I am, in Peter's little apartment, on my third day. I'm crying and drinking. I'm crying for a friend. **I feel sorry for myself**. I'm crying for the love which I felt, and for a man who wasn't worth it. I know I couldn't have Peter. But it was nice to dream of him. Nicer than what I dream of now.

Hell! –Krucí, ksakru, doprčíc

I feel sorry for *somebody*

= Je mi *někoho* líto; lituju ho.

### EXERCISE (5)

**This is Michael. Would you like to describe him?**

**Why do you think he has been pictured from the back?**





## 6. My Older Sister

### 6.1

A bitter, angry alcoholic. I really didn't want to be like this. I think I'm ok now. The alcohol has deleted the pain, and when I go back to my renovated apartment in a few weeks, I'll be myself again. I'm forty years old. I stopped drinking after three days, I stopped crying. I have a headache and I feel sick. I'm starting a new life. A new life. If you don't belong to anybody, then nobody cares. No one worries about you. And nobody helps you. That part of my life is definitely behind me.

I want... I have learned something, and I know I want someone to care about me. Even at the cost of belonging to him. My God has allowed me to date Michael, a nice quiet guy – and I'm now walking away from him, with my heart broken. My God allowed it, taught me a lesson. No, you can't have a relationship without love. Without infatuation and passion, perhaps. But not without love. I was wrong. But how am I supposed to start looking for *love* now? I have no idea how to do that. I have spent my whole life laughing at it. And when it came, like last year with Peter, I wasted it. I didn't want it. And now I do.

I'd rather be in love than empty like this. No, God didn't punish me for my happiness. My God has been giving me signs for a long time, and because I was blind to them, he kicked me very hard. **Serves me right.**



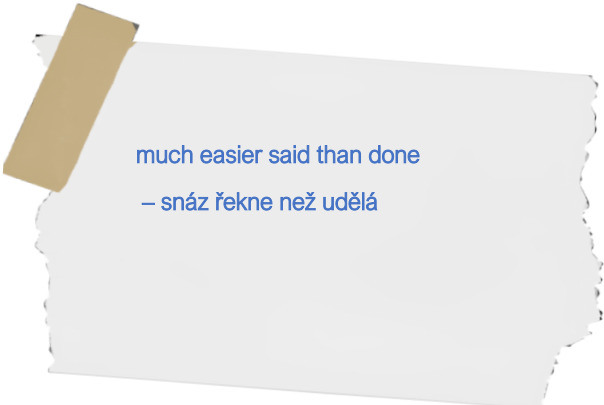


## 6.2

A few days before that business trip finished with my ruined apartment, I was already thinking about our relationship. I liked that sex with Michael was calm, and it satisfied my physical existence in this world. No extravagance, and not much emotion, what else would you discover after forty? It was good, but it was just a natural act between a man and a woman as Mother Nature had arranged it.

Lately, we have stopped making each other happy. No, that's not accurate, I'm not saying sex was bad, we just stopped doing it altogether. Sex wasn't bad. There just was no sex at all. When I realized that we weren't attracted to each other, I hoped it was just temporary. I didn't think it was over. Until I had a problem. Until I was dangerous for his private life. But I had never seen this wall between us before. And I hit it at full speed and broke my neck.

Today I learned that starting a new life is **much easier said than done**. What would that life be like? And what will be the new roles for others? Should I completely stop thinking that with a new partner it will also be about sex? I don't know where to start. Like Martin, for instance. The perfect miniature of a man... He's nice, funny, smart and rich. And he likes me. And I like him. But he's too short. And now I'm asking, does that mean I'm too ignorant? Should I rise above it? Or do I have the right to be myself? Do I have to be attracted to my new man, my partner? Can I be totally not attracted to him? Starting a new life is much harder than I thought. How do I say what will be new and what will stay the same?



much easier said than done  
– snáz řekne než udělá



B2+

existence

extravagance

miniature

ignorant



### 6.3

Starting a new life is a big project and I must divide it into small parts.

I'd like to put *punish the responsible person* at the top of the list. But I can't blame Michael forever. He didn't promise me anything. It's just me... I expected more from him than he was willing to give. It's my fault, I have been so concentrated on keeping all the men away from my body, or more accurately, from my feelings, that I have forgotten to look after myself in the same way. I involved my feelings in my relationship with Michael, which was a mistake. Just mine. And I have already got a good punishment. So, I'm ticking the first item on my **to-do list as done**. What's next?

My God is crazy. My sister called me. The oldest. She said her husband was cheating on her. Why is she telling *me*? Because I'm an expert on married men? Sure not. Surprise, surprise! She's calling me because I'm her sister. She needs to talk to someone, and she thought I would understand her best. So, it's because I'm an expert on married men, right? Oh no, why am I being sarcastic? She's calling me because I'm not married and I'm not going to take it personally. A married woman would give her advice based on her life and her guy. But she doesn't want advice. She wants somebody to listen. And she wants support. And what am I supposed to say? Dear sister, if you want to be with him, be with him, and if you want to kick him out, kick him out!

to tick something as done  
– odškrtnout něco jako hotové  
to-do-list = seznam úkolů

B2+  
cheating on  
sarcastic



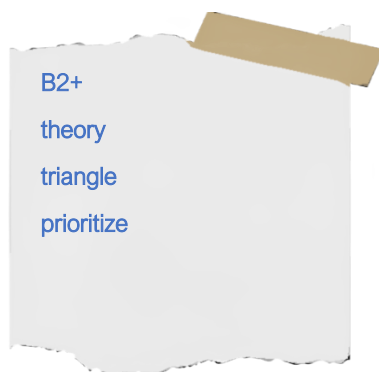
## 6.4

*It's not that simple* – she's defending herself. I get it. Should I tell her it's going to be ok? Is that what she wants to hear? But she already has her theory. What if he met a woman like me – who doesn't want to take him, but just wants to borrow him?

Oh my god! Being on my side of the triangle is fine but not being on the wife's side. I would immediately leave a man if he cheated on me. Actually, I really did it with Peter. It was all only in my head, and even that was enough.

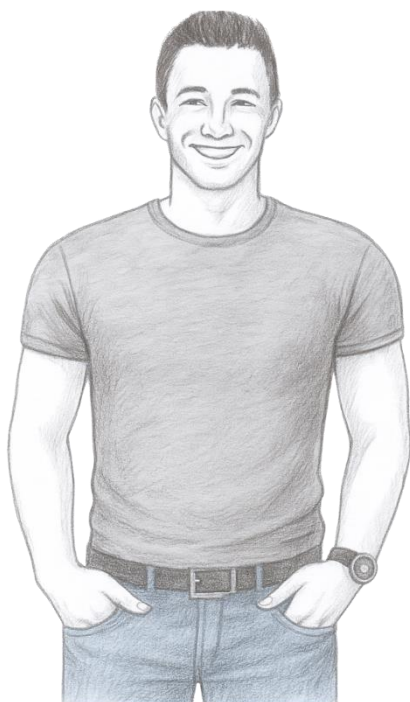
It's always nice to be the one who is getting the attention, but it's never nice to be the one who is being cheated on. I know that now. And so should my sister. *Don't you think I should find someone too?* She asks at the end. A-ha! That's the point! I have to laugh. My sister wants me to confirm that she has the right to have a lover, too.

But how am I supposed to start a new life, a better life? Starting a new life is much harder than I thought. There is nothing you can take in your hand, tear to pieces and burn. Starting a new life means changing your attitude. It's necessary to prioritize your values. And that's not easy.



### EXERCISE (6)

**This is Martin. Would you like to describe him?  
His looks as well as his personality based on the text...**







## 7. My New Life

### 7.1

My priority number one: I'm not going to lie. A pipe broke in the wall and I'm dealing with deep philosophical questions.

A few days ago, I was invited to a social event. In fact, I was invited a long time ago, it only took place a few days ago. I was supposed to go with Michael, but when things got so bad between us, I decided not to go. Not that I couldn't go without him, but I didn't want to go alone. I thought I had already started a new life when I shut the door in Peter's face.

Michael was supposed to be the partner for the rest of my life. I wanted to show – gentlemen, I'm not free anymore. Those of you who had me, congratulations; **bad luck** to the rest of you. But now I must admit to myself, with my priority number one, that *I am* free. And nobody cares. And it hurts so much. And I don't want to show that! But I went to the party anyway.

I don't really want to think about it. I don't think I have done anything bad. Just a small, private affair. I'm afraid this is not the right way to start a new life. I met Sidney there. I was so embarrassed. Suddenly, for the first time in my life, it bothered me that I was in the company of a man who had seen me naked. And not only *seen*. God, I really started a new life. I really changed my attitude because I was very shy and tried to hide in the crowd.





## 7.2

About an hour later, he stood next to me at the bar. He took off his jacket and pushed his sleeves up. I didn't want to look at his arms and at the same time, I wanted to look. On his other side stood a beautiful young lady, his girlfriend. He ordered their cocktails and then turned to me. As if by accident, but I was too old to be convinced. But that gesture wasn't supposed to convince me. It was supposed to convince her. He didn't have much experience; he was no Casanova.

I don't think she was convinced either. Or maybe for a moment, but as soon as he introduced us, his beautiful Lucille stopped smiling. She took her cocktail, grabbed Sidney by the elbow and dragged him away. It was all clear to me. The fool told her about us and what he was doing while she was away last year. Perhaps he didn't tell her it was me, but her instinct told her.

A moment later, I noticed that they were arguing. They were standing at the far end of the hall. I didn't hear a word but still I understood what was going on. After all the wild gestures, she finally allowed him to hug her. One more kiss on that sweet little nose of hers. And they were good again. Well, that's what it looks like when you belong to someone and that someone loves you back and cares for and about you. And I'd like to experience that as well. But this ginger prince already has his princess.





### 7.3

The first sign which I missed came much earlier, almost as if the signs were coming from the beginning, as if I should never be with Michael. But it was just little things. The first big one came in the form of a forgotten makeup bag. Perhaps at the beginning, my God intended "*a nod to the wise*" and when I ignored it, he had to do the "*rod to otherwise*" part.

I spent the whole day with Michael at his house. He was working on something, and I was helping him. We have similar jobs, in the same field, and I had a lot of experience with the particular thing. He made a great lunch; we made love in the garden in the afternoon. Michael doesn't like company, and you can't see most of his property from anywhere. In the evening, we went to the theatre and then he **drove me home**. Quite simple.

I never spent the night at his place. I put my casual clothes which I was wearing during the day into my bag, and I put on my evening clothes; and when **he dropped me off** in the evening, I had the bag with me. But I left my makeup bag in his bathroom. I didn't look for it because it only contained the makeup for the theatre. Dark **eye shadows**, **mascara**, **lip gloss**; in short, nothing that I-use every day.

A nod to the wise, rod to otherwise 🤔

= Chytrému napověz, houpého trkni

to drive somebody somewhere – někoho někam odvézt / svézt

to drop somebody off – někoho někde vysadit (dovézt ho někam)

eye shadows – oční stíny

lip gloss – lesk na rty



## 7.4

Michael didn't call me for a couple of days. I was busy and we didn't usually call each other every day. But a week passed, and he didn't let me know how he was doing with the project. I was worried that something happened. I could call him myself, but I somehow expected that he would call and tell me about the results. I thought that he owed it to me for my help. At least he could let me know. But he didn't, and that was the first sign which I ignored. In the end, I called him.

Everything was fine, he was just busy, and his kids were coming for the weekend. That was the third sign, **by the way**, but I realised that much later.

That evening he came to me and put the bag on the coffee table when I wasn't looking. He didn't say anything about it. I brought us something to drink and pushed the bag away and made some space for the glasses. Damn, what a mess, I thought. Michael didn't speak for a long time. I was thinking that his work didn't go well. And that he was angry at me because of that.

I wanted to ask him when he said: *"Didn't you miss it?"*

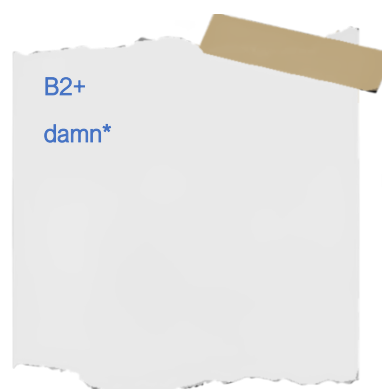
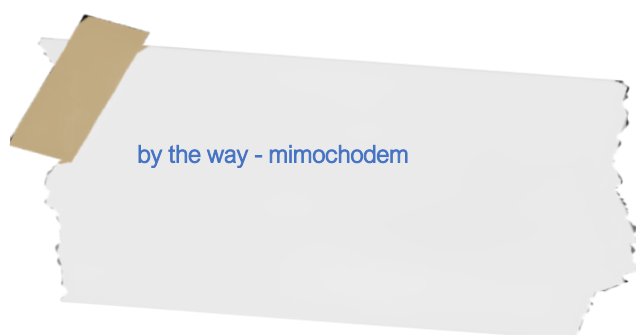
I was shocked, because my first thought was that he was talking about sex; asking how much I missed him. I couldn't believe that he was asking me something like that.

*"What do you mean?"* I asked.

He pointed to the bag. I looked at him, not understanding, and then I realized that I had probably left it at his place and that he had just brought it.

*"Oh... Not at all, it's an evening makeup, I didn't even notice that it wasn't here, thanks."*

He asked about the makeup bag, not the sex. I was happy. But it would be better if I wasn't happy. I was supposed to grab him by his collar and kick him out of the door.





## 7.5

I woke up in the night. **Bang!** Eyes wide open. Suddenly I understood. By leaving my little bag in his house, I showed that I wanted to share his space. That I would come back. That we belong together. I should apologize to him. I can see what he thought about it. I can understand why he was upset and shocked.

In the morning, when he was leaving, I thanked him for the bag once again. *"It would be embarrassing if I had to call all my lovers and ask them about the bag."*

He smiled finally. *"You're a great woman,"* he said and kissed me, something he had never done before on his way out. I was glad that I was able to explain it. That I didn't want to move into his house. But I ignored this sign, again. And I ignored also the fact that the kids were staying with him for the weekend.

That was the second sign. His kids are too young to come for the weekend. But I missed that sign, too. I must admit that my God was trying really hard, and that I deserved the flooded apartment. I had to open my eyes. Michael's ex-wife wanted to get back together with him. She started bringing his kids. And he didn't tell me. And when I was in my ruined apartment, hoping that he'd lend me one of his many rooms, he turned his back to me. Because his whole family had already moved back in with him. While I was away on a business trip, he changed his life. Quietly in secret. Without a word. Selfish bastard!





### EXERCISE (7)

**Do you think that she will ever be able to change her life?**

**What could she do differently in her new life?**

**(Try to practise sentences in the 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional.)**

*If she really wanted to change her life, she should...*



## LEARNING TIP



### Proverbs – přísloví

A nod to the wise, rod to otherwise. – Chytrému napověz, hloupého trkni.

Birds of a feather flock together. – Vrána k vráně sedá.

What goes around, comes around. – Jak se do lesa volá, tak se z lesa ozývá.

Look before you leap. – Dvakrát měř, jednou řež.

First come, first served. – Kdo dřív přijde, ten dřív mele.



## 8. Tony of the Past

### 8.1

My priority number two: I won't be naïve anymore. I pushed this task to the top of my list of priorities when I found out that Michael doesn't want me in his life. I *found out* because he didn't tell me. I learned it **by accident**. I don't want to think about it anymore. In short, I won't be naïve in my new life. I won't be stupid.

When they finally renovated my apartment and I started picking out new furniture, I complained to Martin that I couldn't move back. He immediately had an offer for me. At first, I thought that he was suggesting the two of us living together, so I stopped listening and just smiled politely. I was shocked when he said that he could *rent the house*. Excuse me? What house? Then I understood that he was buying a house which was being sold by a divorcing couple. They wanted to **pay off the mortgage** and then rent two separate apartments. The lady with the kids would move in here instead of me, because this place is big enough for three people. I would stay downstairs, and Martin would rent the house. I was terrified.

I understand that he could rent my place for a better price than the small amount which I'm paying him, I hope that he's not just going to kick me out. I'll pay him a reasonable market price from now on! But it's not about the money. It's about the lady with the kids. He wants her to live here. He smiled at me. I understood. This apartment was for his favourite girl. It didn't go very well with me. A divorcing lady with kids will accept his generous offer. I'm starting a new life. This part is definitely over. But I'm not staying in that little apartment. Because that's where Peter is still living. His ghost and my memories of his lovely brown eyes. And memories of my pain.

by accident – náhodou (shodou nějakých okolností)  
to pay off the mortgage – splatit hypotéku

B2+

priorities  
naïve



## 8.2

I received another invitation from Tony. This gentleman is really great. We worked together in the same company a few years ago. I hate to admit it, but it's been twenty years since that moment.

Twenty years ago, we were colleagues. And about three years ago, I started working as an external consultant for his new company. I would say that he hired me because of our old friendship. Michael tried to work for them several times, but he was unlucky, I was already there. He laughed about it and said that he didn't believe that I was better than him. And that it was obvious that the owner preferred beautiful women.

Now I think, perhaps that was another sign. Michael was serious, he would never admit that I was better than him at anything. In Tony's defence, I must say that he **wasn't like that**. In fact, he's quite strict, and doesn't pay attention to attractive women when he is working. I believe that he chose me because he knows me, he can trust me, he knows what to expect from me. It wasn't important that I was a woman. He was always very reserved.

Sometimes, twenty years ago, I even tried to provoke him a little, but I failed. But... when I worked hard all day, he invited me for a drink and then we ended up in his apartment. We talked about life into the night, went to bed almost in the morning, and made love. We never did it face to face, never looked each other in the eye. And then we continued to act as if nothing had happened.

I thought it was funny, I thought he just didn't know how to talk to me afterwards. But one day I realized that this was his style. *Knowing* that we had sex was enough for him. Next time it was just like that again. Actually, it was like that every time.

(not) to be like that – (ne)být takový (jak někdo řekl)

B2+

gentleman

external

consultant

provoke





### 8.3

I was twenty, he was a little older. I enjoyed this secret relationship. From then until now, I have always wanted it **like that** with every man. Strong when we were alone and casual among other people. That's how I have always wanted my **love life**.

And after the last meeting with Sidney and his beauty at the previous party, I think that I got a little drunk and started discussing our past with Tony. I also blamed him that I had met so many bastards in the last year. But Tony's just great, he was nice and called me the next day. He asked if I was ok and if I **was in a better mood**.

And now he sent me another invitation with his signature. I'm seriously thinking about going abroad. For a year or two, **get out of** this world full of guys who have seen me naked. I just can't start a new life here.

like that – takhle (jak bylo řečeno, popsáno)

love life – milostný život

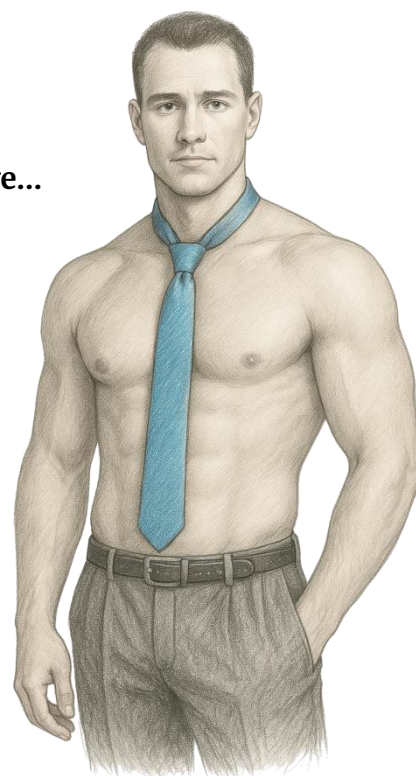
to be in a better mood – mít lepší náladu

to get out of (somewhere) – vypadnou (odněkud)

#### EXERCISE (8)

**This is Tony. Would you like to describe him?**

**His looks as well as his personality based on the text above...**





## 9. My New Neighbour

### 9.1

Going away was a good idea. Three months in South America with a bunch of enthusiasts who got together via Facebook. Almost everyone on this adventure was dealing with a similar life crisis like me. An interesting mix of European nationalities, with the same motivation and a common goal: to have fun, see a little bit of the world, take our minds off our problems. In the end, I just saw a little bit of the world.

I didn't have much fun. We mostly dealt with quite difficult situations, and when it wasn't a question of survival, then it was about basic human needs; and when external factors were in the balance, we had to solve personal problems. Anyway, I learned a lot in the process. To be tolerant. More patient. I learned to trust others because more than once my life depended on it. To spend **day by day** with different people, to respect their opinions, their right to their own mistakes. But I didn't manage to forget my problems.

I guess I have **got over** the episode with Michael. He was a friend, but he didn't honestly say that he was changing his life and his relationship with me. Thanks to the long trip, I can already accept his right to be who he is.

I have also been thinking about the God signs all along. If perhaps there were more of them in my life. How many have I ignored? And what was it supposed to teach me? Did the flooded apartment mean "move out"?

day by day – den za dnem

to get over something

– něco překonat, vyrovnat se s tím

B2+

enthusiasts

crisis

motivation

survival

factors

process

tolerant

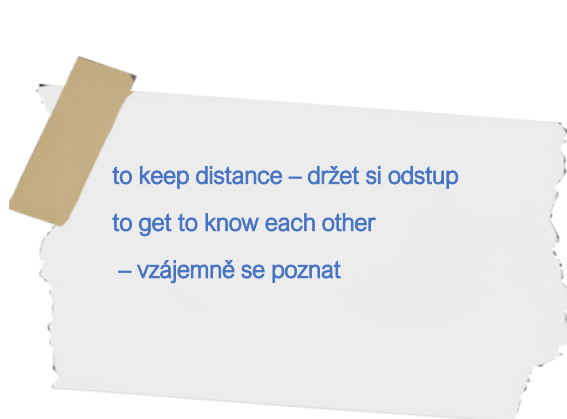


## 9.2

Martin rented my old apartment to his new favourite. I went abroad because I couldn't live in the apartment after Peter, and I didn't know what else to do. I needed a break.

**Keep** emotional **distance**. Time and space distance, too. But I hadn't found any answers on my journey, and the last few days before my return, I was thinking more and more about Peter and how my fantasies would hurt when I enter *his* apartment again. I really couldn't forget it, not even after three months on the other side of the world. I carried it with me everywhere, in my head. In my heart.

I was absolutely devastated and didn't want to return home. I decided to delay the horrible moment a little longer and I flew with Rachel and Nick to Frankfurt. I wanted to continue to Prague two days later. They let me stay in Nick's apartment and they went to Rachel's. They had a wonderful trip. They wanted to get married, but they really wanted **to get to know each other** well before they started living together. They wanted to see if they could be together day by day, deal with crisis, if they could tolerate each other, respect each other. See if they'd still love each other afterwards. They were amazing together, and now they're getting married. Meanwhile, after a long flight and thanks to crossing several time zones, I was so tired, and I fell into Nick's bed. I slept most of my short break in Frankfurt.





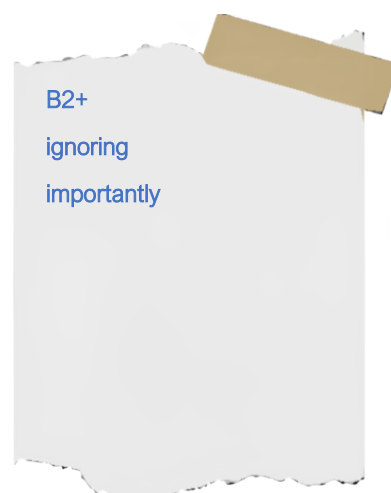
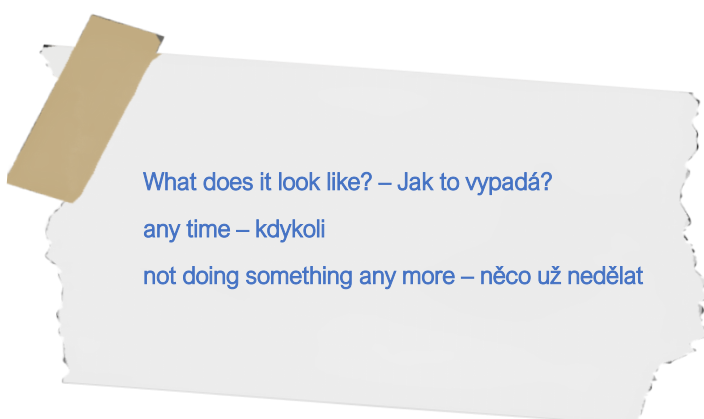
### 9.3

A few hours before my flight to Prague I was so nervous and called Martin. *What does my apartment **look like**? Am I going to have another shock like last time?* When he said that everything was ok, I was even more terrified. *Martin, I don't want to go back to this stupid city. Do you have a free flat in Prague? Or anywhere else? I really can't handle it, and don't ask me why.* I almost cried. It was too much.

Martin said that he'd arrange it. He's so... he's so reliable, he's always where he's supposed to be, and he always does the right thing. He picked me up at the airport and drove me to another apartment. I was very lucky because while I was away, he bought two new apartments in Prague. One of them is still empty. With furniture! He said that I can get my things from the little apartment **any time**. What an absolutely perfect man! And a friend. Isn't this another sign which I have been ignoring?

I can definitely breathe here. Nice apartment in a nice place. Nothing exactly beautiful, but new, clean, and most importantly with furniture that reminds me of nothing at all. I don't know how long I'll stay here, but I'll probably stay here for a while.

I'm making coffee and waiting for a visitor. I have been following my list of priorities since my return. First, I'm **not lying any more**. Not even to myself. I guess that's why I can breathe easier. I try not to ignore the signs of my God. I'm so easily in love. Smiling. No more sleepless nights, no more headaches, no more heartache.





## 9.4

Martin changed my whole life during that short journey from the airport. He helped me start again from where it was still nice and where I made it complicated with my own stupidity. Or maybe with my impulsivity. When he brought me here, I was completely transformed.

When I went to the old apartment, I was completely calm. I checked all the corners, but there were no ghosts of the past. It was just an ugly apartment with a window **three feet** above the ground facing the parking lot. I put my things into a few boxes, just clothes, a laptop, folders of personal papers, a couple of books, two mugs. I left the rest of my stuff there, so that it was easier for Martin to rent the place. Just In case he meets another guy like Peter. Another poor divorced husband.

I also try not to be naïve. When I want to do something, I do it. I say what's on my mind. My God gives me signs, but I must live my life. That's why I have my new love. New? Well... I'm honest. I say to him that I care about him. I show that I enjoy *belonging to him*. I'm not sure if traveling through a strange world with strangers, or my **guardian angel** helped me do that. But I have managed to start a new life.

I have the same job, I meet the same people, I work for Tony, and I even meet Sidney. He married the beautiful Lucille, and he still looks away when we meet. I don't even think about the fact that we saw each other naked. I have started my new life. Thank you, my personal God!





## 9.5

My priority number three: I'll listen better. I will not form opinions until I know more about the situation. I promise!

On the way back from the airport, I listened to Martin's story. A story about love. About his darling Jane. She has two kids and is getting divorced now.

*She made a mistake when she married that loser, she only wanted to keep the family for the kids, but what life is that – without love, sleeping with a guy that does not attract her, spending time with him when she doesn't love him, lying and cheating?*

So, he convinced his dear Jane to leave her husband, to get divorced, to sell the house and move with the kids into my old place. And Martin rented one of his new apartments to the poor loser. And that loser is now my neighbour.

I'm expecting him in a minute. We're going slowly, but we're going for the same goal. I refused to waste this sign. I was worried that maybe he wouldn't want a relationship when his marriage had just finished. When his wife cheated on him and then left him. When he is getting divorced and leaves his two kids far away with a strange man. I thought he'd give up, at least for a while, on all women.





## 9.6

And then I put number three on my list of priorities: listen better, don't form opinions too quickly. He said that he wanted and needed to belong to someone. He wants to trust someone again. That his marriage hadn't worked for a couple of years before the final **breakup**. That's why he moved away from Jane last year – not to live with another woman, but because Jane had a lover. I promise I'll never again form opinions too quickly!

Knocking on the door. One last look in the mirror. Those leather pants still look good on me. If Peter can't remember if they're really leather, he can try and find out again today. I hope he will.

breakup – rozchod (ve vztahu)





## EXERCISE (9)

What could happen next? 💖

(Try to practise sentences in the 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional.)

*If the coffee was too hot, they could...*

*If he wanted to touch her pants, she would...*

*What if he didn't want to do it?*

*If....*



## LEARNING TIP



### Relationship Vocabulary = Vztahový slovníček

|                 |                  |                       |                      |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| infatuation     | zamilovanost     | cheating on somebody  | někoho podvádět      |
| passion         | touha            | platonic              | platonický           |
| to fall in love | zamilovat se     | darling               | drahoušek            |
| love affair     | aférka, známost  | to be attracted to    | přitahovat někoho    |
| lover           | milénec, milénka | virginity             | panenství            |
| dating somebody | chodit s někým   | flirting              | flirt (flirtování)   |
| sweetheart      | miláček          | soulmate              | spřízněná duše       |
| married         | vdaná / ženatý   | a date                | rande                |
| one night stand | partner na 1 noc | (to) divorce          | rozvést se, rozvod   |
| to make love    | milovat se (sex) | to break up / breakup | rozejít se / rozchod |



## **AMENDMENTS**

Instructions

Vocabulary list B2+

Who is who cheat-sheet

Online lesson access

About the author



## Instructions

- 📖 **Anglický text:** 9 kapitol / cca 10 000 slov / 1800 individuálních slov v rozsahu B1/B2

English text: 9 chapters / ca. 10.000 words / 1.800 individual words in CEFR B1 level

- 📖 Každá kapitola má **číslované sekce** pro lepší orientaci. Zároveň se na tyto odstavce můžete odkazovat při čtení české verze.

The story is divided into several chapters. Each chapter has numbered sections to help you navigate and you can also refer to these paragraphs when reading the Czech version.

- 📖 Pod každou sekci jsem umístila **seznam slovíček úrovně B2 nebo slov nezařazených do rámce CEFR** (Společný evropský referenční rámec pro cizí jazyky). Většinu z nich můžete sama odhadnout, protože jsou podobná českým slovům.

Bellow each section, I have placed a list of vocabulary for the B2 level, and words not included in the scale of CEFR. Most of them you can guess as they are similar to Czech words.

- 📖 Zároveň je pod každou sekci **seznam slovíček nebo obrátů**, které jsem Vám přeložila.

Also, you can also find a separate “explanatory box” with a list of words and expressions bellow each section. I have translated them for you.

🚩 **Culture clash** – pasáže, kde se odhalují typické české zvyklosti a musejí se překládat opisem

🇺🇸 označuje typický americký výraz nebo spelling

🇬🇧 označuje typický britský výraz nebo spelling

- 📖 Na konci každé kapitoly máte **kreativní úkol**, ve kterém si vyzkoušíte, jak se dovedete vyjádřit o tom, co jste se dočetla.

At the end of each chapter, there is an exercise which will test how well you're able to express in your own words what you've read.

- 📖 V přílohách na konci najdete **kompletní seznam** slov pro úroveň B2 a nezařazené do CEFR **s překladem**. Kromě vulgárních, ty nepřekládám.

At the very end you will find a complete vocabulary list for level B2, and word not included in CEFR, with Czech translation. Except for the vulgar words, these I don't translate.

- 📖 Do příloh jsem vložila **obrázkový tahák „kdo je kdo“**. Ke každé postavě si můžete připsat poznámky o jejím vzhledu nebo vlastnostech a trénovat tak vyjadřování v angličtině.

I have added a “who is who cheat sheet” with illustrations in the Amendments. You can practise English by making notes about appearance or personality of the characters.

- 📖 Tento příběh má **plnou verzi češtině i v angličtině, a také audioknihy ve verzi B1 a native**.

This story also has its full version in Czech and English, and audiobooks level B1 and native.

- 💎 A aby to nebylo jen o „učení“, tak jako všechny mé knihy je i tento příběh zakončený jednou **zajímavostí**.

This story, just like my other books, is concluded with a Fun Fact so it's not all just about "learning".

## Read, learn, and enjoy!



## VOCABULARY LIST LEVEL B2+

You probably already know or can easily guess these words  
which are CEFR level B2 and higher + some of them are unlisted\*

| WORD             | SECTION                 | .... and your notes |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| actively         | 2.2                     |                     |
| ass/hole*        | 4.3, 5.2, 5.3           |                     |
| attract/ed to    | 4.1, 6.2, 9.5           |                     |
| attractive       | 8.2                     |                     |
| aura             | 1.2                     |                     |
| balance          | 5.1, 9.1                |                     |
| bastard(s)*      | 4.3, 4.4, 5.3, 7.5, 8.3 |                     |
| capitulate       | 5.3                     |                     |
| cart             | 3.1                     |                     |
| catastrophe      | 1.4                     |                     |
| category         | 1.4                     |                     |
| cocktail(s)      | 7.2                     |                     |
| consultant       | 8.2                     |                     |
| courage          | 1.1                     |                     |
| crisis           | 9.1, 9.2                |                     |
| damn*            | 7.4                     |                     |
| date(d) / dating | 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, 6.1 |                     |
| devasted         | 4.4                     |                     |
| elegant          | 2.4                     |                     |
| emotion(s)       | 1.4, 5.3, 6.2           |                     |
| emotional(ly)    | 2.2, 4.5, 9.2           |                     |
| escalator        | 1.1                     |                     |
| existence        | 6.2                     |                     |
| external         | 8.2, 9.1                |                     |
| extravagance     | 6.2                     |                     |
| factors          | 9.1                     |                     |
| fantasies        | 9.2                     |                     |
| flirting         | 4.5                     |                     |
| gentleman /-men  | 8.2, 9.1                |                     |



|                       |                         |  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| guardian              | 9.4                     |  |
| harmony               | 4.5                     |  |
| heaven                | 5.1                     |  |
| hell                  | 5.1, 5.4                |  |
| hopelessly            | 3.3                     |  |
| hysteria              | 2.3                     |  |
| cheated/-ing (on)     | 4.4, 6.3, 6.4, 9.5      |  |
| ideal                 | 2.3, 3.1, 4.1           |  |
| ignorant              | 6.2                     |  |
| ignored /-ing         | 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 9.1, 9.3 |  |
| illusion              | 5.3                     |  |
| imperfections         | 2.3                     |  |
| importantly           | 9.3                     |  |
| infatuation           | 6.1                     |  |
| inspires              | 1.2                     |  |
| instinctively         | 2.4                     |  |
| lifestyle             | 3.2                     |  |
| metaphorically        | 4.4                     |  |
| miniature             | 6.2                     |  |
| motivation            | 9.1                     |  |
| naïve                 | 8.1, 9.4                |  |
| naked                 | 3.3, 7.1, 8.3. 9.4      |  |
| passion               | 4.5, 6.1                |  |
| philosophical         | 7.1                     |  |
| physical(ly)          | 2.3, 4.5, 6.2           |  |
| platonic              | 5.3                     |  |
| prioritize            | 6.4                     |  |
| priority / priorities | 7.1, 8.1, 9.3, 9.5, 9.6 |  |
| process               | 9.1                     |  |
| provocative           | 1.3                     |  |
| provoke               | 8.2                     |  |
| pulse                 | 5.2                     |  |
| reality               | 2.1                     |  |
| renovation            | 5.1                     |  |



|                   |                    |  |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| renovated         | 6.1, 8.1           |  |
| repertoire        | 2.3                |  |
| risk              | 3.2                |  |
| ruined / in ruins | 5.1, 5.4, 6.2, 7.5 |  |
| sarcastic         | 6.3                |  |
| sexual            | 2.2                |  |
| sexy              | 1.1                |  |
| signal            | 1.1, 1.4, 2.4      |  |
| sleepless         | 1.4, 9.3           |  |
| soulmate          | 5.2                |  |
| statistics        | 5.1                |  |
| stupidity         | 9.4                |  |
| survival          | 9.1                |  |
| sweetheart        | 2.1, 2.3           |  |
| theory            | 6.4                |  |
| tolerate          | 2.3, 9.2           |  |
| triangle          | 6.4                |  |

Are there more words in the story which you didn't know and would like to remember?  
Feel free to make your list here!

| WORD | SECTION | .... and your notes |
|------|---------|---------------------|
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |
|      |         |                     |



## WHO IS WHO CHEAT-SHEET

Write your notes about the people you meet in this story.



*The main character. What's her name?*

*Johnny*



*Martin*



*Michael*



*Peter*



*Sidney*



*Tony*





## ABOUT ME

*I've been writing stories ever since I was 14. I only wrote for my close friends, though. It took me ages to go public. And here I am at last!*

*I wrote this story in 2010 on my cell phone in the form of text messages. There were 360 of them and it took me about a week.*

*I always wrote on the train, on the way to and from work. I was observing people, I would hear something here and there, and that was my inspiration.*

*Therefore, you could say that the story is based on reality.*

*Even though it's about many different people who don't even know each other and have nothing in common, except that they weren't discreet enough, which opened their way into my story.*

Název povídky vychází ze rčení "Chytrému napověz, hloupého trkni". Ekvivalent se v angličtině nepoužívá tak často, jako česky, ale přesto existuje:

A NOD TO THE WISE (nod to otherwise).

**Protože mně nejde jen o překlad, ale hlavně o to, aby to, co čteš, dávalo smysl!**

Nejsem jen autorka, jsem taky lektorka angličtiny a pokud máš jakékoli potíže se čtením této nebo jakékoli jiné knížky, přestože tvůj level je zhruba B1, tak to znamená, že ti k tvým teoretickým znalostem chybí praktické dovednosti.

Ráda ti pomůžu k přemýšlení v angličtině.

Stačí se připojit k mému "GENIÁLNÍMU PŘÍBĚHU" – informace máš v mailu.

Katka Havlová



# Thanks for reading my story!

I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it for you.  
I wrote this story also in Czech, so you can use it as a cross-check reference  
for understanding.

With love ❤️

*Kateřina Horlová*

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