



Play with **FIRE**

Modern Noir
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INTERMEDIATE



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BONUS - není zahrnuto

AMENDMENTS

VOCABULARY LISTS

PHRASE LIST

WHO IS WHO CHEATSHEET

WHO IS WHO EXERCISE

ANSWER KEY

WHY READ BEYOND WORDS?



1. TRIP

1.1

Tuesday (now)

Clare opened her eyes. She felt like waking up in a new world. But it was the same room, with the same light on the ceiling. A small crack ran from the window to the corner of the room, where it disappeared behind the closet. She could see some empty hangers through the half-open closet door. Her suitcase was still packed and lying next to the bed. **Last night**, she had only taken out her pyjamas and a towel.

She couldn't sleep, so Vlad gave her two pills. She took them because she really wanted to fall asleep, to stop thinking and forget everything for a while.

The pills worked. When she woke up now, her head felt heavy, but **her mind was clear**. She looked at the crack in the wall, the same one she had stared at last night when she couldn't sleep. She had been waiting for help, for someone to explain why she had to come here. Why did she have to move here so quickly, far from her apartment in Prague? She had been comfortable there.

She understood that was hiding her here, maybe because of one of her jobs – she was an interpreter. But Vlad, who had brought her here, said nothing – just gave her those pills.

Why did Clare take the pills given by Vlad?

- A. She was experimenting with new medications.
- B. Vlad forced her to take them.
- C. She wanted to escape from reality and stop thinking for a while.
- D. She needed to be alert for an upcoming task.



1.2

Clare heard a soft knock, and a woman in her fifties with neat hair peeked into the room. When she saw that Clare was awake, she smiled widely and stepped inside.

"Good morning," she said in slightly accented English. "I hope you slept well. I'll call Vlad and bring you some tea."

Clare tried to sit up and say thank you, but her mouth was too dry, and all she could make was a quiet squeak.

The woman's appearance surprised Clare. She had dark skin and was wearing a traditional Indian saree. Clare couldn't tell if she was Indian or Pakistani. The woman kept smiling and went off to do what she had said.

Vlad entered the room quietly, like a spy. Clare couldn't help smiling. She didn't believe they were in so much danger that Vlad had to **act like** James Bond.

"Pack your things quickly, and let's go!" he said. It was a surprising follow-up to his earlier question: "Would you like to take a little trip?"

Clare had thought Vlad had a new and exciting interpreting job for her. She had been hoping for something different because she was bored with her usual work. She had wanted a change and thought this was it. But she never imagined she would be running away like a criminal because of a simple job.

It turned out she had been in some dangerous situation for a while now, though it wasn't as exciting as she had imagined.

Why does Clare smile when Vlad enters the room quietly?

- A. He brings her tea and she is grateful.
- B. She is relieved to see him.
- C. She finds Vlad's secretive manner amusing.
- D. She thinks they are in grave danger.



1.3

A mix of feelings. One moment, I feel scared, and the next, it all seems silly and small. Then, I feel scared again. When I see Vlad acting so careful and secretive, **I find it strange.**

When I have a few minutes to think, I feel a chill run down my spine. Vlad doesn't want me to think about anything, so that I won't have anything to tell the police. It's easy because I really don't have anything to say!

I've only interpreted normal, boring conversations like always. There are no records of those talks, they were just social events. But my curiosity won't let me relax. It makes me think about everything again. I'm scared that I might remember something important later, something I can't keep to myself. As an interpreter, I'm used to talking. I always say what I think, and I'm afraid that might be a problem now. Vlad knows this. He tells me that it's dangerous to remember or talk about anything. But he also tries to **calm me down**, saying that I surely don't know anything important.

Still, my **curiosity is awake**. I start to remember small details, and I try to focus on the past. I want to find something useful in my memories.

Clare unpacked her things. The closet, which she hadn't closed properly, didn't look as sad now. The empty hangers were gone. Clare's colourful clothes made the room look more cheerful. Even the crack in the wall didn't bother her as much anymore.

Clare's colourful clothes made her room look more cheerful.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



1.4

Clare got two big towels from Shreya and went into the bathroom. In every movie or book, the main character always takes a shower at a moment like this – he or she stands under the water for a long time. The bathroom fills with steam, and then the **hero or heroine** leaves, wrapped in a towel, **ready to face her problems**. Clare wanted to do the same. She felt like in a movie. A detective story.

Was Vlad playing a joke on her? Was he just giving her the adventure she always wanted? Her 25th birthday was coming soon. Maybe this was just a game, his idea of a special gift. **If so**, she should keep **playing along**. Enjoy it. Appreciate it.

She put on a purple dress and sat down with Vlad in the small dining room. There were biscuits and tea with milk – so perfectly English. It even felt a little like a birthday party. She smiled. She liked it. It was nice to get this attention.

"So, what's next, James?" she asked, smiling playfully.

"We don't need to change names," Vlad answered, not really paying attention. "We're fine here," he added.

"Where exactly are we?" she continued, still playing.

Vlad looked at her, confused. "Like I said, we're in **Bath**. I come here every summer for my English classes, and I always rent a room here. Are you feeling ok?" he asked, sounding concerned.

Clare felt as though she were a character in a detective story when she took the shower.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



1.5

"You took me out of my little apartment on a nice day, made me travel halfway across Europe by car, talked about danger and told me not to think about anything... And now we're on a language course? That's a confusing story, **isn't it?** I think the script needs a little work." She was **having fun**. She had caught him with her joke.

Anyway, why shouldn't she enjoy a few days with her boyfriend? If he hadn't taken her away like this, who knows when they would have their next date?

"My dear," he said, reaching across the table to take her hands. "I love you because you are so wonderfully unique, and you remind me of my younger days – but you don't need to be silly all the time. This is a very serious situation, and until things calm down, I'm not going to joke about it."

Clare suddenly had a thought – maybe he was going to **propose to her**. That would be really original!

READING TIP

Pokud byla první kapitola poněkud oříšek:

- Nejdříve přečtěte celý odstavec nebo celou sekci – nezasekněte se na slovíčku.
- Po přečtení odstavce si poznačte a vyhledejte slova, která brání v porozumění.
- Pokud odstavec pochopíte, nehledejte zbytečně neznámá slovíčka. Pochopíte je časem, nezdržujte se jejich hledáním, pokud to nebrání v pochopení děje.

Doporučení: kromě angličtiny se v tomto příběhu soustředte i na **časové údaje uvedené v úvodu jednotlivých sekcí**, protože ve druhé části příběhu začne hrát roli, co se děje dnes a co se stalo dříve. Tak ať jste v obraze.

Pro lepší orientaci v čase, kdy se co odehrává, jsou *kurzívou vyznačené pasáže*, které se týkají vzpomínek na starší minulost (s nadpisem "in the past").

GOOD LUCK!



2. DANGER

2.1

I protest. I don't want to believe it. But if it was just a game... if it was a game, Vlad wouldn't be acting like this. So, am I supposed to accept this as a fact? **It's all so crazy!**

Apparently: sometimes – and Vlad won't say when – I interpreted for someone – and Vlad won't say who – and now that person is in big trouble – and Vlad won't say how much trouble – with the law. The police are investigating and have started asking people from that person's company. Vlad has been told – but he won't say by whom – that soon, the police will question the business partners, and then they will question everyone who attended the unofficial meetings, including... interpreters.

Someone must be in serious trouble for all this to be happening.

And Vlad must be really scared. He's here with me, acting like we've just been travelling around Europe for a few days. We didn't take a plane, so no one knows exactly when we left. We'll come back in three weeks at the earliest. And in the meantime – if the police are looking for me and think I ran away because I knew something (What could I know?) – Vlad will say we've been dating for more than a year and that we came here secretly to be together. That's why we didn't tell anyone about our trip.

He's created a perfect story.

What strategy does Vlad suggest avoiding police suspicion?

- A. Saying they were on a family emergency.
- B. Claiming to be on a business trip.
- C. Telling the police that the protagonist was hospitalised.
- D. Pretending they went on a secret trip.



2.2

The only thing I don't understand is how he will explain this to his wife. I have so many questions in my head, and I don't know which one to ask first. I'm not sure if I even want to ask. Maybe it's **better not to know**.

I'm dating a married man. We went on a secret trip a few days ago, and we're **pretending to be** here for a language course. We are having a great time together, far from where we usually hide. It makes sense, and it's almost true. I love Vlad, so I'm happy to be here now. I'm even thankful for this situation. No one seems to be looking for me, so I'll just enjoy this time with him.

But something still feels wrong. I don't understand it. **What's the point of staying here** for three weeks? That's not a long time. If they want to ask me questions, they will just do it a few days later. So, what will this trip really change?

What is a major concern of the narrator?

- A. The quality of the language course they claim to attend.
- B. Whether or not they will be caught for their secret trip.
- C. Understanding how Vlad will explain the situation to his wife.
- D. If she will manage to learn the language during the trip.



2.3

In the past

Vlad invited Clare to dinner. After he hung up the phone, he sighed. He hadn't done anything wrong. He invited Clare to dinner, and she said yes. Vlad leaned back in his chair and tried to relax. He had waited a long time to ask her, and now it was done. Clare said yes, and suddenly, Vlad felt very old, even though he was only thirty-six. He liked the young interpreter – maybe more than he should. But no one needed to know that.

He had invited her to a business meeting. Clare wasn't registered with an agency. She worked alone, so inviting her was normal. It was just business... but Vlad knew it wasn't.

*For a long time, Vlad had been trying to find a reason **to ask her out**. He didn't want it to sound like a date because he wasn't sure what he wanted. He just wanted to spend time with her, without any promises or plans. Maybe one dinner together would be enough, and he wouldn't need to see her again. He hadn't been able to stop thinking about her, and he needed to see her at least once, or **he would go crazy**. He needed to feel normal again.*

The invitation to dinner was strictly for business purposes.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



2.4

Vlad hoped their first meeting would also be their last. He wanted to see her, enjoy the evening, and then return to his normal life. He wanted to be sure that he wasn't just crazy about her, that he only needed to stop feeling the strong attraction for her. He invited her to dinner, and she said yes. Vlad thought he was getting closer to ending this strange feeling.

Clare didn't look very professional that evening. She was wearing a denim skirt and a white shirt. She wasn't wearing a bra, and it was obvious. She smiled, her short hair with red highlights was pushed back, and she had long earrings. After saying hello outside the restaurant, she let Vlad take her to the table. She didn't want any alcohol, so she ordered a Kofola. She repeated the drink's slogan, "If you love her, it's no big deal," and winked at Vlad playfully.

Vlad took this as a challenge. He admitted to himself that he was, in fact, crazy about her. This dinner would not be the end, and he didn't know how to deal with it.

Clare's attire was casual and slightly revealing.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



2.5

Wednesday (now)

The next day in Bath, Clare already felt comfortable in her new situation. She had been with Vlad for more than forty-eight hours without a break, which was much longer than they had ever spent together before. Neither of them was in a hurry.

They got up late, had breakfast when the guesthouse dining room was already empty, had lunch at a riverside pub, held hands, and walked through the busy town back to the guesthouse for an afternoon nap. They didn't talk at all about why they were here, but sometimes Clare couldn't stop thinking about it.

"You're risking your marriage," she said carefully. She wanted to get answers to some of her questions, but she didn't want to ask Vlad directly.

"I'm protecting you," he replied.

Clare felt better after hearing that. Yes, this was the Vlad she knew. Not James Bond, the secret spy.

"I'm protecting you" – that was **the only right answer**. Even if it wasn't completely true, it was the best answer Vlad could give to Clare. He was saying that her safety was more important than his marriage right now, but when the danger was gone, he would think about saving his marriage.

How did Clare feel after Vlad said he was protecting her?

- A. Indifferent and bored
- B. Happy and excited
- C. Better and reassured
- D. Confused and doubtful

2.6

It was important to Clare that Vlad tried to save his marriage. She didn't want him to get divorced because of her. She didn't want that responsibility. If Vlad was going to get a divorce, it had to be his own decision, not because of her. She didn't want anyone, including Vlad, to blame her for his divorce.

His marriage made her a little angry, and she was disappointed that, after a whole year, he still hadn't decided to leave his wife. It was clear that he didn't love his wife. But at the same time, Clare was patient. She was twenty-four, and she felt like she had all the power in her hands. **She was determined not to lose her fight.**





3. DOUBTS

3.1

Vlad the protector – that was her Vlad again, her lover. Sometimes he felt ten years younger next to her, and sometimes much older, like her teacher, guide, or protector. She loved these changes in him, and she was happy that he was acting normal again. She smiled at him.

"And what if they want to question me when we get back? Do you think it will be okay after three weeks?" she asked carefully.

"Don't even think about it," he said seriously.

What a sweetheart, Clare thought. When they went back to their room, she forgot about the other questions. She pulled her green sweater over her head and whispered, "Come here."

It was their third night in this wonderful escape. They had spent the whole afternoon in bed. Two and a half more weeks to go. Clare smiled to herself as she put on a light blue tank top and white pants for their evening walk by the river. Vlad was in the shower, letting the water wash over him. He hoped **the water would wash away the guilt** he felt.

It was their third night here, two and a half more weeks to go, and Vlad couldn't stand it anymore. **It was driving him crazy.** The water couldn't take away the feeling of his dishonest behaviour. He knew the best thing he had done was bringing Clare here, far away, to this place.

Why did Vlad hope the water would wash away his feelings?

- A. Because he was cold.
- B. Because he felt guilty.



3.2

Vlad knew this place well. Shreya was like a second mother to him, and he knew that he had brought himself and Clare to the perfect place. If anyone found them here, the worst thing they would think is that he was just a man cheating on his wife with a young woman – a small problem compared to what could have happened if he hadn't acted so fast.

At first, Clare was scared, and then she was a little emotional. But now she looked like the perfect picture of a married man's lover, on a secret holiday with him – calm, sweet, innocent, and passionate. She dressed simply, like a character from a fairy tale. The more she covered her body, the more she looked uncovered. She **slipped into the role** of a romantic lover so easily. She believed they were here just to be together, and this made Vlad feel calmer. Hour by hour, he became more sure that Clare wasn't going to be **the weak link**. Another day or two, and the worst would be over.

But he was tired. Keeping Clare happy was exhausting. Acting in love all the time and being with her and her beautiful body was tiring. He was so tired, but he couldn't stop thinking about everything. He scrubbed himself in the shower with a rough sponge, but he couldn't **wash away the feeling of deception**.

Why did Clare wake up in the middle of the night surprised?

- A. She found Vlad missing from the bed.
- B. She saw a light in the other room.
- C. She was having a nightmare.
- D. She heard a loud noise outside.



3.3

Clare woke up in the middle of the night. She felt cold on the other side of the bed. She wanted to move closer to Vlad's warm body, but she only touched the empty bed. She opened her eyes, surprised that Vlad was gone. She was so shocked that she didn't even move back under the warm blanket on her side of the bed.

Clare got goosebumps but stayed lying in the cold spot. A few confused thoughts ran through her mind. Vlad hadn't been in bed for a long time, or it would still be warm. Where was he in the middle of the night? Maybe he couldn't sleep – but where did he go? Not for a walk in the night, right? Is he downstairs watching TV? That's silly. The bathroom door was open, so he wasn't there. **She laughed at herself** for thinking like this.

"I'm not in a detective story," she told herself. But then she remembered she wasn't even on a romantic trip. She was here because maybe she had heard something she wasn't supposed to hear. Or maybe she could have, but she shouldn't remember it now or talk to anyone about it. Vlad had brought her here to protect her. He loved her and was worried about her.

Suddenly, she frowned. She sat up. She had been so surprised by Vlad's offer for a trip, then scared by the fast drive across three countries, and then distracted by Vlad's presence, that she had forgotten everything else. She realised that she hadn't seen her little red phone since she packed her suitcase in her Prague apartment. She was sure she hadn't seen it in the last three days. It wasn't in her suitcase – she had unpacked everything and would have noticed it. She had her handbag with her at lunch today, but the phone wasn't in it. She reached for the lamp and turned it on.

Clare remembered seeing her little red phone in her suitcase.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



3.4

Vlad was sitting on a low wall in front of the guesthouse, with the dark branches of an old oak tree above him. He was breathing deeply and playing nervously with the phone in his hand. It was cold, and he could see his breath in the air. It was almost 4:30 in the morning, and it was still dark. He had been **waiting for the phone to vibrate** for more than forty-five minutes when it finally buzzed.

He pressed the answer button and put the phone to his ear without saying anything. He listened for a moment, then said "okay," hung up, and put the phone in his pocket. **He took another deep breath.** Everything seems fine. Keep going, he thought. He jumped down from the wall and walked towards the back door of the guesthouse.

Clare quickly moved away from the window. She hoped Vlad didn't see her. Why did he go outside in the middle of the night to make a phone call? She stood next to the window and the closet, on the cold wooden floor without shoes, naked and cold. Instead of going back under the warm blankets, she just stood there, shaking her head, unable to understand what was happening and what Vlad's strange behaviour meant.

1. What was Vlad doing when Clare first saw him from the window?

- A. He was walking back inside the guesthouse.
- B. He was waiting for a phone call.
- C. He was talking to a stranger.

2. What time was it when Vlad's phone buzzed?

- A. Forty-five minutes in the morning
- B. Almost half past four in the morning
- C. Half past three in the morning

3.5

The door made a quiet sound, and Vlad came into the room. The lamp above the bed was on, but the bed was empty. He quickly looked to the right and saw Clare standing by the window. He was surprised.

"Why aren't you sleeping, darling?" he asked nervously, but he didn't move to hug her.

"Why am I not sleeping? Are you really asking me that?" Clare started to shake, partly because she was cold, and partly because she was angry, maybe even a little scared.

Vlad leaned against the door, closed his eyes, and hit his head on the door three times. Then he opened his eyes, looked at Clare, took off his **pants and sweatshirt**, and got into bed. He looked at her but didn't say anything at first. Then he spoke softly, "I'm just protecting you."

From what? Clare's mind was screaming, but she couldn't say anything. She kept standing by the open closet, the crack in the wall above her.

Vlad looked at her and sighed. "I called home," he said. He lifted his hands helplessly and continued, "My wife knows where I am. I can't just disappear... if everything needs to look normal, I have to call my wife... but no one knows that you're here with me. **I'm just protecting you.**"





4. CONFUSION

4.1

When Vlad mentioned his wife, Clare came back to reality. When they spent weekends together before, he never called his wife. But now, they had been here for three days, and she didn't think about the fact that he needed to stay in touch with his life. At least he did it carefully at night when she was supposed to be asleep.

I need to **stop acting crazy**, she told herself. She crawled under the covers, and Vlad hugged her. Slowly, she started to feel warm and calm. Another night in her love's arms. Every time she felt his arm around her, she was happy. Finally, she fell asleep again.

But Vlad couldn't sleep. Clare was curled up with him, and it wasn't comfortable. His arm was stiff, but he didn't want to move because he didn't want to wake her. He was also angry with himself for getting caught on the phone. Luckily, he realised it was better to tell the truth, even if it wasn't pleasant.

He felt better when she fell asleep again. I hope **she can last** for two and a half more weeks, he thought. I hope she won't get upset when she remembers again that I'm a married man.

In Prague, it was different. They saw each other a few times a week, sometimes for just half an hour, sometimes for a whole evening, and rarely for a weekend. In those moments, he was all hers. He never called his wife. But this situation was different. Now he was worried, thinking about whether he had forgotten something small that could ruin everything. And all day, he had been with Clare, the girl with purple hair. As long as she was happy, everything was fine, but she could also be difficult. And now he got caught on the phone outside.

In Prague, Vlad always avoided calling his wife during his time with Clare.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



4.2

Thursday (now)

Vlad knew he couldn't leave Clare the next night. He had lost his chance to stay in touch with Prague. He had made up a new plan, but it was risky. He would just have to **deal with** Clare's anger if it came.

When he first invited her to dinner, he never thought she could be dangerous. He had thought of many reasons not to invite her – why it was a bad idea, why he should forget about it. But he never thought he could be risking anything more than his wife finding out.

Now, he was here with Clare in these strange circumstances, and he wasn't ready. **He wasn't ready to** run and hide, and he wasn't ready for Clare's strong passion either. He was tired of her, but he couldn't let her know because he didn't want to scare her.

"Martine, Martine," he whispered as he started waking up from his short sleep. He felt pleasure and thought it was his wife. "Oh God, darling," he smiled, thinking it was his wife, Martine. He reached out to touch her hair, but suddenly, he froze. He opened his eyes. It wasn't Martine. A purple head lifted from his lap. It was Clare.

Why did Vlad feel pleasure when he woke up from his short sleep?

- A. He was excited to continue his plan with Clare.
- B. He believed his wife, Martine, was with him.

4.3

"Is something wrong?" Clare asked, surprised, her eyes wide open.

"No... I thought..." Vlad paused because he realised that he couldn't tell her what he was thinking. He needed to stay calm and **avoid embarrassment**.

"I thought you didn't want to do that."

She smiled a little shyly. "I wanted to try... so you wouldn't get bored with me in three weeks. Don't you like it?" She asked.

"It's... great," he said, closing his eyes to avoid talking more.

Clare licked her lips and leaned over him again. Vlad took a deep breath, wanting to enjoy the moment, but **he couldn't relax**. His mind was screaming at him: *You idiot, you almost ruined everything!* He argued with himself: *How was I supposed to know? I was asleep, and she never did anything like that before!* But the voice in his head kept repeating, *You idiot – you idiot!*

Vlad tried to push the thoughts away and focus, but it was hard. In the end, it finished like usual, but he didn't enjoy it. It was the worst sexual experience he ever had.





4.4

He had a young, beautiful, naked girl next to him, ready to make him happy, but he didn't like the idea anymore. He couldn't understand why. Not even a week had passed, and he was already feeling lost. Why did he need a girlfriend like this? She was just more trouble!

She was always kind to him, and they didn't have **to deal with normal life problems**. She liked him, she took her clothes off easily, and she let him admire her and love her. But didn't he have the same with Martine?

"I'm sorry, it's the stress. I want you to feel good, but I can't relax." He apologised as he quickly pushed her away, got out of bed, and went to the bathroom, where he wanted to be alone.

As soon as Vlad closed the bathroom door behind him, Clare jumped out of bed to get his jeans. She knew his phone would be in his pocket and couldn't resist checking who he had called during the night. Normally, she wouldn't look at his phone, but these were not normal times, and anyone would understand why she did it.

How does Vlad describe his reason for not being able to relax?

- A. He was worried about an upcoming job interview.
- B. He was unsure about his feelings for Martine.
- C. The stress was making him unable to feel good.
- D. He was thinking about a recent argument.



4.5

In the past

When Vlad invited Clare to dinner more than a year ago, she knew it would be an important step for both of them. She was in love with him, so she agreed to meet him. She cancelled her plans to meet him as soon as possible.

"Shall we go somewhere else now?" he asked after dinner, and it was clear that he didn't plan to go further that evening. Maybe he was even afraid.

Even though she felt that he liked her, the fact that he had been staring at her chest the whole time wasn't enough to start a strong relationship. Her chest was covered only by a light white shirt.

"I'd like to go home now," she said softly. Vlad frowned a little, as if he was sorry that she didn't want to spend more time with him. But Clare knew he was actually happy that someone had slowed things down. He didn't know that Clare was already in control of what would happen next, like a race car driver.

He walked her to his car and offered her a ride home. Clare agreed and secretly rubbed her hands in satisfaction. Then, as if it was planned, he asked where to stop on her street.

"Stop over there. We won't be in anyone's way, and you can leave the car there until morning." That was the moment when it all started. Vlad stopped right away, but he couldn't just let her decide what would happen next.

She smiled at him, so he parked the car safely. They started kissing in the car, and they almost ran into her apartment, continuing to kiss in the hallway.

Clare immediately knew Vlad's invitation to dinner was significant for their relationship.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.

Clare took control of the situation and decided where Vlad should park the car.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



4.6

Was it magic or chemistry? **It felt electric**, and it seemed like it would never end. Clare was in love with Vlad and had waited for more than a year, patiently, without pressure, for Vlad to decide to leave his wife. She hoped he would stay with her, his beloved Clare. But tonight, he had left their warm bed to call his wife. Clare could only accept this if he had called **to break up with her**.

She knew she could only check the call list and not hear what they talked about. But **she couldn't resist**. I have **no right to look** at his phone, she told herself one last time, and then reached for his jeans. A small red Sony Ericsson phone fell out of his pocket.

Vlad came out of the bathroom with a towel around his hips. Water dripped from his wet black hair down his shoulders and back. The drops ran down his spine and disappeared under the towel. Clare was not in the room.

Damn, he thought. Damn! On the floor, he could see her red phone. And Clare was gone. *How could I be so careless? Did she see it? If so, why didn't she take it?*

She could be sitting on the bed, upset, provocatively naked, holding the little red phone that had fallen from his pocket, with only one question in her eyes.

How did Vlad feel about his actions when he saw Clare was gone?

- A. Careless because he left his phone visible.
- B. Relieved that she didn't take the phone.
- C. Angry and ready to confront her.



4.7

Why? Why do you have my phone? Why did you use it last night – and who did you call? Why is the call history deleted? Why did you lock me in here? How did you know I was in danger? Why are you hiding the truth from me? And why were you so shocked earlier?

Vlad knew he couldn't give a good answer to any of these questions. He was sure that just saying *I'm protecting you* wouldn't be enough this time. But at least then he would know what he was dealing with.

Now, with her phone here and Clare gone, **he had no idea** what was going to happen. Was he dealing with an angry woman who might be more dangerous than she realised? Or was she a sad, upset girl, hurt by his being dishonest?

Why didn't he tell her the truth from the beginning? He always believed Clare was smart and sensible. If she was foolish, he wouldn't have started a relationship with her. She was independent, had a realistic view of life, and her job let her meet interesting people. She could talk to anyone about anything.

But would she understand this? And would she even believe him now, no matter what he said?

Vlad considered the possibility that Clare might react dangerously out of anger.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.

Vlad was confident that Clare would believe whatever explanation he provided.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



5. TRUTH

5.1

Clare couldn't believe her eyes as she looked at the news from home on the internet. The phone that had fallen out of Vlad's jeans had shocked her, leaving her frozen for a moment. But it also helped her see the truth.

When she recovered from the surprise, she started thinking clearly for the first time in four days. This wasn't a romantic trip. It felt more like **house arrest** or some kind of crazy situation. She had been having fun with Vlad, but at home... things were very different.

She was looking at pictures of policemen in masks and with guns in front of the Czech Bank. Other pictures showed empty streets, police roadblocks, and policemen on the roofs of buildings. The bank employees were coming out with their hands up, and the police were taking the top managers of the bank to police cars.

Oh my goodness, what is happening? she thought. She quickly read the news, starting from the day she and Vlad drove across Germany and Belgium, to the police raid the next day, and then to the latest news.

Yes, it was clear that someone she knew was in serious trouble. That's why she was here now. Vlad was right – **a lot was at stake**, and this situation was dangerous. It was no surprise that Vlad didn't want to talk about it.

Now it made sense: everyone was looking for him, nobody knew where he was, his house was empty, and his wife was missing too.

The news showed pictures of policemen without any equipment near the Czech Bank.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



5.2

Monday (4 days before now)

"How about a little trip?" Vlad asked his wife as he rushed into the bedroom. It was only eight in the morning, but the day had already brought him a lot of stress. Martine turned away from the mirror, still in her robe, brushing her hair.

"How little should it be?" she asked, and Vlad felt lucky again to have such a smart and understanding wife who didn't waste time on silly things and went **straight to the point**.

"About three weeks, at least five hundred kilometres, and maybe a different time zone," he answered in the same direct way.

"Is something wrong?" she asked, sensing that something wasn't right. Vlad looked pale and was breathing quickly.

"Not yet," he replied.

"Together?" she asked.

"No, separately."

She put down her comb, hugged him briefly, and said, "Give me thirty minutes." Then she opened the closet, took out a suitcase, and started packing her clothes carefully. Vlad felt calmer watching her and tried to copy her relaxed and organised way of packing.

"Did we have a fight?" she asked, trying to understand the situation.



5.3

"**No need for that.** We've been trying to have a baby for years, and it's not working. You're going somewhere to relax. What do you think?" Vlad suggested.

"Only Judith in Geneva. I can't think of anyone else," she said. Then she added, "Can I use my phone?"

When Vlad nodded, she continued, "Will you use yours?"

She nodded when Vlad shook his head and started getting dressed.

"In that case, it's better if we pretend that we had a fight. Then there will be a reason not to talk for a few days. Will you contact me later?"

Vlad stood up and walked over to her, taking her hands in his. She was almost as tall and strong as him, with long, wavy black hair, dark eyes, and full red lips. She never wore makeup and was always calm. She had been through a lot with Vlad. They were best friends, had known each other for a long time, and knew each other well. She didn't know what was happening, but she quickly guessed how many questions she could ask and how many answers she would get. He kissed her softly.

"Politics?" she asked.

"Yeah," he nodded. "A bad situation." He couldn't say more because he wasn't sure himself.

"And where will you be?"

Vlad sat down on the bed, resting his elbows on his knees and putting his head in his hands. He thought for a moment, ran his fingers through his black hair, then sat up straight and said, "I left for Bath last night. It was planned, like every year, for an English course."



5.4

Less than 30 minutes ago, he suggested the trip, and Martine was now driving away in her small car. Perfect. That was the best word to describe her. He had a perfect wife.

He was acting crazy. Not just now, but for over a year. Ever since he started lying to his wife and spending time with Clare in the evenings and sometimes on weekends, he had been **acting foolish**.

He was thinking quickly. His suitcase was packed, and Martine was gone. No one would ask when or why they both left or where they were going. It just needed to look normal. He had gone to the same place he had been visiting for over ten years. He was a freelancer, so he didn't need to tell anyone about his plans – except his wife.

She didn't want him to leave, but when he left for three weeks, she felt sad. She had been trying to get pregnant for a long time, and time was running out. She was already thirty-eight. Now she had gone to Geneva to visit a friend. She and Vlad wouldn't talk for at least a week because they had argued. Everything seemed normal so far.

He turned off his phone, just in case. After a while, he took the battery out. He knew he was being paranoid, but he couldn't stop himself. The news he got this morning had completely shocked him. He needed to stay calm and act fast. Sending Martine away was a good idea, he thought. Leaving before everything went wrong was necessary. Taking Clare with him was smart in this situation. It was even more important to keep his phone off and not make anyone suspicious.

Vlad's wife decided to go to Paris to relax and meet Judith.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.

5.5

Thursday (now)

But it wasn't a good idea. He didn't know how hard it would be. He didn't know himself well enough because he had never been in this situation before. He was scared, really scared, and he was also angry. It was a bad situation, and he knew there was nothing he could do to protect himself right now. He could only try to buy time, and he did his best, but **he made things worse**. His plan was useless.

He needed to find Clare and figure out what was happening between them. He probably ruined the relationship. He didn't want to hurt her. But these thoughts didn't matter anymore. It already happened, and now he had to face it. There was a bigger danger waiting for him at home in Czechia, which he had managed to stay away from for now. But he couldn't avoid the confrontation with Clare.

He was tired of everything. He hadn't slept well for days, he was living in constant stress, lying to the girl he liked, and he needed **to escape this endless cycle**.





6. CONFRONTATION

6.1

Clare looked out the window into the garden. She wanted to go outside and sit on the bench under the lounge windows, but she stayed in her seat, trying to think about her situation. **I mustn't be stupid**, she told herself. I've known him for over a year. I know he's a good and honest man. I love him, and I trust him.

But why doesn't he trust me? Why did he pretend to protect me from something dangerous? I was scared, but I was also happy that he was with me, that he cared about me, and that he wanted to help me. He lied to me. In fact – I was protecting him. But why did he think that I would not help him? If I had known about his problem earlier, wouldn't I have tried to help him? But I didn't know anything. And still, he needed help, someone to protect him. And he chose me. He lied to me, but he chose me. He's with me. In one of the hardest moments of his life, he chose to be with me.

Did he bring me into danger? Maybe he did. But if he had given me a choice, would I have done something different? No, I wouldn't. I would have come here with him and done exactly what he asked. Not because I'm foolish, but because I love him. If he told me now that he needed me, I would do it because I trust him.

Then why doesn't he trust me? He hasn't said anything about what's going on or what his part in it is. But that's okay. If he wants **to keep it a secret**, that's his right. But why did he lie to me? He didn't have the right to do that. No matter how difficult the situation is, if he loves me, he shouldn't have lied. He should know that he didn't need to. So, I'm not asking what happened or why I'm here now.

I'm asking: Do you love me, Vlad? And there's only one right answer.



6.2

Vlad got dressed and waited in the room for a moment, hoping Clare would come back. But then he realised that if she had found her phone in his pocket, she wasn't coming back. She probably thought he had used her phone instead of his, to hide where he was and who he was talking to.

Now he didn't know where she was – maybe she was angry, maybe upset, waiting for him to explain, but ready to reject every explanation.

He found her in the lounge, sitting at their breakfast table with a cup of tea. When their eyes met, Vlad couldn't hold her gaze and looked away. Clare put down her cup and poured tea for him. He sat next to her, confused by how calm she was. He didn't say anything and waited to see what would happen. They sat in silence for a few minutes. Vlad was nervous, but he tried to look calm. Something had happened, but he didn't want to reveal more than Clare already knew.

Clare was nervous too. She wasn't sure if she even knew Vlad anymore. She knew what she wanted to do, but she didn't know if Vlad would agree.

"Are you protecting me?" she asked, trying not to sound sarcastic. She really wanted to **make peace** and take this strange situation to the next step.

"No," Vlad said, biting his lip. "Sorry."

He set the red Sony Ericsson phone on the table next to her cup and slumped his shoulders. **The game was over.** It was uncomfortable, and **he didn't want to deal with it**, but he was also relieved. It had to happen sooner or later. There was no way he could handle this tension for three weeks.

What did Vlad place on the table next to Clare's cup?

- A. A key.
- B. A phone.
- C. A letter.



6.3

Vlad closed his eyes and bowed his head. He didn't want to see Clare get angry. He was tired of himself and didn't **have the energy to deal with her** anger, even though she had every right to be angry.

"You had nothing to do with this?" she asked, nodding toward the computer, which showed a news page about the police raid on the bank where Vlad had worked as a top manager. Vlad shook his head helplessly. He expected more questions, especially the big one: *Why did you lie to me? Or: How could you?*

But she didn't ask.

Vlad looked at her with confusion.

Clare raised an eyebrow, as if challenging him. She seemed to say: *Well, go ahead, say something.* But he didn't know what to say. She shrugged and turned to the computer, starting **to read** a statement from the Governor of the National Bank **out loud**.

"Stop it!" he shouted.

She closed the browser and shut down the computer.

Vlad sat in the lounge long after Clare left. He was alone, with her phone still lying unnoticed on the table. Many thoughts raced through his mind. Then he suddenly understood: she wanted him to confirm their relationship! To confirm that they were partners. Why didn't he say anything? What could he lose by telling her he loved her? Except maybe his soul?

It was a trap which he had set for himself. He was obsessed with Clare, but in another dimension of his life. In another world. In that world, he had almost everything he wanted. He wasn't greedy. He relied on logic and science for his dreams and desires. He didn't live in a fantasy. He only trusted his skills in his ambitious business.

6.4

Sometimes, Vlad had moments of weakness, like when he first asked Clare to dinner because of her strong feminine attraction. Or when he first met Martine, because of her calm balance. And like when he agreed to work at the Czech Bank, believing in his own genius.

Even though he always tried **to stay grounded**, these moments of human weakness had brought him trouble. That's why he was here now, hiding like a criminal. Martine was somewhere far away. She was the smart, reliable woman who should be sitting with him now, helping him stay calm. If she were here, he wouldn't be so worried.

Instead, he was facing an upset girl who couldn't really understand him. Now, Clare thought that she knew why she was here. She was silently asking him to tell her that he loved her. If he didn't say it, she would think he only brought her here as a cover, as his alibi.

But that wasn't true. He brought her here because he couldn't leave her at home, knowing what was going to happen. He couldn't tell her the truth.

If he'd disappeared without saying anything, Clare would have looked for him. First, she would've heard about the police raid at the Bank. Then she would've heard about the charges against him. She would've tried to contact him. She would've wanted to know what had really happened. If she'd believed the news, she might have helped the police find him. If she hadn't believed it, she would've tried to help him, and maybe made things worse.

He had no choice. He can't have told her what was happening, and he had to take her with him. And that's what he did. It was the best solution. It made the most sense. But it was also a trap.



LEARNING TIP

Minulý kondicionál

Zjednodušené vysvětlení, jak se tvoří:

if + předminulý čas , would + předpřítomný čas

I had done se zkracuje na **I'd done**

would have done se zkracuje na **would've done**

Používá se při vytváření hypotézy:

kdyby se v minulosti něco stalo, tak by se pak stalo něco dalšího

Příklady z kapitoly 6

Clare přemýšlí:

If I had known about his problem earlier, **wouldn't I have tried** to help him?

Did he bring me into danger? Maybe he did. But **if he had given** me a choice, **would I have done** something different? No, I wouldn't. **I would have come** here with him and done exactly what he asked. Not because I'm foolish, but because I love him.

Vlad přemýšlí – vytváří hypotézu:

If he'd disappeared without saying anything, **Clare would've looked for** him. First, **she would've heard** about the police raid at the Bank. Then **she would've heard** about the charges against him. **She would've tried** to contact him. **She would've wanted** to know what had really happened. **If she'd believed** the news, **she might've helped** the police find him. **If she hadn't believed** it, she would've tried to help him, and maybe made things worse.



7. DECISION

7.1

The guesthouse started to get busy with sounds: doors opening and closing, and friendly greetings from people coming back from their morning lessons. Vlad came out of his thoughts. His body hurt because he had been sitting for about an hour in a chair at their breakfast table.

He stood up, stretched a bit, and suddenly felt better. He licked his dry lips. He felt strange – almost smiled. The pain in his body was gone. No, he hadn't won yet, but the deep fear was no longer there. It was hard to deal with everything alone. Now he felt better because he had someone to share his worries with. He didn't need to keep everything inside anymore. He had feared this moment and tried to avoid it for as long as he could, but it came unexpectedly, and he didn't expect to feel happy about it. He had a partner, someone close to him.

He didn't believe he could ever be really happy with anyone except Martine. Clare was his obsession, someone who gave him the passion which he kept hidden so he could live in the real, hard world of business. In that world, people saw him as calm and reliable. But now, in that same world, people thought he was a liar and a criminal on the run.

But he wasn't alone anymore. He had Clare. With her, **he could be himself** again, something he hadn't been for years. If she still wants to listen, he'll tell her that he loves her. He won't lie anymore. Not to Clare, and not to himself.

He hopes it's not too late, and she still wants him. Maybe she'll trust him again.

Vlad sat still for about an hour at the guesthouse breakfast table.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



7.2

Clare **had a quick temper**. Sometimes, it was an advantage. She would get angry, shout, and then quickly become nice and calm again. She just needed to let out her feelings. No one could say that she stayed angry for a long time. No. When something difficult happened, Clare would scream, swear, and sometimes even scratch or bite. She always dealt with things right away, without holding anything back. She asked questions when she wanted to know something and spoke when she had something to say. When she wanted a man, she took action to get him.

Now, when she wanted to keep Vlad, she just ignored her doubts. This wasn't the time for her to shout. It was his difficult time, and he didn't need a woman who was **out of control** next to him. He had chosen her for this hard time, which made her feel better. It gave her strength, and that was all that mattered. She wouldn't ask him any questions. The only important thing was if he loved her. She was ready to fight for his love, even if she had to fight *with* him.

She walked along the riverbank, **lost in her thoughts**. She couldn't go back to the room with the crack in the wall. She was thinking deeply. She didn't notice that the nice path along the river had ended, and now she was on a narrow trail that was disappearing into tall grass.

She left the sounds of the city behind her, with the church bells ringing and the afternoon traffic starting. Step by step, she walked further and further away from everything.

What was the only important thing for Clare?

- A. Whether he loved her
- B. If he truly cared for her
- C. Whether he would ever apologise
- D. If he would stay with her forever



7.3

Vlad wasn't surprised when he didn't find Clare in the room. If they were really on a romantic holiday, this small attic room at the end of the hallway would be enough for them. **They had privacy**, a big bed, a clean bathroom, and thick curtains that kept the daylight out, so they could sleep late. They could skip the breakfast that Shreya served downstairs and go straight to lunch at a nice pub, then come back to the room. They wouldn't need anything more than this bed. Every time they were together, it felt special, like they could never **get enough of each other**.

That special feeling – Vlad realised – he had never felt it with anyone else. For a long time, he thought he only wanted Clare for sex, but now he understood that there was more. Their connection was built on something stronger. She was his lover, and he loved her. He didn't like to admit it, and he tried to deny it to himself every day while they were in this room. And now, when she wasn't here, he missed her. The next time he felt empty like this, he knew that only she could make him feel better.

But this place felt like a prison. Maybe that's why Clare went outside for some fresh air, to think about all the crazy things that had happened in the last few days.

He was also very tired and hadn't slept much. He lay down on the bed. He didn't know where to find her, but he was sure she would come back. For a moment, he thought he was happy. He smiled. Yes, he was happy. But he was also very tired and sleepy. In the distance, the church bell rang. The sound was soft, and soon he closed his eyes and fell into a deep sleep.

8. GOODY-GOODY

8.1

Vlad woke up in the dark. The curtains were open, but outside, it was a deep black night. The streetlight outside was blocked by a big oak tree. The moon and stars were hidden behind thick clouds, and the sound of heavy rain on the roof told him there was a storm.

He pulled the string, and a soft yellow light from the lamp filled the room. But he didn't need to look around to know that he was alone. Clare hadn't come back, or if she had, she had left again. That thought **made him sit up**.

Think! **Don't panic** – just think! he told himself. His mind was clearer now after the long sleep. Why would Clare leave – and where would she go? Would she take her things and disappear while he slept? He narrowed his eyes. The open closet door showed her things were still there. She hadn't come back.

He started searching through his stuff, trying to remember where he had put the small red cell phone. The ringtone was off, but maybe she had tried to call him. If something had happened to her or if she needed time alone, she might have called.

A missed call! He quickly unlocked the phone and checked the number. 0042... No, it's a Czech number.

She hadn't called him.





8.2

The phone's screen was too bright. It was almost 4:30 in the morning. Vlad had slept for at least fifteen hours. Sleep had made him feel better, and he hoped that the happiness which he felt yesterday would grow stronger. But instead, it got weaker with every second.

When he tried to stand up, **he felt dizzy**. He hadn't eaten anything since dinner the day before yesterday. He felt very hungry and very scared. He wished he could get rid of his fear first, but it was easier to deal with his hunger. Shreya was like a stepmother to him, and this guesthouse felt like a second home. He couldn't wake Shreya now, but he could go into the kitchen without feeling guilty.

First, he needed to eat so he could start thinking clearly. And drink – as he quietly went down the stairs to the ground floor, he realised he was also very thirsty. In the kitchen, he drank a glass of water in one go, drops running down his chin. He wiped his mouth with his sleeve. Then he found some of Shreya's homemade marmalade in the fridge and spread a thick layer on two slices of toast. He pressed the slices together and took a big bite. He managed to stop feeling so hungry. There was no time for a big meal.

It was 4:30 in the morning, it was raining heavily outside, and Clare was gone. Maybe she **got caught in the rain**. Maybe she was far from the guesthouse when the rain started, and she went to a pub to wait for the storm to end. But what pub would still be open at this time? He needed to find out what nightclubs were nearby.

Vlad felt dizzy because he hadn't eaten since dinner the day before yesterday.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



8.3

Maybe Clare had taken shelter in a house, maybe someone had offered her a place to stay because of the bad weather. But why didn't she call him? She knew that he had her phone, and she definitely knew her own number. She could have easily found the number of the guesthouse to leave a message.

What if she had left a message with Shreya? But if Clare was stuck somewhere, Shreya would have waken him up, and he would have gone to get Clare right away. Vlad quickly crossed the lounge and looked through the advertising flyers on the table. He found one with a simple map of local nightclubs.

I'll try to find her, he thought, feeling determined. What else can I do? I must start somewhere. I can't just sit here and wait for the rain to stop. Searching the nightclubs is just as good as any other plan, even though it might not work. But he quickly pushed away that doubt. I'll find her. Nothing worse happened than some rain. This isn't her first night out in the rain. I'll find her.

By the time he reached the car, he was **soaking wet**, even though it was only a few meters from the entrance. He felt like a madman, like a fool. Sitting in the driver's seat, water dripping from his hair down his neck and face, his clothes and shoes soaked with rain. He asked himself: What kind of plan is this?

He thought angrily: How did this happen? Where did I go wrong that my life turned out like this?

Vlad was certain that searching the nightclubs would be easy and successful.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.

Vlad was completely dry when he reached his car.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



8.4

Clare loved adventure, but Vlad was happy with his life. For him, life already felt like an adventure. He had powerful friends, access to secret information, he made decisions on billion-dollar deals, and he had a secret relationship with a beautiful interpreter – that was enough excitement for him.

He was still young, but not wild anymore. He had some responsibility. He planned his life, set goals, and moved forward with confidence. He wanted to have a child. But instead, he had Clare. And now, he was looking for her in a foreign country, in the middle of the night, in heavy rain. He was worried about her. What if he had been wrong about her? What if this situation really upset her? She had acted calm and strange when she found out what had happened at home, when she realised that he had run away, not her; that he had been protecting himself, not her.

When she found out about his lie, she didn't say much. She only told him that he had used her and lied to her. He just said sorry, which was a weak answer after a year together. It was sad. He didn't tell her that he loved her. He didn't say it, and she left. She didn't shout, and she didn't blame him. Did she stay out to make him suffer? He hoped that she did! Then, in the morning, she would come back to their room with the closet door open and the crack in the wall. He would fall to his knees and beg her to forgive him. She would look at him, knowing that she had won.

He would tell her that he loved her and that when they got home, **he would get a divorce**. Without a word, she would take off her wet clothes, and he would hold her and kiss her until he knew that this was just a bad dream.

LEARNING TIP

Vyjádření podmínky v minulosti – hypotéza coby, kdyby (viz str. 33)

Za "might, could, would, must" se přidá tvar předpřítomného času:

Možná zavolala – She might have called...

Mohla najít – She could have found...

Udělalaby – She would have done...

Musela to být láska – It must have been love



8.5

The rain didn't stop until about eleven in the morning. The sky was still grey with clouds, but at least it wasn't raining anymore. When all the students left for their lessons, Vlad **made sure** Clare hadn't stayed overnight in another room.

Shreya then called the hospital saying that she was looking for a student who hadn't returned to the guesthouse the night before. She asked if there was any report of an anonymous person having an accident that night. It took a long time before anyone gave her an answer. No, there was no one like that. Vlad sighed with relief. But then he realised this wasn't good news at all, because it didn't mean that nothing bad had happened. If Clare was in the hospital, it would mean she was safe. That he had found her – and could go to her immediately. Well, maybe he couldn't go, but at least Shreya could. Still, at least he would know Clare was okay. Now, he had nothing.

Half an hour later, Shreya convinced him to call the police. She said that she would have done this anyway, even if it hadn't been Clare. If her guest didn't return for the night, especially a young woman, she would call the police **just in case**. There could have been an accident that didn't put Clare in the hospital. Maybe some kind of vandalism. Her guests were adults, but still students.

In theory, Clare could have met people from the language course in the city, gone out with them, and stayed overnight. But in reality, that was nonsense! Clare wasn't attending any classes here. She couldn't have met anyone she knew. But she could have talked to someone she didn't know. Maybe she went out for a drink with him. Maybe she **stayed overnight**. Vlad **shuddered at the thought**.

Vlad felt his life lacked excitement and wanted more adventure.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



8.6

At this point, Vlad would even accept finding Clare in the middle of an orgy with the strong Italian students from the military academy who stayed at the guesthouse – at least he would find her!

But the police didn't know anything. Nothing. *Don't worry, madam, she's just lost track of time, and she'll be back before the evening*, they told Shreya. Maybe they're right, Vlad thought. Why wouldn't she come back? She's probably just punishing me for what I did to her. When she thinks I've suffered enough, she'll come back. He was responsible for her. He was the one who put her in the car and brought her here. He didn't let her tell anyone where she was or why. He lied to her, hurt her, and he had lost her. He had lost his only friend. Why is everything **falling apart in my hands** now? Vlad asked himself.

What did I do to deserve this? he wondered, but then he laughed at his own question. *Should I list only the worst things I've done, or do you want the full list?* **His conscience wasn't clear.** Not in any way. He had tricked a lot of people. He didn't take it personally – it was just business. He had cheated on his wife. He had hurt Clare. And now he was going to make Shreya lie for him too.

You little saint! he thought sarcastically. Still asking what you did wrong?!

Why does Vlad justify Clare's absence for a temporary period?

- A. He assumes Clare has moved to another city without informing him.
- B. He believes Clare wants to punish him for his actions.
- C. He suspects Clare has been arrested by the police.



9. BETRAYAL

9.1

Friday (now)

For a few seconds, Vlad managed to forget his worries about Clare and his guilt. He took the small red Sony Ericsson phone in his shaking hands and slowly dialled his wife's number. He didn't know what to tell. He simply needed to talk to her. He needed to hear her calm and peaceful voice. He couldn't tell her about his pain or admit that he had just lost his lover with whom he had been cheating on his wife for a year. But he needed to hear Martine's comforting voice.

It was becoming clearer to him that Clare wasn't coming back. Either she had put herself in danger, or she had done something **to harm herself**. Both things would be terrible, and neither of them would take away his guilt. He was responsible for her, and he was responsible for himself and for his actions. Whatever had happened, it was because of his choices and because of his betrayal of the kindest person he knew. The woman he loved. Clare was so fragile, and he should have protected her.

He had taken all his things from Clare's room, which now looked like a cheerful student's room, as if Clare had just walked away. He couldn't afford to draw any attention to himself in connection with... He shuddered. But he had to say it: in connection with a possible suicide.



9.2

If something happened to a girl staying at the same guesthouse, it had nothing to do with Vlad. Shreya hugged him.

"Don't worry. I'll **take care of it.**" She showed him loyal, motherly love.

Shreya wasn't his real mother, but over the years, their relationship had become like that. Vlad didn't know his own mom; he had only grown up with his dad. His father and Shreya had lived together in Bath for a while, but they had a fight, and they broke up. Ten years ago, when Vlad's father died, Vlad started visiting Shreya regularly. He came for three weeks every year and took English classes in the mornings.

Martine, his wife, came with him a few times, but Shreya didn't like her. She didn't like how emotionally dependent Martine was on Vlad. She seemed too submissive, **too devoted**, as if she would do anything for him. It almost felt like Martine was obsessed with him, and it made Shreya uncomfortable.

Vlad laughed about it. What? His cool and always reasonable wife? You're wrong, Shreya. Are you jealous? he joked with her.

When he arrived with Clare, Shreya was happy. She liked this girl with her messy hair. She thought Clare was a good match for Vlad. But now, Clare was causing trouble. And clearly, **she wasn't worth any trouble.** It wouldn't change anything if they pretended that Vlad and Clare were never together. It wouldn't hurt Clare anymore. And if Clare was just angry and hiding, that would be even better.

Vlad dialled his wife's number on the little red phone and pressed the call button. He really wanted to hear her calm voice, to find support in her perfect balance. But there was no comfort. Martine **didn't answer the phone.**



9.3

What was I running from? From lies that time would explain? From useless accusations, silly threats, and fake danger? Now, I'm hiding here, afraid, hating myself, and scared.

They said that a strong river current carried her body all night until they found it, many miles away. Shreya had to identify the body. It was terrible. It was Clare. His little Clare with messy hair.

They said she slipped on the wet grass by the river, hit her head, and fell into the water. Then the rain came, and... They found her today. Vlad had to act **like he didn't care** – yes, he was shocked because she stayed at the same guesthouse, a young, pretty girl from his country. But he had to pretend he had nothing to do with it.

Oh no, I keep lying more and more. What punishment will I get for this?

He needed Martine more than ever. His goddess. With shaking hands, he picked up the red phone. His eyes were dry; he had no more tears. His guilt was gone. It was over. Then, a familiar, calm voice spoke from the phone.

How was Clare's body discovered?

- A. She was discovered in her room at the boarding house
- B. Her body was found trapped in a tree
- C. She was found by Vlad himself
- D. A strong river current carried her body miles away



9.4

"Darling," Vlad said softly, listening to Martine's sweet story about Lake Geneva.

"When will I see you?" she asked at the end.

"Soon, my love," he promised. They agreed to meet tomorrow in Amsterdam **at their friends' house**.

"I miss you," Martine said as a goodbye.

He couldn't answer. His voice, his whole body, refused to tell another lie. He couldn't do it anymore. He knew exactly what he was – a terrible person who had betrayed everyone he loved, and those who loved him. He had cheated and lied to his wife. He had hurt his beloved and then denied her. He had made Shreya, who was like a mother to him, lie.

His conscience was dark. It felt as if he had killed Clare with his own hands! And it had all started so innocently. When did everything go wrong? And why?

But now, it wasn't the time to look for answers. He had to stay calm, to forget, to give up the idea that he could still save himself. He had to accept his own darkness, **leave everything behind**, and go to meet Martine, his wife, his safe place.

Where do Martine and Vlad agree to meet?

- A. Lake Geneva
- B. Amsterdam
- C. London
- D. Paris



10. AWAKENING

10.1

Monday (5 days before now)

Martine's hands were sweating on the steering wheel as she remembered how everything had started.

In the past

"Forget it," she laughed. "No sex until after the wedding," and she opened the door to show that their evening was over and that he couldn't stay for the night. It was just her way to protect herself, more like a joke than something serious. She didn't really want to get married, and she didn't want to make marriage a condition for being closer with Vlad. If it were only her decision, maybe they wouldn't have gone any further. She would have been happy with what they had at that moment.

Vlad stayed in his chair and replied, "Then close the door, and let's plan the wedding."

They had known each other for about three months, but they didn't see each other often because of school and work. Even so, Martine quickly realised that she felt a magical attraction to Vlad, just like he felt for her. He called her "my goddess." She already knew that he hadn't chosen her by accident, that he had been thinking about her for a long time before making a move. She liked how he spoke, with a mix of shyness and confidence. He never made things look bigger, and she thought that he wasn't afraid of anything.

But she was afraid. His closeness made her lose control. Even after three months, every time he touched her, or even just held her hand or stroked her hair, she trembled. And when they kissed, she was always the first to pull away because she felt like she might faint if the excitement lasted a second longer.



10.2

Martine felt warmth in her body when she thought about being in bed with Vlad – it would make her weak. **She was used to being in control** of her life, making decisions with a clear mind, and **never letting her feelings take over**. She couldn't let her desire, or any man rule her. She felt goosebumps.

I love him, and if our relationship is going to continue, it will happen someday. If I'm going to lose control from excitement, why not now? she thought to herself and closed the door. That night, she discovered a new side of herself. Six months later, they got married.

How am I supposed to handle three weeks, hundreds of miles away from him, not knowing what's happening, worrying about him, worrying about the future?

There were so many calls. Missed calls. Well, to be exact, she didn't answer them. She only answered the first one – from her mother.

"Are you all right? Thank God."

Martine was glad that her mother was worried about her. But then, blame quickly followed.

"I knew it, we've all been telling you for ages, and now this has happened."

What was Martine's main concern during her three weeks away from Vlad?

- A. Worrying about him and their future.
- B. Attending social events alone.
- C. Missing her favourite TV shows.
- D. Managing her work commitments.



10.3

Martine immediately realised that something terrible had happened. Something that Vlad had expected, and why they had to run to different parts of the world. **There you go!**

"Shut up, mom, you don't understand." Then she hung up the phone.

She didn't know exactly what was going on, but she would always defend Vlad, anywhere, anytime, even against her family. She didn't answer the next call, but her mom's words made her want to find out what had really happened. She calmly searched the internet for news about the police raid on the Czech Bank and read the related articles. She didn't show any emotion, she just accepted it as the truth. This is where we are now. She believed Vlad when he said it was a set-up. There's always someone to blame when things like this happen.

Good thing I'm here now, she thought and muted her phone. She watched as the number of missed calls kept growing on the screen. I'm not going to talk to anyone except Vlad. He'll get in touch with me, I'll wait one more day, she decided.

But another day passed, and she still didn't know anything about Vlad. How could she continue her trip to Geneva when Vlad was going to be on the other side of Europe? How could she chat with Judith about unimportant things with her mind full of worry? She needed to think. Think. And do the right thing at the right time. And that time was now.

Martine decided to ignore all calls except those from Vlad.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



10.4

Martine knew she couldn't go to Geneva. She knew right away that it wasn't possible. She needed to be somewhere else, closer to Vlad. After a long, tiring drive on the German highway, she checked into a motel on the way to Bath, England, instead of going to Geneva.

When she didn't hear from Vlad all day, she packed her small suitcase again. Early the next morning, she followed the directions from her GPS to Calais, France. She was lucky at the Channel Tunnel, as the next train was free, and in a few hours, she was driving around London on the M25. She didn't plan to go to Vlad's guesthouse and worry him. She just wanted to be close to him. She couldn't explain why, but **it felt right**. And even if it wasn't right – she couldn't do anything else.

For the first time in her life, emotion was stronger than her logic. It was stronger than all her reasoning. In the evening, she stopped near Bath and checked her phone to see if Vlad had contacted her. There were **dozens** of calls, but none with an English phone code. Had he sent a message? She ignored texts from friends, deleting them without reading. She was only looking for messages from unknown numbers, but none had an English area code. Maybe Vlad had a new Czech SIM card, she thought, and opened the first message from an unknown number.

"Honey, hold on. Just a few more days. Yours." No signature was needed – it was **obvious**. She saved the number, just in case. Then she started the car and drove toward the town. Suddenly, she didn't feel tired anymore. The message from Vlad filled her with new energy.



10.5

Wednesday (2 days before now)

Martine booked a room in a small hotel near the river. She sat in a hot bath in the tiny bathroom, hoping it would help her relax and finally sleep after two nights without rest.

But instead of sleep, she had a night full of pain and sadness. She had a terrible headache, and her heart felt broken. She sat on the floor late at night, wearing a thin robe, and cried. **She cried for herself**, for the lies, and because all her love and loyalty seemed useless.

When she came out of the bathroom, the room was too warm. She needed fresh air, so she went to the balcony. The cool air from the river felt good. In the distance, she saw a couple walking together. They looked happy. She missed Vlad.

Am I going crazy? she thought when she heard a familiar laugh. She leaned over the railing. The couple was just below her balcony. She was sure it was Vlad. She would know his walk and his voice anywhere. A girl with messy hair was close to him, and they were both laughing. They walked slowly by the river, happy, not caring about anything around them. Martine stood still, shocked.

She watched them until they disappeared under the trees, their laughter slowly fading into the wind.

Why did Martine decide against going to Geneva?

- A. The road to Geneva was closed due to an accident.
- B. She misplaced her travel documents.
- C. She had an urgent meeting elsewhere.
- D. She felt it was necessary to be closer to Vlad.



10.6

Martine collapsed on the floor beside her bed, after walking from the balcony like in a dream. **She held back her tears.** She felt sorry for herself, for her loyalty that felt useless, for her pain, and for the new feeling of hate she had never known before.

Why should I live? she thought for a moment.

She cried for hours. She thought about the past and the future. Who is that girl? Where did she come from? Did Vlad meet her here? Does he need her to take his mind off his problems? While I'm heartbroken, maybe nothing is wrong. But what if they came here together? They didn't look like strangers. Did he bring her as an excuse to leave Czechia so quickly? To hide the fact that he was running away? But why do they need to pretend to be lovers here, where nobody knows them? If it was just a trick, they should be seen during the day, not hiding on a quiet road in the dark. Why? No, I can't fool myself. Vlad has a mistress. He sent me far away to another part of Europe and came here with her. While I have been worried about him and our future, maybe the two of them have been together this whole time! I'm going to kill him.

Finally, a **merciful sleep**, or more like a blackout, came over her as morning approached. It was as if her body **shut down** to protect her from her pain.

Martine was convinced that Vlad and the girl were strangers.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



10.7

Thursday (1 day before now)

Martine woke up just before noon, still lying on the carpet next to her bed. She felt like she had just closed her eyes. As soon as she woke up, all the pain returned. She was shaking with anger and despair. She had to do something. She had **to get control of herself** and start thinking clearly. There was no point in thinking about the past or the future. She wanted Vlad. She wanted him for herself.

She rinsed her face. She combed her long hair forward to hide her face, red from crying, and covered her bloodshot eyes with sunglasses. She dressed in black. She couldn't sit in the room another day and just wait to see what would happen. She had to act. And she had to do it now.

Friday (now)

It was still raining. She was afraid to leave the room. It was her only safe place now. And her prison. She waited. Either she would be saved, or she would face her worst fears. She had done what she had to do.

Yesterday, she had been desperate, but the rain seemed to be slowly washing away her anger. It even washed away her fear.

Yesterday she was desperate, but today **she felt at peace**.

Why did Martine comb her long hair forward and wear sunglasses?

- A. To impress Vlad
- B. To hide her red face from crying
- C. To prepare for a formal event
- D. To follow a new fashion trend



11. REVENGE

11.1

Martine should have left this crazy town right away. In fact, she should never have come here. It was a stupid idea. Why had she let her emotions control her? She should have listened to her reason and gone to Geneva. Whatever was happening here, she wouldn't have known about it, and she wouldn't be part of it.

When she and Vlad met again, she wouldn't allow... But in that heavy rain, she could hardly see a step ahead. **There was no point in** going anywhere. She didn't know the roads in this place.

From yesterday, the sound of church bells in her mind felt like a warning of something bad coming. It didn't matter where she was, here or somewhere else. Where could she go? She couldn't escape the pain, fear, and horror. She would carry them with her wherever she went.

So, **she might as well** stay here. Blaming herself for what she did and didn't do. Her nerves were on edge, waiting to see what would happen next. What would happen at home? What would happen here?

Where would she get the bigger punishment? She was sure she would be punished. For being naive. For loving too much. For trying to save her marriage.

She had been here and had seen them together. She didn't want to see it, but it had happened. Fate decided it. Nothing could be undone. She was too scared to leave the room.

Martine deeply regretted not going to Geneva instead of coming to the town.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



11.2

Suddenly, Martine saw her muted phone blinking on the bedside table. Someone was calling. She looked at the screen. It was Vlad. The number she had saved as "Bath." She took a deep breath and answered the call.

"Yes?" she said, unable to say anything more. It was Vlad. His voice, the same voice that she had heard under the balcony two days ago. He called to tell her that he needed to leave Bath immediately, and he wanted her to come with him.

"Darling," he said, as he was listening to her sweet story about Lake Geneva.

She was lying for her life.

"When will I see you?"

"Soon, my love," he promised.

They agreed to meet tomorrow in Amsterdam at their friends' house.

"I miss you," she said as a goodbye.

She would leave Bath and forget that she had ever come here. She would forget what had happened. She would have Vlad back. There never was any little girl with messy hair! **Nothing else mattered.** Could this be her chance to find peace after all?

Martine was honest about her feelings and shared a true story with Vlad.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.

Martine decided to leave Bath and tried to forget everything that happened there.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage.

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage.



11.3

Thursday (1 day before now)

Clare was sitting by the river, drawing shapes in the wet sand with a stick and thinking. Her last conversation with Vlad kept playing in her mind. Conversation? He hadn't really said anything. But it was clear – he had lied to her. She **tried to comfort herself** by thinking: *he only lied to protect himself*. She believed she was the right woman for him, and that they should spend their lives together. I understand him, she thought. The world he lives in doesn't forgive mistakes. He had to lie to protect himself. I forgive him. When I come back, everything will be as good as before.

She suddenly felt cold. She looked up at the sky. Dark clouds were coming from the west, and the wind was pushing them toward the city. A strange feeling came over her, as if someone was standing behind her, watching. She turned her head. A tall figure dressed in black, with sunglasses and wild black hair, was standing over her.

Clare jumped up in surprise, but before she could speak, the figure moved quickly, and something hard hit Clare's head. She fell and **lost consciousness instantly**.

She never knew that the cold, muddy water soon covered her lifeless body.

Why did Clare fall into the river?

- A. Because she slipped on the wet grass.
- B. Because Vlad lied to her, and she didn't want to live.
- C. Because Martine hit her head with a stone.





AMENDMENTS

Relationship Vocabulary

Crime Vocabulary

Proper Names

UK/US Vocabulary

Useful Phrases List

Who is who Cheat-sheet & Exercise

Test Results

About me & My support for you



RELATIONSHIP VOCABULARY

Vztahový slovníček – pozitivní emoce

affection	náklonnost	hug	obejmout
attraction	přitažlivost	infatuation	zamilovanost
to be attracted to	přitahovat někoho	love	láska
care	péče	love affair	aférka, známost
closeness	blízkost	lover	milenec, milenka
comfort	utěšování	loyalty	věrnost
commitment	závazek	married	vdaná / ženatý
darling	drahoušek	miss	chybět
date	rande	passion	touha
dating somebody	chodit s někým	platonic	platonický
devotion	oddanost	protection	ochrana
falling in love	zamilovat se	reconciliation	usmíření
making love	milovat se (sex)	relationship	vztah
feel	cítit	respect	respektovat
flirting	flirt (flirtování)	soulmate	spřízněná duše
forgive	odpustit	sweetheart	miláček
friendship	přátelství	friendship	přátelství



RELATIONSHIP VOCABULARY

Vztahový slovníček – negativní emoce

anger	hněv
argument	hádky
betray	zradit
betrayal	zrada
break up / breakup	rozejít se / rozchod
cheating on somebody	někoho podvádět
divorce	rozvést se / rozvod
fear	strach
jealousy	žárlivost
to be jealous	žárlit
lie	lež
mistress	milenka ženáče
one night stand	partner na 1 noc
pain	bolest
rejection	odmítnutí



CRIME VOCABULARY

Kriminální slovníček

accusation	obvinění	kill	zabít
to accuse	obvinit	lawyer	právník
arrest	zatčení, zatknout	murder	vražda
blame	vinit	police	policie
confession	přiznání	prison	vězení
confess	přiznat se	proof	důkaz
court	soud	prove	dokázat
crime	zločin	prosecution	obžaloba
criminal	zločinec	punishment	trest
deny	popřít	punish	potrestat
evidence	důkaz	sentence	rozsudek, odsoudit
fraud	podvod	steal	krást
guilt	vina	suicide	sebevražda
innocence	nevina	suspicion	podezření
innocent	nevinný	testify	dosvědčit
interrogation	výslech	trial	soudní proces
investigation	vyšetřování	verdict	verdikt
judge	soudce, soudit	violence	násilí
kidnapping	únos	witness	svědek, být svědkem
killer	vrah		



PROPER NAMES

Vlastní jména

Names of people usually don't translate or rewrite.

Vlad	Vladimír, Vláda
Clare	Klára
Martine	Martina
Judith	Jitka
Faith	Věra
Frederick, Fred, Freddie	Bedřich
Andrew, Andy	Ondřej
Henry	Jindřich
Henriette	Jindřiška
William, Bill	Vilém
Sidney	Zdeněk
Florence	Květa
Georgia	Jiřina

UK/US VOCABULARY

US English	UK English	
apartment	flat	byt
cell phone	mobile phone / mobile	mobilní telefon
closet	wardrobe	šatní skříň
movie	film	film
pants	trousers	kalhoty
sidewalk	pavement	chodník
sweater	jumper	svetr
vacation	holiday	dovolená



PHRASE LIST

1.1

"Last night..." – Časový výraz, který je běžný a často používaný při vyprávění příběhů v minulosti. Je dobré si ho zapamatovat pro konverzace, kde se mluví o nedávných událostech.

"The pills worked" – Prášky zabraly / fungovaly.

"Her mind was clear" – Jednoduchá fráze, kterou lze použít k popisu stavu mysli nebo pocitů. Lze ji nahradit jinými přídavnými jmény ("Her mind was busy" – Její mysl byla zaměstnaná).

1.2

"I hope you..." – Konstrukce pro přání nebo doufání, například "I hope you have a good day" (Doufám, že budeš mít hezký den) – není potřeba použít spojku "that".

"Act like" – Fráze, která se používá pro porovnání chování s něčím, například "He acts like a hero" (Chová se jako hrdina).

1.3

"A mix of feelings" – Výraz užitečný pro popis složitých emocí.

"I find it strange" – Přijde mi to divné / zvláštní.

"calm me down" – Fráze, kterou lze použít pro vyjádření snahy někoho uklidnit. Například "She tried to calm him down" (Snažila se ho uklidnit).

"My curiosity is awake" – Jednoduchá fráze pro popis toho, jak zvědavost ovlivňuje jednání.

1.4

"Ready to face her problems" – Fráze k vyjádření připravenosti něčemu čelit. Může být použita i v jiných situacích, např. "Ready to face the challenge" (Připraven na výzvu).

"If so" – Pokud ano / V tom případě.

"Keep playing along" – Výraz pro pokračování v hře nebo v nějaké situaci, i když není jasné, co se děje. Například: "I decided to play along" (Rozhodl jsem se pokračovat ve hře).

"Bath" – město v Anglii



1.5

"That's a confusing story, isn't it?" – Fráze, která ukazuje jednoduchý způsob, jak vyjádřit nejistotu nebo zmatení. Lze použít podobnou strukturu v jiných kontextech, například **"That's strange, isn't it?"** (To je divné, že?).

"She was having fun" – Jednoduchá fráze pro popis toho, že se někdo baví. Variace mohou být **"He was having fun"** (On se bavil), nebo **"They were having fun"** (Oni se bavili).

"Maybe he was going to propose to her" – Možná ji chtěl požádat o ruku.

2.1

"It's all so crazy" – Jednoduchý způsob, jak vyjádřit zmatení nebo frustraci (celé je to úplně šílené).

"Apparently" – Očividně / Zřejmě.

"Someone must be in serious trouble" – Užitečná fráze pro vyjádření názoru na něčí situaci. Lze nahradit jinými přídavnými jmény, například **"Someone must be very happy"** (Někdo musí být velmi šťastný).

"If the police are looking for me" – Ukázka podmínkové věty 1. typu, což je užitečná konstrukce pro vyjádření budoucích podmínek a důsledků. Lze využít i pro jiná témata, například **"If it rains, we will stay inside"** (Pokud bude pršet, zůstaneme uvnitř).

2.2

"Maybe it's better not to know" – Jednoduchá fráze pro vyjádření rozhodnutí se něčemu vyhnout. (Možná je lepší to nevědět).

"We're pretending to be here for..." – Struktura pro vyjádření předstírání, užitečná v mnoha situacích.

"What's the point of...?" – Snadná otázka, kterou lze použít k vyjádření pochybností o smyslu nějaké akce.

2.3

"to ask her out" – Pozvat ji na rande.

"he would go crazy" – Zbláznil by se.

2.4

"He admitted to himself that..." – Fráze pro vyjádření uvědomění si něčeho. Například **"She admitted to herself that she was wrong"** (Přiznala si, že se mýlila).



"If you love her, it's no big deal" – slogan z reklamy na kofolu "když ji miluješ, není co řešit" (nikdy se nepoužívá slovíčko "solve")

2.5

"that was the only right answer" – To byla jediná správná odpověď.

2.6

"She was determined not to lose" – Užitečná fráze pro vyjádření odhodlání (not to lose = neprohrát, záporný infinitiv).

3.1

"He hoped the water would wash away the guilt" – Fráze pro vyjádření pocitu viny a touhy zbavit se ho.

"It was driving him crazy" – Dohánělo ho to k šílenství.

3.2

"She slipped into the role" – Fráze pro vyjádření toho, že někdo snadno přijal novou roli nebo situaci.

"the weak link" – Slabý článek.

"feeling of deception" – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření pocitů viny nebo oklamání.

3.3

"Clare got goosebumps" – Užitečná fráze pro popis fyzické reakce na chlad nebo strach (husí kůže).

"She laughed at herself" – Praktická fráze pro popis toho, když se někdo směje svým myšlenkám nebo chování.

3.4

"He had been waiting for the phone to vibrate" – Praktická věta pro vyjádření toho, že někdo čeká na něco konkrétního. (Čekal, až telefon zavibruje).

"He took another deep breath." – Znovu se zhluboka nadechl.

3.5

"pants and sweatshirt" – Kalhoty a mikina.

"I'm just protecting you" – Jednoduchá věta pro vyjádření ochrany nebo péče o někoho.



4.1

"I need to stop acting crazy" – Musím se přestat chovat jako blázen.

"I hope she can last for two and a half more weeks" – Doufám, že to vydrží ještě dva a půl týdne.

4.2

"He would just have to deal with..." – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření nutnosti čelit něčemu nepříjemnému.

"He wasn't ready to..." – Uživatelná fráze pro popis nepřipravenosti na určitou situaci.

4.3

"Is something wrong?" – Základní otázka, kterou lze použít v mnoha situacích. (Děje se něco?)

"to avoid embarrassment" – Aby se vyhnul trapasu / ostudě.

"He couldn't relax" – Fráze pro popis toho, že se někdo necítí pohodlně, nemůže se uvolnit.

"How was I supposed to know?" – Jak jsem to měl vědět?

4.4

"to deal with normal life problems" – Řešit problémy běžného života (nepoužívá se slovíčko "solve").

4.5

"over there" – Tamhle.

4.6

"It felt electric" – Fráze pro vyjádření silného nebo vzrušujícího pocitu.

"to break up with her" – Rozejít se s ní.

"She couldn't resist" – Praktická věta pro vyjádření, že někdo nedokázal odolat něčemu, co ho láká.

"I have no right to..." – Uživatelná fráze pro vyjádření vědomí hranic nebo pravidel (nemám právo něco dělat).

4.7

"he had no idea" – Neměl tušení / Vůbec netušil.



5.1

"house arrest" – Domácí vězení.

"a lot was at stake" – V sázce bylo hodně.

5.2

"How about a little trip?" – Fráze pro návrh, který může být použit v různých situacích.

"straight to the point" – Rovnou k věci.

5.3

"No need for that" – To není potřeba / Není důvod.

5.4

"He was acting foolish" – Fráze pro popis nerozumného chování.

5.5

"He made things worse" – Praktická věta pro popis zhoršení situace něčím zaviněním (zhoršit to).

"He needed to escape this endless cycle" – Fráze pro vyjádření touhy uniknout z náročné situace, z bludného, nekonečného kruhu událostí.

6.1

"I mustn't be stupid" – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření rozhodnutí nebýt nerozumný.

"to keep it a secret" – Udržet to v tajnosti.

6.2

"The game was over" – Jednoduchá metafora pro vyjádření konce situace nebo vztahu.

"He didn't want to deal with it" – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření odmítání řešit něco nepříjemného.

6.3

"He didn't have the energy to deal with her anger" – Fráze pro vyjádření vyčerpání nebo nechuti čelit něčemu nepříjemnému.

"to read ... out loud" – Číst (něco) nahlas.

"It was a trap which he had set for himself" – Fráze pro popis situace, kdy si někdo vytvoří vlastní problem (past, kterou si sám nastražil).



6.4

"to stay grounded" – Držet se nohama na zemi.

7.1

"he could be himself" – Mohl být sám sebou.

7.2

"She had a quick temper" – Fráze pro popis někoho, kdo se rychle rozzlobí, ale stejně rychle uklidní.

"out of control" – Mimo kontrolu / Nezvladatelný.

"She was lost in her thoughts" – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření toho, že někdo je hluboce zamyšlený.

7.3

"They had privacy" – Fráze pro vyjádření soukromí.

"get enough of each other" – nabažit se jeden druhého

8.1

"That thought made him sit up" – Ta myšlenka ho přiměla / donutila posadit se.

"Don't panic!" – "Nepanikař! Žádnou paniku!" Základní fráze pro zachování klidu a soustředění v náročné situaci.

"A missed call!" – "Zmeškaný hovor!" Praktická fráze pro popis hovoru, který byl zmeškán na telefonu.

8.2

"Maybe she got caught in the rain" – "Možná ji chytil déšť". Fráze pro vysvětlení situace, kdy někoho překvapí nepříznivé počasí.

8.3

"he was soaking wet" – Byl úplně promočený / durch mokrý.

8.4

"he would get a divorce" – Rozvedl by se.

8.5

"She would call the police just in case" – Praktická fráze pro vysvětlení, že někdo udělá něco pro jistotu.



"Maybe she stayed overnight" – Možná tam někde přespala.

"Vlad shuddered at the thought" – Fráze pro popis negativní reakce na nepříjemnou myšlenku.

8.6

"His conscience wasn't clear" – Fráze pro popis pocitu viny nebo špatného svědomí.

9.1

"to harm herself" – Ublížit si.

9.2

"I'll take care of it" – Fráze pro uklidnění někoho, že se o něco postará (postarám se o to / vyřeším to = nepoužívá se slovíčko "solve").

"she wasn't worth any trouble" – Nestála za žádné potíže / starosti.

"She was too devoted" – Uživatelná fráze pro popis někoho, kdo je příliš oddaný.

"she didn't answer the phone" – Nezvedla telefon.

9.3

"Vlad had to act like he didn't care" – Vlad se musel tvářit, že je mu to jedno / že se ho to netýká.

9.4

"at their friends' house" – u jejich přátel

"His conscience was dark" – Praktická fráze pro popis někoho, kdo cítí vinu nebo špatné svědomí.

"To leave everything behind" – Fráze pro vyjádření rozhodnutí něco úplně opustit nebo se vzdát minulosti.

10.1

"She felt a magical attraction" – Uživatelná fráze pro popis silné přitažlivosti mezi dvěma lidmi.

"making a move" – Udělat (první) krok / Odhodlat se k činu.

"made things look bigger" – Zveličovat.

"His closeness made her lose control" – Fráze pro vyjádření toho, jak



blízkost někoho jiného ovlivňuje emoce.

10.2

"She was used to being in control" – Praktická fráze pro vyjádření, že někdo je zvyklý mít kontrolu nad svým životem.

"never letting her feelings take over" – Nikdy nedovolila, aby ji ovládly city / Nikdy nenechala emoce převzít kontrolu.

10.3

"There you go!" – A je to tady! / A máš to! (Praktický hovorový výraz pro situaci, kdy se potvrdí něco, co se dalo čekat)

10.4

"it felt right" – Připadalo jí to správné / Cítila, že je to tak správně.

"it was obvious" – Bylo to jasné / Očividné.

10.5

"She cried for herself" – Fráze pro popis pocitu smutku nebo lítosti nad sebou samým.

10.6

"She held back her tears" – Praktická věta pro vyjádření snahy zadržet pláč.

"A merciful sleep came over her" – Fráze pro popis úlevy spánku po těžkém emocionálním zážitku (milosrdný spánek).

"her body shut down" – Její tělo vypnulo / Přestalo fungovat (Zde použito ve smyslu ochranné fyzické reakce na naprosté vyčerpání a bolest).

10.7

"to get control of herself" – Ovládnout se / Získat nad sebou kontrolu.

"she felt at peace" – Cítila se vyrovnaně / Cítila klid.

11.1

"There was no point in going anywhere" – Praktická věta pro vyjádření toho, že něco nemá smysl.

"she might as well stay here" – Může tady rovnou zůstat. (Vazba "might/may as well" je velmi praktická a často používaná, když chcete říct "můžu rovnou..." nebo "nemá smysl dělat nic jiného, tak to prostě udělám").



11.2

"Nothing else mattered" – Fráze pro vyjádření toho, že ostatní věci nejsou důležité, že na nich nezáleží.

11.3

"She tried to comfort herself" – Praktická věta pro popis pokusu uklidnit se, ukonejšit se.

"She lost consciousness instantly" – Jednoduchá věta pro popis něčího omdlení.



WHO IS WHO CHEATSHEET



Vlad

Vlad is a man with many secrets. He lives a double life, split between Clare and his wife, Martine. He loves Clare but lies to both women to protect himself. Vlad wants power and control but feels guilty and afraid. He tries to keep everything under control, but his actions cause problems and confusion. Vlad's inner fight between his love for Clare and his duty to Martine shows his complicated character.

Clare

Clare is an emotional woman who loves Vlad deeply. She is passionate and ready to forgive him, even when she knows he has betrayed her. Clare believes she is the right woman for Vlad and stays close to him. Even though she has doubts and feels pain, she convinces herself that she understands him and wants to fight for their relationship. Clare is vulnerable and needs love, but her story ends sadly....



Martine

Martine is Vlad's wife. She is strong, calm, and thinks clearly, unlike Clare. Martine loves Vlad and is loyal to him, defending him even when her family is against him. But when she finds out about Vlad's betrayal, she feels hurt and confused. Martine is logical and careful in relationships, but she also struggles with her emotions, especially when she faces the truth about Vlad's affair.

Shreya

Shreya is like a second mother to Vlad, offering him support and care at the guesthouse. She is loyal and protective, always ready to help him. Shreya does not agree with Vlad's relationships with Martine and Clare, but she still stands by him. She is a steady and calming presence, but she also gets involved in Vlad's lies.





WHO IS WHO EXERCISE

"She convinces herself that she understands him."

"She is prepared to fight for their relationship."

"He is living a double life, caught between two women."

"He tries to maintain control, but his actions lead to chaos."

"She is deeply devoted to Vlad."

"She is torn between love and pain."

"Her calmness contrasts with Clare's emotional vulnerability."

"She has short, tousled hair with red highlights."

"Her physical presence has a strong emotional impact on those around her."

"His sharp, serious features reflect his intense personality."

"She exudes calm and control, with an aura of confidence."

"Her wavy black hair and dark eyes give her a natural elegance."

"She is a motherly figure with a warm, calming presence."



ANSWER KEY

1.1 Why did Clare take the pills given by Vlad?

- Answer: C She wanted to escape from reality and stop thinking for a while.

1.2 Why does Clare smile when Vlad enters the room quietly?

- Answer: C She finds Vlad's secretive manner amusing.

1.3 Clare's colourful clothes made her room look more cheerful.

- Answer: True

1.4 Clare felt as though she were a character in a detective story when she took the shower.

- Answer: True

2.1 What strategy does Vlad suggest avoiding police suspicion?

- Answer D: Pretending they went on a secret trip.

2.2 What is a major concern of the narrator?

- Answer C: Understanding how Vlad will explain the situation to his wife.

2.3 The invitation to dinner was strictly for business purposes.

- Answer: False

2.4 Clare's attire was casual and slightly revealing.

- Answer: True

2.5 How did Clare feel after Vlad said he was protecting her?

- Answer C: Better and reassured

3.1 Why did Vlad hope the water would wash away his feelings?

- Answer B: Because he felt guilty.

3.2 Why did Clare wake up in the middle of the night surprised?

- Answer A: She found Vlad missing from the bed.

3.3 Clare remembered seeing her little red phone in her suitcase.

- Answer: False



3.4/1 What was Vlad doing when Clare saw him from the window?

- Answer B: He was waiting for a phone call.

3.4/2 What time was it when Vlad's phone buzzed?

- Answer B: Almost half past four in the morning

4.1 In Prague, Vlad always avoided calling his wife during his time with Clare.

- Answer: True

4.2 Why did Vlad feel pleasure when he woke up from his short sleep?

- Answer B: He believed his wife, Martine, was with him.

4.4 How does Vlad describe his reason for not being able to relax?

- Answer C: The stress was making him unable to feel good.

4.5/1 Clare immediately knew Vlad's invitation to dinner was significant for their relationship.

- Answer: True

4.5/2 Clare took control of the situation and decided where Vlad should park the car.

- Answer: True

4.6 How did Vlad feel about his actions when he saw Clare was gone?

- Answer A: Careless because he left his phone visible.

4.7/1 Vlad considered the possibility that Clare might react dangerously out of anger.

- Answer: True

4.7/2 Vlad was confident that Clare would believe whatever explanation he provided.

- Answer: False

5.1 The news showed pictures of policemen without any equipment near the Czech Bank.

- Answer: False

5.4 Vlad's wife decided to go to Paris to relax and meet Judith.

- Answer: False



6.2 What did Vlad place on the table next to Clare's cup?

- Answer B: A phone

7.1 Vlad sat still for about an hour at the guesthouse breakfast table.

- Answer: True

7.2 What was the only important thing for Clare?

- Answer A: Whether he loved her

8.2 Vlad felt dizzy when because he hadn't eaten since dinner the day before yesterday.

- Answer: True

8.3/1 Vlad was certain that searching the nightclubs would be easy and successful.

- Answer: False

8.3/2 Vlad was completely dry when he reached his car.

- Answer: False

8.5 Vlad felt his life lacked excitement and wanted more adventure.

- Answer: False

8.6 Why does Vlad justify Clare's absence for a temporary period?

- Answer B: He believes Clare wants to punish him for his actions.

9.3 How was Clare's body discovered?

- Answer D: A strong river current carried her body miles away

9.4 Where do Martine and Vlad agree to meet?

- Answer B: Amsterdam

10.2 What was Martine's main concern during her three weeks away from Vlad?

- Answer A: Worrying about him and their future.

10.3 Martine decided to ignore all calls except those from Vlad.



- Answer: True

10.5 Why did Martine decide against going to Geneva?

- Answer D: She felt it was necessary to be closer to Vlad.

10.6 Martine was convinced that Vlad and the girl were strangers.

- Answer: False

10.7 Why did Martine comb her long hair forward and wear sunglasses?

- Answer B: To hide her red face from crying

11.1 Martine deeply regretted not going to Geneva instead of coming to the town.

- Answer: True

11.2/1 Martine was honest about her feelings and shared a true story with Vlad.

- Answer: False

11.2/2 Martine decided to leave Bath and tried to forget everything that happened there.

- Answer: True

11.3 Why did Clare fall into the river?

- Answer C: Because Martine hit her head with a stone.

Why Read Beyond Words?

Pro náročnou ženu je pokročilý jazyk symbolem statusu a svobody.

Angličtina v mém podání není předmět k učení, ale prostor k bytí. Vedu vás k sebevědomému používání jazyka, který odpovídá vaší inteligenci a životní úrovni. Mým cílem je, aby vaše angličtina byla stejně kultivovaná, sebevědomá a hluboká, jako jste vy sama.

Psaní pro mě není řemeslo, je to způsob, jakým rozkrývám svět.

Jako autorka osmi titulů, od lehkých "Life Stories" až po syrovou psychologickou sérii "Secrets", budu prostor, kde se napětí setkává s intelektem. Nechci vás jen pobavit. Chci, abyste při čtení mých knih zapomněla, že čtete v cizím jazyce, a začala jste ten příběh skutečně žít. Moje tvorba je mostem mezi vzdělávací literaturou a psychologickým thrillerem.

Vím, že život se neodehrává v učebnicových dialogích. Skutečný život se děje v tichu mezi slovy, v maskách, které si nasazujeme, a v odvaze je sundat. Jsem pozorovatelkou lidských osudů a fascinuje mě psychologie a dynamika vztahů, o které se často jen šeptá. Věřím v integritu, hloubku a v to, že zralost je tou největší devizou, kterou jako žena a tvůrce mám.

Název povídky vychází ze rčení "Čiň čertu dobře, peklem se ti odmění".

I když anglický ekvivalent přímo neexistuje, této povídce nejvíc sluší název PLAY WITH FIRE (you'll get burned). Protože mně nejde jen o překlad, ale hlavně o to, aby to, co čtete, dávalo smysl.

Kateřina Havlová

Thanks for reading my story!

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