



Scissors & Secrets

**Osudové setkání s výstředním kadeřníkem,
které rozbilo svět na předtím a potom.**

Katka Havlová

B1/B2

WELCOME TO SCISSORS & SECRETS

Věřím, že těchto prvních 10 stránek zvládneš!

Každou knížku v angličtině vytvářím od začátku do konce podle zkušeností s českými a slovenskými samouky.

Pokud jsi **na úrovni B1** ještě žádnou knížku nedočetla, vysvětlivky ti pomůžou nezaseknout se.

Pokud už jsi **na přelomu B1/B2**, snadno si ověříš používání vhodné slovní zásoby v reálném kontextu.

Záměrně ve svých textech **opakuji výrazy i gramatické struktury**, které možná i tobě dělají největší potíže. Necháám je v různých situacích vracet a díky tomu si je můžeš při čtení opravdu **osvojit a začít je používat v praxi**.

Název tohoto příběhu si mé postavy vymyslely samy (konkrétně v kapitole 15). Díky tomu, že se svými postavami žiju, je příběh autentický a opravdu silný nejen jako zážitek, ale hlavně jako tvůj **přirozený zdroj zlepšování v angličtině**.

Protože tvůj dospělý mozek nepotřebuje seznamy slovíček, potřebuje zápletku, děj a pulzující příběh, který prostě chceš dočíst.



Kdo je Katka Havlová

Jsem autorka knížek v angličtině pro samouky na mírně a středně pokročilé úrovni. Ale jsem také lektorka angličtiny – ročně vedu přes 1000 lekcí konverzace, a díky tomu přesně vím, co lidem při čtení reálně dělá problém – a co jim pomáhá se zlepšit.

Proto k příběhu přidávám:

- Metodické vysvětlivky
- Českou verzi pro kontrolu porozumění zdarma
- Audioknihu pro trénink poslechu
- Bonusový obsah v tištěné verzi

V této ukázce uvidíš, **kolikrát** se dané vysvětlené slovo nebo fráze vyskytuje v celém textu, v různých situacích.

Celkem je v příběhu vysvětleno a opakovaně použito **330 běžných a užitečných výrazů pro level B1/B2**

Většina dospělých samouků nepotřebuje číst AJ knížku stejně jako v rodném jazyce – potřebuje ji jako způsob pro trénink, jak používat slova a fráze v reálném kontextu.

Good luck and enjoy!

Katka Havlová

Kateřina Havlová!



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1 Scissors

Pilsen, today

The salon in the midday **gloom** looked like an expensive, quiet temple. The air was filled with a typical blend of **scents** that seemed to get under Alex's skin: the heavy aroma of sandalwood from luxury candles, a **hint** of expensive orchid shampoos, and the slightly sharp, clean smell of tool disinfectant.

Everything was shining. Black leather armchairs reflected the dim light of designer lamps, and the huge mirrors showed the emptiness of a space that was usually full of life. Without the noise of hairdryers and the chatting of customers, you could only hear the monotonous sound of rain beating against the shop window and the ticking of a designer clock above the reception desk. These were the symbols of success which sometimes calmed Alex down, but today they rather irritated him.

Alex was going through papers. Receipts and invoices from suppliers, VAT reports – this was the biggest nightmare of his business.

When he still had his old salon, everything was much easier, so sometimes when he got angry at the paperwork, he would **swear** with words which definitely didn't belong in a shiny, snobbish salon: *"Fucking hell, this VAT, I miss the golden days at Alex Hair!"*

But he knew very well that the real golden days only started when David arrived. His former classmate from vocational school had spent about 8 years in a top London salon, where he worked his way up, and after his return to Pilsen, he changed Alex's hairdresser's shop into an exclusive salon with customers from all over the country.

gloom – šero, přitmní **2x**

scents – vůně

hint – náznak, nádech **10x**

VAT – DPH (value added tax)

to swear – klít, nadávat (později v příběhu také *přísahat*) **3x**



Alex was impressed by the incredible amount of money that David **must have earned** as a top London stylist to be able to finance this whole beautiful place.

There were only two of them working, because the concept of *Scissors and Secrets* was built on two things, literally: the scissors controlled by Alex, and the secrets surrounding David. The reputation of a salon where you could easily wait half a year for an appointment with one of the two great gay hairdressers, was basically the main driving force of their brand.

Alex sighed again at the memory. *Gay hairdressers*. He would never **get rid of** that label.

He sorted the invoices from suppliers and put them in an envelope for the accountant. Now, the card payment receipts.

It was May, the week of the Liberation Day celebrations, when Pilsen was usually bursting at the seams. Unfortunately, the celebrations didn't go very well this year because it was cold and raining. Alex looked out through the wet window. It was high noon and the salon was fully lit, even though they had no customers today. It was a public holiday, and he had made a promise to himself to **catch up on** the accounting **backlog**.

Suddenly, he jumped in shock. Someone grabbed the door handle so hard they almost broke it off its **hinges**. The door was locked, but maybe because the lights were on, someone outside thought it was open. A big man with curly hair stood behind the door and knocked on the glass.

must have earned – musel (v minulosti) vydělat **6x**

to get rid of (somebody / something) – zbavit se (někoho / něčeho) **2x**

to catch up on – dohnat něco (resty)

backlog – resty (nedokončená práce)

hinges – dveřní panty



Alex looked in disbelief at the man standing outside in the rain, knocking on the door, right next to the "closed" sign. But maybe he didn't speak English. Many Americans came for the Liberation Day celebrations, but this one looked more like a Greek, with that big nose. But that didn't mean much; even an ethnic Greek can be an American citizen nowadays.

Now he saw the man face to face – it was a serious, expensively dressed man **in his fifties** wearing a dark wool coat, which was now completely **soaked**.

"It's a holiday, we're closed," Alex explained in Czech.

The man briefly looked at Alex's hands and asked, "English?"

Alex pointed to the sign that said "closed" in English, but the man ignored him and said uncompromisingly, "I need your help. I'm from London."

That sentence stopped Alex in his tracks. London. A magic word that meant everything in this salon.

Alex spoke English quite well, but he wasn't the **confident** type, more the *overthinking* one, and when expats' wives started coming to them after he and David changed the brand, he was terrified of the idea of having to speak English with them. Fortunately, David took care of all that. After years in England, his English was much better than Alex's, who had spent only about three months in Australia just so he wouldn't be completely **clueless**; because the English lessons at vocational school were quite useless.

He could just **shrug** now, pretending he didn't understand, but since there were no witnesses, he didn't have to be so shy, and he switched to English.

in his fifties – padesátník, v letech mezi padesátkou a šedesátkou

soaked – promáčený (skrz naskrz) **5x**

confident - sebevědomí **3x**

clueless – úplně mimo

to shrug – pokrčit rameny **12x**



"How can I help you?"

The man positioned himself in such a way that Alex had no choice but to step back and let him in. Hopefully, he wasn't trying to **sneak in under a pretext** and "**beat the fucking faggots black and blue**" (as they could sometimes read in the comments under their social media posts). Not even their fame protected them from the hatred of some groups of people. *It's unlikely*, Alex realized. He wasn't in danger, but he still hesitated for a moment about whether to lock the door again. He decided not to.

"You are famous and I need a haircut. I came for the celebrations, so I wanted to **kill two birds with one stone**. My hair is too long and messy."

"It's a holiday, we are closed today."

"Should I come tomorrow?" the man asked.

"We are fully booked for the next six months," Alex said.

"**No wonder**," the man said appreciatively and looked around. "I wanted to experience it. I heard that a hairdresser from London works here. I have a feeling I used to go to him too."

This was a whole different thing. A customer who had travelled all the way from London. For the **renowned** stylist David. This took things to another level. David was good at social media marketing; if they could post a picture and say how people travel all the way to Pilsen to see them, it would be great. So he said, "In that case, welcome to Scissors and Secrets."

to sneak in under some pretext – vloudit se pod záminkou

to beat black and blue – zmlátit, zmalovat do modra 3x

faggot / fag – slangově cigareta (UK) / vulgárně homosexuál, buzerant (US) 3x

to kill two birds with one stone – zabít dvě mouchy jednou ranou

messy hair - rozuchané vlasy / mess 4x

no wonder – není divu, žádný div, to mě nepřekvapuje / wondering 3x

renowned – renomovaný, proslulý, vyhlášený



First, they discussed the haircut and then moved behind a **screen** to the area with **basins** and massage chairs. The man sat down and Alex was thinking about locking the door now that nobody was in the front. But he still didn't really want to be locked in here with this giant. He washed his hair and then they went to the front room.

The man clearly wanted to chat. Alex wasn't that fluent in English, so at first, he decided to just let the man talk. *But what if I don't understand him? Maybe it would be better if I control the conversation myself, so we would talk about something I know.*

He asked, "Did you come to Pilsen alone?"

The man **frowned**, and Alex started wondering if his sentence was correct. He didn't know that the word "alone" hit this giant like a ton of bricks.

Yes, I came alone. I am here alone because I am alone. Because thirteen years ago I made a terrible mistake and I'm still not over it.

Alex couldn't have known that.

"Yes, I came alone. And are you alone here today too?" he asked.

"My partner is on holiday," Alex explained, and focused on cutting the thick, greying curls. If he had seen the customer in the mirror at that moment, he couldn't have missed his next frown. The word "partner" stabbed him like a **dagger** to the heart.

"Your partner, is he the hairdresser from London?"

"Yeah, he came back and turned my life upside down. I had the Alex Hair salon and he told me that it was boring. *It's not just hair*, he said." Alex kept cutting and again missed the man's next frown.

It's not just hair – that was the sentence that started it all back then.

screen – zástěna, paraván

basin – umyvadlo **3x**

to frown / a frown – (za)mračit se, zamračení **5x**

dagger – dýka



Two days later, David returned to work looking **fresh as a daisy**. He was perfectly groomed, beautifully tanned, and surrounded by a cloud of expensive perfume that briefly stole the show from all the other salon scents. He put his car keys on the reception desk and quickly checked if the towels were arranged strictly by colour.

"So, how is Pilsen? Did you miss me at all?" David asked, looking at the appointment diary for next week.

Alex grinned and went on cleaning his scissors.

"Well, just paperwork and invoices... It was a public holiday **anyway**, so I kept it closed. How was Greece?"

"Just the usual stuff. Sun, sea, beach – it was like watching paint dry. What about you, anything exciting?"

"Yes, **actually**. We had an international visitor. Just imagine, a guy was banging on the door. He said he was from London. He mentioned he used to be your client."

David's eyes froze on the diary page **for a split second**. He slowly raised his head. "From London? That's a very broad term, Alex. In Soho, people came and went like they were going through **a revolving door**."

"He looked really... well, respectable. The kind of guy who buys clothes from **Savile Row** and drives a Bentley," Alex shrugged. "So I took him in."

David closed the diary. "And?"

fresh as a daisy – svěží jako rybička (daisy = sedmikráska)

anyway – stejně, beztak 4x

actually – vlastně (pozor: neznamená aktuálně) 14x

for a split second – na zlomek sekundy / split 8x

revolving door – otočné dveře (jako na běžícím pásu) 2x

Savile Row – londýnská ulice proslulá nejluxusnějšími, extrémně drahými pánskými obleky na míru



"I thought it would be great advertising. That people still travel to see you even after thirteen years. And then we took a photo for the **pinboard**, as usual. It was a nice change, from being buried in paperwork all week. See for yourself, it's over there in the corner."

He pointed to the pinboard with Polaroids. Among the photos of smiling models and local businessmen, one new picture stood out. The figure in it was dominant. That profile, that sharp Greek nose, and those deep eyes that looked almost black in the Polaroid.

"Oh, and I spoke English with him, I didn't even know I was so good. He was easy to understand. I guess he wasn't a native English speaker."

David felt a cold sweat on his neck.

"Do you remember him?" Alex asked from behind his back.

David looked at the photo for a few seconds. Then he turned it over **out of habit**, because customers usually wrote a message, a greeting, a thank-you note, some wish, or just their name on the back. It said, "*13 years of saying sorry*". He pinned the photo back on the board.

"It's a small world," David said vaguely, running his finger over a small scar on his **collarbone**.

"You look as if you've seen a ghost," Alex remarked.

At that moment, the Pilsen salon **vanished** right before David's eyes.

The scent of sandalwood and Alex's voice faded away into thin air.

Instead, the noise of the London **Underground** and the strong smell of wet asphalt overwhelmed him.

pinboard – nástěnka

out of habit – ze zvyku

(out of nerves, jealousy, fear, love – z nervosity, ze žárlivosti, ze strachu, z lásky) 4x

collarbone – klíční kost 3x

to vanish – zmizet 3x

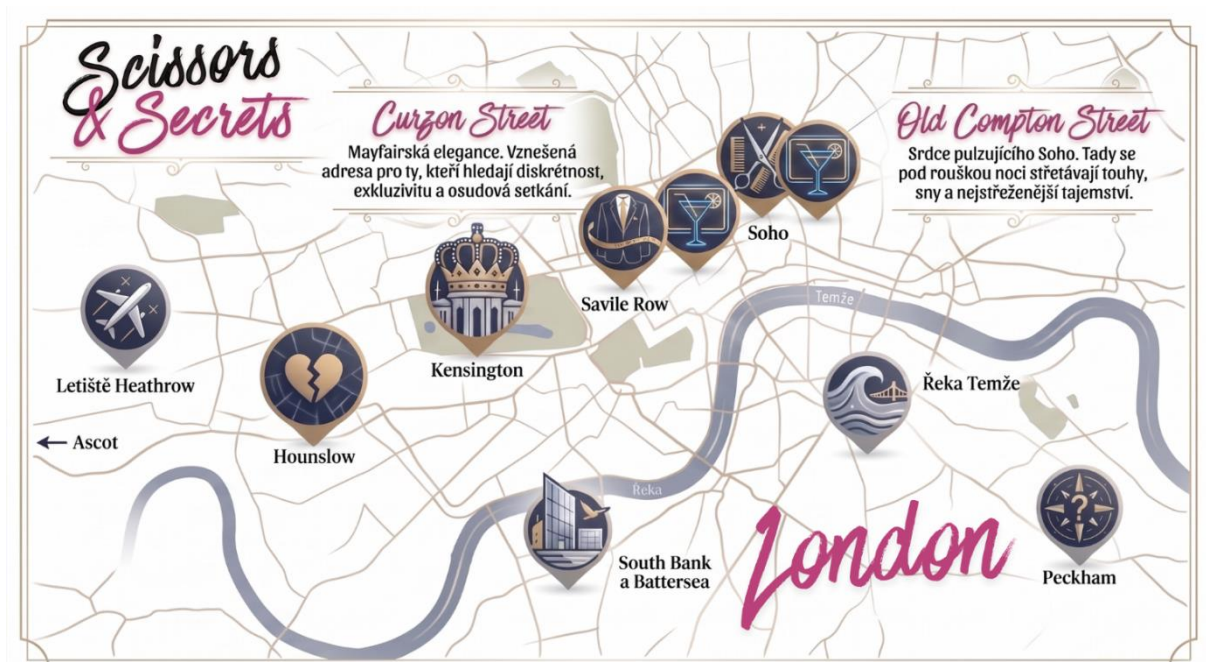
faded away into thin air – vypařit se, rozplynout se jako dým / fade 5x

underground – podezmní dráha, metro



THE BIG GAME

London, 13 years ago



Ascot – Nejslavnější a nejprestižnější koňské dostihy v Británii, známé pro extrémně přísný dress code.

Battersea – moderní čtvrť na jižním břehu řeky (South Bank).

Peckham – čtvrť spojovaná s vysokou kriminalitou, chudobou a gangy.

Curzon Street – Ulice v luxusní čtvrti Mayfair.

Heathrow – Nejznámější a největší londýnské letiště.

Hounslow – Okrajová část Londýna, která se nachází poblíž letiště Heathrow.

Kensington / Kensington Gardens – Prestižní a bohatá londýnská čtvrť.

Old Compton Street – Ulice v srdci Soho, která je historicky centrem londýnské gay komunity.

Savile Row – Ulice v Londýně proslulá nejluxusnějšími, extrémně drahými pánskými obleky na míru.

Soho – Živá čtvrť v centru Londýna známá svým nočním životem a kadeřnickými salony.

South Bank – Jižní břeh řeky Temže.

Thames (Temže) – Hlavní řeka protékající Londýnem.



2 Just Hair

The air in the Velvet Desire salon in London's Soho was heavy with the scent of expensive conditioners and hot hairdryers.

David stood by the ceramic basin, mechanically massaging shampoo into the hair of a man whose name he didn't know yet. He only knew that the manager called him "Doctor".

He could feel the eyes of the other hairdressers and the salon owner on him. Everyone knew it – David was not hired for his skills, but because of his hands and his face. He was the pretty face supposed to **charm** the clients while they were charged **ridiculous** prices for the *experience*.

"You have sensitive fingers," the man muttered with his eyes closed. He seemed stiff, as if every touch was a **necessary evil**. When it came to the haircut, the awkward moment arrived. The doctor said quietly to the owner, whom he **obviously** knew: "Couldn't he do it?" and pointed at David. "I hate it when people touch my head, and I've already got used to him."

The owner nodded at the salon manager, who hesitated for a split second with a flash of panic in his eyes – as he knew that David's skills were limited to washing hair and applying gel. But he kept up his professional mask, and, with a **fake** smile, he gestured for David to continue.

David's palms sweated, as he took the scissors. He started cutting. Carefully, slowly, as if he was **defusing a bomb**.

"Something like this?" David asked after a while, flashing a bright smile at his client in the mirror.

"I don't really care. It's just hair."

to charm somebody – okouzlovat / charm **5x**

ridiculous – směšný, nehorázný, absurdní **2x**

necessary evil – nutné zlo

obviously – evidentně, zjevně, viditelně **3x**

fake – falešný **4x**

to defuse a bomb – zneškodnit bombu



... ukázka z další části příběhu...

3 Visiting Olympus

The next afternoon, David stood in front of the luxury house again, his finger hesitating over the doorbell. Why was he actually here? Did he just want to make sure the dentist was all right, or did he have a secret reason?

David was **conscious** of his looks. He knew that he was a magnet for men with money and lonely eyes.

"I am Konstantinos," the **colossus** said and offered David his hand. His **grip** was firm and warm.

"David." He smiled his professional smile.

"Well, that's truly amusing," Konstantinos said.

Young David kept staring at him without a word.

"You look as if you've seen a ghost," the Greek laughed, and his eyes sparkled.

"More like a god," the word slipped out before David could bite his tongue.

"I always thought they were lying in those films about Greek gods."

Konstantinos laughed out loud, a sound that filled the whole room.

"Welcome to Olympus!"

to be conscious of (something) - být si (něčeho) vědom / subconscious,

uncounscious 7x

colossus – kolos

grip – stisk 2x



Is it really just hair?

- příběh a zapamatovatelná angličtina -

Ted' držíš v rukou klíč k tomu, jak konečně začít v angličtině přemýšlet.

Přidej se k tisícům spokojených čtenářek a získej:

- ✓ **Kompletní osudový příběh až do mrazivého rozuzlení**
- ✓ **160 minut (2,5 hodiny) audia pro trénink poslechu, který tě neunaví**
- ✓ **330 vysvětlených frází, které na středně pokročilé úrovni reálně využiješ**
 - ✓ **Metodické poznámky (slovníčky, glosář)**
 - ✓ **Česká nezjednodušená verze**

CHCI CELOU KNIHU A POKRAČOVAT V PŘÍBĚHU:

<https://anglictina.jazykovamentorka.cz/books/scissors-secrets>

Tvůj dospělý mozek nepotřebuje seznamy slovíček.

Potřebuje zápletku, kterou prostě chce dočíst.