

Tibor Maček

You are a man in your prime. Carpenter by trade. Together with your younger brother Zvonimir you run a small family construction company. Business is good, ensuring you a comfortable life.

You're married to Mia Bogdanov. You were highschool sweethearts, your relationship is still strong and your marriage is a happy one, despite the fact you weren't blessed with children. Her family often complains about it, in every possible way.

Still, your life is calm and peaceful. You live in a mansion up on a hill, with a dog you named Dots. No excitements, not much stress and worries. Until yesterday, that is.

Perhaps it was yesterday. Or maybe the day before yesterday. You're not sure.

It comes back to you in bits and pieces. Sunny afternoon. You've spent it with Mia in a big shopping mall in the suburbs. She wanted to get some new summer clothes on sale.

After shopping you went to supper and then to bed early. During the night. It must've happened during the night. You vaguely remember waking up several times during the night (or were you regaining consciousness?) You were at home. Then tied tightly in your bed. Then on a... Stretcher?

Slowly, you open your eyes. Your nostrils are filled with strong smell of disinfectant. Light is blindingly strong. It hurts to look at it. You feel like your head is about to explode.

You're lying on the bare floor. Your ankles are tied by chains. You can't get up.

For the love of God, where are you?

Finally, you lift your head and take a look. Your eyes meet with your wife's.

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **Recently you discovered that you are sterile. You've told that to your brother, but not to your wife. Why?**
- **What do you think was your greatest mistake in life? Did it affect your relationship with Mia?**
- **How do you imagine your future with her?**
- **Opportunities were numerous. Have you ever cheated on your wife? Why? Do you think it was a mistake?**

Mia Bogdanov

Your life is boring. It has always felt that way. Others took care of you, protected you, kept you in a glass cage.

When you met Tibor Bišćan for the first time, both of you were still very young. Everyone said you were a perfect couple, who will spend their life together. You got married and moved into a villa up on a hill, with a garden where you host barbecue parties for your friends.

Your husband is a carpentner. Together with his brother Zvonimir, he runs a small family construction company. Earns enough that you don't have to work at all. So you're living a housewife's life. Domestic chores, walks with your dog Dots, chit-chat over coffee with your neighbours. You don't have kids yet, although your parents insist you ought to have them.

Tibor is convinced your marriage is perfect. But it is not. There are so many things that bother you. You feel trapped, but keep on going day after day, like nothing is wrong.

That boring routine went on and on, until yesterday. Or was it a week ago? A month? Or a year? You can't really tell.

Last thing you remember is afternoon you've spent with Tibor in a shopping mall in the suburbs. There was a sale and you wanted to get a new summer dress. After that you had a quick supper and went to bed early.

During the night. It must've happened during the night. You seem to remember waking up several times. You were at home. Then tied cruelly tight in your bed. Once you woke up while someone carried you on a stretcher.

You're coming slowly to your senses now. There's nothing but a bare floor beneath you. Light is blinding you. Your ankles hurt. It's because they're tied by heavy chains. You can't move. You can't get up.

There are other people around you. One of them is your husband Tibor. Your eyes meet.

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **You've cheated your husband with his brother Zvonimir. When did that happen for the first time? What attracted you to him?**
- **You're pregnant, but you still haven't told that to your husband. Why?**
- **Your relationship with your husband is very frail. He doesn't seem to notice that at all. What drove you apart? Have you ever been close?**
- **What are your feelings towards your husband?**

Janez Gradelj / Tanja Gradelj

You were born in one of the richest families in the country. Your father is a high-ranking politician. Mom killed herself when you were eight years old, leaving you with a scar in your soul that never healed.

In spite of that tragedy, life's been good to you. Very, very good. Crazy parties, sex, wild cars, vacations overseas, best schools money can buy and now career on a rise in a brokerage company. All thanks to Daddy, of course.

You're used to getting whatever you want, whenever you want it. In business life, you keep everything on a professional level and people respect you for that. In private life, you're a party animal, totally devoted to extreme hedonism.

Slowly, you wake up. Last thing you remember is pissing up your new BMW at dealer's shop next to a big shopping mall in the suburbs. You drove it home. It was already dark when you parked it in front of your home. You locked the car with your remote control. After that - nothing.

You're lying on a bare floor. It's cold to touch. The light is white and blinding. Your ankles hurt. They are tied by a heavy chain. You can't get up, or move a lot.

You realise there are other people here.

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **Few years ago you hit a girl with a car. Daddy made sure that you didn't end up in prison, but you can't forget her. Is she still alive? In what condition is she now? How do you feel about it?**
- **You take narcotics on regular basis. Which ones? Why?**
- **Who is to blame for your mother's death? What do you feel towards her?**
- **How do you really feel about your father?**

Fra Borut Zdovc

You dedicated your life to God. Your family sent you to the seminary when you were still very young. Ever since then your destiny has been determined by someone else other than you. You prefer to believe it was in God's hands, although you are aware it wasn't always the case. Following the path of the faith wasn't easy. You were doubting your calling many times.

And then suddenly it became cristally clear.

You will help children who suffered hardships during their childhood, who were cast away, driven into isolation. Children of poor people and criminals. That is the best way to serve the Almighty and give meaning to your life.

An opportunity came: you could open a place where you could take care of them, enable them to play, learn and grow up in peace. There was a big sale in a big shopping mall nearby the other day, so you went to get supplies cheaply.

But something strange came. You were in a parking lot, putting the stuff you bought into the truck. Someone approached you. You don't know who because you lost consciousness.

Now you're waking up. Strong smell of disinfectant hits you hard, goes straight to your head.

You are in a room you don't recognise, lying on cold, bare floor. Your ankles are tightly tied with chains. You can't get up.

For the love of God, where are you?

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **Why do you want to help the unfortunate children?**
- **How strong is your faith? Do you still harbour doubts?**
- **How do you feel about your parents and your family, who insisted you should become a priest?**
- **What are your greatest regrets?**

Slaven Ivić/Slavenka Ivić

You're living a mediocre life. People who know you (or used to) never expected you'll achieve anything significant in your life. So no one was surprised when you got bad grades in school, when you were fired, when you started flipping burgers for a living...

Most of them are six feet under now, feeding worms. And you live alone.

Your current job is selling Bibles door-to-door. It isn't fun. You meet strangers all the time, pestering them for a few minutes before they offer you one or another of thousands excuses you've already heard. Sometimes you sell a copy or two, which makes for a meager living.

You've rented a small apartment, in a leaky attic in the old part of town. You can barely afford it and have to constantly fight off the goddamned cockroaches. You have only one half-decent suit, that you wear while working.

The other day you've finished your daily route and went to get a hamburger in a shopping mall in the suburbs. After finishing your meal, you went home. Couple of minutes after you arrived somebody knocked on your door. You opened them and then... Darkness. Pitch black darkness.

Now you're lying on a cold, bare floor. Smell of disinfectant is strong, just like at your place. Only, this isn't your place. You've never been here before.

You're slowly opening your eyes, trying to adjust to a blindingly white light. Your ankles are tied with heavy chains. They hurt, but you can't move.

And you were thinking life couldn't possibly suck more than it already has.

You see that you're not alone.

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **Have you ever thought about what it would be like to just simply disappear? Have you tried it? How would you do that?**
- **Are you responsible for your mother's death? Do you like it?**
- **Are you responsible for your wife's death? Do you like it?**
- **What do you think about people who don't have such a burden on their soul? How do you react to them?**

Robert Sedmak / Lucija Sedmak

You have a good job, with possible promotion coming up. Nice family, healthy and merry kids. A house in the suburbs. Quiet life and, quite possibly, peaceful future. Until you grow old and enjoy retirement.

If only. Instead, the whole world came tumbling down on you.

The trouble started as occasional pain in your back. "Nothing to worry about", said your doctor. But the pain came back more frequently and was more intense.

You did the medical tests. And got the results back. Was it yesterday? Two days ago? A week, perhaps? You don't remember. You went out of the doctor's office with the diagnosis in your hands, got into the car and threw them on the back seat. And then you drove away. Until you've found yourself on a parking lot in, right next to a big shopping mall in the suburbs.

You got out of the car, stepped into the flow of shoppers going into the building. And then - darkness. Until now.

You're waking up. You're on a cold, bare floor. Somewhere in the shopping mall, perhaps? It's hard to tell. You don't recognise the room you're in. Your back hurt like hell. You're trying to adjust to a blinding white light. Your ankles hurt. You're chained to the wall. Can't move.

There's a sound of heavy breathing. You're not alone.

- **What do you appreciate the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What bothers you the most when other people are concerned?**
- **What is your greatest fear?**
- **What is your greatest dream?**
- **What were the results of the medical tests? Which illness do you have? How much time do you have left?**
- **When you think about the future, how do you feel?**
- **What are you prepared to do in order to get better?**
- **How do you feel about healthy people?**