

THE TRAVELING COMPANION

Fragment of a play

ANNA-LOTTA. I spent the whole night thinking: who's the girl? Could it be Brigitta, the one with the D-cup or Lina – the only girl in their gang who has tattoos all over her face and body? And couple of days later I saw him in the restroom. I mean I saw his snickers. We have uhm... same sex bathrooms, you know. The stalls are separate, of course, and you can lock the door, but the door doesn't go down to the floor, there's a small opening, and you can see the person's shoes. So I saw the Boss' snickers – he has skulls on them, so they stand out. And there was another pair of shoes, right next to the Boss' snickers, and uhm... they were not girl's shoes, they were guy shoes, I could tell, and not just by the size... And it was obvious that one of them is bent down, and the other one is behind... There were no noises: they heard the door opening, so they were very quiet. It was after the end of classes, so they didn't really expect anyone. I uhm... I had a nosebleed, cause I spent the whole night trying to guess who's the person the Boss is fucking with, and I didn't get any sleep, and that's what happens to me when I don't get sleep – I get a nosebleed. So that's how I found out who's the person the Boss is fucking with... I mean, I didn't understand who the guy was, but it... it was a guy! *(Pause)*

I ran out of the restroom, screaming, my face covered in blood, cause I didn't get to wash it off... I was running down the hallway and I bumped into Kalle and Markus – two guys from the gang, and they asked me what was the matter with me, and I was stupid enough to blurt it out – I just told them what I saw. But I didn't know what would happen next. I swear, I didn't! They were so shocked, they went crazy – started running towards the restroom, and I ran after them, yelling: “What are going to do? What are you going to do?!” They ran into the restroom, and I got scared, I ran away, and the last thing I heard was: “So you're a fag, huh? Our Boss is a fucking fag!” *(Pause)*

I ran into an empty classroom and cried my brains out, then it hit me: daddy must be waiting for me. He had this hobby – picking me up from school. He did it on purpose, cause he realized how embarrassed I was when people stared at his fucking tesla... Nobody in Sorgenfri has this kind of money, not even close, I'm totally a black sheep. Of course, I only went there to spite daddy – he wanted me to go to Carl Johans, obviously. But I know how to get my way, I said: it's either Sorgenfri or I start working at McDonalds. He gave up. And I was kind of looking forward to the headlines: «The Mayor's Daughter Goes to Sorgenfri», and it felt good that I managed to get into the lousiest high school in town, though I still think it's a hundred times better than this stupid, snotty Carl Johans, and the people here are OK, even the Boss– he's a gangster, but he's a real mensch. He was. *(Pause)*

When I came out to the school's yard, people were already talking about the Boss and about how gruesomely he was killed. Marcus and Kalle confessed right away, they pissed themselves the minute they've realized what they've done... You probably know – you must have read about it – it was in the papers all over the country, it was in the news... Oh, Jesus. When Marcus and Kalle broke into the restroom, the Boss was right next to the sink, washing his Johnson, and that other guy was gone – he was smart enough to take off. They started fighting, and Marcus banged the Boss's head against the sink. He didn't mean to kill him – that's what he said in court – but he did...