

6. GOING DOWN

The view from the top floor of Boden Towers was especially spectacular this evening. The city of Toronto lay below it, and as Olivia watched, the dark sky suddenly **came alive**¹ with the colourful light of a hundred fireworks.

"It's time," she heard Eve say.

Olivia didn't move but lifted her glass of champagne to her lips and drank. "Well?" Eve said, and in the **reflection**² of the glass Olivia saw the younger woman move to the large table and sit down. "**What's the rush?**"³ Kent asked, pouring himself another large whisky and joining Olivia at the window.

"The rush," said another voice, and Olivia turned and smiled at Marcus as he pushed the door of the **boardroom**⁴ open, "is that we need to do this now, ladies and gentlemen. It'll only take a moment, Eve, but it's going to change the rest of our lives."

Somewhere at the back of the room Olivia heard the last of them, Harry, laugh. "Oh yeah? How's that?"

Marcus said nothing for a moment but poured himself a brandy and held the drink up to the light. "It's going to make us rich, Harry. Richer than we could ever imagine."

Harry laughed again. "I'm already richer than I ever imagined."

Marcus **nodded**⁵. "It's nothing compared to what we will soon have." The **seriousness**⁶ in Marcus' voice made Kent and

- 1 to come alive - *életre kel*
- 2 reflection - *tükörkép*
- 3 What's the rush? - *Mi ez a nagy sietség?*
- 4 boardroom - *tárgyalóterem*
- 5 to nod - *bólint*
- 6 seriousness - *komolyság*

Olivia turn back to the room. Marcus **gestured for them**¹ to join him at the table, and as they all moved to the seats Olivia took a moment to look at her business partners.

Eve was the youngest, only in her late thirties; attractive, stylish, **calculating**². She'd done some terrible things to become a partner so quickly; but of course, they all had. Recently, Olivia had begun to **suspect that**³ Eve was sleeping with Marcus. She couldn't be sure, but if it was true, Olivia would have to watch them both much more carefully.

Next, her **thoughts turned to**⁴ Kent, with his greying beard, calm green eyes and **tanned**⁵ face, he was the only person in the room she might call a friend. They had climbed the **corporate ladder**⁶ together, **destroying**⁷ more than a few people's lives as they went.

She let her eyes move to Harry. He was the **odd one out**⁸, she knew. The others had all worked for their money, Harry had **inherited**⁹ his; all 600 million dollars of it. In his mid-forties, he was a good-looking man with an easy smile and **slicked back**¹⁰ black hair.

And then there was Marcus. Tall, golden-haired, blue-eyed; he was in his early fifties, but when he smiled, he looked twenty years younger. Now, like the rest of them, he was in his **evening wear**¹¹; a smart black **tuxedo**¹² with the collar open and the **bowtie**¹³ **loose**¹⁴. If she didn't know him, she might think he

1 to gesture for sb. to do sth. - jelt ad valakinek valamire

2 calculating - számító

3 to suspect that - gyanítja, hogy

4 one's thoughts turn to sb./sth. - valakinek a gondolatai valami/valaki felé irányulnak

5 tanned - napbarnított

6 corporate ladder - ranglétra

7 to destroy - tönkretesz

8 the odd one out - kívülálló, kakukktojás

9 to inherit - örököl

10 slicked back - hátrafésült

11 evening wear - alkalmi öltözet

12 tuxedo - szmoking

13 bowtie - csokornyakkendő

14 loose - lazán

was a movie star or foreign prince. But he wasn't, of course, she thought as she sat down; he was one of the most dangerous businessmen in the world.

"So," asked Harry. "What are we doing here?"

"This is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity**¹," said Marcus. "I have a **proposition**² for you all. A deal that can make each one of us a billion dollars."

No one laughed. No one smiled. When Marcus talked about money, you knew he was serious.

"Whose money is it?" asked Kent, after a moment.

Marcus nodded. "A small island nation. They're having some financial difficulties. Boden Ltd is going to offer to help them with this situation. By **investing**³ the **majority of our capital**⁴ we can **stabilise**⁵ their country for the next five years."

"And?" asked Harry. "Why do we want an island?"

"We don't. We want **investors**⁶. People will invest with us because they'll think there's an **untapped source of oil**⁷ on the island."

"Is there?" asked Kent, his voice low and serious.

Marcus turned to look at him. "No."

Kent smiled. "And when do we start to make money?"

"In five years, we'll **liquidate**⁸ everything we have on the island. We'll say no oil was found. We'll be able to take back everything we've invested in the island and a huge profit."

There was silence for a moment, then: "And the people of the island? How many lives will this destroy?" asked Eve, the expression on her face **difficult to read**⁹.

Marcus turned and looked at her. "Hundreds of thousands."

1 **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** - egyszeri lehetőség az életben

2 **proposition** - ajánlat, javaslat

3 **to invest** - befektet

4 **the majority of our capital** - a tőke nagy része

5 **to stabilise (BE), stabilise** - stabilizál

6 **investor** - befektető

7 **untapped source of oil** - kiaknázatlan olajmező

8 **to liquidate** - likvidál, felszámol

9 **difficult to read** - (itt:) kiismerhetetlen

There were more questions, a lot of them. But, after an hour of speaking, Marcus looked at them all and smiled. "Remember, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Does anyone not want us to do this?" When no one spoke, he nodded his head. "Then you know what I need you to do." He took his mobile phone from his pocket and passed it to Kent.

Kent **hesitated**¹. "Why tonight? Why New Year's Eve?"

"The opportunity to invest in the island opened at midnight. There are other companies interested."

Kent pressed a button on the phone and held it up to his eye. When he saw a green light appear, he smiled and passed the phone to Olivia.

"Well, here's to a very happy new year," she said, and let the phone **scan**² her eye too. Harry was next, then Eve.

Finally, Marcus took his phone back and scanned his own eye. "Thank you for your **cooperation**³," he said.

"So how about we go and celebrate?" asked Harry.

"Sounds like a good idea," said Kent.

They walked to the elevator together, Harry picking up a bottle of scotch as they went. When he reached the metal doors, he pressed the button and stepped back as the doors opened. "Well ladies," he said with a smile. "Going down?"

It was a **spacious**⁴ and modern elevator, with mirrors on the walls and a monitor that showed which floor you were on. Olivia touched the screen and the elevator began to move.

"Well, I've got to say, that's one of the best meetings I've ever had, Marcus," Harry joked.

"Really? He didn't even **put out**⁵ any food for us." Kent laughed.

"True. But the **refreshments**⁶ were pretty good," Harry

1 to hesitate - *habozik*

2 to scan - *szkennel*

3 cooperation - *együttműködés*

4 spacious - *tágas*

5 to put sth. out for sb. - *kirak valakinek valamit*

6 refreshments (pl.) - *frissítő ital*

replied, taking a long drink from the whisky. "So, what's the..."

Suddenly, the elevator **lurched to a stop**¹, and the lights **flickered**² and went out. "Jesus!" Olivia heard Harry shout. "I nearly dropped the **goddam**³ whisky."

"What's happening?" asked Eve, an **edge of fear**⁴ in her voice.

"It's probably just a **power cut**⁵," said Marcus.

"Yeah? Where's the **backup generator**⁶? The emergency lights?" Almost as soon as Kent said this, red lights appeared on the four sides of the elevator, making the elevator seem **oddly sinister**⁷.

"There," said Marcus. "Try the monitor, Eve."

Eve pressed a button on the monitor, but nothing happened.

"Just press for the ground floor," said Harry.

"I'm pressing it," Eve **snapped**⁸. "Nothing's happening."

"It's nothing to worry about," Marcus repeated. "They just need a minute **to get everything online**⁹ again."

"Wait," said Olivia. "The monitor's **coming back on**¹⁰."

"Thank God for that," said Eve. "Hello? Can you hear us? We're **trapped**¹¹ in the elevator, somewhere near the 60th floor and..."

Kent **pushed past**¹² her and started pressing at the buttons. "There," he said, and the image of an empty room appeared. "It must be the control centre. Where's the goddam **security guard**¹³? Hey! Can you hear us? We're in the..." But the words stopped in his mouth. Someone had moved in front of the

1 to lurch to a stop - hirtelen megáll

2 to flicker - pislákol

3 goddam (vulg.) - átkozott (vulg.)

4 edge of fear - kezdődő aggodalom

5 power cut - áramkimaradás

6 backup generator - tartalékgenerátor

7 oddly sinister - különösen félelmetes

8 to snap - (itt:) felcsattan

9 to get sth. online - helyreállítja az összeköttetést

10 to come back on - ismét működik

11 to be trapped - csapdában van, beragad valahová

12 to push past sb. - félreitol valakit

13 security guard - biztonsági őr

camera, but it was not the security guard. The **figure**¹, whoever it was, was wearing black clothes and a white mask.

“Good evening” a voice said, the sound strange and **artificial**².

“What the fuck is this?” Harry said.

“This,” said the voice “is an opportunity.”

Marcus pushed past Kent. “Listen very carefully to me,” he said, his voice low and dangerous. “I don’t know what you think you’re doing, but you’re making a mistake. Each of us has bodyguards. They’re waiting for us on the ground floor of this building. One call, and they’ll **come for you**³. Now, all you’ve done is stop an elevator. If you don’t do anything else, you can still walk away.”

“What do you mean?” asked Olivia. “What does he want?”

Marcus **ignored**⁴ her. “Well?”

The person in the mask moved closer to the camera. “Like I said, this is an opportunity. You could even call it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. All you have to do is give me access to all of the Boden accounts. You know how to do that. I need one of you to use your phone to scan each of your eyes. You have five minutes to do this. After five minutes, if you have not done this, the elevator will fall.”

The monitor suddenly **cut out**⁵, and for a moment there was silence. “Right, I’m calling my men,” said Harry. He took a small black box from his pocket and pressed a button on it. “There’s a GPS chip in there. They’ll be here in no more than 2 minutes.”

“Yeah. How? The other elevator? If this **psycho**⁶ is controlling this one, he’s probably controlling the other one too,” said Eve.

“Jesus,” said Harry. “What the fuck are we going to do?”

1 **figure** – *alak*

2 **artificial** – *mesterséges*

3 **to come for sb.** – *elkap valakit*

4 **to ignore sb.** – *ignorál, figyelmen kívül hagy*

5 **to cut out** – *kikapcsol*

6 **psycho** – *pszichopata*

The others started to speak, but they were **cut off**¹ by the sound of Marcus' **deep rich laugh**². "We're not going to do anything," he said. "Do you hear me?" he said, looking up at the security camera. "Kill us and you get nothing. It's a **lose-lose situation**³. You'll walk away from here without a single dollar, and every cop on the planet will be looking for you. Is that what you want? No, you won't kill us. You haven't got the..." Suddenly, the elevator began to fall, and the five of them **stumbled backwards**⁴ and fell to the floor screaming. For three seconds they fell, then the elevator stopped.

"Is that it?" Marcus shouted after a moment. "Is that your great plan? You won't do it. As soon as we die, you don't have a way of getting the money. And soon our security will be here, or the cops. All we have to do is wait." In the red lights, Olivia saw Marcus smile, but the **expressions**⁵ on the faces of the others were far from happy.

"You don't know that!" Harry said. "You don't know he won't kill us!"

"Harry's right. We need to do what he says," added Eve.

"Shut up. All of you," Marcus snapped, his smile gone. "I don't want to hear another word from you. This is what he wants. If one of us agrees, the others are in more danger." He looked up at the camera then. "Go on. Do it."

Eve stood and looked up at the camera too. "Don't do anything. He doesn't speak for us. Look, I can give you money. I can give you..."

"Shut up, Eve," snapped Kent. "Marcus is right."

"Shut up?" said Eve, her voice high and **hysterical**⁶. "We're about to die, you idiot. We need to get out of here. We need

- 1 to be cut off - (itt:) félbeszakít
- 2 deep, rich laugh - mély, öblös nevetés
- 3 lose-lose situation - mindenki számára vesztes helyzet
- 4 to stumble backwards - hátrátántorodik
- 5 expression - (arc) kifejezés
- 6 hysterical - hisztérikus

to...” She had turned to the door and was trying to pull it open when, suddenly, the power came back on.

“Look, it’s okay,” Harry said. “Maybe that’s my security team. Maybe...” But before he could finish, the doors of the elevator opened, and the figure in the mask **reached forwards**¹ and pulled Eve out, her screams filling the corridor beyond.

Marcus and Kent pushed themselves off the floor, but before they could do anything the doors closed and the power was cut off again, and for a moment all they could hear was Eve screaming from behind the metal.

“Fuck!” shouted Harry, who **crawled away**² from the doors. “What do we do? What are they going to do to her?” Eve’s screams had stopped now, but Marcus and Kent were still **banging on**³ the doors and trying to pull them open.

“They’re not going to do anything,” said Marcus, but he **sounded less sure**⁴ now.

“Look!” said Olivia. “The monitor!”

The screen came on, and after a second the masked figure **moved into view**⁵. “I wanted all of you to have this opportunity, but I see that can’t happen. I’ll give you one more chance to scan your eyes and give me control of Boden Ltd. Well?” No one said anything, and when Olivia opened her mouth Marcus raised a finger **to silence**⁶ her. “I see. You think I won’t hurt you. Well, I know everything about each of you. I know what you’ve done. I know how many people you’ve hurt, how many lives you have destroyed. You should all die, but I’ll **spare**⁷ you for **access**⁸ to the money you’ve stolen over the years. Well, I’ll spare most of you.” Suddenly, the camera turned around and

- 1 to reach forwards – előre nyúl
- 2 to crawl away – elmászik
- 3 to bang on sth. – üt valamit
- 4 to sound less sure – bizonytalanabban hangzik
- 5 to move into view – a látótérbe lép
- 6 to silence sb. – elhallgattat
- 7 to spare – megkímél
- 8 access – hozzáférés

focused on the face of Eve, whose mouth was **covered in tape**¹. “But I understand now that you need to see that I’m serious. Maybe this will **convince**² you.” And without another word a knife appeared on the screen and cut across Eve’s neck. Thick blood poured from the cut and her eyes filled with pain and shock.

“No!” Harry and Olivia screamed.

“You idiot,” Marcus shouted after a minute. “Now you’ll never get a goddam cent from us.”

The masked man appeared on the screen. “I think I will. You see, if I have to come and take you one at a time, that’s what I’ll do. It will be much **messier**³, but the result will be the same.” And the masked figure held up Eve’s mobile phone. “I scanned her eye myself. That’s one, but I still need four more. You have two minutes.” And with that, the screen **went blank**⁴.

“You...” said Harry, turning to Marcus. “This is your fault!” For once, Marcus was silent.

“We have to do this,” said Olivia. “If we give him control, and live, maybe there’s something we can do about this. But...if we die...like Eve...” she stopped there, unable to say anything else.

“You’re right,” Harry said. “We’ll find this psycho. **We’ll make him pay**⁵. But for now, we have to do this. Kent?”

The older man nodded his head and took his phone from his pocket. When Olivia nodded too, Kent put the phone to his eye and waited for the green light. His hands were **shaking**⁶ as he passed it to Olivia, and after she had finished, Harry took it from her and scanned his eye too. “Marcus,” he said, his voice calmer now.

Marcus turned to them, his eyes filling with tears. “I didn’t think he’d kill her,” he said. “I didn’t know. I didn’t...”

- 1 to be covered in tape - ragasztószalaggal leragasztva
- 2 to convince - meggyőző
- 3 messier (comp.) - piszkosabb; (itt:) zűrösebb
- 4 to go blank - elsötétül (képernyő)
- 5 We’ll make him pay. - Ezért még megfizet.
- 6 to shake - remeg

Harry held out the phone. "I know, Marcus. We all know." Marcus took the phone, **wiped his eyes**¹, and waited for the light.

"There," said Kent. "We've done it. What now?"

Nothing happened for a moment, but then the monitor turned on and they could see the masked figure once more. "Good," he said. "That's good. I'm very happy that you accepted this opportunity. Your lives will never be the same again."

"Yeah, well, neither will yours," said Harry, **bitterly**². "You've killed someone. And for what? Money?"

The figure in the mask shook his head. "No. Not for money. For the people. For the people whose lives you've destroyed. For the people whose lives you were going to destroy. That island you wanted to take control of will be safe now. We've already **cancelled that transaction**³. And soon we'll return money to as many people as possible. To the people Boden Ltd has hurt over the years. To people..." the figure stopped for a moment. "To people like my family. You destroyed us years ago, and all I've ever thought about is **revenge**⁴. Now, I have it, and **countless**⁵ others will too."

Harry shook his head. "Do you really think you're doing something good? That you're some kind of Robin Hood? You killed her! You killed Eve!" he shouted.

"Wait," said Marcus, at the back of the elevator. "Wait. You said *we've*. You said *we've* already cancelled that transaction. Who's helping you? Who told you about the island? No one knew about that. No one except for..."

Marcus stopped speaking; his face suddenly confused. Then, there was the sound of gentle laughter from somewhere **off-**

1 **to wipe one's eyes** - megtörli a szemét

2 **bitterly** - keserűen

3 **to cancel a transaction** - visszavonja a tranzakciót

4 **revenge** - bosszú

5 **countless** - megszámlálhatatlan

screen¹, and slowly the camera moved, and a familiar face came into view. "Always so clever, Marcus," said Eve.

There was still blood on her neck, but there was no cut there, no **wound**². "Yes, you told me about the island. Just me. And you guys should know; he never wanted you to see a single cent of that money. He said that in five years it would be just me and him."

"You bitch," Harry said. "You evil bitch."

"Oh, Harry," Eve said into the camera. "I'd like to say I'm sorry, but that wouldn't be true. You see, when I finally realised what monsters we all were, I knew that the only way to **find peace**³ was to stop all this. To stop you. To pay back the people whose lives we've **ruined**⁴."

"You won't get away with this," Marcus said. "You should never have shown your face. We'll find you."

"Marcus," Olivia said.

"We'll **hunt**⁵ you like a dog. And when we find you, we'll kill you, and we'll kill that **coward**⁶ in the mask, and we'll take back every dollar from every company, every family."

"Marcus, shut up!" Olivia shouted.

"And before we stop, we'll make sure every one of those companies is destroyed, and anyone you've helped is **left without a cent**⁷."

"Shut up!" Olivia cried again. "You're going to make her..."

"They'll **rot**⁸ in the streets and it will all be because of you!"

Eve said nothing for a moment, but Olivia saw a strange expression enter her eyes, and she almost looked sad for a moment. "You know Marcus, I had a horrible feeling you might say that." She smiled, then nodded to the masked man

1 off-screen - képernyőn kívül

2 wound - seb

3 to find peace - békére lel

4 to ruin - tönkretesz, lerombol

5 to hunt - üldöz

6 coward - gyáva alak

7 to be left without a cent - egy fillérje sem marad

8 to rot - rohad

off-screen. "So, I guess I'll see you all in hell...but you guys will be there first. Going down?"

And this time, when the elevator fell, it didn't stop until it had crashed into the ground...sixty floors below.



→ Torontó ugyan nem Kanada fővárosa, mégis ez az ország legsűrűbben lakott városa. A tőzsde és emellett öt fontos kanadai bank, továbbá nagy multinacionális vállalatok székhelye is egyben. Mindez nagyon forgalmassá és élénkké teszi a várost. Különféle gazdasági ágazatai sok ambiciózus és gátlástalan embert is odavonzanak, akik megpróbálják uralni az éppen aktuális piacot, és hírnevet szerezni maguknak.