
9. D O N ' T M O V E !

It feels like¹ ice-cold water.

One moment you are asleep², your dreams calm and gentle and your body warm in the blankets of your bed. The next moment you are awake³, a horrible sensation⁴ filling your body, and you are sure that ice-cold water is covering you.

But it is not.

No, it is something much worse. Something that makes your heart beat faster. Something that makes the hairs on your arms stand up⁵ and that makes your eyes search the horrible, complete darkness of your room.

No, it is not ice-cold water: it is fear⁶.

And for a few moments you are so afraid that you cannot think. You know you are still in your bed, still in your house, still in your quiet street in the north of Manchester. And you want to tell yourself to relax, that everything is okay, and to close your eyes and return to your calm and gentle dreams.

But you cannot.

No, you cannot, because you know that everything is not okay. You know that you are awake because something woke you.

Some noise. Some movement. *Somebody*.

And you try to remember what it was, but you cannot.

1 It feels like... - Olyan érzés, mintha...

2 to be asleep - alszik

3 awake - éber

4 sensation - érzés

5 to make sb.'s hair stand up - libabőrös lesz

6 fear - félelem

So, you lie¹ there, and, you let your eyes adjust² to the dark. And you do not tell yourself to relax, you do not tell yourself that everything is okay, and you do not tell yourself to return to your calm and gentle dreams.

You tell yourself this: don't move!

The blanket of your bed is covering all of you except for³ your head, and part of you thinks that this is good. Part of you wants to cover your head too. To hide, to be completely silent and to wait.

But another part of you wants to know.

Needs to know.


So you listen, and you look, and you try to remember what it was that woke you. A dog outside in the street? The alarm of a car? A baby crying in the next house?

Or something closer? Something inside the house? The sound of breaking glass? The noise⁴ of the front door opening? A voice in the dark?

So you do not move, but you let your eyes adjust, and soon the complete darkness is not so complete. And you can see your room now, though⁵ everything seems strange and different, and everything makes you feel more afraid.

The door of your wardrobe⁶ is open, and the clothes inside look like three or four small burglars⁷ watching you. The lamp in the corner of the room looks like the tall, silent figure⁸ of a murderer, and the coat on the back of your door has hands that almost touch you.

But this is just your imagination, your fear, and you know that and try to stay calm and focussed.

- 
- 1 to lie - fekszik
 - 2 to adjust to - hozzászokik valamihez
 - 3 except for - kivéve valamit
 - 4 noise - zaj
 - 5 though - bár
 - 6 wardrobe - ruhásszekrény
 - 7 burglar - betörő
 - 8 figure - alak

So you listen, and you think that everything seems to be normal. Inside the room everything is silent, apart from the slow and constant tick of the small clock on the wall, and the fast, irregular beat of your heart.

You try to see the clock in the dark, but it is impossible, and you think that it must be somewhere between four and six o'clock: the darkest hours of the night when even the lively and vibrant¹ city of Manchester sleeps.

Yes, outside the house the streets are silent. There are no shouts or loud voices coming from university students returning home from the pubs and bars. There is not yet the sound of the milk van² or rubbish collectors³. And there is no birdsong to let you know that the sun and the new day are nearly here.

You can imagine the street outside: twenty terraced houses⁴ stretching down the road. Small houses, with neither rich nor⁵ poor people inside them. All with tidy and ordinary gardens and ordinary cars. All silent and all dark.

You think that if you scream, someone will hear you.

But you are not sure. Not completely sure.

And so you wait, and you listen, and you look, and you tell yourself one more time...

Don't move!

After a few more moments, you begin to feel a little more relaxed. The street is silent and the house is too. Maybe it was only a bad dream that woke you. Maybe it was a text on your mobile phone. Maybe it was an animal in the garden.

And then you think of Sophie, your cat. But you know that the noise was not her. You know that Sophie is sleeping in her usual position at the top of the stairs and that she never makes a noise in the night, and you wish, for the first time, that you

1 **vibrant** - *lűktető*

2 **van** - *fűrgőn*

3 **rubbish collector** - *szemétszállító*

4 **terraced house** - *sorház*

5 **neither... nor** - *sem... sem*

also had a dog. A large brave¹ dog to bark and growl² at any intruders³. Yes, a brave dog to protect you instead of just a lazy⁴ cat that lies in dangerous places.

And you almost smile, and you relax a little more.

It was just a bad dream, you think. And your heart slows, and the sensation of ice-cold fear begins to leave you.

And now you move. You pull the covers down to your chest⁵ and make yourself comfortable again. And you know that you can rest now: everything is okay. And your eyes close, and you feel sleep begin to take you.

And then you hear it!

There! A sound! Not a dream, but movement in the spare room⁶, where you keep the computer!

Don't move! Part of you says, the part that feels the sensation of cold water on your skin again.

But there is another part of you now, and it is not cold with fear: it is hot. Hot with anger. Because you know now that someone is in your house.

A burglar! Someone is here to steal your things!

Don't move! Part of you says again.

But you do.

Quietly, you move the blankets from your body, and you take the dressing gown⁷ from the end of your bed and put it on. You know you should call the police, but you need to do something more, something quick.

At the side of your bed, there is a table, and on the table there is a small statue. It is a statue of a woman, and it is your favourite statue.

- 1 brave - bátor
- 2 to growl - morog
- 3 intruder - betörő
- 4 lazy - lusta
- 5 chest - mellkas
- 6 spare room - vendégszoba
- 7 dressing gown - fürdőköpeny

It is also a very heavy statue.

You pick it up, hold it like a club¹ and swing² it.

Yes, it is heavy enough. One hit to the head.

But can you do it? Can you hit someone? Can you hit a burglar?

Then you hear another noise from the spare room.

My computer, you think. My new computer.

And then you know that yes, you can do it if you need to. If you have to³. If there is someone in the next room trying to steal your new computer. Someone who thinks they can enter your house in the middle of the night!

What if there are two people? Two burglars? Or three?

Don't move! The scared⁴ part of you says.

But you must. You walk silently to the door of your room. You quietly open it, just a little, just so you can see the dark landing⁵.

Now you can hear the movement more easily. There are no voices. No reason for you to think that there is more than one burglar. You open the door a little more and step out onto the landing. It is colder here, but you do not feel it. Your heart is beating so fast that you do not feel anything but the strange mixture of fear and anger.

You move quietly, your back to the wall. The light switch is not near your door but halfway to the stairs. The door to the spare room is half open, and you can hear the sound of the wind outside. You know now that the window to the spare room is open, and you know this is how the burglar entered.

You take one more step to the door. Your hand is nearly on the light switch when you hear another noise from the room. Then the door begins to open slowly and quietly. You want to

1 club - bunkósbót, ütő

2 to swing - lendít

3 If you have to. - Ha muszáj.

4 scared - fél, ijedt

5 landing - lépcsőforduló

turn back and run to your room and hide under the blanket and be completely silent and not move.

But this is your house, and you know you must stay!

Then, standing right in front of you in the dark, you see the burglar, and he looks back at you and shouts. You turn on the lights and swing the heavy statue in his direction, but you cannot see him now because the light is so bright. You hear your new computer fall to the floor and break, and the burglar shouts again.

And then you can see his face, and you realise¹ that he looks more afraid than you do, and he is stepping quickly backwards to the stairs. He is young: just a kid, just a stupid kid...

Then you see Sophie, in her normal place at the top of the stairs, and you see how near the burglar is. You only have time to shout two words...

"Don't move!"

But it is too late, and he does move...

And then he falls.

1 to realise - *megállapít*



➔ **Manchester** a 19. században kezdett rohamosan növekedni, főként a textilipar miatt, amely az ipari forradalom hatására kezdett ugrásszerűen fejlődni és Manchestert a világ első iparvárosává tette.

Ezek után nem véletlen, hogy az Egyesült Királyságon belül éppen Manchester vált a nők választójogáért küzdő szüfrazsett mozgalom szülőhelyévé és hogy Karl Marx és Friedrich Engels itt kezdték írni a Kommunista Kiáltványt.

Manchester ma is egyike Nagy-Britannia gazdaságilag legerősebb régióinak, a bruttó nemzeti terméket tekintve London és Birmingham után a harmadik helyet foglalja el.