

**Was awake and could watch lightning in the clouds below the plane or stars above it.**

**Before we took off I sent a text, and wrote that I was lucky, because I was on the second flight now and had gotten a window seat again: Am awake, and can watch lightning in the clouds below the plane or stars above it.**

The plane has two floors and you can walk in a circle (back and forth) between them to move. It looks big on the ground, and small in the sky. When another plane passes by outside the window, it's gone again immediately, but makes black tracks in the clouds. It looks like the ones that are white when you see them from the ground, but I don't know why they would be white from below. At one point we're flying so high, that the oxygen masks fall down. It's not dangerous, but for a moment we think that it is, and I hear someone say that now they've tried flying on a plane, that almost crashed down, but it's not true. We were just flying too high at one point, that's not very dangerous.

I once said, that I didn't understand, how there could be so few accidents in the air. I mean, how it can succeed so accurately every time. But the sky is a giant space with nothing but planes. They don't have to be especially precise, they have a huge margin of error. Somewhere while crossing the ocean the weather gets bad. It is late, but I'm awake and can watch lightning in the clouds below the plane or stars above it.

**At one point, we're flying too high and then the oxygen masks fall down. For a moment we think it's dangerous. And because we thought it was dangerous at first, we sometimes tell people we've been on a plane that almost crashed.**

**Thisis has sent me a message and asked if I want to go to the beach next week. I tell him that we'll see each other in a year.**

**There's someone who writes me and asks if I want to go to the beach one of the days, but now it's far away and doesn't matter. I answer that we'll see each other in a year.**

**I'm afraid not to remember anything.**

**Mary has two memories about her father. In one of them it's more silent in the house, than it usually was. But that she has forgotten - how it usually was. In the other he's dead, and they are standing around the bed. He's lying with his hands folded. I hate it when people sleep like that. It's so hard to see if they are dead or not.**



**In the summer we borrow a car and drive up along the coast. We sleep in a tent, and every night I make a bed for us out of our clothes.**

**We borrow a car and drive up the coast. We sleep in a tent, but don't have any air mattresses, so each night I make a bed from our clothes, and that's fine because then she lies closer to me.**

**One night I see an actor begin to cry while he stands on the stage.**

**That plant is like me - too big to be cute.**

**First time I see the mango tree in her garden, is also first time I see a mango tree at all.**

**I don't think I sleep at all.**

**Mary lives in the bush on a farm that's made of tin. I thought it was her father who built the house, but it was her mother. She also built the old house, I find out, and lived there herself, but after Mary's father died, they don't live there anymore.**

**Do you ever hear anything inside the house?**

**No, I don't think so.**

**There aren't any sounds?**

**Yeah, there are some sounds.**

**What kind of sounds?**

**I don't know, it's probably the fireplace?**

**Yeah, that's probably it.**

**Or the forest. That makes a lot of noise too.**

**Yes, it does.**



**At one point she asks:**

**Do you ever hear anything when you're in the house?**

**I tell her that: Nej det tror jeg ikke, jeg gør.**

**There aren't any sounds?**

**Jo, der er nogle lyde.**

**What kind of sounds?**

**Jeg ved det ikke. Nogle lyde fra brændeovnen. Måske plantagen.**

**Yeah, you would be able to hear that.**

**Det er jo et blikhus. Det larmer. Når der falder blade ned fra træerne eller planterne taber nogle nødder.**

**Yeah, that makes a lot of noise.**

**I only lie to be nice.**

**When I lie, it's only to be kind. For instance, when I tell you it doesn't matter that you only like me as a friend.**

**On my birthday I pick up a stone that I still have now. It's Mary who tells me to find it. She says, she thinks you can keep time within an object. One of her friends had told her that by a lake in Canada, and she had picked up a stone that fitted well within her hand and kept the lake and the friend and Canada within it. And then I take a stone that fits well within my hand and keep Mary and the coast and Australia within it.**

**I often talk about that time, but she has never told anyone.**

**Eels can be electric and they become big in the lakes. Some may be afraid of swimming into one. Into an eel or into another kind of fish. But they shouldn't be - you can tell them, that they live on the bottom only. Some may also be afraid to swim in the lake because the water is dark. If you jump in with your eyes open, you can see that it is. If you jump in with your eyes open you can also, sometimes, see an eel or another kind of fish. Only if they are right beneath you when you jump, and if you have open eyes. But everyone says, they are more afraid of you than you are of them.**

**I'm waiting for Mary to come back, but I don't know what to do when she does.**

**When Mary's father committed suicide, he hung himself in the garage and the eight dachshunds were sitting in a circle beneath the robe.**



**When Mary's father committed suicide, he hung himself in the garage and their eight dachshunds were sitting in a circle beneath the robe when Mary's mother found him. They had had gravy with orange for dinner that night, even though Mary's brother doesn't like it, and Mary says the two things continues to belong together. Afterwards there was a psychology student from the university who asked Mary if she felt like she was walking on eggshells.**

**Mary says that some doctors used to be able to smell, what was wrong with people when they were ill.**

**She says, that someone once told her, she has an abnormal course of life.**

I leave a message on her answering machine when she is asleep. Asks: Can you hear that I put Edith Piaf on in the living room? It's that song, that's called Milord. It used to be my favorite. I've turned the volume up completely. It's an old CD, it skips sometimes, but I thought that would work well over the phone. Do you think she sounds like a little girl when she's singing? When I heard it as a child, I thought she sounded like a little girl. Now I don't think so at all. But I thought: maybe she sounds like a little girl when you listen to her over the phone? Cause I know you don't understand french, and I hope you don't know Edith Piaf, and that maybe the phone scratches, so that it might be, that you also think she sounds like a little girl when she sings.

**You can call an ocean the lake, but you can never call a lake the ocean. Mary's father grew up by the lake. Him and his sister had puppy fat and rowed on the lake for a whole summer. Mary's father never became fat again.**

**Him and his sister never swam into a fish. You say: people of the lake are never home, people of the lake are on the lake. Someone has told me that Saudade is a Portuguese word that means both longing to be away and longing to be home, but I haven't checked if it's true.**

I think of lakes as being round, although they rarely are. The water in the lake is dark, but it's easier to disappear in the ocean. In the family there was also a great-great-grandfather who disappeared with his ship in a thunderstorm and another who was murdered in California.

**She has gradually taken on a sort of transparent form. Do you understand what I mean?**

**I ask her if she understands what I mean, by saying that she has gained a sort of transparent form by now.**





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