Sample translation of *Ungdomsskolen* (*Junior High*) by Anders N. Kvammen

Translated by Siân Mackie

-

Page 7

Prologue

Alright back there, Aksel?

Yeah, but my back’s getting stiff from sitting so long!

We’ll soon be at Store Rostavatn, or Rostojávri, as the Sami call it!

We’ll spend a couple days there fishing for the world’s best trout!

Better than anything on the fish counter in Youngstorget!

I don’t doubt it! Can’t wait to catch our first fish!

Here we are!

Well, Aksel? You can’t miss Karl Johans gata when you see nature like this?

Page 8

Let’s see… have you put more on, lads? The midges will eat you otherwise!

Yep! And bug spray!

Well? Ready to fish?

Totally! How about you?

Never more ready!

What you see here, Aksel, is the result of the ice age. Thousands of years ago it pushed-

Hehe, and he’s off!

Be glad he’s just your uncle! I get it every day.

Humph…

Hehehe…

Hehe…

Bacon and tomato beans will be ready soon, lads!

Hehe, no farting in the tent, please!

Haha!

Page 9

Eirik!

Oi, Dad! Aksel’s got a bite!

Wow, great! To think city boy caught the first trout!

A whopper, to be sure!

There’ll be some trout for us soon too!

Goodnight!

Goodnight!

Night, lads! Tomorrow we’ll land a big one!

Eirik?

Yes?

Page 10

You’ve not thought about moving to Oslo, then? I mean…

Now you’ll soon be done with that school…

You said that maybe…

But Aksel! You’re here now! And I can come see you in Oslo more too!

Yes… you can come more…

Now I’m starting junior high it’d have been good to have you there…

If anyone had a go, I could have rung you! That’d have taught them!

Hehe!

Junior high can be good and bad all at once. Be yourself and you’ll be fine!

You’ll be done before you know it – then it’s all about the girls.

Hehe, think so?

I guarantee it!

Did anything bite?

Page 12

Knock

Knock

Knock

Well! If it isn’t Mr Junior High?

[sign on door] Danger – high voltage!

Thanks for breakfast in bed!

Hehe, just don’t get used to it! Here’s some cocoa.

It’s a big day for your sister too! To think she’s in third grade!

Bye, champ!

Looking forward to hearing all about it later!

Bye, Aksel!

Bye! Good luck, Siri!

Sigh…

Page 13

Hiya!

Hiya!

So, you ready?

I think so…

How about you?

A bit nervous maybe…

But it’ll be great being rid of Anne!

Haha, yup!

Goodness me, settle down, class!

Hahaha! What a to-do!

Hahaha!

Page 14

Gulp!

Løkkebråten Junior High

Shit, so many people!

Hi, welcome! If you could gather in the assembly hall, that’s great!

Hi, welcome! Gather in the assembly hall. Hi, welcome…

Assembly hall, eh? Well alright, then.

Hehe!

Snort!

There’s people from our old school back there!

Hi, everyone!

I’m the head, Paul Andresen!

What’s this? Is he going to sing?

Page 15

The future stands before me! Namely, you!

Young, hopeful and eager – ready to join the ranks of adults!

… blah, blah, blah… responsibility… life… grades to set a benchmark…

… engineers, doctors, economists, architects, creative…

… blah, blah, blah… When I myself stood with my hat in my hand and…

Hope our teacher’s nice!

Yeah!

… and for that reason I’m proud to present your teachers!

… Tarald Øraker… Norwegian, social studies and history… Berit Munkeland…

They will now call their classes. When you-

-hear your name, follow your form teacher to…

Page 16

Hi, as Paul said, I’m Tarald. I’m 38 and…

… Laila Kristiansen… Karl Forsberg… Knut Eilertsen, Aksel Kvam and Nikolai Noring. You’re class 8A!

If you follow me over here, then.

Yes! Same class!

Come on, guys! Down here!

Oh, come on, Tonje!

Hey, move it!

Christ, where are we going?

How would I know?

Hey, fatso! Yes, you!

Welcome to class 8A!

[on blackboard] Welcome 8A!

Page 17

Find your seat – your desks have your names on them!

I thought we could go round and all say a bit about ourselves-

If we start down on the right…

then I’ll tell you a bit more about me to finish.

…I’m Tone and I went to Grefsted. I like music, especially Courtney Love, and I…

…called Robert and I went to Marihaugen. I play football in the evenings and…

…Laila and I like walking and handball…

…er, hi. I’m Aksel and I also went to Grefsted. I like reading comic books and also…

\*cough\* Nerd!

Hehe Haha Heehee

Oi! We don’t make such comments when others are speaking! Please continue, Aksel!

… well, I read comic books like Tintin, Sprint and Carl Bark’s Donald stories…

\*cough\* Nerd!

Haha Haha Ha!

Hey, cut it out! Sorry, Aksel, but it seems we have a wisecracker here!

Page 18

Comic books are cool!

I’ve read a lot of Donald stories! And lots of other adults like them too!

But now I think the wisecracker who interrupted Aksel should introduce himself!

Then we’ll see how interesting he is!

Hehe, sounds like a plan, Tarald! Hehe…

Jon, Jon, Jon…

I’m Jon, and I’m a downhill skier. Was junior champ this winter, hehe!

From Marihaugen…

Hmm, ok then! Great! But moving on…

Next, from Aksel onwards!

Hi, Martin here! I do some orienteering, I’m also from Grefstad…

...it was great to get to know you all a bit today! Tomorrow we’ll…

…and our teacher, Anne, was so prim and like ‘Oh my!’

Haha!

Page 19

Eh, shall we head out, then?

Er… well I was thinking of going to Stilla… Laila and Jon are going. Coming?

Or is it home to your Donald comic? Haha!

Oh, come on – we’re going to swim!

Bye!

Maybe another time…

Page 21

Well, how was it, you two?

Do tell!

Well, it was alright…

I have a new teacher!

It was alright, was it?

A brand new school in Oslo, and it’s just “alright”?

Tell us more about it!

How’s your class? And your form teacher?

They can’t be any worse than Anne. She was quite something.

My teacher’s called Tarald. He was nice.

Good!

Mine’s called Sigrunn, and she… Daaad!

And how were the other students? Did Nikolai like them?

Mum! Are you for real? I’m sure he found them OK.

Aksel! We’re going to make food at school, and…

I think you’ll be fine! Cheers!

Cheers!

Page 22

Knock Knock

Yes!?

I think you mean “come in”. Phone for you!

OK… who is it?

Come on! You can take it in our bedroom!

Er, hello?

Hi, Aksel! Congratulations on surviving your first day!

Eirik!

So how are your classmates?

They’re OK, I guess. I’m with someone from my old class. Nikolai…

Page 23

Ah, your neighbour! Nice to have a good friend in your class!

Yes…

But Aksel, I won’t be coming to Oslo this autumn. But we could go snowboarding over New Year! In Oslo or here!

Yes! Let’s!

We could do it here in Grefstad! There’s a really steep slope!

That sounds awesome! By the way, did you listen to the CD I gave you?

Nirvana, yes! They’re great! I’m listening to it on my Walkman.

Yes. Bleach is their best album!

But I gotta head. Speak to you soon!

Speak soon, Eirik!

[song lyrics in English]

Ah…

They’re so good!

Aksel?

Page 24

Turn it down a bit. It’s getting on! Time for bed soon!

Yes, Dad!

[song lyrics in English]

Groan…

Good morning! You awake, champ?

Page 25

[on building] Løkkebråten Junior High

Page 26

[sign above door] EXIT

[sign on door] Science lab

No way! For real?

Yo, asshole! How was the match?

Page 27

[on wall] Photosynthesis

Good morning, good morning!

Can you all open your science books on page 116?

Berit, hello…

I see your hand! You don’t need to shout, Jonas!

Sorry! But will we be using the bunsens today?

Does it say anything about a bunsen on page 116?

Noo…

There you go, then! Now…

[on blackboard] Reproduction

Page 28

For the next four weeks we’ll learn about reproduction.

We’ll look at nature starting with our smallest parts.

There will be a test on the material in week 48. If you can…

…I’d also like you to make posters. You’ll get into threes…

Yes, Jon?

Aksel wonders whether we’ll also learn about puberty, since he’s not started it yet!

Hey!

SHUT IT, JON! THAT’S NOT TRUE!

… says Mr squeaky voice…

Focus! Be quiet! We’ll…

Page 29

Aksel!

Going to the shop?

Yep, Rema.

You got maths now? Split class, like…

Yeah, man! Eddie’s so fucking strict.

Oh, I have Berit now for science. With Jon…

Haha, Jon’s so funny!

Haha, yeah!

Heh… yeah.

He just lets rip, doesn’t he?

I know! Were you in woodwork when he…

Page 30

… and that’s time. See you tomorrow!

[on blackboard] Norwegian

Don’t forget your homework now, guys!

We won’t!

Hear that, nerd? Mind your homework!

Haha!

Oi! Let go of me, Jon!

Hehe, your hair needs fixing, dweeb! It’s sticking up!

I said let me go, you idiot!

Relax, yeah? What’s got you?

Haha! Look, Aksel’s raging!

Ow, fuck! What the…

Jon, chill out!

What did you call me?

Shit, the hell…

Aw, look at him cry!

Page 31

Aksel!

Oh, hi Jonathan!

Have you seen my new bike?

Nice! Is it new?

Yeah, it’s a Gekko!

Awesome, was it expensive?

It cost 14,000 kroner. Got it with money from my granddad!

Wow! It’s really cool!

Thanks! It only weighs 10 kg. Shock absorbers and aluminium frame.

Awesome!

Isn’t it? See you!

Yep, bye!

Page 32

[sign over gate] Kvambu

Page 33

All OK back there?

Aksel! Turn off that Walkman now! Are you OK back there?

Yes, Mummy!

Yeeah, I’m fine!

How about we get something to eat at Valdres services?

Yay!!

[building sign] Valdres Services

I’ll have a hamburger, I think.

Does it say spaghetti there?

Are you looking forward to getting to the cabin?

Won’t it be nice to see Silje again? No doubt she’ll have a friend with her, Aksel!

Oh, I didn’t know that…

Haha! Maybe you’ll get a girlfriend, Aksel!

Whoo!

Page 34

Shut up, Siri!

Ow, that hurts!

Sorry!

Now, now! Don’t fight!

[sign on wall] Black bear

[road sign] Welcome to Fagernes

And here we are at the toll!

Page 35

[sign over gate] Kvambu

Well, now I never…

Morning, Per!

Well, hello! Great to see you!

In you come, then! The others are all out skiing, you see!

And it’s so good to see Siri and Aksel!

Good trip, I hope?

Oh yes, all good! Some traffic at Sollihøgda, but otherwise OK!

Hello?

Hellooo?

…Hello! Looks like the Oslo contingent’s here!

Well, hi there! So nice to see you!

We’re going to have a great Easter, aren’t we?

Hey, hi Anne!

Silje? Linn? Come here and say hello to our guests!

Hi! How’s it going?

This is my friend, Linn!

Hi, hi…

Page 36

…nice to meet you all! I go to school with Silje, and…

Mummy, can I have another waffle?

Oh, isn’t this just lovely!

Just take one, Siri!

More coffee, Torsen?

Yes please, Per!

Thanks!

This is my cousin!

Hi!

I’m so glad we could arrange this!

Girls? Why don’t you and Aksel go for a walk? Maybe you could go sledging?

That’s a great idea! The moon’s out and the sky’s clear! Just remember to layer up!

Yes, that’s an idea…

I’m in…

So, fancy sledging? We could go to the skiing place?

Eh, can we just walk? They’ve cleared a path up to the hotel.

So, Aksel…

You’re at junior high now, yeah?

Yes, in eighth grade.

And you like it?

Page 37

Yeah, it’s alright, I guess…

Don’t you think it’s dull? I do! Ninth grade is, anyway.

Yeah, Jesus!

Yeahh… it’s a bit shit, really…

[sign] Gomobu Mountain Lodge and Hotel

But my form teacher’s cool!

The teacher?

Yes.

Silje says you’re good at snowboarding! Maybe you could teach me some tricks?

Hehe, there’s good and there’s good… but sure, maybe… (cough!)

Cool!

[sign over gate] Kvambu

Page 38

Switch to clubs!

Oh, I had so many diamonds!

Hehe!

Well, us oldies are off to bed!

You young ‘uns should go too!

Remember tomorrow’s another day!

Alright!

Good night!

Night…

Night!

Psst!

Pssst! Aksel! You asleep?

Huh? What? Nooo…

Wanna stay up and talk?

I can’t get to sleep, see…

That’s fine – we can talk!

Page 41

… just a perfect day, problems left all alone…

Is it?

It’s so nice to hear you sing at the table – and on a Monday morning before school!

Lou Reed?

Oh, hehe. It’s so nice out! I’ll be able to take my new bike!

And it’s soon the holidays!

We’ve just had a holiday! It’s 3 April today!

So three months until our next holiday!

Yeah, yeah! But it’s not far off!

I agree! Summer’s coming! But still, I think you should wear a jumper under your coat.

Put it on! Wear a helmet and cycle carefully!

Yeeees!

Page 42

Hello!

Hey! How’s it hanging?

Huh?

How are you?

Oh. Good, thanks. You?

Good, thanks!

I was at my gran’s in Gothenburg for Easter. What did you do?

In Gothenburg? Cool! I was at the cabin.

That sounds fun!

But… how’s your class at school?

Well… not great… a lot of idiots.

Yeah… in mine too. I don’t get why they have to be so lame.

I know…

Roll on, summer!

For sure!

Page 43

[on book] A Dog’s Life

[on paper] Maths

Page 44

Nice to have you along on the walk, champ!

Yes… nice day for a walk…

Isn’t it? Let’s have some cocoa! I don’t think we’ll go far.

Sounds good!

One, two, two and a half…

Ho ho ho!!

Argh, Dad!

Check us tough guys out! What do you think the temperature was?

Dunno… 15?

Smile!

Page 46

[sign] Arrivals

Hi there!

Grandma!

Hi, Mum!

Hello!

My, my, so nice to see you, Gunhild!

Oh, oh my!

Journey good?

Oh, yes, very good.

The car’s just over here!

Your hair’s so long, Aksel! Almost like Eirik’s hair.

Hehe, yes. That’s the idea!

This is going to be great! It’s been so long since you were last here!

Page 47

Oh, my! What a lovely lunch you’ve prepared!

But of course we had to do something special for you!

More coffee, Mum?

Please! A little more won’t hurt, hehe!

So, tell me all about what’s happening with you! About school…

All OK, Aksel?

How are your grades?

Well, it’s going OK…

Eirik’s doing great at high school! Top grades mostly!

Nom nom

It’s a shame he couldn’t come as well!

Yes… but he’s busy celebrating the end of school. And he has so many exams too.

Eirik’s all done?

Page 48

Did you know that I once lived here?

Yes, Grandma!

Long before I met your granddad and moved north…

I worked as a child minder…

It was very different here back then.

We know, we know…

Grandma, grandma!

Yes, love?

My school is just over there! Can I show you?

But of course – it’s a must-see!

[on building] Risen School

Grandma! Here’s my classroom!

It looks just lovely!

I sit there!

But now I think we should have a look at Aksel’s junior high too! Your mum said it’s around here?

Yes!

No! No, I don’t want to! It’s not worth looking at!

I don’t want to! It’s not worth looking at!

Page 51

Good morning, Mum! You look tired – didn’t you sleep well?

(Yawn), no… I had a terrible nightmare, you see…

Oh no! What was it about?

Ach, it was probably nothing.

Oh, you didn’t sleep well?

Remember the big yellow house on the bend near the old school?

Where Magda lived?

I dreamt she was standing outside the house shouting at me. She said something terrible had happened.

It just felt so real.

Sigh…

But it was just a dream. No point scaring the kids!

Mum!!

Haha, come on, kids! Help your dad set the table!

Hmph…

Me too?

Yes, come on! Time for a lovely Whitsun breakfast!

Page 52

But Mum, aren’t you hungry? You’ve got a long flight ahead of you today, you know.

I’ve had enough, thanks.

Want me to butter some bread for you, Grandma?

Oh, that’s sweet of you! Alright, then. A small one with pâté.

OK!

RIIIIING!

The phone! Can you get it, Aksel?

Yes, OK…

But why do I always have to get it?

Enough of that! Do what your Mum asked!

RIIIING!

…stupid Dad…

RIIIING!

Hello?

Hellooo?

Yes? Who is it?

…

…Aksel? It’s Uncle Ragnar! I need to talk to your Mum now!

Page 53

She’s been on the phone for ages. It was Ragnar, you say?

Yes. He was a bit uppity…

Aksel…

Mum… what is it?

I… I don’t know how to tell you… (sniff)

Mum, are you crying?

All OK, love?

It’s Eirik…

What? What about him?

He got into a car with a… (sob) drunk driver… he’s… in hospital in a coma, and…

What?

No!

No, Aksel, (sob)… come here, stay with us!

Aksel?

Let go of me!!

Page 54

Aksel! Come back!!

Aaaargh!!

Fuck, fuck, fuck!

Page 55

Mum? Hello?

Aksel! Come in here and sit with us! We need to stick together now!

But… I just want to be alone in my room!

Oh, Aksel! Can’t you see I’m in pain? I need you to sit with us!

But I can’t just sit here while you lot cry! I… I just can’t!

(sob, sniff) But Aksel…

Mum? Are you OK?

Aksel. Shall we go for a drive?

[sign] Burger Specialist / Burgers-chips-kebabs-pizza

[vending machine] Mineral water

[menu] Menu

Page 56

Hello! Not cycling today?

Nah… I’m being picked up today.

OK… why’s that?

Eh… I’m going to a funeral in Northern Norway.

Oh. Who is it who died?

My cousin… in a car accident.

He was in a coma for seven hours. Then he died.

Oh, man…

[sign] Løkkebråten Junior High

Page 57

[on paper] sine

Hehe!

Heh…

Hey, Aksel?

Huh?

Are you blind, or what?

Haha!

Hey!!? What the hell?

And then there was light! And God said…

Heh… use my hat, Jon.

For fuck’s sake – stop it!

Don’t be so cranky, man!

Jon!

Ahh! Christ!

Jon, give it a rest!

I’m so fucking tired of you! You and this entire fucking school!

Hey, calm it!

Yo, I was just messing…

Maybe, but I’m not fucking laughing!

Huh…

Wow, what was that all about?

Page 59

[airport sign] Evenes Airport

Page 60

Wow, it’s still snowing, huh?

Yes – still a lot in the mountains.

Toot toot

I thought about stopping at the bend… where it happened.

Yes, oh, we must!

Page 61

All OK? What do you think, shall we walk the rest?

Page 62

Let us know if we can help at all!

Yes, let us know!

Lovely cakes, Nina! Really!

No, no, don’t worry. You’ll get to help in due course. You’re our guests here!

I think you should ask your uncle if there’s anything you can do!

Er, Uncle? Is there anything I can help with?

Yes! Maybe there is! Are you good with tech?

Yes, I’m alright…

Eirik was in the middle of a car game. But I don’t know how to start it.

Did you find it?

Hmm… it must be this! Need for speed!

I’ll get a chair too!

Page 63

Oh, well done!

Thanks, let’s see if you can top it!

Playing a game?

Well, are you kids playing video games? How nice!

Yes, it’s fun!

It’s so nice having you and Siri here!

Yes, really!

Oops, I need to go shopping before the mob arrives for coffee later – want to come, Aksel?

Sure, why not?

Great! Do you want to play, Siri?

Yes!

Sit up front!

See that mountain there?

Yes!

Page 64

Earlier in the spring Eirik and a friend climbed it with snowshoes on and snowboards on their backs.

Nina and I stood waiting down on the foreshore. We could just see two dots sliding down.

Wow! That would have been fun!

I’ll take you up sometime.

Great!

Page 65

Aksel!

Eirik?

You mustn’t be sad.

See you.

Knock knock

Aksel, get your suit on!

Page 67

[hymn]

Entrust your days and burdens

To God’s most loving hand;

He cares for you while ruling

The sky, the sea, the land.

Page 68

[sign on building] Community Centre

Page 70

Very good, Aksel! Hold that course while I raise the sail!

This is just great!

Page 71

Back to the grind, then…

Something occurred to me.

This summer we should do something really nice together.

We could go south to Greece, or…

Yes…

To Greece? Yes!

Yes! Hooray!!

Hehe, yes, that might be a good idea!

We can have a look at prices and things…

It’ll be nice not to just go to the cabin for our holiday!

Page 73

Good morning, guys!

Hey, listen up! Still a few weeks to go until the holidays!

Focus, focus, focus!

Thank you! As you know, it’s time for midterms.

So on Monday you’ll be pulled out of a class.

Page 74

Hi!

Hello! How’s things?

Good, thanks! All good!

You?

Yeah, alright!

Well, if it isn’t bike boy?

Cool bike! Was it expensive?

Yes… fairly…

Awesome!

Can I have a shot?

Well, maybe… I should…

Aren’t we going cycling?

Chill out, dude! Let Runar have a go, yeah?

Yeah, go on!

Page 75

Well… OK, then.

I’ll need your helmet too! Don’t wanna crack my skull!

Haha!

Hehe, cool shock absorbers on this!

Do a trick, then!

Nice! It’s quite something!

Awesome!

Hey! I’m gonna be late! Can I get my bike back?

Hey, relax, yeah?

What the hell!

Haha!!

Give me my bike!

Relax!

Page 76

You want your bike back?

Runar, come on! Let’s go!

Please give it back!

Hey! Come on, for fuck’s sake!

Well, come and get it then!

I need to go now!

Runar, I’m going! Your bag’s here!

Come get it, then, big man!

No!

Sorry, it slipped!

Just fucking stop!

Page 77

CLANG!

What a shame! You shouldn’t have nagged, should you?

See you, faggots!

Huff… I’m tired of this… I should have done something…

It’s fine.

Sigh…

Bye…

Bye!

Page 80

Hello?

[sign on door] Danger – high voltage!

Mum? Dad? Siri?

Happy birthday!

Tooot

Wow! But it’s not til next week!

We thought we’d celebrate today since we’re travelling on the day itself!

Page 81

OMG?!

Siri, for real?

Yes! You like it?

A snorkel and mask – of course I like it! I love it!

It’s not over yet!

Aksel, love, happy birthday! Wishing you a great summer!

Oh, yes! Actual flippers!!

Thank you!

Frogman feet!

The Adriatic awaits you!

It fits!

Hahaha!

Thank you sooo much!

It wasn’t much! Now who’s for cake?

Page 83

Man, it’s so hot!

Not far now! The ferry’s just round the bend!

Let’s see…

Tor! There it is!

That boat? But… that’s just an old rust bucket!

That’s it, yes…

Don’t you worry, mister! We’ll only be on it a few hours!

Yes, but there’s only old Greeks in line. I thought we were going somewhere cool.

Huh!

Watch it! No more negativity from you, mister!

Page 84

Aksel!

Wow!

This view isn’t bad, is it? Even though the ship’s old? Right?

Page 85

Hotel? Hostel?

What? Didn’t you book a hotel?

Eh…

Relax. That’s not how it’s done here.

Page 86

Goodnight, you two! Tomorrow’s another day!

We’re just next door if you need us!

[singing] It’s a holiday!

Morning, sleepyhead!

Look at this!

Page 91

Aksel, fancy watching Friday-night crime with us?

Crime time!

Eh… I think I’m good here.

Hm. OK, then. Come get some apple pie and ice cream when you want.

OK…

Page 92

Hi, Anine! Just so you know, Aksel’s sitting gawping at your G-string!

Haha!

The hell!?

What a pig! That’s vile!

But, but… I wasn’t looking, I…

Oh, admit it!

Page 93

(Sob!)

Page 94

Aksel?

Can I come in?

Dad and I wondered how things really are just now…

Oh, can’t you leave me alone?

Oh, honey – we’re just worried about you.

Well, I’m just fine!

I…

But love, you’re crying!

Page 95

It’s not unusual for things to be hard at your age. When I was 14–15, I thought everything sucked.

You could talk to someone, you know!

It’s OK, a lot of people do!

I don’t know… I can think about it…

Come on – let’s watch some TV together! There’s a new comedy later!

Hehe!

Good night, sweetie! Everything will be fine!

Page 96

[adverts on bus] Oslo City / Vinkel Shoes / Bike / Tine Milk / The Volvat Clinic

Page 97

[building sign] Health Centre

Aksel?

Hello! We’re in my office over here!

Well, Aksel… what do you want to talk about?

Well, er, I… about how…

Yes?

Page 98

How everything’s so pointless. It’s like I just feel empty, like…

Oh? Empty? How so? Are you scared you might kill yourself? Commit suicide?

Suicide? No, that’s… what? No!

But…

I think it would be good for you to do group therapy with other teens – and I also suggest meds.

What, no!

Just stay there, OK? I’ll go find some literature for you to give to your parents!

Hey, Aksel! We’re not done yet!

Page 99

WHUMPH!

Stupid woman!

[adverts on bus] The Volvat Clinic / Peppe’s Pizza

Page 100

I’m so sorry, Aksel! I had no idea that woman was so unprofessional!

It’s OK…

No, it’s not! No one’s allowed to upset my son! She’ll be hearing from me! I swear I could…

Mum, chill out…

But she was stupid.

That’s the least of it.

She’s a real cow!

Hahaha!

Hehehe!

Em, I…

It’s not just the anxiety that hurts.

I hate school! Everyone’s horrible! My class is…

Oh, honey! I didn’t know you felt that way!

Page 102

This’ll be fun, won’t it?

Sure will be!

Hohoho!

Amazing!

Oh, come on!

[sign on wall] Self-service

We were good, weren’t we?

Race you to the car!

Page 103

I’ve been thinking about what you told Mum, about school.

What they’ve been doing is completely unacceptable.

So I talked to your teacher.

You talked to Tarald?

Relax! We had a long talk. He took it very seriously!

Several people have spoken to him, actually. This won’t come back to bite you.

And I thought we could see someone to talk. Together, I mean!

Well, I don’t know…

This will be different! I promise!

Page 105

Class! We have something serious to discuss today!

The bad atmosphere we have here in class!

Many people have talked to me about it!

Horrible comments, ostracism, even violence during breaks!

And it’s completely unacceptable!

Yes, Jon! Something to say?

Aren’t you exaggerating a bit? I mean…

Exaggerating?! You’re on thin ice, and you know it!

You think I’m wasting my time here? Because if you do, you should leave!

Page 106

Hey, Aksel!

So you went running to teacher, huh?

I didn’t say anything!

Well! If it wasn’t you, who was it, then?

We said something!

Many of us have! I’m tired of dreading going to school.

Yeah!

We’re going to the shop! Wanna come, Aksel?

Sure!

Page 108

[adverts on bus] Peppe’s Pizza / Volvat Medical Centre / Tandberg Elektrikke A/S / Nor-Dan Windows and Doors / Car Factory Fiske

Bit nippy today, isn’t it?

Yep!

Who is this guy, anyway?

I’m not entirely sure. He was recommended to your mother.

Aksel?

[sign on wall] Homoeopath Tim B. Kalevi

[sign on desk] Reception

Page 109

Hello! I’m Dr Tim Kalevi!

Doctor?

Aksel!

Take a seat on the sofa!

Nice picture, isn’t it? The Buddhists call it the “wheel of life”!

So… I’m told you’ve got a lot on your mind, Aksel…

Well, I’ve been having a hard time. After my cousin died, well, I…

Aha! And he meant a lot to you?

Yes…

…so have you been thinking about your own mortality? What awaits you? About how others would feel if you died…

I… yes!

Page 110

That’s it! Just what you said!

A totally natural reaction! Especially since you saw yourself in him.

Death isn’t to be feared. Your soul is immortal and will always live on!

Just as that picture illustrates!

I want you to take these pills with your dinner tonight!

You’ll feel better tomorrow.

What are they?

Jesus! What a price! You’d think it was uranium!

Did it help you any?

Er. Well…

Well, yes! I felt much better all at once!

Then it was worth every krone. Though it was damn expensive for some sweets…

Page 115

[book] This is maths

[paper] Norwegian…

Page 116

[map] Norway

[blackboard] LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Page 118

Today you are at a crossroads! When you arrived here three years ago, you were different people to who you are now…

Now I’ll give out the certificates, and…

…and don’t forget to believe in yourself and always follow your heart! You don’t become an adult overnight…

[on building] Løkkebråten Junior High

Hi!

Hello! Finally done then?!

Christ, it’ll be good to have a new school!

Page 121

[on bus] Trysil Express

[building signs] Road Kitchen / Coach Station

Page 122

Hi, Aksel! So nice to see you again!

Hi! We last saw you at the cabin, right?

Yes, I think so! Nice to see you too!

The bus was on time. Good trip?

Yep, it was fine!

Your hair looks lovely, Silje!

Thank you!

It was kinda ugly before…

Haha!

Page 123

It’s so nice you could come to Elverum!

Yes! And congratulations on graduating junior high!

Thanks very much!

Autumn will be so exciting, starting somewhere else!

For sure!

Aksel! I thought we could meet some of my friends later! Here by the lake.

Oh?

Linn will be there!

Hehe, cool!

Page 124

I’ve got some beer for us! Bought with a false ID when I was in Hamar!

Hi! This is my cousin, Aksel!

Hey!

Aksel!

Nice to see you again!

Fancy a walk round the lake?

OK…

Page 126

It’s really quite nice here in the summer.

Yes…

Really nice to see you again…