

ct

Hydra

de
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traducción de
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(fragmento en inglés)

SHOCK

Bellevue Hospital Center. New York City.

LEON M. BRADLEY has somehow found his way into AMANDA PRESTON's office.

LEON

I've been trying to talk to you the whole morning.

AMANDA

What did you say the patient's name was?

LEON

Inessa Bradley.

AMANDA

Is she a relative?

LEON

I'm her husband.

AMANDA

Her husband?

LEON

I just told you... You think it's strange?

AMANDA

I thought she seemed very young, almost a kid. Take a seat; I'm looking for her file. (*Reads something on the computer screen.*) Run over, caught between two cars. Conscious for the first few minutes in the ambulance, until—

LEON

They already told me all that. I don't need you to tell me the same story.

Pause.

AMANDA

So tell me what I can do for you.

LEON

I'm going to close the door, if you don't mind.

AMANDA

Are you feeling all right?

LEON

I'm just a little dizzy.

AMANDA

I can understand you're anxious.

LEON

I'm not anxious.

AMANDA

Upset. Whatever. *(Pause.)* Have you had any psychological support?

LEON

They gave me some pills. But I haven't taken them.

AMANDA

You should talk to a psychologist. We have the best support service in the city. Give me a second.

(Types on the computer screen.)

LEON

I'm talking to you.

AMANDA

Patricia Broggi's waiting for you in her office.

LEON

Patricia Broggi?

AMANDA

She's the best psychologist at the center.

LEON

I don't want to talk to a psychologist. I want to talk to the neuroscientist who's working on Inessa's case.

AMANDA

I'd be delighted to talk to you once you've worked through this initial shock. *(Pause.)* I'm sorry... I do understand your situation; I didn't mean to be rude.

LEON

I'm here so you can explain everything to me. Everything. What options we have. Time could be an extremely important factor right now.

AMANDA

Inessa is in the best professional hands. We're carrying out a meticulous examination and we're doing that as quickly as we can. But it's too soon to make a diagnosis.

LEON

She's in a coma.

AMANDA

There are many kinds of coma. Different levels of damage to the brain have different effects. As soon as we can be sure where and how Inessa's brain is damaged, then we'll decide what to do. Listen: I assure you Inessa is in very good hands. I will do everything I can to help her. *(Pause.)* And now I think you should talk to Patricia.

LEON

Twenty-five.

AMANDA

What?

LEON

She's twenty-five. We were married two months ago.

AMANDA

Two months...

LEON

I knew she was part of my family from the moment I met her. We belong to each other. We're in the same place at the same time. She's my half. My half. You understand?

AMANDA

I'll show you to Patricia's office.

AMANDA goes to the door.

LEON

Imagine if you were locked inside a box... A strange box that lets you hear absolutely everything around you, but without your voice being heard...

AMANDA opens the door, inviting him to leave.

LEON

She's locked inside her own head. There must be some way to get her out of there. I have to help her get out of there.

MARCUS appears. He stops at the door when he sees AMANDA.

MARCUS

Excuse me... Are you busy?

AMANDA

This gentleman needs someone to show him to Patricia Broggi's office. Would you be so kind?

MARCUS

Sure.

AMANDA

(To LEON.) It's important you relax, get some rest.

LEON

I'll be waiting for that diagnosis.

They leave. A long silence. AMANDA picks up the phone, dials.

AMANDA

I need some information on a patient. Inessa Bradley Kuznetsoy. Did you do the MRI yet? What state is she in right now? I want all the reports on the desk... I'm on my way.

MARCUS enters.

MARCUS

Nothing like having the person you love locked inside her own brain to make you stressed.

AMANDA

I live with that torment every day. What did you want?

MARCUS

Actually, I came to talk about her: Inessa Kuznetsoy.

AMANDA

Oh, you did?

MARCUS

They need you to sign for the angiogram and the EEG.

AMANDA

Had you met her husband?

MARCUS

He's been in her room all morning.

AMANDA

What did you make of him?

MARCUS

You've seen him.

AMANDA

Such a soft way of speaking, even when he's upset.

MARCUS

I think he's one of those eccentric millionaires. Did you see his shoes?

AMANDA

Millionaires?

MARCUS

You don't know? The whole ward's been going crazy about it all morning.

AMANDA

About what?

MARCUS

He's one of the most important investors in the world. He's third on the global rich list. Leon Bradley. Type his name into Google. It's all there.

AMANDA

(Reading the computer screen.) 'Known for his immense wealth and preference for value investing...' *(Pause. Continues reading.)* 'Featured in Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2015.'

MARCUS

The guy has investments everywhere. Textiles factories, legal firms, banks, Coca-Cola, even candies and gum... All kinds of companies. He's all over the web, you could spend days reading about him.

Pause.

AMANDA

Give me those papers. I'll sign them in a second... We haven't met before. Right?

MARCUS

We were introduced the other day, but you didn't pay much attention. You didn't even look up from your screen.

AMANDA

What's your name?

MARCUS

Marcus Lundberg. I'm an intern; I've been here twenty days.

AMANDA
Specializing in...?

MARCUS
Medicine... Although I do a bit of everything. You know.

AMANDA
Have you worked on a coma case before?

MARCUS
Never.

AMANDA
You have to be prepared.

MARCUS
I am.

AMANDA
I mean emotionally. A case like this is a challenge and a struggle for everyone. It'll take you to the edge.

AMANDA approaches the door.

MARCUS
Some people say a situation only exists when someone's watching. When no one's looking, it stops existing. Just smoke. What do you think about that?

AMANDA
It could be true, but I've no way of being sure.

MARCUS
I mean... We all have thoughts... I've been doing meditation lately. In one of the sessions I managed to see my own mind as if it wasn't mine. You know what I mean? Like I was hearing someone else's words. So I asked myself, who's speaking for me? Who's this person sending me messages, telling me what to do, what to think, what to feel, where I have to go...?

AMANDA opens the door.

AMANDA
I'm sorry, Marcus. I'm in a hurry.

AMANDA exits. MARCUS follows her out.

A TRAPPED MIND

ICU. LEON has managed to get inside and is in INESSA's bed, with his arms around her.

JUN enters.

JUN

Good afternoon. I'll pretend I didn't see anything.

LEON gets up from the bed.

LEON

It was just for a second. I was only lying there. She is my wife.

JUN

You have a very beautiful wife.

LEON

She's not just beautiful. This girl can do anything she puts her mind to.

JUN

What does she do?

LEON

She's a designer and pianist.

JUN

Both at once?

LEON

She's only twenty-five years old, she has her own fashion label already and last month she gave a recital at the Lincoln Center. And she's only just gotten started.

JUN

She does have piano player's hands. That's true.

They stare at INESSA.

LEON

She often wakes up at dawn to play. You should see her. Like she understands the piano better than people. And the piano feels the same way about her. *(Suddenly stops.)* She's smiling! You see that? *(Takes INESSA's face in his hands. Speaks to her very close-up.)* You're there, aren't you. You understand me. You understood what I was saying...

JUN

She's under observation.

LEON

She smiled.

JUN

It's not unusual.

LEON

What?

JUN

A coma patient may smile, take someone's hand, cry, moan, even growl. But we can't be sure those movements are intentional.

LEON

She smiled when I was talking about the piano. She understood what I was saying. She understood. (*Kisses her.*) Like there's a glimmer of consciousness there...

JUN

We should talk about this outside.

LEON

Why?

JUN

She needs rest.

LEON

So she can understand us?

JUN

Let's just have a seat here. It'll be more comfortable. (*Pause.*) What I meant was we can't be sure... The problem is inside her consciousness.

LEON

She's cut off.

JUN

You could say that.

LEON

But there must be some way to communicate with her. Because she's there. She's there. Smiling.

JUN

Ten years ago, it would be bleak, but I'd be saying definitely no. But now... You really ought to

talk to Amanda about this...

LEON
Amanda Preston?

JUN
She's in charge of Inessa's case.

LEON
I was just in her office. She didn't listen to me. She called a psychologist. Do you think I need a psychologist? My head's fine. I can't say the same about Inessa.

JUN
Amanda Preston is also one of the lead researchers at the Stony Brook Brain Observatory. It just opened.

LEON
The Stony Brook Brain Observatory?

JUN
One of the big National Labs at the Department of Energy was turned into an observatory. Originally it was an accelerator for observing particles, but the technology got old. But what it still had going for it was a staff of data specialists and space to store huge amounts of information. *(Pause.)* The perfect place to formulate new strategies for studying the brain.

LEON
So that means...

JUN
It means you should talk to Amanda again.

LEON
You said it would have been impossible to treat Inessa a century ago, but now you could?

JUN
Thanks to brain scans we've observed that some people who are trapped inside their bodies can still think and feel to varying degrees.

LEON stands. He approaches INESSA and sits beside her.

LEON
Everything I've achieved in this life has been thanks to my sense of smell. I can sniff out a good investment in seconds. And believe me I'm a lazy kind of guy.

JUN
I'd never have thought a good investor could be lazy.

LEON

The investment world is full of dumbasses. It's not company results that make stock prices lurch the way they do; it's the bipolar behavior of investors. Most of them can't resist the urge to constantly be buying and selling. But really the key should be lethargy, borderline laziness. *(Pause.)* But once I make a decision, no one can stop me.

JUN

Interesting.

LEON

Do you know much about investing?

JUN

Not really.

LEON

An investor needs to do very little, very well. That's how you avoid mistakes.

JUN

What do you mean?

LEON

A long-term investment with a dominant position in the market. That's all there is to say. *(Pause.)* You obviously don't know me yet.

JUN

Right.

LEON

That smile wasn't a reflex in Inessa's body. She understood me. She can hear everything. She's trying to communicate with us. And I'm going to work out how to talk to her. I'm going inside her head so she can tell me what's going on in there.