

## THE KIDNAPPING

It was a cold winter night. I was walking home after a party and the town was deserted. I could only hear my steps and my heartbeat. Suddenly, out of nowhere, there she was.

A woman I've never seen before was shouting for help, she had fallen down.

What was she doing at 4 a.m. in the street?

I ran to her as fast I could, that wasn't very fast because I was a bit drunk.

–Are you okay? Why are you here at this time in the middle of the night?

–There's a man there– She pointed with her finger to the dark. He wants to hurt me. Please, I need your help.

I didn't have any source of light, but I went into the darkness anyway.

The street was very close to my house. I'd seen it a lot of times. It is a short street because there is no way out. I walked until I could see the wall.

There wasn't anything there. And when I was about to return where the woman was, a hard thing hit my head.

And I can't remember anything else.

\*\*\*\*\*

–Mum, I can't sleep

–What is it, Jack? It's half past four a.m. – Said his mother, tired and a bit angry.

–I can't sleep. Where is dad?

–I told you; he is in a party. If you want you can sleep with me tonight.

–Ok. But don't you think it's very late?

–It is. Dad is going to arrive in a short time.

–Are you sure?

–Yes Jack, I am. Please, now come here and let me sleep. Tomorrow I have to work.

\*\*\*\*\*

–Mum, It's seven o'clock and dad is not here!

–That's very strange. I'm going to call him. (...) He doesn't answer. I'm a bit worried. Well, we are going to wait. I have work to do.

In the afternoon when Jack finished school and his mum, Emma, finished work, they went to the police office because his father hadn't appeared yet. They were both very worried.

They told to the police he had disappeared last night, he had gone to a party.

The policeman told them that they didn't know anything about him, but he also said this wasn't the only case in which someone had disappeared around this area.

Days passed and they didn't have any news of him.

Emma couldn't think about anything else.

\*\*\*\*\*

I got up with a headache. I was in a dark place with others adults around me. I looked at them for a few minutes. It seemed they weren't worried.

–Am I the only one who wants to escape from this cave!?

–No, me as well– was the only answer.

I went to the corner of the cave. The exit was there but there was a fence. A small man was there. He was very dirty and tired.

–Hello.

–Hi. –He said shyly.

–Do you want to escape?

–I think so.

–You may have family outside.

–I suppose. I am not sure.

–Well, I have family outside, I have a wife and one son. What happened to the others?

–The first days I spoke to a man but now he is like the others. No one remembers anything. And I am forgetting lots of things. I think is the food. They put something in it. I noticed it and I didn't eat for some days. But I was very hungry and now I am eating again, but less than before.

–Who are “they”? Who brings you the food?

–No one knows it. They cover their faces.

–Maybe we can try to change the dish with someone who has already lost his memory.

–I've tried. They also put that thing in their dishes.

–That's an interesting piece of news! That means that if we don't eat this thing we are going to get our memory back.

–What do you mean?

–We are going to cooperate. Today you will eat and I won't, but tomorrow I will eat and you won't. If we do it like that, we are going to lose memory but we will recover it the next day.

–Good idea. Look, they are coming with the food. You have to pretend you are confused.

–Okay. Today is your turn. Maybe you won't remember anything tomorrow but I will help you with that.

Days passed. Their plan was working very well, so they decided to start a new project.

They would make someone else recover his memory. They will hold him during the meals. He will only drink water.

After putting in practice their strategy for 3 days, the man they had chosen recovered his memory and they explained him everything.

They repeated this strategy as many times as men were in the cave, like preparing an army.

\*\*\*\*\*

It was the agreed day; everyone was healthy, strong and angry with the people who had kidnapped them.

Only five minutes for the meal time. But that would be a different meal time ...

When the jailer entered the cave everyone jumped on him and hit him. We started running through the corridors and a few seconds later we were outside.

I stopped, looking for someone.

When I found him a smile appeared on my face, I walked up to where he was and hug him. He was my new friend.

–I will never forget you– I said.

And with pity I went down the hill to meet my family. They were probably worried.