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Smile

de
Jan Vilanova Claudín

traducción de
Julie Wark

(fragmento en inglés)

A huge, empty industrial pond. Dripping water can be heard in the background. The echoes mingle with the sounds of footsteps and voices.

Gur is sitting on a chair, very close to a wall, facing it and staring fixedly at it.

Sometimes he smells it. The wall has been painted recently.

Footsteps are heard. Uncle appears. He stops and observes Gur.

GUR

Who is that?

Who is that?

UNCLE

I, your Uncle.

GUR

Uncle?

UNCLE

It is I.

GUR

I cannot turn round.

UNCLE

Why?

GUR

My job. I have to tell them as soon as the coat of paint is dry so they can apply another one.

UNCLE

You have my permission.

Gur?

Gur, unsure, turns round and looks at him. A small alarm is heard. Uncle waits a little longer before speaking.

Hello.

GUR

Hello.

Uncle smiles.

UNCLE

You may turn round.

Gur turns. The alarm stops.

GUR
Thank you.

UNCLE
And it is not dry?

GUR
No. Not yet. It is almost dry.

UNCLE
How do you know?

GUR
By the smell.

UNCLE
I can only smell paint.

GUR
It depends... It does not always smell the same.

UNCLE
Do you like your job?

GUR
Yes.

UNCLE
It is clear you take it seriously.

GUR
Thank you.

UNCLE
This appears in the reports.

GUR
Thank you.

UNCLE
The reports are very useful for checking on the returnees. To monitor your integration.

GUR
I like my job very much.

UNCLE
Very much?

GUR
I am concentrating. That is good for me.

UNCLE
Of course.
They also say that you cry... that on some occasions you have cried. Secretly. Well, you thought it was secretly but you were seen. Have you been crying, Gur?

GUR
Yes. Sometimes this happens to me.

UNCLE
They have also said that on two occasions when you were thanking your workmates you touched them on the back. And once on the arm.

GUR
I do not know.

UNCLE
You do not know?

GUR
I do not remember.

UNCLE
It is in the report.

GUR
I am sorry.
Sometimes I cannot help it... It is involuntary.

UNCLE
Nothing is involuntary but, knowing where you have come from, I understand perfectly well.

GUR
I am sorry.

UNCLE
You often say "I am sorry".

GUR
...

UNCLE

Sorry is a feeling. You must be careful with feelings.
People are afraid of you.

GUR

I am improving. It will not happen again.

UNCLE

Of course.
You understand, though, do you not?

GUR

Yes, of course, yes I do. I understand.

UNCLE

People need to feel secure.

GUR

Of course.

UNCLE

Security is freedom. And freedom is happiness.
You can trust me. Do you understand that?

GUR

Yes.

UNCLE

Apart from what appears in the reports... is there anything else?

GUR

I do not understand you...

UNCLE

Anything that could be an obstacle, somehow, for the well-deserved and absolutely democratic happiness of the People?

GUR

No.

UNCLE

Do you know that every time you have a problem the Great Democracy will be here to help you?

GUR

I know.

UNCLE

Excellent. I will not keep you any longer.

Uncle starts to leave.

GUR

I have always given my all for the Great Democracy. Always.

Uncle stops.

UNCLE

Yes, that is true. You are a selfless citizen. But if the last mission had succeeded, you would not be here now.

GUR

It was the helicopter. There was a mechanical problem and it crashed. When I came to, they had taken me prisoner.

UNCLE

What?

GUR

I was unconscious. I could not fight. I would have preferred to die, of course.

UNCLE

It was not a mechanical problem. It was sabotage.

GUR

Sabotage?

UNCLE

Our machines have never had mechanical problems.

GUR

...

UNCLE

Do you doubt this?

GUR

No, of course I do not.

Uncle moves closer to Gur.

UNCLE

For a moment I felt a slight, disagreeable—because it was irrational—sensation of unease. Here (*pointing at his chest*). I understand that it was totally unjustified.

He rests his hand on Gur's back for a moment.

UNCLE

I am here for you, for whatever you need.

You know that, do you not?