

The mysterious incident

by Julius Höllermann

Becky heard a small crackling sound behind her as she turned around. She was reassured when she caught sight of Tom, who was opening an empty lunch box. The slender figure glanced briefly at Becky and attempted a smile. His expressionless look did not reflect any personality. Last night's incident had taken quite a toll on him. That was understandable. It would take her longer to process everything, too, but Tom seemed so fragile since then, as if even a small gust of wind would be enough to carry him away. She couldn't talk to him about it either.

She had tried earlier, and never again would she forget those agonizing eyes from which an entire ocean flowed. No, she couldn't do that. But she had to do something. Becky couldn't stand that sight anymore. Tom should feel good, he should be happy. Becky went up the stairs to her room. She felt helpless like a little child. Nothing she could do. And when tiredness overcame her, she decided to go back to sleep for now.

The sound of soft footsteps woke Becky up from her sleep. She took a quick glance at the clock and scurried after them. She just saw a person sneaking down the stairs and then walk out the front door. It was Tom. What was he doing out here at this hour? She went out now, too. Ignoring the cold ground, she walked with bare feet in the direction of the silhouette sitting on the cliff, staring into the sunrise. The sky was blood red.

Silently, she sat down next to Tom. Without looking at her for a moment, he said, "I'm sorry.... I didn't mean to wake you up." "It's okay." Those were the first words Becky had heard from him since the incident. "What are you doing here?" she asked. But he didn't answer. He just kept looking up at the sky. A short time passed, then Tom broke the silence, "I'm scared," he said softly. Becky recalled the memories of that night. Bloody images played before her like in a movie. A shiver wrapped itself around her whole body like a cloth. "Me too," she said, "me too."