

Burned face by Adrian Wiśnios

I

It was a cold winter evening when someone knocked at the door. Mr. Otto sat as each day by the fireplace reading the police reports.

- Come in! – Said quietly, but loud enough so that the person behind the door heard him.

It was a young man, about thirty. He was tall and had a burned face. It looked awful. Mr. Otto thought that he had seen everything, but sight of this man surprised him.

- Welcome! – Mr. Otto said succinctly. – How can I help you?

- Good evening, my name is William Goaf.

Mr. Otto guessed, what is the reason for the visit of this man.

- Look at my face! – Exclaimed. – Someone poured on it corrosive acid!

- Calm down please and sit down!

- How can I be calm when someone destroyed my life!

- Did you report the matter to the police?

- Naturally, but I don't think they will catch this criminal.

- So you probably let me find out who's behind it.

- Exactly.

- Tell me, how this accident happened.

- It was the nineteenth of December. I went with my wife to my family in London for Christmas. Our chauffeur – Luke – drove us to my mother and came back to the residence. We had dinner and went to sleep. It happened that night. I didn't see wrongdoer, it was dark. I started scream! The liquid burned my face! It hurt terribly! Everyone came into my bedroom. My mother called for the ambulance. The offender disappeared. The police came and questioned us. I spent many weeks in hospital having had plastic surgery made. None of them helped. I look like a monster Mr. Otto. I beg you! Catch this man! I will pay as much as you need!

- I will do everything in my power to help you. – This man is very desperate. – Thought Mr. Otto.

- Any idea, who could have done it? Do you have any enemies?

- Yes, a lot! My company is known on the market and has a lot of competitions. However, I doubt that somebody of them had done it.

- Why?

- Because it's very dangerous for their companies. Mr. Otto I think that it was done by my ex-wife-Sofie.

- Why do you think so?

- It's easy, she hates me! I broke up with her so she could take revenge on me.
- OK. I will begin my investigation tomorrow's morning.
- Thank you very much, Mr. Otto.
- You will thank when I find this man. – Having said so he smiled to William.

II

The next day Mr. Otto went to the Mrs. Sofie Ground's home. He knocked and after a moment a woman opened the door. She was pale like a wall. She had black, big eyes. Interestingly she had no the right ear.

- Good morning, my name is John Otton and I'm from the police. – Detective lied. – Is Mrs. Sofie somewhere around here?
- It's me. What do you want?
- I have a few questions to you. All of them are about your ex-husband's accident. May I?

The woman was not satisfied with the visit but agreed to the interview.

- I'm listening... – The woman was not particularly talkative.
- What do you know about case?
- I don't know anything and I don't want to know. That rotter broke up with me after my accident. That was when I lost my right ear. He said that was awful... but I loved him... That's good for him!
- What did you do on the nineteenth of December?
- I was mourning over him. However, I was with my "husband" at his mother. We decided to be friends... but I hid hatred for him. Is that all? – The woman was upset.
- Yes, of course, thank you.

Yes, yes... Goodbye – She threw him out in a hurry detective for the home.

On the same day Mr. Otto went to Luke. He didn't know anything interesting. Suddenly, the phone rang.

- Good evening, Commissioner John here. Sir Otto, this liquid is sulfuric acid (VI). This is highly corrosive and toxic acid. Mr. William was lucky, that he is alive.
- Thank you for information Mr. John. Where did you find it?
- At Mr. William's residence.
- Interesting... Please do inform me on regular basis!
- Of course, goodbye.
- Interesting... Repeated Mr. Otto.

III

The next day Mr. Otto went to Mr. William. When he was driving he saw a woman without ear and a tall man in a suit – Luke.

Now, he was sure. He called to Mrs. Sofie and Luke. He asked them to come to the Mr. William's residence. Mrs. Sofie came after an hour and chauffeur Luke came afterwards.

- Welcome all of you! – Mr. Otto said solemnly.

- What do you want again?! – Asked Mrs. Sofie. Luke said nothing.

- Dear Sofie, how are you with Luke?

- I don't know, what are you aiming at?!

- Really? It's interesting. Mr. William when did you break up with your ex-wife?

- It was a week before accident.

- You quickly consoled Mrs. Sofie. Your plan was really good, but not perfect.

- What are you talking about?! – She was very upset.

- It's easy guys! – He said to all. – When Mr. William broke up with Sofie she went with Luke – she needed consoled. Funny! Mr. Otto smiled – and probably they met before.

- It's true – Said Luke quietly.

- Shut up! – Mrs. Sofie was angry.

- Mr. William why didn't you tell me, that Luke is your younger brother?

- How do u know?

- Someone burned your face... – Mr. Otto smiled evasively. – but it wasn't Sofie.

- So who then?

- Luke! – Mr. Otto smiled to him.

- It's not true! You don't have any evidence of it!

- Of course I have. –Smiled again. – One and irrefutable. Sulfuric acid in the Mr. William's residence. You wanted to take his company. However, you didn't know how to do it. Here comes Mrs. Sofie with some rescue. You had one target - destroy Mr. William's life. You knew that he will fall into depression. You have planned this "accident" for years. Mrs. Sofie helped you with it. That very night you went with William to his mother. He went out the car you "drove on" but for real you'd been there. Sofie gave you liquid and you waited until the dark. Then you crept into his bedroom and you poured out acid. You ran away and returned to the residence. You forgot about the rest of liquid.

You've done it, because you were jealous and Mrs. Sofie took the opportunity to got revenge. The perfect crime? No! – Mr. Otto smiled to Mr. William.

- It's tr..

- Shut up Luke! I don't have anything to admit!

- You do not need. The police is on the way.

IV

- I don't know, how to thank you, Mr. Otto.

- You don't need to. It's my job.

- Doubtless. I have to go now. I'm sorry but the commander has just called me.

- Of course. Again, thank you. – They shook hands and Mr. Otto smiled to him.

Mr. Otto was pleased with himself.

- Thankfully another mystery solved! – He thought and smiled.