

**NT111 – Engleski 1**

**Home reading assignment**

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Softversko inženjerstvo – 1. godina

1. **Describe one character from the novel - Maha**

Maha is the main character from this novel. She is a girl who came to London in order to study and finish her course, which she did. Maha was a foreigner who couldn’t understand English well. Her visa was expiring in a few days, she told her parents she would come home earlier, but she wanted to stay longer. Just like every story starts, she met a guy, Kieron, who stood out from the crowd. From what can be read in the book, she fell in love with him. Kieron told her that she could stay longer illegally and find a job, like there’s nothing bad about it. It’s an easy thing to say for someone who is not in that situation. Maha was obviously naive and irresponsible, but she was a strong person. Even though she was only 22, she went abroad to study, far away from her family. I think she was an immature person, because she listened to Kieron and blamed him for everything. She was fragile and on her own, but she didn’t even think about the consequences. Even in the end, she blamed Kieron for everything, which, again, shows how immature she is. She even said that she didn’t want to be a part of something like “that”, but even though she was suspecting something, she did not do anything. It’s sad that it had to end like that for her to realize that she made a mistake. She should have listened to herself.

**2) Why do you think Maha can’t make herself buy a plane ticket and go home?**

Maha really liked London, like every other person who studies in a different city/country. She made some friends and probably couldn’t imagine how her life back home would be like. She also met Kieron, and fell in love with him, he showed her all the beauty there is in London and she was naive. I think that was one of the main reasons she stayed. To me, it looks like she fell in love for the first time and she thought he was the love of her life, that’s why she couldn’t let go. She blindly listened to him and stayed there even though it’s illegal. He found her a job he knew nothing about. I mean, who wouldn’t want to live in London, have an easy job that pays the bills and have a girlfriend/boyfriend at the same time? I also think she couldn’t go back home, because she already overstayed her visa and she was scared of the consequences. Even though she did not think about them, she was also scared of her parents’ reaction. She couldn’t leave Kieron and she also wanted to solve the mystery of the top floor.

**3) Do you agree with Mr. Samir that “the good guys don’t always win?” Give a few examples to support your opinion.**

Mr. Samir’s words are debatable, it all depends on how you look at the situation. Good people don’t always win, that’s how life works. Even Maha, she seems like a good person, but she made some bad choices and kind of ruined her life. Just like in the minesweeper game, if you don’t think and just click in the random spot, the mine can happen to be there and it will explode and that’s where the game ends. You can never be sure of anything. Ollie was a good guy too, irresponsible, but still, he did not have bad intentions. What happened with him? He did not know what was in the boxes, he got ill, ended up in the hospital, and probably ended up dead, because they said it was a “mystery illness”. The rat and Visa also died, even though they didn’t do anything wrong. Maha only wanted to succeed in life, to be happy, to be with Kieron, to make her family proud... Yes, she made some bad decisions, it was hard, but she confessed everything, they set her up anyways. Maha was probably responsible for the burglary too. In the end, if they actually found the boxes and the papers, they would blame her for that too. The criminals won, but not because they were bad people, but because they were smarter, Maha’s signatures were all over the papers.

Who knows what made Mr. Samir start his illegal business. It’s not good, but I think there is a reason for everything, just like ying-yang, there is good in the evil, and evil in the good, it’s all about the balance, they need to coexist. Every person gets punished for the bad stuff, sooner or later. But again, we’re only human. When we speak the truth or do good, it comes from our biased sense of what we see as good or as truthful.