

On The Road

Radio Play in four chapters

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Chapter one:

Air means the mixture of gases that surrounds the earth and that we breathe

(Sounds of breathing)

Chapter two:

Air means to express publicly

August 2021. Afternoon. The road to the north. The father is driving and the daughter is sitting beside. This is their first trip together. The daughter is listening to a song by her headphones. They are not talking English.

Father: So, now you finished your master, didn't you?

(The daughter pauses the music)

Daughter: What did you say?

F: I asked if you have finished your studies.

D: Aha. Yes. A couple of months ago.

F: hm...good...and...Do you want to continue studying?

D: I don't know...no I don't really know.

F: Will it be in Music again if you continue?

D: I don't know...it might be.

F: So what's your plan now?

D: I'm working on some projects currently.

F: No, I meant for the future.

D: for what?

F: For the future.

D: Aha... I don't know.

F: But do you at least know where do you want to live for long-term?

D: I'm going to Germany this winter. I will be working on a project.

F: Germany.. Good country to live...

D: Not for living actually. Just for a short project, I don't think if it will be more then two months.

F: AH! Are you going there only for two months?... And what about then?

D: This is my life actually. Don't expect "then". That's it.

F: I understand...you are an artist...Why don't you study P.H.D?

D: I will think of that.. Can you turn off the air conditioner?

F: Why? Is it cold?

D: I just want to get some fresh air.

F: sure.

D: I think the weather is really nice, it doesn't happen a lot during the year to have such a pleasant weather, why should we miss it then?

(The daughter is reminded of a memory. When she was 15 years old and wanted to become a musician. But his father didn't want to. So once he invited a musician to talk to her. To tell her about all difficulties that a musician struggles with. To convince her that being a musician is not a job, does not have a good income and therefore future. After listening to long tragic story of the musician's life, on that night the daughter became determined to become a musician)

Now the daughter is keeping her head out of the car and is listening to a music while listening to the wind.

(A song is played)

(A song is paused)

Daughter: Were you talking with me?

Father: Who else I might be talking to?

D: Yourself, maybe.

F: I never talk to myself.

D: Really? Never?

F: Never. Do you?

D: Well, sometimes.

F: What do you say to yourself?

D: it really depends. For example, I imagine talking to someone and telling them what I can't, an imaginary conversation, you know what I mean?

F: Maybe you have said everything before to me that you don't talk to me anymore.

D: Well. I'm talking with you now.

Father: You're not.

(The daughter is reminded of memory when she was 20 years old. His father wrote her a message that they have been so detached for a long time and asked her to meet alone and talk about their relationship. They went to the closest mountain, after walking shortly they found a place to sit. A bench facing the view of city. They weren't looking at each other and were sitting in the silence until the father took out a paper from his pocket, and started reading from his paper. Sentence by the sentence. It was like one of his official lectures at the university. When his lecture ended, he waited for the daughter to talk. The daughter didn't have a paper to read. She wasn't prepared. Sounds like when teacher suddenly wants to take an exam without telling the students before.)

Father: Why are you so quiet?

Daughter: it's just because I have lived alone during the pandemic, I don't used to talk too much anymore.

F: Too much? Come on. You haven't talked at all..... Maybe you don't like talking to me.

D: It's not about you.

F: I've heard you last night talking on the phone for hours.

D: Oh, it was an old friend actually. We haven't talked for ages.

F: Same as us.

D: hmmmmmm

F: Well, I'm not blaming you. Just was wondering why you don't like talking with me.

D: Why don't you open your window?

F: It's so windy.

D: That's why you should open it. Let air comes in.

The girl is reminded a memory when she was 17 years old. His father was going on a long trip and they weren't supposed to meet each other for a year. The daughter didn't ask him when he will be leaving the home. She didn't want to know. She didn't want to say goodbye to him. While the father was packing his stuff, the daughter went to her room to sleep. 4 in the morning, she heard his phone alarm getting him up. she heard him saying goodbye to her mum. she heard the sound of his heavy suitcase. She heard him closing the door. She heard all while she was crying that he's leaving, but she couldn't go and say goodbye to him. The day after the father said that he's extremely sad that her daughter doesn't care about him to even say a goodbye.

The daughter plays the music again.

(The song is played)

(The song is paused)

The father tells the daughter that he might fall asleep if she doesn't talk to him. The daughter takes the headphones out.

Daughter: ok. What do you want me to talk about?

Father: hmmm...Do you want to talk about the projects that you are working on.

D: Projects? Which one do you mean?

F: Yes, you said now you are working on some projects.

D: Aha...I'm working on a radio program... It's in November.

F: Radio program?

D: Yes.

F: Well, what is it about?

D: It's about the air.

F: The air? You mean the air we breathe?

D: Yes, for example.

F: Ok? And? What do you want to do?

D: Well, I'm thinking. What did "you" think when I said air?

F: I thought of weather... do you know how will be the weather when we arrive there?

D: No, I haven't checked it.

F: If it was your mum, she would have definitely checked it before we travel.

D: Well...I'm not her.

F: Obviously you're not.

D: Why is it so important for you? We will see how the weather is in few hours.

F: I haven't brought any rain coat or jacket...

D: I'm checking the weather. It's even warmer. So don't worry.

F: Ok. Good... thank you. It's nice weather btw.

D: It is. A lot of air to breath.

F: You weren't here... last spring was so cold and polluted.

The daughter takes her camera out of its bag. The daughter wants to take some videos of her father while he is talking to her. She is thinking to make a piece about their trip. But the window is so dirty and the road is not clear from the window.

D: Why is it so dirty?

F: I washed the car last night. They're dead insects. When you drive at high speed they hit the window and die afterwards.

Father: Do you want me to clean it if you are taking video?

D: No. it's ok.

F: But it ruins your video.

The daughter decides to take the video from the dead insects while his father is talking. on them. She pushes the button and suddenly her dad becomes quiet. He thinks he shouldn't interrupt the video. But this video is about him. The daughter can't say this. So she takes the video of hoping her father would talk. But he doesn't. The video takes 3 minutes and 20 seconds of silence between them.

(silence)

Chapter three:

Air means to broadcast something or be broadcast on radio or television:

The daughter gave me this piece and asked me to read it for this radio program. She apologized for not being able to complete it. I didn't know how to complete it. I asked her if she could help me with that. She told me about a diary of her childhood. She said her father never missed the evening news on channel one. people weren't used to read news on the internet. Either they watch the evening news or they missed what has happened on that day. The news never was repeated, but the cartoons and series was. So her father's choice always has been the priority. He used to change the channel in the middle of our cartoon and they had to stay quiet during the news which wasn't easy. The news didn't have any less important part that allows them make sounds. Until the last part of the news which was the weather forecast. Whenever that part started, the daughter knew she could talk, she can make noise and laugh. Weather forecast was the only unimportant part of the news, for the father, not for her. For her was the best moment, the moment of relieve, from the silence of body and month, the moment of changing the channel and seeing the rest of the film that she was watching.

After telling this memory, she told me whenever you don't know what to say, and you can't stay in silence just talk about the weather. That relives us from the unwanted silence and words. I wasn't sure if that makes sense, but she says it does.

Chapter four:

Air meansThe mixture of gases that surrounds the earth and that we breathe

It's cold and cloudy now in Bergen. It's been raining the whole October but it wasn't rainy today. I can see wild clouds moving smoothly from my window. Tomorrow will be rainy again, I always check the weather forecast. How is the weather where you are?