

Uro (“Anxiety”)

A radioplay inspired by the short story “Unrest in the suburbs” by Leif Panduro, 1962 and transformed from the stageplay “Notes from human behavior”, 2015.

The original in Danish

Scene 0.

A. Jamen, så lavede de jo den teltlejr på det smukke område, som vi kører forbi hver morgen. Bare fordi man er flygtning, behøver man jo ikke blive behandlet som en konge, vel?

B. Jeg er præcis 9 minutter om at stå op. Fra vækkeuret ringer, til jeg er påklædt og klar til morgenmad.

C. Nej, jeg har aldrig slået et menneske ihjel - det har jeg ikke.

D. Det kan jo aldrig være vores skyld. Det var jo ikke os, der lukkede dem ind i landet. Åbnede vores grænser og bød dem velkommen. ”Værs’go, her har du en bolig og penge og medlidenhed.” Det var selvtægt, simpelthen. Det er vi helt enige om.

Scene 1.

A. Jeg tror, jeg så ham første gang en tirsdag morgen. Nej, jeg tror ikke, jeg så ham – jeg ved det. Det var den første tirsdag i måneden, for dér har vi nemlig møde i grundejerforeningen. Det ligger helt fast ude i vores kvarter, så ved alle det og så er det nemt. Den er nemlig min kone, der bager kagen, så hun vil gerne vide det på forhånd.

The translation in English

Scene 0.

A. Well, so they made that tent camp in the beautiful area, which we drive past each morning. Just because you're a refugee, you do not have to be treated like a king, right?

B. I take exactly 9 minutes to rise and shine. From the alarm clocks calling until I'm dressed and ready for breakfast.

C. No, I've never killed a human being - I have not.

D. It can never be our fault. It was not us who let them into the country. Opened our borders and welcomed them. "Please, here you have a home and money and pity." It was vigilante, simply. On that we fully agree.

Scene 1.

A. I think I saw him the first time on a Tuesday morning. No, I do not think I saw him - I know it. It was the first Tuesday of the month, because on that day we have a meeting with the landowners' association. It is a fixed date in our neighborhood, so everybody knows it and then it's easy. It's my wife who bakes the cake, so she wants to know it in advance.

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Scene 1 - fortsat

B. Jamen, jeg tager toget hver morgen kl. 06.37, så er jeg på kontoret 07.30. Vi er fire, der følges hver morgen. Jeg vil ikke sige, vi har faste pladser, men vi plejer at sidde det samme sted. Og dér sad han så. Den morgen. Der skulle han bare ikke sidde. Han skulle jo være i den dér lejr.

C. Nej, han var ikke påtrængende, slet ikke. Altså ikke udover, at han sad der, hvor han gjorde. Det var ikke i orden. Han må have stjålet pengene. Til tøjet og billetten. Ja, og til alt det andet.

D. Hvordan han så ud? Han havde et meget stort ansigt, meget mørkt med kraftige læber og så sad han og tyggede på et eller andet, så man tydeligt kunne se hans store kæbemuskler bevæge sig under hans hud.
Allerede dengang burde vi ha set det, ikke?

Scene 2.

A. Nej, jeg sagde ingenting til ham – lod bare, som om jeg ikke så ham. Men selvfølgelig bragte det uorden i det hele. Jeg kom f.eks. til at sidde i kørselsretningen og det giver jo en helt anden synsvinkel på – ja, hele verden. Jeg så f.eks. direkte ind i den grimme teltlejr og det bryder jeg mig ikke om. Jeg vil gerne se på smukke ting.

The translation in English

Scene 1 - continued

B. Well, I take the train every morning at 06.37, then I'm in the office at 07.30. We are four, followed every morning. I do not want to say we have regular seats, but we usually sit in the same place. And then he sat there. That morning. He shouldn't be sitting there. He should be in that camp.

C. No, he was not intrusive, not at all. Well apart from the fact, that he was sitting, where he did. It was not okay. He must have stolen the money. To the clothes and the ticket. Yes, and to everything else.

D. How did he look? He had a very big face, very dark with bold lips, and then he sat chewing on something, so you clearly could see his heavy jaw muscles move under his skin.
We should have seen it right there, shouldn't we?

Scene 2.

A. No, I didn't say anything to him - just pretended, I did not see him. But of course, it caused the disorder in all. I - for instance - came to sit in the direction of driving and it gives you a completely different point of view on - well, the whole world. I - for instance looked directly into that ugly tent camp, and I do not like that. I would like to look at beautiful things.

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Scene 2 - fortsat

B. Jeg er hjemme kl 17.10 hver dag og så får jeg en enkelt Martini kl 17.20 og så er der aftensmad kl 17.35. Det ved hele familien. Hvis min kone så har nogen beskeder til mig, eller vil fortælle noget vigtigt, så er det dér, hun siger det.

Det gjorde hun også den dag og det ødelagde alt.

C. Ja, så var han jo flyttet ind. I vores kvarter. Samme eftermiddag. Det var heller ikke i orden og fuldstændig urealistisk. Han havde jo ingen penge. Ikke med det udseende. Det kan jo ikke passe. Han var det på det forkerte sted, i det forkerte land, ikk?

D. Jamen, så sidder vi der til grundejerforeningsmøde og så kommer han ind. Lidt for sent og der var også bare noget ved hans kraftige skuldre og hans brede arme og så dét, at han gumlede løs på en tændstik – der var bare noget, der gjorde, at jeg var helt sikker i min sag. Jeg kan ikke begrunde det nærmere – kun sige, at jeg aldrig har været sikrere på noget.

Scene 3

A. I pausen bliver jeg så nødt til at tale med de andre om det. Selvfølgelig ikke ham, men de andre mænd. Min tvillingebror blandt andre. Vi ligner hinanden som to dråber vand, ligesom vores koner, der også er tvillinger. Det er meget skægt.

The translation in English

Scene 2 - Continued

B. I'm home at 17.10 every day and then I get a single Martini at 17.20 and then dinner at 17.35. The family knows that. Then if my wife has any messages to me, or wants to tell me something important, that would also be the place to do that.

She did that day and it destroyed everything.

C. Yes, then he had moved in. In our neighborhood. Same afternoon. That wasn't okay and completely unrealistic. He had no money at all. Not with that look. It couldn't be true. He was in the wrong place, in the wrong country, right?

D. Well, there we are - at the landowners' meeting and then he comes in. A little too late and then there was something about his powerful shoulders and his wide arms, and then the fact that he was chewing on a matchstick - well something just made me sure about my case. I can not justify it further - just say I've never been so sure about anything.

Scene 3

A. During the break I have to talk to the others about it. Of course not him, but the other men. My twin brother among others. We look like two drops of water, just like our wives, who are also twins. It's quite funny.

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Scene 3 - fortsat

A. Der er faktisk mange tvillinger i vores kvarter, nu jeg tænker over det. Altså én-æggede tvillinger. Det er faktisk meget pudsigt. Det er ikke noget, vi har opsøgt.

B. Pausen begynder kl 20.10 og så er der 20 minutter med et stykke kage og lidt kaffe. Ja, vi serverer ikke te – det tager for lang tid at lave. Kl 20.12 kommer de andre over til mig. De har en mistanke, men det har jeg også, så det tager ikke mere end et par minutter at blive enige.

C. Ja, jeg siger, at vi bør gøre et eller andet. Det bliver vi jo nødt til. Og samtidig går han hen til vores koner, der står sammen ved kagen. Jeg ser lige, han strejfer min kone for at ta stykke nummer to af kagen ...

D. ”Tag det roligt, der kan ikke ske noget, når vi er så mange sammen” – siger jeg og så bliver vi stående. Men vi er urolige. Jo, det er vi. Mest fordi, vi ikke kan underrette myndighederne, før det er for sent. Det er jo frygteligt. Vi tænker jo mest på vores koner og vores børn. Og jeg vidste det bare. Jeg vidste bare, at den var helt gal. Det var jo indlysende.

The translation in English

Scene 3 - Continued

A. There are actually many twins in our neighborhood, now I think about it. Well, one-egged twins. It's actually very funny. That's not something we've been looking for.

B. The break begins at 20.10 and then there are 20 minutes with a piece of cake and some coffee. Well, we do not serve tea - it takes too long to make. At 20.12 the others pass over to me. They have a suspicion, but so do I, so it doesn't take more than a few minutes to agree.

C. Yes, I am saying, that we should do something. We will have to. And at the same time he goes to our wives who stand together by the cake. I see just, he strokes my wife to take a second piece of the cake ...

D. "Keep calm, nothing can happen when we are so many together" - I am saying, and then we keep standing there. But we are worried. Yes, we are. Mostly because we can not inform the authorities before it's too late. That's terrible. We mostly think about our wives and our children. And I just knew. I just knew, that things were crazy. That was obvious.

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Scene 4

A. Bevis nr 1: Han var flyttet ind alene. Det er der jo ingen, der gør. Ikke i vores kvarter. Bevis nr 2: Han dukkede pludselig op i vores verden, som om, han var på flugt fra et eller andet. Bevis nr 3: Han åd. Jeg så ham aldrig uden noget i munden og jeg siger bare – han ÅD kage. 3 stykker. Der var ikke tale om civiliseret fortæring, det er helt sikkert.

B. Han smilede til mig 20.19 og jeg smilede pænt tilbage – bare for at lade ham vide, at vi ikke mistænkte ham for noget. Det handler om at holde masken overfor sådan nogen. Så det gjorde jeg lige indtil kl 20.22, hvor jeg rejste mig for at aflægge rapport om årets regnskab.

C. Jamen, hvis han fik mistanke til mig eller os, så tør jeg slet ikke tænke på, hvad der kunne være sket. Det havde slet ikke været i orden. Men det stoppede vi jo også.

D. Det var jo heldigvis nemt at holde øje med ham, for ude i vores kvarter, der ligner vi alle sammen hinanden. Vi er alle sammen glathårede og har runde ansigter. Og så går vores koner i de samme pelse. Vi har samme kvalitetskrav, kan man sige. Så det ville være meget svært for ham at blande sig med os – i hvert fald om dagen. Men om natten... Det var et problem.

The translation in English

Scene 4

A. Evidence No. 1: He had moved in alone. Nobody is doing that. Not in our neighborhood. Evidence No. 2: He suddenly appeared in our world. as if he was on the run from something. Evidence No. 3: He ate. I never saw him without anything in his mouth and I'm just saying - he ATE cake. 3 pieces. It was not civilized consumption, that is for sure.

B. He smiled at me 20.19 and I smiled nicely back at him - just to let him know we did not suspect him for anything. It's about keeping up appearances towards someone like him. So I did that until 20.22, where I got up to report on this year's accounts.

C. Well, if he suspected me or us, I do not really think what might have happened. It had not been alright at all. But we stopped that too.

D. Fortunately, it was easy to keep an eye on him, because in our neighborhood, we all look like each other. We are all happy and have round faces. And then our wives have the same fur. We have the same quality requirements, one can say. So it would be very difficult for him to interfere with us - at least during the day. But at night ... that was a problem.

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Scene 5

A. Jamen, natten var forfærdelig. Der var ikke ret mange af os, der fik lukket et øje, også selvom det er meget roligt i vores kvarter. Men når der er meget roligt, så kan man jo også høre alle de lyde, der ikke plejer at være der. De små lyde, som afslører et menneske, der sniger sig rundt. Du ved, knækkede kviste, grus, der rasler eller klirren af en falsk nøgle.

B: Det første nat hørte jeg tre lyde kl 01.15, 02.26 og 04.10. Det sidste viste sig at være avisbuddet, men de to første er der ingen tvivl om – det var ham, der gjorde et eller andet.

C: Jo mere vi lyttede og vågede om natten, jo mere blev vi bange for at falde i dyb søvn og så ikke vågne op, før det var for sent. Det var ikke holdbart. Så var det, vi valgte at flytte sammen i ét hus.

D. Nej, det var ikke svært at vende sig til at bo sammen – alle husene ligner jo hinanden. Men søvn var der ikke meget af. Vi lavede selvfølgelig sådan en turnusordning med vagter, der holdt øje, men vi andre var jo bange for, at vagtposterne skulle falde i søvn, så ...

The translation in English

Scene 5

A. Well, the night was awful. Not many of us closed an eye that night, even though it is very quiet in our neighborhood. But when it is very quiet, you can hear all the sounds that do not usually are there. The small sounds, that reveals a person who sneaks around. You know, broken twigs, gravel, rags or the clumsy of a fake key.

B: The first night I heard three sounds at 01.15, 02.26 and 04.10. The latter turned out to be the newspaper, but with the first two there is no doubt - it was him, doing something.

C: The more we listened and watched at night, the more we were afraid to fall into deep sleep and then not wake up until it was too late. It was not durable. So, we chose to move together in one house.

D. No, it was not hard to get used to live together - all the houses look like each other. But there wasn't much sleep. Of course we made such a schedule, with guards who watched, but we others were afraid, that the guards would fall asleep, so ...

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Scene 6

A. Til sidst flyttede vi alle sammen ind i dagligstuen. Han skulle bare ikke komme og overraske os i et eller andet værelse, hvor vi kun lå to f.eks. Og der kom flere og flere lyde udenfor. Det var helt tydeligt, at han var igang med noget.

B. Jeg så hans mørke ansigt blive trykket mod badeværelsesvinduet kl 00.44 den nat, hvor vi besluttede os for at gøre noget.

C. Jeg ved ikke, hvem der foreslog det. Måske var det mig? Eller også var det en anden? Det spiller ingen rolle, det var som om, vi alle sammen sagde det samtidigt. Vi sagde: Nu må det være nok, nu må det være slut, nu må vi gøre noget. Så det gjorde vi.

D. Da det lige var blevet lyst, så gik vi ned til hans hus, listede os ind og gik op i hans soveværelse.

The translation in English

A. In the end, we all moved into the living room. He just shouldn't come and surprise us in some other room where we only lay two, for example. And more and more sounds came from the outside. It was clear that he was on to something.

B. I saw his dark face pressed against the bathroom window at 00.44 that night where we decided to do something.

C. I do not know who suggested it. Maybe I did? Or maybe it was someone else? It does not matter, it was as though we all said it at the same time. We said: Now enough is enough, now it must end, now we have to do something. So we did.

D. When it has just become bright, we went down to his house, tiptoed in and went up to his bedroom.

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Scene 7

A. Vi havde økser med, kan jeg huske.

B. Vi vækkede ham kl. 05.33.

C. ”Du kan ikke narre os – vi ved, du er kannibal. Det har vi vidst lige siden den første dag i toget.” Ja, det sagde vi. Det råbte vi til ham.

D. Og så slog vi ham ihjel og spiste ham.

The translation in English

Scene 7

A. We brought axes, I can remember.

B. We woke him at 5:33.

C. "You can not fool us - we know you are a cannibal. We have known that since the first day on the train." Yes, that's what we said. That is what we shouted at him.

D. And then we killed him and ate him

Credits for "Anxiety": Text, sounddesign & montage: Christian Eiming. Actors: Jacob Knudsen, Rasmus Malling Lykke Skov, Emil Fogh Christiansen og Christian Eiming. Copyright soundplay.dk