

ANDREA PASS
NEW WORLD

Kata – Dóra Sztarenki
Áron – Ádám Porogi
Robi – Lehel Kovács
Mom – Zsófi Szamosi
Dad – Károly Hajduk

The play is set in a small provincial town in 1998/1999

Moving

Mom and Kata are stacking cardboard boxes in the elevator, which will be used in the performance as a source of props. (Kata is wearing skater clothes, baggy trousers, trainers etc.)

Kata The headmaster asked us once at school to make a drawing of our life line. To just go ahead and draw a long line and mark the more important events on it with smaller lines. Then I realized that nothing really significant had happened to me, and that was totally okay... If I were to draw my life line now, I would certainly draw a super thick line to the end and mark with a different colour everything that is about to come from then on, after December '98.

I've never heard my parents argue. They spoke of each other in respect in front of people, especially my Dad. He often used to say how lucky he was that he could live together with a woman without any conflicts whatsoever. They had met at a concert, my Dad is supposed to have set eyes on my mom from the stage. It sounds quite unbelievable, since he is a piano player, and the piano players aren't seated facing the audience, are they? When mom got pregnant with me, she moved together with my dad, to his childhood home, where he had already been living on his own by that time. Everyone got their own rooms, so we could not even be in the way of each other. At least until November this year, when they decided not to live with each other any longer. They did try to carry out this divorce thing as smooth as possible, so they

decided for us to spend one last Christmas together in the old house, and we would only move out with my mom on December 27th, so we could spend New Year's Eve in a rented 45 square meter apartment, in a block of flats, just the two of us.

Kata This fuckin tenth floor is so damn high. What if the elevator breaks down?

Mom It doesn't.

Kata How do you know?

Mom I just do.

Mom We haven't brought the turtle.

Kata No we haven't.

Mom We'll have to go and fetch it later.

Kata I left it at home on purpose.

Mom Will your Dad feed it then?

Kata Sure.

Beat

Mom And who will change the water?

Kata I will. Or can't I even go home anymore?

Mom Of course you can. ... Just ask your father first.

Kata What for?

Mom ...to make sure he's home.

Kata I can change the water without him. I don't see why I should call him.

Mom Thank you for helping me.

Kata Dad would have helped too.

Mom He couldn't make it today.

Kata And you were not available yesterday.

Mom We just couldn't set a time.

Kata I hope there will be rats, too.

Anya I asked you to come and take a look.

Kata Once.

Mom Should I have asked you a hundred times? ... You said you didn't care where we moved.

Kata I'm sure I haven't said anything like that.

Silence

They step out of the elevator and take the boxes in the room.

Kata Otherwise, if I answer no to a stupid question, it doesn't mean 'go ahead and move in to a pigsty'.

Mom is packing out, Kata sits on one of the boxes. This one box will be 'in the way' several times in the performance.

Mom Don't sit on that, please.

Kate Why not? What's in it?

Mom Nothing.

Kata Can I take a look?

Mom Old shit.

Kata Why did we have to bring it along then?

Mom Is that a problem for you now?

Kata I'm okay with it, just we don't fuckin' have place for anything.

Mom (*Patiently*) Unpack your things... Settle in....

Kata Did dad talk to you?

Mom About what?

Kata He would like us to stay in the house.

Mom And where would he go?

Kata He'll rent a flat.

Mom That's his house, dear.

Kata Just until you find a better place than this shitty panel house.

Mom It's just half panel.

Kata What?

Mom Half is brick.

Kata And what's that supposed to mean?

Mom It means soundproofing is better.

Kata Then why isn't it fully made of bricks?

Mom I don't know.

Kata gets up from the box and walks to the window.

Kata Have you seen the kind of people who live here?

Mom Just regular people.

Kata Why were you avoiding them then?

Mom Who?

Kata We just took a fuckin' big turn round the block a minute ago, didn't we?

Mom I just missed the entrance.

Kata Sure...

Mom You don't have to be afraid of them. They're just kids.

Kata You think I'm a kid too?

Mom Yes I do.

Kata Is a 16-year-old a kid to you?

Mom Okay, they are youths in their adolescence.

Kata There were some older ones among them.

Mom Dear, there were two of them! Otherwise, you don't belong to any minority, they will not pick on you.

Kata Wow, swell. I'm supposed to be afraid of the Nazis then.

Mom Have you any idea what that means?

Kata Sure.

Mom Teenagers in booths and bomber jackets. This is how they are trying to be *different*... You are wearing baggy pants, they wear tight ones. You are listening to rap, they to skinhead music.

Kata Well, there's some difference there.

Mom They will grow out of it. Just as you will grow out of your baggy trousered period.

Kata Now are you really taking the side of the Nazis?

Mom Don't yell with me, would you?

Kata Was I yelling?

Mom They can still hear you, you know?

Kata Didn't you just tell me it was half brick?

Mom Yes, but the other half is panel.

Kata And which is the panel part?

Just to know where to turn when I'm talking.

Soebody's knocking, Mom walks to the door

A young guy is standing at the door in steel-inlay booths, bomber jacket.

Robi Hello.

Mom Hi.

Robi gives his hand.

Robi I'm Róbert Csonka Kiss. From next door.

Mom Ágnes Váradi.

Robi *(Noticing Kata)* Hi, there.

Kata Hello.

Mom How can I help you?

Robi I heard you have arrived. I just dropped by to introduce myself.

Mom I would love to ask you in, but it's still such a mess in here.

Robi Oh, I really don't mean to disturb.

Mom Even the glasses are still in the boxes.

Robi I really didn't come for that... And? Just the two of you?

Mom Yes...

Robi No one else coming?

Mom Why?

Robi Cuz I can help fetch the boxes, then.

Mom We've brought them all up already.

Robi This orange bike in front of the house, is it yours?

Mom Yes, it is.

Robi Don't leave it outside. It's somewhat better if you take it in the stairwell.

Mom Is there a bike storage?

Robi There used to be. Now the Csepűs family use it for their rabbits. Well, if you need anything just let me know. If you need some holes drilled and the likes...

Mom Thank you very much.

Robi The janitor was hospitalized and now my parents are taking care of the house, but they are working two shifts, I'm trying to help them, so if you need anything, just knock on my door, or through the wall, I can hear that too...

Mom Well, thanks.

Robi It's a pretty nice community, there are some of us here who are trying to keep the order. Together with my friend, Áron. So the house is pretty safe. Now, at least...

Mom Now that's good to hear that.

Robi But don't leave the bike in the street.
My parents will drop by to say hi, too, but they're not home yet.

Mom So nice of them.

Robi Do you know the neighbourhood already?

Mom Yes, somewhat.

Robi There's a grocery store behind the house, a video rental a few blocks down,
even a beautician here in one of the garages.

Mom We'll have plenty of time to discover...

Robi I'm so happy the two of you moved here. The previous tenants... 'tenants'?
Nevermind, the point is Áron managed to get them leave.

Kata Why? Who used to live here before?

Robi It really doesn't matter. The flat was fixed in the meanwhile, there was even a
sanitary painting... You shouldn't bother at all.

Mom So, thanks again for dropping by.

Robi So long. And let me know if you need anything.

Exit Robi

Mom *(to Kata)* Have you calmed down, now?

Kata Not at all.