

Sari:

"As soon as I met Eicca, I was swept off my feet.

I was sixteen and it was March. I know because I remember the winter coat he was wearing, checkered with a cool fur collar.

I fell in love with his funny wild stories and long hair. His fingers also looked so long and beautiful when he rolled his cigarettes. I wanted to be near him and look at him all the time.

I'd never met a guy like that or fallen in love with anyone before.

And Eicca said on that very first evening that I was his girl and we'd be together forever.

We spent every moment together. Hanging around and drinking, and things at school started going down the drain. We moved to a different city, mostly to get away from my mom. She was always nagging at me and Eicca especially.

And, anyhow, Eicca grew up here and his dad gave us some money to help us get started.

But then everything started going to hell. We drank a lot and Eicca started doing drugs. We had all these weirdos hanging around our flat all night long. I objected and that's when he beat me up for the first time. He just freaked out when we weren't on the same team anymore. I felt totally stamped out.

But I can't live without him and he knows it like hell.

We've had some wonderful times too, especially when I was pregnant with Ellu and she was born. Eicca even got a job at a construction site and stopped doing drugs for a little while. Then he went missing at nights again and kept blaming me for all kinds of crazy shit.

Even though I was home alone with Ellu when he got home in the morning drunk, he'd start blasting me about who's been here, hitting me and calling me a whore. Blasting it out to the whole building.

Then I ran out of strength and stopped trying.

I started drinking again myself and things got a little better Eicca.

I don't know how this'll end. At least it's better that Ellu stays with my mom for the time being.

I would never dare to leave Eicca and I just couldn't because I know how much I need him and he needs me.

And hey, where would I even go?"

TRANSLATION FROM FINNISH: SUSAN HEISKANEN