

From the book: Zelimir Peris - Martyrs

zelimir.peris@gmail.com

Lydia

(story fragment)

i

The meat should marinate for several hours in milk, after which it will be particularly soft and it will melt on the tongue. Instead of buying the breadcrumbs, make your own. Take old bread (preferably from yesterday) and grind in a mixer. Crumbs will be large to better hold the mixture for frying. The meat should first be dipped in the flour, then the eggs, the crumbs and finally immersed into the hot oil. Fry on both sides for four minutes. Remove from the oil and leave a few minutes on a napkin to drain. Store in a closed container to retain the juiciness until serving time.

ii

I really liked Medea because it shows how a woman must be emancipated, witch means that she must be her own boss and fight for that with all means necessary. If the goal is justified you can use all the means to reach it thats why I liked Medea very much and I think all the girls should have women like Medea as role models, and not singers or actors because they have no real life problems but just tv problems.

iii

Simmer finely chopped onion and celery on the oil for five minutes. Add carrot, pumpkin cut into small cubes and gourd. Add the broccoli in the last five minutes. Other vegetables can be added. The more diverse vegetables – better the soup. Cook for twenty minutes. Add pepper and salt, stir, set aside a few pieces of pumpkin and blend the rest into a creamy thick soup. At the end return the removed pieces and serve. These pieces, when spooned up, give special pleasure and intense flavor.

iv

Everything is served, and yet they're not here. Now they're almost half an hour late. Marko hates it when I call him just to ask him where he is. Last week he stayed late at work every single day, and the little one was always the last child left in kindergarten. He tells me that he would sit on the couch all alone and look at the door waiting to see someone of his to show up. I hate myself for not learning how to drive. I hate myself for it every day.

v

I don't like Medea bcause I don't like no greek play bcause those are all a thousand year old stories and has nothing to do with present life and they are writen so that nobody normal cannot read it. Just like she's like some kind of a girl wizard and she know no magic. The best she can do is to poison the cape and you don't have to be some kind of a wizard to do that. If she where a real thing she could take them all without a problem an do everything her way.

vi

They ate lunch in five minutes. Neither of them wanted to eat soup, but they stuffed themselves with a fried chicken. Marko threw a few slices into his mouth and saying that he had to return to work, put on his jacket and left. I looked at the watch, it's been exactly ten minutes since he entered the apartment until he got out of it. He didn't remove his shoes or washed his hands. Josip ate three slices of meat, sat down on the couch and turned on the cartoon. Neither of them has cleaned anything from the table.

vii

Hrvoje called. He vaguely mumbled at first, then said he was coming home next week. Why is he coming home, did something happen? I failed a year, mom, he said. That's how he said it: I failed a year. Why next week? Come immediately. He still has some things to do. The whole week? Weekend also? What do you have to do on a weekend?

viii

Medea is the story of a wicked man and a woman who is fighting against the evil in men. And in order to resist that evil in the form of a penis, she should hit him where it hurts the most, in the balls. Symbolically, in this play Jason's testicles are represented by his two sons Mermer and Feret. Therefore, Medea's anger toward her husband, who is a metaphor for the phallus, is very effectively directed towards his testicles.

Oh Lord, Lana.

Lana has two huge silver balls pierced through the eyebrow. I cannot look her in the eyes, because it is so invasive, so close to the eye, one ball is constantly entangled in the eyelashes. My eyes tear up every time I try looking at hers.

ix

Josip was asleep at eight, Marko came at nine. He said he was falling off his feet, took off his clothes and ran under the shower. He said they were near the end of the project and that now all of them must pull it together and it'll come through. He's traveling to Budapest tomorrow. He'll be back on Monday. What are you going to do in Budapest for the weekend? We'll work, we have to finish it, there is no time, we have to work day and night, he waved his arms. Hrvoje called, I said. He called me too, he said. What are we going to do about him? Nothing.

x

When ironing the shirt begin with the collar. Iron the outer side from the top towards the middle. Iron the back and the chest in one stroke from the edge towards the collar. Fold the sleeve along the seam and iron on both sides. Slowly spin the sleeve so not to leave the crease. If your husband wears shirts, ironing board for sleeves is a good investment.

xi

My son failed a year. So, after everything, a year. Did we give in too much or pushed him too hard? Did we have a wrong approach? Is it our sin or his? I realize it is not „our“. Marko is interested in his college as much as in the folds of a shirt. Or less.

xii

I liked the play very much because of that atmosphere and the traditional values. I have experienced it as a glorification of marriage values and fidelity. If I were in that situation I would act completely different than Medea, not because Jason didn't deserve it but because revenge is a very important thing to go through. Anyhow I liked it very much and I liked the first verse the best: Ah! Would to Heaven the good ship Argo ne'er had sped its course to the Colchian land through the misty blue Symplegades, nor ever in the glens of Pelion the pine been felled to furnish with oars the chieftain's hands, who went to fetch the golden fleece for Pelias (translated by E.P. Coleridge). I think that verse says everything about the beauty of this work.

xiii

The ideal breakfast should consist of oatmeal which stays longer in the stomach and is a perfect food for the morning. Mix a cup of oatmeal with a few tablespoons of sunflower seeds and dried cranberries. Soak in a non-fat milk and store in the refrigerator in a closed container until morning. In the morning the seeds will soften and provide a tasty nutritious meal combined with a good mood.

xiv

So, my son has failed a year. And rather than come home he remains there for a few days longer to do - what? Sort out the paperwork? What paperwork? To get drunk, more likely. To drink with friends in a dorm and do stupid things. To knock out of his head all those months of unsuccessful studies. Maybe he has a girlfriend? Maybe he has to say goodbye to her? What do I do know about him at all? What does he tell me about himself? When do we talk? My son has failed a year, and I don't even know why

xv

I tried reading this twice and I haven't understood a thing. So I had to read a summarized version of the play online. I respect my reading assignment and the classical literature, but I think that reading Euripides in original is unnecessarily difficult and that surely there are better ways of conveying to high school students what you wanted to convey. Because, if it comes to the beauty of the text it's certainly not worth much today and if it's because of the story then it could have been told in a more modern way like in a movie or a serial and not force students to read the original text.

xvi

I called the mother of a boy that goes to a kindergarten with Josip to ask if she can bring him home when she went for her child, but her son picked up a virus and hasn't gone to kindergarten. That leaves me then to pick him up with a cab. Or a bus. Both options will take me at least an hour. I hate it that I did not learn how to drive. I hate it that I put myself in a position to depend on someone else's good will.

xvii

Josip greeted me with a bloody lip and a bloody shirt. He says he got into a fight with a small Matija. Why? Because I had to. Why did you have to? Because. Because why? Just because. Pre-school teacher doesn't know anything, it didn't happen during her shift, she thought he has fallen from the stairs. Great. The way they take care of my child, just great. They are not able to control a five-year-old's fist. They don't even know what is happening under their noses.

We return by taxi. It's Josip's first ride in a taxi. He feels important. Well, Josip, tell Mommy, why did you fight? I already told you, Mom: because.

xviii

The stain should first be moistened by lightly rubbing it with a sponge dipped in a paste made of sodium bicarbonate and cold water. Leave it to soak for a couple of hours in order for paste to take effect. Afterwards, rinse the clothes well and if the blood is still visible continue to rub with the paste and cold water. It is important not to use hot water as long as the blood is visible. Then, wash the clothes in the usual way and the stain should disappear. If the sodium bicarbonate is not available, shaving paste can be used, even salt. For heavy stains ammonia or peroxide will be needed.

xix

Medea is a cunt because she didn't put out to Jason so he had to go and look elsewhere and then she fucking lost it over one hundred pages.

Call parents!

That jerk, Andrija. It never happened that a problem child has a considerate and reasonable parents. If a child is a problem in school, if he's a psychopath and an idiot, then invariably the same attitudes, the same behavior and the same psychosis can be found in parents. And I have already met the parents of this little prick Andrija and I do not want to go through that again.

xx

I called the guidance counselor, she'll call Andrija's parents. I can no longer fight with the parents. I cannot watch anymore how exactly the same as they children they are, and how supportive they are because they can't see anything wrong with them. Or those others who have no idea what their children actually do in school. I feel truly sorry for them. It's sickening to see how they try to hide the shock when we tell them their kid is cutting classes all days long or how we caught them smoking pot behind the school.

xxi

Well, my son has failed a year, and I don't know why. I am a parent who doesn't know what her children are doing. Why are they fighting? What are they doing when away? But I am not supposed to know that. That is not my role. My role is to provide for them the best I can and teach them to live and let them live their lives alone. But if it doesn't work now, then it cannot be their fault. They are too young to go through their own mud. Have I called them enough, talked enough with them? Have I repeated often enough what is good, and what is wrong? What in the world is wrong with us? Something is wrong, something is hugely wrong and my children are suffering because of it.

xxii

I like Euripides' tragedy Medea because it is about a family. The important verse describing the relations in families back then is "Of all creatures that can feel and think, we women are the worst treated things alive.". The plot happened when Jason cheated on Medea and that is the cause of the whole drama. In many relationships a man cheats on his girlfriend and that's why the girlfriend takes revenge. That's how Medea took revenge by killing his kids in front of him. This is the ultimate revenge because it's way better than killing him, because this image is going to be in front of his eyes his entire life, and he won't think of cheating again.

