

Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

Reckless Behavior

flash fiction



Urban Volcano

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Illustrations: Börkur Sigurbjörnsson

Publisher: Urban Volcano

<https://urbanvolcano.net/>

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RECKLESS BEHAVIOR

“So... I’m boring... too predictable... too prudent... too...” Murray shouted after Lynn as she slammed the door behind her and left the house. “I’ll show you recklessness... spontaneity... I’ll show you...”

Murray was angry—really angry. He and Lynn had been arguing once again—if their interaction could be called an argument, that is. The whole episode was more like a one-sided rant from Lynn about how bored she was living with him—how fed-up she was of his pragmatic and systematic approach to life. She said she needed someone who was more daring—

someone more spontaneous—someone more human. That’s what she had said. She wanted to be with someone more human.

Murray felt the tension build up in his body. He felt the urge to do something wild—let everything loose. He strode from one room to the other, thinking about what he could do. He looked about himself, seeking an object on which he could focus his anger—object onto which he could release the tension.

In the bathroom Murray spotted the toothpaste tube and crazy ideas started to form in his head. You can do it, he convinced himself. You are not as boring as Lynn says. You can be rash. You can be daring. Yes, you can. Murray grabbed the toothpaste tube from the bathroom shelf and squeezed it in the middle.

“See!” Murray shouted at the void Lynn had left in the apartment when she ran out. “See what I can do... I can be laid-back... I can be impetuous... Not everything needs to be optimized.”

Murray put the toothpaste tube back onto the shelf, sat down on the toilet seat and tears started flowing down his cheeks. At first, he felt relieved. Then, he felt exhausted. He felt the tension in his body gradually subside and he started to calm down. He sat for a minute or two staring at the bathroom floor, before looking again up at the toothpaste tube where it sat on its shelf. This wasn’t right. What kind of a man had he become? This wasn’t the life he wanted to lead.

Murray stood up, walked over to the shelf and squeezed the toothpaste tube from the top to bottom—like one should do.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Börkur is an avid storyteller with a keen eye for quirky characters, funny dialogs and vivid scenario descriptions. Much of his writing falls within the genre of realistic fiction and his stories are more often than not based on real events in the author's life. Although the tales contain grains of truth, they are melded with fiction, making the reader curious to know the line between reality and fantasy.

Books

Among Other Things, flash fiction (2024)

Talk To Strangers, short stories (2019)

Flash 52, flash fiction (2017)

999 Abroad, short stories (2012)

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