




An old man as a husband

Ein gammal mann som kjærast

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 5

 English [en](#) / nynorsk [nn](#)



I thought Norwegian men were the best men in the world, but that is not true! Before I met the man who became my husband, I worked in a factory in Bangkok, and he lived in Pattaya. We met through the Internet and eventually became a couple.

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Eg trudde norske menn var dei beste mennene i verda, men det stemmer ikkje! Før eg møtte han som skulle bli ektemannen min, jobba eg på ein fabrikk i Bangkok, medan han budde i Pattaya. Vi vart kjente gjennom Internett og vart etter kvart saman.



After a while we decided to get married. I came from a poor family, so having a foreign husband who could take care of my family was part of my reason for marrying him.

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Etter ei stund bestemte vi oss for å gifte oss. Eg kom frå ein fattig familie, så det å ha ein utanlandsk ektemann som kunne forsørge familien min, var ein del av grunnen til at eg gifta meg med han.



We moved to Norway, and I started going to school to learn Norwegian. It was a difficult time. I did not have a driver's licence, and my husband had to drive me to school, wait for me, and drive back. It was an hour each way. After a while we moved closer, but he still insisted on driving me to school. He did not want me to walk alone.

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Vi flytta til Noreg, og eg byrja å gå på skule for å lære norsk. Det var vanskelege tider. Eg hadde ikkje førarkort, og mannen min var nøydd til å køyre meg til skulen, vente på meg og køyre meg tilbake. Det tok éin time kvar veg. Etter ei stund flytta vi nærare, men likevel insisterte han på å køyre meg til skulen. Han ville ikkje at eg skulle gå åleine.



I have hardly had any money since I came to Norway. Once, my husband gave me money for lunch, but since I had so little money, I kept it. My friends at school want to help me to get a job, but my husband says I cannot. He does not think working as a cleaner is appropriate for me.

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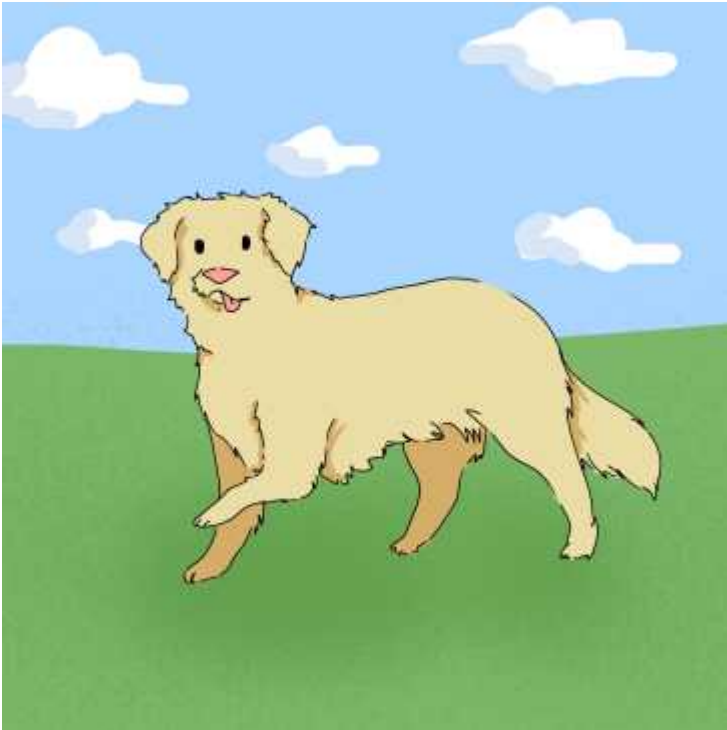
Eg har nesten ikkje hatt pengar sidan eg kom til Noreg. Éin gong gav han meg pengar til lunsj, men sidan eg hadde så lite pengar, behaldt eg dei. Vennene mine på skulen vil hjelpe meg med å skaffe meg ein jobb, men mannen min seier at eg ikkje kan det. Han synest ikkje jobben som reinhaldar passar for meg.



Instead he had another job for me – building a garage. He was the boss and I did everything. He could not do much because he was ill. He did not give me any of the money he made from building the garage.

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I staden hadde han ein annan jobb for meg – å bygge ein garasje. Han var sjefen og eg gjorde alt. Han kunne ikkje gjere så mykje fordi han var sjuk. Han gav meg ingen av pengane han tente frå å bygge garasjen.



One day he said he was bored when he was home alone, so he decided we should get a dog. I did not want a dog as I was tired after school and I had homework to do. He said he would walk the dog every day, but in the end I had to take care of both the dog and my old husband.

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Ein dag sa han til meg at han kjeda seg når han var åleine heime, så han bestemte seg for at vi skulle skaffe oss ein hund. Eg ville ikkje ha ein hund sidan eg var sliten etter skulen og hadde lekser. Han sa at han skulle gå tur med hunden kvar dag, men til slutt måtte eg passe både hunden og den gamle mannen min.



I do not know what the future will bring. My plan is to go to another school, but my husband does not want me to do that. He is planning to move further away to make it difficult for me. I want to resist, but I do not know how. It is not as easy to live in a foreign country with an old man as a husband as I thought it would be.

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Eg veit ikkje kva framtida vil bringe. Planen min er å byrje på ein annan skule, men mannen min vil ikkje at eg skal gjere det. Han planlegg å flytte lengre vekk for å gjere det vanskeleg for meg. Eg vil gjere motstand, men eg veit ikkje korleis. Det er ikkje så lett å bu i utlandet med ein gammal mann slik eg ein gong såg for meg.




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