




An old man as a husband

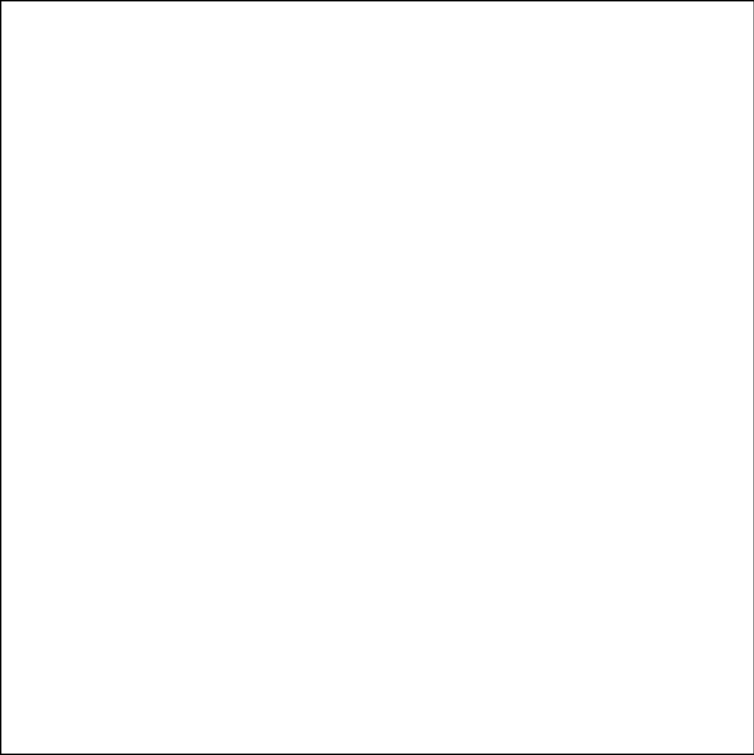
En gammel mann som kjæreste

 Aranya

 Sunniva Høiby-Øiset

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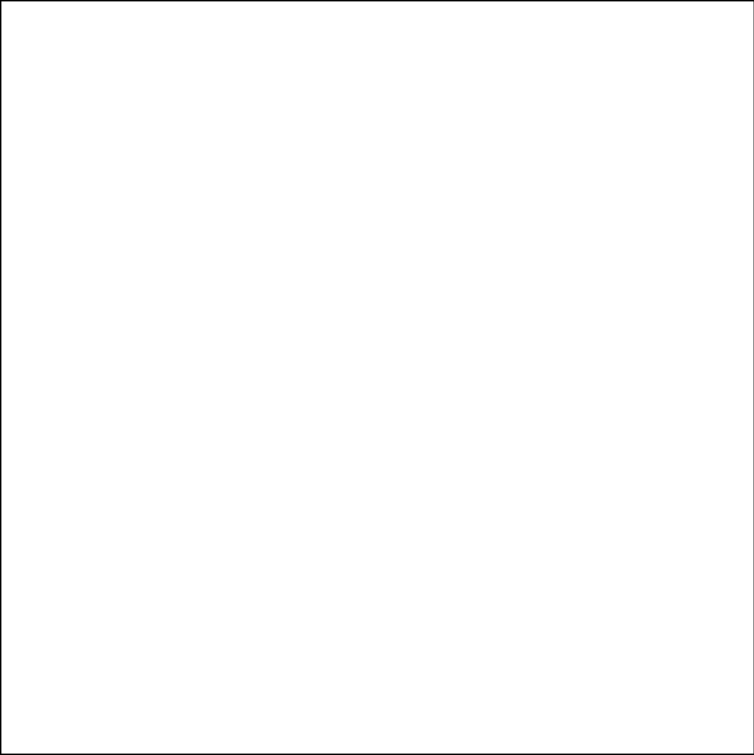
 English / norsk



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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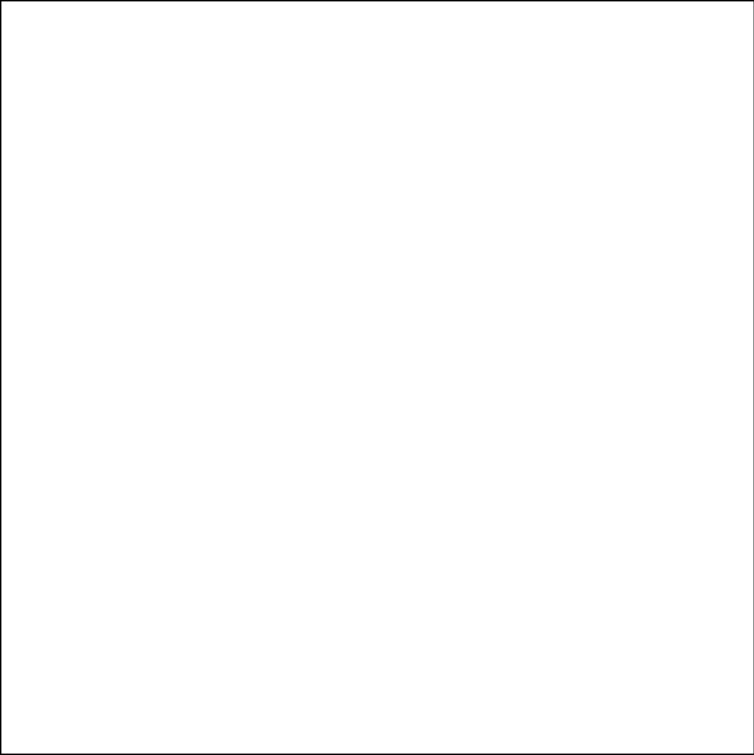
Jeg trodde norske menn var de beste mennene i verden, men det stemmer ikke! Før jeg møtte han som skulle bli ektemannen min, jobbet jeg på en fabrikk i Bangkok, mens han bodde i Pattaya. Vi ble kjent gjennom Internett og ble etter hvert sammen.



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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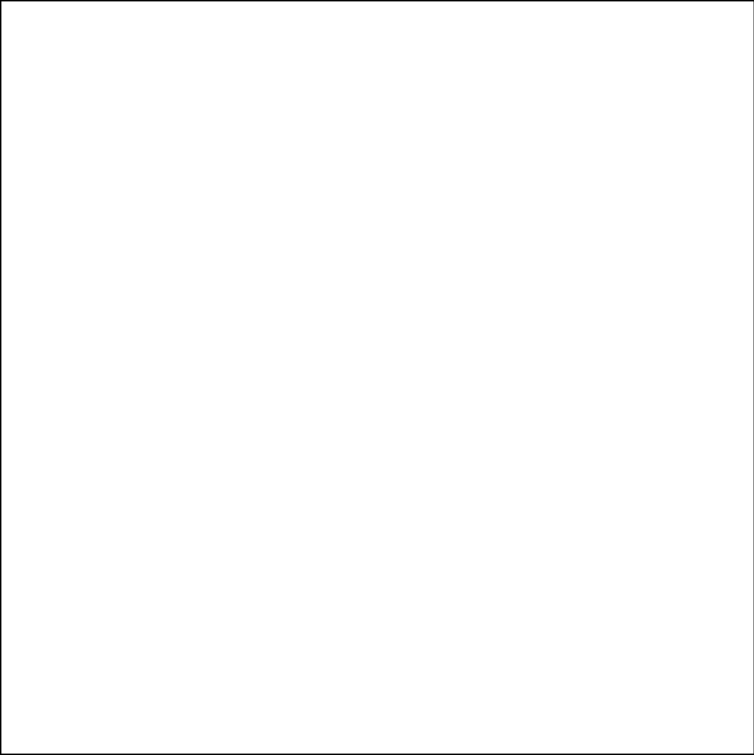
Etter en stund bestemte vi oss for å gifte oss. Jeg kom fra en fattig familie, så det å ha en utenlandsk ektemann som kunne forsørge familien min, var en del av grunnen til at jeg giftet meg med ham.



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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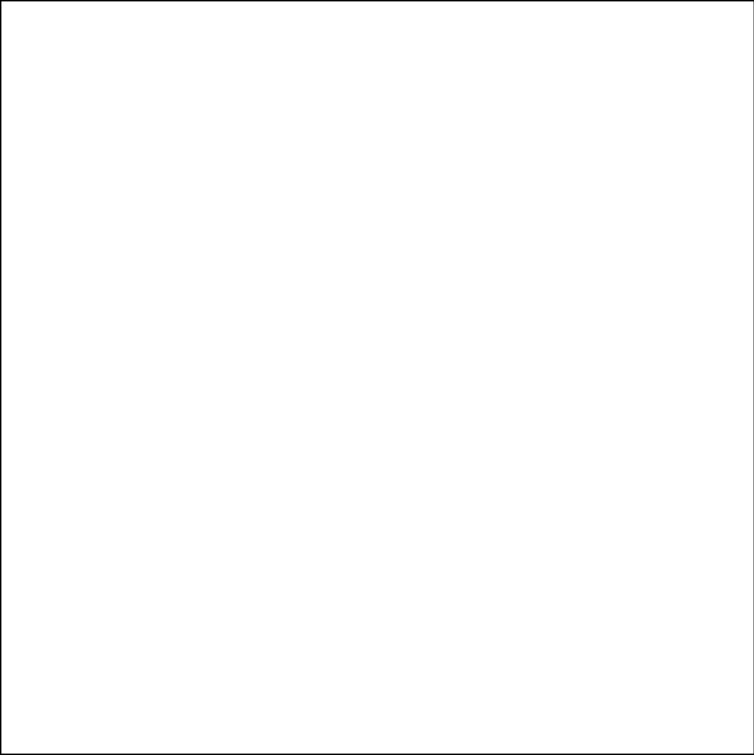
Vi flyttet til Norge, og jeg begynte å gå på skole for å lære norsk. Det var vanskelige tider. Jeg hadde ikke førerkort, og mannen min var nødt til å kjøre meg til skolen, vente på meg og kjøre meg tilbake. Det tok én time hver vei. Etter en stund flyttet vi nærmere, men likevel insisterte han på å kjøre meg til skolen. Han ville ikke at jeg skulle gå alene.



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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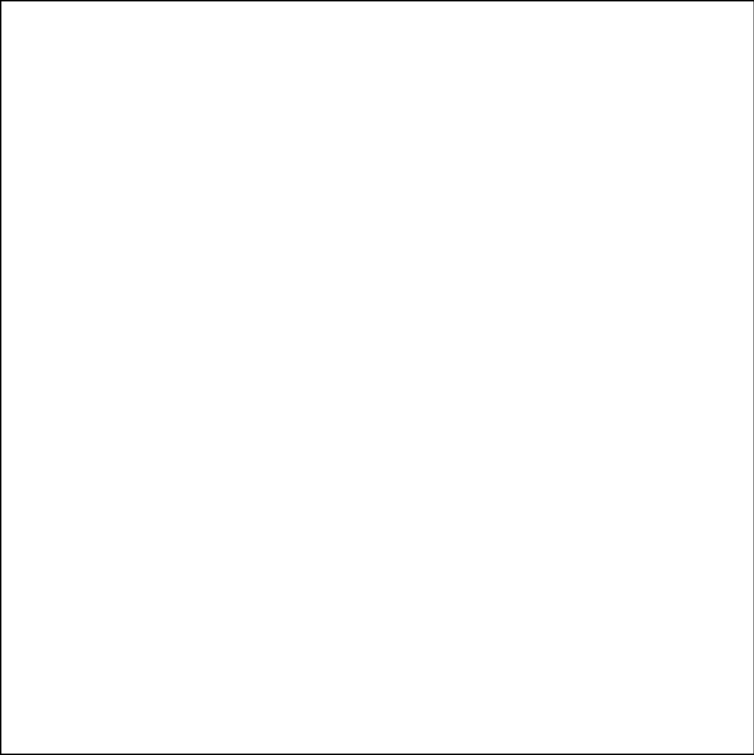
Jeg har nesten ikke hatt penger siden jeg kom til Norge. Én gang ga han meg penger til lunsj, men siden jeg hadde så lite penger, beholdt jeg dem. Vennene mine på skolen vil hjelpe meg med å skaffe meg en jobb, men mannen min sier at jeg ikke kan det. Han synes ikke jobben som renholder passer for meg.



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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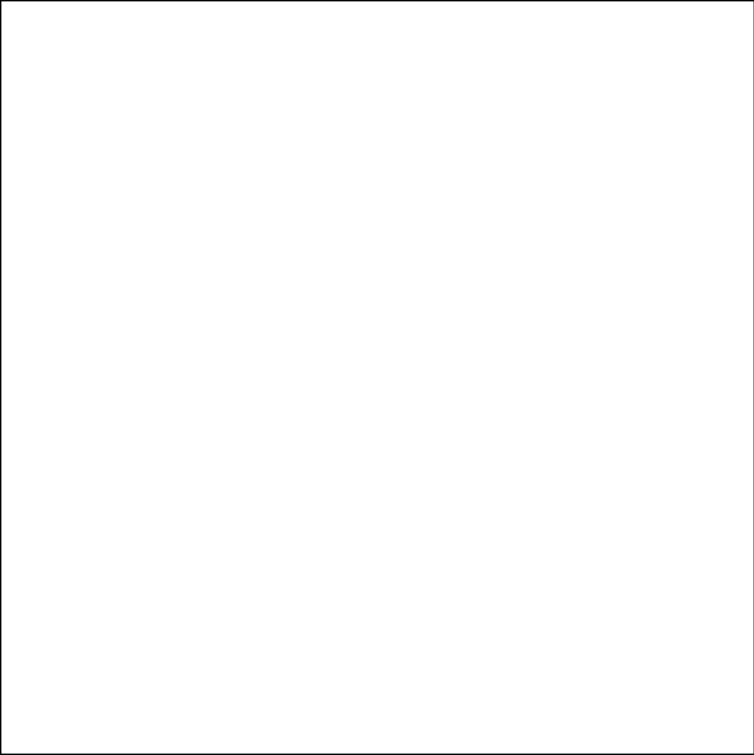
I stedet hadde han en annen jobb for meg – å bygge en garasje. Han var sjefen og jeg gjorde alt. Han kunne ikke gjøre så mye fordi han var syk. Han ga meg ingen av pengene han tjente på å bygge garasjen.



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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En dag sa han til meg at han kjedet seg når han var alene hjemme, så han bestemte seg for at vi skulle skaffe oss en hund. Jeg ville ikke ha en hund siden jeg var sliten etter skolen og hadde lekser. Han sa at han skulle gå tur med hunden hver dag, men til slutt måtte jeg 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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Jeg vet ikke hva framtiden vil bringe. Planen min er å begynne på en annen skole, men mannen min vil ikke at jeg skal gjøre det. Han planlegger å flytte lengre vekk for å gjøre det vanskelig for meg. Jeg vil gjøre motstand, men jeg vet ikke hvordan. Det er ikke så lett å bo i utlandet med en gammel mann slik jeg en gang så for meg.




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