

I don't know what it's supposed to be. I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I keep wondering when it will start. Life. When will life start?

And then there he is. At a club in Mitte. Dancing. With his shirt off. And I think, wow, that guy can really dance. That guy is like... fire. And then he looks over at me. Me? And I am gone. I pretend not to be. I try to be cool. To make it seem like I'm not interested. But I am so interested.

And we dance until the sun comes up. And as we come out of the club into the light, I think this is it. This is life. I am living.

And I know he wants to take me home. To his place. Or to his friend's place. Or to someone's place, I'm not quite sure whose place it is and I say ok. Because at last I am living and I don't want life to stop.

And when he kisses me I want to cry. Because I'd never been kissed like that. And I'd never been kissed where he kissed me or touched quite like that. He seemed to know things and for once it didn't seem to matter that I didn't. Three days. Three days we stayed in bed. And after three days I knew some things too.

We don't even get up to eat. He disappears and comes back with a bowl of cereal and two spoons. And that's all we eat. Cereal. Out of the same bowl. For three days.

START

On the third night I watch him sleeping and I do that thing you shouldn't do. I think about the future. I imagine taking him home to meet Mom and Dad and my sister and brothers and and how they will all love him, like they love me. And how lucky I am and brave to have found such a man, such a beautiful man, different but the same and brought him all the way back to the Midwest and then, there I am.... Oh, I am so embarrassed but suddenly there I am in our yard with Dad's roses all around us and I'm walking across the lawn on his arm, and he's got tears in his eyes and Mom's there in a new dress, which she

never lets herself have and my sister Pip is there with her husband, Steve and their two girls. She got married in the yard too. And Mark, my oldest brother who I adore is there with his girlfriend, Taylor. And then there's Ben, my other brother who's there with a girl who's new and won't last because they just don't with Ben and I love them all so much, sometimes I think, too much, if you can love too much but now I have to make room for Emmanuel who's standing there in a suit and he is just so, so... so handsome.... And I...

I'm wearing a white dress... And I'm kind of surprised; kind of shocked because I never even knew that's what I wanted. And maybe it's not what I want, it's what I think Mom and Dad want for me but anyway I'm there in a white dress on my father's arm walking across the lawn and

Then he wakes up and he looks at me as if he knows what I'm thinking and as if he wants to get up and run so I kiss him on his lips before he can. And he smiles. And I'm gone all over again. And we make love, so tenderly, so sweetly and after, as I drift off to sleep, lying on his chest, listening to the beat of his heart, thinking I could listen to this for the rest of my life, I think is this it, is this what falling in love is?

And when I wake up in the morning he's gone... along with 400 euros from my wallet, my ipad, my camera, my favorite scarf and a large piece of my heart.

END

I find a girl in the house, smoking a cigarette at the kitchen table and ask if she's seen him. She shrugs and says that he said something about going to see his girlfriend in London. She tells me to get my things and to get out of her house.

I walk through the streets of Berlin. I feel small. I feel like I'm 12 years old, I feel ridiculous. I want to cry but I won't. Well I do, a little. But not as much as I want to. I want my dad. I want my Mom. I want my brothers and my sister. I want to hear them laugh and argue and fight