"Yes… hello… uhm… how can I help you, miss?"

"I am Jarka, Dan's girlfriend. Can I come in, please?"

"Of course." Dan's mum invites her inside. Jarka takes off her shoes in the narrow hall and is being led into a living room. *How can they fit all this antique furniture here, into a living room of a typical small flat?* Dan's dad sits in an armchair, watching television. He comes across as a kind, gentle man, still with good hair, some of them starting to grey on the sides.

Now he stands up and shakes Jarka's hand with a question mark in his eyes. "Please, take a seat, nice to meet you. Dan told us about you. Yes, he did. But we were wondering when or if he will introduce us."

"Nice of him that he mentioned me. You might be wondering what's the reason for this unannounced visit. I came to tell you something…" Jarka is going to explain but her shaking voice is interrupted by the jingle of the main evening news. *I hate TVs! Haven't had one for at least ten years now.*

"Let me switch off the sound here." Dan's dad reaches for the remote control to reduce the volume, but he freezes before he's able to finish his move. His son, well, a picture of his son, wearing a blue T-shirt, stares from the television screen.

The news host exclaims in a rather excited tone of voice that "Two Czech divers were accused of murder in Croatia and are now being held in custody in Split."

Jarka and Dan's parents look at each other, everyone clearly shocked.

The host continues to explain: "One of the divers from the group was found dead in an underwater cave with his diving knife in the chest. The chief of Dalmatian regional police has not yet released more

details, citing sensitivity of the investigation as one of the Croatian Navy divers got lost and died in the cave during the rescue operation on the following day. We will report more on this case as soon as we know more, our correspondent is already on the way to Split. Now, let's move to the imminent danger of floods in Northern Bohemia…"

Dan's dad finally manages to turn the sound off. They all look at each other, an awkward moment of silence. No one knows what to say.

"Yes, that's why I am here. Czech consul in Croatia called me a couple hours ago, asked me to inform the company and of course you too. I am sorry, what news, oh my god." Jarka's voice trails away and her eyes glisten with suppressed tears.

"Oh, I don't know what to think about it," says Mum slowly. "I don't believe any of this, obviously, Dan is not a murderer."

"Sure, this can't be true, my dear." Dad shakes his head. "But what are we going to do? Imagine, our Danik is now in jail!" He exhales deeply.

Mum turns towards Jarka. "Thank you very much for coming to inform us. I know it must be very hard for you too. For all of us. What else do you know, please? Oh, do you like to have a cup of tea or a glass of water, I forgot to ask you. We don't drink coffee, so I can't offer."

Jarka asks for a glass of water and continues to explain little pieces of information she got from the consul. "She promised to call me back later today and tell me more."

And that's how Jarka met Dan's parents. One can hardly imagine a more improbable situation of meeting the future in-laws.