

Kari Hukkila

IT'S LATE

- A: It's late.
I am late.
The first thing to say is I am late.
- B: Late for what?
For what?
- A: Everything is so... it's late. I can't say it more exactly.
Everything happens so quickly.
- B: What's quick?
- A: When you say it's late, and everything happens so quickly, you think about your skin.
- B: Your skin?
It has something to do with this?
- A: Yes it has.
- B: Can you tell me more?
More about your skin?
- A: Yes, the skin-me says it's too late.
- B: The skin-me?
- A: Yes, the skin around me, yes.

B: The skin says too late?

A: Exactly, yes.

B: And too late for what?

A: For the skin.

Yes, for the skin, I guess.

Can you follow me?

It's too late, I think, for my skin, I think, to save my skin.

B: To save your skin?

A: Yes.

My skin is —

fragile.

Yes, exactly, fragile.

And it's too late.

B: I am not sure if I can quite follow.

A: And I can't jump out.

B: To jump?

From where?

And where do you want to jump?

A: I *can't* jump out.

B: Yes, I understood. But where do you want to jump?

A: But I *cannot* jump. Do you hear me?

B: Yes, I hear you.

Tell me more.

A: I can't jump.

Because I can't jump out of my skin.

B: Yes, you can never jump out of your skin.

A: Everyone knows it.

This is serious.

B: Yes.

A: Because if I would jump out of my skin.

B: Yes?

A: I would be no more.

B: No more?

A: At least here.

And.

B: And?

A: And I would be no more.

Not only here.

B: No.

A: But anywhere.

It would be very easy to understand what it means.

To be no more. Anywhere.

And very easy to understand what does it mean to save your skin.

B: Yes.

A: Easy to understand, but —

B: But?

A: But nobody knows how —

B: How?

A: Yes, how to do it.

B: You mean to save your skin?

A: Yes.

B: And how's that? Is there's a problem.

A: Yes, there's a problem.

A simple problem.

Everyone wants a certain kind of life.

B: A certain life?

A: Yes.

A life of chance.

That's what everybody wants.

B: Yes?

A: A life of chance. Nobody wants to know anything ahead of time.

B: Ahead of time?

A: Yes, about his life. Next week. Next year.

B: And why this?

A: Because that would change everything.
We don't want to know. Ahead of time.
We want to wait.
And we want to hope.

B: But we don't want to know?

A: No, I understand it to this exact point, but no further.
But my skin,
I must say —
Sometimes I think that my skin has changed.
I don't know why. Or how.
Maybe it's the age.

B: Age?

A: No, I mean ageing.
You see —

B: I see what? Where?

A: Under my eyes —

B: Yes.

A: The skin is very thin.
About half a millimeter.
There's a spot.

B: A spot?

A: Yes, just under my eyes.

And that's where ageing comes in.

B: Is that so?

A: Yes. If it's not something else.

B: Something else?

A: Yes.

The skin has not changed.

B: But something else has changed?

A: Yes, exactly, something around us.

B: And what it is?

A: Who knows.

B: The air?

A: Perhaps.

B: The soil?

A: Perhaps.

B: The sky?

A: Why not.

B: The earth?

A: My skin simply says: something has changed, I can feel it.

- B: I don't like this.
I don't want to hear about it.
- A: Me neither.
I want to stand still.
I want to stay here.
Sometimes my skin says, stay here.
But me says I can't.
The skin says stay.
And me says but how?
Stay! But how?
How? To stay?
We should find out a stay-how.
Nonsense.
But none the less.
Stay or not.
We look for a place to land.
- B: The skin says stay, and find the place?
- A: Yes, place to stay.
And me says but where?
- B: You always say skin-me.
Who's that?
- A: It's someone.
Someone walking on the skin of the earth.
- B: On the skin of the earth?
- A: Yes, exactly. Everything has a skin, you know.
- B: Everyone?

A: And everything.
Everyone and everything.
We touch, sense, and think with skin.

B: True.

A: So, everything has skin. Except —

B: Except?

A: Shadows have no skin.

B: It's weird.

A: Shadows are.
In the final analysis —

B: Yes.

A: I can't do anything but laugh.

B: Laugh?

A: Laugh. For this ridiculous world.

B: World?

A: Of human beings.
Can't but laugh for it.

B: Can't but laugh?

A: When you laugh and laugh openly, and show that the laughter comes from your heart, and you laugh all the more and harder than anyone else around, then you have saved your skin.

B: Yes, you have.

A: The power of laughter is great among human beings, and holds great terror.

B: Yes, but —

A: So, he who has the courage to laugh has saved his skin, much as he who is ready to die.

B: Oh I'm frightened.
How did we come thus far?

A: They are self-centered.

B: Who they?

A: I mean we are self-centered.

B: Self-what?

A: Little stirrings —

B: What stirrings?

A: Little shakings -

B: Shakings?

A: On earth, we call them revolutions, of any color.

B: Yes.

A: And history.

Yes, we call it world history.

B: Eh... Still laughing?

A: I mean we call our history world history. It's absolutely ridiculous.
All these beings on earth.

B: Yes, all these beings?

A: All these beings have never seen, never heard, revolutions or world
history.
They have never seen it.
They know nothing about it.
They have never heard about us.
The world knows nothing of history.
History knows nothing of the world.
So it's ridiculous.

B: So it sounds.

A: I have a question.

B: Yes.

A: What comes after Monday?

B: What do you mean?

A: Tuesday, it's simple.

B: Yes.

A: And what comes before Wednesday?

B: Tuesday, I suppose.

- A: But it's no more the same Tuesday.
It's something else. It's gone. You can't expect it to come.
- B: Calender is so weird.
- A: You expect a day to come. And then you don't remember the day any more. And it's the same day.
- B: What do you mean by this?
- A: I mean blindness.
I have two eyes, but I can't see this day to come and the other gone.
- B: You sound like a poet.
- A: No, rather like a blind man.
I should tell you about blindness.
- B: Yes, about blindness?
- A: As we don't see what is crucial. For us.
- B: True.
- A: But first, I want to tell you about seeing.
- B: Yes?
- A: I must tell about what I saw.
Naturally I saw what I saw.
- B: Yes, of course.
- A: I saw everything everyone saw.

B: Yes, everything.

A: I believe the time is up.

B: What do you mean?

A: I believe we are going somewhere.

B: But still before we are going, tell me what did you see.

A: Now I think it's rather something I *heard* about.

B: Heard about?

A: Yes, I heard about shadows.

B: Shadows?

A: Yes, shadows and something round and solid.

B: What is that?

A: Something round and solid, and something happens there.

B: Something happens?

A: Yes, it's an area of activity. Sphere.

B: Yes? Sphere?

A: It involves life.
And living organisms.

B: Yes, all this?

A: They call it sphere plus bio.

B: What's that?

A: It's biosphere.

B: Yes?

A: And I heard about shadows.
And heard about shadow biosphere.

B: Did you see it?

A: Rather I heard about it.

B: Heard?

A: It's something we are going to.

B: We are going to?

A: Yes, shadow biosphere. I don't know anything about it.
But it sounds exactly where we are going to.