

Zvonko Džokić

**THE
DRAGON'S
DAY**

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Zvonko Dzokic
The Dragon's Day

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- A script for a short film -



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ISBN 978-9989-2860-3-2

1. A TV SCREEN

The letters of the following words are TYPED on the screen:

TITLE: THE DRAGON'S DAY

TIME: 21ST CENTURY

ACTION...

2. EXT. PARK – DAY

Sky. Trees. Grass. A park full of PEOPLE. CHILDREN run around making a CHEERFUL NOISE. With squeals of delight, kites of many different colours are flown into the sky, sometimes only briefly before falling here and there on to the green grass.

SCISSORS are cutting bits and pieces of material to make kites. The scissors SNIP and SQUEAK.

CHILDREN are drawing body parts and faces on the pieces of the kites.

BRIAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER

Hey!

A three-year-old boy, BRIAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER is dragging a kite over the grass. A DOG runs playfully alongside him, jumping over the kite until the child and the dog are intertwined and fall over the kite.

BRIAN'S PARENTS help their younger son stand up and pick up the remains of the kite. They try to console him as he cries.

The park is situated between two rows of houses. From one side can be seen a window without curtains and the figure of ten-year-old MARKO. He is holding something in front of his eyes with one hand and it is pointed towards the crowd of people in the park.

3. INT. MARKO'S APARTMENT – DAY

A circular field of vision is divided by crossed lines into four parts. Someone is watching through the scope of a sniper rifle, training it along the faces of the crowd in the park. For a moment the sight focuses on the face of ten-year-old BRIAN, zooming in on his forehead, then his chest, and again his forehead. The view zooms out until it can be seen that the boy is occupied in finishing the construction of a large triangular kite laid out on the grass. Other children, mostly girls, are gathered around him watching curiously, while one of them is helping him enthusiastically.

CHILD'S VOICE (OS)

Hmm... Brian! Just look at him...

The scope zooms to the opposite side of the park and stops on a row of houses with the sign, 'Internet Club'.

A BOY is standing in front of the sign arguing with ANOTHER CHILD his own age.

BOY 1

Ah..! Peter, Peter! Practicing again, are you?!

MARKO removes the scope. He turns from the window and strides with a military gait to a glass cabinet full of firearms, returning the scope to its place besides a rifle. He

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closes the glass cabinet, picks up a TV remote-control and switches on a cartoon. He stares with passionate intensity at the character of a muscle-bound warrior.

4. INT. AN INTERNET CLUB – DAY

PETER and THE OTHER BOY are playing on a computer. The other boy is trying hard to beat him. Peter laughs victoriously from time to time. He reacts quickly on the keyboard, tense at first but increasingly relaxed.

PETER

You wanted to beat me?! To beat *me*?! Look! Look!

What are you gonna do now?!

OTHER BOY

(tense and already disappointed)

Fuck it! I'll kill you! You'll see.

The OTHER BOY hits the table with the keyboards, stands up and sits down again with his face in his hands.

Peter laughs. His mobile rings.

PETER

Hello... Mum?!... Yes... On a trip again?!... On business, isn't it?... I know, I know... and Dad's on a trip, too, I know... Me? I'm okay. I'll manage... I'm playing here and I'm winning... Yes, yes, everything will be all right, I know what I have to do... Yes, yes... School? Great. All as usual... Okay, bye! No need to worry... Come on, come on! Enough now, bye!

The OTHER BOY grabs the keyboard and they start again.

Peter's mobile rings again.

PETER

Hello.. Hello! Didn't I tell you not to call me any more? ... What father?! I don't recognize you as a father! Get off my back for once! Don't call me again, you hear me?!

PETER throws the phone on the table. It BREAKS into pieces. He turns to the other child with a darkened look in his eyes.

PETER

I'll kill you right now! Start playing!

5. EXT. PARK – DAY

The park. Kites are being finished on the stands. Eyes, lips and other details are being drawn onto them. There are many children around. In one part of the park, BRIAN is finishing his big kite. GIRLS move cheerfully around him, especially MILA. She is close to him all the time, asking him questions and handing him pieces of the kite.

MILA

The kite's going to be very beautiful. (She looks at the face of the kite.)
The most beautiful of all... Look at it!?

She kisses the kite then turns towards Brian and looks at his eyes closely.

MILA

(laughing and teasing)

It looks like you!

A small child, BRIAN'S YOUNGER BROTHER with HIS PARENTS and his DOG, carries a small kite that he cannot make fly. The small child runs in a circle. Suddenly he changes direction and together with the dog they bump into the kite lying on the grass.

?

Kerr!

Brian's brother and the dog break the kite into pieces with their clumsy movements,

but continue to run around. BRIAN'S MOTHER AND FATHER come running. BRIAN looks at the kite, falls to his knees and buries his face in his hands.

MILA

Oh, my God! This is terrible...

BRIAN'S MOTHER AND FATHER

Brian, what shall we do now?

Brian raises his face from his hands and stares in silence at his kite for a long time.

BRIAN

I don't know what to do. But I have to do something. I can't miss this competition.

Suddenly he stands up, decisively takes off his shirt and then his undershirt. He puts on his shirt again and, with his undershirt under his arm, he gives a meaningful look at his parents and Mila.

6. INT. AN APARTMENT – DAY

A scream. A man's hand takes a knife and waves with it.

HUSBAND (O.S.)

I'll kill you!

WIFE (O.S.)

You've ruined my life!

HUSBAND (O.S.)

No! It's the other way round!

In one corner of a kitchen a husband and a wife are arguing, holding each other at the throat. The husband is waving with the knife.

WIFE

(screaming)

Kill me if you dare!!?

HUSBAND

One day I'm certainly gonna do that...

The husband throws the knife down and starts beating his wife with strong punches. The room fills with screams and it becomes a complete mess.

Through the open kitchen door can be seen the profile of MARKO in the living-room. He is completely detached from the current reality, peacefully watching something on TV. The glass cabinet of firearms can be seen in the space in-between.

**7. EXT. IN FRONT OF THE INTERNET
CLUB – DAY**

A street. The door of the Internet club. It opens and PETER and the OTHER BOY stand at the entrance.

PETER

I killed you, you see?

The other boy looks at Peter, his face flushed, without a clue as to how to reply. After some thought:

OTHER BOY

Yes. You're good.. but not the best! (he brings his face close to Peter's) Do you know who's the best?! Who constantly beats you?! Marko! Marko!! You'll never beat him! Loser...

He mocks Peter, spits on the sidewalk, turns around and goes carelessly away.

OTHER BOY

(shouting from a distance)

Never!

Peter stands in shock for a moment, then heads for the other boy and punches him on the back.

PETER

I will beat him! I'll kill him...forever!

The other child, frightened, runs away towards the park. He is lost in the crowd.

Peter angrily searches his pockets.

PETER

Where's my phone?

8. INT. MARKO'S FAMILY APARTMENT – DAY

A TV screen. The cartoon has been replaced by scene after scene of war, destruction, bombing, murder, slaughter and catastrophe. A phone can be heard RINGING.

MARKO is sitting engrossed in front of the screen as MARKO'S PARENTS fight in the background. Marko is obviously excluded: he doesn't hear the phone or the fighting between his parents.

The phone RINGS again, but this time for longer and more persistently. Finally, Marko notices the ringing and picks up the receiver.

MARKO

Yes?... You want to play again?... Are you sure?... Okay, I'm coming!

9. EXT. IN FRONT OF A HOUSE – DAY

Marko goes out, climbs down the stairs of the house and enters the park.

**10. INT. MARKO'S FAMILY
APARTMENT – DAY**

MARKO'S PARENTS are still fighting.

11. EXT. THE PARK – DAY

The big triangular kite. BRIAN is at one end of the kite, hurriedly finishing the tying up of his undershirt and his shoelaces.

An inscription with a LOVE NOTE is noticed on the undershirt.

Suddenly, MARKO appears at the other end of the kite and stops there. He looks curiously at the kite with an odd seriousness and distance. Brian, kneeling, stops working and lifts his eyes to meet Marko.

PETER (O.S.)

Yuk! Who's still interested in such childish things?

Peter has suddenly appeared at the third end of the kite, staring challengingly at both of them. Brian remains silent, but slowly and carefully stands up. All of them stare at one another.

PETER

Come on, Marko. Leave the kid to go on playing. We have more important things to do.

Peter challengingly steps over the kite several times, turns his back and heads off for the Internet Club. Marko looks at the kite once again, then shortly at Brian and slowly and calmly sets off after Peter.

Brian bends and hurriedly ties up the kite.
Mila comes running.

MILA

What did they want? They look weird.

BRIAN

I don't know... Look at the kite. Do you think it will fly?

Mila examines the kite and laughs when she notices the inscription on the undershirt. Brian laughs with her as the DOG comes along and barks cheerfully. BRIAN'S LITTLE BROTHER looks on at them amazed. BRIAN'S PARENTS stroke the little boy's hair and whisper to the brother:

BRIAN'S PARENTS

Brian will make it. The kite will fly.

12. INT. INTERNET CLUB – DAY

Two computer screens. A war is being waged on them. The heads and eyes of PETER and MARKO are completely absorbed in the game. They become more and more tense. Peter keeps saying something, screaming, moving his legs and arms. Marko is sitting stiff and utterly serious.

PETER

Now you'll see!.. Here... Yes! Yeeees!
Oh, no! Yes! Oh, yes! Yes!!

Peter can't restrain himself. The game's got to him and he stands up, sits down and stands up again.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'll kill you! Now! I killed you!? ... No? What about now?.. Aagh! Bang, bang! Yes! It's over! Over! There's no more Marko the Great!? (Turning to Marko.) I don't want to see you again! Beat it! I don't need you any more!

PETER runs out of the club shouting. He's out of sight for a moment before he reappears.

PETER

Come on! Go away! Beat it!

Marko sits with a frozen expression, staring lost at the screen, the keyboard in his lap. Then his face starts to change as if he was being transformed into someone else. Suddenly he gets up like a robot from the chair and goes out.

Peter, in his euphoria, doesn't notice Marko leave but sits down at the keyboards and shouts victoriously.

PETER

Who's next? I'm the champion now!

13. EXT. THE PARK – DAY

MARKO walks through the park without showing any sign of noticing people around him. He moves robotically towards his house with a frozen stare.

14. INNER CAMERA (MARKO'S POV)

DARKENED VIEW... BLACK AND WHITE SHAPES... PARTS OF STAIRS... A DOOR, LINES ARE BEING TWISTED... INNER PARTS OF THE HOUSE... THERE IS A NUCLEAR MUSHROOM CLOUD ON A TV SCREEN... MARKO'S PARENTS, NO SOUND... THE WIFE POINTS THE GUN AT THE HUSBAND.... THE FINGER ON THE TRIGGER IS PRESSED... THE GLASS CABINET IS OPENED... A CHILD'S HAND GRABS THE GUN... AN OPENED DOOR AND THE STAIRWAY BELOW ... THE BRANCH OF A TREE IN THE AIR... FEET RUNNING IN A CIRCLE... A KITE FLYING...

15. EXT. THE PARK – DAY

BRIAN starts running, dragging the kite excitedly, unsure whether it will fly. The kite is unusually colourful with lots of girl's ribbons on it and the undershirt with the love inscription in the central position.

GIRLS are running behind Brian, followed by HIS BROTHER with his small kite and the DOG. All of them are looking expectantly at the big triangular kite being dragged along the grass.

16. INT. THE INTERNET CLUB – DAY

CHILDREN'S FINGERS are pressing the keyboards. The opening of the door can be heard.

BANG! BANG!

BLOOD splashes on the keyboards and the screen.

17. EXT. THE PARK – DAY

The kite finally soars up and flies magically into the sky. SQUEALS OF DELIGHT are released from the CROWD OF PEOPLE watching. They all admire the kite as Brian proudly steers it.

Somewhere at the end of the crowd, BRIAN'S BROTHER shouts enthusiastically, watching his own kite fly. The DOG jumps up after the flying kite.

Suddenly the kite breaks loose and flies up above the trees towards the sky.

18. TV SCREEN

NO PICTURES. LINES AND DOTS. BUZZING...
BLACK OUT

Everything happens in fifteen minutes!
There are three fourteen-year-old children
grown up in three different family
backgrounds. Suddenly, the situation
brings their destinies into the dramatic
focus. On the one side there is competitive
and violent behavior based on the traumatic
experiences and on the other, a creative
one, built on the basis of love and support...

This is a script for a short film and at the
same time an interesting text for reading.

