

JUST BECAUSE I'M PARANOID DOESN'T MEAN I'M NOT BEING FOLLOWED

a short play by Benedikt Päßgen

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AND SUDDENLY EVERYTHING WAS NARROW

Parents?

Divorced.

How old were you?

Five or six.

Not good. Siblings?

Yes.

How many?

1.

Male, female?

Female.

Older or younger?

Younger. Well, she's younger and I'm older.

Sexual orientation?

Are you allowed to ask this?

We have to ask this.

Why?

The rules. So I take it you're gay then.

No, hetero. Well most of the time at least. I don't think it's a binary, either/or, I think one can change like -

Do you talk about things like these a lot?

Not really, I rarely get asked such personal questions.

Well things are changing, get used to it. I preferred when your replies were nice and brief. Let's focus on the facts please.

Roger.

Sexually active?

Yes.

Number of sexual partners?

I don't know how this could be relevant.

I think we should take a break. Come with me.

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THE BOY WHO LIVED

We see a stork flying through the cold night. He's carrying a baby in his beak. There's something peaceful and calming about this image. We follow him for about a minute, until he starts his descent. Now we see where he's landing, an estate, very grey. Before he touches the ground in front of the council flat, we can see a gay couple having sex through the window. The stork realises this, takes off again and lands at the flat nextdoors. When he drops the baby, the baby gets out a butcher's knife and stabs the stork in the stomach.

Hahaha! This is not Halal! Britain for British people!

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EVERY BEGINNING IS EASY

What's your favourite colour?

White.

Good answer!

Have you ever fired a gun?

..

You can be honest with us. Things have changed you know.

Yes I have.

Have you ever shot a person?

No.

Ah... animals?

A deer once.

Do you -

and a fox once.

Nice, do -

and once I stabbed a stork.

How did you do that?

Long story.

Ok. Anyway, that sounds promising. Times are hectic at the moment, have you ever worked in a busy environment?

I work in a kitchen.

Very nice. You know how to follow orders blindly.

Yes sir.

Do some push-ups.

How many, sir?

Let's say 1000. Once you're done you'll officially be part of Her Majesty's First Protection Unit.

I thought the Queen was removed?

Yeah she is. It just sounds more authoritative.

NATIONALISM WINS

Refugees kept coming. Millions of them. Although we didn't let any of them in, and Calais was home and graveyard to thousands of people fleeing violence, somehow England became more and more radicalised. Radical English, protesting and fighting against anything that wasn't English. Shortly after the BREXIT, Scotland became independent, followed by Wales and the reunification of Ireland. England for English people! English fish for English fishermen! Churchill was on the £5 note, but he didn't give any advise on how to be glorious again.

Winston! Help us! We want to be glorious again! You made us glorious.

I'm dead.

But you're a hero, dead or alive. We have no one else to ask for advice. Since the Kingdom broke up, England's totally screwed. People are camping in Parliament Square, to be close to your statue.

Ok I gotta be honest with you, chap. I took some counselling here and retrospectively speaking the Area Bombing Directive wasn't very ethical, was it?

Ethicality is not an issue,
 Legality's just a word.
Give those arabs a tissue,
 When we kill them like a bird.

What?

I killed a stork when I was a baby.

What? Why?!

Winston mate, you've done worse things. Don't play the ethics card. I just want to make Britain great again.

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DOUBLE EXPOSURE

Here's a group of misfits. They were protesting against an expansion of Heathrow or whatever-the-fuck. Some are even gay. We use them for training purposes.

What do you mean training?

Well, have you been to a zoo?

Yes, and?

Have you seen how they feed the lions and tigers and the other wild animals? They just throw them raw meat. This is the same. They're the raw meat.

This comparison doesn't really hold. I am not really hungry and they are more than me. (There's more of them than there are of me)

Well you get what I mean right? Stab them or whatever. Exits.

Good day, prisoners! What's the situation?

We're caught here indefinite. It's nice to get some company. What's your situation?

I'm in training! They have big plans for me.

Ah that sounds exhausting. Training. I used to go to the gym.

It's terribly exhausting! Just some minutes ago they had me do a thousand push-ups!

Do you want some raw meat? They give us nothing else and we're mostly vegans and some vegetarians, so we're kind of on a hunger strike.

Aww, really? I love raw meat! Thanks guys. But I'm not hungry so I'll put it in this plastic bag.

Take my Tupperware, it's better for the environment, you know? And I can't really use it in here anyway. I never have packed lunch anymore since I'm in prison.

Oh of course. I'll give it back to you when I see you ne//.. Thanks!

No worries, you want a pinch of salt?

Yes please! You're all so nice! Can you tell me why you're in prison?

Just disagreeing with the government really.

That's awful! A functioning system should allow all sides to co-exist peacefully!

I couldn't agree more, all we did was exercise our right to protest.

I'll fix this. Shit! Pretend you're all dead. He cuts himself in the arm and splashes blood on everyone.

Ok that's enough playtime for today, come with us. Exeunt. Apart from the hippies.

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SOME TIME LATER

He kills the chief of state, frees the protesters, and gives birth to a stork.

Fin.

Epilogue

All I ever wished for is for Batman to die.