

## IN THE TRAILER

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### V MARINGOTCE

**Eva Lammelová**

**HateFree Culture – Podcast *Exteriéry***

**00:00**

*Exteriors theme tune*

*Rain*

## **Introduction**

A caravan stands in a fruit orchard in Moravian Slovakia. It belongs to Mr. František. Summer, smell of trees and shimmer of leaves in rainfall. Today, Mr. František is expecting an unusual visitor. It is Mrs. Ilona whom he is meeting for the first time. They are both 65 years old, they sit in the caravan on the couch drinking tea together. They are here to openly talk about sex and their intimate life because they think it has been kept quiet for far too long.

## **Ilona**

I've experienced something that helped me grow and I'm very sorry that it came too late to be of any use in my relationship. If I could turn back time I really wish I could give my husband or partner something, of which I now know thanks to this huge leap into a completely different world. To give him something I never did, that I didn't know about. And now I'm sorry for it.

## **František**

From what you've said, I feel that in your first marriage, your first and last marriage, the core problem might have been that the intimate part of it wasn't what it should have been. You had so little experience that maybe you didn't give your husband what he wanted. And that's why now in a new relationship, or, if you'd like a new relationship, you'd like to give more.

**02:22**

## **Ilona**

That is a very strange point of view because in this context I never even thought I could give something to someone. If I had a new relationship I'd very much like to gain something from it for myself, completely selfishly. If I wanted to give, it would be to my first partner. Now I'd like to enjoy something I wasn't able to enjoy before. I know now why I wasn't able to enjoy it because, and I might be a little mean here but, it was my parents fault. My upbringing. Well, it's not actually their fault that much because I just grew up in a time when there was only a very small percentage of families who openly talked about intimate matters and about sex.

**03:30**

### **František**

I'm from a deeply religious family and the only connection to sex we had was maybe at the last page of The Young World magazine. There was Liz Taylor in a bikini. That was the peak of our possible erotic pictures. The boys and I were secretly cutting them out and those were our erotic treasures. And what I mean is, those were just innocent things, no exposed genitalia and things like that. And my mum found it and I was in so much trouble. Even though it's no big deal. I never talked about these things with other children that was because of my puritan upbringing. I had a problem talking about it with my own kids. I never did talk about it with them. And that's not how it should be. Well, that's what it was like in our home.

### **Ilona**

I remember the last page of The Young World magazine very well. That was the peak of eroticism for me. Kája Saudek's comic Lips Tullian was there. I saw an exhibition of Kája Saudek and I was reminiscing about my youth and I thought: "Wow! This is it. This is how I imagined sex." Those amazing Saudek ladies with huge breasts and thin waists and hair flowing in the wind. And then there was Lips Tullian who looked as if he just got out of the gym, muscles everywhere and hair like Gerard Philip. And he was always holding the girl and carrying her and saving her. And she was so beautiful with her botox lips and it was amazing. And I thought: "This is going to be me." And I kept checking but my breasts weren't very big and my hair wasn't flowing like that. The reality in the mirror looked very different from The Young World.

### **František**

I discovered in my mum's library, she was an avid reader, Renoire and Rubens. He drew those well-built ladies, stretching by the water and such. And you see the breasts and the firm asses. That was my first erotic literature, that's how it started. But I think at our time it was all still a bit of a mystery. It's completely ordinary today, as I said, to see porn magazines in a tobacco stand, download porn from the internet and so on. And it just starts to become... Intimacy should really remain intimate, something between two people.

**07:06**

### **Ilona**

My parents ended up using butterflies, when I found in complete horror that something happened and I was bleeding. So they talked about butterflies and flowers and pollinating and then nothing until one day I was supposed to find some bag and I took a chair and started looking for the bag, and as I was looking I found a book. A thick book. And when I opened it I

was shocked by what I saw. I remember it clearly, the shock, I thought: “That can’t be true!” There was a naked man there. I closed the book and I hid it under all the bags.

Then when I was in secondary school I had a classmate who came from a very different environment than me. And he informed all of us how sex actually works. How, when people want to be together, they can just touch each other. That it doesn’t have to be intercourse as such. And we were just sat around him, looking and listening.

Then I started going out with my husband and I thought: “Wow, maybe I could try this.” But because I was so afraid, thanks to everything, it took me a very long time. We were going out for two years when we would just hold hands and kiss. But it was kissing like an uncle kissing his niece. Because I couldn’t imagine, I didn’t even know it was possible, that you could open your mouth while kissing, or feel another person’s tongue in your mouth. And when I look at my husband who was a few years older than me, he had to have had the patience of a saint and loved me a lot.

I look back and I think to myself, how I helped my children with this, I realise I didn’t help them at all. I didn’t say to myself: “I won’t let this happen, I won’t do this to my children.” I wasn’t very good at that.

Once, when I was in secondary school I had a group of classmates and we were all friends and one of the classmates was the first to throw a party. I was getting ready at home, getting dressed, and my parents started: “Where are you going?” “We’re going to their house...” And long silence. And then: “Do you realise you’re seeing someone already? What would he think about this? And what will other people think since they saw you holding hands with that one?” I never thought about that. So I went there and all I could do was congratulate the host and I had to be back home in half an hour because only a whore would act like this.

There’s just so many little things that build up and up and up until they create this block in your head that you might not even be aware of.

**11:30**

**Ilona**

What was your first sexual experience? They say that you never forget your first love, your first sex. Do you remember?

**František**

I can’t ever forget that. A friend’s mum, who was like those Rubens ladies, right, big breasts, ass and all... Where I lived, people hang their laundry in the yard. And she was hanging the laundry to dry and I was a teenager, an adolescent, right, so I was secretly watching the women. And in summer she was hanging the laundry just in panties and a bra. And when she couldn’t reach the top, because she was a bit short, the bra came up even higher and then she was fixing it. That was something for me, yeah.

I had my observatory. That is, the place where she hung the laundry was on one side closed in by a hedge and in the hedge was a small wooden fence. Plank on plank, so that's where I had my observatory and that's where I sometimes hid and watched her from up close. And there were moments when she was getting closer, hanging piece by piece. And at one moment she was straight in front of me, those panties were right in front of me. And she was bending and I saw it all. And I either moved or something like that, but she turned, I panicked and ran away. I fled. I could, so I ran away.

About two months later we were watching something, some world championship and she said to that friend of mine: "Please go to the shop and get me butter," and something else, some groceries. So he went to the shops and she came to me. I was sitting in an old armchair. She sat down on the armrest, she was only wearing this light summer frock with buttons. The first two buttons were undone. She came over to me and she didn't say a word. And she stroked me, I was all red because I didn't know what was happening. I didn't make a sound. I couldn't. She put her hand down my sweatpants and it was done, immediately done. And as she leaned over me I could see her breasts so I was like Alice in Wonderland. The next day we met on the stairs and she said: "You won't tell on me will you? I won't tell on you." And why would I? I felt great.

**14:31**

**Ilona**

I was counting on my partner just knowing what to do. I really wanted it and he was so sweet, attentive, I know exactly where it was. And it seemed like I'd be a virgin forever. My organism must have reacted and even though I really wanted it we just couldn't manage to insert his poor worn out penis into me. We tried several times during several months and after I always felt sick and had a headache. I think it was all that stress, that everything manifested in that, how I wanted it but I knew it's forbidden. Up here it was: "I really want it and I really want to enjoy it" and down there it was just closed, sealed off, where you were supposed to be wet, you were dry and you're completely unable to enjoy it.

Then people started talking about a theory that some women have to have their hymen surgically removed. And I thought that might be my case. But it wasn't. There was no surgical removal. We had two children after all.

**František**

So, Ilona, I gather that you don't have a husband anymore, are you divorced or has your husband passed? Are you a widow?

**Ilona**

How should I say it... One word I really hate is the word widow, and that's what I am. After a very beautiful marriage I was suddenly alone. It's a long time ago now and I have to

say, what was going through my head was really strange. For example I thought: "I'll never get breakfast in bed on Sunday again. I'll never dance again. No one will tell me, you look good for fifty, when I doll up." I didn't think about existential things, but things like that. And then I found out that out of all of this, what I minded the most was that nobody touched me anymore.

And all of a sudden there's nothing. Then I started feeling like my life has ended and all I will be until I die is a grandma. And then I'll die. It was really... you stand there and there is nothing in front of you. No trees, no flowers, no bushes, just NOTHING. And you enter this nothing and there you die, because what else is there?

*Rainfall continues*

**18:32**

**František**

Us Slavs are a community nation and I think that one has to have someone to live for. When I got divorced I lost my wife and my children, well, even then we weren't... well, I wasn't with them. I was used to them being there every day. Then I was taking care of my father and after he passed, I thought to myself: "Damn it, why am I even here in this world? Who am I here for? I have no one now." So that was... All I had was my work and I always liked my work. But it was a hard time for me. I was sure I wouldn't stay alone, even though I am a person who is capable of being alone.

I got divorced in 2002. I left the house. Divorce was the failure of my life and... I just thought... I had three jobs back then, on top of teaching I added two more. Just so I wouldn't have time to think about it. This lasted for 4 or 5 years. In 2008 I went on the online dating site, I thought: "The kids are grown up, they'll understand." So I was on the dating site for four years. Yes, I went there with the goal of being with someone... Life without another is empty and Zdena and I have a relationship where we're either here at my place or at her place, because we're both retired. So we are together and not. When we want I spend a week at her place and then she does at mine and so on. We look forward to seeing each other, it's been 11 years and it's wonderful.

**Ilona**

Franta, can I just ask, since you have this four year experience of a dating site. You sometimes hear some information like: "Oh, they met, and where did they meet? Well, they met through a dating site." Do you feel like a person can really find a partner through there at our age? Is it possible?

**20:40**

**František**

And where else would you go, Ilona? Would you as a single woman go to a party? They say that you can even meet someone buying groceries. But, will you start chatting and attacking every person just because he's a potential future partner? Will you tell him: "Oh, you should buy this and that" and start conversations? Dog owners have a nice way. They go with their dogs, they meet, start talking about dogs and that's great. But I think the dating site is... you know, even in our time, there was always advertising in The Young World.

**Ilona**

Oh yes, it was in every newspaper.

**František**

First communication takes 14 days, or at least a week. Here, you have it all at once, everything works, and you pick who you want and how you want. And when I found out I could get to know many people, many life stories and see the variability even in the intimate parts of life? I just liked it. Someone might judge and say "Not that." But I liked it. I never talk bad about any of those women and I never will. But I chose the one with whom there were no problems. Maybe someone could, how should I say it, call me a disgusting man who went through many women and only wanted one thing. That's not true. Those four years of my life were nice. It had variety, I was always going to new places and in that sense it was great.

**Ilona**

One of the things I could have never even imagined was autoeroticism. But when I ended up alone and I found how much I missed someone touching me I gathered my courage and started touching myself. And that's how I found out what an orgasm feels like and I realised that it was very important to me.

*Rainfall continues*

**22:50**

**František**

I never talked about these things with my wife but Zdena and I talk about it without a problem. Moreover Zdena is amazing in, for example: it is generally known that the G-spot is on the front side of the vagina. And Zdena has it on the opposite side. And Zdena is so great that she just navigates it how she wants it and I don't meddle with it at all. She says: "I'll do it

the way I like it.” I help her, yes, and she’s satisfied with how it is. But if I only lied on top of her, she wouldn’t be able to do much on her back. So she does everything she wants during intercourse. We know how, we know where and that’s important. I could have never figured that out on my own. Because I would be looking for it in the wrong place. Like, Zdena says: “I don’t like it from behind.” She could have acted like she liked it just because she loves me. A woman can always act like she likes it, right. She said she doesn’t like it so we don’t do it from behind. That’s it.

A long time ago I wrote “The Tool of Love”, it’s about a penis. Caressing with a mouth, hand jobs, both hands and it just clearly says everything you should do. So I sent it to her and she does it. Yeah.

## **24:26**

### **Ilona**

Later, I got into a relationship which didn’t last very long but it was intense and very important to me because it started up my understanding of what the word sex means. It was like in a movie, I met a man and I looked at him and he looked at me and we knew we didn’t even need to say anything. My first time having oral sex was when I was almost 60. What my husband tried to do in the past and I refused it thinking it was an absolute perversion, now just happened. I was totally dazed, I didn’t recognise myself, I didn’t recognise my body, I didn’t recognise anything. I just thought I might thaw. It seemed to me as just a manifestation of how I feel at that moment and that it’s amazing. Then I thought how sorry I am for never being able to give that to my husband and never being able to accept it from him and I see it as a debt that I’ll never be able to pay.

This relationship quickly flared up and also quickly ended as an erotic relationship, but it stayed in a form where, when we meet by accident every, I don’t know, six months, we hug and we know we share this secret. The feeling I had was a feeling of big wonder. Like if you’re watching yourself as a movie and you think: “Is this me? That’s not even possible!” And the wonder, the wonder it’s... I’m still full of it and I’m still very grateful for this flare of passion, late flare of passion.

It’s a freedom I experienced at my age of almost 60, freedom from the fear and opening myself up to the world of intimacy. I’m just very sorry that it came this late and it’s true that I caused it and there’s nothing I can do about it now. I can’t turn back time but I’m glad that I got there in the end. Because I might have never gotten there at all.

## **28:00**

### **František**

I think that sex is a nice thing and it might be best after fifty, so I think you didn’t really miss anything, Ilona. Now, it’s the nicest and it’s because especially with women it’s not mainly about orgasm, it’s about feeling someone. It’s enough if someone strokes you, holds you and



so on. And that's why, because it's not quickies but it's nice and slow and calm. So that's why it's best after fifty. I personally thought, if I recollect how I thought when I was 15, 20, I thought that people after fifty didn't even do it anymore. But now, I think it's the best time for it.

**28:51**

**Ilona**

And, František, there's another bonus to it for us women. No contraception, no troubles, no period. You just go when you feel like it.

Sometimes I feel like: "I need it right now!" When you're not in a long term relationship where the sex life is continuous and you're alone, autoeroticism is fine but sometimes you just feel that you need it. And if it's the garbage man or the neighbour or the senator it doesn't matter, you just want it quickly and immediately. No long smooching, just do it. And only in my later years I found that: "You just can't exist without sex."

**František**

Well, you have to go on. I was writing a eulogy for my friend: "Life will go on." Life must go on. And now you're in a phase where you can't be alone, you have to go on.

**Ilona**

I found that I gained incredible freedom and I don't want to lose it again. And so I actually like this relationship model you've talked about, the model you have. You simply meet when you want to see each other. And then you're not together for a week or two and then you want to see each other again. And that is, from my perspective, the best possible thing. But I don't know if there's someone who would be willing to share this idea with me. But I would be really happy with that.

**31:22**

**František**

I'm satisfied with finding a person who understands me in every way and vice versa, because now it's more about the mind and less about the body. It's more about thinking. And you just can't have that when you're 20.

**Ilona**

If I could go back and make a change in my intimate life, I'd get rid of the sentence that stayed with me my whole adolescence: "What would people say?" Because now I'd like to focus on: "What would I say!" But because there's no "what if" I'll start now. If I get a chance.

*Rainfall fades out*

**32:29**

**Adam Voneš**

You've listened to Eva Lammlová's audio documentary *Caravan*. Dramaturgy: Brit Jensen.  
Sound design and sound mixing: Adam Voneš.

*Exteriors theme tune*