

*Jenny Leblanc*

# Jean's Story

Seventh Chapter of „Lake for Lovers“



## Jean's Story

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## **WARNING**

**THIS STORY CONTAINS  
EXPLICIT DESCRIPTIONS  
OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND  
HUMAN GENITALS!  
PLEASE KEEP IT AWAY FROM MINORS**

## Jean's Story

*Mai + June + Juli 2004*

I met Miha by luck because we were both in the same exercise group for the AI-lecture of the summer semester 2004. I met her because Ralitsa, a girl from Bulgaria, our tutor, said that we should work in groups of two or three, such that she would have had not so much work with correcting the solutions. I asked some students but they said that they were already three. Then Gautam talked to me, if I would search for a group. I said yes.

Miha and Gautam had already agreed on making a group, so I was the third man. First I wasn't sure how I should talk to her in French or in English, because Gautam was able to talk in both. But very soon it was only English we talked, when we met.

In the second half of the AI-exercises only Miha and I were the ones who were regularly showing up. Gautam only came to ask for the points we got. This way she showed me that she is someone I could rely on and she had always this "magic" smile on her face when she was greeted by someone. I sometimes dropped her with my car at Guckelsberg, but I should later learn that it was a small way to go to reach her home. I felt touched by her trust in me and wanted to meet that trust by being very careful with what I did and would do. I began to ask her about Romania and because I had heard of an historic exhibition in Trier, the idea of making a trip together by sharing a train-ticket was born. I also remember an incident where I left the computer science building on a Sunday or Saturday and she came by and asked me if I had my door card with me. I said "yes" and "lucky girl" and we had a little smalltalk and I opened her the doors to the computer science building and the computer science lab and went back to my home. I also remember one incident, where she had made a solution for an exercise. After we had discussed it, she asked if it is o.k. so and I said yes, but I continued that she had to translate it into English, because in this one case she had written the solutions in French. Later she told me that she had written it in French, because she had found a similar solution in the library and she had made it the same way by copying the sentences.

During these months she told me also an incident with her health insurance and how the certificate from her Romanian insurance got here but then went back to Romania because of any postal reason. Such that her mother had to send it to her by post which took another week or two. She also told me once that she had been shortly before going home, because she had an aching tooth and she went to a French pharmacy to buy something against the pain, only to be without pain until she got back to Romania and could visit a doctor there, because visiting a French doctor would be too expensive and too much paper work. But she said it was very difficult to get such medicine, I think because of French law.

*July, 7<sup>th</sup>. + 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I got an email from the tutor of our AI-exercise Ralitsa on the 07/07 that we should work over our programme because it doesn't work. After some thinking I sent her an email late that evening, that I would have a look over it on the following Friday and that she could join me if she wants. She responded the next day with an email that said yes.

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*July, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

We met before the exercise room at 13:00 h. She thought she was a little bit late and said sorry for it and gave as reason that she had eaten something just before our appointment. I said to her that I have time and we headed for one of the computer labs where we worked for 2hrs. Then I made an end to it because we had made every possible change to it and the program wasn't still working as it should. We went down the computer science building and I said bye to her.

*July, 19<sup>th</sup> 2004*

I met her at 14:00 h in the computer science building because I thought we had an appointment, but I wasn't sure. She saw me and asked me if we had an appointment, I said that I had time and that I thought we had. So she said that she waited for a friend to come but that she wanted to go to the library with me, where she had her things, to ask me some questions about AI. I agreed and we went to the library where we worked 2h on her questions about the AI-script. During these two hours a friend (girl) showed up and Miha and the other girl were having a short talk in Romanian. After 2h we went down to the AI-exercise, which was the last one before the exam and which was a catastrophe. It took 2,5 h to talk through 3 exercises and not every question could be answered satisfactorily by the Tutor. So both of us were very angry after we left the exercise-room. She showed me her room in the maths-building, where we wanted to meet at the next day at 15:00 h.

*July, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I met Miha at her room in the math-building (room 224) and we work two hours on the AI-script. She told me that she had told to her mother about the AI-exercise the day before and that she, Miha, was very upset about the last AI-exercise and had had a headache from it. At the end of our meeting Miha's mother called her on the phone. They had a short talk in Romanian. Miha told me that in Timisoara they were actually working at that time on the water pipelines. Which meant that not at every time of the day there was water supply which is not very good in the summer where there are temperatures over 30° in Timisoara. She thought at her dog Betty. I invited her to bring her home with my car. She said yes and were very eager to get her things very fast into her bag, such that I tried to slow her a little bit down. We left Miha's room at about 17:00 h. On the way to the car she also told me about a say of her mother that said: "If you want to talk with me : shut up!" I amused myself about this say.

I dropped her with my car at her home.

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*July, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004*

AI-exam: I was about 30min. early and she was already there and smiled at me as she saw me. She had her 0,5l or 0,3l Pepsi with her from which she drank some sips. I asked her: "Is that to calm down or to wake up?" She answered: "To wake up." After the exam we talked and I invited her again to a trip by sharing a train-ticket. Unfortunately she misunderstood my statement that I want to wait after 6<sup>th</sup> August because of her exams. She thought I had exams til then but I thought she had exams til then. She said that she would send me an email. We said good bye and I thought: That's it, you saw her for the last time. Soon she'll be back in Romania, because I already knew that after this semester she had to go till 15<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

*July, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I met her by luck at a tram-station where we both wanted to go with the tram. I asked her about the exam she had at the same day about "Theory of functions". She answered that she first had a good feeling and had begun to answer the questions. But after she had finished one exercise she thought about it and thought she had to do it again. What got her such time-loss, that she hadn't finished the exam. After one stop she said good-bye. I think she searched for a shop to clean some cloths. Later she told me that she was about to meet a friend of her and afterwards going to the swimming-pool. So my first conclusions were wrong!

*July, 26<sup>th</sup> – August, 1st*

I thought a lot at her and crossed my fingers for her thought exams. I missed her in a way and wanted to see her again.

*August, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004*

I decided to write her an email in which I would ask her to make the train-sharing trip with me. As I left the Computer Science building I found out that my mobile wasn't on. As I switched it on, I got a message that she had wrote me an email. First I thought that would be an answer to my email. But it was an email in which she asked me to look for her Matr.-Nr. in the AI-Results if I would find them on the Internet. After I read the Email I first thought to answer the email with my handy, but then I decided to go to her room and to talk to her to get everything right. She was actually there and had just send me an answer to my email. We talked about the trip and she said that she had three friends which would perhaps come with us. We came to the conclusion that she first had to make an appointment with her friends for the trip and then tell me when. We also talked about Romania and how to get there and about some simple Romanian Words. The idea of me making a trip to Romania was born.

Late in the evening I read her answer to my original email and wrote her an answer, that said, that I would be happy to have a meeting just for talk and drink.

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*August, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I met her again after I was at my tutor for the stage. She told me that she had received the email from my handy, but that she had made another decision that said, that we would go to Andorra on Saturday and after we talked a little bit we came to the conclusion that she would send me a message the following day how many people we would be. And that I would buy the tickets on Friday for the train to Andorra.

*August, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

She sent me a message that she had one friend who wants to come with us. I confirm to her by SMS that I would buy 3 Tickets for the bus to Andorra on the following day.

*August, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I bought the tickets and also a small book for learning some Romanian and a City-Map of Andorra.

In the afternoon I got an email from her asking, if I had bought the tickets and what I would show her and her friend, she was very excited. I answered her that I had bought the tickets and that I would go after her wishes. She answered that she would like to see many churches and political buildings. She also told me that her friend was arabian and asked me if I would have had a problem with it. I answered no. In the evening I wrote her an SMS that she and her friend should bring their mobiles with them in case we would loose each other. She answered that I won't escape from her but that she'd do as I said.

*August, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

Trip to Andorra: I met Tarek for the first time. In the bus we talked a lot about Romania, Jordan and Romanian and Arabian language. In Andorra I showed them all that know and we made the tour with the little train. As we came to one of the main places in the car-free-zone, there was a market there and Miha saw a little doll out of porcelain, which she bought. The doll was looking like a clown in white with colored spots on his face and on his cloths. After some other visits we made a lunch-break at McDonalds where I went to the toilette and afterwards she asked me how and where they were. I said her that they were upstairs and that there was a queue before the women's one. She went with her back-bag. After the lunch stop we decided to go to some political buildings that are not so far away as they first seemed. As we went there it was not as exciting as Miha thought because these buildings weren't finished yet. On the return we set on a green place besides the road and talked a lot. Then we returned to the center of the town and looked in pretty much every cloths- and shoe-shop. Miha found a pair of shoes with high heels but she first thought they were to expensive. But they were so interesting that she always thought about them.

Afterwards we returned slowly to the station where the bus was about to leave. We stopped at a statue with a little park. We sat there and made some pictures. It began to rain but only some drops. As we reached the station, it was 45 min. until the bus would start, so Miha said that she would go back a bit to have a look at some shops and that she didn't want us to be bored so she was

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going alone. I decided to go into a bistro in the station and to eat a baguette and to drink something. I said to Tarek that he could do what ever he wanted to do and that we would meet in the bus. At about 5:30 it began to rain heavily with thunder and lightning and I thought about them and where they would be. I already sat in the bus, as they were showing up.

On the return tour we talked a lot. Miha told me that she was using a bus-company to come to Frenchy and to go back to Romania. As I asked her for the price I was surprised how low it was and said that my trip then would be no question. She told us that she thinks about going home at the 20<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2004. I told her that it is her decision. She hoped that she could go at the 20<sup>th</sup>, such that she would have the weekend with her boy-friend, because at the following weekend(27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> August) he wouldn't be available. Also she told us that she had an exam on the following Tuesday and that she normally made free after that.

*August, 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I was in the computer science lab and wrote her an email that I would have a map at hand and that we should meet on Tuesday afternoon or on Wednesday to make a decision about the trip on the following Saturday. She answered me that it would be Wednesday, when we would meet and she thanked me for the trip to Luxemberg. Also she said in the Postscriptum that she actually was sitting behind me in the last row and that she had to go to work now. I hadn't seen her and I got her message to read at home, because I had left my handy there. I also hadn't looked out for her, because I didn't expect her there. She had told me the day before that she would have to go to work on that day and I thought that she would be anywhere in the city or in the math building for work but not in the Computer Science Lab.

*August, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

I wrote her an SMS in the evening that I didn't want to disturb her, but that she should send me an email about planning the following Saturday on the next day and that I hoped her exam had gone well.

*August, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

She wrote me an email in the morning that she had forgotten to email me and that we could meet at 18h at the bus-stop mensa-University. She wanted to buy a digital camera from Media-Market and asked me if I had some information about it. I confirmed her that I would be at the bus-stop at that time.

I waited since 17:15 before the math-building because I thought she would work in there and I wanted to surprise her. But instead she had been in the city to recover her Pulli that she had lost in a bus that morning. She went to the city to ask for the Pulli, but she didn't get it back. So as I went down to the road to see if she's already waiting at the bus-stop, she was already sitting there and waving at me.

At the bus-stop I gave her the first example of "Pentru Miha". because I had decided in the two days before that I would make the trip to Romania. But she said that the dates, I had in mind at that time, weren't very good because she would have to go to her lectures then. So we decided to talk on a later date

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about this thing. I also wanted to give her some non-French Euro-coins I had looked for in my purse the evening before, but she said no and that I should keep them because they were the only ones I had from that way. So I accepted her no and kept them for my own spending.

During the bus-drive we met an Hungarian from a place near Budapest, who had heard us speaking about my trip to Romania. He told us that I could fetch cash at every ATM with my credit card in Romania and that they would give me reasonable exchange rates. I told Miha also that I would possibly need only my identitycard and a return-ticket for getting into Romania.

In Media-Market we looked at the camera she had seen. I asked her about her computer at home and if it would have an USB port. She said that she would mail to her sister about it and that she would possibly make some changes to her computer equipment. She made the decision to buy a camera from Kodak and was sure that it would cost her 99.-EUR. At the cash machines it said only 88,-EUR, so I said to her just pay and go. She also looked for a raser for her boy-friend but didn't found one because she didn't knew his preferences at that time.

After we left I made the suggestion to go to my place to unpack the digital camera there and to test it. She said yes and that she shortly had thought about going with me to her place and if her place would be in a condition, such that I wouldn't be disturbed. I said to her that I had thought about this in the morning and that at my place there wouldn't be anything to disturb her. Before we went to my place, we went to hypermarket and bought some ice-cream with capuccino taste. She told that this is normal use in Romania. If you buy something expensive you have to eat and/or drink on it to let it hold for a long time.

At my place we had first some difficulties with the camera and she and I were angry because we couldn't get the the camera to run. But after some tries I got it to run by luck and we both were very happy and ate each one portion of the ice-cream and she left me some very good chocolate which she said I should try. I tried it after she had left and it was really good, so good that I bought a second bar, which I took with me to San Sebastian.

I showed her the book about Romania I had bought that noon, some fotos of Bordeaux on a calendar and the map with distances I had told her about in my email. We decided that San Sebastian would be the next apropritate destination for the following Saturday. We also agreed that she would email me if Tarek would come with us at the next day and that I would try to buy the tickets in Toulouse because we thought at that time, it would be cheaper. She left in a little bit of a hurry because I had made a little mistake with the timetables of the bus 12.

*August, 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

She wrote me an email which I couldn't open, because my email-account was defect at that time. So I called her on her mobile and asked her for the content and said her that I would call her back in the evening. After I had the content of the email from her, I went off to Toulouse to buy the tickets. But it wasn't cheaper, infact there was no regular direct connection between Toulouse and San Sebastian. The cheapest version was to go directly from Bordeaux to San

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Sebastian. So I bought 3 tickets and made a little mistake because I thought Tarek would be between 21 and 25. After buying the tickets I SMSed her the timetables, that there was no other solution and that there would be no call back in the evening. She said o.k. and that I should buy them. I answered that I already bought them and that she and Tarek should bring their Passports with them to prove their age.

*August, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

It was rainy the whole day. She emailed me if I still wanted to go and if I thought that the weather would be better the next day. I answered her that we had to cross fingers and that I was sorry for the disturbances the day before.

*August, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

Trip to San Sebastian: In the morning it was raining and we decided to go despite the weather because giving back the tickets was no option. So we went to San Sebastian.

In the train, shortly before leaving Bordeaux I found out that Tarek was actually over 25. He was 26. So he went to ask if this was a problem and they said to him that no. And it was really no problem. At the return tour there was a ticket-check from a lady but she said nothing.

As we left the train I said to her that I had now city-plan with me and that I and Tarek would rely totally on her and her orientation. She smiled and said something I don't remember. As we left the station, they both were fascinated by the outdoor front of the station and the first impressions of San Sebastian. They both made some fotos immediately. We also visited the cathedrale, some other churches and some old city-doors. But only the cathedrale was open to go inside. We also headed for a museum but we founded only after making two times a circle and Tarek asking an arabian,french girl which spoke his arabian accent he told us that afterwards. This girl showed us the museum. Miha wasn't very amused about this and she showed her \*bl\*. When she shows it there is an expression of boredom or unwillingness on her face and at the same time she says "bl" but the l with the tongue coming out of her mouth and the upper teeth on it, such that the tongue was still covering the lower teeth and bounded by the lower lip of her mouth. It was something typical for her and for me it wasn't disturbing. It was her way of telling someone that she wasn't amazed about something or someone and I found it funny and fitting for her personality at the same time. For me it's something that will stay in my memory and remind me on her.

But we didn't went in the museum because we couldn't find out what they were actually showing there. Instead we were making jokes that also in the museum Miha would get a discount because of her age. All through the morning it was rainy and wet.

At the lunch-break at McDonalds we talked about next Saturday, but couldn't come to a decision because everything was to far away and we didn't knew anything about Bilbao. I also showed her my list with possible Travel Dates for my trip to Romania. She decided that the first option would be the best and she said that I should leave Bordeaux on a Friday, such that I would have the weekend with the family and stay about 14 day and leave at Wednesday. We agreed and I gave her a new version of "Pentru Miha" on which I filled in

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manually the dates we had agreed on.

After the lunch-break it was still wet but not rainy any more. It was time for shopping. She first saw the shoes she already saw at Andorra at a Zara's shop, but at the cash-machines she found, that one of the shoes had a scratch on its heel. After talking to the lady of the shop there wasn't another pair and the lady wasn't able to lower the price, so I said to her "Leave it." And she left and said that she's angry about those women who can't buy these things and make them such scratches to these things such that nobody else can buy them. I tried to calm her down a bit. Afterwards we went through a park and found a closed boat hiring for petting boats. She was a little bit sorry that the hiring wasn't open. But I had my thoughts about it, because she had told us shortly before that she can't swim, so I thought how would she save herself in case something goes badly wrong. It was just my "brotherly" care that came through at that moment. Later I learned that she has no problem with it and that she was many times in a boat and isn't scared. She wrote me that if one takes care, one stays in the boat and doesn't have to worry about anything. So now I know her point and how she handles it.

After an excursion by chance to the stadium of FC San Sebastian we went back and she found the shoes at another shop, without a scratch. She bought them. Tarek was so happy that he made a jump in the air and lost his camera. But the camera wasn't broken. She also bought a pink tie for her sister. I also asked her during a walk in a shopping-mall when her oral exam on the following Tuesday would be, such that I could cross my fingers for the particular time and not for the whole day. She said between 9:00 and 10:00.

After all the shopping we sat down on bench in a "garden" park, we had already went through, after the thing with the scratched shoe. We ate the croissants which I had bought while she was shopping. Tarek made some fotos of her before a fontaine, while I was watching her bag and her. We told each other a lot of jokes.

Then we returned to the station, where she bought some foto picture cards of San Sebastian

At the return trip in the train I asked if I could come with them to catch in Dudweiler my bus because last time I had sat at Roemerkastel for over 30mins. They said yes.

As we left the train at Bordeaux Tarek went to the information and asked about train times to Bilbao and Koeln I think. Afterwards we went to a phone shop because Miha had to make a phone call to congratulate her grandmother for birthday, otherwise her mother would kill her when she would be back home, she said.

We went to the city council, where we took the 15 to go to her quartier. But we only caught it because we began to run which made Miha laugh.

At her quartier we found out that the next 12 would come in 30mins. I said that I would wait and that they could go home. But they decided to wait with me. After some time Tarek made the suggestion to go to a church, where he wanted to take one or two fotos of the church and then to come back. As we went to the church they invited me to come with them to their home and I said yes after I had ensured myself that I wouldn't disturb their privacy.

So we went to their home by foot and they both showed me their rooms. Miha also showed me some fotos of Timisoara she had with her. I won't forget three

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of them. The first one shows her with her parents and a big birthday-cake. It was her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, I think. The second shows her alone sitting on a piece of lawn which is covered with snow and she is smiling into the camera. The third one shows her and her boyfriend playing on the beach in the shallow water and both are laughing into the camera. One could see immediately that they are enjoying having found each other. She also gave me two books for the Romanian language. She said that she wouldn't need them anymore. I thanked her and took them. Later I found out, that they are actually older than her. After a walk in which she emptied her account at the Banque Populaire we made a walk and they showed me where I had to go on the following Friday to park my car before their home. They also showed me a nice place from which one could see over Dudweiler and their home from the backside. I remember that we talked about language and that Tarek asked me about Participle Present in french. After that walk they made some food. We talked a lot about everything and nothing. Also about Popstars. Tarek showed us some videos also one from a female popstar from which I didn't remember the name. Miha found the look of this star not very nice. She made a statement over the ass and of the postar and boys looking at it. I answered: But I've read that also women look at men's bottom. I and Tarek began to laugh. She answered: "I admit, I look sometimes at men's asses. I admit."

At about midnight I left for the last bus. They brought me to the bus, although it was too cold for Miha and she was shaking because of the coldness.

*August, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

At about 10h I SMSed her and asked her about the oral exam. She answered that it went well and that we could meet at that day or at the next day. She also told me that she would leave definitely on the following Sunday. I answered her first that I could be there within 30 mins. but then made the suggestion of meeting at 14h. She replied that she would wait for me at her room in the math building and that she had to take lunch with her Professor in advance.

So we met at her room in the math building. We took a lot of paper stuff with us before we left the room to go to her place. She gave me some empty paper that she hadn't used and wanted me to keep it.

At her place we met Tarek and told him that she had passed the exam. After making some arrangements we left the building for some shopping at Hypermarket and Media-Market.

Miha bought some stuff for home at real also she bought a pocket for her digital camera, some tooth brushes for an electrical tooth brush and a memory chip advance for digital camera. Also some creme and shoe inlays for her new shoes at dm and a thing for clothing I don't remember.

After the shopping we left and went to their place by bus, where they made something to eat. After the meal she tried to make a call to the bus company to reserve one place for her for the following Sunday to go home. But they said to her that the service was closed for that day. She wasn't amused about it. We talked till late in the night. We decided that we wanted to go to the Zoo at the next day afternoon.

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*August, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

She wrote by SMS me that I should take the bus 12 which was leaving Dudweiler at 14:52 and heading for Roemerkaestell. Miha asked me if I knew a way up to the tower which could be seen from campus. I answered that I had to look on the map to decide and that I would send her a message.

I met them both at the bus and we were going through the zoo for about 2h. In the zoo she found especially the seadogs very nice and we stood before their cage some minutes. After going through the zoo, we went back by bus to a central tram station, where she and Tarek were heading for the center, because Miha wanted to meet a friend called Diana at 19:00h in the city center. I was going home and had a look on the map. I decided that it would be possible to go up there and thought it would be easy. I SMSed her that we had to meet at the math building if we would want to do it and that it is her decision if we would do it.

*August, 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

At the next day she mailed that she would like to do it and that she didn't thought it would be to hot. So she asked me to come to her room at 13h. I confirmed her that I would be there.

I was a little bit earlier at her room because of the bus, so she was writing emails at every one at home, to tell them that she would head home on Sunday. She also told me that she had reserved her place in the bus.

After Tarek had arrived from their place we made the way up in a very short time. As we arrived at the tower we went up the tower to have a look around. We made a little break up there. But after we were disturbed by a young couple with four or five dogs, we had to leave because Tarek wasn't easy with the dogs. So we sat down a little bit at the foot of the tower, where some wood benches were standing. But not for long then we had to leave another time because of the dogs.

I wanted to go to a small suburb to then take the bus, but I lost myself with them and we went by ear and orientation and came out of the forest near Waldhaus. From there we took the 47 to AquitaineBasar and the 12 to their home. Their Tarek made himself some cigarettes and Miha fetched her banana-cake she'd made the evening before. Afterwards we headed for my place where I had made some stuff to eat. Between main course and desert Miha insisted, that she wanted to wash up a little bit, although I said to them that no guest has to do the washing up at my place. She said when she meets with her friends they do it the same. So I gave in and dried the cleaned dishes. Afterwards we got out Miha's cake that she had made the evening before and brought with her. It was a banana-cake with pudding and chocolate on top. As she had cut out a piece for each of us and put them on plates she said: "Take one." on what I answered: "Take one and get fat!" We laughed and ate each a piece of the cake by sitting on my balcony. The cake was fantastic! During the whole evening we talked a lot. I showed them an episode of "Last Of The Summer Wine" after the cake. They both laughed a lot and Miha was happy because she had also Romanian subtitles with it. She said that she hadn't laughed this much the last days. After some talking and showing Tarek the calendar I showed them the road-map of Romania I had bought and Miha showed us where she was born, in Sânnicolau Mare, she also told as why and

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she showed us some other things of Romanian history and family history. They left with the bus at 23:40. Although Miha had only drunk Cola, she said afterwards that she had slept like a baby that night and that she hadn't got the power to pack at that evening. Miha and I agreed to meet for going to the mensa at the next day at 13h.

*August, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2004*

The next day Miha and I met to go to the mensa together. We ate chicken with curry sauce, rice, salad and soup. Because Miha had to empty her mensa-card she also bought pudding for both of us and a portion of honey melons. But the honey melons were a disappointment and the rest was to much for her and I had to fight also.

During the meal she said that she would go into the city to look for some things as presents and a scart-cable for her DVD-Player. So I offered her to go with her into the city to have a helping look for some things she wanted to buy and when she would head home I would leave her at my place. She said o.k. Then she remembered that she had to go to the bank first, so we first headed for her quartier where we went to the Banque Populaire. There she took the Amex-Cheques with her she had ordered. Then we headed for the city where we stayed to buy a tight Pullover for her in wine-red and her sister in white, 3 times hand-creme for her friends in Romania and a hot-water bottle from a drug store as presents for home. During these shoppings she told me that she and her boyfriend had exchanged little teddy-bears, but her one for him is more for the money because he says: "I love you" if you press him on the belly. Then we went to Thalia, there she bought "16:50 from Paddington" and another crime-story-book from Agatha Christie. Afterwards we went to Karstadt where she bought some coffee without caffeine for her grand-mother and some Nescafe as powder for her mother and a lot of sweets for her family. She looked especially for Lindt-chocolate and chocolate that you could not yet buy in Romania and other things I don't remember as presents for home. She forgot to buy a scart-cable for her DVD-player and I forgot to remember her on it.

At about 15h we left the city, because she had to go shopping for "The Big Noise" on the following Friday with Tarek at Plus in Dudweiler and she had to pack and she said that one or two friends would come also to visit her for the last time that evening. She went with me to a central tram-station where we took the 12 after some waiting. At my place I left her in the bus.

*August, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004*

The next day I picked them up with my car at their place at 6:45 to go to Bilbao. It was rainy.

We left their place at about 7:00 and on the way to Bilbao my car was pretty much washed. As we reached a parking slot at Rue Jeanne d'Arc in Bilbao it was still wet but not rainy anymore. So we headed for the city center. We saw one church from inside on the way to city center. Then she said that she had a human need. I asked her if it is urgent and she said no. We went to search for a toilette. We passed the station on both sides and went to see the cathedrale. On the way to go there Miha found that the tram was looking nice and she made a foto of it. We visited the cathedrale from inside there Miha made a little

## Jean's Story

donation to get a candle which she enflamed and prayed a little prayer. I was deeply touched by her ability to believe in a higher Good. Perhaps she was praying for a safety return to Romania or for some people at home or her dog she admires very much. We went to the place before the city council where we made some fotos. Then we found a little shop with foto picture cards and toilettes. Miha bought some cards and both Miha an Tarek went to relieve themselves. But every other church we saw afterwards were closed inclusive the Basilica. We also found an orthodox church there but also that one was closed. We also saw a park and a zoo for free in there but the zoo wasn't very exciting. After making a lunch break at a Quick. It began slowly to rain and and we went into a shopping mall where Miha bought a lovely, sitting elephant who's holding a heart with the writing "Love" and some aftershave for her boy-friend. Because she was afraid that the pullover, she bought for him at an earlier date, wouldn't fit him and then she wouldn't have something for him. But these fears were without reason, she told me later, because the pulli fits him, if he likes his presents, well. time will tell. As we wanted to go out of a shopping mall it was heavily raining. So we stayed and waited. After some time we decided that we could sit down anywhere and drink something but everything was packed, so we made the decision to go back to the car and head home.

At the car Tarek wanted to make a little break before leaving because the rain had stopped, so we began to eat some biscuits and drinking some Pepsi. Miha saw a park at the end of the road and we decided to go there and have look at it. But as we headed there it began another time to rain. So we only went to a small open place with a roof where orchestras can sit and play outside and we did our break while talking about everthing and nothing.

At the return trip Tarek was falling asleep allthough he had drank some coffee at the start of the return trip, when I was driving through the city. Also Miha was shortly falling asleep allthough she said to me minutes before that she wasn't sleepy or tired. I saw it in the mirror and I felt very good at that moment because for me it was a sign that my driving was o.k. and also a sign of deep trust in me that nothing would happen. Because nobody who's afraid of something can close his eyes and relax like that.

But I woke them up, because someone used his horn and I reacted to it.

Back at their home I helped Miha with some minor stuff, like reminding her to take her vitamines. She showed me some Romaninan money and gave me a purse full of euro-cent coins. I gave her the latest version of "Pentru Miha" in this version I had typed in the dates we had agreed on in San Sebastian, my IdentityCardNo. and the plead that she should reserve the place on the bus for my trip for me.

At about 22h we ate and talked I played some titles of the CDs I brought with me. We had a lot of fun. At 0:00 h Miha went showering after about 1 and a half hours she came back, and said that she had already closed her cases without our help. I could smell the smell of the shower gel she had used.

Although she had said all the time before that she would need our help to close her cases and she had made jokes about it. Now she was pretty much ready to leave.

## Jean's Story

*August, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004*

Afterwards we talked and a friend of Tarek came by who is working in the local hospital in Bordeaux. We talked about how to get Miha's luggage to Rue de la Gare. They discovered that there was only the 19 that was going in time, but not going to Rue de la Gare. So we decided that I would load 4 cases in my car, go with Miha to Ronnstraße. Then I would unload the cases and leave her there to pick up Tarek at 7:00 at the city council to bring him with his case also to Rue de la Gare. Miha meant that her father would kill her if he would know what we were doing. I answered her that I would kill her personally if she would say a word to him. Her answer was, so I would be killed anyway. I answered that she should say to him if he asks, that she had called a taxi for it.

Shortly before she was about to leave Miha and I became a little bit sick. She went frequently to the toilette. I made a joke by saying that I was feeling like a girl having her period. We laughed and Miha answered that she wants us to have an ovulation.

At 5:30 we packed the 4 cases plus her hand luggage into my car. We only left out one case which Tarek had to bring by bus to the City Council, where I would pick him up to bring him also to Rue de la Gare, where I had brought Miha before. After packing my car we went up to her room, to have a look if she hadn't forgotten anything. There she gave me and Tarek each a glass of olives, that she had bought as present for home but couldn't take with her. She also gave me my package of Chips back that I had brought with me because it was a left over from the Thursday before and I knew that she liked it. She also gave me also an open package of turkish honey. At about 5:45 we sat down again at Tarek's room without much talking.

At 6:10 I gave Miha a 10min warning and she said that she would go 5 min before leaving to the toilette for the last time.

6:15 I gave her the 5 min signal and she left for the toilette.

6:20 We left and I dropped some coffee on Tarek's floor while leaving his room. On the way to Rue de la Gare I and Miha talked about if Tarek would make it to the bus.

We arrived at Rue de la Gare at about 6:30. I said to her not to move and to let me unpack the cases from the car.

At about 6:40 I said to her: "I leave you now to pick up Tarek. I'll be back." She assured me that she would be o.k without me because there were already other people waiting. As I left her she helped me to get out of the parking-slot by waving. I left her because I wanted to be in time at City Council.

I waited at City Council for about 15 mins. During these minutes I already had to fight for the first times with my tears.

At 6:55 Tarek came and we headed back to Rue de la Gare. At about 7 we were at Rue de la Gare. There was nothing to see from the drivers, so we were in time. Miha was smiling as she saw my car again. We talked some minor stuff, then the drivers came and Miha slowly began to check her luggage (ca. 120kg in all) in. She also saw a young woman she knew already, so she had someone to talk to during the travel. This fact made her happy because she first thought that there would be a baby on board and she thought that it would be boring and nothing with sleep because of the baby.

Then she asked if someone of the drivers spoke English or French because of my trip and the answer was that I should try it.

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One piece of her hand luggage went also down to the cases because there was no place in the bus, where the seats are. In this back-bag were some bottles of Romanian wine. She put that bag herself on top of the other luggage. She later told me that they arrived safely in Timisoara.

Then it was time to say good bye and I had already big difficulties to hold back my tears.

She said that Tarek and I would have a friend in Romania and she said that now they would kiss each other for good bye. So we kissed each other and she went into the bus. She waved as the doors shuted with this "magic" smile on her face. Then I lost control over my tears and Tarek said to me that I should calm down and that I am really a friend. Then the bus went off and she waved I tried to wave back but the tears were already running over my cheeks. I went with Tarek to my car and left also. Shortly before the bus was leaving the parking at Rue de la Gare, it stopped and I stopped also.

I saw her waving and Tarek waved back. I couldn't because I had to fight with my emotions and tears.

Back at Tarek I cried for nearly 2 hours. I left him at about 10h and headed home to my place and after an hour looking at Romanian TV and crying, I slept for two hours. After I woke up I looked at my mobile. I recognized that she had wrote me a SMS that had reached me in the middle of my sleep. I wrote back that I had slept for 2hrs and that I'll miss her. I don't know if this SMS reached her.

*To be continued soon...*