

Jergen Kohaut's blues

by David W. Landrum

"I'm not going into rehab," she finally said. "I will ^{Opaque}cut it out, though. I promise." He was not sure what to say. Jergen was not certain how deeply Hannah ^{Opaque}was into drugs.

As sleep started to claim him, his ^{Pseudo-opaque}mind wandered through the occurrences of the day. He was too weary to reflect much on them but knew his meeting with Sossity Chandler might be the ^{Semi-opaque}lucky break every musician who ^{Opaque}made it big must have. If he could get a recording contract with her new ^{Semi-opaque}record label, if he could be one of her premier acts; if he could open for her even a few times or tour with her, his success would be assured.

He felt Hannah's shoulders convulse – a thing she did when she slept. He felt the rhythm of her breathing, so familiar after two years. Remembering Lydia, a pang of guilt ^{Pseudo-opaque}ran through him. In the early days he had ignored women who ^{Opaque}came on to him when he played gigs away from home. More lately he had not. Hannah's drug use and its alteration of her personality had begun to undo the bond that had been so sweet and so strong in their early days. Maybe, he thought, it was over already. He finally ^{Pseudo-opaque}drifted off to sleep.

In the morning they ^{Opaque}made love again, then Hannah got ready for work as Jergen cooked breakfast. As he finished she came into the kitchen in a blouse and skirt.

"Wow. I was expecting scrubs as usual."

"I'm giving a lecture today on proper nutrition," she said as she slid into her chair. He noticed she had put clean dressings over her fresh tattoos. He laughed.

"I wish they could see you eating cheesecake."

"I hardly ever eat cheesecake. Besides" – she put her arms straight out – "I myself am proof positive of healthy eating."

Hannah was slender. When she wasn't stoned she exuded energy and charm. They breakfasted on eggs, tomato juice, Canadian bacon and slices of "Health Bread" they got from a local bakery. They ate quickly and in silence. Hannah was in a hurry to get to work.

^{Semi-opaque}"What's up for today?" she asked as she finished her eggs.

"I'm going to ^{Opaque}pound the pavement for gigs. And I'm supposed to see Eban."

^{Semi-opaque}"Eban? I thought you got ^{Semi-opaque}beat up at his place and weren't going back."

Write down all idioms you found and translate them

1. cut it out – prestať (s niečím)
2. be into sth – zaujímať sa o niečo, „žrať“ niečo, venovať sa niečomu; tu: brať (drogy)
3. sb's mind wanders – nemať jasnú hlavu, myšlienkami blúdiť
4. a lucky break – jedinečná šanca, sľubná ponuka
5. make it (big) – dostať sa na výslnie, preraziť, uspieť
6. run through sth – prebehnúť, preháňať sa; zopakovať si; prečítať/pozrieť si
7. come on to sb – robiť sexuálne návrhy, flirtovať, zvädzať
8. drift off – odniesť, uniesť, unášať, odplaviť; zaspáť
9. make love – milovať sa
10. What's up? – Ako sa máš? Čo (je) nové? Čo máš v pláne?
11. pound the pavement – (AmE) hľadať si prácu
12. beat up – zbiť, vytrieskať, vyprášiť niekomu kožuch

For no extra charge

by Mikael Persson

The Cynic Online Magazine


After ignoring two stop signs she pulled in her car by the **curb** and turned off the ignition, to get a grip on herself. “If only he had kept his hands out of the **cash register**, and off the female customers, none of this would have happened!” she said aloud to herself while she wiped her eyes and blew her nose with a handkerchief. Rufus, her husband, always said he would look for another job tomorrow, but tomorrow never seemed to arrive for him. In the meantime he drank one six-pack after the other, watched TV, but above all, brought home every animal he could get his hands on. “I get more affection from them than I’d ever **gotten** from you, you old hag!” he had yelled just before she had left this morning.

With trembling fingers she took her **cell phone** out of her **purse**, and called in sick to the **daycare-center** where she worked halftime. She got out of her car and walked slowly **downtown**. She bought the morning papers and sat down in a café with a big piece of cake and a cappuccino. If he kept this up, she saw no alternative but to leave him. Checking out the **apartment** ads, she couldn’t find anything she could afford. She could of course get the hell out of town and live with her sister’s family on the west coast, but that would mean she’d have to quit her job, and be a burden to others. And if she did **quit** her present **job**, could she get a new one? Who’d **hire** a middle-aged overweight woman these days? Other than of course, working at **truck-stop bars** for peanuts.

1. curb – kerb	
2. cash register – till (or cash register)	
3. cell phone – mobile phone	
4. purse – handbag	
5. daycare-center – crèche /krefʃ/, day nursery	
6. apartment – flat	
7. quit one's job – leave one's job	
8. hire – employ	
9. truck-stop bar – transport cafe	truck – lorry
10. downtown – (to the) centre	

Determine whether these phrases and sentences are BrE or AmE.

- (a) He doesn't have any friends. *AmE* + *BrE* (*BrE*: He hasn't got any friends.)
- (b) She dived into the pool with all her clothes on. *BrE* (*AmE*: dove)
- (c) on the weekend *AmE* (*BrE*: at the weekend)
- (d) You've missed him. He's just left. *BrE* + *AmE* (*AmE*: You missed him. He just left)
- (e) Did you do your homework yet? *AmE* (*BrE*: Have you done ...)
- (f) Which team is losing? *AmE* (*BrE*: team are)
- (g) They needn't come to school today. *BrE* (*AmE*: don't need to)
- (h) This place is different than anything I've seen before. *AmE* (*BrE*: different from/to)
- (i) You've got taller this year. *BrE* (*AmE*: gotten)
- (j) in a team *BrE* (*AmE*: on a team)
- (k) We shall see! *BrE* (*AmE*: will)
- (l) The kitchen smelled of roast chicken. *AmE* (*BrE*: smelt)

 Read these texts and decide whether they are written in BrE or AmE. Justify your decision.

Text A

'You're not going shopping with her afterwards?'

Marjory blushes. 'Well, she needs a new pair of shoes . . . '

'You're a fool, Marje!' Vic exclaims. 'You spoil that girl something rotten. All she thinks about is clothes, shoes, hairstyles. What kind of **A-levels** do you think she's going to get?'

'I don't know. But if she doesn't want to **go to university** . . . '

'What does she want to do, **then**? What's the latest?'

'She's thinking of hairdressing.'

'Hairdressing!' Vic puts as much contempt into his voice as he can muster.

Text B

‘Who was the clock radio for, **then**?’

‘What?’

‘I found a brand-new clock radio at the back of the **wardrobe**.’

Marjorie covers her mouth with her hand. ‘Sst! I *knew* I’d **got** something for your Dad.’

‘Didn’t we give him a Christmas present, **then**?’

‘Of course we did. You remember, you rushed out on Christmas Eve and got him that electric blanket . . . Never mind, it will do for next year.’

‘**Hasn’t** he already **got** a clock radio? Didn’t we give him one a few years ago?’

‘Did we?’ says Marjorie vaguely. ‘**Perhaps** one of the boys would like it, **then**.’

Write down all differences between BrE and AmE found in the above texts

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A-level – SAT (Scholastic Aptitude/Assessment Test) A standardized test used to evaluate suitability for college admission2. go to university – go to a university3. then (adv, at the end of the sentence) – so (at the beginning of the sentence)4. wardrobe – closet5. got – gotten6. hasn’t he got – doesn’t he have7. perhaps – maybe/perhaps |
|---|