



*Photo by Peter van Agtmael*

Wake up. About time. You're still alive. Covered with sweat, pain, smell, bruises... ...and the headache. But you're still breathing. Barely. But... Still... Where are you? What happened? You remember now.

Where are they? Not around. Can't be far, they left you unattended.

You just had to get yourself into this mess. I told you not to do it.

But you didn't listen. Did you? Shut up.

Gotta get out.

You won't. They will find you. Shut up. You can't escape them. Shut up. They're going to get you. Shut up! You have nowhere to run. Shut up! Shut up!

Get up. Start walking.

Stop. What's that? A sound. Can you hear it? Footsteps. Quiet. Don't move.

Gone.

They'll be back. They'll notice. Shut up. They'll hear you. Your heavy breath.

Your limping footsteps. Shut up. What then? What now?

Left.

Door. Must lead outside. Careful. I wonder if... Opened! You're actually gonna...

Shit!

I warned you.

While writing the first draft of my story, I came up with an idea of some trapped, trying to escape. I started writing lines that came to my head and I visualized the situation in my mind. I knew what I wanted the story to feel like, but I did not quite know how to write it to create enough tension and move it forward.

The first draft consisted of a couple of sentences, written in third person narrative, that rhymed. Overall, it was not good or compelling and did not really create a story. I was not sure how to change it so that it makes sense. However, after an online lecture I got an idea to write the story using short sentences and a second person narrative where the character's inner voice is speaking to them making them doubt themselves. I felt like this would create more mystery and unease and therefore tension. I also watched an episode of a TV show, which depicted a similar idea to the one I initially visualized. This helped me to decide how I should move the story forward as well as the actions that the character should make and their order.

I was not able to relate the story to any of the titles nor could I find a picture of my own that did. Therefore, I decided to look at the work of photographers that could potentially relate to it. I was able to find an image by Peter van Agtmael that matched well with what I visualized while writing the text.

I hope that I achieved the objective of writing a short story that is compelling and dark enough. It honestly turned out better than I expected it to since I do not usually write stories. I do not think that it is an amazing piece of text, however while writing it I was able to experiment with the language more than before. This allowed me to pick the style of writing that I thought best suited the purpose of the story and created the right atmosphere. I still do not think that I am good at writing stories, but I can say that I have got a better understanding of how to do it.