

Older than we are [*Stripverhaal*]

1

He Moon-

She ...stone

He Skin-

She ...deep

He Counter-

She ...weight

He Shot-

She ...silk

He Over-

She ...flowing

He Remorse-

She ...less

Under-

He ...exposure

She Down-

He ...stroke

She Black-

He ...thorn

She Waste-

He ...land

She Wrong-

He ...doing

She Bitter-

He ...weed

She Fifty

He Twenty-four

She Two hundred

He A hundred and four

She Nine

He Seven thousand

She Forty-nine

He A thousand and five

She Ninety

He Seventy-one

She Eighteen

He Fifty

She Six

He Six

She Six

He Seven

She

Eight

He Red

She Blood
White

He Skin
Heavy

She Stone
The day before

He The day before
Wood

She A coffin
Black earth

He The gap
A song

She My grandmother
The summer

He Blue
Grey

She My grandmother
Blue

He

Dark blue

Brown

She Walking

He Talking

She Going astray

He Taking away

She A female

He Looking pale

She Penetrating

He Suffocating

She The complexion

He The reflection

Not mine

She Draw the line

He The womb

She I am locked in my room

He Does nobody listen to what I have to say

She I am here, but soon I'll go away

He We flee our town

She The rain brings us down
 Fragmented

He Intended

She Walk on, until the border

He There you'll get a new order

She To forget

He To regret

She The wall

He The fall

She What are we doing

He We're playing the game

She It's not a game
 It can't be won

He It is a game
 I always win

She A game should be fair

He I always win

She I don't want it
 Not this game

He I say we must play
 It's the only way to make time pass

She All right, then
 We'll play the game
 What are the rules

He I have to make them up

She Yes

He No

She By day

He At night

She Sweet

He Bitter

She Staying

He Straying

She Trust

He Disbelief

She Florid

He Barren

She Tomorrow it will

He Yesterday it was

She To speak out

He To shut up

She Virgin snow

He Old ice, in the dark of the night

She One

He Zero

She One

He Zero

She One

He A hundred

She One

He Nought

She Inside
Walls and comfort

He Outside
Cold air

She Understand everything

He Hear nothing

She All

He Nothing

He A house

She Abandoned

He The cellar

She Locked up
 The field

He Where we used to play
 With a piece of rope

She The wooden shed

He Where I changed clothes
 The parents

She They have never been here
 I am all on my own
 Ground

He There is no ground
 We're falling
 The boss

She No, you're not
 Not my boss
 Though you may think otherwise

She What now

He I don't know

She What now

He I don't know
 It's up to you
 Ask a question, maybe

She Ask me something, then

He Where are you from

She From there
 No - from there

He That can't be right
 There's nothing there

She That's where I come from

He Everything you say is not true
 What you are saying does not exist

She Precisely that's why I say it
 Once it's said it does exist
 Everything can be
 And you
 Where are you from

He We've got an old house

She And where is that house

He It's hidden behind a fence
 It's a secret

She And your relatives

He They've gone to the city, to work

She It's good to talk to you

He Why

She What you say, I can understand

He I don't want to talk
 I want to be on my own

She I want everything to remain the way it is now

He No – that's not possible
 You
 You have to watch out

He The air is dry

She I am older than you think

He Where you come from
Was it cold there

She Yes it was
Permanently

He You've told me your name
But I forgot it

She What have you got there
Behind your clothes

He Just the usual

She Where are they

He Who

She Those to whom you belong

He I don't know
I don't belong to anyone

She Not to me, either

He Don't know

She I want to stay here
Together

He You've said that before
 It can't be
 I said that before

She How long have you been here

He For a long time

 What happened to your eye

She That's so long ago
 At first it hurt
 But not anymore

He How

She Don't ask
 I am here, now

 Why are you looking at me all the time
 If I'd ask you to turn away

He Then I wouldn't
 Can I come closer

She You can try

He You don't know that
 You don't
 But I
 I've seen things

She What kind of things

He Forbidden things
 Things that people do
 Things they do together
 You can't know that

She I told you before
 I'm older than you think

He I've seen people
 They were really close together
 And they still weren't frightened

She I can't believe that such a thing exists
 I've always thought: it's dangerous to be too close to another person

He I've seen them
 They didn't see me
 They only saw one another, from close by
 They made sounds, but they didn't say any words

She I don't get it

He I did get it
 It was as if it should be that way
 Their clothes were ruined, or so it seemed

She What kind of people were they

He Older than we are
 I've been thinking, though

We could do the same as what I saw them doing
At least we can try
Just to know what it's like

She I don't want that
I guess you are stronger than I am
That's why I don't want it

He Don't you want to know what it's like then
To be so very close
I expect it makes you feel things
Things that up till now you haven't experienced

She OK
Maybe we can do it
But not right now

He To do that brings you really together
You are with each other, into each other
You can feel the other person's inside
I tell you
I've seen it

She Don't say it
I don't want such a thing to exist
If you keep talking about it, then all I want to do is leave

He One day we must do it
Everybody has to do it, one day
That's what I've heard

He You are supposed to do everything I tell you to do

She I can't
 I decide for myself what I do

He Everything I say

She OK
 Tell me, then

He Can you find some food
 I'm hungry

She I have always been given food

He That's not how it is now
 It's like that when you are a child

She I'll go and look for some
 I don't know where

He Do you know how to make a fire?
 Look for food and make sure we have a fire

She I'm not sure I really want to be with you

He You can't leave
 Not anymore

She I'm thinking

He Don't
 You cannot have thoughts of your own

She Why do you say that

He Because that's the way it is

She I will always be alive
 I will always have a house
 I will always know what to do
 I will always understand what's happening
 I will always be the cleverest
 I will always laugh about things that are, in fact, quite serious
 I will always need no one – and still they'll be fond of me
 I will always say the right things
 I will always remain silent, when that's appropriate
 I will always be capable of speaking the language very well
 I will always make long journeys and see a lot of things and speak
 about them
 I will always listen to you and pretend I understand what you're
 saying
 I
 Always
 I am always
 That's the way I want it to be
 Why don't you tell me I'm right

She You give me

He A smack
 You give me

She Agreement
 I give you

He Everything you possess
 I give you

She A cold hand, and nothing more
 You'll go with me

He To the edge of the field, where the fence is
 You'll go with me

She Inside
 I want you to feel comfortable
 You'll hear from me

He Nothing I didn't already know
 You'll hear from me

She That for you I am important
 You'll take

He I don't take anything at all
 I leave things where there are

You'll take

She I'll take whatever you give to me

She I give nothing to you
I have to protect myself

She Think of what's bigger than the moon

He The sun

Think of what's warmer than fire

She The inside of the earth

Think of what's smoother than silk

He A baby's cheek

Think of what's more silent than winter

She A dead persons house

Think of what's whiter than winter

He A dead persons skin

Think of what's sweeter than honey

She The story about my past that I've forgotten

Think of what's more beautiful than a flower

He The day that is over

Think of what's softer than fur

She The lower part of my belly

Think of what's harder than stone

He The wall between us

Think of what's deeper than sleep

She The pit where they've buried it

She When animals die
 They are cut open
 They are still warm, inside
 You can see all of them
 Their entrails, and the other parts

He When people die
 We must leave them in peace
 That's the way it should be
 After a couple of days they will be burnt
 But they are not cut open

She Why is it like that

He Because there are differences
 Differences are important

She Can dead people be cut open as well

He That is possible, but you wouldn't see anything
 Inside humans there's only thoughts and sensations
 They're invisible

She I do want to know what it's like
 I want to find out how the human body is constructed

He That's not possible
 We can't understand that
 We can't see it
 That's because we're human ourselves
 God – have you heard of him
 God would know how to do that
 God can do whatever he wants
 But he doesn't exist

She Still it's what I'd like to do
 A human body
 The human skin

And then – a knife
What do you think
What would happen

He Pain
 But that's nothing
 Pain is not worth talking about
 Pain is the same for all of us
 Pain is unbearable and pain passes
 Pain is strictly human, did you know that
 Animals feel no pain

She What's your opinion
 Is it true that all people must die

He So I heard
 Yes, it's true

She And why is it then
 Is it because they've done something wrong
 Is it a sort of punishment

He I don't know
 Perhaps it's just because they have been alive
 I guess there's something wrong there

He Three

She Times tried
But not given up yet

Two

He Steps backward
Then you're against the wall

Seven

She Colours I can think of
If I name them all, everything will be all right

Twelve

He Times it is the first day of the month
Later on comes the last day
Between those two, nothing has changed
I hate time

Eight

She Eight
That I don't know
When someone helps you eight times, that's a lot

Eleven

He Words they needed, to tell me they did not want me around any
longer
That I should leave
So I went away
Maybe now they want me to come back
But that's no longer possible

She They assume
 When you're a girl, you are satisfied with whatever you get
 They assume
 A girl never acts
 Never acts just like that, just because she wants to
 They do not know that girls are thinking creatures
 That girls have a voice, just like anyone else
 Girls want to play as well
 And, like the others, girls don't want to know how this game will
 end
 They think
 Of course she will come back, and then she'll be quiet
 I want it to be different
 Later I'll come back, maybe
 But not now
 Now I want to be everywhere
 Now I want to belong to the world
 Now I want to see you
 Protect you
 You're stronger than I am
 But please don't say that

He Absolutely the biggest

She Lie
 The deepest black

He The night sky
 Without any stars

 The narrowest

She Of passages

 The palest

He Skin

 The most stupid

She Remark

 The cleverest

He Remark

 The last

She Possibility

 The last

He Movement

 The most confusing

She Thought

The largest

He Cloud, filled with icy rain

The reddest

She Stain on a white sheet

The smoothest

He Of gestures, that will turn into a spasm

She It is round

He The hole in your hand where the nail goes through

She It is cold

He The body that's lying in the ditch

She It's hanging

He Old people's flesh

She It was yesterday

He That I was saying something

She It is shattered

He The glass of this thing that was a car only a minute ago

She It is blue

He The ink in which the verdict is written

She It is blue

He The bruise where a fist touched me

She It is light

He The dust that covers the crystal vase

She It is light

He The friendship, that is blown away

- He When you close your eyes
 What do you see
- She You should close yours as well
 Then we can both see the same things
- He I see
 A building, that's what I see
 A clean building
 A new building
 A building with glass on all sides
 It's easy to look inside
- She Are there many children in the building
 And is something written, in white letters, on the outside wall
- He Yes – that's the building I mean
 I read the words: 'House of the Future'
- She I can see it, too
 I can smell what it's like outside the building
 Freshly mown grass
- He Is this a building we know
- She Once we knew it, perhaps
 But not anymore
 Now we have to invent it ourselves
- He 'House of the Future'
 Here it is explained to everyone
 How everything works
 How things should be done
 And what is forbidden
- She Today is a day of blue
 One of those days with tiny white clouds
 A day that belongs to the sun

He Everything's all right– that's what I want to think
From the open windows come voices of the children
They speak as if with one voice
The words are important
They're words about the world
The children are all looking in the same direction
'House of the future'
The future is what they see
That must be good
I shut my eyes even tighter

She I keep watching
More and more I understand what I see
I know what it's like, here
In a while the children will leave the building
All of them have a home
All of them have a mother
They walk in the streets, where all is quiet
Everything has a place of its own

He When the children have time to spare
They'll take a soft rubber ball
They'll go to the patch of grass behind the houses
And they'll play a game

She Whenever they have a question
There will always be someone to give them an answer

He Danger does exist
Elsewhere
Not in the house
You can see it on a screen
Then it's gone

She For every child there is one other child
A best friend, with whom you can talk about all things

He Is it like that
Will it always be like that
Or will something different happen today

She It's up to us to decide
We can see what we want to see

Maybe the white clouds suddenly turn to grey
Darker grey, then black
Now the rain comes and the flashes
Flashes can scare you
Flashes can hit you, when you're a child
What do you see

He I see a child lying down
There's no smell of mown grass anymore

She Is this what we want

He Things may occur that we don't want
But they happen anyway
We have to notice them, because they are real

She The building I see has dark walls, now
The rain made it wet
Its windows are closed
Rain is falling
The child is lying down

He Is this the way it will go then
Or are there even more possibilities

She Perhaps the day will continue to be fine
When the children leave the building
One of them is walking all by herself
She's a big, heavy girl
She's older than most of the others
Her skin is darker
She moves quite slowly

He I can see her walking there
Not in the middle of the pavement
But close to the edge
When she arrives at her house she rings the doorbell
And again
And again
It takes minutes before she hears the door opening
She can go inside
She walks upstairs

She In the house she finds her mother
 Lying on a couch
 Her skirt has moved upward
 Her legs are covered with scabs and from time to time she scratches
 The mother does not look at the girl
 There is a brother in the room as well
 He's watching TV and he drinks from a large paper cup

He The girl goes to the kitchen
 She's looking for bread
 She doesn't find any

She We see everything
 We see everything that happens
 We see that building
 'House of the future'
 Now the windows are shattered
 Black smudges on the walls
 It was a beautiful day
 That blue-sky day
 Suddenly they arrived
 Nobody can understand them
 They do not want what everyone else wants
 They don't want to live

He There is loud noise
 There are voices, such as I have never heard before
 Afterwards all is quiet
 We walk towards the building
 We look inside through holes in the wall
 Tables have been toppled
 You cannot see the floor
 It's covered with all kinds of things – with books and bags
 And with children, too lying there
 I am quite aware:
 When you are asleep, you don't lie like that

She You see it as well
 You can still see all the things I see
 The things we want to see
 The things we have to see, because they can happen
 I turn around
 I leave the building
 When I'm outside I can feel the sun
 It is one of those days with tiny white clouds

He I don't want to see what you see any more
 My eyes are wide open
 As I said before
 I don't believe that anything you say is true

She I don't care if you think so
 I know that everything I say, I say it for a reason

He You told me that you get beaten every day

She I never said that
 And most certainly not to you

He Have you got slashes
 Have you got wounds
 Can I see them

She That's forbidden
 Those are forbidden places

He You can't be my friend
 You say stupid things

She I think I'll leave

He I think that you'll stay here
 I think that you'll do exactly what has been figured out for you
 I'll tell you what to do

She I do have a house of my own
 I do have a family I belong to
 They will come
 They will look for me
 And they'll find me
 Then they'll blame you

He For what

She For everything that's wrong
For me losing my way
You are the cause of all my troubles
They'll see that
They'll understand
And then they'll hurt you

He Oh, you
You're just a girl
Girls are women
All women should just wait for what's coming to them
Women don't have any rights

She Do you really think I am still listening to you?
I'm not
I haven't been listening for ages

He You
Go and sit down there

She OK
I'll do that

He I'm going to tell you how it is
You are nothing but a hole
You are nothing
You just have to wait
I am something
I am action
When I make the effort I'll get you exactly where I want you
But I think I've lost interest

She And when this is over
What will happen to you afterwards

He I told you
Just sit there
And wait

She And I told you didn't I
 You heard me say
 I decide for myself what I do
 What will happen when this is over
 Will you go back

He The place I come from doesn't exist anymore
 That's what I think
 I can't go back
 I can only go forward

She Without me

He Everything that is important, we do alone

She I think I do want to go back
 We imagined something, but soon the day will be over and it won't
 exist anymore

He You're not allowed to go back
 You cannot go back
 You're stuck with me

She They'll miss me
 They will look for me

He They don't exist
 You said it yourself
 How we imagine it, that's the way it is
 And I think they don't exist
 You invented them
 You really don't have anyone
 Just me

She I don't want this anymore

He What we want
 Is the most unimportant of all

She Do you know

He Yes, of course I do
I know most things

She Do you know what will happen later
When we are both back home again

He I'm not going home
That's, what we said, isn't it
That's what you heard me say
I can't go back

She What we say is not the same as what we do
We'll go
Or they will come to look for us and then they'll find us
They will take us with them
We'll go in different directions

He No
This has to be the way it is and the way it stays
You and me
I do things
You have to do them
We

She That only exists during the day
It's called freedom
Perhaps it's called: playing
After that, something different will come
I don't know what that's called
But I do know
When the day is over
Then everything we have now will be over
I will go into the rooms that I have known for so long
I will have to sleep in the bed that is made for me

He No
That's the only word I know now

When you say what you have just said
Then I can only say no
This shouldn't be a game
This is what we've chosen
And what you choose is for ever
We're both holding tightly to the same piece of rope
We can't let that go

She Anything is possible
 It will all change, endlessly

He Not done

She But still punished

He Not meant that way

She But still blamed

He Not wanted

She But still getting it

He Not wanted

She Still not avoided

He Not here

She Nor anywhere else

She Not with you

He With me forever

She Not yours

He Mine – until I don't want you anymore

She Not attached to anything

He To have no freedom of movement at all

She Not being forced

He Never to be free anymore

She No listening to loud voices

He Forgetting that you have a voice

She Not being afraid

He Knowing fear is life

She Light

He Heavy

She Light

He Dark

She Way-

He ...back

She Way-

He -out
 The only one

She Which means what

He You heard me
 The way-out

She I

He You

She I
He I want it to be like that

She Why

He There is no why

Actions explain themselves

She Back home

He That's not possible anymore
 That doesn't exist anymore
 We've taken the step

She And so

He There you go
 No, there
 Over there
 There is nothing
 There's where you are supposed to be

He

We've been playing
I made up the rules

I had to be strong and she just waited for it
I knew and she had to guess
I gave and she took

We've been playing
It was real

I was bored
I didn't have anyone else
There she was
A girl is better than nothing

Equality doesn't exist
It's the difference that's important
I want to investigate everything

She told me she wanted to go back
I explained to her that it wasn't possible
Time only goes in one direction
We're further and further away from who we were

She asked me
- Not in words, but still -
She asked me to make decisions
She asked me to tell her everything
She had to know it all
I can do that
But it's a burden
As if you're playing with a ball
And suddenly it's a leaden ball

She
She wanted
She wanted something different than I had imagined, something
different from what I thought was good
She kept looking for other things than me

Together, that cannot be either
To be alone together, that does exist
That's what I shared with her

I
I used to have a piece of ground of my own, when I was a boy

Nobody knew, it was hidden far behind the houses
This was my land
I laid planks around it to protect it
It was a secret
It was mine
There was some grass and [there were] some shrubs
When I found myself on my territory, then I could breathe and
everything was quiet
No one was allowed to come there
I had gathered some stones
I was going to throw them at anyone who would try to come too
close
That was my protection
Every day I was there and I told myself stories, out loud
Stories about the wars that once were fought here. In this area
Wars of the red-haired people fighting the black-haired folk
And other stories, about wars yet to come
Wars about human beings fighting objects
Powerful objects, dangerous objects
I had my territory, behind the planks
Everything was good
Then autumn came
Winter came
I didn't go to my land anymore, far behind the houses
When the days turned light and warm again, I went back there but
I couldn't recognise my piece of ground anymore
What's important always gets lost

There have been other people, always
Others, who told me what to do
I couldn't listen to them
What I must do, I know already, here, inside me
There's no need for them to tell me anything

Then she came
That made me quiet
She was nothing
I could play with her
That's the way it should have stayed
She was not supposed to start asking questions
Questions are no good, if you want to keep up the fence
Too many questions will wash the planks away

She
Once I wanted to forget her name
Now I want to forget everything she said
Now I want to forget her
Together, that doesn't exist
It exists that one is stronger than the other
It exists that the other does not exist anymore

She went back
She is gone
She is abolished

I go on, now
I have nothing
I know nothing
But I am in motion
I can leave it all behind

I always win
I always win

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