

The Schmidt family's last big Holiday

Part 1
from Der Klaus

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Foreword

Hello dear readers,

I haven't published a story for a long time. The reasons for this are extensive and I won't go into them here. But I have been working on projects from time to time. Even though I still have unfinished works, I still feel the need to start new projects. One of them has now reached a stage that I would like to share with you and hope for nice comments to get further inspiration for the completion.

In the end, this story will consist of two parts, which will also appeal to two slightly different interests of the reader. The first part, like many of my works, will be about safety devices used in a somewhat exaggerated way by caring parents. In this story, the children are very old and I hope that the plot will still be realistic enough to tell a well-rounded story that will appeal to the reader's interest.

The first part will involve wearing overalls and PVC clothing with additional restraints and coercive measures. This will also involve a certain humiliation of the characters. Anyone who finds this type of literature repulsive should not read the story.

As always, everything is fictitious and does not constitute a call for imitation. The author and all persons involved in the creation distance themselves from any physical or psychological violence against other people.

I don't want to give too much away about the second part here, but it will be about the effects of the treatment of one of the main characters from the first part. Because it should be clear that the application of exaggerated security measures can also have effects on a person in one direction or another. For example, the development of fears, or submission to the measures, or even a particular rebellion against them. The second part of the story is intended to show one of these effects at a time interval from the events in this first part.

But I can't say at the moment how long it will take to complete this part or the second part.

A few words about my unfinished projects: I would also like to complete them, but due to the time I currently have available and the size of these projects, I think it is also in the reader's interest to work on smaller projects like this one. Even if they can't be completed in one piece.

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Have fun reading

I am very happy about feedback, in the Discord or via the mail of the website.

1 - A memorable Christmas

Lost in thought, Birgit looks at the shelf with the photos of her children, holding a box of Christmas baubles in her hand.

"Honey, could you please give me the next bauble," she is snapped out of her thoughts by her husband Wolfgang. He is standing on a small ladder by the Christmas tree, decorating it.

"Yes, of course, here you go. ... I think it's over, our children are really grown up now." Birgit replies and hands Wolfgang another ball.

Birgit and Wolfgang have always provided their children with a good and intact home. This was always important to them, as things had not gone so well for them. Birgit became pregnant with Luisa when she was only 17 years old and so her childhood came to an abrupt end. But she had quickly settled into her role as a mother, and Wolfgang hadn't let her down either. Even though he was only 19 years old, he had already finished his education and was ready to start a family. Peter was born just three years later, by which time Birgit and Wolfgang were already married. Both had settled into their role as loving parents and daughter Anna was born.

The children's upbringing was always harmonious and without any great difficulties. The children were brought up in an open-minded and liberal way, no excessive strictness was necessary. The parents are proud of what the children have achieved at school. Only Luisa had to repeat a grade at the end of elementary school, but now she is about to graduate from high school and will probably start university next summer. She will be 20 in the spring and is of course already very independent. Peter is 17 years old and is also in year 11 at grammar school. As he is very determined, his parents do not expect him to have any major difficulties until his A-levels in two years' time. He is a passionate swimmer and has already won various trophies in his spare time.

At 15, Anna isn't really a baby, but her parents often see her as such because she is the only one who needs a little more attention and care. She only made it to secondary school, but her parents don't see that as a problem. As she was and still is mothered a little more by Birgit as the youngest, the perception is certainly a little different.

Wolfgang has finally finished with the Christmas tree and they both sit on the sofa for a moment and talk about the past few years. What it was like when the children waited with shining eyes outside the door until Wolfgang finally let them into the Christmas room with the bell, where Santa Claus had placed the presents under the tree. What a wonderful time that was in the past.

Today is December 24th at around 16:30, just half an hour to go and Wolfgang would be reaching for the bell again. But none of the children are waiting outside the locked door today. They are all in their rooms doing the things teenagers do at that age. Luisa is reading a book and Peter is playing a computer game. Only Anna is still a little excited and is leafing through a brochure from a well-known technology store. This year she finally wanted her own games console so that she doesn't always have to argue with her brother. Even though Peter is already 17 years old and Anna is 15, they are still teenage siblings who are excellent at arguing.

Of course, none of the children believe in Santa Claus anymore, but the parents don't let the fun be taken away from them and at 5 p.m. on the dot, Wolfgang walks through the hallway ringing the obligatory bell in his hand and shouting, "Children, children, come to the presents, you've missed Santa Claus. Come, come here!"

Luisa is the first to poke her head out of the bedroom door and grin at her father with amusement. She knows that her parents really enjoy pretending that the children are still small at Christmas and take the show seriously.

Then Anna comes out of her room - of course she's most excited about the presents, but as a cool 15-year-old girl she doesn't want to let it show. So she says, "Dad, you're being silly. You know we're too old for this kind of nonsense."

"Behave yourself young lady, otherwise Santa will come back with the route and then there will be no presents for you," her father tells her in reply. Even if he doesn't really mean it.

The three of them then walk arm in arm into the decorated Christmas room and all sit down on the sofa with their mother Birgit. Only Peter is missing and he makes no effort to get up from his computer. He wants to play the game until he reaches a save point, thinks the whole thing is totally ridiculous and is still in his adolescent defiant phase. His mother knows this and doesn't want to disturb the harmony in the family on Christmas Eve. So she gets up after a few minutes and goes into his room.

"Peter please, we're waiting for you. Today is Christmas and we want to experience it as a whole family. Is that too much to ask?" she says calmly to her son and strokes his back.

"Yes mom, I'll be right there, don't always stress about it," he said as he continued to concentrate on the game.

"Peter, it's rude of you to keep us waiting. You know very well that it's important for us to spend this one evening a year together with the whole family. Come on, please, let's go!" Birgit then says a little more clearly.

"Yeah man, you don't always have to make such a fuss about it, we're really too old for Santa's nonsense, Mom!" says Peter and ends the game. Because he also knows that his mother wouldn't let up. Although his parents are not extremely strict with their children, they are always very consistent.

Finally, everyone is sitting together in the living room by the tree, and Wolfgang takes the presents from the tree one by one to read out the names on them. Each time he emphasizes that Santa Claus has just brought them and everyone is very excited to see what they might be. Everyone who receives a present then has to unwrap it and present it. First it's Anna's turn, then Peter and then Luisa. At first, it was mostly clothes or sometimes a music CD that appeared. Birgit and Wolfgang also put something under each other's trees. In the last round, it's the turn of the main gifts. Anna gets her own Switch console that she had wanted so much. Which she is also very happy about, which in turn makes her parents very happy. Peter only gets an envelope with a voucher on which his parents promise to pay for the theoretical part of his driving license. He also knows that he will receive another voucher for the practical part on his birthday after the summer vacation, because his sister had done the same thing three years earlier. He is of course delighted to have his parents pay for his driving license, but it makes the whole situation even more absurd, because the show with Santa Claus makes even less sense for Peter. Luisa also gets a new laptop, which she can really use for her upcoming studies.

After the presents, everyone eats together and then sits together comfortably. Just as the parents would have wished.

Wolfgang has already had two beers and Peter is also allowed to drink a bottle to celebrate the day. But his parents always make sure that he never has more than one bottle. Mom Birgit and Louise share a bottle of red wine together. Luisa is a little more experienced with alcohol, but also very level-headed, and her parents don't tell her what to do, just give her well-intentioned advice. It goes without saying that Anna is not allowed to drink alcohol.

Just as the evening began for Birgit, she now returns to the topic of the children's past childhood, and so one story after another from the past is told. Many of them are also funny for the children and some are perhaps new. They talk about past vacations and much more.

The family had already taken their last summer vacation without Luisa, as she had planned her own vacation with her friends. Peter has also toyed with the idea, but he still lacks the financial means to do so. However, he is already planning to look for a vacation job during the Easter vacations so that he can take a vacation independently of his parents. This doesn't really suit Birgit. Not because she doesn't trust her son to do this, but much more because it would mean a further step towards cutting the children off from their parents.

Then they talk about other sailing experiences on the nearby inland sea and suddenly Birgit has an idea. The family has their own small sailing boat there and Peter even got his sailing license at the age of 14 and always has a lot of fun sailing. Wolfgang and Birgit had also obtained a sailing license in their youth and had always dreamed of going on a big Baltic trip. But because of their three

children, they have never been able to realize this dream. They did get their coastal sailing license a few years ago, but they never got any further.

And so the idea for the next summer vacation is born. Peter doesn't need much convincing; if it involves sailing or swimming, he's all for it. Luisa has already drunk two glasses of red wine and thinks it's a nice idea, just as her mother would like this last vacation together. Anna doesn't actually think sailing is so bad and is therefore not against it, even though she realizes that she doesn't really have an alternative. At 15, her parents wouldn't allow her to stay at home alone and a vacation without her parents was out of the question. So she basically has no say in the whole thing. The evening ends harmoniously and everyone goes to bed happy.

2 - Arrival with an unexpected destination

The summer vacation finally started last Wednesday and it was time to get going. It's Saturday morning and everyone is sitting in the family van. But the whole thing was preceded by extensive planning. Wolfgang and Birgit had already started preparations in the new year. They worked according to a precise plan. First, they applied for almost all of their annual leave for the summer vacation. Fortunately, the approval from Wolfgang's employer came quite quickly and we were able to continue planning. The most important step was then to find a boat and a suitable rental company. To do this, we compared prices on the Internet and weighed up the different services. The individual providers differed greatly in some cases. The insurance policies, which were usually included, also had to be compared. The family also had a fixed budget for the whole vacation. As this type of travel had been a dream of Wolfgang and Birgit's for a very long time, they had already put money aside for this purpose for several years.

There was an insurance condition that was only available from some providers, but this obviously seemed to reduce the price considerably. It was mainly about the children and their safety, which was also greatly increased by the condition, and so the couple didn't have to think twice and opted for the extra safety, and saved money in the process. However, the parents did not discuss what this would mean for the children. It was supposed to be a surprise, which Birgit was probably looking forward to the most.

The children had noticed very little of the preparations. Luisa was busy preparing for her A-levels and had little time to take care of her parents' affairs. Precisely because she was already 20 years old, she took her graduation very seriously and did almost everything to get good grades. Peter and Anna are teenagers who were only interested in an event shortly before it happened anyway, and the summer vacations were still a long way off when the contracts were signed and everything was decided.

From the Easter vacations onwards, the children had occasionally noticed how their parents had refreshed their knowledge of maritime law and navigation. Because there were always nautical charts on the living room table. During this time, Wolfgang and Birgit also asked each other questions about these topics at dinner to check whether they were ready for their adventure.

A few weeks before today, Luisa had already finished her exams and had done really well. This meant that nothing stood in the way of her studies. She had looked for a place to study almost independently. However, she ended up at a university at the other end of the country. This meant that she would be moving to a foreign city shortly after her vacation and leaving her family. So Birgit was really glad that we were able to go on this vacation together.

Of course, Peter and Anna had to go to school until last Wednesday, unlike their sister. Meanwhile, the preparations for departure took almost a week. The family van and an additional trailer were loaded and suitcases and bags were stowed away. Of course, Luisa was able to help much more than Anna and Peter. Birgit kept telling Luisa how great she thought it was that she could still experience something like this together with her children. Luisa realized how difficult it was for her mother to accept that the children were growing up and leaving home.

The stress of the last week has vanished and everyone is sitting in the car, Wolfgang at the wheel and Birgit in the passenger seat. As is almost always the case on long journeys like this, Luisa has to sit in the middle of the back seat to keep her two teenage siblings apart. Otherwise Anna and Peter would argue too much. The journey takes them onto the highway and quickly becomes boring. But fortunately they've thought of that, and Luisa can read her cell phone and Anna has her Switch in her hand, which she got for Christmas. Peter also has a tablet to watch videos. So the journey is quite relaxed and pleasant for the first few hours.

Anna unfortunately doesn't have a charging cable for the car for the Switch. The battery indicator is down to 10% and the first warning appears. She angrily switches off the console and looks out of the window. The land is already very flat and there are solar panels at close intervals next to the highway, which doesn't make the view any more interesting.

"Dad, when will we be there?" she then asks.

Birgit has to grin, because the question sounds as if Anna is still 10.

"When we get there. You see, we're already close to the Danish border," Peter comments snidely on his sister's question.

"Hey guys, take it easy!" says Luisa, looking up from her cell phone.

"We've been on the road for over three hours and it's been so nice and quiet between you two. Can it stay that way, please?" asks Luisa, trying to prevent an argument as early as possible.

"Your sister is right, but I can also tell you that we'll be in Flensburg in 30 minutes and you know that we want to do some shopping there. So hang in there," Wolfgang tells the children.

"The car is already full. I hope it doesn't take long like this," says Peter, who is less enthusiastic about it, as he finally wants to get on the boat and go to the sea. But of course he also knows that they still need weatherproof clothing.

Anna no longer has this part in mind and is now happy to be able to step out for a while and do some shopping.

"So what's there?" she asks curiously.

"They have everything you need for outdoor activities in Scandinavia, including of course the waterproof clothing we need for sailing," Birgit explains.

Then we leave the freeway and after a few kilometers Wolfgang parks the van in a large parking lot. Everyone gets out and looks around. There is a DIY store, a supermarket, a discount store, other small stores and the Skandinavia Center. At first, everyone stretches out; the weather is still lovely and not too warm because of the proximity to the sea.

"OK, I think we should buy the supplies we need first. Vegetables are more expensive in Denmark than here. I'll do that alone with mom, we don't have to go to the supermarket with five of us. You can go to the playground in the meantime," Wolfgang says to the children and locks the car. Peter rolls his eyes and then says, "Playground, sure, Dad. When are we meeting where?"

"Hey, my cell phone ... Open it again, Dad," Anna suddenly calls out when she realizes that she still has her cell phone in the car.

"What's that called, Anna?" she is immediately reprimanded by her mother.

"Please, Dad!" replies Anna.

Wolfgang patiently opens the car again and asks, "Has anyone else forgotten anything?"

"Luisa, please everyone stay together, we'll meet at the main entrance to Center in 45 minutes. I'm counting on you." Birgit then says anxiously to her eldest daughter.

"Of course, mom, I'll look after the two little ones. Don't worry," Luisa replies with a big grin on her face.

"Hey, I'm about to come LITTLE to you," says Peter and elbows his big sister in the side.

Anna is unaware of this, but quickly finds her things in the car and joins her siblings.

"Right then, see you in a minute kids," says Wolfgang and walks with his wife towards the discount store.

"So, guys, shall we go and find the playground or see what's on offer here?" asks Luisa and heads towards the center without waiting for an answer.

"Whaaasss playground? Are you crazy?" says Anna and follows her sister.

Peter is not sure what to do for so long, so he simply follows his sisters.

Luisa and Anna go into the Scandinavia Center and head straight for the sports department. They look at a few items of clothing. It's mainly functional clothing for hiking and the like.

As the two girls don't really need anything from this area, they happily fool around and look at lots of things. Peter has never understood what women mean by shopping. So he says to Luisa, "I'll just have a look around the corner" and walks down a few aisles without a destination. There's diving and swimming equipment there, which is a bit more in line with his interests, and he starts looking at things too. He has long been interested in diving as a swimmer, but the prices of the equipment are beyond his means as a student.

Wolfgang and Birgit have finished their shopping and strictly adhered to the shopping list. Now they stow everything in the car and also in the cool boxes in the trailer. The shopping went faster than expected and after 35 minutes they are already at the main entrance of the center.

"Let's see where the kids are hanging out. Luckily Anna has her cell phone with her," says Wolfgang, looking at his phone at the entrance and swiping at it.

"You can just call Luisa, she has hers with her and she's in charge too," says Birgit, wondering why her husband wants to call the youngest.

"Oh, we'll find them that way, look, they're only 50 meters in here," says Wolfgang, pointing to the inside of the shopping center.

"Hey, we promised her we'd only use it in emergencies," says Birgit, but she has to grin. She was so glad that Anna still accepted having the child locator on her cell phone. Of course there had been discussions when she got her current cell phone. That was for her 14th birthday and it was a kind of condition she had to meet. So it wasn't entirely voluntary, but she hasn't tried to get rid of it or switch it off yet. Which could also be because her parents don't let her feel it when they look at where Anna is. Because Birgit also looked at it more often than was perhaps good for her youngest. "Oh don't pretend, she won't find out and you mustn't make a fuss," Wolfgang says to his wife and then gives her a kiss.

They then follow the signal and Wolfgang puts his cell phone in his pocket when only 5m are displayed. Then they turn into a corridor and see Anna and Luisa still looking at sports tops.

"Hey, there you are kids. Weren't we supposed to meet at the entrance?" Wolfgang asks, startling Luisa and she looks nervously at her cell phone.

"Ohh uhhmmm, yes, but it's still five minutes until we were supposed to meet. Where have you come from?" is her counter-question.

"Yes, you're right. We finished faster and found you here by chance. But where's Peter?" Wolfgang asks next.

"Uhhmmm, he wanted to look around the corner. He can't be far," says Luisa.

"You should stay together, Luisa. I meant that, OK. It's a big area here," Birgit then says with a serious face and somewhat annoyed.

"Mom, come down. Peter is 17, we all have our cell phones with us and you can call us. Don't make a fuss about it," says Luisa and puts an arm over her mother's shoulder.

"You have to get used to it," Luisa then whispers in her mother's ear.

Birgit then takes a deep breath. Luisa is right, she thinks to herself, but it's so hard to let go.

"OK then, let's go to the sailing clothes department. We still want to go on the boat today, ladies!" says Wolfgang and then adds to Luisa, "You can track down your brother in the meantime."

Luisa rolls her eyes, her father has quickly passed the ball back to her with the request. But she can't seem to get out of it and pulls out her phone to call him. But then she stops inside for a moment and wants to look in a few aisles herself first, maybe she'll be lucky and see him quickly.

The four of them then make their way to the sailing department, passing many aisles on the way, and Luisa actually sees him four aisles away and goes to him.

"Hey, brother, if you're going to run away, at least look at your watch. Mom and Dad are already here. Come on, let's get going," she says to him, without really reproaching him. After all, now was the time they wanted to meet.

"Well, it's about time!" says Peter, bored, and doesn't even react to what his sister has told him.

Then he follows her straight into the main corridor where they quickly catch up with the rest of the family.

3 - Shopping against bad weather

Arriving in the sailing department, Birgit sees the almost confusing range of waterproof clothing. There is a huge amount of oilskins, which are also called "galon" in Sweden and are labeled accordingly. There are normal rain pants with rain jackets, but also overalls with rain jackets and even overalls with and without sleeves. And all in a wide range of colors. Which is really confusing for Birgit. Wolfgang quickly realizes that it's not going to be that easy and waves the first employee he can see over.

"Hello, how can I help you?" he asks in a friendly manner after rushing over.

Peter is a little surprised that the salesman addressed his father as "you". But Wolfgang doesn't seem to be surprised or doesn't care.

"Yes, well, this is my family, and we have chartered a yacht for the next four weeks and want to go on a Baltic Sea cruise. But we still need suitable bad weather clothing, as it can get rough on the Baltic Sea even in summer," says Wolfgang, explaining the plan.

"Oh yes, you're absolutely right, you should definitely have the right clothes. But we're specially equipped for that," replies the sales assistant.

"Yes, you were recommended to us." confirmed Wolfgang

"I'm glad to hear that, I need some more information. You're going to be the captain?" the man asks.

The situation seems strange to Peter. Why is that necessary when choosing rainwear, he thinks to himself.

The man turns to the whole family after Wolfgang has confirmed this, "You all know what that means? Have you ever been on a trip?" he asks the group.

Peter and Luisa look at each other and don't know what he means, and Anna doesn't really care either, she would rather try on the clothes so that we can continue.

"Yes, of course, the captain has the say and the responsibility on board. But I've also made a captain's license - we're well looked after," Birgit then replies.

"That's right, on a ship only one person is in charge at a time, and therefore has the say. That must always be clear to you, children. Especially when it comes to safety, and that includes rainwear," explained the salesman, finally closing the loop.

"We wanted to discuss all these things with the children on board. We're staying in our home port of Kerteminde for the first few nights for training," explains Wolfgang.

"Oh yes, that's sensible, you should do that. Then to the second question, which insurance option have you booked?" the man then asked.

"Ohh you mean the 'Tilbud på seletøj' option?" Wolfgang asked back.

"Yes, that's exactly what I was getting at; that's not entirely uninteresting when it comes to choosing rainwear," replies the sales assistant.

"Oh yes, we wouldn't have thought of that. A very good point," Wolfgang agrees.

The children were lost for words: what were they talking about and what did the insurance have to do with the rainwear?

The whole thing is far too technical for Anna and Luisa waits to see if there is any more information. She observes her mother and can see that she obviously knows exactly what it's all about, but is keeping quiet about it.

Peter just wants it to finally start so they can buy the stupid rain gear. But he also doesn't want to be rude and interrupt the conversation. Because then he would get a reprimand from his parents.

"OK, then we should definitely start with the children. Do you know your sizes?" the man asked the group. Luisa nodded, but didn't say anything yet. Peter looks at his mother, she was still responsible for such things, as he doesn't yet buy clothes on his own.

Then Birgit raises her voice again. "154 at Anna's" says Birgit and points to Anna

"176 the young man" she says while pointing at Peter. He doesn't realize that it's a child's size.

"Also 176 or 38, right?" Birgit asks Luisa.

"Maamaa! ... Yes, 38 should fit." Luisa realized that she should probably also fit the same children's size as her brother, but she hadn't been to the children's department to look for clothes for a long time.

"Oh, don't worry, we'll manage, may I know how old you are?" she is then asked directly by the salesperson.

Luisa hesitated a little, but it's a legitimate question and at her age you don't have to keep it a secret, so she answers confidently. "20 years!"

"Ahh yes I see, I suppose the vacation is a big deal in the family and one of the last of its kind," says the salesman, looking at Wolfgang again.

But Birgit then mumbles "Hmmm" and nods her head. She makes a dreamy face.

"Well, I think I have enough information - everything should be clear. I'll show you something," says the man and takes a few steps to a clothes rack on which rainwear is hanging. The family follows him and he pulls an item of clothing from the rack.

It is a kind of rain dungaree, but it has no straps or buckles. You can't really see it yet. But what catches everyone's eye are the colors. The trousers appear to be divided into four parts, with one color running from the feet to the shoulders. Each trouser leg has different colors at the front and back. The front right is red, the back right is blue, the front left is yellow and the back left is green. The colors are not bright, but they are very striking, yet the shades are coordinated.

The salesman approaches Anna and holds the pants up to her body.

The huge PVC piece is in total contrast to the short white pants and the pale green top with spaghetti straps. It feels cool and sticky where it touches Anna's skin.

"Should suit you, I think. Do you want to try right away?" he then asks her.

"Uhhmmm, I'm already 15 and no longer 8," says Anna and crosses her arms demonstratively in front of her body.

"I didn't think anything else, what don't you like about it?" asks the salesman.

Birgit considers whether she should intervene as she finds Anna's reaction a little impertinent. But the sales clerk continues to smile at Anna and seems to have everything under control. Peter can't help but grin broadly.

"Everything!" replies Anna, but then adds. "The colors are worn in kindergarten, and I don't want anything with straps. That's babyish."

Peter makes the first sounds of laughter, but tries to hold back by holding his hand over his mouth. Luisa has to grin now too, but mom Birgit is starting to get angry.

"OK, look at this stand," says the salesman and turns the stand. You can see that the rack is divided into four parts. On one part hang the pants in the colors he has just taken out for Anna. In the next part, the same pants appear to be hanging but in a bright green. Then follows a section in a slightly less bright blue and finally in crimson red.

"So, these are the four current colors, and why do you think only the sizes in 140 to 182 are hanging here?" the sales assistant now asks Anna.

"Uhhmmm I don't know, I don't care. I want something without straps." Anna replies again flippantly. The thought of having this smooth PVC fabric on her skin makes her shudder a little, but she doesn't dare broach the subject.

"Young lady, pull yourself together. That's no way to talk when you're asked a polite question," Birgit says sternly to Anna. The sales clerk then looks briefly at Birgit, nods and makes a quick hand gesture to signal that he has everything under control.

"Well, these are the colors that we sell most frequently to young people. So they are currently the absolute trend colors. You can rest assured that you won't find these colors in the kindergarten. I can show you the colors there too, but not in this department," says the man a little more firmly but still friendly and smiling.



"And as for the straps, I can only advise you: this is the best for your project. We also have other models that I can show you, but I don't recommend them," he then says directly to Wolfgang, as if this decision is not for Anna to make.

"So then Anna, please try it on now, we at least need to know if the size fits," says her mother to her, and takes the overalls from the sales clerk's hand to hold them out for Anna to put on.

"Manna, this thing is stupid." Anna whines like a 10-year-old.

Peter watches his mother and sister and is still very amused by the situation. But he doesn't notice how the sales clerk takes two more pairs of overalls from the rack.

"Here's one for the gentleman and another for the lady," he says, holding the same model in front of Peter and Luisa. The grin on Peter's face disappears immediately. Luisa keeps her smile and thanks him politely. But Peter also takes the pants as his father watches him.

When Anna puts her first leg into the overalls that her mother holds out to her, she feels the smooth and slightly slippery fabric on her leg, but fortunately it is not as uncomfortable on her legs as she had feared when the sales clerk had touched her shoulders with it.

"What a bag these things are. Mom, these things are totally stupid," says Anna after her mother has pulled her overalls up a bit. It turns out that it's actually more of an overall without sleeves and without a zipper. The pants reach almost under Anna's arms at the sides and the bib goes almost under her chin. Her mother is just starting to fasten two press studs on each shoulder. To do this, she has to pull Anna's pants slightly into her crotch. And the fabric touches her exposed shoulders again. Meanwhile, Anna runs her hands over the smooth PVC fabric on her stomach and notices that the pants are smooth around her hips because the fabric is pulled smooth by an elastic band at the back. It's not really tight for Anna, but it's a strange feeling. When she feels her mother pulling her pants up, she immediately wants to complain again. But something stops her and she continues to run her hands over the smooth fabric, mesmerized by it. It slowly gets warmer on her legs and shoulders, but the slightly slippery feeling remains on her bare skin.

In the meantime, Peter has also climbed into his trousers under his father's supervision, pulled them up himself and is trying to fasten the press studs on his shoulders, which is not so easy on himself. But the sales clerk comes to his aid. There are two levels with which the length of the straps can be easily varied. The salesman immediately opts for the tighter version and Peter's trousers are also pulled into his crotch. Peter only feels the PVC fabric on his legs as he is wearing a T-shirt.

"That's a bit tight," he complains immediately.

"Let me see first, I don't think that's quite the right size for you either. We should try a size smaller," says the sales assistant and shows Peter's father, that the pants are much looser around the hips than Anna's. The elastic in Peter's back doesn't manage to keep the fabric in place everywhere.

"You see, that's impractical for what comes on top," the salesman then says to Wolfgang and not to Peter.

"The cuff at the back should just stretch the fabric around the waist. Because if you put a warming layer underneath, the waistband can still stretch. Then it will fit perfectly with or without an undersuit," explains the sales assistant to Birgit and Wolfgang.

"Come on, take them off again, please boy, we'll try a size smaller," he says to Peter, undoing the press studs before taking another pair of pants off the rack.

Meanwhile, Peter gets out of the first pair of pants.

"Here's 170, see if it fits better," says the salesman, handing Peter the other model. Peter takes it somewhat grumpily and slips into it. He immediately feels that the fabric is now smooth around his hips and that the elastic in the back is working slightly. The salesman pulls on the shoulder straps again, but with the smaller trousers he decides to continue with the position of the pressure heads. Like Anna, Peter has also started to run his hands over the smooth PVC fabric, which is now



wrapped around his body. He also feels the slightly slippery and almost greasy consistency of the fabric. When the sales clerk has fastened the press studs, Peter feels a slight pull in his crotch and then says, "Well, I think the other one was much better, it's a bit tight at the bottom."

The salesman walks around Peter and tugs at the rubber on his back and legs.

"Well, I don't think so, the pants fit perfectly. They shouldn't be too loose on a boat. What do you think?" he then asks Wolfgang.

"It should fit snugly, and there's still enough air to pull something underneath. Even if he's really uncomfortable, you can still adjust something here," he added, pointing to the press studs on the shoulder. He pretended that Peter wasn't there or at least had no say in how the trousers were worn. Peter didn't realize that the trousers were already in the widest position and could only be tightened further.

His father nods and says, "Yes, you're right, I agree." Peter doesn't dare say anything more about it. Besides, it's not really tight, it's just unusual for trousers to sit so high in the crotch. Of course, this could also be because Peter isn't used to overalls.

"OK, that looks really good. Can I have another look at you?" the salesman then asks Luisa directly, who can't stop herself from running her hands over the smooth PVC fabric. As she already has clearly visible female curves, the fabric stretches a little around her hips and also a little around her chest. That's why the 176 size fitted her just as well as Peter one size smaller, even though they are close to the same size. Luisa also closed the smaller size for herself at the straps, as she is not much taller than Peter.

Luisa smiles kindly at the sales assistant's question and swings her hips from right to left. He examines her once and seems satisfied with the fit.

"Good, then we've already found the right sizes for all three candidates," he says. Anna and Peter don't seem convinced and still don't know why the pants should fit so smoothly. But they continue.

"Please, come with us a few steps, let's have a look at the jackets first," said the sales assistant and walked towards another stand where there were obviously jackets with the same color schemes.

"Do we really have to use these silly colors?" Peter asks his mother quietly as they take a few steps together.

A loud rustling can be heard from the fabric of the three overalls. Anna's initial worries about the slippery and greasy fabric have faded in the meantime; she is fascinated by the feeling of the places where it touches her skin. But the loud rustling of the thick and stiff fabric is a little annoying.

Birgit smiles blissfully at Peter after his question and then says, "You look so cute. You're so cute." and gives him a light pat on the bottom, which makes a very loud noise for Peter.

"Ha Ha mom, that's not helpful. We can't walk around like this," Peter then says to his mother.

In the meantime, they have arrived at the jackets, and the salesman quickly pulls three jackets from the rack that have the same color scheme as the overalls that all three are currently wearing. Each of them is given the corresponding jacket and they all put them on. The three of them notice that the fabric feels slightly thicker and firmer. Otherwise, it is a normal rain jacket with an attached hood, just like the children know it from their old yellow jackets from the past. Only Anna gets goose bumps when she gets her bare arms into the cold sleeves. But she doesn't know whether it's shivers or just the cold.

"OK, everyone, please zip up the front too, so we can see if everything fits properly. But be careful, the zipper is closed from top to bottom," says the salesman to everyone, as Anna and Peter were not yet in the process of zipping up the jacket. Luisa, on the other hand, has already tried for a moment without success. But with the information from the sales clerk, it's no longer a problem for Luisa.

When Anna and Peter have also closed their jackets, the sales assistant inspects the jackets of all three.



"Well, Anna can you please stretch your arms upwards, as if you had to reach for a rope on the mast?" the sales assistant asked Anna, using a practical example.

Anna then stretches her arms upwards and instantly feels her pants being pulled into her crotch.

"Aaaahhh" she moans softly and lets the sensation sink in. She is confused by the feeling, but decides that it can be uncomfortable in the long run. So she takes her arms down again relatively quickly. Then Anna feels how the jacket now sits on her in a slightly unusual way. This is because the jacket has not slipped all the way back down onto her shoulders, as it is a little tighter than she is used to, but fits perfectly with the trousers.

"You see, the jacket fits perfectly when you're working on deck, but it shouldn't slip up permanently. That's why these jackets have an extra one for sailors," says the salesman to Wolfgang and turns Anna's shoulders a little to show Wolfgang his daughter's back. The hem of the jacket folds up and pulls out a strap.

"Can you please spread your legs a little, Anna?" Anna is then asked and complies. The sales assistant then reaches around Anna's left leg and pulls the strap forward. It is then hooked onto the end of the zipper and the jacket is immediately pulled back down onto Anna's shoulders. It seems as if the crotch strap allows a certain amount of stretch at the back where it comes out of the jacket. But it can also be felt immediately in Anna's crotch.

"Really, that's annoying," says Anna.

"Ohh Anna, I don't think you have any experience of sailing in bad weather. Believe me, this function is important," the salesman explains to her. But then he immediately turns his attention back to Wolfgang.

"You see, the jackets can be a bit shorter so as not to interfere with work, as the pants are high enough. And with the crotch strap, they're perfectly designed for sailing so they don't get caught or sit wrong."

Wolfgang nodded and could see that the jackets really only went up to the hips. Then he took a closer look at his daughter and reached for the clasp on the front of the crotch strap.

"Oh yes, another important detail, the crotch strap is connected directly to the slider of the zipper, which prevents the zipper from opening on its own. And for small or inexperienced children, there is also a safety clip", further details are explained.

"Ohh, it can be locked?" Wolfgang asks with interest.

"Well, it's not a key, but we can give you clips at the checkout that go over it and they can only be opened with a tool," explains the sales clerk.

"OK, interesting." muttered Wolfgang.

"What's so interesting about that, Dad? I'm not going to wear the stupid crotch strap anyway. It's annoying!" Anna said to her father, trying not to let the sales clerk hear.

"Well, my dear Anna, that's exactly why. You just answered the question yourself," says her father with a smile. The sales clerk also gives Wolfgang an affirmative nod. But Anna is miffed and can't imagine her father using these fasteners. After all, she is old enough to dress properly.

"So, have you tried it too?" says the salesman, looking at Peter and Luisa.

Luisa has already started looking for the belt on her jacket and is squirming in her rain gear. Peter had been listening to the conversation between his father and Anna and doesn't feel like using this crotch strap either. But then his mother asks him to spread his legs and she pulls the belt between his legs and fastens it to the slider.

"Hey mom. I can do it myself." Peter complains.

"Yes, maybe, but we want to get further today." is his reply and he immediately feels the belt between his legs. Then he reaches for the belt and tries to keep the pressure off.

"Don't worry boy, you'll be wearing more underneath when you're at sea, then everything will be well padded," said the salesman to Peter, putting a hand on his shoulder and winking at him.

Luisa has now managed to find and hook the harness herself.

"Good, now you look like a real sailing crew," says the salesman to everyone and Birgit looks at her children with delight.

"But I'd like to show you another option," he then says to Wolfgang and walks a few steps further to the next clothes rack.

"If something gets wet or dirty in a very stormy sea, then it's an advantage to have a second set. The jackets can be used for both. Especially as with the model the children are wearing now, without rain, the jackets can often be dispensed with. The pants are cut high enough to keep out waves and spray at the back, even without a jacket," explains the salesman as everyone follows him to the stand.

"I'm starting to sweat in this stuff," says Peter, still fiddling with the crotch strap.

"That's right, me too, can we take it off again?" Anna also starts to whine.

Wolfgang looks annoyed at the children, "Yes, you can take your jackets off again, but keep them in your hands for now - don't leave them lying around and get everything mixed up."

All three of them immediately start fiddling with the crotch straps and undo them as quickly as possible to take off their jackets.

Meanwhile, the salesman takes two more pairs of overalls from the rack, but these obviously have elastic straps dangling from them. This time he has also picked up a pair of blue and a pair of red pants.

"Here you have the advantage that you can adjust the straps over a wider range, and if you are in a hurry, they can be put on a little faster. The disadvantages are that the narrower straps put more pressure on the shoulders and the height at the back is slightly lower. That's why I would always recommend the jacket," says the salesman to Wolfgang, handing the blue pants to Anna and the red ones to Peter. They appear to be the correct sizes.

Anna and Peter don't react immediately, so Birgit takes charge again.

"So Peter, come on Anna, get undressed and put these on please. We want to finish slowly," she says and takes the pants from the sales clerk.

Peter and Anna hand the jackets to their father and start to take off their pants, accompanied by a slight grumpy groan.

"You can give them to me," says the salesman, taking the jackets that Wolfgang hold first and placing them on a nearby free table. Followed by the overalls, which they also quickly take off. Luisa has also started to take off her clothes and put them on the table herself. As Peter and Anna get into their new overalls, the sales clerk gives Luisa one of the same model, but in the last remaining single-colored version: green. Which she then puts on. These pants basically fit in exactly the same way as the others, except that they feel a little more airy on the shoulders and upper body. The elastic straps ensure that the trousers are always pulled slightly into the crotch, but the degree can be adjusted as required by changing the strap length .

"I think the blue one is stupid, I want the green one," says Anna as she finishes and looks at her sister.

"Then I'll take everything in blue," says Peter and the two of them bring up the subject of color again. Which is probably also the seller's intention.

Luisa doesn't say anything and watches her two siblings, slightly amused.

"Well, I can't and don't want to make any suggestions, the quality is the same for all colors. But maybe you can agree on a common color out of team spirit," says the salesman, making a suggestion that Anna and Peter can't agree to.

"Well, I'm not going to wear the green. I'm not a frog, and I don't want to wear the same clothes as my sisters," says Peter, but only looks at Anna.

"What's so wrong with that, I have good taste," says Anna, sticking her tongue out at her brother.

"So kids, this is too silly for me. A few minutes ago you were stressing how old you were and now this children's theater. What do you think about the colors, Luisa?" says Birgit soberly.

"It doesn't matter to me, I think everyone is nice. Besides, nobody sees it on the sea except us. So I agree with every decision," says Luisa soberly, but not bored, as she still has to smile at her siblings.



"You see, that's a mature attitude. So I'm all for team spirit and Dad, as captain, is in charge," says Birgit, winking at her husband.

Everyone is now looking excitedly at Wolfgang, and he doesn't have to think twice. He has been watching his wife the whole time, knows exactly what she wants and has no problem announcing it to the children: "OK then, out of the clothes, we'll take the multi-colored ones for both of them, then everyone will have what they want."

"NO Dad, you can't do that." Peter and Anna shout in sync.

"Didn't you understand your sister, no one will see. That's enough now, we need something else. So let's get on with it." Wolfgang puts his foot down and Anna and Peter grumble grumpily as they take off their single-colored overalls.

The sales assistant then immediately takes three of the colorful overalls in the corresponding sizes from the rack and places them on the table with the other sets. After taking them off, the single-colored ones are hung back in the rack. Anna and Peter are offended and feel ignored, but the argument that the items are only worn on the boat does not allow them to voice any further protest.



Next, the family goes three aisles further with the sales assistant, where the adult sizes can be found. Wolfgang and Birgit also decide on a very similar combination of overalls with rubber straps and a rain jacket. As a second set, they choose a one-piece rain overall. All in plain yellow. Peter points out that it doesn't match the team colors, but the salesman explains that the four-color version is not currently available in adult sizes.

When everything is found, Peter has to go to the entrance and fetch a shopping cart to put all the rainwear in. The trolley is then quite full and the sales clerk accompanies the family to the checkout. There he adds a small box and a bottle of care product as a free bonus. The total price is almost €1000, but the parents had obviously planned for that.

"We've already talked about the fact that it makes sense to have a warm layer to wear underneath, so I strongly advise you to go to 'Big Kid's wear' and buy something suitable to wear underneath; they know all about it. It would be a shame if the clothes kept slipping under the rainwear; then the whole trip would no longer be fun. Especially for the children," says the sales clerk and then says goodbye.

"Good luck and have fun on your vacation and turn."

The full and very heavy shopping cart is pushed to the car and the rainwear is loaded into the trailer. Where it is ready to hand, as Wolfgang already knows that light rain is forecast for the home port in the evening.

4 - Further purchases

"So kids, now quickly to this 'Big Kid's' store. Then we're done. It must be over there," says Wolfgang, pointing in the right direction.

"What kind of stupid name is 'clothes for big kids'? Did the guy think we were stupid or retarded?" Peter asks his father as everyone starts to move.

"Please Peter, you don't say things like that. He was very competent and knew his stuff." Wolfgang tell to his son.

The family arrives at the store, which looks like a normal discount clothing store from the outside. Even the lettering above the entrance doesn't look particularly like children's fashion. As Wolfgang doesn't want to waste any more time, he goes purposefully to the information desk, briefly describes the plan again and also mentions that they were sent by the Skandinavia Center. The nice saleswoman then explains, "Yes, you've come to the right place. We recommend our one-piece pyjamas with a special cut, which are nice and soft and comfortable. They can't slip either, as they hug the body completely and are much tighter than others. This is very important for the high-necked rain combinations. Come on, I'll show you some."

The family follows the sales assistant to the nightwear department. The advantage of our store is that we have all sizes of almost every item. From baby sizes to 2.1m men. This is a feature that is particularly popular with families," explains the woman on the way.

Once there, they stop in front of a shelf with lots of thick piles. At first glance, Anna assumes they are very large towels; they also have a slightly rough and fluffy surface, very similar to terry cloth. She immediately touched them and found the material pleasant.

"Would you like to try one on right away?" she was then asked by the saleswoman, who then immediately looked at Birgit and asked, "154 might fit?"

Anna then mumbles, "Why is it always me first? Ohh no please!" and scowls at the piles and takes her hands off the fabric.

"Yes, she got that with the rainwear too; if it's the same size, it should fit," says Birgit and pushes her daughter a little closer to the sales clerk so that Anna can pick up a corresponding bundle. The shelf is sorted by size and the corresponding sizes are marked with signs. There are lots of colors in section 154. The saleswoman reaches for a pink bundle, but then stops inside. "Is pink OK for you?"

"No, I'm already out of the princess age. I like green," says Anna, pointing to a pile where there is a bundle in a pale pastel green. Most of the colors are pale pastels apart from a strong violet and a strong navy blue.

The saleswoman then takes the bundle Anna is pointing at and unfolds it. This reveals a jumpsuit with long legs, long sleeves and a hood. There is no pattern, just a small pocket on the right breast; only this, the zipper and the cuffs stand out because they are white.

"Here, please try it on and see how it fits," says the saleswoman, pulling the zipper open.

Anna prepares to get into the overall with her shoes, shorts and T-shirt, just as she did with the rain overalls. However, the sales assistant doesn't hold it in front of her like the sales assistant did with the rain overalls.

"No, you should only wear the suit with underwear; after all, it's officially pyjamas," she says, putting the jumpsuit over Anna's arm and pointing to the changing rooms nearby.

"OK, should we continue straight away for everyone or should I show you another option first? If I understood you correctly, you also bought the high overalls that are often worn without a jacket. I would recommend something else," the saleswoman asks Wolfgang.

"Oh yes, let's see the options; we have enough models with us," says Wolfgang and smiles.

"OK with pleasure. We also have these pyjamas as overalls, without sleeves, so to speak. Please come over here," says the saleswoman, and walks a few meters further to a similar shelf, where the same piles are apparently lying.

"The young man has 176?" she then asks Birgit again.

"Mostly yes, but 170 fitted better for the rainwear. Peter is tall but also very sporty and the 170 fits better," explains Birgit.

"OK, then we should do the same here, the straps are adjustable. As I said, it should also fit snugly. What's your color?" Peter is then asked, but he still doesn't know what to think. Overalls are only for girls, is his first thought, and then as pyjamas. He is not convinced, but if it really is just for wearing under rainwear, he can accept it, so he points to a stack of navy blue ones. The saleswoman then hands it to him without unfolding the pants first. Peter accepts it indifferently and takes it to the same changing rooms his sister went to.

As Peter approaches the changing room, Anna is just coming out in the fluffy jumpsuit that fits snugly on her body and shows the first small signs of her curves. Once again, Anna can't help but run her hands over the fluffy fabric. Peter has to grin when he sees her. "Really nice, sis, makes you look much younger," says Peter, slightly amused by the image his sister is presenting. But he walks straight past her into the changing room. There he takes off his shorts first, but leaves his sneakers on, as he assumes he can put them through his trouser legs. Only then does he unfold the pile and feel the thick, soft fabric. He takes a quick look at the garment and can also see an elastic band in the back.



But even on the sides, where overalls normally have buttons, there is a large ruffled area where several elastic bands must be hidden on top of each other. Apart from a small pocket on the bib, Peter can't see any other pockets. The straps of the overalls are fitted with Velcro straps over 40 cm from the top and bottom and are a good 3-4 cm wide. Peter is inevitably reminded of an item of clothing for small children. But as it is obviously his size, he lets out a deep sigh and tucks his right leg into the trouser leg. But then he realizes that his shoes don't fit very far into the tight leg. So he dances a little on one leg and tries to pull the other out again. Finally, he has to sit down on the bench to untangle everything. Then Peter takes off his shoes and puts his legs into his trousers, the fabric of which is pleasantly soft but also tight over his legs. He stands up, pulls the pants up further and the elastic in the sides comes to rest at the level of his lower ribs. The bib is still hanging down at the front and Peter can feel the pants stretching comfortably and evenly around his stomach.

Birgit wonders what is taking Peter so long and goes to the changing room where Peter has disappeared. She pulls back the curtain and sees Peter trying to reach for the straps.

"I'll help you. Come one step out of there," says Birgit, grabs the straps and pulls Peter backwards out of the cabin.

"Hey mom, I'm not 6 anymore. I can dress myself." Peter complains after regaining his balance from the backward step. Then he stops in front of the cubicle and lets his mother have her way. Birgit doesn't react to the objection at all and immediately places the straps smoothly over Peter's shoulders. Then she stands in front of him and folds the bib up onto his chest, leaving a good 15 cm of space up to Peter's neck. A slit with a reinforced border is sewn into the upper edge of the bib on the right and left. Birgit first puts the left strap through the left slit and then pulls the strap upwards, which tightens the strap and also pulls the bib up a little.

"Mom, not so hard. You'll ruin it," warns Peter and feels the pants pull slightly, but still comfortably, into his crotch thanks to the soft fabric.

"Oh, don't be like that, it feels like very good quality, nothing will break," says his mother as she tightens the right strap in the same way. Thanks to the Velcro fastener, the part of the straps that is pulled out is simply placed on top of the part that is already on the shoulder and the trousers are immediately perfectly adjusted and can no longer slip.

The rest of the family and the sales clerk have also joined Peter and Birgit, and Peter and Anna are standing opposite each other, grinning at each other. The situation is funny for everyone when Anna says, "Well, dear brother, I think you look much younger. But also very lovely. But I think a lighter blue would suit you much better." Then Anna even laughs.

"Ha Ha, very funny," replies Peter

The saleswoman then shows Birgit the features and differences between the two pyjamas on Peter and Anna and emphasizes how practical they are for the rain overalls. The overalls Peter is wearing should be fully covered by the rain overalls with the press studs on the shoulders.

As everything fits perfectly on both Peter and Anna, it is decided that all the children should get both versions. So Anna and Peter each try on the other version in their own colors, while Luisa also tries on both versions in pastel red. When this is done, the two parents have each taken one of the fluffy pyjamas in white. But the parents only took the jumpsuit version.

"I think you're very well equipped for your adventure. But there's one more thing you should think about," says the sales clerk, as the shopping cart that Wolfgang is now pushing in front of him is already well filled.

"Oh, we're grateful for any tips," he says to the sales clerk.

"Yes, of course. It can often happen that they want to get off the boat in bad weather in a foreign port, and it makes perfect sense for the children to wear something under their rain overalls that can't slip. Like those great pyjamas they all have now. But it could be embarrassing for the children to have to run around in pyjamas when the weather gets better on an outing." the saleswoman expands.

Luisa almost has to laugh as she imagines her two siblings looking at a sight in their pyjamas.

"What's there to laugh about, Luisa? The woman is absolutely right, I'm not going to walk around in public wearing it," Peter shoots out.

Anna is also back in the game, because she too can't imagine walking around in public in pyjamas.

"Yes, exactly, that's a good point," says Anna precociously, looking at the sales clerk.

"OK good, we have a large selection of denim overalls, they're ideal for this situation. Come with me..." says the saleswoman and sets off.

"Overalls ... really now." Peter mumbles to himself and finds the dungaree pyjamas very unusual and girly.

"Yes, these are perfect; they can't slip under your rain gear, and if you can take your rain gear off, then you're wearing normal pants," explains the saleswoman as she reaches a display stand with lots of jeans hanging on it.

"Normal pants ... I think overalls," says Peter, and can't understand how the sales clerk can describe overalls as normal. Because nobody wears overalls at school. Apart from a few girls in the lower classes.

"Well, I think denim pants are normal pants, unlike pyjamas." the sales clerk answers Peter.

Peter is initially satisfied with this and is already very annoyed by the whole shopping trip, so he doesn't want to go into the subject any further. All three of them try on a pair of overalls. Luisa doesn't think much of it and finds the sales clerk's argument convincing. Anna even finds the overalls exciting and a good change from her other clothes. So after the first Liberty, which all three of them try on, she also tries on a second pair from OshKosh.

"Mom, can I have both?" she asks when she can't decide which one to choose.

"Hmm, I think it's not so bad to have something to change into. I suggest you all choose a second pair of pants," Birgit then decides.

Peter is not enthusiastic about this, but doesn't want it to take any longer and then finds a pair of overalls with a camouflage pattern that he finds interesting.

"No Peter, that's out of the question. There's no such thing as military," Birgit decides.

"Oh dear, first it has to be overalls, and now that's not right either," complains Peter.

"I think it's great that we're all using the same model, that's what connects us," says Luisa, who is still wearing her Liberty.



"Hey, but not the second one," says Peter when he sees Anna's light-colored overalls with the red belt.

"Yes, you can take another one as a second, but not this military stuff," says Birgit firmly, but has to smile at Anna and Peter's behavior.

Peter then finds a pair of black overalls from Dickis and is quite happy with them, even if he doesn't think he'll ever wear them again after his vacation.

Luisa then opts for another model from Liberty, but in blue and white and with the same body accentuation as her first pair of Liberty overalls.

As the parents could also find themselves in the situation of wanting to take off their rain suits in public, Wolfgang and Birgit each decide on one of the blue Liberty overalls. Birgit is secretly looking forward to a nice souvenir photo with all five family members in uniform overalls in front of a landmark or even in LEGO Land.

Then everyone goes to the checkout and Anna keeps her OshKosh overalls on, puts her cell phone in her bib pocket and finds it really practical.

The remaining purchases are then stored somewhere in the car and trailer in the parking lot, and we can finally continue on towards the port and our vacation.



5 - Arriving at the marina

The rest of the journey to Kerteminde is quite exciting and interesting for Anna and Peter. It's the first time they've both been to Denmark: the highway looks a little different and the landscape is very different from home. Peter has often been to other countries due to his swimming competitions, but Denmark is also new to him. They both look out of the window with excitement and time doesn't pass as agonizingly slowly as on the way to Flensburg. The drive over the New Little Belt Bridge is particularly impressive. From the bridge, which connects Jutland with the island of Funen, the children finally see the sea for the first time on the trip, and their anticipation of finally getting on the boat grows ever greater.

Unfortunately, as expected, the weather deteriorates on the way from the bridge to the marina and dark clouds gather. But this does not affect the mood; quite the opposite: everyone is looking forward to the harbor and the boat.

When Wolfgang parks the car and trailer in the parking lot directly behind the Harbor office, all three children immediately jump out of the car, even though it has already started to rain lightly. Luisa takes a moment longer to get from the middle seat to the door.

"Oh, it's beautiful here, these little wooden houses and the wonderful sea air," says Luisa as she gets out of the car and stretches.

As a cool teenager, Peter doesn't let his enthusiasm show, but he also likes the first impressions very much. The harbor is open and he can look past the office directly onto the jetties, where there are lots of boats moored. Anna also looks around curiously. Right next to the office is a small wash house with a playground behind it. It has a sandy area and a large climbing net in the middle with a pole holding it up. Anna's first impulse was not to run straight to the playground, but it still looked very interesting after the long car journey. However, due to the increasingly heavy rain, it has already been dismissed.

Peter walks curiously along the path past the office towards the jetties, wanting to see more.

"Peter, please come on, we have to hurry, it's already 5 p.m. and we have to have taken over the boat by 6 p.m. at the latest, otherwise we won't have anywhere to sleep. Besides, you'll get all wet," says Birgit a little louder to Peter, who is already quite a distance away.

"Yes yes mom, relax. We're on vacation. I can have a look around," he replies.

Anna and Luisa realize more and more that it is raining and, together with Birgit, start to get the rain gear they have just bought out of the trailer.

"Peter, would you please listen to your mother, you're getting all wet. Besides, you shouldn't go to the water alone." Wolfgang now calls after his son.

Peter then stops and turns around.

"Really now, Dad? You don't want me to go to the water? Are you serious? ... I'm 17 and no longer 3. Besides, as you know, I can swim very well in case I fall into the water like a 3-year-old." Peter complains at length. But he also notices that the rain is getting heavier.

"You'll be surprised," Wolfgang then says at a normal volume, so that Peter can barely understand from a distance.

"What? ... Let's go in quickly and do the paperwork with the harbor master. It's not raining there," Peter then says to his father, loud enough for him to hear.

"Please come back and put on your rain gear, that's what we're all doing now. After all, the takeover doesn't take place in the office, but on the boat." Wolfgang calls out to Peter again and joins the girls in the trailer. Anna and Luisa are already halfway into their colorful overalls, which they simply pull on over their current clothes. Birgit helps Anna to fasten the press studs on her shoulders.

As it makes no sense for Peter to go to the harbor master alone, he decides to return to the trailer as well. There, his father immediately hands him his rain overalls, and Peter looks somewhat annoyed at his sisters, who are already putting on their jackets, and then at his own overalls, which are the same bright colors as his sisters'. He hesitates briefly to put it on, because 2 hours ago he didn't expect to end up in public so quickly with these eye-catching and colorful overalls.

"Hey Peter, what's going on, come on. Don't dawdle around like that," says his mother to him, who is putting on her own rain jacket without having put on her rain trousers first.

This snaps Peter out of his thoughts and he starts to get into his overalls, not realizing that his parents have only put on their jackets. A few moments later, all three children are standing in their uniform rain uniforms next to the car that Wolfgang is locking.

"You look so sweet... uhh ... great. I have to take a photo. Please stand there on the path with the boats in the background," says Birgit and pulls out her cell phone.

"Boooh mom, I think we're in such a hurry. That doesn't have to be with this clothing now," Peter complains immediately.

"Don't be like that, Peter, Mom's right. We should take enough photos of our vacation to remember it by," says Luisa, looking at her mother.

"And yes, they're really cute, the two of them." she adds with a broad grin.

"Oh, and you don't or what?" says Peter to Luisa, trying to push her by the arm. But Luisa is quicker and runs a few steps towards the harbor and Peter follows her.

"That's enough, it's really like kindergarten here. We'll do what Mom said and then we'll go to the harbor master." Wolfgang calls after them.

Anna hasn't noticed much of all this; she's still busy feeling how Jena's overalls and the smooth rain overalls feel on top of them. She hasn't fastened her jacket yet and runs her hand over the smooth rubber of the overalls, feeling the overalls and belt underneath. The overalls fit evenly over the overalls on her body, which intensifies the feeling of the overalls. It is a new feeling, but one that she somehow likes. She can't explain it more precisely yet.

But then her mother gently grabs her by the shoulder and pushes her to the spot where she wants to take the photo. Luisa changes direction after her father's call and sticks her tongue out at Peter, and the little teasing is quickly forgotten. However, Peter is still not entirely happy with his new outfit and finds it difficult to smile in the photo.

After a few photos have been taken, everyone walks together along the path next to the office and the wash house to the front of the harbor office. There, between the building and the jetties, is a large square with benches and tables and even a few barbecues where the sailors can prepare something to eat. However, due to the rain, no one is to be seen in the square or on the benches. Somewhat unexpectedly, the family realizes that there is no entrance at the front of the building. However, this is quickly found on the other side and everyone enters the building. The interior is somewhat reminiscent of an old post office; there are 3 counters and a few shelves with some sailing accessories. One of the counters obviously serves as a bakery stall, but is no longer stocked in the early evening. Behind the first counter next to the door sits a man looking at a computer screen.

Wolfgang approaches him. "Good evening, we're the Schmidt family and we've chartered a boat."

"Hello, and welcome to Kerteminde Marina," says the man in very good German with just a slight Danish accent.

"I need your ID and the c. Please," he adds, and then looks something up on the computer.

Wolfgang hands over the required papers and the man, who is obviously the harbor master, checks and copies them and quickly hands them back to Wolfgang. The rest of the family stands silently by, looking through the windows at the harbor and admiring the new impressions.

Suddenly Peter notices something strange. He sees two people coming out of the wash house, obviously heading back to one of the jetties. Which in itself is nothing special. But it seems to be a mother and her daughter. From a distance and given the direction, Peter can't make out the girl's face, but judging by her height, he thinks she is only slightly younger than his sister Anna. But why is the mother holding a leash in her hand that seems to disappear into the girl's raincoat at her back? Peter is somewhat mesmerized by this. Then he looks at Anna and Luisa, who are looking in a different direction and have probably not noticed the strange spectacle. Peter briefly considers whether he should draw his mother's attention to it, because he doesn't understand why the girl is being led on a leash. He has never seen anything like it before.

Meanwhile, Luisa and Anna are getting warm in their rain gear and they both take off their jackets and hold them briefly in their arms. Until Birgit also takes hers off and puts it on a chair next to the front door with the girls'.

"OK Mr. Schmidt, here is the takeover declaration, read it through at your leisure. We'll only sign it on the boat when I've shown you everything. While you check everything, I can help your wife pick out the safety belts for the children," explains the harbor master to Wolfgang, placing a few sheets of paper on the counter. Wolfgang thanks him and starts to read.

Peter was still thinking about what he had just seen, even though the two of them had disappeared onto the jetty in the meantime. But the words "safety belts" and "children" suddenly drew his attention back to the man who stepped out from behind the counter and approached Birgit. His father had only responded to the sentence with a nod. Peter must assume that he knows what this is about.

"OK Mrs. Schmidt, I'll show you the safety belts for the children," he says to Birgit and goes to a large cupboard next to the third counter.

"Is this your first turn or do you already know the harnesses?" he then asks the group. Anna and Luisa, who have joined them in the meantime, realize that they are also meant. But none of the children know anything about safety belts. Anna is still a little unsure what to make of it. Somehow she imagines that there must be safety precautions on a boat, just like in a car. So she thinks: "That's probably part of it", even if she doesn't know it from the small sailing boat at home.

Luisa hadn't thought about it beforehand either and is curious to see what will happen, lets herself be surprised and shakes her head at the harbor master's question.

"We have our own dinghy on a small inland lake and we all have some sailing experience. But the children there only wore life jackets until they could swim. So we're not yet very familiar with the harnesses," Birgit then explains the situation to the harbor master.

Peter notices his mother's phrase: "not yet so familiar". So she obviously knows what these belts are all about. But Peter is still too shy to ask more detailed questions.

"Yes, OK. But the Baltic Sea is a real sea, it's not enough just to be able to swim. It makes sense that you chose this option," says the harbor master to Birgit.

"OK guys, the safety belts are there to protect you. The belts can help you not to fall off the boat. That should also be your top priority. But if it does happen, you can't drown and, above all, you can't get lost. There are various options on board where you can hook yourself in. But I'll show you in a moment." As the man explains this, he looks at all four of them in turn, addressing the children and Birgit in equal measure.

Peter thinks that's a bit of an exaggeration. But he also knows that this is not uncommon on large sailing boats, especially when sailing on the open sea. He has often seen videos in which the crew secure themselves on board with a belt and line in rough seas so that they don't get washed off the boat by a wave or a list. Previously, he always thought it was a requirement for regattas, where things can always get hectic on board.

While Peter is thinking about this, the harbor master opens the cupboard and takes out two bundles made of a tangle of webbing. There is a very loud jingling noise as many different metal buckles and metal rings bang against each other. The webbing is a bright red color, the buckles are silver and appear to be made of stainless steel. The man gives Birgit one of the two harnesses and immediately starts to untangle the other one himself.

"These two are for the girls. This one is a size S and that one is a size M," he then says to Birgit, who starts to unravel the larger one, just like the harbor master.

Anna and Luisa realize that the harness the man is holding are for Anna and Birgit's are for Luisa. Neither of them give it much thought and stand next to the two adults.

"Okay, you have to hold it like this, the entrance is from behind," he says to Birgit and shows her how it works.

"And now you have to stretch your arms out in front, please." he then asks Anna.

Anna remembers that she was once at a children's birthday party in a climbing garden when she was 10 or 11 years old. It was very similar there and she was also given a harness by a fellow rider. But back then it was put on the other way round, more like a jacket.

Now the harness is slipped over her arms and part of it over her head. Two straps are then placed on her shoulders and she immediately feels the weight of the whole thing. Another strap dangles between her legs at the front. The man turns her 180 degrees by the shoulders and starts to fasten the straps together behind her back. He explains to Birgit what he is doing and she does the same with Luisa. When the front strap in the middle between Anna's legs has also disappeared, she suddenly feels the two straps tighten around her stomach and hips. It is not uncomfortable, but after the overalls and rain overalls that she has been feeling around her body the whole time, the tightness is now becoming intrusive. But the two layers of overalls and overalls distribute the pressure of the two belts evenly. Anna starts to move a little more and wriggles back and forth slightly. When the crotch strap is also pulled tight and the straps on her shoulders are pushed down slightly, Anna finally starts to fidget. It's not so bad that she wants to complain, but it's unusual.

Luisa is completely calm and relaxed as she endures the procedure. But once the man has left Anna alone and she has had time to get used to the new feeling of confinement, he comes to Luisa to check on her mother's work.

"Okay, that's all right so far. But it also has to be safe in the event of a fall. And it's not tight enough here yet. A jerk could otherwise lead to injuries," the man says to Birgit, and then starts to fiddle with the fasteners on Luisa's back. Luisa also feels the straps being pulled a good deal tighter and the rain coverall is now pressed firmly against her body. When the crotch strap is also shortened, she asks, "Is that really necessary? It's okay for me, but I can imagine it might be a bit uncomfortable for my brother," says Luisa and laughs a little. Peter doesn't find it funny at all. He watches the whole procedure with his sisters open-mouthed and can't believe what he's seeing. These safety belts don't have much to do with what he's seen in the videos. He also wonders how you are supposed to put them on and take them off on your own with the buckles in the back. "Don't worry about your brother, I know what you mean, but nothing will happen to his best piece. The boys will get a different model to suit their specialty," he then says half to Luisa and half to Peter with a wink.

"And to your other question, yes, it should be a tight fit. Look ..." he then says to Luisa, and she immediately feels a violent jolt and falls backwards a little, only to be caught again straight away. The jolt and the catching impact are distributed evenly around her entire upper body. The pressure of the crotch strap has hardly changed and Luisa realizes that there could be a shock if it were loose. Nevertheless, she briefly screams in shock, only to immediately laugh at the situation again. Peter still doesn't feel like laughing; these protective harnesses somehow seem strange and inappropriate to him. His sisters somehow look so constricted in them.

"Okay, here's a little something about the buckles," says the harbor master after the little attack on Luisa, who has already recovered.

"The way you have engaged the buckles, they are securely closed, but you can also lock them with this little slider on the side. I also highly recommend this to increase security. ... and then it opens again," the man says to Birgit, and shows her how to do the same with Luisa's back buckles. Peter can't see this process very clearly because his mother is in his field of vision.

Anna and Luisa seem to have finished putting on their belts, because the harbor master goes back to the cupboard and takes out another bundle. Most of the straps in this one are black, but there are also some in a bright blue color. Peter looks for a moment and freezes at the sight. His heart begins to beat faster, even though he rationally knows that it is just a safety device that is apparently part of this adventure. Nevertheless, he has a strange feeling about the whole thing and feels that it is not appropriate for him.

"Hey kid, come on, let's get back to your place. We still want to get on the boat," says the harbor master and pulls Peter out of his thoughts.

"Oh yes, sorry, give it to me," Peter replies as he gets back to his feet and reaches for the belt.

"Oh no boy, that's not how it works. First you have to take off your jacket and then *we'll* put it on you. You can't do it on your own," replies the harbor master, pulling the belt back and then untangling it.

"But why not? It's totally impractical," Peter replies, takes off his rain jacket anyway and then stands in his rain overalls in front of the man and his mother, who obviously wants to watch or help. Meanwhile, the two girls take a few steps around the room and use their hands to feel their new equipment and the freedom of movement it gives them. This is hardly restricted at all, only the movements feel a little stiffer and more awkward. The tightness and the rubber rain suit under the straps make everything a little stiffer.

"That's part of the safety concept, my boy, the harnesses have to be put on and taken off by your parents. This ensures that everything fits properly and is safe." Peter's heart rate continues to rise at these words from the harbor master. To him, the whole thing seems very foreign, as he is already 17 years old and a responsible man. His older sister is already 20 years old, so how can it be that they are being denied their trust? It feels degrading and humiliating for Peter. But he doesn't dare contradict the harbor master in this situation.

So he reluctantly and grumpily stretches his arms forward to have the straps put on. The mood he is in only intensifies the feeling of humiliation. But the harbor master doesn't notice or let it bother him. The straps are quickly wrapped around Peter's upper body and fastened behind his back with a loud metallic clang. Peter looks down in front of him and sees that the blue straps are hanging down in front of him. The two blue straps are sewn to the sides of the black waist belt and join further down to form a belt with a metal buckle at the end. While Peter is looking at it, one of the harbor master's hands reaches between his legs and pulls the buckle back.

Peter is not prepared for what happens next: The two blue straps wrap around his genitals along the groin on both sides and the single strap first digs slightly, and then ever more firmly into his buttocks. His genital area is gently but firmly pressed flat against his body by the rubber of the rain coverall. The straps do not run directly over it, which avoids painful pressure, but there is no more space for him at this point.

Peter stands on his tiptoes to avoid the straps, but of course that doesn't help. Peter immediately feels this on his shoulders, because the straps are tight there too. He breathes in frantically and dances a little on his toes, but says nothing. Instead, Peter tries to sort out his feelings. One thing is clear: it doesn't hurt. The harness has been specially designed for boys. It's not actually unpleasant either, it's almost like arousal, but it's also slowed down or prevented.

Peter is completely confused, but is disturbed in his emotional analysis when the two straps around his hips and chest also tighten. Peter stops dancing and grabs the waist belt where the two crotch straps are sewn on and tries to pull on it a little.

"It's all right, son, you'll have a chance to get used to it in a minute. It's always a bit unfamiliar at first. But I've already explained it to your sisters, it has to fit so tightly so that it's secure," says the harbor master to Peter and then shows his mother a few more special features of the harness behind Peter's back.

The discomfort between Peter his legs is getting bigger and he reaches his hand between the two crotch straps and tries to pull the rubber of the rain suit slightly forward under the straps to give his genitals more room. Unfortunately, this has very little success. His best piece remains compressed in its place.

"Peter please, you don't do that in public," his mother comments on this behavior, which is embarrassing for Peter in addition to his frustration.

"But mom, it's squeezing everything together. There's not enough room," Peter complains quietly to his mother, but immediately takes his hand out of his crotch.

"You'll be fine, young man. It'll take a moment, then you'll get used to it. You want to sail, not play! Hmm!" says the harbor master to Peter, putting a hand on his shoulder.

Peter's face turns clearly red, he says nothing more about the whole thing and tries to make a little more room for himself by wiggling his legs, while the harbor master goes back to Wolfgang with a smile.

"So, have you understood everything or do you have any questions?"

"No, I think everything is clear here and everything went well with the children?" is Wolfgang's counter-question.

"Yes, sure, I've explained everything to your wife and the children are well looked after and safe. It will be a bit unusual for the three of them at first, but they'll be fine. Have you read everything?" asks the harbor master.

"Yeah, sure, once my wife is committed, we'll manage."

Peter is a little confused by the conversation, which could also be because his thoughts are still on his crotch. He has the completely confusing impression that locking up his best piece also excites him a little and adds to the pressure. But that is exactly what is so extremely frustrating for Peter about the feeling.

Anna is still not really happy with the tight harness either. It feels so cramped, even though it was a new and fascinating feeling at first. But now it's getting more and more annoying and she keeps tugging at her straps.

Meanwhile, the harbor master takes a bunch of keys from a key cabinet behind the first counter. "Okay, then we can have a look at your boat. That's the Anna Maria, almost like your youngest," says the harbor master cheerfully.

"Uhhh yeah great, . Uhhh but can we please take these things off now? I've gotten used to them enough," Anna then says half to the harbor master and half to her mother, and Peter has to agree with his sister.

The harbor master has to laugh for a moment. "Ohhh, I don't believe you. Because if you got used to it, you wouldn't want to take it off again. It will be a very frequent companion for you for the next three weeks," he says in response to the comments.

"Uhhhm, but we don't need it today, we're not going out today. And tomorrow we can get used **to** it again," says Peter with a good dose of sarcasm in his voice.

"Well Peter, I'm afraid I have to disappoint you and correct you. You must wear your safety belts for all activities involving the chartered boat. And that includes the entire harbor area," says the harbor master in a neutral voice, without smiling or grinning. Then there is dead silence for a moment. Peter and Anna look at each other; the blush disappears from Peter's face and he turns pale. Anna's pupils dilate. Neither of them had expected this.

Only Luisa finds the situation funny and grins. But more at the reaction of her siblings than at the fact that they all three have to wear these harnesses. None of the three of them understand what the point of this is in the harbor. It's a different matter at sea, where there will be safety lines that they have to hook themselves into in order to be protected. But that wouldn't make sense in the harbor, where there are no waves and no swell.

The harbor master reaches into the cupboard again and takes out three lines, gives Birgit and Wolfgang one each, and keeps the last one in his hand. Suddenly Peter remembers what he has seen not even 20 minutes ago out on the square, and he takes a startled step back, away from the harbor master. Should he himself be led to the boat on a leash like the little girl? Where has he ended up here? This must be a nightmare.

When Wolfgang receives the line from the harbor master, he immediately stands behind Peter and stops his backward movement by placing a hand on Peter's shoulder. "Careful Peter, don't trip and we'll have our first injury today," says Wolfgang calmly, using his other hand to hook the line to the buckle of the harness behind Peter's back.

This doesn't go unnoticed by Peter either, and he spins around in a flash. By then it's already too late and Wolfgang has a firm grip on the one-meter-long line.

"Hey Dad, what's going on? What's going on here? This is ridiculous," says Peter and tries to look behind where the leash is attached.

"No need to panic, my son. You heard the harbor master. It's part of the safety regulations that you are secured here on vacation."

"What ..." Peter starts again. But then he is at a loss for words. He is completely overwhelmed by the situation. The stupid belt is constricting him tightly, and now he's being led through the harbor to the boat like a dog. He doesn't know what to do about it at the moment, the situation takes his humiliation to a new level and he can do nothing but get angry about it. He's also not the type to make a fuss in front of everyone. So he crosses his arms and looks down to the ground.

Anna's mother has already hooked the leash on her and she also realizes what's going on.

"What now? You're really serious? This can't be true. Mom, please take it off again, you can't show us off like that, can you? If anyone sees us like this." Anna also complains.

"Kids, don't worry, it's the norm here and no one will call you on it. Almost everyone walks around like this. ... And there's safety for everyone!" says the harbor master and hangs his line on Luisa, who doesn't make a fuss about it.

"But mom! ..." says Anna and stamps her foot. Without any further argument, when it's obviously one of the rules.

"Right, that's it, you heard the harbor master, it's prescribed and finished. Now put your jackets back on, it's still raining. And then out to the boat," says Birgit and gently pulls Anna by the leash to the chair where the jackets are lying. This immediately shows her how much control her mother has over her with the leash. Resisting it would certainly do her no good.

Peter is quite happy that he can cover the harness with his jacket, even if it doesn't make the feeling of confinement go away. So, without letting his father pull him, he goes to the chair and takes his jacket to put it on. Wolfgang follows him with the leash in his hand so that Peter can put the jacket on. His father threads the cord through an opening in the back of the jacket, which was not visible before because it is under a double layer and previously looked like a ventilation pleat. The same procedure is followed with the two girls and there is now nothing to be seen of the straps, only the lines indicate that something is not as they are used to.

6 - Finally off to Anna Maria

The harbor master opens the door and says to Luisa: "The lady first, please. But wait outside next to the door - I still have to lock up here."

Luisa then walks out of the door and feels the leash attached to her harness as she stands in front of the building next to the door. The harbor master follows her so closely that the leash doesn't give her a jerk. Nevertheless, it is a new and unfamiliar feeling for Luisa.

After a brief request from his father, Peter also goes through the door, but then to the left in the direction of the square and the jetties. He also feels the leash on the straps at his back and therefore walks very slowly. Peter also looks around nervously in all directions, hoping that he won't bump into anyone who might see him. After just a few steps, Peter feels the leash tighten, he slows down even more and turns to his father, who is holding the leash tightly in his hand and grinning broadly. "What's there to laugh about? Come on, don't pull on that stupid thing. OK!" says Peter with a serious face and now red cheeks again.

"Now please calm down Peter. I didn't pull it, we just have to wait for the girls and the harbor master. And I'm not laughing either, I'm just looking forward to a great vacation with my children," says Wolfgang and looks briefly at his son.

"Well, I can't quite believe it's really going to be that great. It's totally ridiculous here, with this shit," says Peter with a certain amount of indignation, but quietly enough not to attract too much attention.

"Please Peter, you don't say things like that! And it's not ridiculous either. I can understand that you're a bit embarrassed at the moment because you don't know it yet. That's okay, you'll get used to it and see that it's part of it. But you don't need to bother us with your bad mood now," his father replies.

Peter would like to say something back and discuss it with his father, but he also knows that now is not the right time. Besides, he doesn't feel in a position to do anything about his situation, so he looks down in shame and says nothing more.

Anna also comes out of the door of the office and walks towards her brother. But she is a little quicker and her mother can't follow her as quickly, which means the leash tightens immediately.

"Child, not so fast, your mother has to follow too," says Birgit and slows Anna down with the leash. This makes Anna feel the leash and especially the straps under her jacket very strongly. It's embarrassing and unfamiliar for Anna too, but she takes a more aggressive approach and challenges her mother a little.

"Hey mom, just take it off or let go of that stupid leash," Anna says cheekily to her mother as she stops next to Peter and turns to her mother.

"Don't be so cheeky, young lady, you've heard that's part of the rules. Don't make me shorter your lead," says Birgit with a smile and playfully pulls on the lead to give Anna a little tug. As Anna has turned to face her mother, this causes Anna to be turned back and she feels the force of the lead. Although Anna sees this as fun, she also feels that she is at her mother's mercy. This makes it very difficult for Anna to perceive it as pure fun.

After the harbor master has locked the door to the office and hung a small sign on the door, we finally set off in the direction of the jetty. Luisa takes the lead and the harbor master shows her the way. He instructs her to first turn left towards the water and then left again towards jetty 4. Peter and Anna follow the harbor master in silence, it is a completely surreal situation for both of them: on the one hand, to see their older sister being led on a leash in a relatively ridiculous and childish rain outfit. And on the other, to feel that they themselves are in exactly the same situation. With the slight difference that the leash is held by their parents.

Shortly before entering jetty no. 4, which is marked with a "BRO 4" sign, Luisa feels a slight tug on her leash. "Oh, will you wait here for a moment? I want to show you something else," says the harbor master immediately, and Luisa is forced to stop next to the sign and turn around.

Peter and Anna also join their sister so that they form a semi-circle together. The lines don't get in the way too much, but the sight of them is conspicuous and unpleasant for the children.

"So, here you can see a few things that will be important for your stay," the harbor master begins to speak again. The first thing he points to is a small handcart standing on a small platform at the beginning of the dock.

"You can transport your luggage, shopping and provisions from the car to the boat with these trolleys, which can be found all over the harbor. But please always put the trolleys back in their places, as there is not much space on the jetties," explains the harbor master.

"Oh, that's practical. Then we don't have to form a chain of people when unloading," says Birgit happily.

"Yes, that's absolutely right; besides, a chain of people wouldn't work either. That's because the children can't simply move from the jetty to the harbor area; there's this safety rail so that they can operate and help safely on the jetties," says the harbor master, pointing to a steel rail that runs along the left-hand side of the jetty at a height of two meters. Five gliders hang from it with a 20-centimetre-long fabric strap, at the end of which there is a kind of snap hook.

"Do you see these trolleys?" asks the harbor master, taking a few steps towards them. He also pulls on Luisa's leash. "Oh, come a little closer, please, I'll show you," he says casually, pulling Luisa a little tighter towards him.

Luisa immediately feels a little pushed around, as the man was actually looking at her parents when he said "you". But as it's currently an introduction to the port's facilities, she doesn't mind and follows the harbor master a few steps to the gliders on the rail. The rest of the family also slowly approaches.

"We have ten of the trolleys on the rails on each jetty. There are five here at the moment and the others are outside by the various boats," explains the harbor master, pointing out onto the jetty.

"When you're on board, it's handy to have some at the same height as the boat so you can use them straight away. But please make sure that there are always some here on the pier," he continues and casually attaches Luisa's leash to one of the snap hooks so that both hands are free. Luisa feels a little funny for a moment, but not much has actually changed and her attention is immediately diverted to another topic.

"So, briefly about the most important facilities." the harbor master begins his explanations. Now he shows where the wash house, the garbage cans and other important facilities such as the communal kitchen are located.

Then we finally make our way onto the jetty to the boats. The harbor master leads the way and doesn't pay any more attention to Luisa. But she follows him and feels the line, and with it the sledge on the rail, moving behind her. It is a strange and unfamiliar feeling, but not unpleasant.

Peter and Anna run after their big sister and their parents also follow them at a distance from the lines. Peter keeps his eyes on Luisa's leash and the sledge following behind her. He still can't quite believe that all the strange things here are real. On the right-hand side of the jetty are lots of yachts that look exactly the same, white with blue stripes. But Peter has hardly any eyes or attention for that, the sight of his sister walking on a leash won't let him go.

But suddenly there is something that worries him even more: halfway along the route, two people come towards the group. It's a teenager who seems a little younger than Peter, and a man behind him. Peter instantly feels very uncomfortable when he realizes that he is about to be seen by another



youth in this silly outfit and with the leash to his father. He can feel his cheeks getting hot. He would like to jump into the water immediately and swim away.

Then he hears the boy say in German , "Dad, hurry up, it's really urgent."

Peter can then see that the other boy is also wearing a rain overall, albeit in green, and the same harness as himself. This doesn't seem to bother the boy, however, as he pulls hard on the line his father is holding with the harness and obviously wants to get ashore as quickly as possible. His father, however, holds the line firmly in his hand and walks past the family at normal speed, greeting them in a friendly manner with a cheerful smile on his face, "Good evening", without responding to his son's pushing or pulling.

Peter can't decide whether he wants to look or would rather hide his face so as not to be seen. But the two pass by quickly and nobody pays any attention to him. He doesn't have to think about it for long, because after a few steps the harbor master stops next to a boat on the right-hand side of the jetty and holds on to the boat's pulpit.

"This is the Anna Maria, your home for the next three weeks," he says with a cheerful smile.

"Oh yes, we're finally off," says Birgit happily, clapping her hands with joy and excitement. Anna also feels this on her lead. It's not so taut that it's jerking hard, but she's been reminded of its existence once again. Unfortunately, all three children can no longer share their mother's anticipation after the events of the last 30 minutes.

"Okay, let's all get on board. I recommend that you attach the children's lines to the hooks on the pulpit here during the crossing. If something happens, you probably won't be able to hold the loops. Also, the lines from the rail system are not long enough to reach the deck. They are so long that the children get wet but can't submerge their whole bodies," says the harbor master to Wolfgang and Birgit. They both look briefly at Luisa and then nod in agreement.

"Good boy, you can go first," he says, but is already looking at Wolfgang. "Give me his leash, please."

Wolfgang hands the loop of the line to the harbor master. He then shows how to attach the loop to the aforementioned hook. Peter, who feels completely ignored, is now finally allowed to climb over the pulpit onto the foredeck; the line gives him enough room to make the necessary movements, but then holds him firmly on the foredeck. Anna follows her brother onto the foredeck, which is so spacious that the harbor master and the parents also climb over the pulpit. There, the harbor master shows the parents how to attach the lines on the deck to the backs of the two children. The whole thing is a bit awkward as Peter and Anna are still wearing their rain jackets over them. The fact that you need a kind of key to undo the old lines doesn't make things any easier either, but Peter and Anna can't see that. Only Luisa observes the goings-on on deck and is a little surprised, but also a little fascinated by the action.

Once Peter and Anna are attached to their new lines, they move on to the stern of the boat, as the new lines are each attached to a rail on deck. These run from the bow to the stern directly along the foot of the railing on both sides. Peter goes to the stern on the starboard side and Anna on the port side. The lines are almost two meters long and therefore allow a fairly large radius of action on deck. The lines leave plenty of room in the cockpit in particular, as the rails run at waist height there.

After Peter and Anna have gone into the cockpit, their parents follow them. Only the harbor master is still standing on the foredeck, looking at Luisa. She takes the look as an invitation to come on board. So she turns to the rail, takes the carabiner in her hand and wants to release her line.

However, she quickly realizes that the carabiner cannot be opened. When she turns around again, the harbor master is already standing next to her and she is a little startled.

"I'm afraid that's not possible, let me sort it out," says the harbor master, taking the carabiner from Luisa's hand. He smiles kindly, but also slightly pityingly.

"Hey, how old are you?" he then asks in a softer voice than in his previous explanations.

"I'm 20," Luisa replies and watches the harbor master hold a magnet to the snap hook and open it with ease.

"Hmm okay, I'm sorry about that. It's not like we're having fun tying you up here or are very scared that you might drown here in the harbor, you know. I'm sure you're responsible enough at your age to look after yourself. But unfortunately, insurance doesn't make a difference until 21. And our devices are all designed to keep younger, less responsible children safe. That's why you're not allowed to operate the devices yourself. I hope you understand that," says the harbor master.

"Yeah, sure, that's no problem for me, I can deal with it. It's kind of funny too," says Luisa.

"I'm glad, and I hope that your two younger siblings see it the same way. Because at their age, it's often not so easy to understand. I don't know what your parents told you, but this option is much cheaper for you," says the harbor master and hooks Luisa's line into the hook on the pulpit.

"Yes, you could be right, my brother in particular doesn't seem to think it's such a great idea. But he doesn't dare say anything yet. ... But does that mean that there was another option than using these straps?" Luisa asks curiously.

The harbor master has to laugh a little: "Yes, of course, you could have done without it altogether. And you could have worn your own life jackets at sea. But then the insurance would have been more than twice as expensive. But now it's a regulation for you and it's written in the boat documents that you have to use them for everything to do with the boat. But you should think twice about telling your siblings," he says with a wink.

Luisa climbs over the pulpit, but is not attached to a rail. Instead, the harbor master leads her by the hand with the existing line to the cockpit, where everyone sits down together. Only there is another line attached to Luisa's back under her jacket. To do this, the harbor master pulls a retractable line from the foot of the mast to Luisa. Only when this is attached is the other one removed with the magnet. The new line always has a slight tension as it always wants to roll up towards the mast. The harbor master then explains to the parents that there are four furling lines on deck and also four lines on rails, two to starboard and two to port. The advantages and disadvantages are obvious: the furling lines on the mast offer a greater radius of action, but can become entangled with others if used by several children at the same time. The lines on the rails do not allow them to slide past when two children are secured on the same side.

Next, all the boat's functions and equipment are shown and explained on deck. Both Peter and Luisa listen attentively. Fortunately, they already know all the seafaring terms and can follow along well. They have almost forgotten their belts and lines. Only Anna can't concentrate on the explanations and fidgets slightly and restlessly in her harness the whole time. Although she knows the terms, she is not too interested in the details as she will not be steering the ship herself anyway. So she relies on the others to tell her what to do.

Once everything on deck has been explained and shown, the parents go below deck into the cabin with the harbor master to be shown and explained everything that is necessary to operate the boat. The children remain seated in the cockpit, although Luisa could theoretically follow them into the cabin with her furling line and Anna and Peter could move around on deck.

When the adults have disappeared into the cabin, Luisa immediately takes the floor. "What do you think, this is a cool ship. Not to be compared with our nutshell at home, is it? It's huge," she says enthusiastically.

Anna, who was busy with herself and her harness during the performance, looks at her sister in surprise. "The ship may be great, but this harness isn't. Doesn't that thing bother you at all?" Anna asks back and opens her rain jacket, as it has just stopped raining.

"Don't be like that. It's just to be on the safe side," says Luisa.

"Yes, those things are really annoying, and as soon as the harbor guy is gone, I take it off. It's totally ridiculous what's going on here. That thing is squeezing everything down there. What does that have to do with safety? I could swim home from here and I have to be prevented from getting into the water or what? So no, Luisa," says Peter, shaking his head excitedly.

"Now come off it, Peter. Firstly, you know that's the rule here and secondly, I don't think you can take it off that easily. Besides, it's not that bad. What's the big deal, we're on the boat all the time anyway, where do you want to go," Luisa says to her brother with a smile.

"It's not that I want to go somewhere else. Of course we want to sail. But if someone sees me like that, it's ridiculous and then the thing is so uncomfortable. I don't give a shit about the rules. I'll take it off and that's fine," says Peter resolutely, opening his jacket and demonstratively pulling on the straps.

Luisa smiles at him and says: "So you're embarrassed to wear a safety belt, that's a great attitude. I'm sure mom will be happy when you tell her that."

"No, that's not what I mean. Did you see the boy on the jetty: his father pulled him back like a little kid who wants to run away. I would be embarrassed and what does that have to do with safety?"

"You don't have to pull like that, and maybe he enjoyed it," Luisa replies.

"What kind of fantasies do you have, in what world is that supposed to be fun?" asks Peter.

Anna listens to the two of them and has her own thoughts. She can understand Luisa's argument and remembers how she used to play horsey with her friend. She used to tie a lead around her stomach and pull her friend along. That was a lot of fun back then and a harness like that would certainly have made the game more exciting and fun. But she doesn't want to admit that to her brother now, so she just grins a little without saying anything.

"There's no way I'm going to be led around like a dog or a horse here on the jetty. Then you can go on your vacation alone," Peter replies to Luisa's question. This makes Anna grin even more, because she has just thought about playing horse herself.

"Whatever you say; but I for one won't let these admittedly somewhat strange rules spoil my vacation. It's not that bad," says Luisa.

"What's there to grin about Anna? I think it's annoying you too," Peter asks the grinning Anna.

"Yes, of course. I just had a thought. But I want to ask mom and dad right away when we can take it off again," replies Anna.

"May ... may! I'm not even going to ask. I'll take it off when the guy's gone and that's that. He's not coming back today, he's about to finish work," says Peter confidently. But he doesn't dare take it off right now.

"Don't be so sure, my dear brother. That's the rule. And I think mom and dad have a say in it too," says Luisa about Peter's behavior.

He is about to ask indignantly what they mean by that, but at that moment the cabin hatch opens again and the adults come on deck.

"Good, we've discussed everything. If you have any questions, even on the way, you can always call and ask," says the harbor master and leaves the cabin.

Wolfgang and Birgit follow him into the cockpit, where the children are sitting.

"Yes, sure, we'll do it, thank you very much for everything. I think we'll have a great vacation,"

Wolfgang replies to the harbor master.

"Right, then all that remains for me to do is wish the whole family a great trip and lots of fun on the Anna Maria," says the harbor master and leaves the cockpit in the direction of the bow.

"Thank you very much. And have a nice evening." Birgit calls after him as he leaves the boat.

Peter watches the harbor master for a moment as he leaves the jetty for land to put his plan into action. But Birgit is full of zest for action and wants to distribute the tasks immediately.

"Okay kids, it's good that it's stopped raining, then we can start unloading the car and stowing everything in the boat straight away. I suggest that one of you stands on the jetty in front of the boat and two of you stand here on board. Then Dad and I can get the things out of the car with the handcart."

However, Peter has completely different plans and takes off his rain jacket, only to discover that the line between his harness and the rail goes through the rain jacket. To solve the problem, he looks at the connection between the line and the glider on the rail. This connection appears to have been joined with a crimping tool and forms a single unit.

Anna also takes off her jacket, but is not as rude as her brother is in completely ignoring her mother.

"Mom, can we please take these 'things' off again first? We're still in the harbor and they're really getting in the way. Besides, it's stopped raining and we don't need the rain pants any more," says Anna calmly and politely.

Birgit listens to it and looks at Peter, who also has something to say.

"That's right, we take it off first before we start clearing, you can't move with it on."

As he says this, he doesn't look at his mother, but starts fiddling with the leash behind his back, squirming violently in his harness.

"Well Peter, I don't know what you're doing, but you can obviously move quite well," says Birgit somewhat sarcastically and with a slightly stern undertone. Her zest for action has disappeared and she crosses her arms in front of her chest.

"But I think you both fundamentally misunderstood something earlier. You will be wearing these belts for the entire vacation as soon as we enter the port or the boat. Those are the rules and you both know exactly how I feel about rules. So there's no cheating, even when no one is looking."

"What? That's totally ridiculous. What kind of weird regulation is that? I thought these straps were for safety in storms and stuff. And as Anna has just pointed out, we're in the harbor, not in a storm," Peter explains his point of view, also noting that he can't just untie the line.

"Mom, you can't be serious. These straps are totally stupid. Please let us take them off," Anna explains her position again.

"Do you two see me laughing or joking? Of course I'm serious, and I'd like to end the discussion and start cleaning out the car. So that our vacation can begin."

Luisa, who is sitting next to her little sister, smiles amusedly and watches Peter and Anna discussing with their mother. She now knows a little more about the background, but can also understand how her siblings are reacting. Nevertheless, she is of course aware that they have no chance against their mother to push through their demands in this direction. She knows how Birgit feels about such things: if the insurance company stipulates it, then she will stick to it and enforce it. Her mother is always very strict.

"I'm not wearing this tight thing on my body for three weeks. What are you going to do if I take it off? Besides, I don't think it's a rule. It's probably just a recommendation for small children or something. The three of us are adults, why should we wear it all the time?" Peter replies again, but has now given up fiddling with the leash behind him.

Now Birgit can't help but smile and replies with a confident look on her face, "Well Peter, you're simply wrong about two things: firstly, you're not an adult, you're 17. Secondly, it's a rule that applies until you're 21. Which also includes Luisa, by the way. ... And while we're at it, she's not making a fuss like you two."

"Hey, what's there to grin about, can't you give us a hand? Or do you really want to be trapped in this thing for three weeks?" Peter then turns to his big sister.

"What am I supposed to help with, didn't you listen to mom?" Luisa says calmly, but can't help grinning.

In the meantime, Wolfgang has climbed to the bow and comes back with one of the lines still hanging from the hook of the pulpit.

"Okay, I don't think we're going to get anywhere with words. I'm looking for something tangible. Since Peter doesn't believe us, he'll now have the opportunity to study the rental agreement in the cabin and see for himself that this is a regulation and that we're not trying to pull the wool over your eyes." He then attaches the leash to Peter's back and unties the other one, which is connected to the rail. This also releases the jacket, which he then hands to his son.

"Now let's go into the cabin, where you can see for yourself that you won't take off your belt," says Wolfgang, and Peter enters the cabin, slightly intimidated by his father's authority. There in the middle of the floor is the same rail as outside at the foot of the railing. Wolfgang takes one of the ropes from the rail and attaches it to Peter's harness at the back. Peter then has to sit down at a table on a comfortable cushioned settee and is presented with the 20-page rental contract for the boat.

"So Peter, now we'll do the work and when you've calmed down and understood everything, you can join in again. Okay?" says Wolfgang kindly and puts a hand on Peter's shoulder.

"Dad, what did you mean when you said I won't take my belt off?" Peter now asks his father.

"Well Peter, it's actually the case that the straps and leashes are locked with a mechanism and only mom and I have the keys to them. This is actually intended for children who have a lack of

responsibility, but at the moment it seems to apply to you and Anna too. But the landlord doesn't make any difference, so that's the way it is," his father explains the situation to him.

Peter suddenly has a sinking feeling in his stomach; he hadn't expected that he really was deliberately locked in the harness and tied up with the leash. This realization gives Peter a queasy feeling and his fighting spirit is severely dampened.

"Uhhh Dad, can I please take off my rain suit?" He suddenly realized that this would hardly be possible with the belt and that he would have to rely on his father.

"No Peter, I'd have to take your harness off and I'm not doing that in this situation. Besides, it still looks like it's going to rain and I hope you'll calm down again and help us." With these words, Wolfgang leaves the cabin again, leaving Peter behind.

Outside, Anna tries to talk to her mother, but gets nowhere. "Okay Anna, Peter is busy and I don't think you can help us much at the moment either, so I think you can have a bit of fun after the long drive."

Anna looks at her father in confusion and doesn't know exactly what he means by that, but the authority in his voice doesn't allow her to discuss it any further at the moment.

"But you're going to help us, aren't you?" he then turns to Luisa, who is still quite amused by the situation.

"Of course Dad, I can handle it," she replies.

"Well, then I suggest that you take everything here on the boat and bring it into the cockpit first. Mom and I will bring everything here from the car," says Wolfgang and changes Luisa from the furling line to the line Peter was previously tied to. Then Luisa's hand line is attached to Anna and she is untied from the rail-bound line. She also has to reluctantly put her rain jacket back on. The parents' argument is that it could start raining again at any moment.

Then Birgit, Wolfgang and Anna leave the boat and return to the right car. On the jetty, Anna is first guided by Wolfgang.

7 - Phase 1, discussions

The parents walk the first few meters on the jetty with Anna in silence towards the car. Anna is a little pensive and the mood feels tense.

"Dad, what do you mean I can have fun? Do I have to wait in the car until you're finished?" Anna asks meekly, as she realizes that her father is probably a little annoyed because of all the fuss about the harness. She fears that he might have meant "fun" ironically.

Wolfgang laughs briefly: "No, my darling, you shouldn't be sitting in the car after the long drive today. I mean what I said. Let me surprise you."

When they reach the end of the jetty, Wolfgang hands Anna's leash to his wife and takes the handcart. They then walk back to the car together. The clouds are still very dark, although it is not raining at the moment. Because the temperature is still quite high, Anna would like to take off her jacket, but on the way to the car she only has the option of unzipping it completely. However, this doesn't provide much ventilation, as the overalls under the jacket also cover almost her entire upper body with PVC.

Arriving at the car, Wolfgang first opens the trailer and purposefully takes out the small box that the family received as a bonus at the Scandinavia Center. He takes out a small item, of which there are obviously several, and then stands in front of his daughter, who is standing somewhat bored on the leash in front of her mother. Anna would have loved to walk through the harbor to see everything. She shouldn't be helping out. Besides, after all the arguing on the boat, she would have liked to go exploring without her parents. But obviously her parents wouldn't let her off the stupid leash. Anna also felt a little humiliated, even though she was still used to being more under her parents' control than her older siblings. But this leash was already much more than the tracking app on her cell phone.

"So, my darling, I think it's better in this weather if you zip up your jacket," Wolfgang then says to Anna and doesn't wait for her to zip it up herself, but does it for her straight away. Anna rolls her eyes in annoyance and passively lets her jacket close. It feels a bit like she's still 10 or younger. Then Wolfgang gets down on his knees and reaches between Anna's legs to the back hem of the jacket and takes out the crotch strap that he was shown in the store. With the help of the small piece from the box, he then attaches it to the front of the zipper, which is closed from top to bottom. He then has his wife give him the leash.

"Good Birgit, you can start packing the most important things into the handcart, I'll take Anna to play for a bit. Then I'll help you. Okay?" Birgit agrees to Wolfgang's suggestion and starts unloading.

"Whaaa, dad? Play what? Where are you taking me?" asks Anna, confused by her father's suggestion.

"Well, to the wash house, you can sit down, look around, or just play. Whatever you want. Of course, you could also think about whether it really makes sense to discuss not following the rules. Come on, let's have a look," Wolfgang says to his daughter and pulls gently on the leash to get her to come along.

The leash annoys Anna more and more, just as her father uses it. But by talking to him, Anna fears that this is supposed to be some kind of punishment or time-out for her. That's why she walks a few steps at first, but then suddenly stops.

"Dad, can I take the Switch with me to play? Otherwise it's so boring sitting there." Anna asks her father. He also stops for a moment because there was a jerk on the leash, this time from Anna.

"No my darling, this is not the right place for a games console. Besides, a bit of exercise after driving is much better than a screen. Come on, let's go." Disappointed, Anna hangs her head and continues to follow her father towards the wash house. But then she thinks about her cell phone, which she still has in the bib pocket of her overalls, and briefly touches her chest to make sure it's still there. It feels strange because of all the PVC layers and the harness, but of course it's still there. Then she smiles briefly and decides to just play with it when her father leaves her sitting alone on a

bench she saw outside the wash house. She assumes her father will take her there and she should stay there.

But when they get there, her father takes her past the bench and behind the wash house. That's where the playground is, which she had already noticed when they arrived. On the one hand, she found the playground appealing, but being taken there by her father at the age of 15 felt very strange. "What dad, are you serious? A playground with a climbing net and swings? I'm 15 years old! What am I supposed to do here?" says Anna and finally decides that she's too old for this.

"Well, Anna, I've just explained that to you at the car, and I can well imagine that you can still have a lot of fun here at 15. And why not?" replies her father.

They have now reached the edge of the square, where a large board is attached to a pillar. A number of snap hooks are hanging from this board, just as they are attached to the ropes of the trolleys on the jetty. The carabiners hang from nails, from each of which a long rope hangs down. All these ropes form a large pile on the ground.

Wolfgang takes one of the carabiners from the nail and attaches it to Anna's harness on her back through her jacket. The short lead line is removed and Wolfgang puts it in the pocket of his rain jacket.

"So, my darling, have a good time. We'll pick you up when we've finished unloading. Please put your hood on if it rains again," says her father and strokes her head once with his hand to say goodbye.

Anna stands there with her mouth open and can hardly believe that her father has just tied her to a leash in the playground. But he really seems to mean it. And the fact that these leashes even exist here tells her that it must be meant to be.

As her parents leave the jetty with Anna in the direction of the car, Luisa relaxes on the bench in the cockpit and takes a deep breath. The fresh sea air is wonderful and the typical sounds of a marina reach her ears. They couldn't be heard before, because the argument about Peter and Anna's rules had overshadowed everything. It's not that Luisa thinks the safety belt rule is great, but she doesn't mind being dependent on her parents on the boat. Besides, it's also for her own safety.

Meanwhile, Peter has no focus for the rental agreement that his father has given him to study. He stands up again and tries to pull on the harness. The line to the rail on the floor is so long that it doesn't get in the way. Pulling quickly proves pointless, as Peter can't loosen anything, let alone release it. The harness is obviously designed so that he can't pull it over his shoulder. So his only option is to try the buckle on his back. At the first attempt, he squirms and twists his arms behind his back to feel for the buckles. But this is very tiring and doesn't give him a clear idea of how it works. Now he comes up with the idea of looking for a mirror, which he quickly finds in a small toilet room next to the cabin corridor. He can't get a good look at the buckles this way either, but at least he can see a bit more. There seems to be a central section where most of the straps come together. The straps are inserted into it with a kind of buckle. However, Peter can't see any release mechanism on the central piece.

His anger at the situation slowly turned to frustration. He couldn't believe that if these belts were made for children, he couldn't find a way to trick them at the age of 17. Annoyed, he slams the door to the wet room shut again. Startled by this, Luisa looks through the only slightly tinted window of the cabin door at Peter and knocks on it.

"Hey, what's wrong, why don't you leave the boat alone? It can't help it either," says Luisa.

Peter is again shocked that Luisa might have been watching his efforts. He felt unobserved in the cabin, but now opens the door.

"This is total crap here. Why can mom and dad just chain us up like this? That's not normal. ... Can you please see how to get these stupid harnesses off. I can't see anything back there," says Peter, turning his back to Luisa in the open cabin door. She sits outside right by the door and also looks

briefly at Peter, but then says, "No Peter, what's the point? You know mom, even if you could take it off now, she wouldn't say: Yes then it's okay, you don't have to use it anymore!"

Peter then turns back to his sister.

"But I don't want to wear it, it's annoying!"

"That may be true, but that's not the way to reach your destination. Besides, we haven't been here a whole hour yet, why don't you wait and see how things really go here," Luisa replies to her brother.

"But", Peter takes another breath, then he can't think of a coherent argument.

"What does the contract really say?" Luisa tries to distract Peter.

"It's 20 pages long or something, I'm not in the mood to read that nonsense," says Peter stubbornly like a small child, which makes Luisa grin again.

Then she suggests a compromise: "Come on, give me one part, you take the other and we'll look for the place with the insurance together, okay?"

Peter isn't really convinced, but is curious enough to go along with his sister's proposal. So they each go through part of the contract. It doesn't take long for Peter to find "§5 Insurance requirements". The first few paragraphs are about general rules of conduct and necessary training that the tenant must adhere to. But the lower part is more specific and talks about protective equipment for "inexperienced" and "underage" crew members. Peter is already hoping for imprecise wording, but in the following paragraph the age limit is precisely stated as 21.

The "Scope of application" section also describes in detail that the protective equipment must always be worn when in connection with the chartered boat. So when staying in the harbor, or when swimming from the boat in a bay. Peter finds this point even more absurd than wearing the harness in the harbor area.

Last but not least, there is the "supervision control" section. Peter can't imagine what this means at first, but this section actually stipulates that only the legal guardians and the skipper, which is the same for the family, are allowed to put on, take off, adjust, lock and unlock the so-called safety equipment.

Now that Peter has read it, he is quiet at first and puts the sheets back on the table. Obviously his parents have read it all before. He doesn't know what to say now. Luisa looks at him expectantly through the cabin door.

After a moment of silence, Peter then says, "They agree ... to tie us up here like this."

"Who are 'they'?" Luisa asks back.

"Well, mom and dad, they knew everything beforehand," says Peter quietly, without looking at Luisa.

"So what? I hope Dad reads a contract before he signs it," she replies.

"Yes, maybe, but they didn't tell **us** that before," Peter says louder now, looking his sister in the eye indignantly.

"What difference would that have made, Peter? Would you really have given up your entire vacation? Hardly."

The whole conversation initially distracts Peter from his situation and the harness. He calms down more and more as he continues to talk to his sister.

8 - New experience

When Wolfgang has turned the corner of the wash house again, Anna regains her ability to act and looks around carefully. She takes a few steps across the sandy ground towards the washhouse, where she had seen the bench earlier. She quickly feels the rope at her back getting heavier and turns around. The rope leading to her is quite far down in the pile of ropes. So she takes it in her hand and pulls on the rope, which is wet and sandy from the rain. Fortunately, the ropes are not too tightly knotted and after a short time she has freed her rope from the pile. She notices that all the ropes are firmly screwed to the base of the beam. However, her rope seems to be quite long. So she keeps a small piece in her hand and walks towards the wash house. When the rope is stretched to its full length, Anna realizes that it doesn't reach the bench. Disappointed, she lets go of it, looks briefly at her now completely soiled hands and, out of frustration, pushes against the rope with all her strength. For a moment, this actually feels really good for Anna, even if she can't quite put her finger on why. On the one hand, it makes her realize that her father has tied her up like a dog. On the other hand, the harness also somehow feels sensible and yes, a bit like security. But safety for what? The effort also relieved some of the frustration.

When Anna tries to push a little with her feet in the loose sand to pull even harder, she slips and falls. This doesn't really hurt, as she can't build up any speed and is already in a certain sloping position close to the ground. As the sand is very wet and sticky from the rain, not only are her hands completely dirty, but her rain suit and part of her jacket are also full of wet sand.

"Shit ... damn it!" she shouts loudly, but not screaming.

Then she picks herself up again, looks down at herself and thinks: What on earth has she got herself into? She is tied up like a dog in a playground, dressed in a colorful, childish-looking rain suit that is also completely filthy. As if a 7-year-old had just come from a great adventure in the rain-soaked sandpit.

Anna suddenly has to grin at this thought because it's all so absurd. Has she really become a child again? Then she looks around the playground again - there is no one else around who has seen her in her little fit of frustration. She notices the swing and decides to use it to sit on.

On the way to the swing, she notices again how loud the rain gear is when she moves around in it. The jacket over the rain trousers and harness rustles extremely loudly. Anne also gets goose bumps again when she consciously feels the smooth fabric rubbing against her bare arms. She is still only wearing the spaghetti strap top and the new overalls under her jacket. The straps of the rain trousers are already wider than those of the overalls.

After sitting down on the swing, she rocks back and forth slightly and it is very comfortable, so she decides to wait there for her father to return and play with her cell phone. She sees no other option, because using one of the devices seriously in the playground is too embarrassing for Anna at her age.

Before Anna wants to get her cell phone out of her bag, she looks at her hands again and tries to wipe them on the trouser legs of her rain overalls. Unfortunately, this only makes it worse; the sand on her hands and the smooth PVC surface smear it into a muddy paste. The second attempt on the ropes of the swing is a little better, but her hands don't get clean there either. Anna is frustrated again: this is not how she imagined her vacation would be. What was her father thinking, humiliating her like this?

After a few minutes, Anna decides that her hands are clean enough. At least there are hardly any grains of sand left, so Anna starts to open her jacket to get her cell phone out. She quickly realizes that the zipper is connected to the crotch strap. So she tries to detach the crotch strap from the zipper. Unfortunately, Anna can't see it very well. Neither sitting on the swing nor standing up is she able to open the jacket or undo the crotch strap. Then she remembers the small item from the box that her father had fastened down there, and slowly she realizes that it must have been her father's intention to lock her in the rainwear. The sales clerk had hinted at this function.

Annoyed, Anna tries to reach into the collar of the jacket with her hands. But she quickly abandons this idea as it is completely impossible. Then she tries to tug at the jacket and accidentally grabs the harness underneath. Then she suddenly realizes that she will never be able to reach the bib pocket of the overalls as long as the harness is on top of the rain overalls. Because she can't take it off or open it with the harness on, and the rain overall only ends at her neck and is therefore even tighter than the jacket.

Anna briefly considers whether she should just shout loudly for her parents, who should actually be able to hear her, as they should only be a few meters behind the wash house by the car. This seems like a logical option to Anna, but then she thinks about whether her father would really help her. After all, he has obviously deliberately tied her up here without a games console and with her jacket fastened. So it could also be his intention that she can't reach her cell phone.

Anna stands up in frustration and kicks the sand a few times with her wellies, causing it to fly away a little. Didn't her father say she should enjoy herself, but how could she when she is so restricted here?

Suddenly Anna is torn from her thoughts; two people are approaching the wash house from the jetty, at least that's what Anna thinks, and she sees a girl being led by her mother on a leash across the square between the jetty and the harbor office, just as Anna herself was before. The girl has a slightly swaying gait, almost bouncing, and Anna suspects that, unlike her, the girl is in a very good mood. The mother is wrapped in a dark bathrobe and the girl is wearing something very similar to Anna herself. She can make out pink rain trousers and a pink rain jacket. The girl also seems to have a harness hidden under her jacket, Anna assumes from the leash.

When they have almost reached the wash house, Anna looks away and sits back down on the swing, as she wants to attract as little attention as possible. On the swing, she then looks purposefully and shyly at the ground.

"Good Pia, you can play as long as I'm in the bathroom, but then you have to brush your teeth. Yes!" Anna suddenly hears her mother say much closer than she expected.

"Yes, mom, you can take your time," the girl then says with a laugh in her voice.

Anna lifts her head and sees that the two of them are now standing at the post with the ropes, where her mother is attaching one of the ropes to Pia.

"Look Pia, you're not alone today," says her mother as she finishes with the rope and nods at Anna.

"Hmm ... hello," mumbles Anna quietly, barely intelligible to the two of them.

Also, or perhaps precisely because Anna thinks Pia is a little younger than she is, she is very embarrassed by the encounter at the moment.

"Okay, have fun then," her mother says to Pia, pats her briefly on the head to say goodbye and then goes straight into the washhouse, while Anna lowers her head again and looks down at her feet. She hopes that Pia isn't interested in her and might go straight to the climbing frame.

"Hello, my name is Pia, how long have you been here?" asks Pia, after going straight to Anna on the swing. This dashes Anna's hopes. Pia looks at her briefly and Anna can feel her cheeks getting warmer.

"Uhh ... I ...", Anna stutters and looks around to see if anyone else is around.

"Uhh ... we ... uhh have only just arrived," replies Anna, as she realizes that Pia is probably referring to her family.

Pia looks at Anna briefly, looks at her dirty hands for a moment, but says nothing and then sits down next to Anna on the free swing.

"And how do you like it? ... Is this your first time sailing here?" Pia asks immediately and pulls her rope a little to create a small loop behind the swing. Then she starts to swing gently and waits for Anna's answer with a smile.

Anna lowers her head and wonders how Pia can be so unconcerned when she is just as tied up as Anna. But when Anna realizes that Pia is staring at her and still waiting for an answer, she responds:

"I don't know; I haven't seen much here yet, we've only been here an hour. This is our first time sailing on the sea, at home we have a smaller boat on a lake. This is very different."

"Oh, so you can sail. That's cool. You'll love it here," Pia replies and picks up a little more speed.

Anna now looks up at Pia, who begins to swing in earnest. The rope on her back follows the swinging movement and doesn't disturb Pia. She seems to be having fun and Anna wonders how old Pia is and whether she even notices the rope.

"Why are you looking so gloomy, come and join us. It's fun, the weather is already gloomy enough tonight," says Pia and swings a good meter forwards and backwards.

Anna doesn't know what to make of it; Pia is nice and she doesn't want to be dismissive, but somehow she's not in the mood to be silly either. Because swinging on the playground here, when she would much rather be exploring her new surroundings, seems absolutely silly to her. Nevertheless, she pushes herself a little listlessly off the ground to get a little momentum on her swing.

"Is this the first time you and your parents have been here with a rental boat like this?" Anna then asks.

"Umm no, this is the third summer we've been here. We don't have a boat at home. It's always great on the water and in the other harbors too. But unfortunately we're going home again tomorrow," says Pia enthusiastically as she slows down a little on her swing.

Anna can't really get involved in the small talk because her thoughts keep returning to the belt around her body and the rope holding her here. So she decides to simply ask Pia why it doesn't seem to bother her.

"Uhh ... tell me Pia ... Hmm, have these ... uhh leashes ... always been like this here?" Anna then asks hesitantly.

Pia looks at Anna, examines her briefly from top to bottom, but continues rocking and then smiles.

"Is that why you're looking so grumpy... uhh", Pia asks and then notices that Anna hasn't even revealed her name.

"Uhh Anna," Anna helps out now that she realizes it herself.

"Okay Anna, so the security stuff isn't as bad as it might seem to you now. Lots of people have it here and nobody teases you about it. I thought it was a bit strange in my first year too, even though I wasn't one then. But now it's just part of it," says Pia, explaining her attitude.

"Don't all teenagers have to wear this?" asks Anna in surprise.

"No, only those who have a boat with the appropriate insurance. Everyone from the campsite doesn't have it and some with private boats don't either. But don't let that spoil your fun," says Pia.

"Don't you have one of those things made of straps under your jacket?" Anna asks curiously.

Pia then brakes her swing and jumps onto the ground.

"Sure, look here. That's part of it," says Pia and unzips her jacket.

Anna recognizes that Pia's rain suit is a similar model to hers, and the overalls underneath are surrounded by the same harness as hers. However, Anna is immediately jealous of the fact that Pia, unlike her, can open the jacket herself.

"It's called a harness and makes sure you don't fall off the boat," says Pia, a little precociously.

"Yes, but isn't it totally uncomfortable and annoying here on land?" Anna objects.

"Oh no, that's fine. ... Come on, I'll show you. Let's climb," says Pia suddenly and jumps over her swing so that the rope doesn't get caught in it and then runs to the climbing frame.

Anna is surprised, but is infected by Pia's enthusiasm and follows her. After all, she wants to find out more about the whole thing. Pia is a good way ahead of her and reaches the top platform first. They both climb up and down a few times, Anna watches Pia closely and sees that she always makes sure that the rope doesn't get caught anywhere. Anna follows her example and, surprisingly, playing with Pia is a lot of fun. Even though Anna has hardly done it lately.

Anna learns that Pia is only one year younger than she is and that her parents take the safety harness very seriously. However, Pia has no problem using it and always being under her parents' control. After about 15 minutes on the climbing frame, it starts to rain again. Pia zips up her jacket again and they both decide to go on the ropeway, which is great fun. Although they are both always dragging their safety rope behind them, it is even less of a hindrance than on the climbing frame, as Anna has to pay even less attention to it not getting tangled up.

The rain makes the seat and the rope on the ropeway increasingly slippery. But Anna and Pia compete with each other to see who can ride the ropeway the fastest. The atmosphere is exuberant and they both laugh a lot when Anna suddenly misses the seat after a fast and powerful run-up and slips off the rope. She lands directly in the already somewhat muddy sand under the ropeway. First she lets out a loud, shrill scream, then laughs out loud sitting in the mud. Pia joins her and they continue laughing together when they see that Anna's rain suit is completely covered in mud from top to bottom. Even her hands, which had become clean in the rain, are now completely dirty again. The whole situation is so funny and cheerful for Anna at this moment that she doesn't mind at all. On the contrary, the rain suit is proving to be very practical right now, and Anna isn't thinking about the fact that she's being held by a rope at the playground or that she's wearing the tight harness under her rain jacket; none of that is on her mind at this moment, and she's just happy to be able to play there with Pia like she hasn't done for a long time.

But just as Pia is helping Anna to stand up, a boy comes running onto the playground. Anna looks at him as he comes towards her, and at that moment Anna is immediately struck by the fact that she is 15 years old and standing on the playground in a silly and filthy rain suit, dragging an equally dirty rope behind her, tying her to the spot. The boy has come to the playground all by himself, wearing a fashionable rain jacket and normal jeans. Anna guesses his age to be the same as Pia's. Anna stands still in shock and stares at the boy.

"Hello Pia, your last night of the year? Shall we play some more?" the boy then asks Pia, as if it were the most normal situation in the world.

"Hello Jonas, yes unfortunately, we're leaving again tomorrow morning. But let's play for a while; this is Anna, she just arrived today and is here for the first time," Pia introduces Anna.

"Hi Anna, I'm Jonas and we're at the campsite next door and don't have a boat. Would you like to play along too, we could do a bit of climbing," Jonas introduces himself without mentioning Anna or Pia's clothes.

Anna feels her cheeks are still burning, but she slowly regains her ability to act: "Uhh ... hello Jonas ... nice to meet you. ... Ahh I just slipped off the ropeway and fell."

"Ohh, I hope you didn't hurt yourself," Jonas inquires.

"Uhh no, it's fine, nothing happened," Anna replies, annoyed with herself for bringing the subject up; she actually just wanted to explain why she was so dirty, but Jonas doesn't seem to mind at all.

"PIA ... please come, it's time for you to brush your teeth," suddenly comes the voice of Pia's mother, who is standing at the rope pillar with an umbrella in her hand.

"Ohhh crap, right now I have to go. ... I'm coming mom ... I'm sorry you two, I would have liked to play with you a bit more. But mom doesn't like to wait, so I have to go. Bye," says Pia to Anna and Jonas, then goes to her mother and waves to them again.

Anna can still see Pia's mother swapping the leash in Pia's back for a short leash and then they go to the wash house.

"What do we want to play, do you want to climb?" Jonas then asks to break the silence.

"Uhhh ... I ... don't know?" says Anna shyly and at the moment can't imagine playing with Jonas, who has no rope and no rain suit, the way she does with Pia. She feels stupid and out of place, almost like she did at the beginning when her father brought her here. Then she looks at her hands, which are completely filthy.

"Ohh I'm sorry, if you don't want to climb with your dirty hands, then wash them quickly, there's a tap over by the house," says Jonas, pointing to the wash house where Pia and her mother have just disappeared.

Anna actually sees a tap on the wall of the house and says: "Thanks, that's a good idea, it doesn't feel good with the sand on my hands."

Then the two of them walk together from the ropeway over to the water tap and Anna pulls the rope behind her, over the gravel and sand of the playground. The rope makes a very loud noise for Anna and Anna has the feeling that the harness feels tighter than before. Fortunately, Jonas doesn't react to this.

But a good two meters before the water tap, Anna is stopped by a strong pull on her rope. The jolt she feels is distributed across the entire harness on her upper body. Surprised, Anna turns around and sees that the rope between her and the pillar is taut and that she cannot go any further in this direction. Now that Anna realizes this fact, the rope suddenly seems much shorter.

"Ohh, I'm sorry the rope doesn't reach the water," says Jonas, watching Anna thoughtfully as if he's trying to think of a solution to the problem.

"Uhhh ... yes, that's stupid ... but not your fault," says Anna and takes a step back so that the rope doesn't continue to pull on her harness.

It's very frustrating for Anna, and if she were alone she might throw another little tantrum, but in front of Jonas she manages to pull herself together and looks annoyed at the ground.

"I'll see if I can find a bucket," Jonas suddenly has an idea for the problem.

"Never mind, I don't feel like climbing any more anyway," says Anna and kicks some sand and gravel away from her again.

"Don't let it spoil your fun, it's not that bad," replies Jonas.

"That's a good thing, you're not trapped on this stupid leash ... like me!" says Anna in frustration, not daring to look at Jonas.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to ..." says Jonas, when he suddenly hears footsteps behind him in the rough gravel of the wash house and turns around.

"Ahhh Anna, I see you had a lot of fun and made some new friends too. That makes me happy for you. It was the right decision that we unloaded alone," says Anna's father and comes straight up to the two of them.

"Dad, that's embarrassing and it wasn't a good idea," says Anna, looking at her father.

Jonas looks back and forth between Anna and her father in surprise, not quite understanding what they mean.

"Yes, I see it differently" says Anna's father as he reaches his daughter and looks her up and down with a cheerful smile.

"Can you please get me out of here? ... Dad?" Anna then asks, a little annoyed.

"Have you finished playing yet?" Wolfgang asks somewhat provocatively with a smile, looking first at Jonas and then at Anna.

"I don't feel like it anymore," replies Anna.

"Okay, nice to meet you Anna, maybe we'll see you again in the next few days," says Jonas sympathetically to Anna.

"Yes, maybe without mud. Bye," says Anna with a somewhat pained smile.

"Okay, bye," says Jonas and walks slowly towards the climbing frame.

"Good, then come on my darling. We want something to eat on the boat," says Anna's father, grabs the rope on Anna's back and leads her to the post, where he takes the short line out of his pocket again and swaps the two ropes on Anna's back.

On the way to the jetty, Anna walks quietly alongside her father, who holds the leash firmly in his hand.

"Anna darling, why are you being so quiet? You had fun, don't you want to tell me about it?"

Wolfgang asks halfway through.

"Dad, I didn't have any fun. It was so embarrassing and mean to be tied up in the playground. If something had happened to me. ... And I can't even reach my cell phone in these stupid clothes. You even locked my jacket," Anna says to her father, a little plaintively.

"So Anna, you're not supposed to lie. Didn't we teach you that? ... You don't seriously believe that I left you tied up there unsupervised. We could see you almost the whole time we were taking the provisions to the ship. And it looked to me like you had a lot of fun with Pia. Which I can see from your clothes, if nothing else." Wolfgang explains his view of things to his daughter.

"But Dad ...", Anna begins and then pauses again.

Of course she had fun with Pia. But the fact that she was being watched by her parents is reassuring for Anna on the one hand, but also somewhat surprising and unexpected on the other.

"... how do you know that her name is Pia?" Anna then asks.

Her father has to smile again, "Oh Anna, this is a small harbor and Pia's parents are on the same jetty as us. Like I said, we'll keep an eye on you. You don't need to worry."

Anna thinks about her father's words and feels even more under her parents' control than ever before. They reach the jetty, where her father attaches her to the jetty's running line.

"Now, please wait here for a moment so that I can clean up the traces of all the fun you've had," says her father with a grin and turns to the water hose that is lying there ready to supply the messengers with fresh water.

"DAD, I've fallen down. That's not funny. Okay!" complains Anna, who now realizes again how dirty the clothes are that she was just picked up from the playground in at the age of 15.

"Yeah, yeah, whatever," says Wolfgang with a grin on his face and directs the jet of water from the hose at his daughter. She squeals a little, but is also pleased that her rain gear is getting clean again and that she is staying completely dry.

The whole procedure is totally embarrassing for Anna at first, but on the other hand it's also funny to be rinsed off by her father like this. Fortunately, it's not very cold and Anna is well wrapped up anyway, so she washes her hands once her rain gear is clean again.

The embarrassment has subsided somewhat and Anna's mood has risen a little as she walks with her father along the jetty to the boat, dragging the line of the jetty system behind her.

9 • Phase 2, Explorations

When Peter and Anna reach the cockpit, Birgit and Peter are below deck, still stowing provisions and equipment. Luisa is sitting on the port side, enjoying the fresh sea air and in high spirits, because the dark rain clouds have cleared and it is already much brighter.

"Hello, sis, did you have fun, like Dad promised?" Luisa says as Anna comes into the cockpit with her leash on the sled on the starboard side, followed by her father.

"Hey, that's not funny. I'm 15 already, that wasn't nice of Dad," Anna replies to her sister as she sits down opposite her. Although she is basically no longer angry with her father about the playground, she doesn't want to admit to her siblings that she did have some fun at the playground.

"What's not funny? I don't know what you did that was so nice. But Dad said you could have fun. Didn't he keep his word?" Luisa asks, looking at her father, who is about to climb into the cabin.

"Of course I kept my word, I always do. You should know that, Luisa," says Wolfgang, smiling happily at her and stroking Anna's head affectionately.

Luisa is confused and then looks at Anna, who suddenly blushes and feels a slight burning sensation on her cheeks.

"Come on, tell me what you were doing while we were stowing everything away here. I'm just curious," Luisa asks as Wolfgang climbs into the cabin.

"Um... well, I met Pia and Jonas," says Anna, not daring to look at her sister.

"Oh, yes, I just met Pia and her mother; they're three spots away. Pia is nice. So what did the three of you do? Come on, tell me. I don't usually have to drag everything out of you."

"Yess ..." Anna begins, then looks into the cabin to see if her brother is still busy. "Okay... we were at the playground behind the wash house and we were... playing."

"Yes, and what's wrong with that, why do you have to be so secretive? That's great. And you've made new friends here in the harbor," Luisa replies.

"Well, at a playground... that's childish."

"Oh, that's nonsense. There are swings for adults too, and I saw a zip line. I'd enjoy that too," Luisa replies.

"Yeah, maybe, but there's a little problem that makes it not so fun," says Anna, looking back toward the cabin.

"Yes, and what is this 'problem'?" Luisa asks, somewhat incredulous.

Anna reaches for the leash behind her in her jacket and pulls on it so that the sled it leads to rolls a little closer to her.

"Dad tied me to the playground so I couldn't leave."

Luisa's eyes widen when she hears this, but then she has to grin as she tries to imagine how that would work.

"And how were you able to play there, because you did, didn't you?"

"Yes, the leashes are very long and you can reach everything with them, but not away from the playground," explains Anna.

"Hmmm, so Pia and Jonas were also on a leash like that, then it must be part of the rules and it has to be that way. But if you could reach everything, then it's okay."

"No, Jonas didn't have a leash or one of those weird harnesses. He's with his parents at the campsite across the way and not on a boat, so he's allowed to go to the playground without one," Anna continues.

At that moment, Peter climbs out of the cabin, followed by his father, who is holding his leash in his hand.

"Who's allowed to go to the playground?" Peter immediately joins the conversation as his father attaches his leash to the sled on the port side.

"No one! ... What did you find out in the contract?" Anna immediately changes the subject, not wanting to tell her brother what she has been doing for the last hour.

"Luisa, can you please help your mother in the galley so we can eat right away," Wolfgang asks his eldest daughter. Since Luisa's harness is connected to one of the roller lines on the mast, it is easy for her to climb into the cabin without having to worry about the leash.

"Sure, Dad, I'll do that. I'm getting hungry too," she says and heads into the cabin, followed by her father.

"Why are you changing the subject? Did Dad send you to the playground?" Peter counters, turning to Anna and grinning maliciously.

"So what, at least I didn't have to work hard to put everything away," Anna replies, sticking her tongue out at her brother.

"Did you dig in the sandbox? That would explain your clothes," Peter continues to tease her.

"Ha ha... just wait until Dad ties you up there, then you won't be laughing anymore!"

Peter's face turns pale and he suddenly stops grinning.

"Tied up? On the playground with a leash? There's no water there, and you can't do anything useful there," Peter said, staring at Anna with his mouth open.

"Oh yes, the leashes there are over 10 meters long and you can reach everything except the sandbox," Anna says matter-of-factly, feeling good about seeing her brother so shocked. Even if it means deviating from her previous intention not to tell her brother about it.

"Why not?"

"Well, because there's no sandbox, it's that simple. And what would I do with a sandbox?" Anna replies.

"OK, OK... so you really were... so Dad really tied you to one of those leashes there. There are several?" he asks, not quite believing what Anna is telling him.

"Yes, I guess about 12, so you can't get away, but you can do everything there is to do on the playground."

Peter remembers what he read in the contract, "Oh man, they're really serious about this, even at the harbor."

"What do you mean? 'They'. Have you read the contract?" Anna asks curiously.

"Yes, we found that in the insurance policy. Mom and Dad knew all about it beforehand. The fact that they have to tie us down with these straps is a requirement of the insurance company. ... But at the playground in the harbor? Seriously?" Peter is horrified, and Anna can only shrug her shoulders.

"And you couldn't untie it? Wasn't there anyone else who could help you?"

"Nope. ... Well, yes, there was Pia and Jonas. But Pia was also on a leash," Anna replies.

"And Jonas wasn't?"

"No, he's from the campsite, they don't have that there."

Peter shakes his head, "This is all crazy. Open your jacket, I want to see if we can get it off. This can't be true."

Anna stands up briefly, reaches for the zipper of her jacket, and then sits back down. "Um... there's another problem," she says hesitantly.

Peter looks at her in surprise again and Anna explains to Peter that her father used the crotch strap on the jacket to prevent her from getting to her cell phone. And the salesman gave him something so she couldn't open it herself.

In the next few minutes, Anna stands up so that Peter can take a closer look at the mechanism.

"Damn, I can't open it either. There's a hole there, so something must be inserted to get it open again," Peter then realizes.

"Yes, exactly, you're right, son. And it's also designed so that you can't do it yourself," says Wolfgang, who is already halfway out of the cabin. Peter lets go of Anna's jacket and turns around in alarm.

"Dad, that's ridiculous, we're almost grown up and you're locking Anna's jacket. It's stopped raining and the sun is about to come out again. That's absurd."

"Peter, I understand that you have to get used to the rules here first. That's why I see it as helpful for you that we have control over this. It's much easier for you to stick to the rules when you're **almost** grown up. Besides, it wouldn't be a problem if Anna just asked me if I could take her jacket off for her." This is how Wolfgang explains his point of view.

Peter, who had already taken off his jacket in the cabin, throws his arms up and snorts with anger, which is exacerbated when he feels the straps between his legs more intensely than he has for the past hour. But then he realizes that he shouldn't argue with his father about it, so he sits back down and crosses his arms angrily in front of his harness.

Anna has listened attentively to the brief argument and now also notices the change in the weather and suddenly feels the urge to take off her jacket. Before, it was more a matter of principle when she let Peter look at the fastener.

But the way her brother has just described the situation, she feels uncomfortable asking him directly. Especially since she feels how restrictive it is to have to ask in the first place. So she sits back down and looks thoughtfully at her feet. Of course, this does not go unnoticed by her father, and so he makes the suggestion himself.

"Would you like to take off your jacket now, my angel?"

Anna looks up at her father and is glad that he asks her, even if it is still a little humiliating.

Nevertheless, she nods her head gratefully and stands up so that her father can reach the fastener. He takes an object out of his pocket and approaches the crotch of Anna's jacket to open it.

"Thanks, Dad," she says quietly.

"Of course, my angel, please don't think that we don't realize how difficult this experience is for you. But Mom and I also see it as a valuable life experience for you to step out of your comfort zone for these three weeks. This will happen many times in your lives. Here, you still have the opportunity for us to accompany you. Later in life, this will no longer be the case," Wolfgang explains to the two teenagers.

Peter is still a little angry, but nods reverently to his father. While Anna is still taking in his words, she already begins to take off her jacket.

"Wait, I have to unfasten the strap at the back so you can take it off completely," says her father, sensing that neither of them has understood. But the vacation has only just begun. So he quickly unfastens the strap on Anna's harness after reaching into his pocket again and immediately fastens it back on once Anna has taken off her jacket.

"Okay, kids, we're going to eat out here, so could you both please set up the table. It should be in one of the storage boxes under your seats," Wolfgang continues cheerfully and then disappears back into the cabin.

Anna and Peter glance at each other briefly, and Peter can now see the tight harness around Anna's upper body. Just like his black straps, the red straps run over the colorful PVC of the rain suit, and the whole situation becomes even clearer to him as they are both trapped in it.

"Turn around, Anna, I want to take a closer look at that thing. I couldn't even get to it on myself," Peter then says to his sister.

"Come on, let's set the table first. Dad's right about us needing to gain experience," Anna says, a little more conciliatory.

"What stupid experiences? I'll make sure no one ties me up when I'm 'all' grown up," Peter replies confidently.

"That's not what Dad meant. He's talking about unpleasant experiences and challenges in general."

"Yeah, yeah, whatever... blah blah," says Peter, grabbing a D-ring on Anna's harness and pulling on it so that she has to turn around.

Anna lets him do it and shows Peter her back. He then pulls on various straps and looks at the fasteners. Anna feels how the straps hold her tightly and how someone pulling on them can control her. It's a strange, exciting but also frightening feeling. Especially when Peter pulls on the leash to see how it's attached.

"Damn. It's all stainless steel and I just can't see the release mechanism," Peter says disappointedly. Anna turns back and says to her brother, "Never mind, Peter, we'll have plenty of time to look at it later. I'm hungry, so let's set the table."

Peter then puts down Anna's dishes and they both look for the table and set it up. Shortly afterwards, Luisa brings the first items for dinner from the cabin, so Anna and Peter are busy setting the table.

A short time later, the whole family is sitting at the table in the cockpit eating dinner. Anna has to tell her mother how she got on at the playground. Since she leaves out the problems with the leash and the minor accident on the cable car, she doesn't mind so much. On the contrary, she is happy to be able to talk about it and tell them about her day. Peter can't help but grin occasionally, but the prospect of ending up in the same situation himself during the vacation keeps him from making jokes about it.

After Anna has eaten enough, Peter and Wolfgang are not yet finished with their meal, and Anna remembers her cell phone again and that she hasn't checked her social media messages in a long time. So she reaches for her chest, where the cell phone is still located, but under a smooth PVC layer, which in turn is held tightly to her body by the harness. Anna immediately remembers the situation on the swing. But now that she is no longer wearing her jacket, she tries again to reach her cell phone.

She is sitting opposite her mother and next to Luisa. First, Anna tries to reach behind the PVC of her rain suit from above her neck. To do this, she has to move slightly to the side so as not to hit Luisa with her arm. When that doesn't work, Anna pulls on the strap above her breasts with her left hand and then tries to reach behind it with her right hand. That is also unsuccessful.

"Can we help you, sweetheart? Is there something wrong with your strap?" her mother suddenly asks. Anna pauses and notices how everyone else in her family is staring at her. She immediately stops and feels her ears burning with embarrassment.

"Um... my phone is in the pocket of my overalls and I just wanted to see if any of my friends had contacted me," says Anna, without mentioning the obvious.

Her mother smiles from ear to ear.

"Mom, it's not funny, I couldn't get to it at the playground," Anna says to her mother and pulls on the straps again. Just to point out the real problem.

"Anna, wouldn't it have been very rude to Pia and Jonas if you had played on your cell phone there?" Wolfgang then asks the provocative question.

"When I wanted to use my phone, Pia wasn't even there yet," Anna defends herself.

"Okay, but I have to say, I'm really glad that the protective equipment obviously protects against other dangers than it's actually intended for," says her father, unable to suppress a grin.

"Ohh Dad, that's mean. It's only 8 p.m. and I still have an hour of screen time left, and you still won't let me use my cell phone? This is all stupid," Anna says frustratedly.

"Now don't be so stubborn, sweetheart. Look, the sun is coming out again. You should enjoy that instead of always thinking about your phone," says Birgit, pointing to the sun, which is already very low in the sky and suddenly bathes the harbor in a warm red light.

"Yes, that's great, but can I still have my phone back before nine o'clock? ... Please ... First of all, it's vacation, and secondly, I haven't had it the whole time," Anna argues.

"Now let's not get carried away, young lady. We drove for six hours and you spent almost the entire time playing with your Switch and your cell phone, so you had more than enough time with those things. And there's one more thing I'd like to say to you, Peter, and Luisa about cell phones: if it falls overboard, it's gone forever. So you should be grateful for this little protective measure, which gives you less opportunity to put it at risk." Wolfgang explains the advantages of the restrictions.

"Well, Dad is absolutely right, I don't want to hear any whining when you lose something, so remember Dad's words. Nevertheless, we should tidy up now and then freshen up, because I think it will take some time to get our bunks ready and it's been a long day. I don't want the children to fall asleep before they're in their bunks," says Birgit, addressing the last sentence more to her husband. The parents then return to the cabin and Luisa is again tasked with bringing the things inside the cabin on the retractable leash. Anna and Peter are only left with the task of handing their sister things from the table and putting it away again at the end.

Anna's annoyance at still not being able to get her cell phone fades into the background while she is busy, but when the two are finished, they sit across from each other again and look at each other's harnesses.

"Peter, could you turn around, please? I'd like to see how it works. Maybe the straps can be made longer. In the harbor master's office, it wasn't as tight around the chest as it is now. So he tightened it afterwards, which means it should be possible to loosen it again," Anna explains to her brother. He is not convinced, but does her a favor and allows Anna to examine his harness from behind. She can see for herself that the adjustment mechanism is blocked by the locked buckles and that, even with good visibility, there is no way for her to lengthen the straps or open anything.

After some time of unsuccessfully examining each other's harnesses, Luisa comes out of the cabin again, obviously having changed her clothes. She is now wearing a comfortable dark blue cotton tracksuit. However, she is still wearing the harness over it, which stands out starkly against the blue with its bright red straps. The crotch strap presses Luisa's otherwise loose-fitting pants tightly into her crotch. Peter finds the sight somewhat alarming, but his sister doesn't seem to have a big problem with it.

Immediately after Luisa, her father also comes out of the cabin and uses his key to swap Peter and Luisa's lines so that Luisa can sit outside with Anna in the cockpit and they can both watch the sun sinking lower and lower. Peter, on the other hand, goes into the cabin with his father.

Inside, Birgit is still busy tidying up and cleaning the galley.

"Okay, Peter, we're all going to the washhouse to freshen up for the night. The girls want to take a shower, so they're putting on something light. Please gather everything you need, and I'll clear the dishes so you can get changed," Wolfgang explains the plan to his son. Meanwhile, he first attaches the line connected to the rail in the floor to Peter's back so that Peter doesn't have to drag the roller line from the mast behind him in the cabin. Peter finds all this effort with the constant changing of the leashes totally unnecessary and is annoyed by it. However, he has decided not to discuss it further for now and is happy that his father is about to remove the stupid thing from his body.

After rummaging around in his travel bag for a while and gathering everything he needs for the washhouse, Peter says to his father, "Can you take it off now, please? I have everything."

His father then goes over to him and Peter turns his back to him. First, his father loosens the leash and then nothing happens for a moment until Peter feels his father jiggling the buckles and pulling on the crotch strap, increasing the uncomfortable pressure between his legs. Then Peter feels the pressure ease and the Y-strap between his legs swing forward. An indescribable feeling of liberation flows through Peter and he exhales deeply. But his chest is still tightly encircled, the rain suit still

pulls a little in his crotch, yet he feels his best part has more freedom again. Shortly afterwards, the buckles on the belly and chest straps also pop open and the pressure on Peter's upper body is gone. Then he can shake the harness forward over his arms and his father takes it in his hand.

"OK Peter, put on what you need so I can put it back on you."

Peter responds with a short "Yes." But the thought of his father strapping that stupid thing back on him immediately sends a small shiver down his spine.

In the next step, however, Peter slowly begins to unzip the rain suit at the shoulders and pull it down, allowing air to reach his body again. Peter feels especially how his best piece gets even more space. He also has the feeling that his penis is expanding a little. It's not a full erection, but it feels as if it had been squeezed out before and is now filling up again. It's a very good and liberating feeling.

Peter is then instructed by his father to hang the rain suit on a hook next to the entrance hatch, where his big sister's is already hanging. Then Peter stands there again in his shorts and T-shirt, just as he had spent the car ride and the shopping trip.

"OK, Dad, I think I'll take a shower and then put on something new," Peter says to his father, looking at him somewhat helplessly, because his father is still holding the harness in his hand and Peter realizes that he is about to be strapped into it again. The experience of the last three hours and the feelings he had less than two minutes ago when he was freed from it make Peter's heart beat faster.

"OK, son, please raise your arms," Peter's father instructs him.

With a deep sigh, Peter complies and raises his arms. It is an oppressive feeling as his father approaches with the harness. Because unlike the situation in the harbor master's office, Peter now knows what to expect and how nice it is without this thing. But his father doesn't hesitate and quickly slides it over his shoulders, then quickly reconnects the buckles at the back. Immediately, the slight pressure on his upper body returns. His father obviously hasn't changed any settings and has just reattached the buckles. But when his father reaches between his legs for the crotch strap hanging down at the front, Peter has a slightly different feeling. The two straps are placed back on the right and left sides of Peter's groin, and he feels the thin fabric of his pants being stretched and pulled over his genitals. Then his father pulls a little harder on the back of the strap to move it toward the buckle.

"Sssss... Stop, Dad, it's too tight. It's squeezing everything together," Peter complains immediately. His father pauses and loosens the strap for a moment.

"That can't be, you haven't grown any taller in the last 5 minutes. So don't be such a baby," his father replies.

"Yeah, okay, maybe. But please wait a moment," says Peter, then jiggles the lap belt to pull it down as far as possible. This causes the shoulder straps to tighten slightly. Peter then reaches into his crotch and tries to arrange everything a little more comfortably and pull a little more fabric from his pants legs over the two straps.

"Okay, Dad, now try again, but slowly, please."

Immediately afterwards, Peter feels his father tighten the belt again, and right after that, he hears a metallic click, which makes it clear to Peter that he is locked back into the harness. However, Peter is immediately distracted from any further feelings between his legs, as his father sends him straight outside into the cockpit, holding his leash in his hand and following him. Outside, he is tied to Anna's leash and Anna goes into the cabin with her father so that she can finally get to her cell phone.

Anna's father does the same thing. Only after she has gathered everything she needs for a shower—she has also opted for a loose-fitting tracksuit—does her father release the leash from her harness. When the crotch strap comes loose and swings forward, she feels a great sense of relief. Even after the straps around her upper body come loose, she takes a deep breath. But when she starts to take off her rain suit and everything is ventilated again, she suddenly has a strange feeling. She feels that something has been taken from her that had been there the whole time for the last three hours. And she is irritated by this, because she hated it the whole time. But now it was gone and she seemed to

miss it. Anna doesn't want to allow this thought, however, and shakes herself briefly, and the strange shiver down her spine is immediately gone.

She hangs her rain suit next to her siblings' and reaches for her overalls to take them off, but then she feels her cell phone and is immediately distracted. So she picks it up and unlocks the screen with a quick flick of her wrist. There are three new messages.

"Anna, please, you can't be serious!" says her father immediately, who is still standing in the cabin with her harness in his hand, waiting for Anna to get changed.

"Yes... uh, no... I just need to read this quickly," Anna replies, somewhat absent-mindedly.

"That's out of the question, young lady. Either you put your phone in the front cabin now, or I'll put it in my bag until tomorrow evening!" her mother says unexpectedly sternly, already drying her hands because she's finished in the galley.

"Ohhh, Mom... when we get back from showering, it'll be after 9 p.m. and my phone will be locked, that's mean," Anna replies, letting her hands hang down with the phone.

"Anna, you've already pushed your luck today, don't overdo it," her mother replies, looking at her sternly.

Anna realizes the seriousness of the situation and turns away in annoyance so she can throw her cell phone through the door of the bow cabin onto the bed there. Then she begins to unfasten the straps of her overalls and take them off as well. While she is changing, she continues to negotiate with her mother, trying to get her to agree to an extension after 9 p.m. Her mother is cheerful and in a good mood again, but she doesn't make any promises.

When she finally has on a tracksuit similar to Luisa's, she turns to her father and holds her arms up so that he can put the harness back on her. On the one hand, she hopes that her swift cooperation will appease her mother about the cell phone, but on the other hand, she is surprised at herself. She suddenly realizes that, without thinking about it, she is once again putting herself in the clutches of the hated harness. This becomes particularly clear when her father begins to fasten the buckles at her back and the familiar slight pressure on her upper body returns. When the crotch strap is also fastened, Anna shakes herself a little in the hope of making it more comfortable, but instead it feels unexpectedly familiar.

However, when her father reattaches the leash and takes Anna outside to the cockpit, her contempt for the harness returns, along with the certainty that she will not go anywhere without her parents' permission. Once all three children are back outside and attached to their leashes, the parents also get ready to visit the wash house.

Afterwards, they all leave the Anna-Maria via the bow. First, Wolfgang steps onto the jetty to welcome Luisa and then Peter and attach them to their leashes. Anna is the second to last to step onto the jetty and is held on a leash by her father until Birgit is also on the jetty to take over Anna's leash.

When everyone starts walking towards land, Anna snuggles up to her mother, who puts her arm around her daughter. Anna can only feel the harness, but no longer that she is being led on a leash, which feels much better.

At the end of the jetty, everyone has to stop briefly so that Wolfgang can take Peter and Luisa's leashes off the jetty's running leash. This allows him to lead them both to the wash house.

Peter is still annoyed by all the hassle caused by the stupid belts and is therefore not talking much at the moment. On the way, the parents are already planning the next morning and discussing who can buy bread rolls, but the fact that none of the children can do it is not openly addressed, as it is obvious to the parents.

When they arrive at the wash house, the family splits up again and Peter and Wolfgang go together to the men's shower and washing area, while Birgit, Luisa, and Anna go to the women's area. At this time of day, there are no other families in the showers, so the three of them have plenty of space.

There is only one slightly older lady there, who is just doing her hair.

Birgit has Luisa and Anna's towels in her hand as she enters the shower room. On one side are some wooden benches and above them a long row of hooks. The layout reminds Anna a little of the changing room in her school's sports hall. Anna and Luisa put their backpacks with their shower

supplies on the bench, while Birgit hangs the hand strap of Anna's leash over one of the hooks on the wall.

"Okay Luisa, I'll start with you," says her mother, pulling slightly on her leash to bring Luisa into a position where she can easily reach the buckles behind her back to open the harness. Anna stands there, not knowing what to do; she can't start undressing, and the fact that her mother has hung the leash over one of the hooks makes her feel controlled and dependent. When she used to go to the swimming pool with her mother and change in the locker room, she had been able to change herself for many years. Now she feels transported back to the time when her mother or even her big sister still had to help her. But here, her mother even has to help her big sister.

Anna's gaze wanders between the hooks on which her leash hangs and her big sister, who is being freed from her harness, and she bites her lip slightly. The memory of her early childhood is beautiful, but the dependence she feels here is also frightening, as she is currently in a phase where she is striving for independence.

"Oh, are you falling asleep already, sweetheart? It's your turn," Anna suddenly hears from a distance and is torn from her thoughts as her mother pulls on her leash to get her into position to take off her harness.

"No, Mom, I... um... I was just thinking," Anna replies honestly.

"Well, I thought you were already dreaming. Maybe you should go straight to your bunk and sleep tonight after the long car ride," her mother says jokingly.

"Hey, what else am I supposed to do when you tie me to the wall like this?"

"Should I just drop the leash on the floor? I only hung it on the hook," her mother replies, already unfastening Anna's crotch strap.

A small wave of relief washes over Anna and stops her from continuing the conversation, as Anna's attention is fully focused on undoing the harness. She is glad that it is coming loose again and relieving the physical pressure on her. Removing the harness is just as intense for Anna as putting it on. Of course she hates the thing, how she was restrained with it on the playground and how embarrassing it was in front of Jakob. But now that her mother has it in her hand and hangs it on a hook next to Luisa's, she has to stare at it for a moment.

Is there something she likes about it?

No, that thought is absurd to Anna, she doesn't want to allow it and turns her gaze away in disbelief and begins to get ready for the shower. All three go about their routines and freshen up, brush their teeth, and nothing reminds them of the rules that apply outside in the harbor and on the boat. Anna is the first to finish and sits waiting on the bench while Birgit and Luisa dry their hair.

She is annoyed that she didn't take her cell phone with her, but that would have increased the risk of losing it when transferring between the boat and the jetty. A brief thought makes her want to jump up and go to the boat alone to have more time for her cell phone, but then her gaze falls back on the two harnesses hanging silently from the hooks, waiting to bring her and her sister back under the control of the rules and their parents.