



Amanda sat down at the kitchen table and cried. Thomas was gone. There was nothing she could do about it, he was gone and **that was that**. But it **hurt**. She cried until she thought her heart would break. Five wonderful years together. Five happy, golden years. And now things would never be the same again.

She remembered the first time she saw him, with his beautiful blue eyes and his **handsome** face. She had loved him from that very first moment. Love **at first sight**. And he had felt the same way. He loved her and she loved him, and they hadn't needed anyone else. There had been no-one else for five years. They had done so many things together. Walks in the park, **holding hands**. Meals together. **Laughter** and kisses. So much love. He had given her wonderful **presents** which she would keep for ever.

OK, he was quite **hard work** sometimes. Of course, she did everything for him. All the washing and cleaning and cooking. She was happy to do everything for him – he had such a lovely smile.

OK, sometimes he got a bit angry and **shouted**. Like that time in a café, when things had got a bit out of control and she could feel all the other **customers** looking at them. Once he had **hit** her on the nose and



that was that und das war's • **to hurt (hurt, hurt)** wehtun • **handsome** gut aussehend • **at first sight** auf den ersten Blick • **to hold hands** Händchen halten • **laughter** Gelächter • **presents** Geschenke • **hard work** *hier*: harter Brocken • **to shout** schreien • **customer** Kunde • **to hit (hit, hit)** schlagen

made it **bleed**. And there was the time when he **bit** her face. Quite hard. **But still**, it was only normal. Her **fault**, probably. And he had said “sorry” so sweetly and kissed her so **gently**. How could she **stay** angry with him? The good times were so good that the bad times were soon forgotten.

He hadn’t wanted to go, but she had stayed strong and **calm**. “It’s for the best. You have to go. You’ll be fine,” she had said as she walked away.

And what would she do, now that he was gone? “You’re free at last,” her best friend had said. Maybe she was right. Time for a new beginning. A fresh start. Maybe she could get a **part-time** job. Or do a course and learn something new. Or a new hobby.

Of course she would miss Thomas, but she could do so many things now that she had more time. And **after all**, he wouldn’t be gone for ever.

She would see him again at the end of the school day. His first day at school. A big day for them **both**. ♦

Info

Children start school at a younger age in England than in many other European countries. Most children start **full-time school** between their fourth and fifth birthdays.

to bleed (bled, bled) bluten • **to bite (bit, bitten)** beißen • **but still** aber dennoch • **fault** Schuld • **gently** sanft • **to stay** bleiben • **calm** ruhig • **part-time** Teilzeit • **after all** schließlich • **both** beide • **full-time school** Ganztagschule