

From the collection “Narcosis”

1992

She crouches down outside the “Poppy” café
Through the blurry window, chickens on a spit can be seen
turning meditatively
Mum, I really can’t walk anymore
An hour later, a smiling surgeon paws her stomach
His eyes are blue lakes
Here’s a little laughing gas: now you won’t be so frightened
I’m not going to die
A huge black whirlpool pulls her in
Four hours later, she remembers her name
She’s eleven years old
A night of brutal pain
Liquid pouring soundlessly out of the catheter
Old women groaning all around her
She’s in the adults’ ward
She has been in the adults’ ward for some time now
The hospital is becoming more real than home
At the hospital, no one listens behind the door while she pees
At the hospital, only women touch her bottom
When she gets home, she cries

1997

Check her pupils, is she on drugs?

Check for lice

Look at how her face is painted

Probably got a screw loose

I was at the carnival at the Art School

My friend drew squares on my face

And then you fell over, drunk

No, I wasn't drunk

I was pushed

Who pushed you?

I don't know

I was running down the stairs

She's definitely got a screw loose

I'm telling you, I was pushed by one of the five men I had just escaped from

Good morning

Lieutenant Leja here

Say it, you were raped, weren't you

I escaped

Doctor, in my opinion the victim should undergo a medical examination

I don't need to be examined

Please, I'd rather you told me why I can't move my left arm

Everything in order

Why were you alone at night in a dark courtyard?

I wasn't alone, I was with Jānis before he left

Then two men lifted me by the armpits and three men followed us

I ended up in the courtyard because I was carried there

What happened after that?

After that they surrounded me and I was in the middle

After that

After that I escaped

That's impossible

I came at two of them with my fists and I ran through

Then they ran after me, down the stairs

After that I don't remember

I woke up crashed into a wall

Doctor, will I still be able to play the piano?

My left arm and shoulder won't move

Why did you wait so long before doing anything?

The police don't believe you

Are you sure that's how it all was?

That's how it all was

Ask the man who found me

He's my mum's husband

How did he come to be there?

Because he works at the Art School

Does my mum know what's happened to me?

Mum, don't cry now

Nothing too bad is wrong with me
Everything will be OK
They'll put me back together in the operation
You'll see, everything will be OK
And my head will heal
Mum

Doctor, I'm terrified
I really want to live this time

Wake up, wake up
The operation's over
Try to relax
It hurts, that means you're alive

2005

First you need to go to the office window to pay
45 lats
Through that door in front of you
Ward 6
You'll be next
Have you eaten?

Why have you decided to do this?

I already have 3 children

There's no money for a fourth

Of course

My husband won't let me

He wants his freedom

But you already have a big belly

Yes

5 months

Couldn't come sooner

The woman who will be next doesn't talk and cries into a pillow

The woman who is next lies on the table and gasps hysterically

Relax

It's too late

When you wake up, it'll all be over

1 new text message received

Jānis: please let me know when you regain consciousness

2007

Bend your back into a square

I said, make a square shape with your back

I don't understand

What don't you understand?

How old are you, if you don't understand?

Do you want me to mess up your injection?

Ssh, ssh

Give her something to calm her down

Don't cry, or we can't give you your shot

Where's my husband?

We had an agreement

Little girl, I'm the only one who makes agreements here

Doctor Gailis

What are all these amateur dramatics about?

This is an operating theatre, not a service station

Everything will be fine
We'll start straight away

Can you feel your legs?

I can't feel anything

Scalpel

Scissors

Let's sew her up

Congratulations

You have a healthy baby

Truth waltzes in 4/4

Mothers' hearts stand still

For their scorned daughters