

Sight translation

Exercise 6

Sight translation: test language to English

I am a friend of Kevin Miller, and have been for the last fifteen years. We were altar boys together and when Danny was born, I was asked to be his godfather. Danny had just turned five when he died with his mother at the hands of a psychopath.

Everyone asks me why Kevin has not been in court for the trial of his wife and son's killer. The answer is this: the defence lawyer subpoenaed Kevin as a witness and witnesses are not allowed in court before they testify. So, Kevin waits for me at home for me to arrive with the daily news, before he reads the paper and before the CBC news at 6 p.m.

In my friendship with Kevin, his face has always shown a hint of mischief and bright eyes that were always full of life. That face and those eyes have changed. The eyes are hollow, empty and sometimes tears flow freely, uncontrollable. The man I knew no longer exists.

I arrive at his home after each day in court and to the best of my ability I tell him of the day's events, the brutal details of the crime. I tell him the truth, the hardest being the brutality of the wound to his son's throat and the many wounds of Helen, his wife of ten years. Then we watch the news and the following day he reads the newspaper when I go to court. I have no words to describe the tragedy Kevin Miller has suffered.

256 words