

The Earthquake

Elizabeth Laird



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1.1 What's the book about?

What do you know about earthquakes? Talk to other students and make notes here.

Notes

The ground moves.



1.2 What happens first?

1 Look at the picture on page 1. What do you think?

a What is the young man thinking?

.....

b What is the young woman thinking?

.....



2 Look at the picture on page 2.

a What is the younger man thinking?

.....

b What is the older man thinking?

.....

c Which man do you like more? Why?

.....



Two Tickets

'I want to tell you something about Marco. He's rich, but he's a bad man. You're being stupid, Silvia.'

Gabriel had a kind face and intelligent brown eyes. He usually had a friendly smile. But there was no smile on his face today. He wasn't happy.

'I'd like to be as rich as Marco,' he thought. 'But I'm only good old Gabriel. Silvia likes me. I know she does. She thinks I'm kind and nice. But she thinks I'm boring too. Boring old Gabriel, that's me.'

Gabriel had two tickets for a film. There was a red **rose** on the table in his sitting-room. He took the rose and the tickets and went out.

An hour later, Gabriel arrived at the door of Silvia's flat. When she opened the door, she didn't smile at him.

'Oh, hello,' she said. 'What ... er ... ?'



rose /rəʊz/ (n) A rose is a beautiful garden flower. There are red roses, white roses, and roses in other colours too.

‘Don’t you remember, Silvia?’ said Gabriel. ‘It’s Sunday evening. We’re going to the cinema. I’ve got the tickets. It’s that great new film. You said ...’

‘What do you mean?’ said Silvia. ‘I can’t go out with you this evening. I’m busy. I don’t remember ...’

‘But I called you on Thursday!’ Gabriel said. ‘You wanted to come!’

Silvia pushed her beautiful dark hair out of her eyes. She didn’t look at Gabriel.

‘Oh dear,’ she said. ‘That was stupid of me. I’m really sorry. Please don’t be angry, Gabriel. Come back tomorrow. We’ll go to the film tomorrow.’

She began to shut the door.

‘Silvia,’ Gabriel said angrily, ‘you’re going out with Marco! I know you are! I want to tell you something about Marco. He’s rich, but he’s a bad man. You’re being stupid, Silvia.’

He stopped. Silvia wasn’t there. ‘I’m talking to the door,’ he thought

angrily. He looked at the rose in his hand. Then he threw it onto the ground.

Behind him, he heard a quiet laugh. He turned. There was a man on the stairs. His clothes were expensive, and there were twenty red roses in his hand. It was Marco.

‘Oh dear, Gabriel,’ Marco laughed. ‘Is she busy tonight? Doesn’t she want to go out with you? *I’ll* try now. Perhaps she’ll go out with *me*.’

Gabriel didn’t answer. He walked quickly away and went down to the street.





It was a hot Sunday evening. There was no wind. A lot of people were in the street. They sat in the parks and drank in the cafés. Young men and women talked and laughed. Gabriel didn't want to look at them. He felt too unhappy.

He took out the two tickets.

'I paid for them,' he thought, 'and it's a wonderful film. I'll go without her! I'm not going to think about Silvia Delgado. I'll go and see the film, and I'll enjoy it.'

The Plaza cinema was a big, old building in the centre of town. The doors weren't open, so there were a lot of people outside. Gabriel waited with them.

When the doors opened, people went quickly inside to the ticket office. But Gabriel had his ticket, so he waited outside.

It was 8.27 p.m. And at that minute, the **earthquake** happened.

earthquake /'ɜːθkweɪk/ (n) When there is an *earthquake*, the ground moves. Buildings often move too.

The Earthquake

Elizabeth Laird

British English

Original

Gabriel loves Silvia, but Silvia loves Marco. Marco wears expensive clothes and drives a fast car. He is more exciting than Gabriel. Then, one evening, something terrible happens. It changes the lives of everybody in the city. Where are Marco and Gabriel? And what will happen to Silvia?

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