1

- Hi, Jesse, I was always wondering what art means to you? I know you are an artist but we haven`t ever talked about it. I brought it up for I`m a journalist and my editor gave me an assignment to write an article “What is art?”

- What a surprise to hear that you were even interested in art that much! We could have talked about it months ago if you had asked!

- You know I don`t have much time for a chit-chat with my job! And I was always interested in art since I`m a journalist. Journalism is literature in a hurry. Anyway what does it mean to you?

- I don`t know where to begin. First of all art is my whole life. It`s me. It`s my perception of the world. I`m a painter, so if I see a beautiful girl`s face I immediately start imagining how I would draw her, how the light is playing on her pupils, how I would depict her carefree smile. Sometimes I can even run into something due to it.

- Wow. This is very beautiful! You know, Kate, I feel the same since I`m not only a journalist but also a writer. Every time something interesting happens to me or if I meet an extraordinary person I start writing an imaginary note and store it in my memory palace. Art definitely changes your personality dramatically! My friends think I`m a little bit kooky when I make notes while everybody is partying!

- Yes. True story. I don`t know who I would be if not an artist. It`s everything for me. But the sad part is that we have to make money somehow and art doesn`t really pay much unless you are an illustrious artist.

- Oh, tell me about it. I`m trying to get my poems and short stories published but it doesn`t happen overnight. I`m wondering why these stupid chick-lit writers make tonnes of money! It`s not even literature.

- Exactly! I`ve been to a gallery opening recently and saw something I don`t even dare to call a painting! And it is sold for two thousand pounds! They simply forgot what real art is.

- It`s called globalisatoin and standartisation of art. It`s when art goes mainstream and is produced only for mass consumption. And so-called art-house and underground art are never got paid. We only can hope that the real art will be appreciated by the next generation.

- Stop! I don`t think you are entirely right. There are some artists who are both very talented and rich. Take Picasso and Dali for example. I think there`s a place for mainstream as well as “real art”. Anyway everything is relative and who are we to judge what is real and what is not? Time will tell.

- Ok, Maybe you are right. Art caters to the audience. We are nothing without people who like what we do. Maybe it`s us who need to adjust. And I have to admit that not all chick-lit is garbage. Brigitte Johns is pretty decent.

- See? So it doesn`t mean that all the one-day writers will be known in 50 years. They may make money now but they definitely are not going to contribute much the grand scheme of things artistic.

- It makes me feel so much better! I`m kidding. The point is that we need food now not after we die. So I`m going to finish the article very quickly and start sending my writings to publishers again.

2

* Hi Alice, I heard you got a new job! My congrats! What is it exactly?
* Yeah I`m very excited about it! I`m going to work as a PR manager in a creative agency. It`s a very serious position. I`m a big girl now with my own desk and even employees!
* So you are my colleague now. I work as a journalist for a TV company and I also do freelance work in prints. It`s pretty exciting also but I must say I started to look differently on many things.
* How so?
* You know, when you see that many things we watch on TV are fake, commercials, ads, programs, even movies are conceived to brainwash people! It just makes me sad.
* Well, it`s normal. Mass media controls all aspects of your life. You journalists feed people news and very often you make them up in favour of who pays you more. And people believe because it`s all they get. But web development made it easier to get the truth for those who want to hear it. Take Wikileaks. It`s an independent source of top secret information about political and economical situations in the world. Have you heard of it?
* Yes I did. And I think it`s its founder Assange is just another fabricated hero. I don`t buy it.
* Well, it`s our choice which lie to believe. You are right it`s very depressive. Mass media even tells us what books to read, who to like and hate. Have you read 1984 by G. Orwell? It`s very inquisitive. I think our world is going to the point when everything and everyone is completely controlled. Even the language. In this novel real, proper English was placed by the newspeak and many words were diminished. I think this is not quite fictional. It seems like a prophecy. TV speakers make mistakes and use slang all the time! And I saw so many grammatically incorrect posts on facebook with all these shortenings and acronyms! I can`t even understand what they are taking about! Do you know what LMAO means? Or LMS?
* Oh yeah, I know. My sister is 16 she taught me this teenagers` “newspeak” LMAO means “laugh my ass off” and LMS – “like my status” I know it`s a shame but it`s how the new generation lives. I hope they teach them proper language at school.
* Me too. I`m an idealist and believe that it is in our hands to preserve the future and the language.
* True, I`m as a journalist will try to do my best. I still think that print is not as rotten as TV. And TV is trying to keep their face and don`t use slang or shortenings in the news and serious programs. It`s all about TV shows and cartoons. They are the root of evil. Anyway social networks and the web in general are the worst.
* You are right. I`m not going to let my kids browse the web till they are 18. I think the government should adopt a law about it.
* They won`t. It`s in their interest to make people stupid so they are easy to manipulate.

3

* Hello, Kate! How have you been doing? I`ve heard that you are moving out from your parents. Isn`t it too early? You `ve just turned 18.
* Hi, yeah, I know, but I can`t take this family feud anymore. They are from a different generation and there are no chances they can understand me as a person. They make fun of my clothes all the time and call the music I listen to a machine gun fire and criticize me all the time. They don`t understand what Gothic means to me. The subculture I`m in perfectly reflects my personality and they don`t get it. I just can`t take it anymore!
* Ok, I understand although I don`t have that sort of problems with my family. I think it`s because I`m quiet and graduated from the university they chose for me and now I work for family business as they always wanted me to.
* Look, here it is. No offence but it seems like you can get along with your parents only if you deprive yourself of your personality, forget all your dreams and just do what you are told.
* Yeah, maybe, But I was always a good girl, you know. I`m happy when they are happy.
* I don`t know. I just hate being young, being treated like a child all the time. People don`t care how smart and intelligent I am. It`s enough to look at my passport and say “oh, you are just 18 call us in a couple of years from now” I had so many troubles getting a job you may not believe! I can get only waitress job at this time. They don`t even consider students of my age for serious positions. I could be a secretary or a translator, but only one thing they care about is my age. They don`t care if I know 3 languages fluently. Oh, God, I`m sick and tired of it.
* To be honest with you I think employers don`t really look at your age they look at the way you dress. Look at yourself! Would you hire a girl with 3 tattoos, piercing and cemetery outfit? Maybe drawing the line between your hobbies, desires, personal life and business is a deal-breaker. I think you should become mature and I completely agree with your parents. It`s just so childish all these subcultures.
* If I`m childish so what`s criteria of maturity according to your opinion?
* I have only one – responsibility. It`s what distinguishes adults from kids. You have to be responsible for yourself, you family, all the decisions you make and all the words you say. So you are not responsible at all. How do you think you are going to pay for your own place? You don`t even have a steady income yet. I suggest you reconsider your immature decision.
* Maybe you are right. Probably I just rebel because I want to hurt my parents` feelings. I think I should go back to college and put on something decent at least for interviews.
* Here you go. I think it`s not entirely a bad idea to listen to your parents. They used to be young too and now they are helping us to go through the challenges.
* Well, maybe I overreacted about moving out thing. I should go talk to them. Hope they will take me back.
* Of course they will! They are your parents for god sake and they love you whatever happens. Don`t be silly.