

A Stranger I've Met in Budapest

26th July 2016

It was my 18th birthday and guess what my boyfriend gave me... plane tickets to Budapest and accommodation for 3 days! It was the most beautiful city I've ever been to and although I've been there three times already I still wanted to see it with him. I've known Gavin just for 3 months but I knew he was 'the one'.

17th August 2016

In the morning we were already in my dream city. Straight from the airport we went to the city centre by train. We bought quick snacks on Keleti Station, the biggest station in the whole capital city of Hungary. We had some time left until we could leave our luggage in the hotel so we decided to eat our snacks in the park. After that we took a bus to the hotel that Gavin had booked for us before. When I walked into the room we realised that it was really different from what I had seen on the Internet... There were two terrible old, wooden beds with uncomfortable mattresses in the middle of the room and also an ugly wardrobe that I was afraid to open. I opened the door to the bathroom and... There were tiles missing on the walls and a broken mirror. I didn't know how was I supposed take a shower there. I told Gavin I wasn't really satisfied with the room and he went mad, he told me I was ungrateful. It felt weird taking in consideration that we were both living in normal, clean and pretty houses. I decided to relax and leave the room for now. Fortunately I managed to change the topic of the conversation fast. We left the hotel and rented bikes because we didn't want to take crowded buses or metro. We visited Parliament buildings and saw Crown Jewels (it's terrible that you are not allowed to take pictures of them! They look stunning). While eating a fancy dinner I suggested making a complaint and leaving the hotel. Gavin went furious and told me it was his aunt's hotel, a really important thing for his family... I didn't expect that but he left the restaurant without paying the bill. I didn't want to get in trouble with Hungarian police so I paid the bill as fast as possible (I forgot to give a really nice waitress a tip! But it was not my worst problem right now). I thought my boyfriend needed to spend some time alone so I went for a trip around the city. Finally I sat on the bench looking at the beautiful Danube River, I found such a peaceful place. I had time to think about my future plans such as choosing university. I've never had any problems with education and I am a good student but it was still a hard choice, I didn't know whether to study abroad or in my homeland, to get a degree in journalism or English. As those questions were on my mind a man approached me, I didn't pay attention because there were many people walking in front of me. After what he did I still remember his face... 'Hi, cutie' he said, it made my blood curdle, after a moment of silence he added 'Give me your phone and wallet, pretty lady, and don't make me ask twice'. I was scared to death, I couldn't move. Suddenly I've heard somebody saying something in Hungarian, shouting at the man, after he had said a few sentences man who wanted my money disappeared, he ran away. I was shocked, it happened so quickly. My saviour asked me something but it was still in Hungarian so I didn't understand any word. 'Sorry, can you speak English?' I said looking right in his eyes. Fortunately he could speak another language, he just wanted to ask me if I was ok, I thanked him for helping me and that's how it all started. He asked me where am I from and why am I here alone, I didn't trust him

because as you can see - you have to be careful with strangers. I was just trying to make a good impression because he seemed to be a really nice guy. After like half an hour of small talking me and Patrik (that was his name) exchanged telephone numbers and I left... It was enough of 'fun' for one day. I came back to the hotel room. Luckily Gavin wasn't mad anymore. I told him the story about what had happened that day, he was really sorry, he even ordered my favourite pizza for me and we went to sleep.

18th August 2016

Another day of sightseeing and enjoying the time with my love. Nothing special, weird or unusual happened that day. I took many pictures and I'll put all of them into a photo album. Sorry, dear diary, sometimes we both need some time off.

19th August 2016

We were having a breakfast in the oldest cafe in Budapest - Gerbeaud when Patrik called me. He wanted to meet me. I thought I was safe with my boyfriend so it was a good idea before leaving the city in the evening. We met in a mall. I introduced Gavin to him, we talked about the city and our trip, I also told him we were leaving at 9 pm. Our new friend asked me if I could do him a favour, without hesitating I agreed. I didn't expect him to do THAT. He gave me a packet of some weird substance and told me to take it to England with me, he reassured that his friend was going to be on the airport and that we had nothing to worry about. Gavin stood up and wanted to leave, Patrik stopped him 'Tell the police and I'll kill you, try to do something stupid and she will be dead too.' he said really seriously. We looked at each other and didn't move, we didn't know what to do. 'Just do what I've said and you will have no problems. Bye.' he summed up and left. We sat in silence for some time, when we finally started to talk we decided we had to leave this city and Hungary in general but of course we couldn't do this as we had planned. Not with this thing in my bag. We knew every thing we were going to do was risky. After a few stressful hours we left my phone and the packet in the hotel as we knew Patrik could have followed us using it. Our lives were more important than money. Gavin's aunt agreed to go to the police right after we leave. Luckily we had some money left so we could go home by bus although we knew it was going to be exhausting. Stressed out we went to Austria and then Czech Republic.

19th August 2016

While waiting for a train in Prague we saw him... it was Patrik, he was holding a gun in his hand. I didn't know how did this happen but I shouted. In spite of the fear I shouted loudly. That psycho wanted to kill us but he didn't notice a big, muscled security guard behind him. In one second he was laying on the floor. We walked away but we were still watching the whole situation. Soon after a security guard caught him police officers handcuffed him. Gavin asked one of them where should we go if we knew Patrik and wanted to witness.

24th August 2016

I AM AT HOME AGAIN! After probably the most dangerous days of my life I am laying in my own bed. It feels amazing. Police arrested Patrik, we've told them everything we wanted to and we were finally happy and chilled out. I didn't expect my holidays to end up like that but I will never forget the experience. I've lost a lot of trust in people and I will probably never trust a random person on the street again. Despite Budapest is still the most beautiful city in the world in my opinion I don't think I will come back there anytime soon and if I come back there I will never talk to strangers! That experience has changed me a lot and everyday I thank God it didn't end any other way.

And my relationship with Gavin? It has just grown stronger and I'm so happy about that.