

What makes
the green grass
grow?

Milada Krajewska

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Kelly



Sharon



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Andy Chambers comes from Pickerington, a town in Ohio. He takes pride in his sense of honour and kindness. His life experience slightly altered his sense of humor and he can curse a bit too much, but he knows what makes the green grass grows. While categorically not a morning person, when he is able to finally pry his eyes open, he always thinks to himself that he would rather be fishing. Most of his days are filled with coaching softball, country music and thoughts of the family he hopes to be able to start soon.

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**“Going through
my family’s
neighborhood,
I drove in the middle
of the street in fear that
the side of the road
was gonna blow up
and kill me.”**

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**“Your experience is
a double-edged sword.
It makes you
a threat
to society.”**



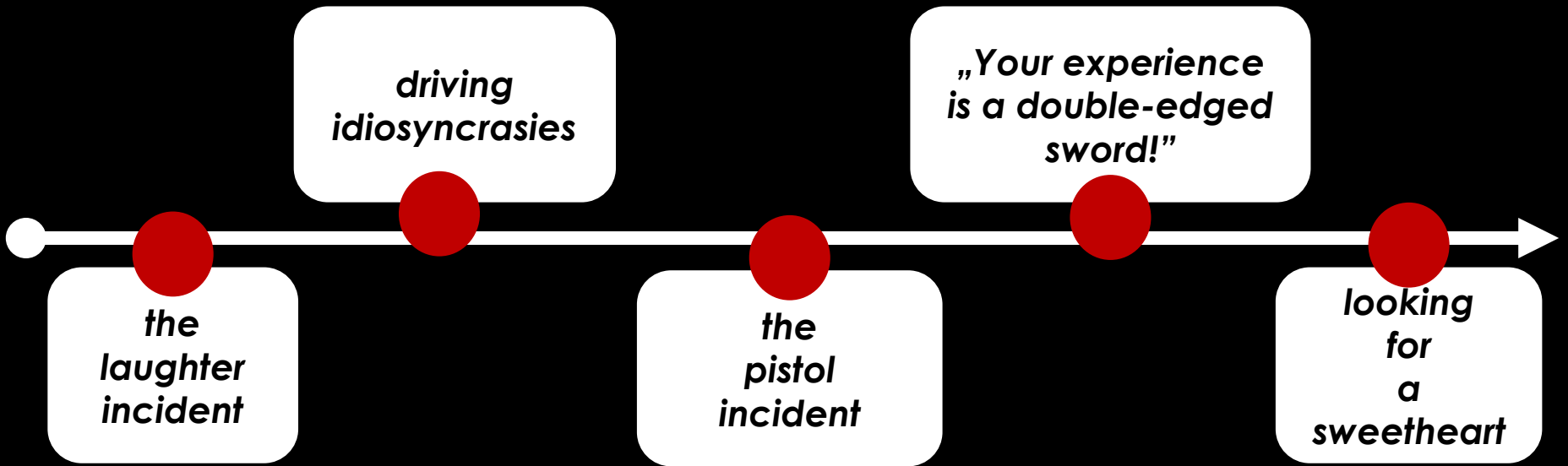
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“One night, an argument erupted over a girl. Someone pulled out a knife and I snapped. I pulled out my pistol. I moved through the room in a tactical manner, clearing the room, laid everybody on the ground. I took the knife from him and I began beating him. “

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“I woke up. In the middle of all this chaos, I could hear somebody laughing and I thought to myself, *‘Who could be laughing at a time like this?’* and then I realized it was me laughing.”

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The Not Dead – Simon Armitage (excerpts)

We are the not dead.

In battle, life would not say goodbye to us.

And crack-shot snipers seemed to turn a blind eye to us.

And even though guns and grenades let fly at us
we somehow survived. (...)

We are morbidly ill.

Soldiers with nothing but time to kill,
we idle now in everyday clothes and ordinary towns,
blowing up, breaking down. (...)

We seem changed and ghostly to those who knew us. (...)

Neither happy and proud
with a bar-code of medals across the heart
nor laid in a box and draped in a flag,
we wander this no man's land instead,
creatures of a different stripe – the awkward, unwanted, unlovable type –
haunted with fears and guilt,
wounded in spirit and mind.

Milada Krajewska