

*Patrick*

## **Patrick (35 years)**

You have had several happy years of marriage with Erica. You were both overjoyed at the birth of your son **Mathias**. But it soon became obvious that there was something odd about his behaviour. He didn't make eye contact, he took a long time to start talking, he kept stacking things behind him, and he couldn't deal with any kind of changes. When he was two years old he was diagnosed with atypical autism.

Your wife **Erica** coped with the revelation really well. But for you it was more difficult. You knew that autistic children were well provided for in today's society, but you were always a perfectionist. You expected your son to follow in your footsteps, be successful. You started spending a lot of time away from home. Sometimes you feel a bit guilty that you left it all to Erica, all on her own, but you manage to justify it to yourself.

The company you are working in is getting ready to introduce a new ***operating system*** with artificial intelligence. You are properly proud of it, although you were not directly involved in its development. You can't wait to try it.

## 1. scene: Dinner

*In the kitchen*

*You're having dinner with your family and you're talking to your wife. She seems a bit sad to you, though she's trying not to let it show. You'd like to be there for her, but you're not sure that you can do it. She just keeps talking about your son. It's not as if you don't love him, but you're just sick of only ever talking about him, over and over. You need to tell her that **you're planning to go to a conference organized by your company this weekend**. She probably won't like that very much, but you really want to go there - the company's new operating system is being introduced there.*

## 2. scene: Meeting

*In the bedroom*

*You're sitting on your own in your hotel room. You really enjoyed the first day of the conference. The most interesting bit was a talk about the new operating system and you even got an installation code. **You'll enter it into the computer** (hold it in front of the screen).*

### **3. scene: At Claudia's**

*In the kitchen*

#### **4. scene: A new friend**

*In the bedroom*

## 5. scene: At night

*In the bedroom*

*You wake up in the middle of the night in your hotel room; you had a business event and you didn't really want to go home afterwards. You're feeling really lonely and you long to hear Laura again. It's so strange to be talking to your OS but she understands you so well. **You would really like to get to know her too. It's a pity that you can't see her or touch her...** You will address her.*



## 6. scene: Confession

*In the bedroom*

*You are having breakfast with your wife. **You finally decided to tell her about Laura.** Lately you've been feeling as if she understood you better than your wife. **You would like to move out for a while.** You need some time to think about your life.*

## **7. scene: Sadness**

*In the bedroom*

## **8. scene: At the door**

*In the bedroom*

*Erica rang at your door and brought you Mathias for the night, like you agreed.*

## **9. scene: Babysitter**

*In the bedroom*

*Mathias had a bath and brushed his teeth. **Now you should put him to bed and read him his favourite story from his book.***

## **10. scene: Limitations**

*In the bedroom*

## 11. scene: Declaration

*In the bedroom*

*You would like to show Laura how important she is to you. **You're wondering how to let her know.***

## **12. scene: Nostalgia**

*In the bedroom*

### **13. scene: Clarification**

*In the bedroom*

*You and Erica met up over tea. You need to talk about where your relationship goes from here. When you've talked for a while, **invite Laura and Robert to join the discussion.***