

# Catch of the day

## The witness

*Joanna Podlaska* is a well-educated and ambitious thirtysomething steelworks engineer. Since she was employed she was met with dismissive sexist attitudes and ostracism from colleagues. To remedy the situation the company manager in no uncertain terms requested Joanna's two closest coworkers to include her in their upcoming fishing trip, hoping to promote camaraderie. Joanna is determined to make an impression despite the challenge of being a woman in a traditionally exclusively masculine environment, both at work and during this trip. Her main source of strength is his *confidence in rationality, technology and her problem-solving skills*, but during the trip she might be a little *intimidated by her seniors*.

## Other characters

- *Janusz Durowicz*, an older, experienced steelworks shift manager. He organised the trip and brought most of the fishing gear. He is a great judge of character and a well-liked boss. He hopes to see Joanna demonstrate she is just as capable as a male engineer.
- *Andrzej Pasternak*, extrusion forming team supervisor. A passionate and dedicated angler, as well as an experienced outdoorsman. Easily angered and fiercely competitive, despises company manager's idea and would prefer to spend all the time fishing.
- *Milena Kuryło*, host and owner of the Borsuczewo Lake B&B. She lives in a house nearby, maintaining a small holding. Occasionally works as a midwife in the village. Cheerful and outspoken, visits lodgers regularly.
- *Dziadyga (Old Duffer)* lives alone in a ruined house on the opposite side of the lake. Infamous among locals, he lives like a hermit, supporting himself by poaching and moonshining.

## Location and era

North-eastern Poland, early 1990's, autumn. Borsuczewo Lake B&B is located on the lakeside, separated from the village by rolling farmlands. Lodgers stay in a cosy wooden cottage and have access to a small pier with a rowboat, while the owner resides in her own house nearby. The place is facing a thick, old woodland which envelops the lake and goes on for miles of wilderness in every direction.

### Other locations

- *Milena's house*, where lodgers are invited for meals. Surrounding the house is an orchard, a vegetable garden, and a pig sty. The dining room is decorated with folkloristic embroidery and has a variety of herbs hanging off the ceiling to dry. Other areas of the house are strictly off-limits to lodgers.
- *Borsuczewo*, a glacial lake fed by a stream coming from the forest. It is home to a variety of fish living in muddy, eutrophic waters as well as wild birds nesting on the banks. In the evenings, the lake is unerringly wrapped in thick fog.
- *Dziadyga's shack*, a ruined house with a caved in roof and walls stripped of plastering. Dziadyga is infrequently visited by villagers purchasing cheap moonshine from his still, but he chases strangers away with insults and threats of violence.

- *Proboszczy Las*, a dense, deciduous forest littered with glacial erratic boulders. Avoided by villagers, it's easy to get lost in as thick treetops block most of the light. An abandoned Catholic chapel can be found on one of the clearings.

## Special Cards

Sorcery, Victims, Reprisals, Early Reveal, Anachronism

## Catch of the day: Sample Clues

- Moving or disappearing landmarks in the forest
- Mutilated animal remains left at the doorstep
- Rumours of a person miraculously cured of their ailments
- Sudden and improbable change in the weather
- Unexplained low-pitched noises heard at night
- Ominous blue lights moving just below the surface of water
- Tales of people cursed with bad luck after going into the forest
- A mass of rotting fish scattered on the lake shore
- A glimpse of a naked person dancing between the trees
- A boulder covered with strange symbols written in blood
- Water bubbling with a noxious stench of death and decay

## Pronunciation Guide for English speakers

Yoanna Podlaska, Janush Durovitch, And-jay Pasternak, Mil-ehna Koo-ry-wo, Ja-dy-gha, Bor-su-tche-vo, Pro-bosh-tchy Las