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Auszug aus:

Hornby - A Long Way Down - Continuous Interpretation

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Thema:	Nick Hornby <i>A Long Way Down</i> – Continuous Interpretation
TMD: 31234	
Kurzvorstellung des Materials:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Long Way Down</i> deals with four characters who meet when they all want to commit suicide on New Year's Eve. They form a group and finally help each other improving their lives. • Although Martin, Maureen, Jess and JJ are very different and have to deal with different problems they find comfort in the group. They support each other and learn to deal with one day after the other.
Übersicht über die Teile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Die Interpretation gliedert das Stück in Sinnabschnitte und erläutert und interpretiert diese ausführlich.
Information zum Dokument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ca. 3,5 Seiten, Größe ca. 64,5 KByte
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Martin calms him and promises to look after Jess in exchange for 250 pounds (p.107). Afterwards, the group meets at Maureen's house for a crisis meeting about the newspaper articles. They meet her disabled son Matty and Jess realizes that she has the most difficult life: "I'll tell you, you wouldn't have persuaded me down from that roof" (p.109). Nevertheless, Matty is Maureen's family and she decorated her flat with posters and stuff Matty might like. JJ admits that he does not die from CCR which does not even exist and apologizes. He only lied because his reason "seemed too...too fucking vague" (p.113) and now he tells the others the truth about his band and Lizzie. JJ trusts the group which he regards as his new band and feels guilty for having lied to them (p.54).

Since the reason for the meeting was the newspaper article, Jess suggests making money with that story. JJ dislikes the idea and reacts cynically: "And if we like actually sold the TV rights to Valentine's Night... Maybe they could turn it into a *Big Brother* kinda thing. You could root for the person you wanted to go over" (p.121). Jess wants them to tell they saw an angel but the others want to "allow the current interest in our mental health to dwindle away to nothing" (p.123). Nevertheless, Jess informs the media and tells a journalist that they saw an angel that looked like Matt Damon on top of Toppers' House (p.125). Martin, Maureen and JJ agree hesitantly to attend to an interview for 5000 pounds and "loyalty seemed like the dumbest of all virtues" (p.128). After the interview they attend to Martin's show but Jess does not seem to enjoy telling the Angel-story any more and makes up unbelievable additions as "the angel was wearing a promotional T-shirt for the Sandra Bullock film *While You Were Sleeping*" (p.141). Martin loses his job and Jess tells a journalist at another show that they made the story up because she is annoyed of the woman's questions (p.143). So their media career comes to an end and they decide to try something else instead. JJ wants them to be a book club or a music club but both do not work due to Jess' inappropriate comments.

Since Maureen needs some time off they spend the money they earned on a holiday to Tenerife which is like heaven on earth for Maureen because "it was donkey's years since I'd done anything at all" (p.156). The others do not enjoy the trip; Jess even gets in trouble when she sees a girl that looks like her sister Jen. She cannot handle the situation and ends up taking drugs, drinking alcohol and finally summarizes the evening as "puke, sleep on the beach, woken up, freaked, driven back to the hotel in a police car" (p.160). JJ spends the first night with a girl and takes her to breakfast where Jess embarrasses him by telling the girl they were a family and that JJ had never been in a band (p.164). Martin avoids meeting the others and leaves the hotel. He spends two days sitting on the balcony of his new hotel room and when Jess finds him he hides in a toilet for four hours because he does not want to talk to her at all (p.172). Only Maureen enjoys the holiday and understands that "Matty was fine" (p.167) without her and that "love and concern and the rest of it, the things that only a mother can provide... For the first time in his life I could finally see that those things were no use to him anyway" (p.167). She realizes that she does not have to live her life for Matty which is a scaring and comforting thought at the same time because she "didn't know whether I wanted to kill myself more or less, knowing that" (p.167). On Valentine's Day, they meet on top of Toppers' House and are sure that they all want to remain alive. At this important moment they see that things have changed a bit and that they can cope with their lives. Tragically, there is a man on top of the building and they cannot prevent his jumping off the roof (p.177). The second part of the novel ends with this tragic experience which "made us realize that we weren't capable of killing ourselves. And secondly, this information made us suicidal again" (p.181).



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