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Auszug aus:

Hornby - A Long Way Down - Style

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Thema:	Nick Hornby <i>A Long Way Down</i> - Style
TMD: 25996	
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. • Hornby makes use of several stylistic devices. The characters take turns in telling the story and thus reveal their personalities. Moreover, the reader is directly addressed several times throughout the story.
Übersicht über die Teile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Die stilistischen Besonderheiten von <i>A Long Way Down</i> werden beschrieben und analysiert.
Information zum Dokument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ca. 1,5 Seiten, Größe ca. 54 KByte
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Nick Hornby A Long Way Down - Style

Nick Hornby's novel *A Long Way Down* includes several stylistic devices which are used to characterise the personae. The four main characters Martin, Maureen, Jess and JJ take turns in telling the novel. Moreover, it consists of three parts. In the first part, the characters are introduced. They meet on New Year's Eve on the top of Topper's House where they all wanted to commit suicide. They grow to a group and decide to postpone the final decision whether they want to live or die until Valentine's Day in six weeks. The second part deals with the six weeks in-between New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day. Since they have been in the newspaper they make up a story about having seen an angel on top of Topper's House. Because of Martin's popularity they are invited to TV shows and make some money which they spend on a vacation to Tenerife. On Valentine's Day, Martin, Maureen, Jess and JJ meet and witness a man jumping off of Topper's House. This incident marks the end of the second part. In the final part of the novel the characters learn that they want to remain alive. They are capable of changing their lives and a meeting with their families and friends serves as a changing point. In the end, the group decides to wait another six months to make the final decision.

The novel is told in turn by Martin, Maureen, Jess and JJ. Stylistically, they tell the story the way they speak and thus reveal parts of their personalities. Martin, Jess and JJ swear a lot and Maureen is offended by their language. They say "fuck" in nearly every sentence and their bad language is best represented by JJ's statement: "How do people, like, not curse? How is it possible? There are all these gaps in speech where you just have to put a 'fuck'. I'll tell you who the most admirable people in the world are: newscasters. If that was me, I'd be like, 'And the motherfuckers flew the fucking plane right into the Twin Towers'" (p.113) ¹. Maureen is upset about the other's swearing but she gets used to it: "It was impossible to go on being shocked by the bad language. I didn't want to get to the stage where I was swearing myself" (p. 76). The others try to get themselves together and especially JJ tends to apologize after almost every sentence: "From now on, just presume that every time I speak I say 'fuck', 'fucking' or 'motherfucker' and 'Sorry, Maureen'" (p.114). Moreover, characteristic of Jess' style is how she quotes conversations. Interestingly, she reflects on her style herself: "I always do this, when I'm talking about what someone said. I'm always, like, So I was like, and, She went, and all like that" (p.125). Since JJ is an American his language is affected by his nationality. He speaks American English which leads to some problems of understanding considering the different vocabulary for "cell" respectively "mobile" (p.20) and "asshole" respectively "berk" (p.37).

Hornby uses sarcasm and irony to characterise his personae. They make several cynic remarks which reveal their attitude towards life and death. Martin compares killing himself to moving to Sydney: "I haven't got any aged parents, and I don't play golf. Suicide was my Sydney. And I say that with no offence to the good people of Sydney intended" (p.4). Similarly, Jess explains her spontaneous decision to commit suicide: "I wanted to make my life

¹ Nick Hornby, *A Long Way Down* (London: Penguin Books). All following quotations are taken from this edition.



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