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THE EPIDEMIC OF ADDICTION IN THE SERIES “EARLY SWALLOWS” BY NOVYI KANAL

The World Health Organization regularly updates the list of addictions with new items. The most common are drug, alcohol, gaming, religious, and food ones. It is difficult to calculate the number of deaths from all types of addictions, but drugs alone take more than 500,000 lives every year. Addiction is a widespread problem for people of different walks of life. There are multiple reasons for developing an addiction such as trauma, stress, abuse, and family issues.

The problem of addiction was raised in a Ukrainian series “Early Swallows.” The action takes place at the beginning of the study year at the dormitory of the university. The careless and bright student life is struck by the horrific news: one of the students is found dead. A group of students starts their investigation under the guidance of their new university professor: a talented journalist and the winner of the Pulitzer Prize. In the course of events it becomes known that each “investigator” has a skeleton in their closet.

The first one is Vlad. He makes a good impression and is usually calm unless someone bothers him. The young man was brought up in a dysfunctional family where he and his mother were abused by Vlad’s stepfather. To release his aggression, Vlad secretly fights at an illegal underground club. Whenever there is a problem in the family he turns to the ring. During one battle, the boy faints and sees a hallucination, where he can see the strongest trauma of his. Vlad understands the reason for his addiction to fighting and by the end of the story he is able to overcome it.

The next character is Kira – a successful journalist, who was kept as a war hostage and was raped for one year. Concealing her trauma and not having fully recovered from it, Kira starts teaching at the university and conducting a journalistic investigation. The woman engages in compulsive sexual behaviors. Kira’s mother tries to persuade her to stay in therapy, but unsuccessfully. Then, the woman puts her daughter in a hospital by force. Kira realizes that the investigation she had started put her students in danger. She admits that she needs professional treatment and agrees to stay in therapy until she fully recovers.

The last one is Nazar. He comes from a wealthy family. While Nazar was growing up, his parents were always away – his father spent most of the time at work and his mother worked as a model in another country. Nazar does not see the point in achieving anything, as he is used to getting whatever he wants. The young man frequently does drugs and spends a lot of time partying. At one point, Nazar comes to the realization that for the first time in his life he met people that do really care about him and it makes him go to the rehabilitation center. By the end of the story, all the characters can fight their addictions, some with the help of other people and some on their own.

Nowadays there are more temptations and opportunities to become addicted than ever. One can run away from reality without even leaving the house. At the same time, there are more opportunities to be helped such as free hotlines, numerous clinics, and many others. It is important to mind the danger of addiction. It is important to be attentive to the people around, especially the closest ones and to help them if they face such a problem. It is important to ask for help if it is needed.