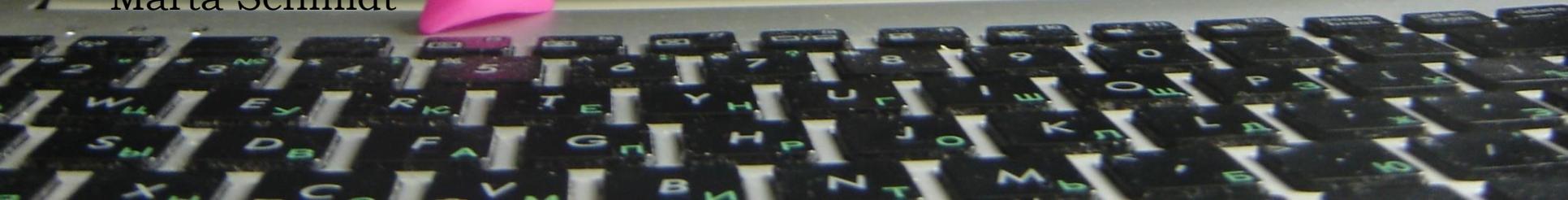




# The Fall

Marta Schmidt



# The Fall

A short film, unfold on a computer screen

A detective story

Bio, filmography with links are in the submission form

Logline

A photo for a contest becomes an evidence of a murder, and the information which people post in the net about themselves, tells everything about them...it is enough to analyze it in order to detect a murderer behind a computer screen.

## Synopsis

A click of a mouse. The audiobook (one of Maugham's stories) is on:

"I have always been convinced that if a woman once made up her mind to marry a man nothing but instant flight could save him. Not always that; for once a friend of mine, seeing the inevitable loom menacingly before him..."

Computer «Hand» pointer opens an article with a big title «**THE ESCAPE**», telling about a girl who wanted to make a picture of a blooming tree for «The Spring in the City» contest, and besides the cherry blossom, accidentally in her photo shot caught a woman falling out of the window. The woman died.

A Skype call (the sound of the audiobook is hushed). In both chat windows appear two girls. It becomes clear out of the conversation that one of them is Anne (the one who was reading) – the girl from the article. Under the second window the inscription says: Sophia. Anne is concerned. She saw a woman die in a suicide accident, Sophia consoles her. After the conversation Anne closes all open windows on the screen, there is only Desktop screen left (with a fragment of a famous painting with a medieval mirror in which Arnolfini couple is reflected and figures of the wedding ceremony witnesses), and she clicks the "Contest" folder. She wants to delete its contents, but changes her mind, opens it, goes through the photos, something is bothering her. She opens one of the photos, zooms it out to focus on an open window and notices a silhouette.

From the subsequent skype conversations with Sophia and Max, Anne's friend, from whom she expects a baby, from extensive correspondence in social networks, Anne finds out the deceased woman's name was Julia. It all becomes evident that Julia was not going to commit suicide, was active in the social media up to the fateful moment. It also becomes clear that she was making plans to get married, but who was a mysterious bride.... It was him whom she had expected to come. In the correspondence there was a flicker of a message from a user unidentified by Anne, to the effect that "the general *fall* of morals so corroded the heads and souls of the townsfolk that no one is touched by the fact that a woman "steals" a man from his pregnant girlfriend".

Going through numerous photos from profiles of the deceased woman's friends, Anne comes across a picture of young people standing next to the wall with portraits. She zooms it out and sees a photo of Julia and Max together. Anne remembers that she only told Sophia about her pregnancy and understands that the *fall* message was from Sophia.

«She was apparently one of those unfortunate persons with whom nothing by any chance goes right. If she married a husband he...»

Anne understands everything, turns off the audio book abruptly. A Skype call from Max...

Summary (if necessary and as it was requested in the rules)

Anne wants to make a photo of a blooming tree for «The Spring in the City» contest, but besides the cherry in blossom, accidentally, in her photo shot, caught a woman falling out of the window. Later, going through the photos, Anne notices that there is a flicker of a silhouette in the ill-fated window, which contradicts the official version of a suicide. Thanks to the social media, Anne finds out more details about victim's life; her last moments of life, her environment become more vivid and transparent – Anne is shocked by the detailed manner in which people make posts about their lives for everybody to see. This circumstance allows Anne to discover who is guilty in the woman's death.