

One-way Trip

Martha met Robert while she was on vacation in Jamaica. When she was with him, she felt alive again. Things hadn't been easy for Martha in the last few years: her husband had died and she was raising their two children by herself. Martha made several trips to Jamaica to meet Robert. The last one turned out to be one-way.

Martha's parents were devastated to learn from a friend of Robert's that their daughter had been arrested abroad. They immediately contacted consular officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to find out what had happened. With Martha's permission, the officers told her parents the story: she was arrested carrying two kilos of cocaine in the soles of her shoes. She is now facing five to 20 years in jail.

Martha's two children were travelling with her when she was arrested. Her mother secured custody of the children and went to get them in Jamaica. She met her daughter in prison and was horrified to find that she didn't even have a bed. Martha was in a miserable state.

Martha's parents, both retired, now have to send hundreds of dollars to her every month so that she will have the absolute minimum in prison: personal hygiene products, extra food, medicine and so forth. After a few months, all their savings are spent. They have remortgaged their home to pay the lawyer.

Time is passing and their daughter is still awaiting trial. She has lost a lot of weight and is recovering with difficulty from a severe depression. Robert had convinced her that the risks involved in drug trafficking were minimal. If worse came to worse, he told her, he knew his country's judicial system well and would get her out of prison in a flash....

Failing a miracle, Martha will be in prison for at least five years. What will her children's attitude be when she gets out? How will she put her life back together?