

LIVING ROOM 2004

Program 9

Sändningsdatum: 2004-09-15

Rickard Flinga has been a Swedish citizen from birth, but he had never lived in Sweden until he was deported to this country in the year 2000. After almost twenty years in prison in the United States, the American authorities gave him a one-way ticket to Sweden and he arrived here with virtually nothing, besides a happy feeling that he would get the chance to start a new life.

The first day that changed his life had come two decades earlier, when he found out what a man had done to his little daughter and Rickard went to visit him with a gun in his hand...

The reasons behind such actions, the absence of regret, as well as the experience of prison life and how you learn to cope with being locked up, is the story that Rickard has to tell.

And it is a story that the Swedish/American freelance journalist and writer Carmilla Floyd knows quite a bit about, after having spent many years with Latino gangs in Los Angeles. Years that resulted in the book 'Respekt'.

Carmilla's experience of American prisons is more as an observer, but she describes them as dehumanising, with many constructions that in evil and nasty ways rob the inmates of possibilities. That is what she sees as the basic difference compared to Swedish penitentiaries, which do give their prisoners a possibility to walk out a changed man (or woman).

LaGaylia Frazier is the American singer who ended up in Sweden through love, and has been seen in Melodifestivalen as well as touring with Robert Wells and his show 'Rhapsody in Rock'.

She feels her story is pretty trivial compared to Rickard's, but both sides of life are needed, aren't they? Just like Rickard's daughter though, she grew up with a father who wasn't around. But she inherited his gift for singing, so when LaGaylia wanted to start a song career, her mother was none too pleased...

Words

fumigated against pests = desinficera mot ohyra

hit the tarmac = landa på asfalten

parolled = villkorligt frigiven

figure out = räkna ut

deport = deportera, förvisa

virtually = praktiskt taget, verkligt

losing altitude = tappa höjd (över havet)

engineering firm = ingenjörsfirma
tiresome = tröttsam; förarglig
molest = antasta, ofreda
come down to = handla om; inskränka sig till
by all means = för allt i världen
uncontested = obesegrad
regret = ångra
buddy = kompis, polare
executioner = bödel
exclude = utesluta, utestänga
sexual inclination = sexuell böjelse
prey on = jaga; tynga
inmate = fånge
death penalty = dödsstraff
convict = straffånge
penitentiary = straffanstalt, fängelse (ffa amerikansk engelska)
adjust = anpassa
law abiding people = laglydiga människor
equivalent = likvärdig
outlaw = kriminalisera; ställa utanför lagen, förklara fredlös
eighteen hundreds = 1800-talet
abolish = avskaffa, upphäva
monitoring system = övervakningssystem
riot = upplopp, tumult
grim = bister, dystert; sträng; usel
hoop = basketkorg
chin-up bar = armhävningstång
care givers = vårdgivare
oppression = förtryck
run nothing = inte styra någonting
stool = pall
grant = bidrag, stipendium
scholarship = stipendium
mellow = lugn, harmonisk
intimidate = avskräcka; skrämma
issues (people have issues) = (här) problem
entry way = ingång
obsession = fixering, besatthet
judgemental = fördömande, kritisk
connotation = bibetydelse
adapt = anpassa (sig)
manifest destiny (manifestation plus destiny) = förutbestämt öde
unstable = labil

what a drag = vad trist
speech impediment = talsvårighet
curse = förbanna; förbannelse

Questions/tasks

The basic concept of American prisons is oppression, says Rickard. What do you think that prisons should be?

Should prisons give the prisoners a possibility to change or are they just places of punishment?

What rights do we have to make ourselves judges? If someone has done something horrible to your family, would you want to punish him or her yourself?

What are the most obvious differences between Americans and Swedes in your eyes?

Write a story or a poem with the theme of LaGaylia's song – "the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence".

There is an obsession with race in America that Carmilla talks about. How do you think Sweden is dealing with race and ethnic origin?

Why did Carmilla's parents give her the name Carmilla? Write a vampire story!