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## **Volatile Career: A Short Story**

**Gassim H. Dohal**

English Instructor, Gizan, Saudi Arabia



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**INTRODUCTION:** This brief story is about being a reporter and how this career is volatile and dangerous, mainly while speaking about a conflict or a war. Conflicts all over the world provide an adipose topic for journalists, particularly those who take risks for the sake of living. The story demonstrates how conflicts become the source of living for reporters who struggle to convey to people what they watch and hear from the front.

**KEYWORDS:** career, short story, journalist, dangerous.

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### **VOLATILE CAREER: A SHORT STORY**

Fear . . . shots . . . horror . . . heavy rain . . . facets of large buildings and places provide passers-by with a shield . . .

Resistance . . . bombardment . . . evacuation . . . and explosions . . . the explosion of a mine beneath our toes is an anticipated matter at any moment . . . the scent of the burnt oil is blended with that of rain and muddy soil . . . and at the asphalt of the street the sprinkles of the rain disperse on every occasion a speedy automobile passes by. Burnt automobiles now not far from each other scattered on both sides of the street. They are visible perching like ghosts, particularly during the light caused by consecutive explosions.

Fear . . . hesitation . . . worry . . . courage . . . I cannot approach . . . until suddenly an infantryman pulls out his weapon, asking about proof of my identity. When one of the allied-military soldiers realizes who I am, he begins blaming me for this adventure I am taking. Those infantrymen decide right away to take me to the middle of the metropolis which starts, in turn, shaking off its burden the dirt of the suffocating days of occupation, as though the rain allies with it and helps in erasing the traces of the violators.

In the front of the Intercontinental Hotel, a few infantrymen gather . . . the doorway of the resort is dark, a few soldiers have been utilizing some manual light for his/her movements. And within the hall, I can see infantrymen's luggage piled up . . .

Rooms and corridors are dark . . . I would like to stay inside the corridor speaking with the soldiers . . . recording their impression towards conflict and war . . . a number of female recruits trade views . . . they may be taking part in this destructive war . . . it appears they may be in an enjoyment trip . . . I sense burdened and confused once I approach them, and in place of asking . . . one of them asks about my nationality. I attempt to reply in a broken English . . . a conversation takes place . . .

How gorgeous she is! On her braids stars scatter . . . torn dreams and . . . and hopes . . . and burnt desires . . . One day, she said, "Y...y... you stay with me inside my heart, oh my eye."

I also have her with me within both the heart and the memory . . . I see her in each lovely woman . . . in each overtaking risk . . . in each quiver of my heart . . . in each flicker of emotion . . . am I going to die on this mission . . . despite the reality that the conflict has officially come to an end?

Yet, all inside this hotel corridor do nonetheless talk about the so-called accomplishments of the allied forces . . . the assault against antagonistic military targets . . . ground battles . . . the deadly blows that have been geared towards the withdrawing armies.

The planes shower them with thousands of vacuum bombs, which shake the ground, and the scent of human grilling reached far away, after the bodies have charred inside tanks and automobiles. They have been fleeing from the hell of the battle, but it is their fate that they have met a fiercer hell.

During the early hours of the new day, colleagues of career begin arriving from all over the world, in an effort to report this type of victory to their viewers.

### AUTHOR'S PROFILE:

Gassim H. Dohal is an instructor of English from Saudi Arabia. He holds a Ph. D. in English Literature. He has contributed research papers and articles in different academic journals. His works appeared in journals like *Agathos* journal, *The IUP Journal of English Studies*, *Annals of the Faculty of Arts of Egypt: Ain Shams Univ.*, *International Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies (IJCLTS)*, *Revista de investigaciones Universidad del Quindio (RIUQ)*, and many others.



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