

**Lea** tells her story : I think there's something wrong with the way I live my life. I don't stop, I'm stressed all the time. I can't find the time to relax and focus. I'm always on the go. After school I wanted to take some time to see what I wanted to do with my life, what to study, what direction to go in. I had no idea. I went first for six months to Bolivia for a social project working with children, and also to learn Spanish. I met a girl there who was going to Israel to work with Palestinian women. So after Bolivia I went there too. It was an incredible experience. Both of them actually. I came back to Germany, but I still didn't know what I wanted to study. Languages ? Social work, International Relations ? Everything interested me, but nothing caught my imagination. One day I read an article about refugees in Greece. « That's where I've got to go » I thought. I went to help and stayed three months. Afterwards I was exhausted. It was too hard. I had thought I'd had so much enthusiasm and would stay there forever.

I want to do something for other people, but how ? I feel lost and disorientated. I'm working in a café and I still can't work out what to do. I've just met someone who's going to Sri Lanka to work with fishermen in a sustainable fishery. What if that was what I'm supposed to do ? Work for the planet ? Work with nature ? In fact, I don't know what interests me anymore....

**Arthur** has just finished his Politics degree. His exams went very well, and after the holidays he wants to continue his studies and get a doctorate. His professors are very encouraging and one of them has even offered to take him on for a project. His parents are proud of him and happy that he seems to be well on his way. He is also happy. After his finals, he goes for a retreat in a monastery that he knows, to lay his plans before God and get a sign that he's doing the right thing. He talks with his spiritual director how much need there is for qualified people to work with less fortunate people and those living on the street. Something touches him at this point and he can't seem to stop thinking about this, even whilst telling himself that he already knows what he's going to do with his life and everybody else knows too...

When he thinks about the sort of work he could do with the less fortunate, he's afraid but something attracts him too and he feels driven towards the future. He's up and down all the time, he's anxious and hesitant. His friends give him advice but nothing helps. He doesn't know what to do...

**Natalia** is Spanish and is 27. She's been living with Pieter for 4 years. Pieter is Dutch, Natalia met him at a Christian youth camp. They fell in love and after three months decided to live together because they saw no other way to deepen their relationship with her in Spain and him in the Netherlands. They live in Spain where Natalia has finished her studies and now works. The first year, Pieter was depressed, he was supposed to get better at Spanish and find work (but how ? He has no qualifications), he spent a lot of time on the computer and made little effort. Natalia was very patient and understanding. The next year he started university, Natalia encouraged him a lot, but he didn't finish the year, just did a small computer course. Now he gives computer lessons a few hours a week. Natalia realises that she's supporting him and that she's the one who organises things for the two of them. He depends on her financially, and he can see himself being the one to stay at home should they start a family. Natalia isn't altogether against the idea, but she's wondering if it would last. She's beginning to feel like she's living with a child.

She's beginning to wonder if they should stay together, even though when they started seeing each other she thought they would always be together, she didn't want it to be just for now. But now, does she still really love him? She's not sure. What about the future, will he be a part of it or not ? And will there be some conditions ? What would they be ? Or will she be better off without him ? It's hard to end three years living together, and then what if she doesn't find anyone else ? Pieter would rather « stay with her » but he can't talk about it seriously. She'd like to go abroad for a while to live and travel, but Pieter is already a foreigner and doesn't want to move again and have to learn another language. So how to decide what to do, where to go ?