

Donald David Elmwoods

**WHEN YOU GET
A SIGNAL**

(The Secrets of Autism)

Donald Dejvid Elmvuds

**KADA DOBIJETE
SIGNAL**

(Tajne autizma)

THE CONTENT/SADRŽAJ

Forgiving	13
---------------------	----

PART ONE MY LIFE IN SCHOOL

Serbian language	17
I'm autistic	19
In normal school	21
My life in school	23
Bad Teachers	25
An undereducated boy	27
Getting an education	29
Goodbye school	30
An autistic meets the autistic (fictional story)	32

PART TWO WE CAN FORGIVE

The special educator	37
--------------------------------	----

Friendship may be over....	39
The birthday party	42
A mother struggling	46
Fictional characters	49
Computer games	53
Imagining characters	56
Johnny's song.	59
Bad arguments	61
Life improvements.	63
The Missing Son	67
For Parents	71

PART THREE

HOW CAN I GET MY PEACE BACK

The Internet.	75
The pictures.	79
The nightmare	82
Reasons for our arguments	86
The secrets	88
My lifestyle	92
Hypersensitivity	93
Misunderstanding (for the psychologist)	96
Another life.	98
Waiting for too long...	101
Brain machine	102

PART FOUR
I FEEL POWERLESS

My future 107

Obsessions 108

My interests. 109

My mistakes 110

Overexcitement 111

When I'm feeling sick I think good,
but when I'm better I think about bad things 113

Tone level. 114

Why autistic people need proper care 115

Do not say. 117

My petition 118

Promises 119

Wrong Planet. 120

Who's fault? 121

Wishing. 128

EPILOGUE: UNDERSTANDING AUTISM 129

* * *

Opraštanje	133
----------------------	-----

DEO PRVI
MOJ ŽIVOT U ŠKOLI

Srpski jezik	137
Imam autizam	139
U normalnoj školi	141
Moj život u školi	143
Loši učitelji	144
Nedovoljno obrazovan dečak	147
Obrazovanje	149
Zbogom, školo	150
Autista sreće autistu (izmišljena priča)	152

DEO DRUGI
MOŽEMO DA OPROSTIMO

Defektolog	157
Prijateljstvo je možda izgubljeno...	159
Rođendanska žurka	161
Majka koja se muči.	165
Izmišljeni likovi	168
Kompjuterske igrice	172
Zamišljanje likova	175
Džonijeva pesma	178
Loše rasprave	180
Životna poboljšanja	182

Izgubljeni sin	185
Za roditelje	189

DEO TREĆI
KAKO DA VRATIM SVOJ MIR

Internet	193
Slike	197
Noćna mora	200
Razlozi naših svađa	204
Tajne	206
Moj način života	210
Hipersenzitivnost	211
Nesporazum (za psihologa)	214
Drugi život	216
Predugo čekanje	219
Mašina za mozak	220

DEO ČETVRTI
OSEĆAM SE BESPOMOĆNO

Moja budućnost	225
Opsesije	226
Moja interesovanja	227
Moje greške	228
Preveliko uzbuđenje	229
Kada sam bolestan, mislim na dobre stvari, ali kad mi bude bolje, mislim na loše.	231
Jačina tona	232
Zašto je ljudima sa autizmom potrebna odgovarajuća nega	233

Nemojte reći	235
Moja peticija	236
Obećanja	237
Pogrešna planeta	238
Ko je kriv?	239
Želja	245
 EPILOG: RAZUMEVANJE AUTIZMA.	 246

Donald David Elmwoods

**WHEN YOU GET
A SIGNAL**

(The Secrets of Autism)

Forgiving

We sometimes argue with each other. But we always forgive each other. All I ever wanted was to have freedom, love and happiness. But I never thought it would take so much work and time, especially since I was born with autism and it is hard for us to always agree with each other. I love you so much, Maja.

Part one

MY LIFE IN SCHOOL

Serbian language

Would you like me to speak in Serbian language? While I live in Serbia, my native language is not always good due to my speech delays. I have problems with cases and grammatical gender. I do know a few definitions of words in my language, but not so much. Someone in Serbia sometimes tells me to write in Serbian when I write in English. English is easy for me to write. In order to speak Serbian properly, I have to read some books. It would take some time for me to improve my grammar. Life is not always easy for children with autism.

I'm autistic*

*I was born with elements of autism
My parents wished that
I could become a normal child
But it failed*

*As a result
I didn't communicate
And didn't have signal
Until I was 7 years old*

*If I were a normal child
I would be able to go to normal school
But since I am an autistic child
I had to go to school
Where children had disorders
Every time I went to school
I had no friends*

* Based on *Raindrops keep falling on my head* by B. J. Thomas

*Children bullied me
And I felt tortured*

*I have problems with gaining knowledge
Every time I try to learn I fail
Every time I try to practice I fail
Every time I try to explain I fail
Every time I try to understand I fail
And my parents get angry because of my autism*

*My parents argue with each other
And I cannot stand that they argue
I try to help them but it's not so easy
I wish that my parents should get along with each other
But it's not easy, too*

*I cannot go to work
Because I am not an independent person
And if commissioners decide
That I should go to work
I wouldn't know how to work
And people would laugh at me
Because of my autism*

*I was born with elements of autism
But that doesn't mean that I am angry
Because of my autism
I'm never going to stop my autism by complaining
Because I am free
Nothing's worrying me.*