

YVES PATAK

THE KEY



Sweek#MicroKey

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On the picnic blanket, Magda waits for her husband to wake up. Wonders if she has overdosed the knockout drops.

Ron blinks. A clanking sound. Dazed, he goggles at the handcuffs on his wrists. His gaze wanders to the shackles on his ankles, to the tree between his legs.

"Magda ...?"

There is more confusion than anger in his voice. Magda knows how fast that will change. How quickly he'll show his true colors. Only two hours ago, he'd been on top her, panting, forcing himself into her, hard and hungry, enjoying her pain, her fear.

Ron flexes his legs, and the chain tightens against the trunk. His frown deepens.

"Magda! What the *fuck* are you doing?"

She looks at him. Considers the man who can be so charming, so irresistible, that she married him. The man who raped her countless times and on several occasions nearly beat her to death.

She gets up, removes a jar from the picnic basket. While Ron was out, she'd discovered the ant trail. A vast colony of deadly fire ants, native to the swamplands of New Orleans.

"Magda ... give me the fucking key or you'll wish —"

"Here, Ron."

She throws the key into the grass, just far enough so he can't reach it. Cautiously, not getting too close, she pours honey over his legs, arms, and head. Then she draws a sweet trail to the ant colony.

"Relax, sweetheart ... everything will be fine."

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About the author

Yves Patak, MD, physician and writer, sees himself as a modern Dr. Jekyll and Mister Hyde: psycho- and hypnotherapist by day, he spends his nights writing about the dark side of the human soul and the eerie entities between the dimensions.

Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe and Stephen King, Patak's pet subject became the mystery thriller.

Published novels: Der Screener, Tödlicher Schatten, Ace Driller, Himmel und Hölle, Null Bock auf Karma, Gespräche mit Luzi (latter also translated into English and Spanish).

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