

FRANKIE: (Voiceover) Well that didn't come up in the training course. At least I will get to see how it is done properly now. This is my supervisor's office. She said she was working with a client who I might find challenging. Challenging? I have had enough challenging for one day ... what is she thinking?

Fade to Consultation Room 2

CHRISTINE: (Bringing in Frankie) Valerie's agreed to you coming in today. You can sit here and observe the session if you like (Indicates the "observer's" chair).

CHRISTINE (To Valerie): What else do you like about speaking in English?

VALERIE: English is my present tense and English is my future. I can be who I want to be, I can reinvent myself and carve out my own path, not trudge along the same trail as generations of peasants from the Old Land.

And I can be quite angry in English. I like that. I didn't even know that about me in the Old Language. In the Old Language I wouldn't dare to say an angry word out loud or even dare to have an angry thought. How can you have one without the other?

And I can swear in English too. I like that. I can say Bloody Hell and Shit and even the C-word. Now that is really English: the C-word. Do you know it took me two years of asking and six different people until someone would finally tell me that the C word wasn't the actual word?

CHRISTINE: So, the present and future Valerie all happen in English? What happens in your Old Language?

VALERIE: Nothing. My Old Language is the past. "What happened in your Old Language?" Don't they say the past is a foreign country? Well they speak a different language there too.

CHRISTINE: Let's stay in the present for a moment. Who do you talk to in your Old Language?

VALERIE: No one.

CHRISTINE: What language do you dream in?

VALERIE: English.

CHRISTINE: What language do you think in?

VALERIE: English.

CHRISTINE: How do you tell your partner that you love him?

VALERIE: Like this: "I love you".

CHRISTINE: And how does it feel when you say those words in English?

VALERIE: It sounds authentic. It sounds the truth when I say words in English – that's our lingua franca. In the Old Land, when people speak, honest words do not always come out of their mouths.

CHRISTINE: And honesty is important to you?

VALERIE: Very. That is why I cannot say those words in anything other than English. Anyway, love has its own language - the language of the heart.

CHRISTINE: But the heart needs words too. Others can only try to find words for your feelings. Pain is pain but how will I know what caused your pain if you can't translate your tears for me?

Words help us make the connections. You see, right now, I don't even know what was the trigger that brought you here.