

Luka, Luka - Suzanne Vega

My name is Luka
I live on the second floor
I live upstairs from you
Yes, I think you've seen me before
If you hear something late at night
Some kind of trouble, some kind of fight
Just don't ask me what it was
Just don't ask me what it was
Just don't ask me what it was

I think it's because I'm clumsy
I try not to talk too loud
Maybe it's because I'm crazy
I try not to act too proud
They only hit until you cry
And after that you don't ask why
You just don't argue anymore
You just don't argue anymore
You just don't argue anymore

Yes I think I'm okay
I walked into the door again
Well, if you ask that's what I'll say
And it's not your business anyway
I guess I'd like to be alone
With nothing broken, nothing thrown
Just don't ask me how I am
Just don't ask me how I am
Just don't ask me how I am

The song "Luka" is written from the point-of-view of an abused child and tells his story in a subtle and psychologically realistic way, only hinting at the horrible secret of his life. Some people have also read it to be a song about an abused woman, and although this was not what Suzanne thought of when she wrote the song, it is certainly also a valid interpretation. The name "Luka" is indeed taken from a real person with that name, whose outer character Suzanne borrowed. There is, however, no reason to believe that Luka was an abused child in real life. This is what Suzanne said in a Swedish television special recorded 3 November 1987: "A few years ago, I used to see this group of children playing in front of my building, and there was one of them, whose name was Luka, who seemed a little bit distinctive from the other children. I always remembered his name, and I always remembered his face, and I didn't know much about him, but he just seemed set apart from these other children that I would see playing. And his character is what I based the song "Luka" on. In the song, the boy Luka is an abused child -- in real life I don't think he was. I think he was just different."