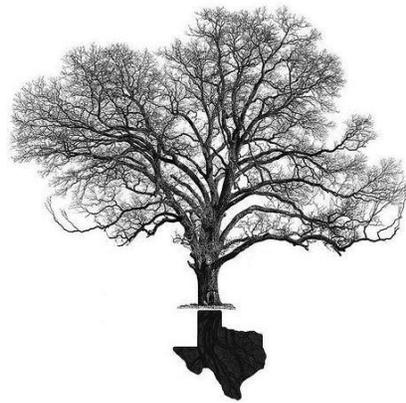


A Year in Russia Without Women

ALAN NAFZGER



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A YEAR IN RUSSIA WITHOUT WOMEN

Written by

Alan Nafzger

Copyright 2019
PH: 214-875-1305
alan.nafzger@gmail.com

FADE IN

BEGIN TITLES

Various Moscow locations: Russian women, dressed in colorful and fashionable clothes, get in and out of taxis, on an off metro cars, walk sidewalks and in the background, we see the Kremlin, Red Square, Moscova River, Apartments on the Embankment, Saint Basils, the Bolshoi, Cathedral of Christ the Savior. Everything is bright and cheerful.

A woman walks in front of the state historical museum and a few men might push each other and want to fight but they look up as a woman passes. They peacefully debate politics. There are several couples who have just become married, and they are walking in Gorky Park. GUM is busy with women shopping, looking, and buying.

Two men have business in a bank. They enter and there are 10 female bank tellers and two male tellers, Every line at the bank is open and there is only a short wait.

Ostankino TV Tower; on the television news a beautiful and intelligent woman reads the news. The journalists beside her on TV look happy and content.

A woman walks into a modern hair salon on Marosejka Street. She may not be entirelyly happy, but she politely smiles at the HAIRDRESSER and takes a seat.

END TITLES

EXT. MOSCOW APARTMENT - NIGHT

An UNNAMED MAN is having a tussle with this wife. There are unusually harsh words.

MAN

I am the man of this house. I'm the leader and you will do what I say.

WOMAN

No, I won't. I'm your wife but it's wrong.

MAN

Come here bitch, I'll show you
what is wrong.

WOMAN

Leave. I want you to leave.

The man grabs for her but she struggles out of his grasp.

The woman moves swiftly out of his reach to the other side of the room. If he moves clockwise to reach her, she moves clockwise around an object. She is sure to keep a sofa, a table, or a desk between them at all times.

The children are on the sofa watching television and they have seen the arguing before. They aren't overly excited. The SON looks at the DAUGHTER; should they clear out of the room? They don't move. The son only turns up the volume on the television, so maybe the neighbors won't hear the fighting. The children don't feel they need to move yet; so far, it's a simple verbal argument.

The man takes a vase, obviously a precious family heirloom, and throws it against the wall. It smashed into many pieces.

The son and daughter, now agree they should leave. They simply walk into their bedrooms and peek out through the doors. They are ready to shut and lock the doors if necessary.

On the wall, there are two, or more, photos of the man and his army buddies. The UNNAMED WOMAN knocks at least a few off the wall. They crash down and the glass breaks.

He chases her and she screams at him. Slowly it becomes a massive fight and really blows up when he catches her.

The man pushes the woman out of the front room into the kitchen. She tries to push him back, but he is thick and doesn't budge. He takes her by the neck... and pushes her against the counter. He's not squeezing her neck but he might. His anger is building.

She's being bent backward and it clearly hurts her. She's about to panic and looks at the knife far from her in the kitchen sink. She spots a skillet neared her on the kitchen

counter. She might struggle to reach it. He raises his hand and then it becomes a fist... he is about to strike her. She is about to reach the skillet and hit him over the head with it.

TIGHT on her lips. She's been injured in the scuffle. Her lip is bleeding.

WOMAN

Never hit a lady.

He hesitates and looks into her eyes. She's looking down and to her left. She has a skillet in her hand. She's ready to use it on the man.

MAN

You're no lady.

He drops his raised fist. He doesn't hit her. He leaves. She cries. The children come out of their rooms to console her. She hugs her children.

WOMAN

Your father loves you. This is between him and me. It has nothing to do with you, children. We both love you very much.

She goes to the refrigerator and puts ice on her lip.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD

An OBSTETRICIAN is very busy. He is traveling from room to room. He has plenty of help, nurses, but there are some nervous deliveries. But at the end of the day, when his replacement arrives, the obstetrician is dead tired and leans against the wall, but smiles big. He's been working like a dog, but is very happy and content. There are so many babies they need to put some in cardboard boxes.

INT. OKHOTNY RYAD

The mall is aesthetically beautiful. The fact that it's underground allows for the beautiful world clock dome. From Russian chains in the food court to Sbarro and McDonalds out by Aleksandrovsy Sad. There's a Moo-Moo on the outer

lower level. The stores - The vast majority of the stores are clothing and shoe places.

The mall is full and rubles are being exchanged. The mall is full of women. Ninety percent of the patrons are female.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

Moscow police are investigating the disappearance of 47 women from the city. While the odds of this many women being kidnapped in one twenty-four hour period is extremely high this is could signal an entirely new crime wave.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD

The fathers, new mothers, brothers and sisters, and nurses all applaud the obstetrician as he exits the maternity ward.

BACK TO:

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

However, on a lighter side of things in Moscow. There is a new medical world-record. Dr. Alexi Korotkov and the staff at Maternity Hospital of Abrikosova, delivered 48 babies in a 24 hour period, ending today. He received a surprise visit from the president and congratulations from many.

The obstetrician stands still as the Russian president pins a medal on the doctor. The doctor is extremely proud. There are many journalists there to take photos.

JOURNALIST

Why so many babies and all in one day.

The obstetrician simply shrugs and smiles.

JOURNALIST

What happened nine months previous?

OBSTETRICIAN

I don't know but I love my country.

EXT. SHERATON PALACE HOTEL - NIGHT

A young GIRL WITH A SONG is performing with her guitar on the sidewalk for coins. There is little interest in helping her. Perhaps her music is uninspired, but she has potential.

EXT/INT. SHERATON PALACE HOTEL - NIGHT

LEV and LIKA get out of a luxury vehicle in front of the hotel. They give the keys to the valet parking attendant.

There is a corporate party going on in the ballroom. The couple is there because of Lev's job.

Lika's first notion is to find their table. Lev's first impulse is to find the bar.

LEV

I'm a little nervous. You want a drink?

LIKA

No, I'm okay. I'm going to find our table.

Lika approaches the EVENT COORDINATOR and inquires about the table. Lika has been married to him for years and she knows that he's an alcoholic. Some nights worse than others, and she's looking for a clue how this night will go. From across the room, she watches Lev down his first drink in seconds and then he brings two to the table.

She doesn't say anything, she just looks at the two drinks. Obviously, she disapproves. He struggles for an explanation.

LEV

Oh, these? There might be a line at the bar later, so I just brought two. And there are awards, I don't want to be getting up and down all the time.

LIKA

Don't drink too much, honey.

LEV

It's free.

LIKA

It's going to be a long night; will you look at all those trophies? Make sure you pace yourself.

LEV

I can handle it.

LIKA

But still, I'd rather you didn't have too much. It's a gala; I mean everything is so formal.

LEV

Okay... and...

LIKA

Not tonight. Okay?

LEV

Yea, right whatever.

Lika smiles and gestures to all the people around the room.

LIKA

These are all your coworkers?

Lev looks around.

LEV

Yep, pretty much.

He leans forward and whispers to her. He's already relatively drunk.

LEV

The most boring bunch of saps on the planet, if you ask me.

The awards begin: best new employee, best venue, best marketing campaign, best event on a budget, best social event, best stand design, best technical support, best association/corporate meeting, best consumer exhibition, best trade exhibition, best philanthropic event, young achiever of the year, best temporary venue or structure, best event space design and décor.

They are announcing the awards and handing out small statuettes. The winners climb a podium to accept the award and shake hands with the CEO.

With each award Lev doesn't win, he stops the waitress for a drink. Lika looks at him reassuringly, that he will win eventually. She hopes her smile and encouragement will make him want to stop drinking.

Some of Lev's FEMALE COWORKERS look over at him and appear worried. They look pitifully at Lika. Clearly, Lev is a heavy drinker and everyone knows it.

Lika gives the waitress a "no more" look and for the rest of the night, she avoids Lev's table. Lev shouts to her and she ignores him. He simply gets up and walks to the bar, and brings back two drinks at a time.

A MALE COWORKER leans over from another table.

MALE COWORKER

Hey buddy, don't get too plastered. You might have to walk up there and claim your prize.

LEV

You think?

MALE COWORKER
I really liked your tractor
exhibition.

LEV
Really?

MALE COWORKER
I think you're a shoe in.

LEV
Thanks. Thanks. I appreciate it.

The award is announced and Lev doesn't win. His coworker might have been delaying the inevitable bout of drinking.

The MALE COWORKER shrugs to Lev as if to say, "Oh well." Lev shows his buddy that he doesn't really care by holding up his glass and then downing it.

Finally, Lika leans over to Lev quietly.

LIKA
(whispering)
Don't you think you've had enough?

LEV
Don't tell me that. Not in front
of my friends and coworkers.

LIKA
I'm sorry, I was trying to be
considerate. I am whispering in
your ear. We brought the car and I
can't drive.

LEV
I'll be okay. I can handle it. I'm
just having fun.

Other awards are given and Lev wins nothing. He continues to drink. Finally, the awards are over and the room begins to clear. Lika gathers her things, coat and purse. Lev disappears to the bar for one last drink. He downs it and they are leaving the ballroom.

The BOSS walks past them in the hotel lobby. Lev looks like he might vomit, but he's holding it back.

BOSS

Lev, I know you were left out tonight. That doesn't mean we don't think you're a valuable employee.

There is a long pause. We don't know if Lev will throw up on his boss or say anything at all.

LEV

Thank you, sir.

LIKA

Thank you for a wonderful party.

BOSS

It was my pleasure.

The boss walks away, shaking the hands of others, but he looks back to see Lev barfing into a tree container.

Lev's male coworker friend, also drunk, comes and hugs him.

MALE COWORKER

Hey buddy, you have a good time?

LEV

Hell of a time. Hell of a time. I can barely stand up.

MALE COWORKER

(to Lev)

You're always the life of the party.

(to Lika)

He's great. Your husband, he's a great man and he got screwed tonight.

The boss hesitates, turns, for a second and then continues shaking hands. He pretends that he doesn't see.

EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF HOTEL - NIGHT

The VALET is about to hand over the keys but notices Lev can barely walk. He instead hands them to Lika. She quickly puts them in her purse.

LIKA

Can you please call us a cab? I don't drive.

VALET

Certainly.

He signals the concierge to phone for a cab. He points to Lev and then to his throat.

LIKA

Honey, they've lost the keys.

LEV

Well, I don't have a spare set.

LIKA

(to Lev)

Can you come back for the car tomorrow?

LEV

Well, no.

VALET

Where do you folks live?

LIKA

Filyovsky Park.

VALET

Oh, that's not far. I can drive you home. I'll just be done in a moment.

The young valet obviously likes Lika.

LIKA

Oh, it's okay. We'll just take a taxi.

VALET

I don't mind. I live in
Krylatskoye.

They look at each other, the valet and Lika. She turns to Lev, who has just sat down on the sidewalk. Someone's given, or sold, him a bottle and he's drinking out of it.

Lika agrees, perhaps more as punishment for Lev than for any other reason.

VALET

I'll be done in just five minutes...
looks like only two more cars.

INT. CAR RIDE HOME - NIGHT

Lev is unseen but in the back seat. The valet is driving and Lika is in the passenger seat.

Lev is making some strange heaving noises.

With little emotion she says...

LIKA

Out the window, please.

The valet begins to pull the car over to the side of the road, but it's too late.

We hear the vomiting, but the windows are up. We can't see Lev.

Lika is mortified. She tries to hid her face.

INT. LIKA'S FILYOVSKY PARK HOME - NIGHT

When they arrive at their home, we see two motorcycles on the property. The valet parks the car and helps Lika bring Lev into the house. One is supporting each of Lev's arms.

When they are in the front room, Lika drops her side of her husband about a foot before the couch. Lev crashes onto the hardwood floor.

The valet looks at Lika; what should we do? Pick him up and put him on the sofa?

LIKA

Opps.

Lika simply shrugs. They leave him on the floor, beside the couch.

Lika and the valet walk to the front porch.

Lika tries to pay the young valet.

VALET

No, I just live... that way.

He points to the west.

LIKA

You're sure. You can get a taxi.

VALET

I'm sure.

LIKA

Thank you.

Lika and the valet make serious eye contact.

VALET

Do you need help cleaning the...

She, on an impulse, kisses him on the mouth. And like a sweet innocent schoolgirl she runs back inside. She closes the door and she's flush. Her heart is racing.

The valet is elated... and touches his lips. He dances down the dark street, perfectly happy.

TIME PASSES

It is still dark. Lika has changed from her formal evening dress and she's in work clothes. She has rubber gloves on. She has a bucket full of water and suds. And she has a sponge. She walks to the car.

TIME PASSES

Early the next morning, Lev is still passed out on the floor next to the couch. Lika is up and dressed to go out. She stops by Lev's body and takes his wallet. She takes all the money and a charge card from it and places it back into his pocket.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

An update on the missing women. Moscow police are now reporting the disappearance of 2,847 women from the city in the last twenty-four hours. Police are doing everything possible to discover the location of the missing women. A special task force has been organized. If you are listening, ladies, "We're coming for you soon."

EXT. TVERSKAYA AND CHEKHOVSKAYA STATIONS - DAY

It is the middle of the day at a Metro transfer station. YEVGENIA and her female friend, OLGA, exit a subway car into Tverskaya and walks up and over the Chekhovskaya tracks to catch a car heading in a different direction. She thinks she sees her husband, YEVGENY, on the other side of a barrier in Chekhovskaya.

YEVGENIA

Is that Yevegeny?

OLGA

Don't ask me; he's your husband.

YEVGENIA

I could have sworn...

Yevgenia turns back against the flow of people to look and it appears to be him and there is a woman standing beside him and there is a considerable amount of public affection. They are kissing in public like they just don't care. This is probably because they simply just don't care.

The man has a distinct dark blue jacket on and the woman has flaming red hair.

Yevgenia rushes through the crowd, up, down and around the walkways, to confront him. But the crowds are too thick and she doesn't get to Chekhovskaya station in time. The man (possibly her husband) and the woman are gone by the time she gets over there. They've left on a northbound train on the gray line.

Yevgenia and Olga study the Metro map... and impulsively her friend guesses. Olga points to the map.

OLGA

Novoslobodskaya. Lots of cheap hotels. Right there.

She puts her finger on the map.

YEVGENIA

It sounds like you speak from experience.

OLGA

Don't remind me.

YEVGENIA

Sorry.

OLGA

I haven't slept with a man that could afford a \$15 hotel in... I don't know how long.

Yevgenia is in tears. Nervous, they hold each other's hands and they ride the gray line to Novoslobodskaya. They exit the underground and look left and right. They guess again. The \$19 and \$15 hotels are across Seleznevskaya Street, so they walk east.

Up several streets, they see a man in a blue jacket with a redhead walking into a relatively nice \$85 hotel. They begin to walk faster, as the couple disappears inside.

OLGA

Wait. That sure is a nice hotel.

Olga pulls out her smartphone. On the left, there is a run down hotel, and on the right, there is an even seedier hotel. But the two women are facing the Savyolovsky dvorik.

YEVGENIA

It looks nice.

OLGA

It is nice.

YEVGENIA

You said the hotels were cheap.

OLGA

That one is \$19 and that one is \$15.

YEVGENIA

How much is this one?

She points to the hotel she believes her husband just walked into.

OLGA

(hesitantly)

I think its \$89.

YEVGENIA

Oh, that bastard. He's not only cheating, but he's splurging.

OLGA

He's obviously gone into an outlandishly priced hotel... You feel insulted?

They pause on the sidewalk before entering the hotel.

YEVGENIA

Yeah, I do. And I'm going to rip his damn head off.

Yevgenia charges into the hotel lobby. There is a man in an identical blue jacket standing at the counter checking in. There is a redhead beside him.

YEVGENIA

You cheating bastard! Caught ya!

Yevgenia grabs the man's jacket from behind and spins him around. She is about to punch the man in the face... but she realizes it's not her husband.

YEVGENIA

You're not my husband.

REDHEAD

No, he's not. I know his wife and you certainly aren't her.

Yevgenia smiles... and begins to back away.

YEVGENIA

I'm sorry. I thought you were... my husband.

Yevgenia makes a funny gesture meaning screwing.

YEVGENIA

I'm sorry. You guys have fun. This is a great hotel. And I'm sure this is a special occasion.

The hotel's CLERK looks ready to call the police.

OLGA

We're going to leave now. No need for the police. We're very sorry.

Yevgenia and Olga, cross the street to go back toward the metro station, and again Yevgenia sees her husband. This time he's in a café and clearly visible. There isn't any mistake this time. He's having coffee with the redhead, the same woman that we saw at the Chekhovskaya station.

Yevgenia, now, doesn't want to punch him, she just stands out on the sidewalk. She is defeated. The entire chase and false alarm has exhausted her. She had her suspicions, but now it's slapped her in the face.

YEVGENIA

I'm not going to scream.

Yevgenia sheds a tear. Her friend hugs her.

OLGA

Come on, you caught him. What is the use?

Yevgeny looks up from the table out into the street and he sees his wife looking at them both through the glass. He's caught.

OLGA

Come on, let's go get drunk.

YEVGENIA

I need to get my hair done first.

OLGA

Who gets their hair done before getting drunk? It's just going to get messed up.

YEVGENIA

I do.

OLGA

Okay, we'll get your hair done and then we'll get drunk.

YEVGENIA

But he's not why I'm doing it.

Yevgeny gets up from the table and walks out to the sidewalk.

YEVGENY

We're just having a cup of coffee.

OLGA

Across the street from a \$15 hotel? How convenient.

Olga enters the café and speaks with the redhead.

From the redhead's POV, we see Yevgeny trying to explain and Yevgenia listening but not accepting any of it. Yevgenia has crossed her arms across her chest, which means that she's closed to any arguments.

OLGA

He has at least two different
venereal diseases. I'm just
saying... cause you should know.

Olga exits the café back onto the sidewalk.

OLGA

So what happened?

YEVGENY

Mind you own damn business.

Yevgeny storms back in the café... the redhead is leaving.

YEVGENIA

What did you tell her?

OLGA

Oh, nothing really.

Yevgenia and Olga walk arm and arm back toward the Metro
station. Yevgenia makes eye contact with every couple they
pass; she is studying them. Thinking and contemplating.

INT. ADULT MOVIE SET - DAY

The lights are there and cameras. GINA is an adult film
star. She gets up from a bed and a GIRL quickly covers her
with a rob. She moves to the bathroom and gets in the
shower.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF MOSCOW - DAY

MARIA is giving a lecture to the student. There is a slide
presentation of males represented in Soviet Era art.

MARIA

On July 17, 1986, the world
discovered that there was "no sex
in the USSR" during a television
talk show.

(beat)

The Leningrad-Boston "TV Bridge"
was one of the first joint Soviet-
American programs filmed live.

When an American woman brought up a topic of sex, a Russian lady exclaimed to the whole world about the absence of this phenomenon in the Soviet Union by saying "There is no sex in the Soviet Union." However, the viewers only caught the first part of her response, as she was interrupted by a burst of laughter. What she actually said was, "There is no sex in the Soviet Union... on television!"

(beat)

So today we discuss male beauty in Soviet Era mass media.

(beat)

Men have always strived to be handsome, stylish, muscled up, and, of course, appealing to ladies. But good looks were not enough to conquer the heart of the Soviet woman. You had to be a real hero, even in a country in which there was no sex.

(beat)

Vyacheslav Tikhonov. I challenge you. Watch the films and tell us who's better - Vyacheslav Tikhonov, or Clark Gable.

(beat)

Yuri Gagarin, Some people say the decisive factor in selecting Gagarin as the first man to go to space was his radiant smile.

(beat)

Vasily Lanovoy who immortalized the phrase, "There's a profession called defending your country."

(beat)

Vladimir Vysotsky. Vysotsky's calling card was his low hoarse voice.

(beat)

Andrei Mironov Mironov was the embodiment of knavery, but quiet handsome.

(beat)

Muslim Magomaev - As "the golden voice" of the Soviet Union, Magomaev conquered the hearts of many women.

(beat)

Oleg Yankovsky - In 1991, he became, together with Sofia Pilyavskaya, the last person to be named a People's Artist of the USSR.

(beat)

Valery Kharlamov - hockey player. In 2013, a film was made about him called Legend No. 17, in which the main role was played by Russia's leading heartbreaker today, Danila Kozlovsky.

(beat)

Okay, that's all. Please enjoy your weekend. I'll see you on Monday.

INT. OKHOTNY RYAD

The mall is almost full and rubles are being exchanged. Women make up a majority of the shoppers, still. Seventy percent of the patrons are female.

EXT. MOSCOW SIDEWALK - DAY

TWO POLICEMEN walk the streets. There doesn't appear anything to investigate. No one has called them to investigate missing women.

EXT. MOSCOW SIDEWALK - DAY

Gina exits the building. Her hair is still wet from the shower. She walks with her head down, not too proud and certainly doesn't want to be noticed. But a young man recognizes her. He follows her onto a metro car. He is hesitant, but finally works up his nerve. He approaches her.

YOUNG MAN

Can I take a photograph?

She is hesitant. She looks around the metro car for the people's reaction.

GINA

Sure.

She smiles and is about to pose, but he moves nearer to her.

GINA

Oh, you want to be in it?

YOUNG MAN

Do you mind?

GINA

No.

The people watch as they pose for a selfie. The people in the car whisper to themselves. Several people give her mean looks. She smiles at the young man to be polite, but she's not happy with the situation.

The young man exits at the next stop.

INT. BASMANNY APARTMENT - DAY

Maria arrives home from her day at the university. MIKHAIL is a gluttonous man and he's on the sofa eating popcorn and watching an old movie. Ironically, it's one of the old Soviet movies that she discussed earlier that day in her lecture of male beauty.

She sits at the kitchen table in awe. She's in shock. She's been married to Mikhail for a long time, but for some reason today the chickens come home to roost.

MIKHAIL

Want to come watch this with me?

MARIA

I thought you'd want to go walk with me in the park?

MIKHAIL

Oh, I want to watch this film.

Reluctantly Maria rises...

MIKHAIL

Oh, can you bring me a soda out of the fridge when you come?

Maria marches like a zombie to the refrigerator and retrieves a can of soda. She hands it to him as she passes the sofa. She walks calmly to the bathroom, goes inside and firmly locks the door. She cries.

TIME PASSES

Mikhail is watching a different Soviet movie. Judging from all the empty chip bags and candy wrappers, he's been on the couch eating the entire weekend.

POLICEMAN #1 and POLICEMAN #2 knock on the apartment door. Mikhail gets up and takes forever to get to the door; he's incredibly overweight. The police are about to leave when he reaches the door. He's almost out of breath after only traveling a few meters.

POLICEMAN #1

You called and said your wife was in the bathroom.

MIKHAIL

She's locked in there and can't get out... I think.

POLICEMAN #1

She's been in there how long?

MIKHAIL

Two days.

POLICEMAN #2

Your wife locked herself in the bathroom two days ago and you're just now calling us?

MIKHAIL

Well, she teaches art history and mass media at the university and... she's a bit moody sometimes.

POLICEMAN #1
Well, what do you want us to do?

MIKHAIL
I thought maybe you had some sort
of tool to get her out.

POLICEMAN #2
Did you talk to her?

MIKHAIL
I tried.

POLICEMAN #1
You tried, and she didn't respond?

MIKHAIL
Yes, I tried.

POLICEMAN #1 realizes something. He whispers to POLICEMAN #2.

POLICEMAN #1
Has she ever tried to hurt
herself?

MIKHAIL
No. She would never do that.

POLICEMAN #1
Okay... let's see.

The policeman knocks on the door.

POLICEMAN #1
Ma'am? You okay in there. Your
husband..

POLICEMAN #2
You are her husband, right?

POLICEMAN #1
He's worried about you?

Maria is nude and in the bath. She's staring up at the ceiling. She's catatonic.

There isn't an answer. They listen for movement. There isn't any sound coming from the bathroom. The policemen look at each other. They've probably opened more than a few doors to reveal a gruesome suicide.

POLICEMAN #1

I hate this part of the job.

Policeman #1 lowers his shoulder and forces the door open. The policemen expect to find an obese dead woman. But they enter the bathroom and see beautiful and trim Maria naked in the water. She screams and jumps up and reaches for a towel to cover herself. The policemen are embarrassed and hide their eyes and exit the bathroom.

POLICEMAN #2

I'm sorry ma'am, but we thought...

They look at Maria and then at Mikhail. They can't believe it. It's not a good match. They shake their head in disbelief. They don't hurt anyone's feelings but it is clear what they are thinking.

POLICEMAN #1

(to Maria)

We'll leave, but take one of these cards. It's a suicide prevention organization. They have a phone number; it's on the card. Weekly meetings. Counsellors. You think that's something you might be interested in?

MARIA

Yeah, sure. But I need to get my hair done first.

The policeman hands her the card.

POLICEMAN #1

(to Mikhail)

Here you take one too.

The police leave. Maria turns and Mikhail is back on the couch finishing the movie he was watching. He says nothing to her as he's eating popcorn. The shocked, doomed, look returns to her face.

INT/EXT. SUBURBAN MOSCOW HOME - DAY

SVETLANA is at her walk-in closet. She has a lot of nice clothes and shoes. It's a relatively large house.

Svetlana hears the engine of his van. She walks to the window and watches SLAVA arrive. He drives a utility van into the garage. He doesn't emerge from the garage quickly. She waits and waits. Finally, Svetlana walks out to the garage and Slava opens the door and comes out. He is nervous and he locks the garage door.

SLAVA

Hey, baby.

SVETLANA

What are you doing out here so long?

SLAVA

Just parking the van.

She looks suspiciously at the garage and the lock on the door.

SVETLANA

Something is going on. You're locking the garage again.

SLAVA

They had some break-ins down the road. I don't want something to happen to my van.

SVETLANA

You're sure?

SLAVA

Nothing, I swear.

SVETLANA

Really?

SLAVA

Really. I'm going to take a shower. I brought some steaks.

He holds up a package of meat.

SVETLANA

Okay.

Svetlana walks back to the house with him. He hugs her, but she's still suspicious and she keeps glancing back at the garage.

Slava stops at their charcoal grill, throws some bricks into a pile and pours some lighter fluid on them. He strikes a match and ignites the flame.

While Slava is in the shower, she takes his keys and sneaks out to the garage.

The audience will take two clues that Slava is a greedy person. First, it is a two-car garage. And Slava's second vehicle is a German sports car. Understand that Slava is just as accustomed to being wealthy.

Svetlana looks inside the van. She looks under the van. She looks on top of the van. She looks in the tool boxes. And she looks in and amongst all the tools there. Nothing. She opens the hood of the van and looks into the engine compartment. Nothing. She looks in the trunk of the sports car. Still nothing.

Finally, she leaves. The camera tilts up. In the rafters, we see finds 30 or more rifles.

Slava emerges from the shower and is greeted with a stern look. Her arms are folded in front of her. By crossing her arms, she's communicating that he's in a lot of trouble.

SVETLANA

I want to remind you that you
promised not to take any more guns
from your work.

Svetlana is running a bluff, a trick to make him admit what he's doing.

SLAVA

You found them?

SVETLANA

No, but you just admitted to me you're doing it again. "You found them?" really, you're not a very good criminal.

SLAVA

Sorry?

SVETLANA

You lied to me.

SLAVA

No, I didn't. I just asked, "you found them?"

SVETLANA

You promised that you'd stop.

SLAVA

Sometimes the obstacle to love is just plain money. I can't earn enough; I need an independent source of income to support us.

SVETLANA

We'll manage. I told you this.

SLAVA

You are a woman that left your parents' fine home for my meagre life, but living in the way you have been accustomed is expected.

SVETLANA

I don't expect that from you.

SLAVA

A man is supposed to provide for his wife. It's necessary.

SVETLANA

Not at the expense of everything.

SLAVA

You don't understand.

SVETLANA

So this is my fault?

SLAVA

No. But, I'm not your father with his business connections and capital. And he expects me to provide for you far more than I'm able.

SVETLANA

So this is my father's fault?

SLAVA

What am I supposed to do?

It's pretty clear that Slava enjoys a nice life, steaks, and cars. He's wrongly passing the responsibility onto her.

SVETLANA

I don't want anything but you.

SLAVA

Usually, the woman is expected to hold out for a life equal to her parents.

SVETLANA

But, so long as I'm not poor or hungry, I'm okay. That is all that is required.

SLAVA

That's very noble of you. But is it realistic?

SVETLANA

Two can live as cheaply as one. If the woman is a good housekeeper, she can ensure that her husband's expenses go down. I can cook more, instead of eating out constantly.

SLAVA

You don't like to cook.

SVETLANA

I will.

(beat)

And I don't need all this stuff...
we've been accumulating. Five
pairs of shoes, that's all I need.

SLAVA

Shoes?

SVETLANA

If I am willing to settle for less
money, then you'll stop with the
guns?

SLAVA

Your father was right; he wanted
you to marry that other suitor.

SVETLANA

I choose you. You are my husband.

SLAVA

Look, many a rich man's daughter,
has learned the hard way that
she's married a man with no useful
skills to support even himself.

SVETLANA

We can go to church.

SLAVA

Where did that come from?

SVETLANA

I'm just trying to...

SLAVA

I know. My failure is not a simple
thing... for you or for me either.
I'm sorry.

SVETLANA

I can't love you if they put you
in prison.

SLAVA

They won't do that.

SVETLANA

How do you know that?

Svetlana calmly gets up to leave.

SLAVA

Where are you going? I have steaks.

SVETLANA

I need to have my hair done.

EXT. PARK OUTSIDE OF HUGE CORPORATE BUILDING - DAY

TIMUR is having a quick lunch with his COLLEAGUE, in a park, across the street from a large corporate office building.

TIMUR

So Toma is seeing a psychiatrist.

COLLEAGUE

Really, what's the problem?

TIMUR

She says I'm spending too much time at work.

COLLEAGUE

So she's going to a psychiatrist? Why doesn't she just talk to you about it?

TIMUR

She did.

COLLEAGUE

And...

TIMUR

I guess it's not working.

COLLEAGUE

Well, while a man's devotion to his career is admirable, you don't want it to seriously affect your ability to hold your marriage together.

TIMUR

Oh, she's not leaving me.

COLLEAGUE

Thank goodness.

TIMUR

I scheduled a business meeting at the same time as little Sally's birthday party and then again creating a conflict with Tommy's athletics game.

COLLEAGUE

She was pretty quick letting you know about it?

TIMUR

Years. I've been working like this for years.

Timur's colleague gestures to the building behind them.

COLLEAGUE

Everybody up here is single.

TIMUR

Of course, they are, looking to move up and don't have time for marriage.

COLLEAGUE

In fact, everyone I know, except you, is single.

TIMUR

Everyone I know is married, except for you.

COLLEAGUE

They're wives complain?

TIMUR

Sometimes, but the complaining spouse's position is generally not legitimate. While they might have a point, maybe their partner really does need to put in all that time in order to be effective. How does Toma even know what's needed up here?

COLLEAGUE

She loves you.

TIMUR

What if the job involves saving human lives, like police officers, firefighters, paramedics, doctors, heart surgeons?

COLLEAGUE

We're architects? We build things. It's a very important part of the economy, but...

TIMUR

Sometimes we have to work long hours, and be on call 24-7, or expose the worker to dangerous situations, and lives genuinely *can* be lost if we aren't attentive to the work, even if this means we have to sometimes neglect our families.

COLLEAGUE

On the other hand, we might just be too obsessed with our career and the perks, privileges, and power we have, and we've forgotten what's important in life.

Timur stops chewing his food and ponders the issue.

COLLEAGUE

You don't think you're focusing on the wrong things?

TIMUR

No.

COLLEAGUE

If you made amends and spent more time at home would it fix things with Toma?

TIMUR

I doubt it. I think she just likes to complain.

COLLEAGUE

I recently saw a film... It had a downer ending, the character put in an insane amount of effort for a big promotion at work, then actually got it, but he lost everyone who was important to him in the process.

TIMUR

And then he discovers that the promotion he wanted wasn't all it was cracked up to be?

COLLEAGUE

How'd you know?

TIMUR

It's a predictable outcome.

COLLEAGUE

So what you gonna do?

TIMUR

I'll pay the psychiatrist bill. Don't worry.

COLLEAGUE

No, about work. What will you do?

TIMUR

Nothing.

COLLEAGUE

Do you think there is even work in
the afterlife?

The colleague is being sarcastic, but Timor and then even the colleague contemplate the question before returning to work.

INT. OKHOTNY RYAD

The mall is half full and fewer rubles are being exchanged. There are a mixture of shoppers, but clearly there are fewer people. Fifty percent of the patrons are female.

INT. MOSCOW GYM - NIGHT

There are dead weights and exercise machines. There is a glass wall separating the lobby and the workout area. VASILY is a bodybuilder, lifting weights. Vasily's shirt says, "Muscles Are Meaningful"

ALLA arrives all decked out, dressed very nicely, for a night on the town. She sits in the lobby, waiting.

Vasily comes to the glass and waves to her. She smiles back. He shows her two fingers which is supposed to mean he has two more sets of exercises.

Alla's phone rings and she answers.

ALLA

Hello, girlfriend.

(beat)

Waiting on Vasily.

(beat)

He's working out.

(beat)

He says he doesn't.

(beat)

Well, steroids and hormones.

(beat)

They're abused sometimes.

(beat)

They want to get even bigger muscles.

(beat)

He says he doesn't.

(beat)

The reduction of body fat.

(beat)

Before competitions he does cardio. But frankly, it's common for competitors to starve or even dehydrate themselves before going on-stage.

(beat)

It refines that sculpted look, so you can see the muscles.

(beat)

Dinner and a movie, if he ever finishes.

(beat)

Seven years.

(beat)

He'll never ask.

(beat)

He just won't.

(beat)

No, no ring. No marriage... Nothing even near it.

(beat)

No, I won't hold my breath.

(beat)

Well, clearly he has commitment issues.

(beat)

I don't know. Once a week.

(beat)

Why buy the cow when milk is what?

(beat)

What's that mean?

(beat)

Once you're, you know, intimate with a guy... he gets accustomed to it and... you get to looking forward to it... well, you understand.

Surely.

(beat)

I can't tell him that.

(beat)

How do I deal with it? I work. I go to the stock exchange and I stay there until he calls.

(beat)

Once a week. I told you.

(beat)

I'm becoming a highly paid unmarried workaholic.

(beat)

Yea, it looks like a great movie. I've been waiting months to see it.

(beat)

He promised.

(beat)

I'll tell you about it.

(beat)

Okay, bye.

Vasily comes to the glass and waves to her again. This time he holds up one finger. Alla smiles and waves to him.

Alla is looking at the clock.

TIME PASSES

Vasily comes to the glass and waves to her again. This time he holds up one finger. Alla smiles and waited patiently.

TIME PASSES

Vasily comes to the glass and waves to her again. This time he holds up one finger. Alla doesn't smile but points to the clock on the wall.

TIME PASSES

Vasily comes to the glass and waves to her again. This time he holds up one finger. Alla gets up and leaves.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Down the street, nearly to the metro station, Vasily catches up with her. He's still in his gym clothes.

VASILY

Alla. Please, don't be mad.

ALLA
We've missed the movie.

VASILY
I'm sorry. When is the next time?

ALLA
They're sold out.

VASILY
Oh.

ALLA
You promised. And you kept telling
me one more repetition. One more
repetition. Six times.

VASILY
No, only three or four.

ALLA
No, like six times.

VASILY
You know how I get when I'm in the
gym.

ALLA
I know how you are, yes.

VASILY
Well, let's go eat?

ALLA
You're dressed...

VASILY
Oh, well come back... I'll shower
and change. And then we'll go out.
(beat)
I can shower, right?

Alla is seriously disappointed, but she's invested seven
years in this relationship and can't just cast it aside.

ALLA

Go, shower.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It's not an interesting conversation. There actually isn't any conversation. Vasily is only interested in the food. Rather a lot of it. Poor Alla has very small portions.

Vasily is paying hardly any attention to her. So, she pulls out her ace card... a compliment about his body.

ALLA

You've gotten bigger from just last week it seems.

VASILY

Really.

ALLA

Yeah.

VASILY

Thanks. High protein diet. An extra hour each day in the gym. You can really see it?

ALLA

Sure.

Vasily smiles proudly and continues to eat.

TIME PASSES

INT. VASILY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The walls look like a teenagers bedroom. It looks very childish for a grown man. There are posters of other men, bodybuilders. There are a few women also bodybuilders, who by the way, look like East German athletes.

Vasily and Alla are fooling around under the bedcovers.

ALLA

What's wrong with it?

VASILY

Keep trying, is all I can say.

ALLA

No, this isn't working. There's something wrong.

VASILY

It happens to a man when he gets older. Keep trying.

ALLA

You're not old.

Vasily takes steroids, it's pretty clear.

She reaches under the sheets again. And shrieks...

ALLA

Eck!

(beat)

Your balls. They're the size of marbles.

She sits in bed and pouts.

VASILY

You're mad?

ALLA

Why would I be mad?

VASILY

Well, you look mad.

ALLA

Steroids weaken a man's sex drive and cause erection problems. Your balls have shrunk because you've taken so much testosterone; your body no longer needs to make its own.

VASILY

I don't do that stuff.

ALLA

Are you kidding me? You'd rather
look massive in front of mostly
other men than please your woman?

VASILY

No, I want to please you... It's
just that right now... well...

(beat)

Maybe we can try again tomorrow?

ALLA

I'm getting my hair done tomorrow.

Vasily has no response.

EXT. LARGE MARKET CENTER - NIGHT

RUSLAN and NATASHA are walking on a date in the market. She
looks at the movie posters, she wants to see this film but
she says nothing. He passes it by.

She looks into a nice restaurant; he passes it by with very
little interest.

She stops to try a new perfume in one of the shops; he
doesn't buy it for her.

And flowers and dresses, he's not interested in her wants
or desires. She wants small things.

He stops at an undesirable restaurant.

But at the end of the night, they come to a butcher shop.
There are remnants of meat and Ruslan buys them and also
some prime cuts too. He lays out a decent amount of money
for the butcher.

RUSLAN

Want to see the lion?

NATASHA

We can't.

RUSLAN

This is my work. I have a key.

Ruslan and Natasha enter the zoo after dark. It's a bit spooky. It is dark, of course, and the animals make noises that frighten Natasha. A tiger roars.

NATASHA
Was that your lion?

RUSLAN
Oh, hell no. When the lion speaks you'll know it. That was a tiger... and only a kitten next to my lion.

NATASHA
My lion?

RUSLAN
Well yes, I'm his principal caregiver.

NATASHA
Caregiver?

RUSLAN
Someone must, you know.

A hyena cackles and Nastashia jumps.

RUSLAN
Hyenas. They're assholes. Really.

NATASHA
How can animals be assholes?

RUSLAN
Trust me. They are.

They arrive at the African lion exhibit. The lion is sitting as if on a throne.

RUSLAN
Hey, friend. Look what I brought you.

The lion rises and postures for the food.

RUSLAN
The lion only likes me.

NATASHA

Of course, you feed him.

Ruslan throws the meat over the fence and the lion gulps it down quickly.

Natasha has had about as much shit as she's going to take... and she unleashes her tongue.

NATASHA

That lion would rip you to pieces and eat you if you meet in his world.

RUSLAN

This is his world and he doesn't and he wouldn't.

NATASHA

I mean in Africa. Where there isn't any fence for you to hide behind.

RUSLAN

I would hope so.

It is hopeless. Ruslan, like most men, miss totally even the most glaring comments.

NATASHA

Ruslan, you go to your job every day at the zoo and you take better care of the lion than you do me.

RUSLAN

A lion is a majestic creature and the zoo administrators don't buy him enough meat... they are selfish and that's not right.

NATASHA

He looks fat.

RUSLAN

He doesn't get enough exercise.
(beat)

But sometimes, I catch rabbits and put them in the enclosure for his amusement.

NATASHA

You are a zoo. That's not cruel?

RUSLAN

Life is cruel.

NATASHA

Really, at a zoo?

RUSLAN

No one knows.

NATASHA

I know.

RUSLAN

What do you want me to do?

NATASHA

I want you to not put little bunny rabbits in there for him to eat.

RUSLAN

Sometimes they escape. There are many small holes in the fence. Of course, they can't always find them.

(beat)

So you want to come out tomorrow and I'll give you a tour of the zoo in the day?

NATASHA

No, thank you. I'm going to have my hair done.

EXT. SIDEWALK IN THE OLD ARBAT - DAY

Lika is walking past an old familiar café. She pauses to look inside.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. CAFÉ IN THE OLD ARBAT - MORNING

It is morning. Lika and Lev are still in their wedding gown and tux. They are at a table, finishing their breakfast. There is a large bouquet of flowers on the table between them.

LEV

Aren't you supposed to throw the flowers to the young women?

LIKA

I would have.

LEV

They were lined up elbows out.

LIKA

I know but it might have gone to the wrong one. And besides it's so nice a bouquet.

LEV

Brutal. My wife is brutal.

LIKA

So?

LEV

So what did you throw them.

LIKA

Something less expensive.

Lev is trying to grasp the cunning of his new wife and the lengths she'll go to get what she wants (to be happy).

LIKA

It has calla lilies in it.

(beat)

It was perfect wasn't it?

LEV

Yeah it was.

LIKA

Perfect wedding, perfect
breakfast, and perfect life.

LEV

Last chance, we can still get that
apartment just around the corner.

LIKA

Is that why we're here?

LEV

No, no. It's just a coincidence.

(beat)

But it is the most famous walking
street in Moscow. We can eat here
everyday. We can be Arbat people.

LIKA

Lev, I know.

LEV

We would be close to the history,
the Smolenskaya. You love that
metro station.

LIKA

I like the Filyovsky Park station
too.

LEV

But I thought you wanted to be
this cool hip chick.

LIKA

I can be a cool chick with a
babysitter just down the street.

LEV

Yes, you can.

LIKA

I really like the house in
Filyovsky Park. I grew up in that
area. My parents' are so close.

LEV

Very close.

LIKA

When we have kids, we can just drive up the street and drop them off and go anywhere and be cool by night. We can have it all.

LEV

I'm not going to say no to you. Not seeing what you are capable of.

Lev gestures to the flowers.

LIKA

You love me, Lev?

LEV

(joking)

Napoleon loved his first wife and look what he did. He burned down Moscow. I do.

LIKA

(whispering)

Meet me in the bathroom. Two minutes.

LEV

Are you kidding me? You're in a wedding dress.

LIKA

(to the waiter)

Excuse me, where's the ladies room?

The waitress points and Lika gets up to leave.

LEV

Who are you? I thought I married a nice girl.

LIKA

Oh, no you did not.

Lev looks around to see if anyone has overheard. No one has. He gets up and walks in that direction, not waiting the two mins.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TOMA AND TIMUR'S MOSCOW APARTMENT - DAY

Toma's in her apartment. On her way to the bathroom, Toma pauses and looks at the bed. Then she looks into the bathroom at her hair curlers and face cream which are on the counter.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

Toma and Timur are getting dressed for bed.

TOMA

A rabbit ran wildly in the street. "Why are you running like mad?" a bear asked. "Don't you know, they are now arresting all camels and castrating them." "But you're a rabbit, not a camel." "Right, but if the cops catch you, and cut off your nuts, then you'll have the opportunity to prove that you're not a camel!"

Timur chuckles and turns out the light.

TIMUR

Good night. Love.

Toma waits. Until Timur is asleep. She rises out of bed and ever so quietly she makes her way to the bathroom. She closes the door behind her and only then turns on the bathroom light. She curls her hair. She takes off her eyelashes and make up. She washes her face thoroughly and applies face cream. She wraps her hair and face in a towel for the night. She looks in the mirror and confidently returns to the bedroom.

She adjusts the curtains to that at a precise moment the next morning the sunlight will enter the bedroom and wake her.

It works, the next morning, she wakes up. Timur is still sleeping. Toma enters the bathroom and takes off her towel and the face cream. She applies make up, and fixes her hair. She returns to bed, just in time for the alarm to wake them. Timur wakes up and leans over to kiss Toma.

TIMUR

Good morning.

Toma fakes a yawn.

TIMUR

You know it always amazes me how beautiful you are in the morning.

Timur gives her a much longer kiss.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. BOTANICAL GARDEN - DAY

Maria is walking through the park and a couple is walking in their wedding clothes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. WEDDING HALL - DAY

The wedding banquet is full of food and people and they are all chatting and having a good time. Suddenly the bride, uses her fork on a wine glass and everyone quiets down.

MARIA

I know. The men have given their toasts, but what bride gives a toast at her own wedding? Really who stands in the middle of a ball room after three glasses of Champaign on an empty stomach. And I mean completely empty stomach, because fitting into this dress required no food for three weeks. Who does that? Me. I do.

The crowd laughs and claps.

MARIA

The day is perfect. It's like a dream to me. I know it's not a dream for my father, for him it's a nightmare. How much for the reception hall?

(beat)

This day has been planned forever. And if you know me, I'm a planner. I was eight when I knew I'd study art. I was ten when I knew I wanted to study art history. When I was twelve, I announced I would be teaching at Moscow State University. And from the very first time I meet him, I knew I would marry Mikhail.

A young good looking Mikhail stands and take a bow. The guests applaud.

MARIA

Mikhail is my knight in shinning armour. A gift from God. He thought I was brilliant. He took me to art galleries, poetry readings, and Danish art films.

(beat)

I have wonderful parents. I've had a very comfortable life and thought I knew love would be great, I did however wonder if it would justify the cost of this dress.

The guests chuckle.

MARIA

I'm just kidding. Thanks dad.

FATHER

We're very happy.

MARIA

And while it should be perfectly obvious, I still wanted to get up

here and tell everyone that I LOVE
THIS MAN!

The guest give their 'uhs' and 'ohs', they are touched and they all clap their hands.

END FLASHBACK

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Yevgenia and Olga go to the grocery store. Olga disappears to buy some alcohol. Yevgenia walks to the produce section. She looks at limes and lemons.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. YEVGENIA AND YEVGENI'S KITCHEN - DAY

Yevgenia and Yevgeni are newly married. They are half in their wedding clothes and in a kitchen mixing lemon-lime vodka coolers.

END FLASHBACK

INT. OKHOTNY RYAD

The mall is basically empty and rubles are being exchanged. There are only a few women. Twenty percent of the patrons are female.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Two MOSCOW POLICEMEN knock on a door. A MAN opens the door and he's obviously called them. His wife is missing. The policemen have a notebook and are recording all the facts. The man points to the left and to the right. The police ask him some questions. He shrugs his shoulders and clearly doesn't know the answer.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

And Yevgenia sees the GROCER recklessly pouring fruit from a basket into the display. He spills a few apples into the oranges and a few oranges are mixed in with the apples. A few oranges fall on the floor and roll away. It really bothers Yevgenia.

YEVGENIA

You have some oranges in the apples.

GROCER

I missed. Sort of.

But the grocer doesn't correct the mistake; he continues to work. Yevgenia begins to lecture the man.

YEVGENIA

Sort of? This is a grocery store. In these walls women are separated from the outside world. And in a grocery what counts is this.

And she motions to the produce.

YEVGENIA

These fruits and vegetables are different. They look different and they have different textures and they taste different. You can't just throw them out in any disheveled manner. They don't go together. That is the solemn promise made in the modern grocery. Milk and peanut butter go together. Husbands and wives go together. And they will ALWAYS go with each other. Apples should never break that...

The grocer is polite and listens as Yevgenia has something of a breakdown.

Tears in her eyes, Yevgenia places the errant apples back with the other apples.

YEVGENIA

They will always remain together.
(beat)
And oranges will never stray away
and go with apples.

Yevgenia chases down the aisle to pick up a few oranges off the floor.

Olga returns to the produce with two large bottles of liquor. Olga just gets in on the end of the lecture.

YEVGENIA

Oranges don't just decide they don't need the others and they don't just run off and become literally independent of the others. An orange can't just come home from work one day and say, 'you know, I just need my own space.' And then the shopper (that's me) has to come in and say, 'no, you can't let that orange behave that way.' But it's all so embarrassing to have to go beg the orange to come back.

(beat)

And even if he does come back, it's an impermanent solution because the orange will always know in the back of his little mind that he got away with it last time.

(beat)

You understand what I'm saying?

Still, the grocer doesn't know what to say. He nods politely afraid to provoke Yevgenia. She appears a bit manic.

OLGA

(to the grocer)

I'm sorry.

Olga takes a few limes and lemons and she also takes Yevgenia's arm and they move toward the check out.

INT. UPSCALE CAFÉ - DAY

There are 25 tables and 23 of them are women gossiping with their friends. Svetlana's MOTHER and her mother's FRIEND are having a lunch. They visit.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Do you remember when Svetlana's first boyfriend went into the military?

FRIEND

And she didn't eat for a year?

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

You remember?

FRIEND

Of course I remember, I'm your best friend.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Well, they are definitely having problems. She's lost 6 lbs. He lies to her. No telling what he's doing behind her back.

FRIEND

She told you this?

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

No, but I know. A mother knows.

FRIEND

Maybe he'll leave her and she'll be happy.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Not much chance of that, if you know what I mean.

FRIEND

I warned you about him.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Warned me? I don't remember.

FRIEND

I said at the wedding, "so you think this is the right choice?"

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

That was telling me?

FRIEND

What do I have to do spell things
out for you?

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

I know, I just wish you'd have
been more clear. Maybe I wasn't
listening. It was such a beautiful
wedding.

FRIEND

She needs to take a trip.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

You think?
(beat)
Athens?

FRIEND

They're bankrupt.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Rome?

FRIEND

The men are pigs there.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

Men are pigs everywhere.
(wait)
What do I do?

FRIEND

Paris. Send her to Paris.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

You think?

FRIEND

You and her, a week in Paris. And
imply to him that she's not coming
back.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

That might work.

FRIEND

Paris is all chic hotels and
strolls by the Seine. The Eiffel
Tower...

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

... and Disneyland Paris.

FRIEND

She'll meet a nice man there.

SVETLANA'S MOTHER

But they're married.

FRIEND

Paris is a magical city, you know.
If this scumbag isn't there, no
telling what can happen.

At a different table...

A YOUNG WOMAN and her MOTHER are talking. We've not seen
them before. The waitress brings big/strong drinks to their
table.

YOUNG WOMAN

Thursday dinner. He wants to meet
you.

MOTHER

Oh, Thank God.

YOUNG WOMAN

Mom, it's not that big a deal.

MOTHER

You've been looking for a man and
finally it looks like you've got
one.

YOUNG WOMAN

Mom.

MOTHER

What dress are you wearing?

YOUNG WOMAN

I don't know.

MOTHER

Wear the red dress.

YOUNG WOMAN

That's an evening dress.

MOTHER

It's dinner. That's evening.

YOUNG WOMAN

Momma.

MOTHER

Has he ever seen you in an evening dress before?

YOUNG WOMAN

No.

MOTHER

Well, he should see what he's missing.

YOUNG WOMAN

That is not what this dinner is for.

MOTHER

You are a single woman. That's what every dinner's for.

EXT. NEW ARBAT - DAY

VERA steps from the Metro Kitai-Gorod onto the sidewalk. She is alone and without a man. But she's putting on a brave face. She returns the smile of several men, but they don't approach her.

An old man is having trouble opening a door; she runs to assist him.

Two foreigners, man and wife, are looking for an address, the Old English Court museum. She looks at them. They appear in love and Vera looks on admiringly. She gives them excellent directions. In fact, she escorts them to within view of the building. She points it out and returns to Lubyanskiy Street. She's gone out of her way to be nice to people that she'll never see again.

Her fashion is good. She is beautiful and is the girl next door. Clean and wholesome and healthy. There isn't any reason for her to be without a man, only it's Russia.

A loose dog is running from a child. She lures it to her and picks it up.

VERA

Is this your dog?

BOY

Yes, he is an escape artist.

VERA

He doesn't like your apartment?

BOY

He's a country dog at heart.

VERA

Many dogs are, you know.

BOY

I don't know why; he's never seen a farm.

VERA

He doesn't like Moscow?

BOY

The way he runs, I don't think he likes Russia either.

VERA

That makes two of us.

BOY

I think that he believes he's going to run to a farm.

VERA

Have patience little guy; dogs and people always find their niche. A farm is waiting for you somewhere out there.

(beat)

But, sad to say, not today.

She hands the dog to the boy.

And she continues walking. She is merry and more men smile at her. Twice she stops on the sidewalk and looks at a kiosk, but the handsome men look at her but don't approach her.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Vera enters the salon. It is ritzy and upscale. Having one's hair styled here appears to cost a good amount of money. The chief stylist knows Vera.

STYLIST

(to employee)

My best customer. Always trying something new. Lovely sweet girl. Bravest girl in all of Moscow.

(to Vera)

Vera, you are back, I see. Any luck?

VERA

No. Luck.

STYLIST

I'm sorry.

VERA

It's not your fault; I'm just unlucky at love. I'm smart, beautiful, successful and completely alone.

STYLIST

Oh, don't take it too personally; Moscow men are simply hard headed. And anything exquisite throws them

for a loop. But who wants such a man? If you frighten them, walk past them.

VERA

Unfortunately, they are the ones walking past.

STYLIST

Something so exotic as you simply intimidates them. They fear losing their independence. It is easier not to feel, so they run away.

VERA

Thanks, but can we just keep on doing what we're doing?

STYLIST

What? Another style?

VERA

Please?

STYLIST

Of course.

(beat)

Here take this book and... well, you know what to do.

The stylist hands her a magazine with all the newest designs.

STYLIST

And I'll be right back

She flips through the book...

VERA

That's crazy hair. Did that. Did that. Tried that. Maybe. No.

Finally, she stops at Sarah Jessica Parker (SJP) and definitively puts her finger on the page.

The stylist has returned to her side.

VERA

Interesting.

STYLIST

This will be fantastic.

(beat)

Sure to bring a man around...
frothy, honey-dipped ombré, the
mane that launched a million
perms. Sexy... looks tussled a bit.
Sex in the City?

(beat)

Are you trying to send some
signals here?

VERA

No, I'm just... well yes, maybe a
little.

STYLIST

It's okay, honey. Everybody wants
some. I want some too.

VERA

I hate Moscow, the men here are
really goats.

STYLIST

It is amazing that Russian babies
are even born.

VERA

Even goats get lucky sometimes.

It's inside a building, but Vera gets a chill and she
shivers.

VERA

I wish I were somewhere warm.

STYLIST

You think all the Russian women
don't feel the same?

VERA

Yes, I think they do.

The stylist is called away. Vera falls to sleep in the chair.

TIME PASSES

EXT. Waggoner ranch - Texas - Day

Establishing shot, Texas. Windpump, cattle, horses, pickup trucks, cowboys. A boy is there with a cow dog. There is a solitary goat, someone is keeping as a pet. The goat is raising a ruckus. The male goat charges his owner who moves out of the way. The goat crashes into the fence.

INT. SMALL TEXAS HAIR SALON - DAY

The salon has been built for the wives of the ranch cowboys. There are antique photos on the wall of Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Dolly Patton. There are some famous photos of cowgirls on horseback and barrel racing at rodeos.

There are five women in the shop. Two hairdressers and two Texas women having their hair set. Vera is there. The Texas women are chatting away.

Vera is asleep in exactly the same type of chair and in the same position she was in while in Moscow. She doesn't know it yet, but the film's magical realism had begun. She's been transported to Texas.

She opens her eyes... takes it in a few seconds... and then closes them again. Then she processes the images... this isn't Moscow.

She opens her eyes wide. She looks at each of the women in the salon. They are just as shocked as she is... they don't know who she is or where she came from.

HAIRDRESSER

You okay, honey?

English! Vera gets up confused and walks around the room. Looking at the photos on the wall. Just that instant a COWBOY walks in. He gestures a question, where to sit. The HAIRDRESSER points to the chair and he sits down. He is a handsome man and the women forget about Vera for a second. Vera does notice the cowboy but finishes looking at the

photos on the wall. The lettering isn't Cyrillic. She's not in Russia anymore.

HAIRDRESSER #1

You just want a trim, honey?

COWBOY

Please, ma'am.

The cowboy sits and the hairdresser puts a sheet over him to keep the hair off his clothes. The cowboy notices Vera.

Vera doesn't know what to say, her English is not so good, it was years ago and from school.

COWBOY

I don't think I know you.

The cowboy extends his hand in a friendly shake.

She looks like a deer caught in the headlights. She is trying to process the strange events. She's in Texas and the Cowboy is speaking Russian.

VERA

Pleasure to meet you.

She takes his hand. She looks at his cowboy hat, pearl snap shirt, boots and spurs. He's genuine.

VERA

You're not a Russian?

COWBOY

No, ma'am. Texan, born the bred right here.

VERA

But you speak perfect Russian?

COWBOY

I do not.

VERA

But my English from school is terrible.

COWBOY

I understand you perfectly well.

VERA

But I hear...

(beat)

Texans don't speak Russian.

COWBOY

No, they don't; not unless...

He chuckles at the idea. Metafiction.

COWBOY

... there's some kind of magical realism going on.

VERA

What?

COWBOY

It might be something like that?
No rhyme or reason, things just turn everything upside down.

VERA

How do you know about magical realism?

COWBOY

Well, school o' course. This might be West Texas, but we got schools you know.

VERA

I'm sorry. I'm not thinking clearly. It's just that...

COWBOY

Ask, these ladies what language you're speaking.

(beat)

Ladies?

LADIES

(in English)

English.

COWBOY

See?

VERA

This isn't Russia?

COWBOY

No, ma'am.

VERA

Where is it, please?

COWBOY

You're on the Waggoner Ranch.
Vernon, Texas.

Vera looks around at the women, and the walls once more,
and she even glances out the window.

VERA

It's not a dream?

COWBOY

I doubt it. No one dreams of
coming to the Waggoner. It's hot
and dusty and it hasn't rained for
three months. Some dream huh?

VERA

It's different.

COWBOY

You aren't from around here, are
ya?

VERA

No, I'm not.

COWBOY

Well, what you doing out here?

VERA

Well, I just had my hair done..

COWBOY

Yeah, I like it. Wanda does a
right fine job.

The cowboy sits there, jaw dropped, looking at Vera. He's
already fallen for her. She doesn't know what to say... No
Russian man has ever looked at her that way. It's awkward
for Vera and she excuses herself.

VERA

Well, it was a pleasure meeting
you, Mr. Cowboy.

Long beat. The cowboy is dazed.

COWBOY

You don't want to go...

Vera exits the salon before he can finish the sentence.

COWBOY

Wanda, I'm gonna have to do this
another time. I just remembered
some stuff I have to take care of.

The cowboy takes the sheet off and puts his cowboy hat back
on.

He follows Vera outside.

HAIRDRESSER #2

Go get her, cowboy.

HAIRDRESSER #1

Who was that?

HAIRDRESSER #2

Don't rightly know.

HAIRDRESSER #1

She must a come from town to get
her hair done.

HAIRDRESSER #2

That's a change. City women coming
out here to have their hair done.

HAIRDRESSER #1
You do her hair?

HAIRDRESSER #2
Not me.

HAIRDRESSER #1
Where'd she come from?

Hairdresser #2 shrugs.

HAIRDRESSER #2
I think we were gossiping so much,
we didn't even notice her come in.

HAIRDRESSER #1
I don't know about you, but I'm
confused.

HAIRDRESSER #2
You've got to stop mixing that
hair colorin' so strong. Not only
are you disorienting the
customers, but me too.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Lika enters the salon with about ten shopping bags.

STYLIST
(to employee)
One of my best customers. Her
husband is an alcoholic.

The stylist taps his neck.

STYLIST
(to employee)
Bravest woman in all of Moscow.
(to Lika)
Lika, you are back, how's Lev?

LIKA
No change.
(beat)
But I have his card and need a new
style.

TIME PASSES

Lika flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

Lika's hair is being done, but a girl comes around with some new lotion.

GIRL

I have a sample of the newest regenerative lotion. Would you like to try some?

LIKA

Sure.

Lika takes off her wedding ring and lays it on the counter. She puts the lotion on her hands and arms.

TIME PASSES

Lika leaves the salon with her new look. She forgets the ring on the counter. The stylist notices only after she is gone but he secures the ring and puts it in a drawer.

INT. METRO CAR - DAY

Lika is on a crowded metro car and is forced to stand. There are many men who could get up and give her a seat. There are other women, elderly women even, standing. The men simply don't get up.

INT. WOMEN'S DRESS SHOPPE - DAY

Lika stops by one last shoppe before returning home.

She's standing at a rack of dresses and she closes her eyes... She sees Lev, seriously hung over... standing at their kitchen sink. His head seems pounding and there isn't any way he can hold his head without it hurting.

When she comes out of the daydream, the dresses are different. She's in a different store. The signs aren't Cyrillic anymore. It's Texas, again. She's in Texas.

She uses her husband's credit card to buy a cute western outfit, boots and a nice leather purse.

She walks outside and gets on a bus. A very nice cowboy is on the bus; he look similar to the valet she kissed the night before. The cowboy gets up and gives her his seat. They steal glances at each other.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Yevgenia enters the salon with her friend, Olga.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers. Her husband is a serial adulterer.

(to employee)

Bravest woman in all of Moscow.

(to Yevgenia)

Yevgenia, you are back; how's Yevgeny?

YEVGENIA

No change. In fact, we just had an outbreak, you might say.

(beat)

So, I need a new style.

TIME PASSES

Yevgenia flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

Yevgenia's hair is being done.

YEVGENIA

He never says anything about other women. He doesn't want to dump me. He doesn't tell me that he thinks the marriage is on the rocks; he doesn't talk to me about open marriage; he doesn't even ask for "more space". He continues to play the part of husband, and expects

me to continue being his wife, he thinks I won't notice.

STYLIST

I'm sorry. No one wants to be second choice or a safety net.

YEVGENIA

Exactly. But, it's nothing you haven't heard a million times.

TIME PASSES

The same girl comes around with some of the new lotion. Yevgenia takes off her wedding ring and lays it on the counter. She puts the lotion on her hands and arms. She will also forgets her ring. And the stylist will save it for her when she leaves.

TIME PASSES

Yevgenia leaves the salon with her new look.

INT. MOSCOW NIGHT CLUB

It is a raucous night. The girls are drunk... Yevgenia doesn't realize her friend, Olga, is talking to a man. Who is also drunk. Olga ignores the man when Yevgenia arrives.

YEVGENIA

(to Olga)

He couldn't keep from cryin' when I told him goodbye.

OLGA

(to man)

So we're sittin' here soakin' up the neon lights.

YEVGENIA

(to Olga)

I knew it was breakin' his heart, and he was breakin' mine.

OLGA

(to man)

Misery looking for some company.

YEVGENIA

(to Olga)

So for the sake of his feelings
and the sake of my pride. I told
him not to worry 'bout me.

OLGA

(to man)

You've been slammin' 'em back and
laughing out loud.

YEVGENIA

(to Olga)

The smoke's so thick I can't see
how sad people are. My eyes hurt.

Both the women nod off / pass out. When they wake up,
they're not in Russia anymore.

INT. BILLY BOB'S TEXAS BAR - NIGHT

The music has changed. The drunk man, talking to Olga, is
now a drunk cowboy.

YEVGENIA

They're dancin' over here.

There is a large crowded dance floor.

OLGA

Fightin' over there.

There is fistfight over in one corner.

YEVGENIA

This look like Russia to you?

OLGA

Yeah, why?

YEVGENIA

I don't think...

The lights come on and it's time closing time. People are
filing out of the bar. The Russian girls, Olga and Yevgenia
are very drunk, they are leaning on each other to keep from

toppling over. There are two cowboys, hardly drunk at all, standing at the exit.

COWBOY

Girls. Where ya'll going?

OLGA

No. No. I don't want to talk to you. You're drunk.

COWBOY

Hey girls, come back we ain't drunk.

The cowboys follow the girls out to the parking lot.

INT. FORT WORTH HOTEL - NIGHT

The girls are drunk and standing at the hotel's counter.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

That'll be \$42 dollars.

GIRLS

(looking at each other)

Dollars?

They have been so drunk they didn't know they were in Texas. They leave the counter and look outside at the signs. La Quinta, Dairy Queen, Texas Roadhouse, Bill Bob's Texas. They look at all the pickup trucks in the parking lot.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Maria enters the salon.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers. Her husband was once handsome and athletic and now he's a gluttonous slob. And she's an artist, paints the most beautiful works of art.

(beat)

Bravest woman in all of Moscow.

(to Maria)

Maria, you are back; how's Mikhail?

MARIA

No change. He consumes. He devours. He gives nothing back.

(beat)

But I need a new style, please.

TIME PASSES

Maria flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

Maria's hair is being done, but the same girl comes around with some of the new lotion. She takes off her wedding ring and lays it on the counter. She puts the lotion on her hands and arms. She will forget her ring. And again the stylist will save it for her.

TIME PASSES

Maria leaves the salon with her new look.

INT. MARIA'S BASMANNY APARTMENT - DAY

Maria arrives and takes a bath. She doesn't lock the door.

She relaxes and falls asleep in the tub.

When she wakes up she'll be in Texas.

INT. SAN ANGELO APARTMENT - DAY

Maria wakes while laying in the bath. She looks at her surroundings. This is a similar but different bathroom.

She cocks her head contemplating what has happened.

The owner of the apartment, a young BACHELOR, enters the bathroom. He's about to brush his teeth. He looks in the mirror and notices a strange woman in his tub (Maria). She is equally shocked.

MAN

Oh, I'm sorry.

Maria doesn't scream as she did when the police entered her bathroom. Embarrassed, the man exits the room into the hallway. He speaks to her through the door.

MAN

You must be Thomas' sister. Well, don't worry. I won't walk in on you again. I didn't know you were here. Okay, you just relax. You've probably had a long journey and need a little time. I'll just use the kitchen sink.

The man brushes his teeth in the kitchen sink.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Svetlana enters the salon.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers. Her husband is connected. If you ever need a gun. Don't ask her, she's very religious. Ask her husband.

(to employee)

Bravest woman in all of Moscow.

(to Svetlana)

Svetlana, you are back; how's Slava?

SVETLANA

No changes. He will be in prison inside of a year. He's out of control. I don't know what to do.

(beat)

I need a new style.

TIME PASSES

Svetlana flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

Svetlana's hair is being done; the same girl comes around with some of the new lotion. She takes off her wedding ring and lays it on the counter. She puts the lotion on her hands and arms. She will forget her ring. And the stylist saves it.

TIME PASSES

Svetlana leaves the salon with her new look. She puts her earbuds in and turns on a Russian Orthodox Choir chanting.

INT. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH - DAY

Svetlana puts a shawl over her hair and enters a Russian Orthodox church. She looks at the icons and lights a candle. She crosses herself and she faces the altar.

The priest is going through the customary public worship. There is a communal response and participation. Choral singing.

Svetlana closes her eyes to pray.

When she opens her eyes she'll be in Texas.

INT. LONESOME DOVE BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

Svetlana opens her eyes. The interior of a small Baptist church is quite different than her Moscow Orthodox church. One striking difference is the Baptist church is simple with very few (no) ornate decorations. And this is a very small Texas church.

Svetlana studies the church and she listens to the liturgy. There isn't any liturgy. A man is preaching. She is listening. There is prayer and much singing.

The Russian services are very solemn. The Texas services are much more celebratory and far more modern.

The first thing a Russian will notice is the eye contact. In Texas, the worshipers will look you in the eye and smile. In Russia, church seems more of a private event.

Primarily, Svetlana is taken back by the music that is so vital to what happens at a Baptist service. Svetlana is

accustomed to chanting and the Russian Orthodox style of worship. There is a variety of music. It is all uplifting.

The Old Rugged Cross is performed in a country and western style.

CONGREGATION

(singing)

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it someday for a crown

Svetlana is a bit shocked by Amazing Grace that is accompanied by bagpipes.

CONGREGATION

(singing)

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound!
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

How Great Thou Art is sung.

CONGREGATION

(singing)

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Svetlana is in shock at first but begins to enjoy the service. It's very social compared to Russia.

After the service, Svetlana is approached by numerous people who want to shake her hand and welcome her to the community. It is a very small town.

MAN

Welcome. I'm Sam. It's good to see you.

WOMAN

I'm Donna Jo. I'm glad you came.

MAN

We're about to go have a family meal down at the Green Frog. You want to join us? Pastor Mike is coming.

SVETLANA

I'll be happy.

INT. GREEN FROG RESTAURANT - DAY

The group occupies a very large table, ten or twelve adults. The children are seated at a different table. There are at least 3 bachelors at the table. They all exchange flirtive glances with Svetlana.

She's made friends quickly. She smiles to herself.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Toma enters the salon.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers. Her husband works constantly and she must care for the children without any help. She's seeing a psychiatrist over it.

(to employee)

Bravest woman in all of Moscow.

EMPLOYEE

Her husband works? She's the luckiest woman in Moscow.

STYLIST

(to Toma)

Toma, you are back; how's Timur?

TOMA

No change. Constantly working.

(beat)

But I need a new style.

TIME PASSES

Toma flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

Toma's hair is being done, but the same girl comes around with some of the new lotion. She takes off her wedding ring and lays it on the counter. She puts the lotion on her hands and arms. She also forgets her ring. And the stylist saves it for her in a drawer.

TIME PASSES

Toma leaves the salon with her new look.

INT. MOSCOW PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Toma is reclining on a divan at a psychiatrist's office.

PHYSIATRIST

Human psychology involves many moving parts. Of these parts, the actual "issues" are merely one of them. Whether one has multiple issues or a singular issue it depends on the patient. You, I think, have a single issue.

TOMA

Yes, I have a husband.

PHYSIATRIST

A lot of Russian women have a single issue.

TOMA

Misery builds character.

PHYSIATRIST

Nice. Do you have a coping mechanism?

TOMA

Yes, I spend my husband's money by coming here.

PHYSIATRIST

Okay, let's try something. Close your eyes. We will try a little meditation exercise.

She closes her eyes. When she opens them she will be in Texas.

INT. AUSTIN PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

It is a different room and the psychiatrist's secretary has her head in the door.

TEXAS PSYCHIATRIST

(to his secretary)

Just say we're very busy. Don't keep saying, "It's a madhouse."

TEXAS PSYCHIATRIST

(to Toma)

Okay, where were we? Oh, why is psychoanalysis a lot quicker for a man than for a women? It is because when it's time to go back to their childhood, a man is already there.

They chuckle at the joke.

TOMA

The first forty years of a boy's life are the most difficult.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Alla enters the shop with her female friend.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers. Her boyfriend is a bodybuilder. I'm surprised to see her, if the stock market is open, she's always working.

(to employee)

Bravest woman in all of Moscow.

(to Alla)

Alla, you're back; how's Vasily?

ALLA

No change. Except, now there isn't even any sex.

(beat)

But I need a new style.

TIME PASSES

Alla flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

The lotion goes on her hands... there isn't a wedding band to forget.

TIME PASSES

Alla's hair is being done.

TIME PASSES

Alla leaves the salon with her new look.

INT. MOSCOW BROKERAGE - DAY

Alla is busy phoning and with paperwork but she sits to study the ticker.

Energy: crude oil, heating oil, natural gas, and gasoline. Livestock and Meat: lean hogs, pork bellies, live cattle, and feeder cattle. Agricultural: corn, soybeans, wheat, rice, cocoa, coffee, cotton, and sugar.

The ticker gets blurry as if she's passed out.

INT. HOUSTON STOCK EXCHANGE - DAY

Alla wakes up from her daze. The commodities are the same... only now the prices have changed. A handsome Houston MAN comes and leans over and looks at the papers she's holding. He whispers to her.

HOUSTON MAN

So after the closing bell, you
want to go over to the Okra
Charity for a drink?

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Natasha enters the salon.

STYLIST

(to employee)

One of my best customers.

EMPLOYEE

Bravest woman in all of Moscow?

STYLIST

(to employee)

How did you know?

(to Natasha)

Natasha, you're back; how was your
date?

NATASHA

For our date, we went to his work.
He showed more attention to the
lion at the zoo.

(beat)

I need a new style.

NATASHA

Can you help me? It's gotten so
that every time I date a nice guy,
I end up in bed with him.

STYLIST

Oh, that's nice.

NATASHA

And then afterward, I feel guilty
and depressed for a week.

STYLIST

Oh. That's not good.

(beat)

And you want me to give you the
strength to say "no"? I should

warn you I'm all out of "no." I myself, I haven't said "no" in years.

NATASHA

No, I want to have the sex. I just don't want to feel guilty and depressed afterward.

The stylist contemplates.

TIME PASSES

Natasha flips through the book and points to the SJP hairstyle.

TIME PASSES

The lotion goes on her hands... there isn't a wedding band to forget.

TIME PASSES

Natasha leaves the salon with her new look.

INT. MOSCOW SPORT STADIUM BATHROOM STALL - DAY

In the stall, Natasha is fumbling with a Russian athlete's clothes and he is fumbling with her's. He's not a particularly handsome SOCCER PLAYER. He is wearing a white uniform.

Natasha gets dizzy. Her vision blurs.

INT. ARLINGTON SPORT STADIUM BATHROOM STALL - DAY

Natasha refocuses her eyes on the shirt she's unbuttoning, the distinct name of the team across the chest of the uniform. It's not Cyrillic. It says, "TEXAS"; she's undressing an athlete, a professional BASEBALL PLAYER and certainly more attractive than the soccer player.

Natasha hesitates for a second to process this.

BASEBALL PLAYER

What's the matter? I thought you wanted to.

This isn't a ugly man. He's a handsome baseball player.
She's traded up.

NATASHA

Oh, I do.

She again fumbles with the man's uniform.

BASEBALL PLAYER

I never did this before.

NATASHA

You are kidding? Really?

BASEBALL PLAYER

Really.

NATASHA

I don't believe you.

BASEBALL PLAYER

You should.

NATASHA

Sex in a bathroom stall is awful.
Except when it's great.

TIME PASSES

The major league baseball player is fixing his clothes, but
he's nervous in a charming way.

BASEBALL PLAYER

So how was it?

She chuckles a bit to herself.

NATASHA

Great.

BASEBALL PLAYER

(very nervous)

I mean after what we just did... I
wouldn't generally... you know... it's
been hit and run. But after the

game, would you like to have
dinner with me?

Natasha is a bit taken aback. She's pleasantly surprised.

NATASHA

Of course.

BASEBALL PLAYER

I mean we're athletes, we're
expected to be rude and take what
we want and just walk away. But I
don't want that anymore.

NATASHA

Of course. Sure. I'll go.

BASEBALL PLAYER

You said you'd go? Really?

NATASHA

Yes. I'll go to dinner with you.

The man seems a bit shocked but looks fortunate. He
finishes buttoning his pants.

We hear the introductions being made over the loudspeaker.
The baseball player leaves and Natasha can show how
thrilled she is.

EXT. MOSCOW POLITICAL RALLY - DAY

NADIA SOBOLEV is the Russian Prime Minister. She's on a
stage giving a speech.

NADIA

It's an odd quirk of Russian
history, in which every other
leader of our country, going back
to 1825, has been bald, and the
alternating leaders have had full
heads of hair. What does it mean
today? Nothing really...

She runs her fingers through nice luscious hair.

NADIA

... but I don't think Russia will elect two balding men back to back.

The crowd laughs and applauds.

NADIA

Thank you. My name is Nadia Sobolev. I've been your prime minister and now I'm a candidate for President of Russia. And, I need your vote.

She's finished her speech and she's moved from the stage to an official government vehicle. A great deal of security. She smiles and waves, but when she reaches the car and is inside (out of view), she collapses.

INT. RUSSIAN OFFICIAL CAR - DAY

Nadia looks exhausted.

FEMALE AIDE

I'm sorry ma'am. There's another one.

He hands her a Russian tabloid, with photos of a man and a woman. It's Nadia's husband and the woman isn't Nadia.

NADIA

He just can't keep it in his pants. The entire world following us around, photographing EVERYTHING and... No. I'm done.

MALE AIDE

Ma'am. Let's not be too rash. There is a lot at stake.

NADIA

Are you a lawyer?

MALE AIDE

No, ma'am.

NADIA

'Cause I need a lawyer.

Nadia removes her wedding ring. She hands it to the female aide.

NADIA

Can you have this melted down and made into a pendant?

FEMALE AIDE

What design?

NADIA

I don't care. I do like the diamond. But the ring means nothing to me anymore.

FEMALE AIDE

I do know some jewellers.

The car is about to pull away from the rally but pedestrians block the path and a group of protesters slow their exit.

She rubs the bridge of her nose; clearly, she has a migraine. She closes her eyes in pain.

Suddenly, the door of the car opens.

INT. AMERICAN OFFICIAL CAR - DAY

AMERICAN AIDE (O.S.)

Excellent speech, Mr. President.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Thank you.

The AMERICAN PRESIDENT climbs into the back. The male aide is no longer in the vehicle. Nadia is awed, confused.

NADIA

You're the American President.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

And I know you. You're the Prime Minister of Russia. What a

surprise. They didn't tell me you would be here. What are you doing in Texas?

Nadia is speechless. She's trying to comprehend what has happened. She looks out the window. She sees stage setup in front of the Alamo. There's just been a political rally for the American president. There are signs "Re-Elect the President," and "Four More Years."

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

I've been wanting to call you. I admire what you're doing. I understand this entire Ukrainian thing. I really do. And this election, the State Department doesn't want us getting involved but... They're not the President, are they?

Nadia takes her water bottle and hands it to the female aide. She whispers in the aide's ear.

NADIA

Has someone been tampering with my water bottle?

Her aide shakes her head no. But takes the water anyway and puts it out of sight. Nadia smiles at the American president. The president has picked up the tabloid.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

Your husband is a bit of a cad, huh?

NADIA

Uh, we're done. How do you American's say, "three strikes and you're out?"

The president is thrilled.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

You like baseball?

Then he realizes this is a very personal issue. He wipes the smile off his face.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
He cheated on you three times?

NADIA
No, more far more than that.
Photographs were in the newspapers
three times.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
Okay. I'm sorry. I was aware and I
wasn't aware. Sort of aware.
Someone told me. I'm sorry.

He's trying to read her...

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
But great. A new start. I'm sure
you're aware I'm single.

The president shows her his ring finger.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
And you're single. Or you're about
to be single.

Nadia is content not to speak. She's a careful shrewd woman
and politician. She's cautious about politics and even more
cautious about romance. And this might be romance, an
impossible romance, but still technically romance.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
I'm sorry. That isn't what I meant
to say. See why we have so many
speechwriters? I mean to say, we
can't be close, no, we can. But,
we can't "appear" to be too close.
You see?

NADIA
I understand.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT
I was seriously contemplating
calling you.
(beat)

You're about to be the president
of Russia.

The aide smiles and chuckles a bit at how the American president, generally a smooth operator, is a shuddering and seemingly love struck. Nadia is stone faced and serious.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

So, let's talk. I have a feeling we're going to need to get acquainted. Do you like Mexican food? Because we're in San Antonio.

TIME PASSES

EXT. SAN ANTONIO HOTEL - DAY

The presidential limo pulls up to the Menger Hotel. The president steps out onto the sidewalk. Nadia remains... he sticks his head back in the car.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT

You coming in?

Nadia nods yes.

NADIA

(to female aide)

Do you know what's happening?

The female aide shakes her head.

FEMALE AIDE

It's strange.

Nadia looks at her for advice.

FEMALE AIDE

Go. He likes you.

INT. DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Olga and Yevgenia are in a very long line waiting to purchase an airline ticket. It's not going to be easy. There are hundreds, thousands of Russian women looking for a flight.

Olga has been on the phone but hangs up. It's obvious it wasn't a productive call.

YEVGENIA

What the hell are we doin' in Texas?

OLGA

I know damn well it ain't where we belong.

YEVGENIA

What I wouldn't do for a plane ticket right now. Find my lonely ass back home.

OLGA

He just asked me, "just what are you tryin' to prove here?"

YEVGENIA

Doesn't he know this wasn't our idea?

OLGA

Thank God, I didn't marry that jerk.

YEVGENIA

I married when I was twenty; you know you were there.

OLGA

You thought you were ready.

YEVGENIA

Now, look what's happened.

OLGA

You'd done some living, before that.

YEVGENIA

But now it's over.

OLGA

Sad.

YEVGENIA

Yevegeny said, "Do you really want to leave me here alone?" Be he also said he was done cheating.

OLGA

He might be telling you the truth; it seems like every Russian woman is here in this airport.

Countless good-looking Cowboys, in pickup trucks, bring Russian women (of all ages) to the airport and let them off. They drop their new lady friends off and also Russian grandmothers, but the men don't hesitate to tip their hat to Yevgenia and Olga.

YEVGENIA

It might not be so bad. I'm starin' at this ocean full of Cowboys. But, what are they doing? Doing that thing touching their hats.

OLGA

That's the Texas signal they like you, dummy.

YEVGENIA

I'd rather be in Russia on my own. Touching hats, how silly.

A particularly handsome cowboy passes by the tips his hat to Yevgenia. She's reconsidering things.

YEVGENIA

But, I might change my mind.

INT. MOSCOW SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

A female VOLUNTEER cooks soup and bread.

EXT. MOSCOW STREET - DAY

The volunteer woman takes her soup and bread on a cart out to distribute to the homeless people. She also gives them a blanket and religious material.

The volunteer has a fainting spell.

EXT. HOUSTON STREET - DAY

The volunteer woman walks around Houston handing out blankets and feeding the homeless. She meets six other Texans who also want to help the situation. They travel about the city and she is arrested, with others. It is illegal to feed the homeless out of doors.

INT. POLICE VAN - DAY

The Russian volunteer is a bit shocked but the Texans are matter-of-fact about it.

VOLUNTEER

I don't understand. Can you explain, please?

TEXAN #1

You were arrested for feeding the homeless without a permit. Outside.

TEXAN #2

The politicians who enacted the food-sharing bans say that serving them food can lead to the spread of Hepatitis A among the homeless,

VOLUNTEER

Is it true?

TEXAN #1

No, of course not.

TEXAN #2

A lack of safe water, and poor sanitation and hygiene. But the food has nothing to do with it.

TEXAN #1

They claim to be Christians but they hate the homeless. Basically they're just criminalizing poverty.

VOLUNTEER

No? In America? Home of the brave? Home of the free?

TEXAN #1

Here, and it's true about everything and everybody, if they don't like you, you're illegal.

VOLUNTEER

You can't make a person illegal.

TEXAN #1

Really? Look.

They look out the window and the police are putting homeless men into a second van.

INT. MOSCOW COOKING SCHOOL - DAY

A lady CHEF is attending a class and the teacher is talking and preparing a meal as a demonstration. The chef loses attention and her vision is blurred.

INT. DEL RIO HOME - DAY

The chef comes out of her daze in a small kitchen in south Texas. There is a short fat Hispanic lady teaching her an entirely different meal. It takes a moment for the chef to understand.

CHEF

What do you call it?

HISPANIC LADY

Tex-Mex

CHEF

Tex-Mex?

HISPANIC LADY
Yes, half Texas and half Mexico.

CHEF
Can I have a taste?
(beat)
Oh, I like it.

She tastes it and enjoys it.

CHEF
Can you show me more?

INT. BOLSHOI - DAY

The principal DANCER in Swan Lake is in her most crucial move and she completes it. There is applause she becomes blinded by the stage lights.

INT. WICHITA FALLS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM - DAY

When dancer recovers her vision. She's on a strange stage and a much smaller audience. The costumes have changed. She's in western garb and cowboy boots. It's a production of A Western Ballet. The dancer is at center stage and everyone is looking for her to dance; she's choreographed next. She can't do it... she doesn't know the part. Quick thinking by another dancer saves the dance.

In the wings... the dancer is in shock. All the women are in shock when they are transported.

INT. COCKPIT OF SUKHOI SU-57 - DAY

Russia's female fighter PILOT is landing her plane outside of Moscow. She is making a direct approach, but her vision blurs and she is about to pass out.

INT. COCKPIT F-22 RAPTOR - DAY

The fighter pilot's vision returns... and she realizes the cockpit is not the same. The instrumentation is different. She looks left and right. She's not familiar with the setting.

She manages to land the plane. She doesn't taxi to the correct place. But when the plane stops, at the end of the

runway, she exits the plane. She collapses to the tarmac. Air Force medical staff and others run to her aid.

INT. OKHOTNY RYAD

The mall is totally empty and rubles no longer being exchanged. It is the same mall that was full of women. None of the patrons are female.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Two MOSCOW POLICEMEN knock on a different door. A DIFFERENT MAN opens the door and he's obviously called them. His wife is also missing. The policemen have a notebook and are making notes. The man points to the left and to the right. The police ask him some questions. He shrugs his shoulders and clearly doesn't know the answer.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

Authorities are completely baffled. The last Russian woman disappeared earlier today at 4:00 am. I repeat all the women in Russia have mysteriously disappeared.

(beat)

It's unprecedented in history and what until today thought to be physically impossible. Seventy-two million women completely gone. Thus far, there isn't any explanation.

(beat)

Authorities are reporting that loved ones and family are receiving phone calls and internet messages from Texas.

(beat)

It's not known if the messages are a prank or an elaborate hoax but it's doubted given the severity of the situation.

(beat)

The Kremlin has declared a national emergency and threatened

military retaliation if the women are not returned immediately. The American government is studying the situation.

(beat)

The governor of Texas released a statement that, "everything is being done to protect and secure the well being of our guests from Russia."

(beat)

Wait, please. We're just getting reports of a statement from San Antonio from Prime Minister Nadia Sobolev, who was apparently also transported. She says that she's peacefully negotiated the return of the Russian women and she suspects no foul play on the part of the Americans.

(beat)

We'll report the facts as they emerge.

INT. TEXAS STORE - DAY

A RUSSIAN WOMAN is in a Texas store of shopping for a male pair of britches.

INT. MOSCOW STORE - DAY

There is a MALE working in a women's dress shop doing inventory. A CONFUSED MAN enters and begins looking through the store for his missing mate. His woman is obviously in Texas. He seems a bit confused. He's a living, mumbling, walking zombie.

MALE

Can I help you?

The confused man mumbles something. He is a wreck.

MALE

No offence, but you're a wreck. Your lady, she's coming back? You talked to her?

(beat)

If you can make it through January everything will be okay, I know. It's the coldest part of the winter. She'll return and you can go to, Sochi perhaps, a warmer town.

The confused man mumbles something, else.

MALE

Can you hold yourself together a little longer?

The confused man mumbles.

MALE

Do you need help? You have food? Look your coat isn't sufficient.

The confused man mumbles.

MALE

Do you want me to call you some help?

First, the police come and they simply look at the man. They speak into their radios. A different type of help arrives. Social workers, medical professionals walk the man outside and put him in an ambulance.

BEGIN MONTAGE

Various Moscow winter locations: there are no women in any of the following montage. Various Russian men, all dressed in gray, are walking dreamily; they seem to be remembering old times. Other men in drab clothes stand around talking. They seem to have many complaints and behind them we see the Kremlin, Red Square, the river, Apartments on the Embankment, Saint Basils, the Bolshoi. Everything is dull and dreary. No women in any shot.

In front of the state historical museum, where they sell so many newspapers, there is a great debate and concern among the men, pushing and shoving and almost a fistfight. Gorky Park is empty. No bells and no weddings. GUM is empty. Cathedral of Christ the Savior is quiet.

Two men have business in a bank. They enter and there are 12 places for bank tellers, but there are only two lines open. There are two long lines as two male clerks struggle to help the customers.

Ostankino TV Tower. The news anchor's chair and desk, where a woman used to read the news, has been left empty. Men are reading the news with sad drool faces. They are not happy or content.

Another confused man walks into a modern hair salon on Marosejka Street. The hairdresser sits up and hopes perhaps it is a woman customer. It's not. It's another confused man with an odd hope of finding his significant other. He looks around the shop and disappointed, he leaves.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TEXAS FEED STORE - DAY

It is a sunny day. There are three cowboys loading sacks of feed into a truck. Vera drives up in a four-wheel drive truck. She's been transformed from sophisticated Moscow urbanite, into a down-home Texas girl.

The stereo is blaring, "Country Boy Can Survive." The coy stop work to have a better look.

COWBOY #1

I like a girl in a truck.

COWBOY #2

Ain't nothin' can beat a little lady in a jacked-up Ford.

Their jaws drop when she gets out of the truck.

VERA

Yawl, seen a bald faced steer?

They are so awed they can't respond. But, after a beat, they shake their heads, no.

VERA

Lost one somewhere.

She walks into the feed store.

COWBOY #1
Pretty as peach.

COWBOY #2
She's got mud on the tires and a
cow dog in the back.

One cowboy walks over to her truck and looks in the bed of the truck. He's wary of the dog, but doesn't get bitten. He pops up the ice chest in the back. His suspicions are confirmed.

COWBOY #3
Case of cold beer on ice.

COWBOY #2
That Russian girl, she's country
down to the core.

COWBOY #1
That four by four diesel really
says it all. I really like a girl
in a truck.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR
As the national crisis worsens
some elementary schools could be
forced to close beginning next
week. This will leave working
fathers scrambling to find and
child care arrangements for their
kids and, in some cases, fathers
will be forced to miss work to
stay home. Today, Moscow's school
district announced that due to the
absence of more than 30,000 female
staff members, without volunteers
some schools will need to be
closed.

EXT. MOSCOW SIDEWALK - DAY

A worried school elementary PRINCIPAL is standing in front of his school. It is very loud inside, the children's

teacher isn't there and one kid is about to crawl out an open window. He stops when he sees the principal. Inside the classroom they are throwing paper airplanes and crayons at each other. Paint is spilled on the floor. Little girls are crying at the chaos. The boys are kicking a soccer ball inside the classroom. Objects fly out the window and land on the sidewalk.

A ROUGH LOOKING MAN, probably not a criminal but he is in shabby clothes (not homeless but clearly not employed), walks by the front of the school. He's NOT the ideal elementary school teacher.

The principal walks along side the man on the sidewalk.

PRINCIPAL

Hello, friend. I wonder if I might interest you in employment.

(beat)

Good pay. A steady job.

(beat)

Dignity and respect.

(beat)

It's not rocket science.

(beat)

Listen, we're in a lot of trouble here.

The man stops and thinks about it.

PRINCIPAL

Can you help us?

The principal is friendly and offering the man a good job.

The man looks to the open window of a classroom.

The man refuses, smiles politely and continues walking.

The principal makes eye contact with a policeman who is down the street a bit; the principal shakes his head "no."

The man walking down the sidewalk takes a vodka bottle from his coat pocket and takes a pull.

The policeman pops out into the path of the rough looking man. The man looks surprised, but he knows he's caught. It

appears the rough looking man has had a run in with the policeman before.

MAN

Oh, no.

POLICEMAN

What is this?

The policeman finds the vodka bottle sticking out of his coat pocket.

POLICEMAN

I'll tell you what, I'll ignore this if you could find it in your heart to help at the school.

MAN

I can't. I have an important appointment.

POLICEMAN

And you generally drink vodka in a school zone?

MAN

That's a fine. I'll pay it.

POLICEMAN

The school needs you.

MAN

I'm sorry. I can't help.

POLICEMAN

You have children don't you? You live right down...

The policeman point to a nearby building.

MAN

What's that got to do with it?

The cop is incredulous.

POLICEMAN

Everything.

MAN

I'm sorry. But, if I'm not under arrest, I'll be off.

POLICEMAN

One second... I just need to check this other pocket.

The policeman gestures to the man to turn around, and the policeman searches into the man's coat pocket.

He pulls out a zip-lock bag of white powder.

MAN

What?

(beat)

You just planted that. It's not mine.

POLICEMAN

This is serious. And you're sure you can't help at the school?

MAN

How low can you police get, to plant evidence?

Beat. The man sucks in his breath.

POLICEMAN

Well, let's just think about this.

MAN

I'm going to be offered time in prison or an elementary school?

POLICEMAN

How'd you know?

MAN

Lucky guess.

POLICEMAN

Read them a story, they'll love you.

MAN

Keep them from burning down the building.

POLICEMAN

They are good kids they just need a leader.

MAN

Arguing would be fruitless?

POLICEMAN

I'm afraid so.

MAN

Just until the women get back?

POLICEMAN

I'll just hold on to this evidence until they return. Okay?

MAN

I understand what you are doing. I don't agree with it but I do understand.

The soccer ball flies across the classroom and breaks a window.

The policeman hands the vodka bottle to the man as he enters the elementary school.

POLICEMAN

Here take this. You might need it at the end of the day.

When the rough looking man is inside the school door, the principal waves his thanks to the policeman.

The camera visits several classrooms. Rough looking men are teachers in each room. Some are reading stories to the children, who are quietly listening. One man is at the chalkboard struggling with simple math problems. The children are politely correcting his mistake.

One man is chasing the classroom's pet, a black and white rat, under the desks. Another man is looking blankly at a

boy who's pissed his pants. The boy is looking for an answer. One man is singing old folk songs to his student.

INT. MOSCOW OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Opposition leaders sit around a table in Moscow. There is a poster on the wall behind the men that established they are the opposition. The leader of the opposition is bald. His advisors keep glancing over to him. Trying to judge his mood.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

Nadia Sobolev, can't be president...
she's been overseas...

OPPOSITION AIDE #2

... and we can portray her as too
close to the Americans.

OPPOSITION AIDE #3

She's remained in America to
ensure the safety and well being
of the women.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

Why don't we just simply say she
works for them now?

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE

Can we make like she just ran off
to pursue a romantic relationship
with the American president?

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

We can say that. Sure. Some people
will buy it. I'm certain.

OPPOSITION AIDE #3

Sir, EVERY Russian woman is gone.
Mysteriously and tragically
transported. We think they're all
in Texas.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

Nadia Sobolev has left Texas and
gone to Washington DC. She's at

the home across the street from
the White House.

OPPOSITION AIDE #2

That's where we have her. She
could have stayed in Texas, but
she chose the nation's capital.

OPPOSITION AIDE #3

The Americans found her without
her security detail.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

And now, she's owned by the
Americans. Cooperating with them.
Colluding with them, to borrow a
phrase.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE

What about extending the vote the
women in Texas?

OPPOSITION AIDE #3

Many of them are returning, but
still, a large number of women
will still be in America on
election day. The Kremlin wants
them voting.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1

We're definitely opposed to this.

OPPOSITION AIDE #2

They are our citizens, true, but
they would certainly fall under
the American influence.

The opposition candidate makes a strange, unhappy, face.

OPPOSITION CANDIDATE

We are in an impossible situation.
I'm left with only bad arguments
and one of them is to argue that
Russian women overseas shouldn't be
allowed to vote.

OPPOSITION AIDE #1
We'll lose the election. Russia is
faced with it's first woman
president.

There is a long beat before the next scene. Everyone at the
table is contemplating. They are trying to think of a
solution.

EXT. TEXAS SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Gina is walking down the sidewalk proudly. Her head is up.

She walks past the door to a strip joint, where a drunk man
is exiting. The MAN AT THE DOOR speaks to her.

MAN AT THE DOOR
Hey pretty Russian lady, you
looking for a job? Hiring dancers.

GINA
No thank you.

DRUNK MAN
Hey, I know you!

The drunk man walk with her down the sidewalk.

GINA
I doubt that.

DRUNK MAN
No, I'm sure it's you. You're in
dirty movies.

GINA
It's a mistake.

DRUNK MAN
Bull shit. You're Gina something..

GINA
It's a mistake.

DRUNK MAN
(counting on his fingers)

You can't fool me you're my, six,
seven, eighth favorite porn star.

GINA

It's not me. Please. I have a job
here. Just up the street.

DRUNK MAN

Come on, baby. Admit it and let's
go back over there.

GINA

Please leave me alone.

DRUNK MAN

This is my big chance. You're so
far from home.

GINA

I'm not going anywhere with you.

DRUNK MAN

I have money.

GINA

(sarcastically)

No. But obviously I'm thrilled,
you want to buy me.

The drunk man his hands on her and is about to pull her
into an alley. But suddenly a TALL COWBOY appears and
blocks his progress. He's been listening to them.

TALL COWBOY

Take your hands off the lady.

The drunk man releases her.

DRUNK MAN

Okay. Okay. Don't get riled up.

The other man walks way and joins his buddies a block away.
They stand watching... learing and might cause trouble.

TALL COWBOY

That fellow acted like he knows
you?

GINA

He doesn't.

TALL COWBOY

No, I didn't figure.

GINA

Thank you.

TALL COWBOY

Maybe I should walk you where
you're going.

GINA

Work. I work just in the next
block.

TALL COWBOY

At the radio station?

GINA

Yes.

TALL COWBOY

I know who you are.

(beat)

You're that overnight lady.

GINA

You listen?

TALL COWBOY

Well, not really.

GINA

Well, at least you're honest.

TALL COWBOY

It ain't easy.

GINA

You don't speak Russian, of
course.

TALL COWBOY

I had no idea this was gonna happen, else I'd tried to learn in school.

GINA

With all these women now. I beat you wish you had?

TALL COWBOY

Why when the only Russian girl I want to talk to speaks English.

GINA

You're girl friend of course?

TALL COWBOY

I'm talking about you.

GINA

Cute.

TALL COWBOY

Well, I can tell you one thing. Russian ain't easy.

GINA

And you don't like the nostalgic Russian music?

TALL COWBOY

Maybe I'll try.

They reach the radio station door.

GINA

Here we are. Thank you.

TALL COWBOY

You girls took over an entire station?

GINA

Why not? It's a big state, but there are 72 million of us.

The cowboy looks down the block and the other man and his friends are starring at them. Looks like trouble.

TALL COWBOY

Hey, I don't like them fellows
looking at ya.

GINA

They aren't a problem.

TALL COWBOY

Still, you think I ought to walk
you home when your're done?

GINA

At 6 am?

TALL COWBOY

Yea.

GINA

Why? They'll be sleeping it off.

The tall cowboy appears disappointed.

GINA

Oh, you think.

(beat)

Sure, if you want to. You won't be
awake...

TALL COWBOY

I can be.

GINA

Well if you want to.

TALL COWBOY

I'll be here.

Gina enters the radio station. The tall cowboy approaches the men on the corner.

Gina is inside the station and looks out the window. She sees the tall cowboy pointing his finger in a threatening way at the men.

TALL COWBOY

You boys gonna leave her alone?

DRUNK MAN

You really want to do this?
There's three of us.

TALL COWBOY

I'll beat the hell out of any of
you or all three of ya. If ya say
another word to her, there'll be
hell to pay. What she did in
Russia ain't nobody's business.

The three men are intimidated and leave. Gina is
relieved there won't be a fight.

INT. KREMLIN - DAY

Russian leaders sit around a table in the Kremlin. There
are a good number of chairs open; the positions had been
occupied by women. The prime minister's chair is empty. The
men glance to it often.

The Russian president is bald. His advisors keep glancing
over to him. Trying to judge his mood.

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sir, we are seeing certain signs
of civil unrest.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

Well, this is to be expected.
Eight weeks without woman. Men
have lost their reason to exist.

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The economy is in the tank.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

Of course, women are no longer
shopping for shoes.

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

You fool. The women are not
working. We are learning, with
great difficulty, that women are

the most productive element in the economy.

MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Entire factories have closed because the best workers are in Texas. The only sector of the economy that has not crashed are weapons sales.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Crime rates are spiking up.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

The entire country has lost our most precious resource.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

The gold reserves are secure, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

Unfortunately, we're only now realizing women are our most precious asset.

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

This could spin totally out of control Mr. President. I fear a coup d'etat.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

We could be blamed.

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Why? What did we do?

There is a long beat as the men ponder this question.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

We've done nothing.

MINISTER OF CULTURE

We've always done nothing.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

I'm sure a coup is in the works.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Sir, we are talking about the
total breakdown of society.
Without women to hold us together.

MINISTER OF CULTURE
The men have no reason to live
right. Correctly.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
And no reason to remember.

MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
Again, there could be a coup
attempt.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
Very well, take measures.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
What about the election?

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
We've set up consulates and voting
stations in the major Texas cities
so the women can vote.

MINISTER OF CULTURE
That is a temporary solution.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
The solution is the return of the
women.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
What is being done to get the
women home?

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
Mr. President Aeroflot has only a
limited number of flights and they
are flying as many flights as
possible without endangering
safety.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
What about other airlines?

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
They are helping. But still.
(beat)

There are flights leaving every hour from Dallas and Houston. Lubbock, San Antonio and El Paso are opening gates at their airports. New Orleans, Santa Fe, Oklahoma City, which aren't even in Texas are opening a gates for flights to Moscow.

MINISTER OF FINANCE
We've chartered every available airplane in the world.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
The oligarchs have sent their personal jets but there is actually very little impact on the problem.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
So how long before the women return?

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
Sir, there are 72 million Russian women.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
How long?

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
At this rate... 34 years.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
And if we use the Air Force, as well?

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
In that case... 12 years.

ALL THE MINISTERS

Oh, no.

The men at the table are shocked.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

Yes, that is the enormity of the problem. It's a logistical nightmare.

MINISTER OF SCIENCE

I've been speaking with our leading physicists. And they seem to believe that we should simply wait.

MINISTER OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

And do nothing?

MINISTER OF SCIENCE

Yes, let the phenomenon reverse itself. The physicists suggest that eventually the process will be reversed. Balance will be restored.

All the ministers, including the President, look at the Science Minister like he's crazy. There is a long beat. Another minute without the women is simply not an option.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

That's an idiotic idea. We'll send the navy.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION

It's summer.

(beat)

The ice breakers too.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

How long will this take?

NAVY ADMIRAL

To get every Russian ship over there?

(beat)

Weeks.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE
Other nation's might try to take
advantage of our national
emergency.

The ministers look at each other in despair.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
Send the navy. Do it now and do it
quickly.

MINISTER OF CULTURE
Wait, this all assumes they want
to return.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Yes, will they actually get on the
ships and return home?

FSB CHIEF
Communication intercepts point to
the fact that many of our women
are contemplating staying in
Texas.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA
Problems. Always problems. More
problems.

The ministers look at each other in REAL despair. Many are
clearly depressed. The stress on their faces becomes clear.

INT. WHITE HOUSE CABINET ROOM - DAY

There is a similar U.S. cabinet meeting in Washington DC.
The president isn't in the meeting. The vice president
seems to be in charge of the problem.

CUT TO: The president and Nadia are in the bowling alley in
the basement of the White House. They are laughing and
enjoying their time. Drinking wine and bowling.

SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Deport them. Every single one of
them.

The other secretaries and the vice president look at him like he's crazy.

SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

They have no passport. No visa and no reason to be here.

VICE PRESIDENT

Let's hear the pros and cons.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR

1. They are negotiating leverage we've been needing for arms reduction talks.
2. Have you seen many of these women? They are gorgeous and intelligent and trust me Texas we can use a little of that.
3. Finally, Texas has 30 electoral college votes. And if you want to keep your job, we need to win there. You order all these beautiful women home and Texas men will be pissed. For a lot of them, this is the only chance at love. Texas is always up in the air. You'll hand it over to the opposing party.

VICE PRESIDENT

Now, for the cons.

They look to the homeland security fool who earlier suggested deportation. He's smartened up and shrugs and he has nothing.

EXT. TEXAS SIDEWALK - MORNING

Gina exits the radio station. The tall cowboy is asleep in his truck parted directly in front of the station. His boots are hanging out the window. She peers inside the truck and chuckles. The streets are empty and she walks home without waking him.

INT. KARAOKE BAR

The girl with a song is performing in a karaoke bar.

EXT/INT. SALONS - DAY

There are long lines outside salons in Dallas, Tyler, Wichita Falls, San Angelo, Texarkana, Houston and San Marcos. The Russian woman are GREAT for the beauty industry.

A journalist is in the salon with a camera and microphone.

The Russian women are learning new makeup techniques, new hairstyles and having their nails done. They are taking selfies and helping each other keep their man interested.

The journalist sticks a microphone in the face of a TEXAS STYLIST while he continues to work on a woman's hair.

JOURNALIST

Can you explain how the Russian women have revitalized the salon industry in Texas?

TEXAS STYLIST

All the Russian women, while in Texas, are learning beauty techniques. Much of it is attitudinal; they are made to think they are valuable. Its all part of the Texas chivalry?

JOURNALIST

Chivalry?

TEXAS STYLIST

Yes, that is my theory. But the point is they will be returning to Russia new women.

INT. WHITE HOUSE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Press availability. The press is lined up and waiting for a scheduled photo opportunity.

PRESS SECRETARY

The president and Ms. Sobolev will be out here in a moment. This is photo availability only. There are to be no questions. Any questions, I'll handle that. This is the President of the United States and a candidate for the presidency of Russia. Please be respectful?

In the library, the president and Nadia wait. They simply look at each other, we can't judge their emotions. But they are a bit too stonefaced, hiding something (love). He's not the jolly charismatic man we saw in San Antonio or in the bowling alley. He's calmed down considerably. Both Nadia and he appear deep in thought. They look like lovers about to part.

They aren't supposed to ask questions but a Russian photo-journalist breaks the rule.

RUSSIAN JOURNALIST

Ms. Sobolev, are you pregnant and what is the nationality of the baby?

PRESS SECRETARY

Hey, that's out of line.

RUSSIAN JOURNALIST

I'm a Russian citizen and a journalist.

PRESS SECRETARY

You work for the opposition party?

RUSSIAN JOURNALIST

No, but the Russian people have a right to know what is going on over there with respect to our citizens.

The American president is about to inject himself into the argument.

Sobolev gestures to the president, that she'll handle it.

SOBOLEV

You are a sexist pig and it's none of your business anything about a woman.

RUSSIAN JOURNALIST

That's what I thought you'd say.

PRESIDENT

Look, we're not answering any questions. We have simply agreed to disagree and we hope to move forward, have a nice calm lunch and finish our discussions.

SOBOLEV

Of course, it is Russian land. Peter the Great took this territory from the Ottoman Turks. Russian blood has been spilled there.

PRESIDENT

Mr. Khrushchev ceded it to the Ukrainians.

SOBOLEV

He seeded it to a republic in the USSR, that is very different than giving it over to a foreign nation. And, that was the Soviet Union, the most corrupt and villainous government in the history of the plant.

(beat)

My grandfather died in the Crimea.

PRESIDENT

(under his breath)

Point your finger.

Nadia points her finger.

SOBOLEV

I remember my grandmother telling me about how he bled out into the soil. The Russian's fought and the

Ukrainians surrendered "don't shoot, don't shoot," and many collaborated with the Germans. No, they don't get to keep the land after that miserable showing.

PRESIDENT

I thought, all the people of the Soviet Union shared equally in the defeat of the Nazis.

SOBOLEV

Who said that?

The president shrugs.

SOBOLEV

Joseph Stalin said that. It was only Soviet propaganda, for national cohesion. It had nothing to do with reality.

(beat)

There, and I can tell you when a nation sends its young men to fight and die... when the war is over... it's their land.

PRESIDENT

It's more complicated than a war a long time ago.

SOBOLEV

Twenty million Russians died in that war. That will NEVER happen again. We require the Crimea. I'm sorry if you think our national security is something to negotiate.

(beat)

Russia has significant military assets in the area. Sevastopol and the Black Sea fleet. All a 5th-grade student has to do is look at a map and see Russia's predicament concerning warm water ports. The Russian government will hand over our national security. We will

negotiate, right after Hell
freezes over.

She extends a firm, polite, handshake.

SOBOLEV

Thank you, Mr. President.

The president, very slightly, winks at her.

And instead of exiting the room with the President, to go
eat lunch, she uses a different door.

INT. AMERICAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

What accounts for the President's
poor showing?

ANALYST

I can't fathom what just happened.
Clearly, they don't get along.

NEWS ANCHOR

And isn't that odd, rumors have
been circulating for a week they
were romantically involved? You
heard the first question.

ANALYST

We all know that she, like every
Russian woman, was stuck over here
without her security and the
President stepped in and provided
for that.

NEWS ANCHOR

But what just happened?

ANALYST

I think the president has
significantly injured himself
politically.

NEWS ANCHOR

How'd this happen?

ANALYST

The president's an emotional and excitable man. We've seen him lose his temper before. And today he may have been worked-up, debating with a lady, that he neglected to make a few points. One being that legally the land belongs to the Ukraine.

NEWS ANCHOR

Well, you don't hit a girl.

ANALYST

Oh, that's just wrong. Look, this is politics. Gender doesn't matter. When they are in there, they're not man and wife... uh... that's embarrassing... I didn't mean to say that... I mean, when they are in there, they're not a man and a woman, they are representing their respective nations.

(beat)

Look, you asked me what accounts for his poor showing? She won. She ate him up. She looked competent and tough.

NEWS ANCHOR

Only a week ago, he was on the Russian's side of the issue. Suddenly things changed?

ANALYST

I'm baffled. You know former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil once said all politics are local. But it can be personal too. They simply don't like each other.

NEWS ANCHOR

Why did she use the door she did? Weren't they supposed to have lunch together?

ANALYST

She acted like she didn't want to be in the same room with him. I understand that she immediately left the White House.

NEWS ANCHOR

What does this say about Nadia Sobolev?

ANALYST

Well, it says a lot. She's not a woman to be trifled with. I think she'll be the next President of Russia, regardless of what the opposition says about her leaving the country disqualifying her. The Russian people are smarter than that.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION STATION - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

And now we go to our man on the street. That sounds strange to me, because that position was, until recently, held by Julie Gevorkyan, before she was transported from us.

EXT. TEXAS AIRPORT - DAY

An OLDER RUSSIAN WOMAN, boards a Aeroflot plane. All the other passengers are women returning to Russia, they are happy, loud and excited about returning. The older woman is somber. She looks out the window.

INT. MOSCOW SIDEWALK - DAY

The MALE JOURNALIST sticks the microphone and camera into the face of men as they walk down the sidewalk.

JOURNALIST

What do you most miss about our women being gone?

Most of the men interviewed are tearful. Their voices are cracking with emotion. They try to hide their pain but it shows through.

MAN #1

No one to reassure your fears.

MAN #2

No one to encourage you on.

MAN #3

No one to brighten your morning.

MAN #4

Man, I miss everything about my wife. Even getting kicked out.

JOURNALIST

Well, I hope...

MAN #4

I'm working on it, man. And I've changed and there won't be anymore of that.

JOURNALIST

Promise?

MAN #4

That's what she said.

They chuckle a bit.

JOURNALIST

And what did you say?

MAN #4

I promised. And I meant it. I'm just waiting on Aeroflot or the Navy or whoever's gonna bring her home.

MAN #5

Honestly? I see no gentility here, no grace, no coy glances. Nothing of interest here for me.

MAN #6

Nothing. Nothing is positive
except finding a cab isn't so
difficult anymore.

VASILY

No compliments, to make you feel
like a little boy.

MIKHAIL

No woman's touches, that make a
home of your house.

YEVGENY

No laughing, no joking, or playing
cat and mouse.

TIMUR

A world without women means no
children.

LEV

Only men and more men! Everywhere
are men. It makes me sick! We are
very ugly you know.

Slava has a black eye and a bruised face.

SLAVA

Only men to fight.

JOURNALIST

You didn't beat your wife did you?

SLAVA

Oh, no. Nothing like that; I love
her more than anything.

(beat)

I just get into fights now.

JOURNALIST

I can see you've been fighting.

(beat)

But you fought before the women
disappeared?

SLAVA

No. It's something I've just recently discovered.

JOURNALIST

And it makes you feel better?

Slava shrugs and nods in the affirmative.

EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

The older Russian woman exits the plane and no one is there to greet her. The other women on the plane are all greeted by their husbands, boyfriends and families.

She makes her way to the taxis.

OLDER WOMAN

(to the driver)

Novodevichy, please.

INT. VARIOUS TEXAS LOCATIONS - DAY

The Russian women are on the phone with their men in Russia. Vera calls her father in Russia.

SVETLANA

Lately, you've been getting under my skin. Please don't be a memory. Please don't make me have to think about you when you're in prison. I've had enough to think about before disappearing. Please don't be another lesson I'll have to learn. I've got guilt to burn you know.

TOMA

I beg your pardon? I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine, there's gotta be a little rain some time. I could sing you a song and promise to buy you the moon, but if that's what it takes to keep you, I'd just as soon let you go.

LIKA

I've heard that story before.
You'll just tear my world apart
again and talking to you I'm just
working on another broken heart.

(laughing)

Yes. I'll have some tall tales to
tell; they might not be true but
I'll remember Texas well.

VERA

(to father)

Papa, I found someone like you
said would happen. He's handsome
and he's a lot like you. I was
afraid to love him 'cause I'm not
the trustin' kind. But now I'm
convinced that he's heaven sent.
And he must be out of his mind.
Daddy, he's crazy, crazy over me.
He says he always wants to be in
my life.

MARIA

I keep a close watch on my heart.
I keep my eyes wide-open all the
time.

(beat)

Well, my Daddy once told me you
can't run away from your troubles.
They'll follow and find you. I
love my daddy, but it turns out
he's wrong. I'm here and my
problems didn't follow. I'm sorry.

OLGA

Love is evil and will even love a
goat. No more waitin' for you to
change. I'm gonna get a life
that's what I'm gonna do. So
startin' now, you can find one
too. I'm gonna get a life
like I should have done, a long
time ago. Before you wrecked this
one.

YEVGENIA

I thought this was Texas, but no one wants to get drunk and rowdy over here.

(beat)

Well, I thought all along you'd be the death of me, but I wonder tonight who wants what's left of me.

ALLA

But if there's fire and smoke. Ooh, what a rush I got when your love was hot. Oh, but I couldn't see that when the flame burned out, you'd leave a cold dark cloud, raining down on me.

SVETLANA

Say you love me again, please.

ALLA

Well, of course, anything worth loving is just too hard to forget.

MARIA

About you and me? I've got a Texas solution in mind. I'm learning to find beauty in the most unusual places. I might just stay here a short while and paint. But I noticed how trim you are becoming. Working out and eating less. I'm proud of you.

YEVGENIA

You were the first thing that I thought of when I thought I drank you off my mind. This killin' time waiting on a flight is killin' me. Drinking myself blind thinkin' I won't see.

LIKA

What do I think about? Well, I try to think about Lenin's body.

(beat)

I'm not sure I approve of it.

(beat)

I try to think about Birch trees.
A creature here they call a
Chupacabra. I try to think about
high heels and good deals.

(beat)

I just can't concentrate. I try to
think about champagne, freight
trains. Moscow Street crime.

(beat)

I try to think about Shakespeare.
Hair-do's. Tattoos. They don't
have any sushi bars here and you
hardly ever hear a saxophone. I
think about new clothes.

VERA

Okay, papa. I will.

EXT. NOVODEVICHY CEMETERY - DAY

The older woman exits the taxi and walks toward a newly covered grave. An OLDER MAN has left the grave, possible a brother or friend of the man in the grave, and he passed the older woman on her way to the grave. She is vaguely familiar to him... he thinks back and remembers her. He turns and follows her to the grave.

He gives her a minute to meditate/pray and then as she is about to leave, he speaks to her.

MAN

We all wondered if you'd come.

WOMAN

Well, I would have come to the funeral. How was it?

MAN

Well, he got all dressed up to go away. First time I'd seen him smile in years.

WOMAN

They placed a wreath upon his door?

MAN

Yes. And then they carried him here.

WOMAN

I got your message. Thank you. As the years went slowly by, I'm afraid I still preyed upon his mind.

MAN

He kept some letters by his bed dated nineteen seventy-eight.

WOMAN

It was a long time ago.

MAN

He had underlined in red every single "I love you" I have them at the house if you want them.

WOMAN

No, you keep them.

MAN

He kept your picture on his wall.

WOMAN

I heard.

MAN

He still loved you through it all, hoping you'd come back to him again.

WOMAN

He said, "I'll love you till I die", I told him "You'll forget in time"

MAN

Went half-crazy now and then.

WOMAN

I know it.

MAN

Well, this time he's over you for good.

INT. AUSTIN/MOSCOW - DAY

Yevgenia is in a Texas bar, the Broken Spoke in Austin.

On stage is the girl with a song and she has a western-swing band behind her. Between songs her phone vibrates and she pulls it from her jeans. She glances at it. She looks up at the audience, the twenty Russian women there are also reading text messages.

Yevgeny calls Yevgenia on the phone.

YEVGENY

Is everything okay? Do you miss me?

YEVGENIA

No, there isn't enough whiskey in this bar, if you think I'm gonna miss you.

YEVGENY

What do you mean?

YEVGENIA

Why do you sound so surprised? I just ordered another one. And I got more bad news; there's more where that came from.

YEVGENY

I just want you back.

YEVGENIA

I can drink every drop and still, you won't find me back. There isn't enough whiskey in this entire bar. Ain't enough lonely in

all of Texas for me to be with you
again.

EXT. STEPS OF MOSCOW COURTHOUSE - DAY

An ATTORNEY walks to the rostrum. There are twenty or
thirty reporters there, all male.

ATTORNEY

I'm the attorney of Tatiana
Romanova. She will NOT be
returning to Russia. We've
petitioned the United State
government to grant her political
asylum.

(beat)

A man stalked her on a Moscow
street then attacked her from
behind, all within weeks of her
graduation from school. She's a
talented artist. As he tried to
remove her underwear, she fumbled
in her bag for a blade she uses to
sharpen her drawing pencils and
stabbed the man in the abdomen,
after which he fled.

(beat)

The case has gone viral in Russia
after police flew 9,000 km to
Uvalde Texas to extradite her for
suspected "grievous bodily harm",
all this while refusing to open a
case on her allegations of
attempted rape.

(beat)

The police have branded her an
"attempted murderer" who should be
thrown in prison. She could face a
potential sentence of up to ten
years.

(beat)

Her alleged attacker, a married
man, claimed he had been "reading
her poetry" when she stabbed him
without cause.

(beat)

My client is the victim of appalling police incompetence and sexism, while trolls have viciously attacked her online accusing her of accusing an innocent man, for wanting to jail him, and have described her as a "whore".

(beat)

She will NOT be returning, and that's a pity.

(beat)

The alleged attacker showed her a knife, lifted her skirt and tried to take off her underwear.

(beat)

He could have infected her with a disease, caused her deep psychological trauma, or even killed her.

(beat)

She screamed but he held his hand over her mouth.

(beat)

She acted with "reasonable self-defence" while investigators failed to believe her. They also failed to look for witnesses. She had reported the incident immediately after it happened.

(beat)

The police refused to open an attempted rape case because they found "no traces of a crime".

(beat)

What the police are implying is that she should have let herself be raped to get the evidence.

(beat)

Any sane person is clear on what happened. I wonder why the police failed to understand this.

(beat)

No criminal investigation has been launched against the man.

EXT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Lev is about to enter a building for a meeting, but he stops and dials a number. Lika answers inside a store in Texas.

LEV

I got to digging through old photographs. In nearly everyone, there is a bottle or a glass.

LIKA

Memories and drinks don't mix too well.

LEV

I'm not drunk.

LIKA

Bar bands don't play wedding bells.

LEV

Pictures of good times and carrying on with friends that I have and some that I don't.

LIKA

The pictures tell the story of our life.

LEV

There's not a one among them where we're not living out-loud. If I could change all these images, I've been thumbing through, I'll take less vodka and a lot more you.

LIKA

Yes?

LEV

A little less vodka keeping me from saying what I've been needing to say.

LIKA

Oh?

LEV

A lot more of you is what I'm
longing for. Can you come home?

LIKA

You are finished drinking?

LEV

I'm not saying my drinking days
are over, but I'm going to try.
Seriously try.

LIKA

Can you do it?

LEV

I don't know; I never tried until
now.

INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Lev goes into an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. He stands
and gives his testimony.

LEV

My name is Lev and I'm an
alcoholic. Frankly, I had no idea
they wrote a story about me until
I read Dr. Jeckal and Mr. Hyde.

The group chuckles. It's a support group. They respond to
everything.

LEV

I'm semi-functional. At work, I'm
90%. At home, I've been 10%. I was
a functional alcoholic. But, it's
a narcotic, from the Greek "to
make numb." I don't know why the
government doesn't call it a
narcotic. It makes you numb and
then next thing you know your car
is crashed.

The group laughs. He takes out a picture of Lika and shows it to the room.

LEV

This is my wife. She's the reason I'm in this program. My sobriety date is the same day she left, the same day they all left.

Several of the group seem to be in the same situation.

LEV

Once she called 911. So two cops show up. I'm already in bed. They tell me to get up. They said, "when someone calls 911... So, get up your going downtown." I said, "What's downtown?" They said, "You're going to jail. We're tired of driving out here."

(beat)

I admitted it to my wife the other day on the phone. She's still in Texas. She says the leather, silver and turquoise are really nice and they have these liqueurs made from fresh fruits and cane sugar - all natural and gluten free. Orange, Lemon and Grapefruit liqueurs.

Lev suddenly bursts into tears.

LEV

She loves me. She knows what I am, I'm an alcoholic, with all that pain it puts on her, and she still wants to make me a lemon drop Martini and I just had to tell her about my problem.

(beat)

She probably already knew...

The group chuckles. Of course, the wife knows.

LEV

I brought a lot of pain on her, especially in my motorcycle riding days. Boy, you talk about excitement, try vodka and a motorcycle.

(beat)

But I woke up in a hospital one time. Beautiful nurses. I was still drunk and asked them if it was heaven.

(beat)

It wasn't my doctor who diagnosed me. He asked me and I denied it. It was my dental hygienist. She asked and I denied it. And she laughed and laughed.

(beat)

She said, you are. You look like one. You act like one and you smell like one. And so what could I say, I admitted it.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD

The obstetrician is bored. He sits and is clearly depressed.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

JOURNALIST

We are at the airport to cover the return of the 1000th flight of women returning from Texas. I could go on describing this joyous occasion, but I think I'll just let the video tell the story.

The women exit the airplane; they are elated, singing and chattering with their friends. Their men are waiting; they are elated. Some women kiss the ground, all the women kiss their men.

One woman is pregnant and in labor. They wheel her in a wheelchair to an ambulance. The husband climbs in and they race toward the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD

The obstetrician gets up from his desk. And like a zombie he walks to the roof of the hospital. He could be suicidal. He walks to the edge and looks down. He is literally bored to death.

The male nurse at the maternity ward answers the phone and his eyes become large when hears the message.

A flight passes overhead on a path toward the airport. It is so low, the doctor doesn't jump. He simply watches the airplane pass overhead.

MALE NURSE

Doctor?

The nurse searches the hospital for the obstetrician and a custodian points him toward the roof.

Just before the doctor looks down again, the nurse appears out of breath.

MALE NURSE

A woman, 32 years old. She's in labor. Just off a flight from Texas.

The two men descend the stairs. In the maternity ward, the nurse sterilizes the surgical equipment and the obstetrician scrubs his hands with soap and water. His face is happy again.

INT. MOSCOW APARTMENTS / AIRPORT - DAY

MONTAGE: Yevgeny connects with a girl in the Philippines. She is due to arrive at the airport. Some men never learn.

EXT. MOSCOW STREET - NIGHT

The city is full of foreign streetwalkers, Asians, Indians, Africans, Americans, Brits, and Poles. They all seem to be wearing the prostitutes garb but the colors and designs give away their story. They have all come to cash in on the Russian men's misery.

Yevgeny sees a PROSTITUTE being harassed by a THUG. We can't tell who is causing the altercation, but the woman is getting pulled around and the thug might put her into the back of a car. She fights back and screams.

Yevgeny fights the thug and nearly wins. But in the end the thug leaves.

The prostitute helps Yevgeny stand up.

PROSTITUTE

You wanna?

She gestures to a hotel nearby.

YEVGENY

What? Oh, uh. No.

PROSTITUTE

You have a woman in Texas?

YEVGENY

Yes.

PROSTITUTE

Too bad.

Yevgeny gives her a flirty smile and walks away.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

Yevgeny waits on the flight from the Philippines. While he waits, Yevgenia calls him on the phone from outside a bar.

EXT. OUTSIDE TEXAS BAR - NIGHT

Yevgenia isn't plastered drunk. But she's had just enough to be emotional. Sentimental.

YEVGENY

What are you doing?

YEVGENIA

Well, every night I leave the bar room when it's over. Not feeling any pain at closing time.

(beat)

But tonight your memory found me
much too sober. I couldn't drink
enough to keep you off my mind.

(beat)

Tonight the bottle let me down. It
let your memory come around. The
one true friend I thought I'd
found, except for Olga, of course,
the bottle let me down.

(beat)

They drink whiskey here. And I've
always had a whiskey I could turn
to, and lately, I've been turnin'
every night.

(beat)

But tonight the whiskey wouldn't
take effect the way it used to.
And I'm hurtin' in an old familiar
way.

By the end of the conversation, he has tears in his eyes.

A plane from Asia lands and is taxing up to the gate. A
second plane disembarks its passengers; they are women from
Texas. He watches all the happy reunions. Yevgeny turns
and walks to the ticket counter.

YEVGENY

That plane is returning to Texas?

AEROFLOT

Yes, sir, they are flying non-
stop.

YEVGENY

How much?

AEROFLOT

\$25

YEVGENY

Why so little.

AEROFLOT

Well, its supply and demand. It's
full coming here. And mostly
empty going to Texas.

YEVGENY

Okay, I need a ticket, please.

Yevgeny sees a Filipino woman exit the plane. She looks sad and lost, but about 10 Russian men surround her and she forgets all about the man she met on the internet.

EXT. INSIDE TEXAS BAR - NIGHT

Olga, Yevgenia's friend, takes the phone. We don't know the man she is phoning.

OLGA

(drunk)

What do you mean? "What am I wearing?"

(beat)

Well, I'm wearing the cleanest of my dirty shirts.

(beat)

I haven't gone crazy. I'm not runnin' with a bad crowd. I ain't dead in a ditch. Just tryin' to figure things out. I'm glad I'm here. I'm taking a break from men.

(beat)

You hit me like a truck, when you did me how you did me. You might as well have doused me in diesel and struck a match.

INT. AEROFLOT FLIGHT - NIGHT

There are only six men on a huge plane bound for Texas. Yevgeny is one of these men. Many are boiling with self-pity and regret. Eventually, they'll sleep.

EXT. STANDING ON A BRIDGE IN TEXAS - DUSK

Svetlana and Slava are speaking on the phone.

SVETLANA

The priest used to talk about the devil. I was shakin' in my shoes in the church. Twelve years old, afraid of where I'd go. Ten years

later wonderin' how I got here in
Texas. Russia is so far away.

There is a thunderclap and a storm in Texas.

SLAVA
What is that?

SVETLANA
Thunder in the sky used to get my
attention. Now when lightnin'
strikes, it only gets me wishin'
that it'd strike me, but I ain't
that lucky.

SLAVA
Aren't you afraid?

SVETLANA
No, I ain't afraid of dyin'.

SLAVA
Why?

SVETLANA
The devil don't scare me anymore.

INT. BASMANNY APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mikhail gets off the couch and walks in the park and then
he jogs and then he's seen in the gym.

EXT. BRIDGE IN MOSCOW - NIGHT

Slava takes the guns from his garage and dumps them in the
river. He has just finished throwing the last one off a
bridge when a police car arrives.

POLICE
What are you doing?

SLAVA
I dumped some trash.

The cop gives him a citation for littering.

INT. MUSEUM OF WESTERN ART - DAY

Maria's studying western Art at various museums in Texas.

INT. TEXAS HILL COUNTRY - DAY

Maria is traveling around Texas in an old truck and painting. The result is highly influenced by her new surroundings.

She has a tent and a campsite in a picturesque rural Texas spot. She's asleep but wakes up and there are two wild turkeys in her camp staring at her.

INT. MOSCOW CHURCH - DAY

Slava goes inside and says a prayer, lights a candle. He give the priest a health amount of money.

INT. MOSCOW GYM - NIGHT

Finished working out Mikhail sends Maria a text message.

MIKHAIL

I know you tried to tell me what was lackin', but I guess I must have missed it by a mile. Well, this time I swear to you I'll listen.

(second message)

It's hard to find myself in this position, scared that I'll go crazy once you're gone. Help me hold on to what we had. Once our love was strong, it can be again. You said it takes two to make love last. You were right all along, so help me hold on.

She texts him a photo of the two turkeys. Which he think is odd. She doesn't type a response, but sends the photo.

INT. TEXAS HILL COUNTRY - DAY

Maria is painting a rural Texas scene. She hears her phone chime that she has a text message. She ignores it and continues to paint. It chimes several times as she paints.

Later, she picks up her phone. He's sent her photos showing his weight loss. She's delighted by the messages and impressed with the weight loss. He sends her a photo of the video game box in the trash and a photo of him with a book. He's also wearing more trendy clothes. She's delighted.

They speak over the phone. She phones him and wakes him up in the middle of the night. Mikhail jumps up in the bed. He knows the call is Maria.

MIKHAIL

It's you? How are you?

MARIA

I've been tryin' to get over you.

MIKHAIL

Oh, no. Please.

MARIA

I've been spending time alone.

(beat)

I've been tryin' to get forget you. But I'm not sure Texas can get it done.

(beat)

All my friends keep tryin' to fix me up. They say I need somebody new.

MIKHAIL

What are you going to do?

MARIA

I might drive to the coast. I might go to Mexico.

MIKHAIL

How, are you doing this?

MARIA

I bought a truck?

MIKHAIL

What? You aren't coming home?

MARIA

Just takin' me a heartbreak. I
might take a little time to heal.

MIKHAIL

Well, you are coming home then.
Lucky me.

MARIA

But, I've got a little time to
kill. So, I'm working.

MIKHAIL

Painting?

MARIA

Yes.

MIKHAIL

You haven't done that in years.

MARIA

Well, I am now. You okay with
that.

MIKHAIL

Of course, that's terrific.

INT. TOMA'S HOME - DAY

MONTAGE: When Timur visits a sky scrapper construction sight, he takes the children with him and he doesn't stay long, but he always sends a photo to Toma. He simply walks past the building. They go to the zoo and to various parks. He cooks for them and the children seem to be a very happy. Hundreds of photos of the sky scrapper are sent to Texas.

At the dinner table, Timur and the children talk.

BOTH CHILDREN

When's mommy coming back?

TIMUR

(teasing them)

What? You don't like my cooking?

SON

No. It's fine.

TIMUR

She'll come back soon. She's
having trouble getting a flight.

SON

An airplane ride?

DAUGHTER

Why doesn't she just take a boat
like all the other mommies?

TIMUR

Boats are slow.

DAUGHTER

When she comes back will you
disappear again?

TIMUR

No, I've told them at work, four
days a week and no more. More
parks, more zoos, more time at
home.

BOTH CHILDREN

Yeah, hooray for daddy!

Timur doesn't go to work many days... he spends time with the
children. He sends even more photos of him and the children
to Toma.

Toma and Timur speak on the phone.

TOMA

How are you and the children?

TIMUR

They're okay. We're okay. Eating,
sleeping. Their school is okay.
They have an interesting teacher.
They miss their mother.

TOMA

They missed their father too.

TIMUR

About that. I've come to a new realization. I'm sorry. This work problem is rectified.

(beat)

They are saying that some Russian women are choosing to stay in Texas. Please come home.

TOMA

Moscow has always been my home. The grass isn't always greener on the other side, but that's not even an issue here. I assure you.

TIMUR

Why?

TOMA

The grass isn't green. It's brown.

TIMUR

You're coming home?

TOMA

I was born and raised a Moscow girl and that's all I'm ever gonna be. I like to sit in Aptekarsky Ogorod, and watch the sun set. I like the Komsomolskaya metro station packed with people. I like the fat lion at the Moscow zoo. Yeah it's a complicated way of life but that's just me.

INT. MOSCOW GYM / TEXAS GYM - DAY

Vasily works out in the gym. He calls Alla on the phone.

Alla has found work behind the desk at a Texas gym.

ALLA

You can't call me each and every day. It's too expensive.

VASILY

I don't care. I love you and I want you to come back.

ALLA

Did you stop taking the steroids?

VASILY

Yes. I've learned my lesson.

ALLA

And you aren't lying to me?

VASILY

No. It was all very embarrassing. The lie and, of course, that other thing...

ALLA

And so, your thing... it's working again?

VASILY

Yes, it's raging. Where are you?

ALLA

In Texas, of course.

VASILY

What are you wearing?

ALLA

Cinch, Wraglers, Ariat.

VASILY

What is that?

ALLA

It's almost nothing. I'm standing here in downtown Plainview wearing practically nothing.

VASILY

Come home please. There's a question I must ask you in person.

ALLA

In person?

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

Ruslan spends hours with the animals at the zoo. He is oblivious to the situation. He's the happiest man in all of Russia. He sings and dances bringing food to the animals.

INT. ELECTION HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Nadia is standing in the hallway waiting. There is a large crowd of people on the other side of the door. Her female aide approaches.

NADIA

Did you get it?

AIDE

I did. The jeweller did a wonderful job I think.

She hands her a small brooch. It is gold, in the shape of Texas, and it has a diamond in the center. It's her old wedding ring.

NADIA

You don't think it's too much, do you?

AIDE

No, every Russian woman will understand. And its small no one will even notice.

NADIA

Thank you. Thank you for everything.

AIDE

Of course. Thank you.

The election results are in. Nadia Sobolev is the president elect of Russia. She takes the podium to make her speech. Her supporters are going crazy. It is a huge celebration.

INT. MIDNIGHT RODEO TEXAS NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The girl with a song is on the stage. Here popularity has grown.

COWBOY #1

I feel like dancing with a Russian woman tonight.

COWBOY #2

Well, with 70 million Russian women in Texas, sixty or seventy ought to be in here tonight. It's Midnight Rodeo. Fifty at least, guaranteed.

COWBOY #1

One for every song! Hot damn!

It's not orchestrated but the Russian men from Yevgeny's flight arrive at the bar at the same time. Yevgenia is not the only Russian woman with a dance hall solution to her marital problems.

The men's wives/girlfriends are all dancing and drinking, laughing and having a good time. The six Russian men approach the wives. They are shocked and glad that their men have arrived. They all hug their husbands/boyfriends and are happy to be reunited.

YEVGENIA

I'd have come home, but I can't get a flight.

YEVGENY

Some girls are taking trains to Mexico and flying from there.

YEVGENIA

It's not any faster.

(beat)

Oh, now you are stuck here as well.

YEVGENY

I didn't think of that.

YEVGENIA

But you wanted to see me? Oh...

YEVGENY

So you come here to this bar?

YEVGENIA

Well, you hurt me.

YEVGENY

I'm sorry.

YEVGENIA

Hey, I want to teach you to dance.

She takes his hand and leads him to the dance floor.

They dance.

YEVGENIA

Fun?

YEVGENY

Sure.

There are Russian women galore in the bar and they like to dance, talk and meet new people. They are totally assimilated.

TWO COWBOYS are confused, and are scratching their heads.

COWBOYS

Where did all these Russian men
come from all of a sudden?

A DRUNK COWBOY wants to dance with "one" of the wives and there is a pushing match and then a fistfight. All six Russian men run to the defense of the woman. Yevgenia's friend, Olga, likes to fight. She breaks a bottle over the head of a drunk Texas cowboy, bites another one, and kicks a third cowboy in the balls.

A policeman escorts Olga to his car. It looks official but she's not handcuffed.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

The woman, who volunteered helping the homeless and was arrested for it, clears customs and kisses the ground once she's back in Russia.

INT. MOSCOW RESTAURANT - DAY

The chef who learned cooking techniques in south Texas has opened a Tex-Mex restaurant in a trendy area of Moscow. She leaves the kitchen and walks about the tables. She inquires about the quality of the food. It seems very popular and the restaurant is full.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM GAME - DAY

Natashia's seat is with a group of player's wives. She arrives and they wave "hello" to her and some hug her. She's clearly welcome and she's made friends.

INT. BOLSHOI REHEARSAL HALL - DAY

The dancer assembles the cast... and shows them a tape of her Western Ballet. They like it and she distributes boots and costumes. And they begin to work on a production. Posters are printed. There will be a Western Ballet on the Bolshoi stage.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

The policeman brings Olga, not to the jail, but to her hotel. He gets out and opens the door for her. He's clearly enamored of her. He treats her like royalty.

INT. TINY WEST TEXAS CHURCH - DAY

Olga asks to speak with the Waggoner Ranch cowboy before he's married to Vera. They speak in private at the front of the church. Olga is plain spoken and direct.

OLGA

Vera has a strong and powerful
father in Russia, but he's not
here to tell you this. Understand?

(beat)

If you hurt her, I will screw you
up. Understand? I will screw up

your truck. I will screw up your face. I will take your cowboy boots off and feed them to you with the spurs still attached. Understand?

The cowboy gulps. And nods that he understands. Only then does Olga smile and laugh and she hugs the cowboy.

In the back of the church, Vera and William T. Waggoner, the owner of the ranch, stand waiting for the wedding.

VERA

I appreciate your hospitality, Mr. Waggoner. I mean letting me work at the ranch and you agreeing to give me away like this, it means a great deal to me.

WAGGONER

It means a lot to me too. You're a lovely girl and you've turned out to be a good employee too. Any cowboy would be lucky to marry you. I'm very happy for you.

VERA

Thank you so much.

The bridal march begins and they walk down the aisle. Waggoner gives her way to the cowboy.

Vera and the Cowboy from the Waggoner Ranch stand in front of the alter. The groom's men are cowboys all dressed up in western suits, hair slicked and combed. The bride's maids are Natasha, Alla, and Olga.

Vera's mother sits with Lika, Yevgenia, Svetlana, Maria, and Toma in the first row. They are emotional about the wedding: tears, and smiles, laughing and crying.

After the wedding is over and the church is empty, Svetlana comes back and kneels before the altar.

SVETLANA

Lord, have you forgotten me? I've been prayin' to you faithfully.

I'm not sayin' I'm a righteous woman, but Lord I hope you understand. Money or no money. Rain or shine. Plan a good reunion for me, please. It might be hard for the devil to do, but it would be easy for you.

INT. MAROSEJKA STREET SALON - DAY

Mikhail enters the salon, many woman have returned to Russia but the salon isn't packed like it was previously.

MIKHAIL

Maria is coming back tomorrow, and she said you have her ring.

The stylist produces a box with 10 or more rings in it. Mikhail looks in the box and hesitates.

MIKHAIL

I don't know which one.

STYLIST

You gave her this ring as a symbol of your everlasting love.

MIKHAIL

I know, but that was a long time ago.

STYLIST

Really?

Mikhail shrugs.

STYLIST

Seriously? You don't know which one it is?

Finally, the stylist reaches into the box and pulls out a ring and hands it to Mikhail.

As Mikhail departs, Lev arrives. He looks into the box of rings. He doesn't know which ring belongs to his wife either. The stylist picks it out for him.

As Lev leaves the salon, the Timor arrives.

All the married men will be by eventually; the woman have a flight and will arrive soon.

INT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - DAY

Lika arrives and Lev presents her with the wedding ring and flowers.

Maria arrives and Mikhail greets her. He looks 100 lbs. lighter. He receives the wedding ring and flowers as well.

Svetlana arrives and Slava presents her with flowers, the wedding ring, and a gold pendant cross.

Toma arrives and is mobbed by the children. Timor presents her with flowers, her original wedding band and a large diamond second wedding ring.

TIMOR

New start. Two rings... two marriages... one flawed... this next one more perfect.

Vasily falls to his knee far too early. Nervous. Alla is walking toward him, but he presents her with flowers and an engagement ring. She agrees. Everyone is watching and they applaud.

INT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - DAY

The UNNAMED MAN from the first scene is the most overjoyed. He waits at the airport for the UNNAMED WOMAN, his wife, to return. Of all the men in this film, he is most repentant, of course his crime against his wife is the worse. At first he is strong, simply concerned, but slowly tears come to his eyes. As she makes her way through customs. He breaks down and weeps. By the time she enters the terminal, the man is shaking in an emotional fit. He falls down to his knees and apologizes.

UNNAMED MAN

Oh, God. You are really back. I love you. I'm so sorry. I'll never hit you again. Please forgive me.

She looks around and, of course, everyone is watching. Staring. She says nothing but accepts with a shaking of her head. She gestures for him to stand up and walk with her.

He doesn't. He grabs her and hugs her knees.

UNNAMED MAN

Thank you. Thank you. You won't regret it. I thank God you have returned.

EXT. TEXAS HIGHWAY - DAY

Olga has remained in Texas. She's in a uniform and on a police motorcycle. She's pulled over a handsome cowboy, she dismounts and walks to the man's window. She looks like she might not give him a ticket, only a warning.

INT. RUSSIAN TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR

Wonderful news to report. After a year, the last of the Russian women have returned home as of yesterday at 8:00 am. A parade and Sololniki Park concert is scheduled for next week.

(beat)

Welcome home. ladies.

FEMALE ANCHOR

Thank you.

NEWS ANCHOR

We left your chair open in remembrance.

FEMALE ANCHOR

Thank you. It's good to be home.

EXT. RED SQUARE PARADE - DAY

MONTAGE: The women's parade.

INT. TEXAS RADIO STATION - NIGHT

Gina is on the air.

GINA

Sad news for all the all-night cowboys out there. The last of the Russian women are safe, from your advances. That's right the last of the women are back home. Don't kill the messenger. And don't harm yourself either. I have some nice red dirt music for you, all night tonight.

EXT. SOLOLNIKI PARK BANDSTAND - DAY

The girl with a song has returned with her western-swing band, handsome cowboys, and she's now an international superstar. She has adopted the Texas music and mixed it with the traditional Russian music. Her songs have the sound of country and western music. Many of the Russian women are nostalgic about their year in Texas.

The women in the 20,000+ crowd really feel the music. Many of them are in their wedding dresses. The new brides have been walking in the park and taking photos with their new husbands.

This is an important and interesting scene; it mixes romance and patriotism. Frankly, this scene is to show that the couples have returned to each other in love again. They aren't just living with each other. They dance and celebrate like they are in love again. The girl with a song is singing an old patriotic song she learned in Texas.

SINGER

Give me a second, let me put
myself back in that place.

She tunes her guitar. The crowd is apprehensive waiting for her best song. She begins.

SINGER

(singing)

Well when you're down on your luck
And you ain't got a man
In Texas you're a loser
Half the Bolshoi has disappeared
And moved to Texas
Now I know why

And I'll substantiate the rumor
That the Texas sense of humor
Is drier than the Texas wind
You can put up your dukes or you can bet your boots
But I'm leavin' here just as fast as I can

I want to walk in Sololniki Park
Good Russian music from Belorusskaya and Arbat,
The friendliest people and the handsomest men
You've ever seen

Well it's hot over here Lord I swear
I wished the winter would come
And where in the world is that Cowboy
I promised I would meet in the parking lot
And of the whole damn lot the only asset I have
Is the hair and a cheap manicure
My mind keeps rollin' and my heart keeps longing
To be home in a Moscow Park

I want to walk in Sololniki Park
Good Russian music from Belorusskaya and Arbat,
The friendliest people and the handsomest men
You've ever seen

Well I decided that I'd get me a pickup truck
And go down to Galveston
Cause when a Russian fancies a splash
she'll take her chances
You know chances will be taken that's for sure
And them Western eyes they were eyin' my prize
Some people call personal property
And they said you're from the East
And when you open your mouth
You always seem to put your foot there

I want to walk in Sololniki Park
Good Russian music from Belorusskaya and Arbat,
The friendliest people and the handsomest men
You've ever seen

One more time for all the good looking men out there.

I want to walk in Sololniki Park
Good Russian music from Belorusskaya and Arbat,
The friendliest people and the handsomest men
You've ever seen

FADE OUT

The Sololniki music continues.

ROLL SMALL PORTIAN OF THE END CREDITS

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

A female REPORTER interviews Ruslan, who is standing in front of the African lion exhibit.

REPORTER

How did the absence of women affect the zoo?

RUSLAN

Well, as I understand it, suddenly all the women employed here at the zoo quit and moved to Texas. Strangest thing that ever happened here at the zoo. Two workers short. It was difficult to manage.

REPORTER

Sir, ALL the women in Russia were moved to Texas.

RUSLAN

No. It's a joke.

REPORTER

Sir, I only just now returned. You didn't know this?

RUSLAN

Are you sure? All of Russia's woman? For how long where they gone?

The reporter looks incredulous. She motions "cut" to the camera operator. He doesn't stop the camera however.

REPORTER

(very upset)

What are you some sort of moron? How could you not know all the women of Russia were missing? Don't you have a woman? Don't you watch the television? Radio? Read a newspaper? You men! You are

impossible! Go back to work, you
are not interesting.

The reporter begins to pick up her things to leave.

SLASH CUT

ROLL REMAINING PART OF THE END CREDITS

FADE OUT