

AUTHOR'S AGENT

Susan Schulman Agency
454 W.44th Street
New York, New York 10036
Tel 212 713-1633
Fax 212 581-8830
Schulman@aol.com

HELSINKI

Screenplay by

Allan Havis

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Allan Havis
6035 Hillpointe Row
La Jolla, CA 92037
Tel 858 382-0430
allanhavis@aya.yale.edu
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EXT. MALIBU, CALIFORNIA. 2014 EARLY EVENING

A Prius is driving along a beautiful scenic road approaching Malibu. Harmonic jazz is heard. The sun is setting. We see a wider view of the landscape and the ocean.

INT. PRIUS.

A middle aged male is driving, Gabe Epstein, and is talking to his companion, Terri Levine. They make a good looking couple and they are dressed for the occasion - New Years Eve 2014. Terri takes out a cigarette and rolls down her window.

GABE

What are you doing?

TERRI

Just one cigarette, sweetie.

GABE

No. Not in the car.

TERRI

We're almost there.

GABE

You know the rule.

TERRI

What rule?

She leans over and kisses him hard. His car swerves.

EXT. MALIBU HIGHWAY.

The car crosses double yellow line and comes back into alignment.

GABE (O.S.)

Terri, please not while I'm
driving.

TERRI (O.S.)

Why not? You're a wonderful
driver, Gabe.

She throws out the lit cigarette.

TERRI (O.S.)

Are you happy now?

GABE (O.S.)
Yes.

INT. PRIUS.

TERRI
So who are these friends?

GABE
Half of them are members of the
National Academy of Science.

TERRI
Heavy drinkers?

GABE
Yeah. Sure.

TERRI
And you go every year?

GABE
Nearly. Yeah.

TERRI
Are you going to say that we're
engaged?

GABE
Well . . . of course, Terri.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH HOUSE.

Lavish and tasteful modern home with a few people holding drinks outside. It's an older crowd than Gabe and Terri. A 65 year old bald man exits the front door to join the others. He is the homeowner, Andrei Levin, a Russian scientist. His gait is confident. He wears a tweed jacket with elbow patches. He smokes a little cigar. He kisses a woman on the cheek and she air kisses him back. The group looks up to see some shooting stars.

ANDREI
Perfect for New Years. Meteorites
without a care in the world.
Aren't you cold?

WOMAN
Yes. Does that mean you'll sleep
with me tonight.

Anrei laughs.

ANDREI

I don't even know your name. And my third wife just left me on my birthday - of all days.

Gabe's Prius pulls up into the short driveway. The woman notices the car, but Andrei is now playing with her hair with his two fingers.

WOMAN

My name is easy to remember.
Caviar.

ANDREI

No.

WOMAN

And my first name is Lalya.

The Prius rolls to a stop. Both Gabe and Terri get out at the same time. When the car door slams, Andrei looks in their direction and notices Gabe.

ANDREI

It's Epstein. In a Prius. Let's go inside. You're cold.

Andrei takes her by the arm and turns her around.

WOMAN

Why are you laughing?

ANDREI

Is Layla your real name?

WOMAN

Yes.

Andrei escorts her into the house.

GABE

That was Andrei.

TERRI

Oh.

GABE

This is his party. Sometimes he's the biggest SOB in the world. We go back almost 40 years.

TERRI

Nice of him to say hello to you.

The crowd acknowledges Gabe and Terri as the two walk closer to the house. Max Appleton approaches.

GABE
Hello Max.

MAX
Hello Gabe. Didn't think you'd be here.

GABE
This is Terri. Is your wife in the house?

MAX
No, she's sick.

GABE
I'm sorry. Andrei's inside?

Max winks at Terri and does his best to flirt without getting caught.

MAX
Andrei was expecting a Nobel this year. He's so melancholic. His fish died. He broke up with Sonya.

GABE
You're kidding?

MAX
Sonya can do so much better.
(To Terri)
May I get you drink? How parched you must be.

Terri smiles and says nothing. Gabe grabs her hand to leave her into the house.

GABE
We can't stay too long, Max. See you inside.

Gabe and Terri approach the front door. Andrei opens it suddenly and gives Gabe a bear hug.

ANDREI
A groyse oylem, un nito eyn mentsch. (FROM THE YIDDISH - crowd of people, and not one real person among them) Come in, my brother.

GABE
Andrei, this is Terri.

ANDREI
Happy to meet you, darling. Are
you in love?

GABE
Are you asking me or her?

ANDREI
Her, obviously.

Terri smiles and smacks her lips tight.

ANDREI
Your boyfriend saved my life and he
still waits for my heartfelt thank
you. I want to write a long
letter, you know, with sweet words
and big thoughts, heart and
flowers. So we will celebrate the
New Year. Let me take your jacket.
Are you Jewish, Terri?

TERRI
No. I don't think so.

ANDREI
Very interesting.

TERRI
Are you Jewish?

ANDREI
Darling. Everyone in Malibu's
Jewish except Mel Gibson. It's
true. Some of the Jews are too
rich for their own good. Some Jews
only know one good trick. Me -
it's juggling.

Andrei picks up three empty beer bottles and begins to juggle
flawlessly. The others smile encouragingly. Layla
approaches and takes Andrei's arm.

LAYLA
The toilet's not flushing.

ANDREI
Of all nights!

LAYLA

Can you juggle a plunger? Do you
have hand sanitizer, pumpkin?

Layla's other hand squeeze Andrei's buttocks. Max Appleton gains on Gabe in the house foyer, as Andrei presses ahead to the kitchen.

MAX

Andrei's going to make a big
announcement tonight.

GABE

Really?

MAX

Either something bizarre happened
in his lab or there's a stupendous
honor coming his way.

GABE

How many more prizes does Andrei
need, Max? Think about it.

MAX

Laskar Award - \$250K. Wolf Prize -
\$100K. Not enough money for his
lifestyle, Gabriel. Andrei sucks
cash faster than the government
prints bills. It costs more to
repair his Maserati than my yearly
Lexus lease. How's Don?

GABE

Still at Clark University -
chairing Botany. He's soon to
retire. Don Lansing - he could
have a late night cable show for
Jazz greats.

MAX

Lucky boy. I heard a rumor that
you're getting married. Finally -
before you go on Medicare. Is this
the girl?

INT. JET. OCTOBER DAY 1975 FLASHBACK

Gabe, nearly 40 years younger, is settling into his flight from New York to Moscow. His companion is Don Lansing.

DON

We should have flown Aeroflot.
 Russian toilets have no lids.
 Honest to God. But you have a safe
 flight if you tip the pilot. And
 the Russian stewardesses are
 gorgeous bodybuilders, and to ward
 off the boredom, juggle the smaller
 passengers - three at a time.

(Russian accent)

Coffee, tea, or me? Know the
 difference between Aeroflot and
 Israel's *Shavit* missile?

GABE

What?

DON

Aeroflot kills more people.

Don unfolds an Oct. 30, 1975 newspaper, New York's Daily News, cover shouts headline, "Ford to City - Drop Dead!"

GABE

Maybe Ford's worse than Nixon?

DON

Come on, Gabe. He hired Kissinger.
 Nixon loves jazz and Jews.

GABE

Stuff it.

DON

And screw you, I know you're a
 closet communist. Isn't that why
 you talked me into this trip?

GABE

I'm a socialist, Don. There's a
 Grand Canyon size distinction
 between the two. Too many rich and
 too many poor live side by side.

(Silence)

Do you remember when we went to
 Budapest last year? A Hungarian
 woman whispered to me that the '56
 Revolution was good.

The stewardess serves the men wine and smiles.

DON

Yes, I remember her and she was very pretty in the miniskirt. So what if her politics is up her ass.

GABE

At the Budapest conference, I met Meyerson. You missed seeing him.

DON

The lipids guy at Shemyakin?

GABE

He has really large hands. I want to zero in on his DNA liposomes work.

DON

Gene therapy.

GABE

Meyerson is meeting us at the airport. Did I ever tell you the time I met Thelonius Monk?

The jet cabin dims lights.

DON

Really awful wine. Try it, Gabe. I like expensive stuff, call me a freaking capitalist.

EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

Gabe's plane lands and approaches hanger. Music overlay is The Beatles' *Back in the USSR*. There are soldiers holding rifles. It strikes Gabe more than eerie.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT CONTROL AREA

Gabe and Don are walking briskly through the dimly lit airport corridor. We hear this dialogue from an extended long tracking shot.

GABE

Are you hungry?

DON

Not really. Looks a little dingy.

GABE

What did you expect? Want to see
the Kremlin tomorrow? Or fly to
Leningrad?

DON

I just want to get in bed with a
Russian princess and see her family
jewels. Is that too much to ask?

A soldier points to them and they don't comprehend his message. At the checkpoint, Gabe and Don present passports, visas, and other vital documents to the military officer. The officer looks at Gabe, studies the passport photo, then the visa photo, then on an electronic screen several times over. Don is restless and Gabe doubly so.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT

Both men finally pass immigration control and enter the general airport. As they keep walking, Boris Meyerson calls out.

MEYERSON

Gabriel Epstein! It's Boris
Yurovich Meyerson! Ya tak sil'no
skuchal pa tibe (*I missed you so
much*).

Gabe spins around and spots Meyerson. Gabe and Meyerson exchange warm smiles from 20 feet apart. Don walks behind Gabe.

MEYERSON

You got smaller, Gabriel. What
happened to you? You used to wear
cowboy boots or shoe lifts?

The two men hug.

GABE

I sold the boots and I'm wearing
hush puppies. How are you! This
is Dr. Don Lansing. Another good
scientist from my university.

MEYERSON

Hello, hello, hello.

GABE

Say hello, Don.

DON
Good to meet you, Dr. Boris
Yurovich Meyerson.

MEYERSON
Call me Boris. It won't hurt.
You'll want to spend time in my
laboratory. Cell membranes are
very sexy today. And maybe you can
convince Oblomovka to give you
permission. A bribe doesn't go
unnoticed. Isn't that so, Gabe?
There are no fruits and vegetables
in Russia. Only vodka and canned
orange juice.

DON
What is he talking about, Gabe?

Meyerson violates the personal space between Don and himself by gently slapping both of Don's cheeks.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT'S GIFT STORE

Gabe and Don find the few commodities inside the store odd and farcical. There is cologne, tire pressure gauges, scarves, duct tape, ordinary underwear, wrestling magazines.

EXT. MEYERSON'S CAR.

The men pile into the car and leave the airport. We track the car's progress onto the streets and main artery leaving the Sheremetyevo International Airport.

MEYERSON
I'm a very good driver, you know.
Except for the snow.

GABE
There is no snow.

MEYERSON
Well, you stay here three more
months there will be a mountain of
snow up to your keister.

EXT. MOSCOW

Aerial establishment shot. Great images of a powerful city as an architectural statement and graced by centuries of history. Closer view of Meyerson's car circling a highway turnoff.

EXT. HOTEL NATIONAL (ACROSS RED SQUARE)

Meyerson's car approaches the Hotel National in the historic Red Square.

MEYERSON

Your hotel is by the Institute but I thought you would appreciate the great Red Square.

GABE

Very exciting, Boris.

MEYERSON

It's a modest lodging, my friends. Watch your wallet and your documents, double lock your door.

Gabe and Don leave the car.

MEYERSON

Walk about and I'll meet you inside for drinks at the bar. I have one errand. Enjoy this place because your hotel will lack for some luxury, my friends.

Meyerson gets back into his car and drives off. Gabe and Don enter the Hotel National.

INT. HOTEL NATIONAL

The men go to the lounge which is a few steps above the main lobby.

DON

I thought Meyerson wouldn't leave us out of his sight.

GABE

Yeah.

WAITER

Schto vy hotite? (*what would you like?*)

DON

Bokal vina, pozhalujsta (*a glass of wine please*)

MONTAGE EVENING

While musical strings of a balalaika are heard, a series of shots of Gabe and Don drinking, laughing, and then Meyerson joining them after a second round of drinks. Gabe and Don look animated and alert despite the booze and travel fatigue. The three men leave the lounge and enter the historic square. Meyerson bids adieu. A swirling gallery of pedestrian portraits, friendly faces, blank faces, impoverished faces, comic faces. This cold, imposing city is not Paris, not London, not Rome. Gabe and Don seen inside small stores, the Melodia Music store, and even the famous GUM Department Store. Whatever exotic quality found in Moscow, the men see a major city's worts. The montage and music switch tempo as the men hop into a cab heading for a rundown drab hotel on the outskirts of Moscow.

EXT. HOTEL NEAR THE INSTITUTE.

The taxi pulls tight to the hotel entrance. Gabe pays the driver. Gabe and Don leave the cab with their bags. They register disappointment at the dismal building which will be their Russian domicile. They ascend the front stairs to the entrance.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

An overweight hotel clerk studies them at the front desk. He hits the bell on the counter several times, but no staff approaches.

DON

We have a reservation. Two rooms.
Dr. Epstein and Dr. Lansing.

CLERK

Are you American? Canadian? What
are you, British?

Gabe and Don show papers and passports. The clerk records the information in his ledger. A dog comes around the front desk and sniffs Don's leg. Suddenly, the dog is humping Don's leg. The clerk shouts at the dog. The men leave the front desk and take the antiquated elevator to their rooms.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR

It is a tiny elevator and the men are uncomfortable with the entire hotel accommodation. The elevator moves slowly and makes strange mechanical sounds. The gated doors open without the appropriate symmetry.

INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR

A severe looking older woman sitting at a small table - the night *dezhurnaya* - checks their paperwork. She cannot smile and there is no language coming forth. Her teeth are beyond rotten.

GABE

I'm sure the rooms will look
palatial.

DON

Yeah. (quip) Want to ask the
dezhurnaya about local jazz clubs?

The follow the long narrow hall to room numbers 321 and 323. We stay with Gabe as he unlocks his door. The room is tiny, dimly lit, low ceiling, and far from charming. Gabe pops out to the hall to see Don's reaction. Don has slammed his door as his public statement.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Gabe checks the various features of his small room. The bathroom is smaller than a closet. The toilet tank is high off the wall and not firmly fixed to the wall. A chain flush hangs from the tank. The shower curtain is two feet wide and has a soap film from years of usage.

TIME LAPSE
SEVERAL MONTHS.
MID NOVEMBER
1976

EXT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. DAY

A shabby concrete building in a grey industrial park. Gabe and Don leave their car parked and headed for the entrance.

DON

These buildings look like prisons.
Can't they plant a few fig trees
and arrange some colorful garden
elf figurines?

Gabe smiles and pushes forward past the security checkpoint outside the lobby. Both men present their documentation and IDs.

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. DAY

Without any difficulty, Gabe and Don enter the reception area of the Institute. They expect to see Meyerson but the reception desk cannot find him.

INSTITUTE RECEPTION
Dr. Meyerson cannot be found.

DON
He is expecting us.

A scientist joins them at the reception desk. This is Meyerson's colleague, Dr. Yevgeni Nabokov.

DR. NABOKOV
Gentlemen. Dr. Meyerson asked me to attend to you. I am his protege, Dr. Yevgeni Ivanovich Nabokov. Dr. Meyerson had an emergency.

GABE
Nothing serious, I hope?

DR. NABOKOV
No. He'll be back before lunch. You see, he never makes his appointed times. You'll get used to that. Let me give you a tour. The upper floors are closed today, but you have all the time in the world - don't you?

DON
Family name Nabokov? Any relation to the novelist?

DR. NABOKOV
No, happy to say. Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov left Russia a million years ago. And no one has shed one little tear.

INT. MEYERSON'S OFFICE INSIDE THE INSTITUTE

Meyerson's desk is orderly and tight. A large wooden desk commands the space. Gabe and Don are seated as Meyerson enters with a lit cigar.

MEYERSON
Refreshments are coming, dear friends. Would you like a cigar?

DON
No

MEYERSON

Tobacco has a way of making the brain take leaps. And is this not fantastic oral pleasure? I am Russian but I am diffident. Get to know me whether we smoke or drink.

Meyerson exhales and unbuttons his jacket. He studies Gabe and Don with a serious gaze.

MEYERSON

Gentlemen, my father was murdered by Stalin in 1952. A genocide of Jewish cultural leaders. My father was a noted Yiddish author, Jacob Meyerson. So most of my family was sent to a prison community in Kazakhstan. This went on for many years and it is a miracle we survived. My daughter Esther stayed with my mother in Moscow. Esther eventually went to Israel and I cannot see her anymore. I tell you this because this is a deeper part of my life. Something you cannot see as you tour this building. Something you won't sense as you work in the building down the road.

GABE

I understand. I'd like to return and visit your laboratory more extensively, take advantage of your studies with DNA liposomes.

MEYERSON

Certainly. We can arrange a convenient schedule. And you have temporary laboratories at the Institute's annex a few minutes away from this building. Nothing fancy, mind you, but I know you'll be productive.

Meyerson puts out his cigar.

MEYERSON

The executive director for our institute is Ilya Gorki.

(MORE)

MEYERSON (cont'd)

Gorki will have authority over you in the building you occupy in this industrial park. Gorki has a small army of staff to keep an eye on you. He is not very fond of me. Yes, Dr. Gorki limits my funds for research. You will learn to cultivate him.

(Quizzical smile)

And maybe your universities in Boston can help me next year?

INT. MALIBU BEACH HOUSE'S SUN ROOM 2014

Gabe and Terri are alone in a sequestered rear section of the beach house. They are sipping wine.

GABE

You know this is Andrei's vacation house. He has a large apartment in Pasadena.

TERRI

Impressive. What was it like when you first set foot in Russia?

GABE

Fascinating. Scary. Cold.

TERRI

Your life changed.

GABE

Did I say that?

TERRI

Yes.

GABE

I stuck close to my friend Don Lansing until we split. We went to Leningrad. Much nicer than Moscow. More beautiful and the people are extremely charming.

TERRI

Any love affairs?

GABE

After a quick visit to Helsinki, a week in Stockholm where Don had a super-model girlfriend. We separated there.

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. MARCH 1976

Gabe and Don are escorted by lab assistants to Andrei Levovmo's laboratory. Upon entering they see at the far end of the room Andrei wearing a headband with a feather and a leather fringe pioneer jacket.

DON
(under his breath)
Who is this guy, Tonto, or the
freaking Lone Ranger?

GABE
You got me, Don.

Andrei is preoccupied with his equipment and doesn't look up.

GABE
Dr. Meyerson told us we could drop
by. You are the leading DNA
researcher here. Yes? Are you Dr.
Andrei Aleksander Levin?

ANDREI
I am Dr. Andrei Alexandrovich Levin-
yes. I occupy the third floor. Of
course. Who else would I be?

DON
I'm Dr. Don Lansing and this is Dr.
Gabriel Epstein.

ANDREI
Wonderful. Tell me. Who has the
better hit record, David Bowie or
The Bee Gees? *Jive Talkin'* is
great to dance to, but *Fame* will be
an immortal song. Glam Rock is
better than ice cream.

DON
I agree. David Bowie hands down.

ANDREI
We can make cappuccinos, yes, you
want two?

DON
Thank you.

ANDREI

So Dr. Gabriel Epstein, you want DNA for your liposomes and you are in a big hurry. You think you're on to a fantastic study which will take years. It would take me a few weeks. I'm fast, my friend, and without error. So Dr. Meyerson gave you the impression that I am an easy mark. Isn't that right? That you and I are *so very Jewish* which means I'm supposed to give you my kidney if you're dying and let you sleep with my wife.

GABE

I'm not dying.

ANDREI

And I'm not married. But you look ill.

GABE

I'm not dying.

ANDREI

(sharing joke with Don)

How do you know?

GABE

Because I feel fine! How do you know I'm Jewish?

ANDREI

(laughing)

I know everything. And you look so guilty about life. I like you, relax Goddamnit. You both can come to my laboratory breakfast every morning. The bread is fresh enough. I buy bee's honey. We will exchange ideas and creative ideas. I have something to offer and you will not disappoint me. I am lonely, you see, and you don't know the price of such loneliness.

Gabe and Don exchange quizzical looks, expressing incredulous thoughts about their initial impression of Dr. Levin.

Moments later Andrei Levin stands up by the blackboard and begins a series of complex diagrams while whistling a folk melody.

Gabe and Don pay keen attention to the diagramming - first diagram showing several parallel lines representing Telomere abnormalities.

ANDREI

Telomere analysis has bias - and that my friends is my focus. Most scientists agree that telomere structure protects the end of a chromosome and impacts deterioration. Genes in our cells are lined up in long strings. This cuts right to our aging process. If cells divided without telomeres, they lose the ends of their chromosomes and the essential information they contain. And due to each cell division, telomere ends become shorter - which impair immunity. If your life is hanging by a thin rope, do you feel better if the ends are not terribly frayed? I'm a year away from a gigantic breakthrough. Is this not the cat's meow?

EXT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. DAY

Don and Gabe are leaving the building.

DON

Is this guy a certifiable loony toon?

GABE

Don't know. Geez, he made me laugh. His lab looks 20 years behind the time. I think he's an eccentric genius. You know, he's got some fascinating projects underway.

DON

All white jacketed Russians pretend to be geniuses and talk up a storm. Better get used to it, Gabriel. And don't be a sucker.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL. EVENING

Gabe and Don part ways down the hotel corridor. Don carries a bottle of vodka.

DON
Care to have a drink?

GABE
No. I'll pass tonight.

DON
Suit yourself.

Don finds his door, opens with his key, and waves his signature gesture to Gabe. The door closes behind him. Gabe continues a few doors down and takes out his room key. He hears a noise behind him and turns. He sees an attractive hotel employee - the *dezhurnaya* - who manages the hotel floor from her diminutive desk at the elevator. She seems distressed that a maid left the vacuum cleaner in the middle of the corridor. Gabe hears her muttering under her breath as she leaves her desk and quickly grabs the vacuum.

The electric cord seems to be unwrapping from the appliance. The *dezhurnaya* smiles with a tight mouth. Gabe returns the smile and points to the electrical cord. She acknowledges the gesture and kneels to wrap the cord. Gabe notices her shapely legs and he averts his eyes when she looks up.

Gabe steps closer to his door and has trouble with his key. The *dezhurnaya*, named Tanya, approaches and Gabe will have more experiences with her over time.

TANYA
Na-LEH-vah.

She gestures that the key is a movement to the left. Gabe gets the idea and does the maneuver correctly. The door opens.

GABE
Oo-VEE-dim-syah. Thank you.
Spas-ee-bah

She stares at him as if to invade his privacy and nearly follows him inside his hotel room. Gabe doesn't comprehend if she wishes to check the cleanliness of the room or his legal papers or if something else is foremost on her mind.

GABE
I'm very tired.

He motions with his hand to his cheek suggesting bedtime. Tanya disengages quickly and hurries down the corridor with her vacuum cleaner.

EXT. MOSCOW'S KOLOMENSKOE PARK. DAY

Gabe and Andrei are walking through an attractive, historic park. The weather is comfortable for brisk walking

ANDREI

The village of Kolomenskoe was founded in 1237 by refugees from Kolomna. About 400 years ago the village became first a Grand Prince's and the the Tsar's estate. Peter the Great was brought here for his own safety during the Streltsy Insurrection of 1682.

GABE

And Alexander the First studied here?

ANDREI

Yes.

They walk past the stone octagonal Church of the Ascension. Its unique blend of older wooden ecclesiastical architecture and Italian influences. The structure stands on the banks of the Moskva River.

ANDREI

You admire Russian society, Gabriel Epstein?

GABE

I do.

ANDREI

But you cannot admire communism?

GABE

I don't admire American capitalism.

ANDREI

That's not what I asked.

GABE

There's racism and poverty in America but all unnecessary.

ANDREI

And we have more unwashed drunks than your country. Racism? There is racism here, Gabe. Hatred for certain religions.

(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)
Certainly hatred for Jewish people.
You must know this.

GABE
I do.

ANDREI
No you don't.

Some school children led by a teacher walk by the men.

ANDREI
It's worse than you imagine, my friend. Jews lose jobs. Lose their homes. Can't go to certain schools. Kicked off faculties and hospital positions. Synagogues have to pay protection money to thugs. There are published cartoons making Jews the ugliest people in the whole world. Go look at the next newsstand. Almost as bad as Germany.

GABE
I'm not naive.

ANDREI
Were you ever beat up for being a Jew?

EXT. ANNEX TO THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Gabe and Don approach the headquarters for their guest laboratories. A functionary meets them at the front door.

FUNCTIONARY
Dr. Gabriel Epstein? Dr. Donald Lansing?

The men follow the functionary inside.

DON
Gabe, let's go to Leningrad this weekend. Maybe Helsinki. I'm getting depressed in Moscow.

INT. ANNEX TO THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

The men are led to a dank corridor and the functionary unlocks their adjacent labs. This is a dismal discovery for Gabe and Don.

INT. MOSCOW ACADEMIC HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT

Gabe is in his Spartan room, trying to read but there is a racket coming from the next room. Loud music and love making can be heard through the paper thin walls. Gabe leaves his room.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL CORRIDOR

Gabe stands outside the door of the neighboring room. The noise is even louder outside the neighbor's door. Gabe waits a moment and then knocks on the door. No response. He then pounds on the door. This forces the door to open by itself. Gabe sees two naked men in bed and he suddenly closed the door. The next moment there is total silence. The music cannot be heard.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM.

Gabe returns to his room. He is uncomfortable staying inside but is too tired to go anywhere. He hears loud talking from the neighboring room and this troubles him.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL. MORNING

Gabe leaves his room to start his day.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe saunters out and finds his way to a breakfast cafe across the street.

EXT. MOSCOW CAFE

Gabe enters the cafe as Tanya leaves the cafe. He manages to smile and receive her return smile.

EXT. INSTITUTE ANNEX

Gabe prepares something methodical in his makeshift laboratory. The heating pipes are loud, rattling like a mechanical creature trying to break free. There is some snow falling outside his window. A stray cat with a dead rat enters Gabe's lab.

GABE
(In Russian accent to cat)
Is this an official visit, my
friend?

The cat, startled, drops the rat and runs out of the lab.

GABE
(Accent continued)
Thank you little *My-ah sladkaya* (*my sweet one*)

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. A MONTH LATER, DAY

ANDREI
How are your accommodations at the hotel?

GABE
Modest. Andrei Aleksandrovich. I can't complain.

ANDREI
Call me Andrei, for Christsakes.
Any bed bugs?

GABE
No, God forbid.

ANDREI
It's too cold.

GABE
Maybe.

ANDREI
And how is the annex lab which the authorities have given you?

GABE
It will have to do.

ANDREI
You're disappointed by our laboratory deficiencies.

GABE
It is a small lab and there are rats.

ANDREI
And not all the equipment works?
(Gabe looks away)
Your friend Don doesn't like me.

GABE
I don't know.

ANDREI

That's okay, Gabe. Not all
Russians are lovable. He must know
that I'm helping you with your
studies.

GABE

Yeah. He and I traveled for ten
days before we settled into Moscow.

ANDREI

Where did you go?

GABE

To Leningrad and to Helsinki.

ANDREI

You know, my friend, I have a
written invitation to go to England
from Professor Oscar Klinger. Do
you know him? He's very famous.
It's good to be famous, Gabriel.
Even better to win a Nobel Prize.
You have no idea how difficult it
was to get permission for such a
trip. Still, Ingelstad told me it
was acceptable to go to London.
There was little suspicion that I
would take flight. And I proved
trustworthy.

GABE

You've two strikes against
yourself. You told me this before.
You're divorced, no children, and
you're Jewish. You have no family
hostage if you break with Russia.

ANDREI

Ingelstad would go with me. KGB
can't block this if I'm escorted by
him.

GABE

But he's over 80, Andrei. He's not
fit for a long trip. When is the
invitation?

ANDREI

Next month. Are you disapproving?

GABE

Well . . .

ANDREI

You will miss me, my friend?

GABE

So you're going?

ANDREI

Yes. And I'll be back. Besides,
I'll be followed by KGB given
London's prominence.

Andrei smiles and shakes his head in the manner to assure Gabe that he's worried needlessly.

GABE

Helsinki is the safest place if you had to flee. It's considered a Russian outpost. And porous as a sieve. No one checks documents on the ferry to Stockholm.

ANDREI

How can that be?

GABE

That was my experience three weeks ago. I was stunned by the casual policing at the border.

ANDREI

Do you daydream, Gabe? I do. It will be nice one day to take home a Nobel prize and have a vacation cottage on the ocean. Even nice to have a son to look after one in old age. What do you wish for?

GABE

A cure for my insomnia and that there would be more Jews in the world.

ANDREI

Are they mutually necessary? I didn't know you had trouble sleeping. Why would you wish that of all things?

GABE

As a world population, we are microscopic.

ANDREI

We Jews might be few in number, but we really do know how to make noise in the world. Are you losing weight?

GABE

Yes. Not eating well.

ANDREI

Next time we meet, I'll take you to a fancy restaurant and have many courses.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe stands outside despite a cold, light rain. It's one of the few times we have seen him smoking a cigarette. There are pedestrians coming and going. They take no notice of him.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe enters the hotel. He gets a written message from the front desk. He unfolds the paper and reads the note.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. DAY

Gabe closes the door and is about to light another cigarette. He decides not to smoke and picks up a phone. In his other hand is a glass of vodka. He calls his ex-fiancee Sophia in Boston.

GABE

It's me. Gabe. Sophia, can you hear me. I know it's a bad connection. Am I calling too late your time?

SOPHIA (O.S.)

Gabriel? Where are you?

GABE

Moscow.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

I thought you were going to Germany?

GABE

A change of plans.

SOPHIA (O.S.)
Why are you calling?

GABE
I don't know. I think I miss you
terribly.

WE SEE SOPHIA IN
HER BEDROOM.
SHE IS CHINESE-
AMERICAN.

SOPHIA
Do you? I don't really believe
you.

GABE (O.S.)
Did you get my package?

SOPHIA
What package?

GABE (O.S.)
A box of Russian dolls and folk
art. I know you like those funny
tchotchkies.

SOPHIA
I pawned the engagement ring.

BACK TO:

GABE
Why?

SOPHIA (O.S.)
I didn't like your timing. Your
haven't a clue.

GABE
Sophia, I've made some dumb
mistakes. I love you. I love you.
I feel this strongly now.

BACK TO SOPHIA'S
BEDROOM:

SOPHIA
I'm too tired to keep talking,
Gabriel.
(MORE)

SOPHIA (cont'd)
You probably don't this but your
father had a stroke. Did your
brother phone you?

GABE (O.S.)
No.

SOPHIA
Yeah, I can't talk for him. But
your father's looking okay and
maybe you ought to check in with
the family . . .

BACK TO GABE'S:

We hear her phone click. Gabe is slow to put down his receiver. He finishes his vodka. He's about to dial the phone and decides not to complete the next call. Gabe punches the hotel wall in anger.

EXT. GREAT LENIN BOULEVARD (LENINSKY PROSPEKT) - DAY

Gabe is walking past a news-stand and thumbs through a magazine. He sees a Jewish boy wearing a skullcap being chased by older boys. The news-stand owner watches Gabe carefully. Gabe returns the magazine and tries to catch up the boy in trouble.

MINUTES LATER

Gabe and Andrei fine each other an an ice creak kiosk and Andrei senses something has upset Gabe.

ANDREI
Let me buy this for you, Gabe.

Gabe manages a weak smile. They begin to walk.

ANDREI
Why are you looking so serious all
the time? Like you're the victim
of the state executioner.

GABE
Oh, man . . . that bad?

ANDREI
A dog can smile all the time, do we
envy the dog?

GABE

I had a wonderful dog in college.
Casper the ghost - he always stole
the morning toast.

ANDREI

I heard you have a girlfriend in
Oslo.

GABE

That's Don. He's got the Norwegian
beauty - a ski champion with weird
hair.

ANDREI

And no girlfriend for you?
No one back home?

GABE

Not looking good back home. My
father just had a stroke and my
fiancée has had it with me.

ANDREI

You have hormones for love and for
guilt. Always time for hormones to
work their magic. Maybe that's why
you're an insomniac.

They keep walking.

GABE

You know the worst fear of a
dyslexic atheist who cannot sleep?

ANDREI

What?

GABE

That there's a punishing dog in the
sky.

Andrei tries to laugh but he doesn't quite get the joke.

GABE

You don't get it.

ANDREI

I get it.

GABE

I have to go back to Boston for a
few days, nothing feels right.

ANDREI

Soon?

GABE

Yes.

ANDREI

The KGB contacted me when I
returned from London two months
ago.

GABE

And?

ANDREI

And they tortured me with piercing
ostrich feathers. I'm joking,
Gabriel. I wasn't thrilled by their
attention. It seems they wanted to
know about the genetic engineering
in Britain and elsewhere. For
obvious reasons.

GABE

Their biological warfare program?

ANDREI

Well, they always want science
information but I was tested for my
loyalty. It's more urgent than any
scientific spying.

GABE

I understand.

ANDREI

I'm very cooperative with the KGB
and I can even charm these
bastards. In return they hint that
I can continue to travel to the
cities in the west. Last afternoon
two agents came to the lab. The
fat one was a Lieutenant and they
insisted I go with them to a
downtown hotel for a little party.

GABE

Did you go?

ANDREI

Of course! I love fat KGB men with
coarse hair growing out of their
ears. I am the perfect actor.

(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)
They trust me. They like my smile,
Gabe. I know the limits of my risk
taking.

GABE
Living life to its fullest can only
happen if you risk betting
everything on your moral center.

ANDREI
And that's why you came to Russia?
And that's why you keep something
Jewish inside you?

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe returns to his hotel room. A few strange people are following him down the corridor. Gabe turns and they stop walking. It would be comic if the disquietude were not real. He opens door and enters. Closes door. Impulsively he opens the door again and the hall is magically empty.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. DAY

He closes the door again. Gabe sees his room looks in disarray. His books along the table and night stand are not in neat stacks. He looks inside one of the bureau drawers to check his underwear and socks where he hides his money. He hears a woman's voice humming and turns around. The sounds are coming from the bathroom. He steps closer and Tanya, the *dezhurnaya*, enters his bedroom. Rather than have some comfort of recognizing one another, it is a startling exchange.

GABE
What are you doing? Do you speak
any English?

TANYA
Da. I am the *dezhurnaya*

GABE
Why are you here?

TANYA
Why am I here?

GABE
It's evening.

TANYA

I manage the floor. I watch the maids. I give security. I am security.

GABE

I see.

TANYA

I lost my jewelry.

GABE

Inside my hotel room?

TANYA

In your bathroom while the maid was cleaning this morning. I dropped my earring. And here it is. This was the first room of the day. Why are you angry?

GABE

I'm not angry.

TANYA

Yes you are. I don't like it. Just because I'm not in my uniform. You've seen me before.

GABE

I don't remember.

TANYA

You have. You watch me. Why should I like Americans? You're scary. Always alone with your coat collar up high. Last year there was an American scientist in this room who said stupid things. Mean things. Bad habits.

GABE

Why is my room so messed up?

TANYA

The police. Maybe? KGB comes by. You feel it They want you to know. Everything can be seen. Is seen. Now you know.

GABE

Like this?

TANYA

You're here in Moscow many weeks.
Who are your friends? Where is
your money? Are you still asleep?
You would like my sister Natasha.
She has one leg and can get around
anyone's temper. You have patience
for her, none for me?

Gabe opens the hotel room door and gestures her to leave.

TANYA

What? You want me to leave?

GABE

Yes. And I don't have a temper.

TANYA

Usually men want to take out a
bottle of vodka and say something
friendly. You like my legs. Like
me smile. I tell wonderful
stories. I manage this floor.

GABE

I have no vodka.

TANYA

Then for Godsake, please say
something friendly. I put eye
makeup on. Can you not notice?

She laughs gently and her laugh makes him laugh.

TANYA

I can get a bottle. Chilled. Dear
Dr. Gabriel Epstein. My name is
Tatiana Petrovna Yegoravoa. I do
bed checks, I open your mail, and I
have a university education.
Science education. I know that
Niels Bohr built a model for the
atom. Don't laugh. I was once a
dancer. Eleven years of ballet
lessons. Look at me. Are you
ashamed to look?

GABE

I'm uncomfortable that you're in my
hotel room.

TANYA
You're not married.

GABE
No.

TANYA
A girlfriend?

GABE
Back in Boston.

TANYA
I do not believe you.

GABE
Please leave, Miss Yegoravoa

TANYA
Call me Tanya. And do not raise
your voice. These walls are paper
thin.

She smiles sweetly and leaves. Gabe surveys the room once more to be certain nothing valuable was taken. Tanya left her black scarf. Gabe picks it up to his nose to take in a scent of exotic perfume. He is embarrassed about holding the scarf.

INT. INSTITUTE ANNEX. DAY

Gabe and Don enter the building together. They notice a few secret police guarding the front hallway and testing an instant camera.

DON
Looks like beefed up security in
our own work building.

GABE
Intimidating?

DON
I think so. Look, I always carry
my papers.

GABE
Think the camera takes wallet size
photos?

DON
If you pay, you can buy anything.

GABE

You'd rather be in the States?

DON

I think so. Or Sweden. This is getting unfriendly and I hate paranoia. The Institute was not what I was expecting in my hard research. Some of the scientists are helpful. Some seem idiotic. They all seem miserable in their labs. And I don't particularly like Andrei Levin.

GABE

Why?

DON

You know.

GABE

I don't.

DON

He's an obnoxious jerk.

GABE

(laughing)

And you're not?

DON

You cater to him, Gabe, as if he's your long lost brother.

GABE

He's very smart. Maybe the brightest light in Moscow. He has the right edge. I could use his DNA samples for my work.

DON

And what do you give him in return?

GABE

My friendship.

DON

And that is priceless.

GABE

I laugh at his jokes.

DON
Is it a Jewish thing?

GABE
You got to ask that?

DON
Yeah. When I turn my back, do you whisper Yiddish to each other.

GABE
You're envious?

DON
Me?

GABE
I don't speak Yiddish, Don.

DON
Just don't be a goddamn chump. The State Department told us to be mindful of Russian sluts, cabbies, and Russian doctors hustling us.

GABE
There's no hustle going on inside the Institute.

DON
(Annoyed, he lights a cigarette)
I'm going to Stockholm next week to see Erika. She doesn't want to meet up in Helsinki again.

GABE
Erika the Viking? Helmut hair
Erika? Is this getting serious?

DON
Who knows? I'm not coming back to Moscow.

They turn down the hall on route to the lounge. They buy coffee and sit. On the coffee table are some magazines which they flip through.

DON
I hate visiting Lemivov's lab.

GABE

I know. Half the time I see him
without you.

DON

Maybe he is a idiot savant, but I
don't want to hear another
impromptu glam-rock lecture and
that shrill voice of his.

Gabe turns to a page which has an anti-Semitic cartoon
depicting a hook nose, bearded Jew in a long black cloak
fleecing money from the poor. Don spots Gabe's discomfort
and stretches to see the page.

DON

Well, that's a kick in the teeth.

GABE

This could be Germany in 1936.

DON

Almost. Pogroms killed the Jews
here, not gas showers.

GABE

(he throws down the vile
magazine)

I've got to get back to Boston.

DON

When?

GABE

In another week. My father had a
stroke. If there is more funding,
I can come back in May and finish
up my lab work.

DON

You're still kicking yourself about
darling Sophia, aren't you?

GABE

Maybe.

DON

She's Jewish?

GABE

No, from Taiwan.

DON

Oh . . .

GABE

She won't return my calls now.

DON

Are you kidding me? You gave her a diamond ring and then you vanish like Houdini. Wasn't she pregnant?

Gabe stands up and walks to his lab without Don.

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. NEXT DAY

Not in his uniform white lab coat, Andrei is wearing a loud disco suit with men's high heels. Gabe and Don are surprised by this fashion statement, but Andrei is oblivious to his appearance. He is halfway through a lab procedure and his concentration is only on his two hands.

ANDREI

Good morning, my friends. Did Henry Kissinger have sex with Jill St. John or were they just putting on a show? She was his date at Nixon's party for Brezhnev. Did you know that Brezhnev held her dainty hand for a while, then watched like a panting dog as she walked away. Brezhnev asks her why she likes Kissinger - she replies: "He's the only doctor in my life who makes house calls." Isn't that funny? First Jill St. John becomes a James Bond girl and then this Jewish Dr. Strangelove gets her into bed. My mother told me my ancestry can be traced to the chief rabbinate in Prague over three hundred years ago. Had I been born in that time period, I would have become a learned rabbi and not the fashion whore you see in front of you. Do you like the Bee Gees?

He plays on his cassette player *Saturday Night Fever* by the Bee Gees.

DON

No music this early in the day.
Please Andrei. I've a migraine.

ANDREI
(turning down music
volume)

I'll just turn it down. You know the range of my work, beyond DNA studies. I have the clear idea of a targeted molecular device - imagine this please - that could enter a cell, analyze the cell for DNA deletions precise to cancer and killing the devil out of this cell if it meets the right profile. Not killing anything else, mind you.

GABE
You told me before.

ANDREI
Not in front of Donald. And you, Gabe, didn't take me seriously. You see there has to be an inherent weakness in the cancer cell. We haven't found that Achilles Heel yet. We will. So, my friends, deletion-specific targeting uses homozygous DNA deletions as the idealized targets of cancer therapy. I had a dream last night that I can accomplish this task in the next ten years, but I cannot do a bloody thing if I'm stuck in Moscow.

Andrei turns off the music.

ANDREI
If we really are a brotherhood of noble scientists on all the continents, what can we do to take the big leap? Are there big strong hands across the water?

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL. NIGHT

Andrei knocks on Gabe's door. Gabe opens it and looks surprised. This is the first time Andrei has come to his hotel room.

ANDREI
I didn't want to call you and I didn't wish to wait another week for you to visit my lab.

GABE

How did you know where I'm staying?

ANDREI

What difference does it make?

GABE

Was it Donald?

ANDREI

Can we take a walk outside and
stretch our legs, Gabe?

Gabe nods reluctantly and dons his coat. The men leave the room.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL CORRIDOR

Gabe and Andrei walk down the hall and are noticed by Tanya at her hall desk. She looks at the men and Andrei flashes a tight smile. Tanya writes down something in her open ledger.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe and Andrei step outside and look around casually. They begin to stroll down the street.

ANDREI

Communism is a funny social machine. It needs no electricity and runs on the fears of others. I know you're going back to Boston in two weeks. And this is permanent, yes?

GABE

I don't know.

ANDREI

It's sad to know this and a double sadness knowing you didn't want to tell me.

GABE

Well . . .

ANDREI

I am built the same way.

GABE

My Dad had a stroke. He's not doing too well. I need to go home, Andrei. You understand.

ANDREI

I do.

GABE

You're angry.

ANDREI

No. I am not. I have one favor to ask. Once you settle things in Boston, Gabe, you think about me. You know, my friend, I have an invitation to speak in Helsinki middle of August. Did you hear me?

GABE

Helsinki.

ANDREI

Yes.

GABE

You have an invitation?

ANDREI

A conference on chromosomes at the University of Helsinki. My specialty.

GABE

You solicited them, didn't you?

ANDREI

Gabe, you've told me about the ferry boat. Very few police and customs officers. One need not have travel papers. Only a ticket, you said, for a pleasure trip. A ticket to ride. There's a Beatles song, Gabe. You must know it. I feel positive because you bring joy into the room. The conference was fate tapping at my cage.

GABE

What are you saying?

ANDREI

You know what I'm saying. What I couldn't do in London because of my fears and having no allies, I will be open about your idea on Helsinki. My ticket to freedom. I can't do this alone, Gabe.

GABE
You're serious.

ANDREI
Because I trust you. I'm less
conspicuous with an American
escort. A doctor of science from
Boston no less.

GABE
You're joking.

ANDREI
Am I?

GABE
Andrei!

Andrei steps closer giving Gabe two hand pats on the shoulder.

ANDREI
The risks are too real, but I feel
lucky. My whole life I never feel
lucky. It is such a good feeling.
Don't you feel lucky, boychik?

GABE
I never feel lucky.

ANDREI
Come, we'll have some vodka. We
have chemistry together. Let's
beat the Jew-hating Soviets. Two
non-religious Yids outwit mother
Russia.

GABE
I'll do it if you follow everything
I say to do.

ANDREI
Of course!

GABE
No impulse behavior.

ANDREI
Me?

GABE
You.

ANDREI

Come back for ten days. You can
save my life. Only you.
The sea is calling me and I will
never have another chance like
this. The ferry, Gabe. I can't get
my mind off the magic of this
Helsinki ferry.

GABE

I told you about the ferry for good
reason, Andrei.

Andrei stops walking and has a spontaneous moment - hugging
Andrei like a long lost brother. Andrei laughs out loud.

ANDREI

I get it, Gabe! And I love you!
I'll buy you dinner in the most
expensive restaurant in Helsinki.
We'll find a discotheque and party.

GABE

And assuming we meet in Helsinki
and evade the Soviets, where will
you go after we dock in Stockholm?

ANDREI

To Boston, of course. And then
you'll get me connected to MIT or
maybe Harvard. No problem, Gabe.

GABE

(laughing)

Getting out of Sweden won't be a
piece of cake. It means getting
through Europe and my government
must push this through.

ANDREI

I will be so valuable to your
country.

GABE

Maybe. Maybe less than you think.

ANDREI

Look, boychik. You'll open up the
right university doors and I'll
make you very proud. I have two
science friends Boris and his wife
Luba.

(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)
I'll give them my personal documents - my diploma and person photos - and they can mail them to me eventually. Except for my notebooks, I will forsake my savings and other possessions. I have no ties to my ex-wife. I have no children. My parents will understand why I took flight. Jews are in peril and I will never rise to my potential here. You know that is the God's honest truth.

Gabe nods to show he understands but resists saying another word to Andrei. Gabe gathers his papers and folder, grabs his coat, stands ready to leave.

GABE
I'm crazy but not that crazy, Andrei. Let me think it over for Christ's sake so we have a foolproof plan.

ANDREI
Sure. Take time with this. Tell me tomorrow morning.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. EVENING

Gabe comes out of the shower in his towel. He sees the front door open slightly. Tanya, the *dezhurnaya*, frowns and clears her throat with a loud cough. Gabe pulls on his bathrobe quickly as Tanya enters the room.

TANYA
I wanted to talk to you.

GABE
Why don't you knock?

TANYA
Why should I? I have the key?

GABE
Well, that's not a good answer, Tatiana Petrovna.

TANYA
Do you ever get lonely?

GABE
Don't ask me that.

TANYA

I think you're very lonely, Dr.
Epstein. I can sense these things.
Do you have any vodka?

GABE

Why?

TANYA

You can pour me a drink.

GABE

Now?

TANYA

Yes, darling.

GABE

Don't call me darling.

TANYA

You want me to call you pumpkin?

GABE

No.

TANYA

I like you, Dr. Epstein. Can't you
tell?

GABE

I think you should leave my room,
Tatiana Petrovna.

TANYA

That's not what you're thinking.

GABE

I'll call the hotel manager.

TANYA

Ivan Petrovich is my uncle. He'll
laugh if you call.

GABE

This is absurd.

TANYA

What is absurd? What is the word?

GABE

This is crazy.

TANYA

Did you ever with a Russian woman?

GABE

What?

TANYA

Would you enjoy the love and the
kisses?

GABE

No.

TANYA

You're good to look at, Dr.
Epstein. You're tall. You have an
honest face. No one in Moscow has
an honest face. Do you know what I
mean?

She approaches him quietly and slowly. Gabe doesn't retreat.
She holds one of his hands and places his hand on her face.

TANYA

Do you feel my honesty?

She slips his hand to her breast ever so slowly. He is putty
in her hands.

TANYA

Do you feel my heat? Do you feel
the mood? I have mood. It is for
you. Mood is so good, Doctor. Do
you have a girlfriend?

GABE

No.

TANYA

Ask me.

GABE

Ask you what?

TANYA

Ask me if I have a husband.

GABE

Do you?

TANYA

I do.

She laughs broadly and falls onto his bed. She unbuttons her blouse. She begins to hum a Russian folk melody.

TANYA

I am joking. I don't have a husband. Drop your towel. Take off your robe.

She pulls his robe belt off his robe. Gabe sits on the bed in order to close his robe. She reaches around for him and she kisses his neck. Gabe is helpless. He wants to make love to her, but he fears complications.

TANYA

I can stay all night. I can leave in an hour. What do you really want, Dr. Epstein? Are you a virgin?

GABE

No.

TANYA

Do you think I'm pretty?

GABE

I do, Tanya.

TANYA

Then you know you have only yourself to please.

GABE

Do you work for your government?

TANYA

I work for the hotel. The hotel is owned by the government. Life is a circle.

GABE

Are you an informer? Are you an agent?

TANYA

Am I KGB?

GABE

You think that's stupid to ask?

TANYA

No, I don't. But what difference does it make?

(MORE)

TANYA (cont'd)
You're a Jewish scientist from
Boston. Big deal. Kiss me.

GABE
I know you've been going through my
papers.

TANYA
Sure. I tidy up.

GABE
I think you have to leave now.

TANYA
James Bond is allowed to have sex
with beautiful Russian women. Why
can't you?

She kisses him now on the mouth. He can't help but return her kiss and his hand caresses her hair. She pulls away, and Gabe brings her back in for a second kiss.

TANYA
That was nice.

GABE
Yes. I like you very much.

She kisses him again and they spill effortless into bed.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. 3AM

In the dim interior light, Tanya slips out of Gabe's bed and gathers her clothes. She writes a short note on the night table. She also finds his wallet and counts out money. However, Tanya takes not one ruble. She leaves the room quietly.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. MORNING

Gabe's hotel phone rings. He picks it up.

GABE
Hello?
ANDREI (O.S.)
It's me.

GABE
What?
ANDREI (O.S.)
I'm outside your hotel. Come out.

GABE
I'm not dressed.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL.

Gabe approaches Andrei and they walk down the street.

ANDREI
What is your decision, my friend?

GABE
How can I do something this crazy?
Don't look at me that way. I know
I made the plan sound simple, but
that was an intellectual game.

(Long silence. They keep
walking)
Do you really think I have a death
wish? Talk to me, Andrei! I never
saw you this quiet.
(They stop walking)
I never saw this look on your face.
Andrei. Andrei. Andrei.

ANDREI
Must I beg?

GABE
No. Don't. You a Jew and I'm a
Jew. I am going to help you leave
Russia and we will go through
Helsinki. I'll see you after I
come back from Boston.

ANDREI
You are an American hero, Gabe.

Andrei reaches over with both arms in a colossal bear hug.

EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT- DAY

Gabe takes his two suit cases and walks into the terminal building.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT

Gabe clears his flight arrangements at the check-in desk.

INT. JET

Gabe settles into his seat on his return to Boston.

EXT. BOSTON'S LOGAN AIRPORT - MORNING

Gabe's jet is coming in for a landing.

INT. BOSTON'S LOGAN AIRPORT - DAY

As Gabe's deplanes, he clears customs. At the other side of customs, his ex-fiancee waits. Gabe makes his way through the crowd and sees her. He's surprised despite knowing he expected her to be there for him. Sophia hesitates and then hugs him warmly. He drops his shoulder bag and returns the spontaneous embrace. They kiss and then head to baggage claim.

EXT. BOSTON'S LOGAN AIRPORT PARKING

Gabe gets into Sophia's Ford sedan and she starts the engine.

GABE

You look wonderful.

SOPHIA

Thanks. You've lost weight.

GABE

Have I?

SOPHIA

How long are you back for?

GABE

I don't know. Lots on mind and I need some perspective. About my work. I'm done in Russia, or so it seems.

SOPHIA

What is that supposed to mean?

GABE

I'm due to return to Boston Hospital immediately. I told you that. My life's a wreck. I've missed you greatly.

SOPHIA

Then what's the deal about one more flight to Europe?

GABE

It's hard to say in a few minutes. Can't we talk about this later?

SOPHIA

I want to know, Gabe. Talk.

GABE

I've got to help this very brilliant Jew get out of Russia. He's a world class scientist and he'll kill himself if he doesn't get free. He'll accomplish tenfold in America compared to his lab in Moscow.

SOPHIA

Why is he so important to you?

GABE

I don't know. He just got into my blood system.

SOPHIA

Really?

GABE

Don't give me trouble, Sophia.

SOPHIA

I'm not. I love you, Gabe, but you don't make any sense to me and it's a wall of secrets against a tower of silence.

GABE

You're right and I want you to know everything. Honey, he represents all the Jews slaughtered by the Czars, by Stalin, by Hitler, you know what I mean. I was born free, he wasn't. I'm gifted, but he's a genius I've a plan to get him to out and safely.

SOPHIA

What?

GABE

He needs to defect this year. We'll meet up in Helsinki. That's the hole in the fence. He's determined and I can't back down.

SOPHIA

Are you out of your mind, Gabriel?

She speeds off out of the parking lot.

EXT. BOSTON'S LOGAN AIRPORT ENVIRONS

The darts around the airport arteries and heads into Boston.

SOPHIA (O.S.)
How's your father?

GABE (O.S.)
It was a minor stroke. He's making
a strong recovery.

SOPHIA (O.S.)
Your mother's Florence Nightingale.

WE SEE SOPHIA'S
FACE. THEN WE
SEE GABE'S.
FINALLY WE SEE
THEM BOTH IN
FRAME.

GABE
It's not the risk you think it is,
Sophia.

SOPHIA (O.S.)
I don't care.

GABE (O.S.)
Just two more weeks overseas.

BACK TO CLOSE
UPS.

SOPHIA
I went to a clinic three months
ago.

GABE
What was wrong? Your thyroid again?

SOPHIA
No. I had an abortion.

Silence. Gabe is distraught. He puts his hand over her hand
as she continues to drive.

SOPHIA
I'm an imbecile for seeing you
today.

EXT. SOPHIA'S HOME IN BOSTON SUBURB

Sophia and Gabe enter the house.

INT. SOPHIA'S HOME IN BOSTON SUBURB

Sophia enter her kitchen. He strolls behind her.

GABE
You've repainted?

SOPHIA
Re-tiled.

GABE
Looks wonderful.

SOPHIA
Thanks.

GABE
Didn't you say you wanted to move?

SOPHIA
I couldn't afford anything better
just now.

GABE
I thought your father left you a
bundle in his will?

SOPHIA
He didn't. He had gambling debts.
He wasn't honest, Gabe. None of
the men in my life are.

INT. SOPHIA BEDROOM. HOURS LATER

Gabe and Sophia are in bed. Lights are out. He cannot sleep. He gets up and looks at her from a distance. He quietly gets dressed and calls a cab from Sophia's living room phone.

GABE
I'd like a cab to come to 1125
Camden Avenue, Newton. Please.

Gabe writes a note for Sophia. He listens intently to see if she's stirring. He finds a beer in her fridge and opens it. Gabe waits outside for the cab.

EXT. SOPHIA'S HOME

A cab arrives and Gabe gets in with his one suit case.

EXT. GABE'S PARENTS' HOME IN CAMBRIDGE. 4AM

The cab drops Gabe at the front of the one story house. Gabe finds the hidden house key beyond a ceramic planter by the bay window. Gabe unlocks the front door and lets himself in.

INT. GABE'S PARENTS' HOME IN CAMBRIDGE

He is careful not to knock anything over, lest he wake up the family. He removes his shoes and lies down on the living room couch. The elderly family dog walks up to Gabe's feet and licks him. Not one bark. Gabe reaches down and pets the dog.

HOURS PASS BY

Sunshine fills the room. It's 7AM. Gabe's mother wakes him.

GABE'S MOTHER
Nice sleep?

GABE
Oh?

GABE'S MOTHER
Wake up.

GABE
How's Dad?

GABE'S MOTHER
Not good.

GABE
Is he up?

GABE'S MOTHER
No. He sleeps all the time. Thank God he's alive. I didn't expect you this month.

GABE
My fault.

GABE'S MOTHER
How did you sneak in?

GABE
I was at Sophia's a few hours ago.

GABE'S MOTHER
 She's been very good visiting,
 buying flowers, going shopping for
 me . . . it's like she's Jewish.
 Your brother postponed taking his
 law boards because of the stroke.
 Maybe you two aren't talking much
 these days.

GABE
 No. Not much. It'll get better.
 I need to sleep some more.

GABE'S MOTHER
 Go ahead. I'll just vacuum under
 the coffee table.

HOURS PASS BY

GABE'S FATHER
 It's two o'clock. Get off your
 ass.

Gabe opens his eyes and sees his father in a wheelchair.
 Immediately he can tell that his father's wooden face has
 been injured by the stroke.

GABE
 Pop.

GABE'S FATHER
 How's Russia?

GABE
 Cold.

GABE'S FATHER
 Even in the summer?

Gabe sits up and sees that he's covered in perspiration. His
 father's hands are not steady.

GABE
 Watching any baseball?

GABE'S FATHER
 I don't have a job, is that why
 you're asking?

GABE
 No.

GABE'S FATHER
Are you back at Boston General?

GABE
For a short time.

GABE'S FATHER
Sophia comes by each week.

GABE
I know.

GABE'S FATHER
You've lost me, Gabe. I can't
laugh and I can't smile. Can't you
smarten up?

GABE
Do I act like a fool?

GABE'S FATHER
You got a girl in Moscow?

GABE
Stop it.

GABE'S FATHER
I can read your mind.

GABE
Can you?

GABE'S FATHER
Who is she?

GABE
An older woman named Tanya. She's
very different.

GABE'S FATHER
What? A belly dancer from the
Ukraine?

GABE
No, she works for the KGB at night
and by day she's the *dezhurnaya* at
the hotel.

GABE'S FATHER
And this is why you forgot Sophia?

GABE

I haven't forgotten Sophia. I just saw her. I still want to marry Sophia. Get off my back.

GABE'S FATHER

I really like Sophia, Gabriel. Get that through your head. Whatever damage you caused, do the right thing.

GABE

Can I borrow your car today?

Gabe studies his father's expressionless face. There is no reply.

EXT. GABE'S PARENTS' HOME IN CAMBRIDGE. AFTERNOON

Gabe gets into his parent's Chevrolet Impala. He plans to drive to Boston General Hospital.

EXT. BOSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gabe parks the car and goes to the front entrance.

INT. BOSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gabe strides to the elevator and enters on route to the 8th floor.

INT. BOSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gabe leaves elevator and finds his way into an office of one of the hospital directors - Dr. Linda Blakely.

DR. BLAKELY

Hello Gabe.

GABE

Hello Linda.

DR. BLAKELY

I got your phone message.

GABE

Thank you.

DR. BLAKELY

Are you really back or just doing a little cameo?

GABE
Somewhere in between.

DR. BLAKELY
You came asking for a favor.

GABE
Yes.

DR. BLAKELY
I'm not the head of Boston
University's medical school. That
is where you have to take this.

GABE
I know.

DR. BLAKELY
Who is this *magnificent* Russian?

GABE
Andrei Levin. Expert on
the telomere analysis and
chromosomal degradation

DR. BLAKELY
He's here with you now?

GABE
No. But coming soon. Levin has
corresponded with David Vanderbilt
and expected some accommodation.

DR. BLAKELY
Harvard or MIT?

GABE
Doesn't matter to me. And
Vanderbilt thinks MIT encompasses
all of New England.

DR. BLAKELY
When did he meet Vanderbilt?

GABE
There was a US/USSR conference in
Kiev a few years ago.

DR. BLAKELY
Levin's that good?

GABE
Tops.

DR. BLAKELY
I've done too many favors for you,
Gabe. You know that don't you. I
can't do another.

GABE
Last favor, Linda. I'll be back by
the end of the month - hopefully
with Levin.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH HOUSE. 2014

The older Gabe checks his iPhone and calls up an old photo of Andrei and Gabe in Boston, 1976.

MAX
Can you guess what Andrei's about
to spill tonight?

GABE
Haven't a clue.

MAX
I heard word that he has prostate
cancer, stage 3.

GABE
No way.

MAX
Better to die quickly than be
impotent for another ten years.

GABE
It's a matter of your point of view
Appleton.

MAX
You can guess my point of view.
You must be frustrated in your
position, Gabriel.

GABE
What?

MAX
Well, you're not nationally
regarded. I mean . . . I know your
working long years on stem cells in
hair follicle but . . .

GABE
You're a colossal schmuck,
Appleton.

MAX
You call everyone a schmuck,
Gabriel. Do you Tourette's?

Terri walks up to both men.

TERRI
Gabe, don't start a fight tonight.

She kisses Gabe on the neck and Gabe can't easily find his composure. Max takes advantage of Terri's presence by fingering Gabe's suit lapel.

MAX
She kisses you and the hairs along my neck rise. Isn't that magical?

Gabe pulls away from Terri and punches Max in the jaw. Max flies against the kitchen floor and into the floral display on the kitchen counter.

EXT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. 1976 DAY

Gabe approaches the institute and is accosted by a well dressed man before reaching the entrance.

MAN
Dr. Epstein?

GABE
Yes?

MAN
You have papers?

GABE
I do.

MAN
May I see your papers?

GABE
Who are you?

MAN
I head security for the Institute.

GABE
I've had no problem all these weeks.

MAN
Your papers please.

Gabe produces passport, visa, and a letter of introduction granting him access. The man examines quickly and smiles.

MAN
I want you to come into my office,
Dr. Epstein.

The man points to far end of the building. Gabe is very unsettled by this interruption and the notion of a long circuitous walk with someone with no official badge or I.D.

GABE
Will this take long?

MAN
No, no, no.

The man reaches for Gabe's arm and escorts him through the main entrance - surprising Gabe. Reflexively, Gabe pulls his arm away. The man grants him personal space as they walk the corridor.

GABE
Are you new here?

MAN
Yes.

They walk more rapidly, turn a corner, and the man opens a locked door with his key.

MAN
Please, have a seat.

Gabe enters and sits in the only guest chair by a small wood desk. The man finds his place behind the desk and takes out a cigarette. He offers a cigarette but Gabe declines.

MAN
Dr. Levin and you are best of friends.

GABE
I wouldn't say that.

MAN
Who else do you see here?

GABE
I've had conversations with Dr.
Tanchek.

MAN
We're not concerned with Dr.
Tanchek. He's very old.

GABE
I know he's very old.

MAN
You are here two months longer than
the letter of invitation states.

GABE
Yes.

MAN
Why?

GABE
I like Russia.

MAN
(Laughing)
I am happy that you like my
country. Are you meeting women?

GABE
No.

MAN
What is Dr. Levin giving you?

GABE
Research help with DNA. And stem
cells. His work is good and his
approach is different from American
scientists.

MAN
And what do you give him?

GABE
I don't know. Maybe some things
about DNA analysis. Maybe I am
asking helpful questions. He
laughs at my jokes.

MAN
Tell me a joke, Dr. Epstein.

GABE
What's the difference between a
Yankee fan and a dentist?

MAN
What is a Yankee fan?

GABE
A baseball fan from New York.

MAN
Is that the joke?

GABE
No. The joke is - one roots for
the Yanks. The other yanks for the
roots.

MAN
I think you're in trouble, Dr.
Epstein. The Institute wants you
to stop visiting after this week.
You can finish up your conferences
and your trips to Dr. Levin's
laboratory. Do I make myself
clear?

GABE
If I told you a better joke, would
you have give me more time?

MAN
No. Well, yes. It's so hard to
say. But leave that woman alone
who cleans your room.

GABE
Is there something else you need to
tell me?

MAN
You need a tailor. Your jackets
are baggy and your sleeves are for
a clown.

GABE
I've lost weight in Moscow.

MAN

All the more reason for you to
return to Boston, Dr. Epstein.

GABE

Can I see Dr. Levin now?

MAN

Of course.

With a broad smile, he gets up and shows Gabe to the door.

GABE

I don't think you should defend
your tailor.

MAN

My wife, you mean . . .

INT. INSTITUTE-ANDREI'S LAB. DAY

ANDREI

I'm not surprised, Gabe. You visit
one time too many and now the clamp
down. You have no choice but to
finish up in Moscow.

GABE

I get it.

ANDREI

No hard feelings.

GABE

I'll return to Boston and maybe we
can correspond.

ANDREI

Pen pals? Is that the term?

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

Gabe is walking back to his hotel. He sees Tanya outside. She is nonchalant, a cigarette in her mouth, and looking away from Gabe. He is unsure whether to continue or walk away from the hotel. He hates the feeling inside. She throws her eyes at him and smiles like a travel agent to a tourist.

TANYA

You can't say hello?

GABE

I can.

TANYA

I understand that you're going back
to Boston.

GABE

How do you know?

TANYA

Don't you think I should know?

GABE

What do you want, Tanya?

TANYA

I want to go with you.

GABE

With me?

TANYA

To Boston.

GABE

I can't take you to Boston.

TANYA

You could if you marry me.

GABE

You want me to marry you?

TANYA

(laughing gently)

I just want to go with you to
Boston. Why do you make
conversation so hard? Why do you
fear me? I'm not wild animal.

She walks down the hotel steps into the street. Gabe looks
around to see if anyone is watching them.

TANYA

Nervous people don't live long
unless they drink black tea with
chilled vodka.

Gabe enters the hotel intending to go to his room.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. DAY

At his night table phone, Gabe calls Don.

GABE

Don, it's me. I'm packing up.

DON (O.S.)

Why?

GABE

I'm being shadowed too much and
it's enough.

DON (O.S.)

Because of Levin?

GABE

I don't know.

DON (O.S.)

Time for you to go back home, Gabe.
Compadre, I told you that long ago.
When are you going?

GABE

In three days.

SWITCH TO DON'S
HOTEL ROOM

DON

Which girlfriend is motivating this
really? Your *dezhurnaya* or the
Korean Princess in Cambridge?

Gabe doesn't answer and Don pours himself a drink with his free hand.

DON

I heard you had an evening
encounter with Masha, Gabe.

GABE

Her name's Tanya.

DON

Tanya, Masha, Natasha - whatever.
You're playing Russian Roulette,
you dumb schmuck.

EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT

Gabe leaves his cab and heads into the airport.

INT. MOSCOW AIRPORT

Gabe approaches customs official so he can catch his plane. He looks relieved to leave the country.

INT. U.S. EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM. DAY

Gabe, luggage in hand, enters the compound and signs in at the receptionist. He appears uncomfortable despite the fact that he is in a safe environment.

TIME LAPSE TEN
MINUTES

A consulate official approaches him and smiles.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL
Dr. Epstein? Please follow me.

Gabe stands and proceeds down the long corridor. The two men enter a tiny office and the consulate official offers Gabe a chair.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL
I am going to ask a colleague to sit in on this meeting, if you don't mind?

GABE
Not at all.

Consulate official buzzes his intercom and a woman official Halsford enters immediately. She is grim and dresses the part.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
The receptionist tells me that you wish to engineer the defection of a very famous Soviet scientist from Moscow. Is that why you are here?

GABE
Yes. Why are you upset?

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
May I please see your papers?

Gabe produces his passport, letters of appointment to be in Russia, his credentials from Boston Hospital, and even certificates of bank deposits.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
I see you're a doctor and you've
included certificates of bank
deposits.

GABE
You can see I'm thoroughly
legitimate and I'd even give up my
life savings for this mission.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
I think you're a nut case. Why are
you on a mission?

GABE
Because . . .

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES
Doesn't add up.

GABE
Because I've come to befriend this
little guy, a fellow Jew who has
been persecuted and who has
tremendous potential in his
scientific field.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
Are the two of you lovers? He
pitches, you catch?

GABE
What?

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES
Are you homosexual?

GABE
No.

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE HALSFORD
Are you blackmailed into doing
this?

GABE
Absolutely not.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL JAMES
(overly professional)
What my colleague is intimating,
you see, what compels you to take
enormous risks for a stranger from
Moscow?

GABE

Dr. Andrei Levin is not a stranger
to me. And I know the State
Department has helped many Russians
defect over the years. Why is this
case different? He's on the
cutting edge of telomere chromosome
research. I think he's absolutely
brilliant.

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES
How did you save this much money,
Dr. Epstein?

GABE

I've been frugal as a student and
have saved \$40,000 over a decade.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
What exactly is your plan of action
with Levin?

GABE

I'll meet him in the Helsinki
railroad station over a span of two
days. He's giving an address at a
Helsinki medical institute. After
the talk, we'll meet up again and
hold up in a hotel. Then cab to
the ferry for Sweden. I've made
the trip between Helsinki and
Stockholm. The authorities don't
check passports and visas.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
And if the Soviets alert the
Helsinki police that Levin has left
the conference?

GABE

That's a risk we have to take.

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES
You realize the Soviets control
Finland in many ways.
(MORE)

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES (cont'd)

The Finnish police can catch the ferry on speed boats. The ferry ride's about 12 hours. You're gambling on a big window, even if the Fins don't like doing stunts for the Russians. The Soviets will figure out your little buddy's on the boat.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD

The fastest way to get him to Stockholm is by plane.

GABE

I went to the airport and saw that documents are required. It's a piece of cake at the ferry.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD

Still, if I were you I'd rather run that risk than get nailed 6 hours on the ferry.

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES

You could rent a car and travel over the top of Finland.

GABE

That plan would take too long and it's a hard drive. I also heard the Finnish-Swedish land border runs higher risks than the ferry. Are you two CIA or genuine staff of the Embassy?

(silence)

You don't want to say . . .

CONSULATE COLLEAGUE JAMES

Well, Dr. Epstein. This is a 'balls-up' operation. You'll need all the luck in the world.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD

(smiling warmly)

If you get caught, you'll be sent to a Russian prison for half your life. But you will learn to speak Russian fluently by the age of 60.

Gabe stands sensing the meeting is over and he is visibly disappointed by the lack of support.

GABE

You are CIA. Surprise, surprise.

CONSULATE OFFICIAL HALSFORD
Good day, Dr. Epstein.

EXT. U.S. EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM.

Gabe, luggage in hand, steps away from the compound and he sees a flock of birds change directions in mid-flight high above the row of flags. He hails a cab and gets in.

EXT. ROADS AROUND STOCKHOLM.

Gabe's cab finds its way to the harbor for the ferry ride to Helsinki.

EXT. STOCKHOLM FERRY EMBARKMENT

Gabe pays the cab and walks to the ferry check-in. He pays for his passage and gets his boarding ticket.

INT. MOSCOW TRAIN STATION

Gabe returns to Moscow by rail from Finland.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL. DAY

A cab returns Gabe to his hotel. Gabe enters the building.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL.

Gabe sees Tanya in the lobby and she follows him to the elevator. They both get in.

INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR

She smiles and he returns the smile.

TANYA
You look hungry.

GABE
I don't eat anymore.

TANYA
How smart is that?

GABE
Not smart.

TANYA
Did you miss me?

GABE
Yes.

TANYA
Good.

The elevator opens. Gabe gets out and Tanya lingers. She puts her hand on the door to prevent the elevator from moving floors.

GABE
You can hurt your hand doing that?

TANYA
Don't you want company?

GABE
Do you?

She gets out of the elevator and follows him to his room.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM.

Gabe unlocks his door. As he enters, Tanya follows behind him. His room again looks worked over by some intruder.

GABE
I try to keep my room neat.

TANYA
I know you do.

GABE
What are they looking for?

TANYA
Who knows? Love letters? Spy film? Missiles?

GABE
You're very funny.

TANYA
Thank you. So are you.

GABE
Thank you.

She sees she has a run in her stockings and crosses her legs awkwardly to conceal it.

GABE
Why are you in my room?

TANYA
To give you luck.

GABE
Why do you think I need luck?

This makes her laugh and she sits on his bed nonchalantly.

GABE
Would you like dinner?

TANYA
Yes, but we should not go out to a
restaurant near this hotel.

GABE
Why not?

TANYA
Because some people are watching.
How stupid are you?

Gabe goes to the hotel window and looks out to the street.

GABE
Are you one of those paid to do the
watching?

TANYA
Do you like me?

GABE
Yes.

TANYA
Then don't ask that question,
Gabriel.

Gabe opens his night table drawer and sees that the intruder did not take his money. He counts the cash and puts money in his pocket.

GABE
Money's here. Let's have a fancy
dinner, darling Tanya.

EXT. MOSCOW HOTEL.

Gabe leaves hotel and moments later Tanya leaves hotel facade. We see them catching up to each other down the street. Then Tanya goes ahead of Gabe and he follows her from about twenty feet behind.

EXT. MOSCOW STREETS

Tanya continues down narrow streets and Gabe is still trailing behind her. She enters a small restaurant and says something quietly to the waiter.

TANYA

Sit, sit. Don't look crazy.

GABE

Where?

She points to the back of the restaurant. Several of the tables are taken by working class men. Very few women are inside. The waiter returns with a bottle of vodka and two glasses. The noise level is high and there is a lot of cigarette smoke overhead.

TANYA

How hungry are you?

GABE

I'm hungry.

TANYA

You like borsch?

GABE

Sure.

She gets up and goes into the kitchen vestibule. Gabe is uncomfortable with her maneuvers inside the restaurant. A dwarf is sitting at the table next to Gabe's and he watches Gabe intensely. Tanya returns to Gabe and sits inches away from Gabe.

TANYA

Do you have any children?

GABE

Why do you ask?

TANYA

You have a face that says I want
five little ones.

GABE

I didn't know my face said that.

AN HOUR GOES BY
AND THE VODKA
BOTTLE IS HALF
EMPTY

TANYA
You love me, don't you Gabriel?

She kisses firmly on the mouth and he cannot resist from wrapping his arms around her. The restaurant is nearly empty now.

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY. DAY

Gabe is walking through the lobby on route to Andrei's lab.

INT. ANDREI'S LAB

Andrei is focused on his table work when Gabe enters. Andrei won't pull his eyes away, although he notices Gabe is visiting.

GABE
How are you?

ANDREI
I have a migraine.

GABE
Do you get many migraines?

ANDREI
I have an ex-wife, Gabe.

GABE
Let's take a walk, Andrei.

Andrei puts down a telephone which was off the hook and then locks a few papers in his desk. He grabs his coat and both men leave the lab.

EXT. MOSCOW STREETS NEAR THE INSTITUTE

The men walk briskly and feel comfortable about talking in confidence.

ANDREI
You changed your mind?

GABE
When is your Helsinki conference?

ANDREI
Next week.

GABE
Okay, Andrei. I'm ready to help.

ANDREI

Certain?

GABE

Yes, my friend.

Andrei squeezes Gabe's shoulder affectionately.

ANDREI

Well, let's see if God above wants
good things for us.

GABE

I thought you didn't believe in
God?

ANDREI

What did Voltaire believe in?

GABE

He found God on his death bed.

ANDREI

What do you expect of the French?

The men reverse course and walk back to the Institute.

EXT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY.

An aerial view of the building and a distant shot of Andrei
and Gabe approaching the Institute.

INT. INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY.

Gabe and Andrei shake hands. Andrei walks down the corridor
to his lab. Gabe stands alone and smiles at the security
detail at the foyer. Gabe realizes this will be his last
visit to the Institute.

INT. MOSCOW HOTEL ROOM. A WEEK LATER

Gabe is packing up to leave. There is a knock on his door.
He goes over and sees Tanya outside.

TANYA

Are you leaving?

GABE

Yes.

TANYA

I thought you would be here for
another month.

GABE
My plans have changed.

TANYA
Were you going to tell me?

GABE
Yes.

TANYA
I don't believe you.

GABE
I don't blame you. But I am
sincere, Tanya.

There is a heavy silence. Gabe closes the door and lets
Tanya stay.

TANYA
I'm pregnant.

GABE
What?

TANYA
Two months. Do you care?

GABE
Yes.

TANYA
Then don't leave. You told me you
loved me.

GABE
I was drunk.

TANYA
So was I, Gabriel. Drunk people
tell the truth.

GABE
I'll come back, Tanya. I have
business in Boston.

TANYA
When?

GABE
A few weeks.

She studies his face carefully and he tries to turn away.
Her hands hold his head in a fixed position.

TANYA
Tell me again. When?

EXT. HELSINKI RAILROAD STATION. AUGUST AFTERNOON

Gabe is pacing slowly with an open hand holding a bag of peanuts. A rush of train passengers pass by. There is a police officer down the far end of the station. A large clock breaks up the open space. A Moscow train is 30 minutes late. A train enters track number four. Gabe looks alert.

Loud screech of brakes and smoke. The train's doors open. In the crowd, Gabe imagines seeing Andrei several times but all missing the right face. From a distance a figure emerges but it is not Andrei.

GABE
Oh Christ.

The clock changes time in speed action. Gabe decides to leave the station as he knows Andrei won't be arriving this day.

INT. HELSINKI HOTEL. NIGHT

Gabe watches his face and prepares to go to sleep. He has a bottle of liquor on his night table. Gabe opens the bottle and pours himself a drink while looking at some wallet photos from Gabe's family. There are two photos of Gabe with his parents. Another photo of Gabe and Sophia together.

EXT. HELSINKI RAILROAD STATION. MORNING

Gabe is pacing on the same platform as yesterday. Train passengers crowd by. There is the same police officer down the far end of the station. The large clock commands Gabe's attention. A Moscow train is due any moment. A train enters track number four. Gabe looks alert.

Loud screech of brakes and smoke. The train's doors open. In the crowd, Gabe sees Andrei but Gabe feels his eyes are deceiving him. From a distance the figure emerges and it is Andrei.

GABE
(to himself)
Unbelievable!

Gabe and Andrei walk slowly towards each other. Andrei lights up a cigarette - something not usually done by him. Andrei's sense of cool is notable. They clasp hands and continue to walk in the direction where Gabe once stood. If they are not exactly nonchalant, at least they're nothing like visible panic.

ANDREI
The train was very cold. We had soldiers with us. A boring ride.

GABE
Are you hungry?

ANDREI
Yes. Very much. You?

GABE
Too nervous.

ANDREI
Always nervous.

GABE
Does it show?

ANDREI
Ask me something else.

GABE
I can't do this Andrei. I've got an awful feeling in the pit of my stomach. This won't work. Go back to your conference and go back to Moscow tomorrow.

ANDREI
There's no way I can go back.

They continue to walk and just once Gabe looks over his shoulder to see if anyone is following them. The coast looks clear. They leave the train station quickly and spill into the streets of Helsinki.

ANDREI

You know, Gabe, when I was in London, I had planned to drink myself to death in the ugliest East End pub or, failing that, to defect but something happened to my resolve. I was thinking of my mentor and my injury to his sterling name. I owe him a great deal as I will owe you someday. This time it will be different. No one will suffer. I'll speak to the International Conference on Chromosomes tomorrow and then retire to a quiet cafe. I'll phone your hotel room so we can leave together for the ferry. And if you still feel this way tomorrow morning, I'll just do this alone. I don't care anymore.

GABE

You'll be nailed if you go alone.

ANDREI

So be it.

They stop walking abruptly. Andrei is about to light another cigarette but flicks it away. He hugs Gabe and shakes him vigorously. Both men carry a small day bag.

ANDREI

Do you get sea sick?

GABE

No. You won't let go of me.

They walk to the taxi queue and wait for a cab. A taxi pulls up and they climb inside.

INT. TAXI.

Andrei opens a notebook and skips through a few pages for Gabe's benefit.

ANDREI

I have this lecture locked tight inside my head, even though I kept visualizing the streets of Boston and the view of Boston harbor. Gabe, I was clear and quick and brilliant. They loved me.

(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)
I ran out right after the
reception, even though I was
bombarded with questions.

GABE
I found a reasonable and obscure
hotel for tonight.

ANDREI
With a glass elevator, cocktail
bar, and a dazzling concierge?

From the back seat and for the Andrei's amusement, Gabe points to a guide book page which highlights the ferry to Sweden.

ANDREI
Stockholm. Da da. Stockholm!

GABE
Driver. Klaus Hotel.

Andrei smiles warmly to Gabe as they cab races ahead.

GABE
We have the whole night to kill.

ANDREI
Let's see a movie, my friend.

The cab turns rapidly into a new street, the men swing shoulder against shoulder.

EXT. KLAUS HOTEL

The men with their light baggage leave the cab. They walk up the few steps which lead into a rundown, three story hotel in need of a paint job.

ANDREI
Is this within our budget?

GABE
Give me a break.

INT. KLAUS HOTEL

Gabe and Andrei check in. Gabe gives his passport and that seems sufficient for the two of them to the elderly female hotel clerk. They walk up to their second story room which is down a tiny, dim lit corridor.

ANDREI

I get sea sick, Gabe. I might
throw up on the boat. Be my angel.
Let's get drunk.

They find the right room and unlock the door. A smaller room doesn't exist in the entire universe. The men pry the two single beds apart. Each bed as narrow as chimney cute. There is a tiny toilet and sink in the adjourning bathroom.

EXT. KLAUS HOTEL

The men leave the hotel and head quickly down the street. They pass a few restaurants and pick one.

INT. RESTAURANT

Gabe and Andrei sit at the far corner table. The room is half empty, smoky, the wall paper peeling, a bare light fixture from the low ceiling. The waitress brings glasses. The next moment, she produces a bottle of vodka. Time lapses quickly as the bottle passes half empty. We hear popular music climb in volume and masking anything the two men are saying to one another. They are laughing broadly, their fears have vanished.

EXT. RESTAURANT

Gabe and Andrei traipse out and bundle up. They walk briskly down the street. Cars and cabs pass them.

EXT. HELSINKI STREETS

The restaurant music follows them in their brief city journey. They glance at storefronts and attractive pedestrians. Time stretches during this stroll of freedom.

EXT. HELSINKI MOVIE THEATRE

Stanley Kubrick's *Clockwork Orange* appears on the movie marquee. Oddly appealing, both men agree to see the film. They enter the movie theatre.

INT. HELSINKI MOVIE THEATRE

The movie has already started and we hear the Rossini's *Thieving Magpie* scene where the hooligans rumble. The theatre is mostly vacant. The reaction scene on Andrei's face to the on screen violence is telling and strangely amusing.

EXT. HELSINKI MOVIE THEATRE

Gabe and Andrei leave the theatre.

ANDREI

This could have been my life if I became a thug, Gabe.

GABE

You think a scientist has it better than a street thug?

ANDREI

I think a street thug has more friends.

The walk down the street toward the Klaus Hotel.

EXT. HELSINKI PUBLIC FOUNTAIN

Gabe and Andrei walk past the well lit public fountain with a mythic figurine stature as the centerpiece. Gabe reaches into his pockets and finds a few coins. He gives Andrei a coin and smiles.

GABE

Go ahead, Andrei. Toss it for good luck.

ANDREI

Can we afford to throw money away?

GABE

To buy luck, yes, we do.

A cab drives up and signals to the men to get inside his cab. Andrei waves him off as they prefer to walk. Andrei throws in the coin. Both men smile warmly.

We see the cab driver studying Gabe and Andrei via the rear view mirror.

INT. HELSINKI HOTEL

Andrei and Gabe enter hotel.

They walk down the corridor to their room. Gabe washes his face and takes a long hard look at himself.

GABE

You're fucking crazy, Gabe.

Andrei removes his shoes and socks.

ANDREI

One day you'll get married, Gabe.
One day you'll have three kids.
You'll have grandchildren too. And
you will tell everyone in your
family how you helped me take
flight. What a story that will be.
I won't have children, Gabe. I
know it in my bones. I will live
to an old age and have no stories
to tell.

Andrei pulls off his shirt and strips to his undershirt.

ANDREI

I drank so much I know I will sleep
like a baby.

He falls to the bed with abandon. Gabe leaves the bathroom
and feels a little too sober for the moment.

TRANSITION OF
TIME. LIGHTS
TRANSFORM

We see the men asleep and neon light spills in past the torn
curtains from the street signs.

INT. HELSINKI HOTEL

Gabe and Andrei exit their hotel room. They look solemn and
serious.

EXT. HELSINKI HOTEL

The two men leave the building and hail a cab. They get into
the cab.

EXT. HELSINKI FERRY STATION

The cab turns into the Ferry Station and joins a line of
other cabs depositing travelers. Gabe and Andrei walk
briskly onto the Ferry, casually passing uniform officials
from Sweden. Gabe buys tickets for both men using fake names.
We see Gabe writing Del Gaddo and Godunov as their surnames.
Identity papers are not checked.

INT. FERRY

Gabe and Andrei go from the top deck to an interior starboard
section of the Ferry. Andrei digs into his pockets.

ANDREI
I'll buy you a vodka. My nerves
are shot.

Andrei goes to the bar and waits his turn. He glances over to Gabe and sees Gabe looking very uncomfortable. Andrei surveys the entire ship's hull and spots no threat to their illegal voyage. After he gets the drinks, Andrei returns to Gabe.

ANDREI
There are two pretty women at the table by the window. Which one do you prefer?

GABE
Are you serious?

ANDREI
I'm trying to amuse you, my friend.
You're white as a sheet. We've
sixteen hours and there's no place
to sleep on this damn boat?

GABE
No. Unless you can sleep in a
sitting position.

ANDREI
Can you?

GABE
I brought a few sleeping pills.

ANDREI
How clever of you. I'll take two.
And two more.

HOURS PASS BY

Andrei, seated and bundled up with scarf, is asleep with his head leaning on Gabe. Gabe is wide awake. The dimly lit section of the Ferry they occupy is very quiet and still. Most of the passengers are asleep on the seats. One or two passengers are decked out over two or three seats. Gabe's face telegraphs fatigue and anxiety at the same time.

MORE TIME PASSES

Gabe frees himself from Andrei's weight, and walks about. He sees on the upper deck gambling tables and betting games under way. The feel is dismal rather than stimulating. No one notices Gabe's ghostlike presence.

Gabe's eye catches the exchange of gambling chips between croupier and player. He continues to pace and crawl about the ferry. A uniformed officer spies him from afar and this is a lightning bolt to Gabe. Gabe finds a cigarette in his breast pocket and lights up. He tries poorly to act nonchalant. The officer keeps his gaze on Gabe. It is the worst tasting cigarette of his life. The officer begins a few steps in Gabe's direction. Gabe heads off and turns a corner. He then darts into a storage closet. The officer continues without rushing until the matter loses his attention. Gabe opens the storage closet door.

EXT. FERRY. EARLY MORNING

We see the Ferry enter into Sweden's port. Birds fly over head as the sun is about to rise. Given the significance of the journey, the horizon is full of hope and welcome. Gabe is awake and appears by degree more relieved that the two men have come this far.

Andrei's head is now on Gabe's lap. We hear a loud fog horn, but Andrei does not stir. The two women Andrei had spied some hours ago are looking in Gabe's direction. Gabe tries to smile back, but his energy is all but gone. We hear more fog horns signalling the Ferry is coming to a stop.

Andrei awakes slowly. He's embarrassed to find himself on Gabe's lap. Gabe manages to play down the awkwardness .

GABE
We're in port.

ANDREI
Stockholm?

GABE
Yes.

ANDREI
(in a low voice)
Oh my God!

GABE
Quiet.

ANDREI
Oh my God!

GABE
Shut up.

ANDREI
I'm never going back to Moscow,
Gabe.
(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)
Never have to speak to a Communist
interrogator ever again. Do you see
this is miracle?

GABE
Not yet.

ANDREI
I do.

GABE
We're not out of the clear. You
know that. We have to get off the
goddamn boat.

ANDREI
But we're in Sweden! A country
where all the women love to make
love with dark haired men.

GABE
We got to get to West Germany,
Andrei. This is still a tricky
situation.

They both stand up and try to clean up after an uncomfortable sixteen hours. For a brief moment they serve as a mirror to each other and it has a comic air. Gabe looks at Andrei's hands and sees several valuable rings on his fingers. Previously Andrei wore no rings. Andrei ignores Gabe's stare.

EXT. STOCKHOLM FERRY EMBARKMENT

The boat docks. Crew prepares the passenger and car runways. The first passengers exit. Gabe and Andrei are seen from a good distance. The sun is rising over Stockholm. Gabe looks sharply left and right. He spots two huge men on the dock looking at them.

GABE
Please God . . .

Andrei sees the two men and exchanges harsh looks with Gabe. Andrei and Gabe spontaneously sprint for a cab. Within moments, they have good luck and pile into the cab.

INT. STOCKHOLM CAB

Gabe slams the door shut and shouts to the driver.

GABE
Take us immediately to the American
Embassy!"

The driver turns completely around and acknowledges the request. He also studies the expressions on Gabe's face and on Andrei's.

EXT. STOCKHOLM ROAD FROM HARBOR

The cab is seen from a long distance rending around a bend. A more distant shot shows the cab entering the city. With a few fade away shots, we now see the approach of the cab to the American Embassy at Dag Hammarskjölds Väg 31.

INT. STOCKHOLM CAB

Gabe pays the taxi driver as Andrei pops open the door. There is tremendous excitement at this juncture.

EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY

The flags are blowing in the wind. The men enter the formal government building.

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY

Gabe and Andrei are met by consulate staff. Gabe shows paperwork and insists on meeting with the two CIA agents from Gabe's last visit here.

GABE

Come on. You know the agents.
Halford and James. I was here and
spoke with them.

The consulate staff leave briefly and come back with Halford and James. The CIA agents take Andrei and me to a private room.

INT. EMBASSY PRIVATE ROOM.

HALFORD

Why are you here?

ANDREI

I'm defecting.

HALFORD

Why?

ANDREI

I have no choice. I am a Jewish scientist.

JAMES
What is your professional specialization?

ANDREI
Molecular biology. Telomere and immunity cell development.

JAMES
How are you valuable to the west?

ANDREI
What?

HALFORD
How are you valuable?

ANDREI
I am a political refugee.

GABE
I briefed you about him on my last visit. I told you about David Vanderbilt and his arrangements to establish something for Dr. Levin. Hasn't Vanderbilt phoned or written to you?

HALFORD
No, he hasn't.

There is a time lapse as the round of questioning goes on terribly long.

ANDREI
I am a political refugee, doesn't that explain it?

HALFORD
You can't stay in Sweden.

JAMES
Clearly.

HALFORD
Take the train to Frankfurt. We've a refugee processing center at the American Consulate. They focus on Asians mostly, but you'll be acknowledged. If something happens along the way, you're on your own. No promises from us.

GABE
You can't do a thing here?

HALFORD
Best we can do is give you a visa
to return to Sweden just in case.

GABE
What the hell does that mean?

JAMES
There are choices other than
suicide.
(with understated sarcasm)
You're very heroic, Dr. Epstein.

James stands up and signals the meeting is over. Gabe and Andrei are escorted out of the Embassy. Gabe hails a cab and they get into the taxi.

INT. STOCKHOLM CAFE

Andrei and Gabe are at a corner table.

GABE
We got to get Vanderbilt's
attention. But I think the quicker
we leave Sweden the better.

ANDREI
Fine.

GABE
We can train to Frankfurt tonight.
I can sleep on the train, can you?

ANDREI
Does it matter?

GABE
I'm upset with the Sweden
Consulate.

ANDREI
I guess they prefer I stay here and
make a new life in Sweden. And
when I win a Nobel prize, they
won't have to fly me in.

There is an eerie man watching them from the other end of the cafe. Only Gabe takes notice of this.

GABE
Let's go, Andrei. Got to keep moving.

EXT. STOCKHOLM RAILWAY. EVENING

Gabe and Andrei leave a cab and enter the train station.

INT. STOCKHOLM RAILWAY. EVENING

Gabe buys passage for both men to Frankfurt. The two men look at the large electronic timetable overhead. Andrei buys cigarettes and lights up.

ANDREI
I will stop smoking next week.
This is a passing phase, Gabe.

TIME LAPSE TWO
HOURS

Gabe and Andrei head to the platform for the train to West Germany.

ANDREI
Will I meet your fiancé?

GABE
She broke off the engagement.

ANDREI
When?

GABE
On my last trip back to Boston.

ANDREI
Dear Gabe, I'm so sorry.

Many passengers mill about and surround the two men.

ANDREI
Did you meet a Russian woman?

Gabe says nothing and checks his watch. A train comes into the station - the train bound for Göteborg. Disappointed, Gabe and Andrei stare at the adjacent tracks. A large crowd on the platform boards the Göteborg train.

One man remains on the platform with Gabe and Andrei. He is overdressed for this time of year. His face is partly hidden by his fedora and neck scarf.

He ambles over to the men and they notice the oddness of his manner. The stranger focuses on Andrei and breaks the silence with a question.

STRANGER

I heard your lecture Dr. Levin the other day in Helsinki. Very bold statements, I must say. What you happy with your audience?

ANDREI

Yes.

STRANGER

There was no applause, Dr. Levin. What do you make of that?

ANDREI

Applause is best in the professional theatre.

STRANGER

Indeed. Where are you headed? Oh, my name is Otto Kranzman from a Swedish pharmaceutical consortium. I didn't mean to intrude. When are you returning to Russia? The board I represent . . . well, you know how boards are . . . we wish to contact your laboratory.

ANDREI

My work is not applicable to any pharmaceutical company, Dr. Kranzman.

STRANGER

You must be on a short leash, the Soviet Union needs each and every one of your teammates. Pay me for honoring your privacy. I see the police car parked at the corner.

Gabe assesses the situation which strikes him as very mercurial and dangerous. Gabe shoots a look over to Andrei. Andrei can't fight his anger.

ANDREI

Damn you!

STRANGER

What is the price of your freedom? Just empty your wallet. No need to get unhinged.

Gabe opens his wallet and gives the stranger all of Gabe's money. The stranger keeps his eyes fixed on Andrei and smiles wanly.

STRANGER

A lot of money. And anything in
your wallet?

ANDREI

Go to hell.

STRANGER

And God bless you too, Dr. Levin.
Did you leave your wife in Moscow?

He touches Andrei's shoulder and Andrei recoils sharply. Gabe cannot restrain himself any longer. Gabe punches the stranger in the nose. The reaction is quick. The stranger runs suddenly and says nothing audible.

EXT. STOCKHOLM RAILWAY. EVENING

The strange man hurries out of the station and down a long sidewalk. Abruptly, the stranger turns and looks at Gabe. He then proceeds to walk slowly towards the open track and straddles the apron of the platform. A strong wind would blow him onto the tracks. Gabe removes his shoe and takes out the rest of his cash he had hidden when they left Helsinki.

INT. STOCKHOLM RAILWAY. EVENING

Another train comes into the station - the train bound for Frankfurt. Everyone on the platform boards the train.

INT. TRAIN FOR FRANKFURT.

Gabe and Andrei enter a compartment for six passengers. They are joined by a German family with two children. Gabe manages to smile at the parents. The children are occupied by a shared toy. Andrei takes out a cigarette but decides not to light it. Gabe lets out a sigh of relief. For a moment Andrei thinks he sees the stranger peering into the train compartment window from the platform track.

EXT. TRAIN FOR FRANKFURT. NIGHT

We see the train speeding into the night and see a glimpse through the train's window of Andrei and Gabe.

MEMORIES OF
MOSCOW FLOOD
GABE

Gabe's eyes are closed. We see still images of Tanya inhabiting his hotel room, images of the Institute from a faraway distance, images of the Moscow plazas, images of study time inside Andrei's lab. Gabe's memory returns to Tanya. He is fixated on her. She seems more beautiful than ever. The last image of her is without clothes on his hotel bed.

INT. TRAIN FOR FRANKFURT.

Gabe sees that everyone in the compartment is asleep including Andrei.

EXT. FRANKFURT TRAIN STATION. MID-DAY

The train from Stockholm arrives in Frankfurt, signalling yet a new zone is reached by Andrei and Gabe, but no further to safety.

EXT. FRANKFURT TRAIN STATION.

Gabe and Andrei find their way to a cab station. They get in.

GABE
Hotel. Any hotel.

CABBIE
Hotel Hessischer Hof?

GABE
Ya ya.

The cab takes off quickly.

EXT. HOTEL HESSISCHER HOF

The cab stops. Gabe and Andrei get out. They enter the hotel.

INT. HOTEL HESSISCHER HOF

Outside their room door, Gabe finds key to get inside.

ANDREI
What next?

GABE
I have to call Boston.

They enter the room with two beds. Gabe immediately goes to the room telephone. Dials out.

GABE

Don? It's me. We're in Germany.
I'm with Andrei. Yes. Yes. We
came through Sweden. Yes. We're
not having much luck with the
American Consulates. Can you
please call in that chip for us?
Yeah. Dr. Blakely didn't come
through on Vanderbilt. You're
close with Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt
can get us out of Frankfurt. He
knows Andrei and he'll vouch for
him to the State Department. We're
running out of cash.

DON (O.S.)

I can't believe you're still
shilling for Levin.

GABE

Don, I'm counting on you. Please
come through. Please.
(he hangs up.)

ANDREI

Will he?

GABE

I think so. We'll know by
tomorrow.

MONTAGE

A series of shots of the men at the American Consulate in Frankfurt. Papers are signed, documents stamped. Gabe on the phone with his parents and with Sophia. Andrei getting a medical exam. Andrei at a bank negotiating a check. Both men buying more clothes for travel. Closing with the men at the airport on route to Boston.

EXT. STOCKHOLM AIRPORT. DAY

Gabe's cab approaches and drops him off at the sidewalk.

INT. STOCKHOLM AIRPORT. DAY

Gabe hurries to catch his flight to Boston.

EXT. LOGAN AIRPORT. DAY

Gabe's plane lands in Boston. It taxis to the gate.

INT. LOGAN AIRPORT. DAY

Gabe deplanes and heads quickly out of the airport.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH HOUSE - EVENING

Gabe goes to the outside viewing deck with an expansive horizon over the Pacific. He toasts Terri and puts his arm around her.

GABE

Any New Years resolutions?

TERRI

Stop dying my hair. Quit smoking.
Have triplet girls. Get back to
the gym three days per week. And
you?

GABE

I'd like to finish my lab study and
complete the grant due two years
back.

A young man approaches Gabe and Terri. He is well dressed and carries a book. His name is Dr. Vladimir Mikhailovich Albakin. He has a slight resemblance to Gabe.

VLADIMIR

Excuse me. You are Dr. Gabriel
Epstein?

GABE

Yes.

VLADIMIR

I am Dr. Albakin. Vladimir
Mikhailovich Albakin. I have a
teaching fellowship at UCLA. I
don't mean to interrupt but when I
found out a few days ago that you
would be here tonight . . . well,
you know, it was a happy
coincidence. My mother still lives
in Moscow. You know her, isn't
that right?

(MORE)

VLADIMIR (cont'd)
So many years but here's a photo of
you two. Many people called her
Tanya.

He produces a small loose photo from the book's open pages.
Gabe studies it with care. Terri looks on quietly.

GABE
Yes, I know your mother.

VLADIMIR
Well, she wanted me to give you
this book assuming that I might run
into you here. After all, the last
time you wrote to her you were in
L.A. and not in Boston. This book
is a gift to you from her. It's
Nabokov's *Speak, Memory*.

GABE
In Russian?

VLADIMIR
Yes, of course. She said you have
a special fondness for Nabokov's
novels. Nabokov puns much better in
Russian. And my mother said that
you suffer the same condition as
did he - synesthesia.

GABE
I am a *synesthete* - or so I pretend
to be.

TERRI
What the heck is a *synesthete*?

Gabe accepts the book awkwardly.

GABE
Thank you. When I see numbers,
colors light up in my head. It's
like Asperger's with a
kaleidoscope.

VLADIMIR
I'm guessing you speak very little
Russian.

GABE
That's right.

VLADIMIR

I don't like his books, but I did like his articles on chess. And maybe with his death, Mr. Nabokov turned into a butterfly. Oh he certainly loved catching butterflies.

GABE

How is your mother?

VLADIMIR

She had a stroke last summer. It affects her speak and her facial movements. But otherwise she is healthy. I'm so glad to meet you and I know we can talk again. I'm at UCLA hospital. Andrei can give you my phone contact. I'm in California until May.

Vladimir nods politely to Terri and smiles serenely to Gabe.

GABE

I needed another Russian book.

TERRI

Do you?

Gabe leans in and kisses her.

TERRI

What should I know, Gabe? What should I not know?

There is some commotion at the viewing deck of the house. Some small ship is having engine trouble and smoke is coming out of the hull. In the distance, a police helicopter is hovering. Suddenly, there is an explosion from the boat and the copter races over to save the passengers. Gabe and Terri join the partygoers witness the rescue action involving three men. Andrei attends to them a few moments after the copter leaves the scene with three boat survivors.

ANDREI

Well, that was quite exciting.

There is banter and some nervous laughter. The ship is mired in fire and smoke. Don Lansing joins Andrei, Max and Layla - Gabe and Terri within earshot. Gabe hasn't seen Don yet.

DON
Hello Andrei. It's Don Lansing.

ANDREI
Oh, delightful! You decided to come tonight!

DON
I was in L.A. And wanted to see Gabe.

ANDREI
He's right over there. Gabe!

Gabe and Don zero in on one another. The two embrace.

DON
You look spectacular, Gabe.

GABE'S MOTHER
So do you. What's with the moustache?

The ship begins to sink into the ocean.

ANDREI
I thought I was unlucky not getting a Nobel this year. But I could have been on that lovely ship.

LAYLA
But you are lucky because you are with me. And next year you will get your Nobel prize.

MAX
You'll never get a Nobel, Andrei. You've slept with too many foreign women and Stockholm doesn't approve of that sort of thing.

LAYLA
You're quite a piece of work.

MAX
I know.

DON
Andrei, you'll never get a Nobel because you've alienated so many colleagues. You know it in your heart.

(MORE)

DON (cont'd)
Your big year to win was 2011 and
there are no other chances.

ANDREI
You're not a party regular, don, so
what gives you the right to shoot
off?

DON
You're brilliant and you're a
taker. Some of us are givers and
may not shine as much. It's poetic
justice that the price you covet
most will never land in your lap.
That is the hand of fate.

ANDREI
And I am an ingrate?

The ship begins to sink into the ocean. The sinkage commands everyone's attention and all talk subsides. We see Andrei and guests from a distance. Max and Layla seem to exchange rebuking remarks which we cannot hear. Andrei walks away as he lights up a cigarette. He pursues Gabe who has entered the beach house. Terri crosses the hall and enters the bathroom. Andrei finds Gabe alone at the living room bar.

ANDREI
What are you drinking?

GABE
Brandy.

ANDREI
Good. I don't like beer drinkers
anymore. For some time, Gabe, I
wanted to tell you something I kept
quietly to myself. I lost my
chance to get a Nobel prize. I
pissed off too many people in the
last ten years. You know that's
true. There aren't many people
from Moscow in my world today.
Certainly no one from 1975 and in
that year when we met. Do you
recall in your hotel residence the
staff who maintained your room and
linen? Do you remember a very
attractive woman named Tanya? She
spoke fluent English and had rich
blonde hair?

GABE
Yes, I think so.

ANDREI

When I visited your hotel once I ran into a beautiful *dezhurnaya* - Tanya. You introduced me, I think. She and I flirted. I was very lonely and she seemed to know that. We had a brief affair while you were in Moscow and it was stupid of me for all the obvious reasons. Still, I enjoyed her company and would probably have done it all over again. She stayed in touch with me after the defection. She knew where my parents had lived. She was pregnant. Tanya claimed I was the father. She gave birth to a boy.

GABE

Really . . .

ANDREI

She sent some photos over the years. I sent back some money to help her. We lost contact eventually. You look disturbed.

Andrei pours two drinks at the bar. He lowers his voice.

ANDREI

The boy takes his studies seriously and continues at a science institute in Moscow. With Gorbachev's Perestroika and the relaxing of the Russian braintrust, the boy goes on to London and then he's at MIT. How strange this all is. He's here tonight, Gabe. Vladimir Mikhailovich Albakin. You met him with your girlfriend at the jacuzzi. He's very smart, Gabe, and he looks so much like Tanya.

GABE

Does he know the full story?

ANDREI

No. Isn't that amazing?

GABE

Are you going to tell him, Andrei?

ANDREI

I don't know. It's not an easy thing to do. I knew we would meet sooner than later. But this is so emotional and I almost feel like shouting off the rooftop.

GABE

Well, it is New Year's Eve.

ANDREI

Are you not happy for me?

GABE

I am very happy for you.

ANDREI

You know, he's not Jewish. He has not an ounce of Jewishness inside him. He was raised Russian Orthodox.

GABE

So?

ANDREI

It would have been a strong statement of identity to a missing father. Jewish status had to rebound upward again and what would be so terrible if he knew he could choose this religion and this culture. Is that so puzzling, Gabe? A scientific mind pushes harder when there's a little paranoia underfoot.

Andrei begins juggling a few empty beer bottles, echoing the men's first meeting decades ago. More partygoers make their way over to surround Andrei.

ANDREI

And Vladimir doesn't have a great sense of humor.

GABE

Very few people do.

ANDREI

You have a fine sense of humor, Gabe. I found that so much comfort in our escape and in our friendship and now in our advancing age.

GABE

Yeah.

ANDREI

Did you ever notice Tanya? Did she talk to you?

GABE

Nothing out of the ordinary.

ANDREI

She was able to show human warmth at a time when few could even generate a frosty smile. When I think of the failed marriages I've suffered in California, it makes me yearn for her and even go back in time. I must say to you, Gabe, that I owe you more than I've said on the record. I would not have flourished in Moscow and I would not have made the innovative discoveries at the Institute for Molecular Biology. You know that's true. So I'm indebted to you until I die. If I were Chinese, the code of honor would be that I would die for you since you laid down your life for me. I think hours upon hours on what you did that night in Helsinki and I know I could not have done that for another human being. It's my notion of risk aversion. I was born a coward and I will die a coward. If we were soldiers on the front line, the same debt would have been marked. You may not be half the level of medical stature, but what you did equaled the measure of academic innovation and genius.

GABE

Is there ever a time when you don't condescend, Andrei?

ANDREI

Forgive me.

GABE

He's my son, Andrei. Vladimir is my flesh and blood.

(MORE)

GABE (cont'd)

I had a relationship with his mother for many weeks. Damn it, he looks just like me. Want to get DNA to finish this?

The two men fall silent. Terri walks toward them. She senses their tension and their impasse.

TERRI

Am I intruding?

ANDREI

Not at all. It's time for me to break the news to everyone. I'm leaving Cal Tech this spring for Harvard. We've a new block grant that is totally record-breaking from the NIS. Sadly, I am breaking up the phenomenal team I put together over the last five years but many of you know I was facing unpleasant academic problems recently at Cal. I value putting down roots, more than many of you can appreciate. I say that as a someone who is foreign born and fighting a lifetime of feeling like an expatriate. Money certainly plays tricks on our values and I prefer a landscape of friendship rather than material luxury. You are laughing at me for having a second home in Malibu, I know. When I left Moscow, when I left Russia for good, my first home was Boston. So this upcoming move truly feels like I am returning home. I hope you will visit me in Cambridge and my home will always be open to you. No ceremony is necessary, just pop by.

(long silence)

I had surgery too five months ago. The tumor was benign. Some times a miracle occurs even for a miserable atheist such as myself. I've surprised all the doctors and all my critics. I'm as clean as a whistle, so they say. It was a brain tumor. No one knew. I kept it quiet. A cat has nine lives and I'm working on my final gambit. Thank you Gabe for your insane generosity.

(MORE)

ANDREI (cont'd)

I don't know if I could ever have
done what you did. And I never
thought I would say that out loud.

We do not see reactions from anyone, but instead in the background we see a few seagulls fly from the beach to a spot near the beach house. The gulls have seized on a dead animal and begin to feed.

THE END