

INT. CAMPBELL HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

1

DAVID CAMPBELL, (50's), tired, aged, looks worse for wear, stares into a mirror.

He imagines a scenario in his head.

INT. ZIGGY STONE'S OFFICE - DAY

2

David sits uncomfortably on the other side of his agent's desk.

ZIGGY STONE, (50's) well-dressed, with a successful haircut and attitude to match, sits on the other side.

The two men are in an awkward silence.

DAVID

Well, Ziggy, you called this meeting. What's up?

ZIGGY

You're old, fat, and your best days have passed, David.

DAVID

(offended)

Jesus...don't pull any punches.

Ziggy leans towards David to get his attention.

ZIGGY

It's the only thing that works with you nowadays.

DAVID

(cavalier)

C'mon, it's a dry spell. Every actor gets them.

ZIGGY

(annoyed)

A five-year dry spell? No, most actors have pride in their work, they keep acting...they don't give up.

DAVID

(frustrated)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Okay, alright...I'll join Jenny
 Craig, just give me a few months,
 and a lot of make-up.

David chuckles nervously.

Ziggy doesn't crack a smile.

ZIGGY
 It's passed that now, David. I
 couldn't save your career with a
 magic wand and Aladdin's lamp.
 You're fired.

David demeanor turns to shock.

DAVID
 Noooo...!

INT. CAMPBELL HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY 3

Self-hatred creeps across David's face.

He turns on a faucet, splashes water on his face, and dries
 his hands.

David pulls up his pants that were around his ankles a moment
 ago.

He zips himself up and turns off the light as he exits, a
 piece of toilet paper hangs from the back of his pants.

INT. KITCHEN - CAMPBELL HOUSE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER 4

David opens a refrigerator door and takes a bottle of juice
 from the fridge.

He opens a cabinet and removes a bottle of liquor.

MRS. CAMPBELL (O.S)
 You're up early.

He grabs his chest with fright.

MRS. CAMPBELL, (70's) lovely for her age, stylish, is right
 behind him.

DAVID
 Do you have to sneak up on me like
 that?

She removes the toilet paper from his pants.

MRS. CAMPBELL
It isn't sneaking if it's your
house.

DAVID
I'm going to need your car today.

Mrs. Campbell sits down at a table as David finishes making
his drink.

MRS. CAMPBELL
(remorseful)
Not today, David. In fact, not
anymore.

DAVID
What?

MRS. CAMPBELL
The days of borrowing my car are
over.

DAVID
What is this about?

MRS. CAMPBELL
I enable you, David.

DAVID
(defensive)
Your my mother, I'm your son,
that's how this works. I fall
down, you pick me up and help me.

MRS. CAMPBELL
I'm well aware of what a mother
is, but that has been the problem.
I've sheltered you for five long
years. Come and sit, we must talk.

David doesn't move, an act of defiance.

MRS. CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
Suit yourself.

DAVID
Another lecture about another
drink?

MRS. CAMPBELL
No, there have been plenty of
those, although it is eight thirty
in the morning, but you're a grown

(MORE)

MRS. CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
 man, you can do what you like,
 just not here.

DAVID
 Mother...I...

MRS. CAMPBELL
 (sad)
 It's finally time for me to cut
 the cord, some children never know
 when to grow up. I blame myself
 for how things are.

DAVID
 (shocked)
 You're throwing me out?

MRS. CAMPBELL
 (resolute)
 I want you to move out. I'll give
 you a week to find a place of your
 own. When I say that out loud... a
 place of your own, it feels long
 overdue.

David knocks back his drink.

Mrs. Campbell looks at him with disapproval.

DAVID
 (angry)
 I need it, okay? I got ambushed by
 my own mother!

MRS. CAMPBELL
 You honestly can say you didn't
 see this coming at some point?

DAVID
 So that's it? No discussion?

MRS. CAMPBELL
 You hide here, David, from the
 world... from life. It's about time
 you found your feet again.

DAVID
 I came here to heal after what
 happened to me. You can't just
 abandon me like this.

MRS. CAMPBELL
 (sincere)

(MORE)

MRS. CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
 Abandonment, I think not. No one regrets what happened to you more than me, but I have to believe that I sheltered you long enough... otherwise, I've failed as a mother.

DAVID
 Please, just give me more time. I need your help.

MRS. CAMPBELL
 This is help, you've got to move on...It's funny, there was a time that you couldn't wait to leave home, when your career started.

David's phone vibrates in his pocket.

He checks it, and his mouth hits the floor.

DAVID
 (aghast)
 No, this can't happen!

MRS. CAMPBELL
 (concern)
 What is it?

DAVID
 My agent's fired me with a text!

MRS. CAMPBELL
 I thought you were already fired. You haven't spoken to the man in over a year.

DAVID
 I don't have time to explain, but I need to go... now!

David, stressed, gives his mother a look of need.

MRS. CAMPBELL
 The keys are in the hall.

He kisses her cheek and leaves the room.

INT. ZIGGY STONE'S OFFICE - DAY

5

T-DOG, (30's) black with a rapper style in clothes and attitude, sits across from Ziggy.

ZIGGY
 (inviting)
 So, you're first acting role
 Tyrone, excited?

T-DOG
 It's T-dog, only my mamma calls me
 Tyrone.

ZIGGY
 Right, T-dog, got it. Listen,
 don't be nervous about acting
 instead of singing..

T-DOG
 (confident)
 Who's nervous? It's the next
 evolution in the T-dog universe.

Ziggy nods his head in puzzled agreement.

ZIGGY
 Glad to hear it. So the role I
 have in mind for you is...

T-Dog holds up his ring-covered hand to Ziggy.

T-DOG
 Hold up, Z, check this...you got
 Round Willy four hundred k for his
 role, so I'm a gonna need six
 hundred k for mine.

ZIGGY
 Well, we certainly ask for it..

Ziggy's office door flies open as David barges in.

RACHEL, (40's) Ziggy's assistant, attractive, has on a low-
 cut dress, and a sassy attitude, follows him in.

DAVID
 (panic)
 You fired me with a text?

Ziggy leans back in his seat.

T-Dog defensively puts his fists up in front of him.

T-DOG
 (startled)
 Yo, who's this fool?

Ziggy shakes his head in annoyance.

ZIGGY
(aggrieved)
Come in David. It's not like I'm
at work.

RACHEL
(worry)
I tried to stop him, Mr. Stone,
but he's really pissed.

DAVID
A lousy text? Not even a phone
call?

ZIGGY
David, you're hysterical. Please
come in and shut the door.
Tyrone...er...T-Dog, sorry, can you
wait outside. This will just take
a moment.

T-Dog stands up, adjusts his clothes, and bumps David as he
walks passed him.

T-DOG
Chump.

T-Dog leaves the office.

David slams the door shut and pulls his phone from his
pocket.

He reads a text out loud.

DAVID
David, this isn't easy to do.
I've got to let you go. Your dead
weight to the agency. It's been a
long time coming. I've tried to
tell you face to face but you just
won't take the hint.

David pauses to catch his breath.

DAVID
(defiant)
Take the hint?! I deserve better,
I'm still a big name, Ziggy!

ZIGGY
(annoyed)

I'm sorry, who's the agent here?
David, you've been unmarketable
for five years, you cancel jobs I
got you, no shows for others, you
embarrassed me. My agency doesn't
represent deadbeat actors.

DAVID
What about those commercials you
got me?

ZIGGY
The last commercial you did was
three years ago, and no one bought
the product! I've sent you six
scripts to read since then. Never
heard back on any of them.

David sits in a chair, dejected.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)
Your acting has suffered too,
David. You can't hide the wooden
and unemotional performances
you've done. Rachel, bring me the
Paranisia DVD.

Rachel winces at the mention of the DVD, then leaves the
office.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)
That's a death sentence in this
business. Any other agency would
have dropped you years ago.

DAVID
(sad)
Try to understand, Ziggy.

ZIGGY
Seriously, is this up for a vote?

Rachel returns and puts the DVD into a player, then turns on
a TV.

She twirls her hair flirtatiously and looks at David in an
effort to make him feel better.

A scene from the film Paranisia plays on a screen.

A moment later Ziggy motions towards Rachel.

ZIGGY
(dejected)
Turn it off.

Rachel does as he asks.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)
It was the worst picture in your
career, and it happened four
months after what happened to
Andy. You never recovered from it,
David, and neither did Beth.

DAVID
(desperate)
I just haven't been in a good
place...I need to work now Ziggy,
more than ever, it's all I've got
left.

ZIGGY
I'm sorry, but I just can't keep
you around anymore. You have
checked out, and I've laughed and
cried and held your hand through
it all. So let's end this, and you
can go figure out what you need
to, and I'll keep my fifteen
percent and my sanity.

RACHEL
(supportive)
He's a good actor, Mr. Stone.
Can't you give him another chance?

ZIGGY
Looks like you have one fan left,
David.

David stands from the chair.

He feels as if his heart has been ripped from his chest.

RACHEL
I'm so sorry, David. Anything I
can do?

DAVID
(pathetic)
I could use a hug.

RACHEL

Oh, sure.

Rachel affectionately hugs him. She starts to pull away from their hug, but David holds on to her.

DAVID

Just another minute.

RACHEL

(uneasy)

Any longer and I'm going to start to charge you.

Rachel tries to squirm out of David's long, uncomfortable hug.

ZIGGY

Alright, already! Goodbye, David!

David leaves the office.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CAMPBELL HOUSE - NIGHT

6

David, somber, watches a scene from Paranoia play on a TV. Mrs. Campbell enters, and notices her son's body language. David stops the video.

MRS. CAMPBELL

Are you all right?

DAVID

(needy)

I was a good actor, wasn't I?

MRS. CAMPBELL

You are a great actor.

DAVID

Ziggy Stone didn't think so, at least, not anymore.

MRS. CAMPBELL

(supportive)

Then find a new agent, start over.

DAVID

No one will touch me, Mom.

MRS. CAMPBELL
Says who, Ziggy Stone? Does he
speak for all agents?

DAVID
He knows the industry, he knows
talent.

MRS. CAMPBELL
So have you given up on acting?

DAVID
I don't want to. I still love it,
even though my heart hasn't been
in it.

MRS. CAMPBELL
Then what?

DAVID
If I got a regular job, can I
stay?

MRS. CAMPBELL
(sarcastic)
Nice try, but I haven't changed my
mind on that.

She holds David's hand in hers.

MRS. CAMPBELL (CONT'D)
(caring)
Go back to the Stone Agency, make
them hire you back, or you'll be
miserable. I'm too old to deal
with an older, more crankier
version of you.

DAVID
What if he's right, and I just
don't see it?

MRS. CAMPBELL
Do you think he's right?

DAVID
(confident)
No...he's wrong. I'm going to call
Ziggy right now.

Mrs. Campbell lets his hand go as David leaves the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CAMPBELL HOUSE - NIGHT

7

David re-enters the room.

His mother patiently awaits the outcome of the phone call.

DAVID

He's left his office already. He's a guest on the Ron Martin late night show. It's to promote some award he's getting next month.

MRS. CAMPBELL

What will you do?

David mind races for a plan.

DAVID

(motivated)

I'm going to the show, I've got no choice. I'll get in the audience and get him to take me back.

MRS. CAMPBELL

Isn't that show taped live?

DAVID

Doesn't matter, I need to save my career, although begging to be re-hired on live TV does sound scary.

Mrs. Campbell holds her keys in her hand as David takes them from her.

MRS. CAMPBELL

(softly)

Go.

INT. THEATER - RON MARTIN SHOW - NIGHT - LATER

8

David enters the lobby with a portfolio pad under his arm.

He pretends to be on his cellphone.

David tries to walk passed a SECURITY GUARD, who stops him.

SECURITY GUARD

Name, sir?

DAVID

Hold on a minute...I'm on the phone!

SECURITY GUARD
(stern)

Name?

DAVID
(annoyed)

Mark Smith, I'm Ziggy Stone's
assistant, and I'm late, so...

SECURITY GUARD
I have to check the list.

He looks at a clipboard.

DAVID
He's already pissed I'm not
inside, and this doesn't help.
Heads roll when Mr. Stone is mad.
Do you want to lose your job over
this? You think your wife will
understand when you get home?

The guard frowns.

SECURITY GUARD
Go ahead.

David puts his phone back to his ear and walks passed him
towards the stage area.

INT. SOUND STAGE - THEATER - RON MARTIN SHOW - NIGHT 9

David sits quietly into a seat in the audience.

The live show has started.

RON MARTIN, (40's) good-looking in a suit, charismatic, sits
behind a desk and interviews Ziggy.

RON
You've been an agent for top
talent in the industry for close
to forty years, and next week,
you'll receive the agent of the
decade award. What's that feel
like?

ZIGGY
(empathy)
I've been blessed Ron, to work in
this business for so long, getting
to know some wonderful people...and
dodging those who aren't.

The audience laughs, but David is nervous.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

This is the first time I'm in front of a camera, it feels good.

RON

Well, you've certainly earned this honor, for all you've done to protect your clients rights, but what about those who sometimes deserve a second chance? I'm sure it hasn't always been a smooth road.

ZIGGY

Second, third, a fourth chance, who keeps count?

The audience laughs again.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Understand the talent, and have patience, that makes a good agent...

Ziggy puts his left hand next to his mouth to imitate telling a secret.

He looks at the audience.

ZIGGY

That's between us, folks

David stands up.

DAVID

(desperate)

You have to take me back, Ziggy!

RON

Who said that?

ZIGGY

What?

DAVID

I'm won't leave my seat, and I won't hurt anyone...I just want to work again!

Ziggy looks to the crowd, spots David, and rolls his eyes.

ZIGGY
(embarrassed)
Oh, shit.

Three security guards move towards David.

Ron spots the guards and puts his hand up.

RON
(intrigued)
Wait, it's okay! Who are you sir?!

DAVID
I'm David Campbell

The audience stares at him as a camera swings around in his direction.

RON
Tell us your story, please.

ZIGGY
Don't!

DAVID
(pathetic)
I've been down on my luck lately..

RON
You're an actor?

DAVID
Yes, and I...

He notices Ziggy covers his face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Ziggy let me go, he had every right to... I failed him as a client, lost my way, made mistakes, and all I want is a second chance you just talked about.

The audience sighs with compassion and looks at Ziggy for an answer.

RON
Well, Ziggy, what do you say?

Ziggy rubs his face, then smiles to the camera.

ZIGGY
(exasperated)
(MORE)

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Sure.

David smiles as the crowd claps with approval.

RON

There it is, another great moment
on the Ron Martin Late Show!

INT. THEATER - BACK STAGE - NIGHT - LATER

10

David waits for Ziggy.

Ziggy walks up to him and grabs his arm.

ZIGGY

What the hell was that stunt? You
almost ruined my appearance!

DAVID

(smug)

It's acting, Ziggy.

He stares at David as he suddenly realizes he's been played.

ZIGGY

(enlightened)

Oh...you son of a bitch, you planned
all of this?

DAVID

I was desperate, didn't have a
choice.

Ziggy paces, frustrated, then turns back to David, a smile on
his face.

ZIGGY

That took some balls...but it paid
off, you got me. Nice job.

DAVID

Okay, what do you have for me?

ZIGGY

(apprehensive)

There's one script, nobody wants
it...you have to understand where
it's located.

DAVID

(desperate)

I don't care, I want it!

ZIGGY
David, It's Ukraine.

DAVID
Where's that?

ZIGGY
Russia.

DAVID
(puzzled)
Oh, okay.

ZIGGY
See, it's a dead job.

DAVID
No, I still want it, I need it.

ZIGGY
There's a threat of war going on
in parts of the area, no one in
the right mind would work over
there right now.

DAVID
(concerned)
Is it bad where I'll be?

ZIGGY
Close to it, but no.

DAVID
(bravado)
Piece of cake, I got this!

ZIGGY
If you take this job, you'll have
to cover all your own expenses,
air fare, hotel, everything. I'm
not going to front a dime.

DAVID
(sincere)
I'll work something out...thank you,
Ziggy, I can never repay you for
this.

ZIGGY
Yes, you can, just go make a great
movie, and come back in one piece.
I'll have the agency forward the
director of the film your head
shot.

The two men hug.

DAVID
(excited)
I have to pack, I'm acting again!

David leaves as Ziggy shakes his head.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CAMPBELL HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

11

David checks his luggage.

His mother enters the room.

MRS. CAMPBELL
(concern)
So you're going through with this?

DAVID
Yes, I booked a flight last night for this afternoon. I know this is a gamble, but it's the last hand I can play.

MRS. CAMPBELL
A poker euphemism?

DAVID
(lighthearted)
Seemed right for the occasion.

MRS. CAMPBELL
How long will you be gone for?

DAVID
I'm not sure, depends on how long it takes to finish the film.

MRS. CAMPBELL
(anxious)
I have read it is still dangerous over there.

DAVID
The studio is in a pretty safe area. I should be okay.

MRS. CAMPBELL
"Should" does not instill confidence in a mother who worries about her son.

DAVID
(nervous)

It's a chance I have to take. I'm being realistic, this could be my last shot. I know it's a risk, and it's reckless, I know I can't afford it, but I'll use what money I have saved. I have to try, for my own piece of mind.

Mrs. Campbell hugs David tightly.

She reaches into her dress pocket and removes an envelope.

MRS. CAMPBELL
(sincere)

It's what I could afford to give you.

DAVID
You don't have to...

MRS. CAMPBELL
Yes I do.

David places the envelope into his bag.

DAVID
(humble)

I'll make you proud and pay you back.

MRS. CAMPBELL
(humor)

With twenty percent interest.

DAVID
That's a bit steep.

MRS. CAMPBELL
You go, and you find David, my son, the actor.

David picks up his bags.

DAVID
Wish me luck?

MRS. CAMPBELL
You won't need it, just be you.

As David leaves, he turns back, and fully realizes his situation as he laughs.

DAVID
(excited)
I'm going to Russia!

His mother wipes the tears from her eyes.

:INSERT PLANE SCENES ALREADY SHOT

EXT. ODESSA STREET - DAY - LATER

12

A cab comes to a halt.

David exits, a bag across his shoulder.

He shouts to the driver.

DAVID
(annoyed)
Hey, are you going to help with
the suitcases?

The driver, (30's) overweight, less than interested in much of anything, looks at him with a blank expression on his face.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Okay, at least pop the trunk.

The trunk to the cab opens.

David takes a suitcase out.

DAVID (CONT'D)
How much do I owe you?

The Driver points at his meter.

David's eyes pop out with surprise.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(annoyed)
Damn that's a lot. Does it always
cost that much from the airport?

The Driver fakes a smile and holds out his hand.

David counts out some cash and hands it to the driver.

The driver speeds away and causes the rear door to slam shut.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Hey, my change!

Disgusted, he makes his way into a hotel.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

13

David stands at the hotel's front desk.

The CLERK, (30's) brunette, pretty, spots him.

CLERK
How can I help you?

DAVID
Checking in, last name Campbell.

The Clerk smirks as she looks at David.

CLERK
An American, right?

DAVID
Yep, that's me. Why?

CLERK
(flirtatious)
Americans are fun, they spend
money. How long will you be here,
boss?

DAVID
I'm not sure. Can't I just pay as
I go?

The Clerk chuckles.

CLERK
Not here. Lots of tourists and
businessmen fly in this week.
You'll have to book one week at
least. No refunds.

David swallows his spit.

DAVID
(anxious)
A week? What's the rate?

The clerk hands David a bill and he looks at it wide-eyed.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This is pretty steep. Can't you do a deal?

CLERK

This is our special rate for Americans. It's a good deal.

DAVID

(humor)

For Bill Gates maybe.

The Clerk smiles.

CLERK

That's funny. Are you going to use a credit card?

DAVID

Cash.

David hands the money to the clerk. The clerk hands him back the room key.

CLERK

(suggestive)

I'll get someone to help with your bags. By the way, you should check out the socials while your here. Americans love it.

DAVID

(curious)

A social?

CLERK

Yeah, beautiful girls, food and drink, music. It's got everything.

DAVID

I'll be too busy.

CLERK

If you saw the women there, you would make the time.

DAVID

Like I said, too busy.

CLERK

(inquisitive)

So women not your thing? You could find a guy at a social.

DAVID
I'm not here for a girlfriend or a
wife.

CLERK
Just to blow off some steam then?

DAVID
You take a percentage from these
socials?

The clerk smiles and winks.

CLERK
Smart guy. But seriously, check it
out. A man with money could be
shown heaven. I shit you not.

David grabs his luggage, shakes his head, and walks to the
elevator.

He presses a button.

The clerk shouts to him.

CLERK
You sure you don't want help with
your bag!

David turns around.

DAVID
How much?

CLERK
A generous tip?

DAVID
No thanks.

The elevator DINGS as the door opens.

David enters and the door closes behind him.

The Clerk's smile fades.

CLERK
Tight ass Americans.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

14

David unpacks his suitcase.

He takes the envelope with the money in it out.

David counts out an amount and puts it into his wallet.

He looks at a picture in the wallet of BETH, (40's) his ex-wife, pretty, a glowing smile, and ANDY, (7) his son, cute, happy, and looks like his dad.

:FLASHBACK

EXT. PARK - DAY

15

David and Andy sit on a bench.

ANDY

Daddy, can we go play on the monkey bars?

DAVID

Sure buddy, in a minute. I want to ask you something.

ANDY

What?

DAVID

Do you get mad when daddy goes away to work?

ANDY

Yeah, but then you come back.

DAVID

Why do you get mad? You remember that's daddy's job, right? I have to go away sometimes.

ANDY

You go away a lot Daddy, and you always leave early.

DAVID

Yeah, but I have to do those things for you and mommy.

ANDY

Sometimes mommy cries when you leave.

David opens his mouth to reply but thinks before he does.

DAVID
She does? I didn't know... I...

ANDY
Yeah, but I say, don't cry mommy,
daddy will be back.

DAVID
You know I never want you and
Mommy to cry.

ANDY
I don't cry daddy, I just get mad
when you go away.

DAVID
Well, I don't want you to be mad
either. I want you and mommy to be
happy.

ANDY
We are happy when your home,
daddy.

David's eyes tear up a little.

ANDY (CONT'D)
Daddy, can we go to the monkey
bars now?

DAVID
Yeah, let's go.

David hugs Andy.

They leave the bench.

:END FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

16

David pulls the lining inside the suitcase and makes a small
hole.

He slides the envelope inside it, closes and locks it.

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

17

David walks onto a studio set and smiles as he looks around.
Make up artists work on actors.

Actors rehearse lines with each other.

Prop crews move set pieces around.

David takes a breath, he feels at home.

OLEG (O.S)
Why the fuck are you on my set?!

OLEG (40's) tall, skinny, confident and brash, approaches David.

DAVID
The director, right?

David holds out his hand to shake Oleg's, but he just looks at it.

OLEG
(confident)
Yes, Oleg, the director. Who are you?

DAVID
David Campbell, the actor from the Stone Agency.

Oleg gives David a blank stare as if he's never heard of him.

DAVID
From the United States?

OLEG
No way you are David Campbell.

David smiles nervously.

DAVID
Yes, I am.

OLEG
(annoyed)
Bullshit!

DAVID
(defensive)
Don't you think I know who I am?

OLEG

No, no, you are not. Wait here.

Oleg storms away from David.

David throws out his hands in disbelief.

DAVID

(frustrated)

What the fuck is going on here?

THOMAS (O.S.)

David! Is that you?

David swings around to see, THOMAS, (60's) salt and pepper hair, good looks, a sincere smile, approach him.

DAVID

(happy)

Tom? It is you. Great to see you again.

The two men hug.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This is terrific. What's it been, seven or eight years since I saw you?

THOMAS

(excited)

Over ten years, at the film festival in Toronto.

DAVID

No way, all those years? Jesus! How are you?

THOMAS

Great, steady work, which I don't need to tell you, is the name of this game.

David shrugs in agreement.

DAVID

Yeah, I saw that picture you put out last year. That was good.

THOMAS

(complementary)

Yeah, but not as good as the two films we did back in the day. Now those were classics.

DAVID

Those were good times. You were always a great actor, Tom.

THOMAS

Thanks, man.

DAVID

I didn't know you were in this film. Ziggy said nobody wanted to do this movie cause of the war over here.

THOMAS

We need to work and the war isn't near us, but sometimes you hear things at night.

DAVID

(nervous)

What things?

THOMAS

The occasional gunshot, or something explodes.

DAVID

Explodes?!

THOMAS

In the distance, not near here.

DAVID

Ziggy said we were safe!

THOMAS

(comforting)

We are, man, it's just random stuff. Normal life for people who live here.

DAVID

(anxious)

We don't live here, so...not normal for me!

THOMAS

It's okay, I've been here for a week and I'm in one piece.

DAVID

I needed a better greeting Tom, not "hey, how've you been, you might get shot!"

THOMAS

We won't get shot. Things will be fine. Besides, you read the script, right? I think this film is going to be something special. A game changer for sure.

DAVID

The script is really good.

There's an awkward silence between them that seems like an eternity.

THOMAS

I heard about everything that happened with you and I just wanted to say...

DAVID

(defensive)

Not now, Tom. Not here, okay?

THOMAS

Okay, I can respect that. I just meant if you want to talk about it.

DAVID

Tom, please!

Another tense, silent moment.

Thomas changes the subject.

THOMAS

Have you met Oleg yet?

DAVID

(sarcastic)

Yeah, I met him. He said I wasn't David Campbell and told me to wait here.

THOMAS

Then who are you supposed to be?

They share a laugh.

OLEG (O.S)

Here, like I said, you are not David Campbell!

Oleg storms up to David and hands a head-shot photo.

David is at least twenty years younger in the photo.
He is shocked.

DAVID
(embarrassed)
Wait a second, the agency must
have sent the wrong head shot.

OLEG
I wanted that David Campbell, not
his father!

DAVID
Just let me call Ziggy Stone.
He'll straighten all of this out.

David grabs his cellphone from his pocket.

OLEG
(dismissive)
Don't bother, I don't have any
other part for you in my film.

DAVID
(desperate)
Look, I came from the United
States to make this picture.
Just let me call him.

David holds the phone to his ear.

THOMAS
Listen, Oleg, David's a great
actor. You'd be lucky to have him
in your film.

OLEG
Thomas, you are a nice man. I like
you, but this is between me and
older David Campbell.

David hands Oleg the cellphone.

DAVID
I got him. I have Ziggy Stone on
the phone, here.

OLEG
(annoyed)
Hello? Why did you send me the
wrong head shot?!

Oleg walks away with David's phone in his hand.

DAVID
Where's he going with my phone?

THOMAS
(concern)
I wouldn't worry about that now.
You'd better hope Ziggy can talk
Oleg into using you.

DAVID
Ziggy will. One thing Ziggy can
do, is sell. He could talk an
Eskimo living in Alaska into
buying snow.

Oleg returns.

He hands David his cellphone.

OLEG
I have a part for you. It does not
shoot until tomorrow, so go back
to the hotel and be on set tomorrow
morning at seven. Don't be late.

DAVID
(elated)
Okay, great. Fantastic. I'll be
here. Thank you.

Oleg shouts as he walks away.

OLEG
Seven in the morning! No party
tonight! No socials!

DAVID
What is it with these socials?

THOMAS
Just steer clear of them, they're
trouble. I have to practice lines.
Catch up tomorrow.

Thomas leaves.

DAVID
Was it something I said?

INT. BAR - DAY

18

David sits at a bar, rather dark and atmospheric, not very busy.

He motions to the BARTENDER, (30's) moody and cautious, odd for a bartender.

DAVID
Can I have a Long Island Ice Tea?

BARTENDER
What?

DAVID
A long Island Ice Tea.

BARTENDER
What is that?

DAVID
(sarcastic)
You don't know how to make a Long
Island Ice Tea? Here, I'll walk
you through it.

BARTENDER
You want Vodka?

DAVID
No, although Vodka's in it, but I
want a...

DOUGLAS, (50's) plain look, average build, nothing that stands out, sits next to David.

DOUGLAS
(helpful)
I'm sorry, I overheard you.

Douglas orders in Russian.

The Bartender walks away and prepares a drink.

DOUGLAS
I ordered you a Vodka and
cranberry. I hope you don't mind.
If you're going to have any luck
with drinks here, you'd best keep
it simple.

DAVID
Thanks.

DOUGLAS
I'd say beer's the easiest, vodka
and whiskey to forget your
troubles. I'm Douglas by the way.

Douglas holds out his hand and David shakes it.

DAVID
David.

DOUGLAS
Have we met before?

DAVID
(smug)
No, but I'm an actor, so maybe
you've seen one of my films.

The Bartender returns with David's drink.

DOUGLAS
You were the captain in that film
on the airplane... with the killer
on board. What was the name?

DAVID
Flight Plan Five. It was a cheap
movie, but it paid the rent.

DOUGLAS
(supportive)
I liked it.

DAVID
You and the other hundred people
who saw it.

DOUGLAS
So what are you doing here?

DAVID
I'm in a film.

David sips his drink.

DOUGLAS
Hey, that's great. Go where the
work is, am I right?

DAVID
Sometimes, yes, although Odessa is
a stretch. You live here?

DOUGLAS

(happy)

Oh I moved here about fifteen years ago, and I love it. The people, the culture, it's really an adventure every day.

DAVID

Sounds good.

DOUGLAS

You all set with a hotel?

DAVID

Yeah, I'm good, although things are really expensive here. I've just arrived and already I've burned a hole in my pocket.

DOUGLAS

Well, different country, different lifestyle. A lot of tourists come here at this time of year, lots of businessmen, and the prices go up. Between you and me, you need to be careful. They spot you as an outsider and their prices really go up, if you know what I mean.

David nods.

DAVID

Good thing I'm only here long enough to make the film.

DOUGLAS

How long is that?

DAVID

Not sure. I'm supposed to be on set tomorrow, early.

DOUGLAS

I wanted to invite you to my social tonight.

Douglas slides an invitation to the social in front of David.

He picks it up and reads it.

DAVID

(inquisitive)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

You folks here really push these socials, huh?

DOUGLAS

It's a way of life here, and a game changer for many men. My social is called the Garden of Eden, as you can see on the invitation.

DAVID

A game changer?

DOUGLAS

Yes, you see most men come to these socials to look for a wife, a companion, someone to spend their life with. These women at the socials are so grateful just to have the opportunity at a different life, they will do anything you ask.

DAVID

So they're desperate?

DOUGLAS

Aren't we all, for something?

DAVID

What's so bad about Odessa that they want to get out of here?

DOUGLAS

Not bad, limited. Ukraine has a proud heritage...a rich history, but compared to other countries, it lacks opportunity.

DAVID

Hoping on a plane with a stranger just for opportunity? Sounds like a stretch.

DOUGLAS

You're an actor, don't you follow opportunities? You travel to work, and better your life. It's very similar.

David ponders Douglas' words, then shakes his head no.

DAVID

I told everyone else who mentioned this to me before you, I'm not interested.

DOUGLAS

(seductive)

Why don't you have some fun while you work here? Think about it, a party, where dozens upon dozens of beautiful women who want to meet you, talk to you, and are already interested in you. None of those awkward dates where you just don't know where you stand with the woman. It's a sure-fire thing.

DAVID

Sounds like prostitution to me.

Douglas sips his drink.

DOUGLAS

We all work in jobs that use us in different ways. It happens over and over. We are all prostitutes in some form.

The Bartender slides another drink in front of David.

He gives the bartender a look and points to his first drink, still half full.

DAVID

(defensive)

Don't get me wrong, it sounds like a lot of fun, really, but this film is very important to me, to my career, and I have to be on set early. I can't afford to..

DOUGLAS

Fuck it up?

David nods.

DOUGLAS

Look, keep the invitation. It has all the information you need. Take a leap of faith.

DAVID
So is this what you do, promote
and host socials?

DOUGLAS
(humble)
You got me. But I can say I
contribute to the development of
Odessa. Give something back to
community.

David smiles.

DAVID
Like a mayor?

DOUGLAS
Sure, why not. I have to run and
get everything prepared for
tonight. I really hope to see you
there later.

David raises his glass.

DAVID
Thanks for the drinks.

As Douglas leaves, he bumps into another man, YURI, (40's)
has a hard life look to him.

They stare at one another.

Yuri sits near David and orders drink in Russian.

YURI
Are you American?

DAVID
Who's asking?

YURI
You're here for the socials,
right?

DAVID
(sarcastic)
Again with the socials? I didn't
catch your name, comrade.

YURI
(angry)

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

Don't act like that is not why you are here. That is what you do. You come here and steal our women away from us.

DAVID

Who's us?

YURI

Any man from here. My Svetta is gone because of the socials, because of men like you. I hate them.

DAVID

What's a Svetta?

YURI

The love of my life. An American just like you came here, flashed his money, promised her a better life. One without me...now she is gone.

Yuri knocks back his drink and slams the glass on the counter.

He orders another.

DAVID

(comforting)

Listen, man, before you get anymore worked up, there's probably one hundred and fifty million men in the United States, and only one of them took your Survetta.

YURI

Svetta.

DAVID

Point is, it wasn't me.

YURI

You are all alike. That is why you are here.

DAVID

No, I'm not. I'm here to work, not go to any goddamn social!

Yuri grabs David's head and hits his face off the bar counter.

YURI
 You Americans are so loud and
 pushy! Maybe now you listen!

David grabs his face as he stares at the Bartender.

He hands David a small cocktail napkin, which would barely
 cover his nose.

David snatches it from him and gives him a look.

DAVID
 (angry)
 What the hell is this gonna do?

David leans over the bar.

He sticks his nose right in front of the Bartender.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Is there blood? I don't like
 blood.

The Bartender nervously looks quickly up his nose.

He shakes his head no.

YURI
 You make me so angry!

DAVID
 I'm supposed to be angry, you
 almost broke my nose!

Yuri's demeanor changes with the liquor he consumed.

YURI
 (solemn)
 I know you are not to blame for
 what happened to me. I have a
 temper and I drink. It gets me
 into trouble.

David stands from the bar.

YURI (CONT'D)
 Sit.

DAVID
 (annoyed)
 So you can hit me again?

YURI
 I apologize.

David looks Yuri over, and sits again.

YURI

I walk through the streets around here and all I see are American men who want our women. They think they can buy anyone. Odessa has lost its soul. Sold it for a quick buck.

DAVID

(cautious)

Can I tell you something, and I hope you don't try to hit me again?

YURI

I said I'm sorry.

DAVID

Your girl, sorry, svetta, maybe she needed an excuse to leave... to get out and this American gave it to her.

YURI

They are just parties after parties with women who will do anything for a man who isn't from here. The women...our women are beautiful, but ugly too, on the inside.

DAVID

They can't all be ugly?

YURI

Maybe not all, but the women at the socials are different.

DAVID

Well, good thing I'm not going. I do have to leave though, I have an early shoot.

YURI

Shoot? Are you a hit man?

DAVID

No... an actor, unless I lose the part over this.

David gestures at the part of his face that hit the bar.
He looks at the bartender.

DAVID (CONT'D)
You have a mirror back there?

The bartender shakes his head no.

DAVID
It was worth a try.

YURI
(indifferent)
I've seen worse. Good luck on your
movie.

DAVID
One more time with your name?

YURI
I didn't give it to you.

DAVID
(hastily)
Okay then, bye.

David leaves the bar.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

19

David paces around the room practicing stress relief
exercises.

He shakes his hands and makes a few loud noises.

Another hotel guest on the other side of his room wall pounds
on it.

GUEST (O.C.)
Keep quiet!

DAVID
Sorry!

David picks up a script from his bed.

He practices his lines.

DAVID
You should go..you should just
go..maybe you should go. Ugh!

Frustrated, he drops the script on his bed.

David picks up the remote control to turn on the TV.

David changes the channels, as he becomes annoyed because he can't understand the shows.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Not even a subtitle.

He turns off the television.

A loud boom, outside, far away, startles him.

David moves a curtain to look out his window.

He sees nothing, then closes the curtain.

David picks up his cell phone and nervously dials it.

DAVID
Hi Rachel, is Ziggy there?

SPLIT SCREEN
WITH DAVID AND
RACHEL USING
PHONES:

RACHEL
(happy)
David, hi! No, he left the office
already. What's up?

DAVID
(anxious)
I think I just heard an explosion
outside!

Rachel multitasks as she talks to David, her attention divided.

RACHEL
Explosion?! Don't be silly! It's
probably a car backfiring.

DAVID
I don't think so!

RACHEL
C'mon David, it's nothing. How's
the movie going?

DAVID
I haven't done a scene yet, and my
life is already in danger!

Rachel shuffles papers around on her desk.

She mumbles to herself.

RACHEL
Now where did I put that?

DAVID
Hello?!

RACHEL
David, save that drama for the
movie, you're fine, hon!

DAVID
Ziggy said it wouldn't be
dangerous!

The annoyed guest on the other side of David's wall pounds on
it again.

GUEST (O.C.)
Keep it down!

DAVID
(flustered)
Alright, sorry!

RACHEL
Don't be sorry, just get some
sleep, okay?

DAVID
Not you...the other guy...oh forget
it!

RACHEL
Okay, David, I gotta go. Call if
you need anything, byeee!

SPLIT SCENE
ENDS:

DAVID
Wait...!

Rachel hangs up.

David throws his cellphone on the bed in frustration.

He looks out his window through the curtain again.

David spots the social invitation on a dresser.

He picks up the invitation and stares at it, then to the window, then back at it.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(nervous)
I'm getting out of here.

INT. SOCIAL - NIGHT

20

David walks into the social.

Fun, sexy music plays.

The lights inside are purposely dim.

The theme of the room is a beautiful garden.

Chairs and tables surrounded by fake trees, statues, and artificial grass.

Dozens of young, beautiful women are everywhere, blondes, brunettes, redheads.

Each woman wears a name tag on her clothes.

Men of every shape and size are at the social, and most aren't in the same league as the women in the room.

A COWBOY, (55) overweight, sweaty, and with a Texas size attitude, has a young woman on his knee.

COWBOY
Hang on tight, little lady! I'm a
buckin' bronco tonight!

A MUSLIM MAN, (40's) dark-skinned, slender, adorned in expensive men's jewelry, tries to impress a WOMAN (30's) with conversation that can only be called entitled.

MUSLIM MAN
In my country, you would be
treated like a queen.

The Woman giggles, then answers him with the help of a TRANSLATOR, (20's) smart and attractive.

TRANSLATOR

If she goes back home with you,
does she have to cover her face
with a veil?

MUSLIM MAN

You will wear whatever shows off
your beauty best.

David is in awe of the sights that surround him.

Douglas approaches him.

He puts his arm around David's shoulder.

DOUGLAS

(inviting)

So glad you decided to come! What
do you think of my Garden of Eden?

DAVID

(overwhelmed)

It's a lot to take in at once.

DOUGLAS

The key is, don't overthink it.
Just have fun. Do you know why I
chose to call this the Garden of
Eden?

DAVID

Adam and Eve?

Douglas smiles and claps David on the back.

DOUGLAS

Exactly, no one should be alone.

DAVID

At least those who can afford it.

DOUGLAS

Look who caught up! These men come
here to find a new life and a new
wife, for the right price.

DAVID

I'm don't need a wife.

DOUGLAS

Relax, people are here for
different reasons. Look for
someone to be with, while you are

(MORE)

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
 here in Ukraine. Just have some
 fun.

DAVID
 I guess I could stretch my legs.

DOUGLAS
 (encouraging)
 That's the spirit. I'll introduce
 you to a wonderful woman right
 over here. Get your feet wet, so
 to speak.

Douglas leads him to a table.

Two women, ANYA, (30's) gorgeous, could easily be a model,
 and NADIA, (20's) her translator, savvy and flirtatious, sit
 side-by-side, and smile at the men's approach.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
 This is Anya and her translator,
 Nadia, in case you two have any
 trouble with dialect, but love is
 the universal language, so you'll
 be fine, right?

ANYA
 (seductive)
 Hello.

NADIA
 I will help translate for you.

David is nervous around a woman like Anya and shouts.

DAVID
 Eh... I'm David!

Anya speaks in Russian, then the translator speaks.

NADIA
 (flirtatious)
 She say's she's not deaf.

DAVID
 Sorry. I'm new to this.

Nadia translates for Anya.

NADIA
 Anya asks what do you do for a
 living?

DAVID
I'm an actor.

Nadia translates.

Anya's eyes light up with excitement.

She speaks.

NADIA
(happy)
She says you are very handsome,
and famous?

David blushes, opens his mouth, but is so taken by her beauty that he says nothing.

Anya reaches and touches David's hand.

David freezes with anxiety.

DAVID
(nervous)
Thanks. I...what does Anya do?
Actually, don't answer that, I
know what she does.

ANYA
What?

She shrugs her shoulders in confusion.

Douglas arrives back at the table.

DOUGLAS
Excuse us a moment, ladies.

Douglas pulls David from the table.

DOUGLAS
(confused)
What's going on? Why do you want
to fuck this up? I told you this
is a sure thing.

DAVID
(anxious)
I haven't had to do this in a long
time, meet a woman, get to know
them. Guess I'm rusty at it.

Douglas laughs.

DOUGLAS
 (supportive)
 You're not bringing her home to
 meet mom and dad! You want her,
 she's yours. Minimal effort
 required, get it?

Douglas points in the direction of the Cowboy.

DOUGLAS
 He's a farmer from Idaho. He comes
 here every year for the past four
 years.

He points to another man.

DOUGLAS
 A CPA from Chicago. This will be
 his third time at one of my
 socials. He's been on so many
 dates in those three years, I lost
 track.

DAVID
 I get it, but... is it true love
 they want, really?

DOUGLAS
 (ideological)
 I mean what is love anyway? We get
 to know someone, slap a tag of
 marriage on it, then convince
 ourselves that we can't live
 without them, but are we in love,
 or afraid to be alone? These men
 get companionship. Real
 companionship. What else do we
 need?

DAVID
 I'm not sure this is for me.

David starts to walk away

DOUGLAS
 No you don't.

Douglas grabs his arm.

DOUGLAS
 (supportive)
 You're an actor, right? Act!
 Pretend for them. Be confident. Be
 successful.

DAVID
Confident, I can do that.

He walks back to the table.

INT. SOCIAL - DIFFERENT ROOM - NIGHT - LATER 21

David laughs with Anya and Nadia over drinks.

Anya gropes David with affection.

NADIA
Anya can't believe you know Brad
Pitt.

David smiles, but avoids eye contact.

DAVID
(narcissistic)
Oh yeah, Brad and I have done a
few films together. I taught him
everything he knows. Now if you
ladies will excuse me, I must
mingle. I may be back.

He leaves the table.

Anya stares at David with a disappointed look on her face.

INT. SOCIAL - DIFFERENT TABLE - NIGHT 22

David sits at another table with another beautiful woman and
an attractive TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR
She asks if she can come back to
the United States with you and
ride on your yacht?

David takes a sip from his drink.

DAVID
(smug)
I'll see if I can squeeze her in.
A lot of people want to be on the
"Ocean King".

The woman hands David a piece of paper.

DAVID
What's this?

TRANSLATOR
 (seductive)
 A number to give to Douglas when
 you leave. He will arrange a date
 between you two.

DAVID
 (excited)
 Okay, thanks. I've got to run,
 it's a big room.

He walks through the social, a swag in his step.

INT. SOCIAL - DIFFERENT TABLE - NIGHT

23

David sits at another table with a new woman and TRANSLATOR.

TRANSLATOR
 You won an Oscar?

DAVID
 I don't like to brag, but, yeah I
 did.

TRANSLATOR
 So you are famous?

DAVID
 Hey, would a guy who works with
 George Clooney and Tom Cruise be
 called famous? She can decide
 that. Go ahead, you can tell her.

TRANSLATOR
 (infatuated)
 To hell with her, tell me more
 about how rich you are.

Under the table, the translator rubs her foot along David's
 leg.

David smiles as the girls.

He shouts in confidence.

DAVID
 I'm unstoppable!

David walks around the social.

He finds Anya's table.

She sees him and waves him over.

David sits as Anya speaks to Nadia.

NADIA

Anya is very happy you came back to see her. She was worried you had left.

DAVID

(confident)

Not a chance. I would like to see her tomorrow.

Nadia translates, and Anya answers.

NADIA

She would love that. She says you are very handsome and she would love to be seen with you.

DAVID

Thank you. She's beautiful. It'd be my honor.

Nadia translates David's reply.

Anya holds his hand.

She hands him a piece of paper.

DAVID

The best gift I could get.

David spots Douglas.

DAVID

Excuse me ladies, be right back.

David catches up with him.

DAVID

(excited)

Douglas!

DOUGLAS

(cheerful)

Hey, look who hung around!

DAVID

You were right. It's unbelievable. Look at these numbers I got.

David shows Douglas the pieces of paper.

DOUGLAS
 (supportive)
 Quite a bit there. The girls must love you. Don't forget to give me those and your phone number before you leave tonight. I'll set up some dates for you. You'll get texts from me with the where and when.

David gives Douglas the numbers.

DAVID
 Here, so I don't forget later. I'd like you to set up a date with Anya first. She's terrific.

DOUGLAS
 She makes quite the impression. Good. I'll have it done for tomorrow.

A loud commotion distracts the men from their conversation.

INT. SOCIAL - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

24

Yuri, drunk, pushes the doorman on his ass.

He yells at several people around him.

YURI
 (angry)
 Why are you all here?! These women don't love any of you! This is horrible!

Douglas approaches Yuri to talk him into a calmer place.

DOUGLAS
 (inviting)
 Okay, let's calm down. You're drunk, my friend.

YURI
 I am drunk, but I'm not your friend. You have these socials and you gather up our women, and give them to strangers! You talk them into doing this!

Douglas speaks to his guests.

The scene is distracting everyone from the social.

DOUGLAS

It's okay everyone. One of our guests has had too much to drink.

YURI

Okay? This is not okay!

Yuri pushes Douglas.

DAVID

Wait a minute! You're from the bar. Why did you come here? You told me you hated these.

YURI

(betrayed)

You...you lied to me! You said you had no time for all of this, yet here you are, doing what these men do!

Two bodyguards, with shaved heads and mean dispositions, grab Yuri and drag him from the room.

YURI

Stop this! It's wrong!

David stares at the door where Yuri was dragged through.

Douglas stands next to him.

DAVID

You Okay?

DOUGLAS

(chipper)

Sure, it'll take more than a sad drunk like Yuri to shake me up.

DAVID

(concern)

Yuri's his name? You know him?

DOUGLAS

Sure, a sad man who's bitter because his girlfriend left him.

DAVID

She was at a social, right? Did you recruit her?

DOUGLAS
 Recruit? These ladies are here
 because they want to be here.
 Yuri's girlfriend wasn't any
 different.

David looks in the direction where Yuri was dragged away.

DAVID
 Will he be alright?

DOUGLAS
 Sure, they'll throw him in the
 street, and he'll go sleep it off
 on a bench somewhere.

DAVID
 In the street? He doesn't deserve
 that.

David tries to follow Yuri.

Douglas stops him.

DOUGLAS
 You can't save everyone David.
 Yuri's his own worst enemy.

The two men return to the social.

INT. DAVID'S HOTEL ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

25

David wakes in his bed, the victim of a violent hangover.

He hears the shower turn off.

DAVID
 (confused)
 Hello?

YANA (O.S.)
 I am almost finished, my love!

YANA, (30's) blonde, sultry and wrapped in a towel, exits the
 bathroom.

YANA
 (flirtatious)
 Hello, sleepy head.

DAVID
 You speak English? There's no
 translator in the closet?

Yana laughs seductively.

YANA
You are funny. Yes, I speak enough
English.

He looks under the bed sheets.

DAVID
Listen, did we, you know?

YANA
Yes, silly. You don't remember?

DAVID
(embarrassed)
Honestly, no. I had a lot to
drink.

YANA
I know. You were very good. How do
you say...a stud.

She leans over and kisses him.

YANA
I have to get dressed now.

Yana takes off her towel in front of David.

He blushes, and tries to not look, but can't help himself.

Yana can see his eyes on her and she teases him, taking her
time to dress.

YANA
(inviting)
It's okay. I don't mind if you
watch.

DAVID
What's your hurry?

YANA
It is late. I must go.

DAVID
Late?

David looks at his cell phone.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(anxious)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Fuck, The shoot this morning! I am
 so late! Sorry.

David jumps out of bed and realizes he has no underwear on.
 He tries to cover his genitals with the t-shirt he has on.

YANA
 I have seen it already.

She playfully laughs again.

INT. CAB - DAY - Moments later

26

David and Yana sit in the backseat.
 He is worried.

DAVID
 Thanks for sharing a cab.

YANA
 Of course.

She kisses David on the cheek.

YANA (CONT'D)
 You are cute. I had fun last
 night.

DAVID
 (embarrassed)
 I'm so sorry I don't remember
 anything.

Yana smiles.

YANA
 You were drunk. It's okay.

DAVID
 Do girls do this a lot after
 socials? Sleep with men they met
 there?

YANA
 Some, but it was different with
 you. I like you. We talked, drank,
 and went to your hotel room.

David's phone pings.

He looks at it.

YANA
What is it?

DAVID
(akward)
Douglas texted me about a date
tonight with Anya. I met her last
night too. I'm sorry I didn't mean
to suggest...

YANA
(calm)
It's okay. I don't mind. Anya is
fun. You will like her. Maybe we
will get together again?

DAVID
(uneasy)
Maybe. You never know, right?
You're no jealous?

YANA
No. Here it is normal for a man to
see different women, to enjoy
himself.

David is awe struck by Yana's attitude.

DAVID
(infatuated)
It's incredible. I've never met
anyone like you.

YANA
You will.

The cab comes to a stop.

YANA
This is where you need to go.

DAVID
(apologetic)
Yes. Thank you for everything. I
think you're terrific. Oh fu... I
don't know your name. I'm so
sorry.

YANA
Yana, don't forget it.

She kisses David passionately.

He pays the CAB DRIVER, (30's) looks younger than his age.

DAVID
 Jesus, these cab rides are
 expensive.

David exits the cab.

CAB DRIVER
 Tourists.

YANA
 So dumb.

The cab driver gives Yana part of his fare.

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

27

David hurries onto the set.

Thomas greets him, and he looks mad.

THOMAS
 (annoyed)
 You're three hours late!

DAVID
 (defensive)
 Yeah, so, let's just get to work.

THOMAS
 David, these people were ready to
 rehearse their lines hours ago.

DAVID
 Look, I've got a massive headache.
 You have any aspirin?

THOMAS
 No, I don't. Oleg's already pissed
 that you're late.

DAVID
 (narcissitic)
 He should be grateful I'm here.
 No other actors besides you and me
 would do the movie.

Oleg's shouts at David from across the set.

OLEG (O.S.)
 Look who finally showed!

DAVID
 I can explain.

Oleg smiles widely.

He holds two cotton swabs up to David's face.

OLEG
Stick these in your nose...fake
blood, now!

A makeup artist quickly joins them with a small bottle and a brush in her hands.

OLEG (CONT'D)
Genius!

David looks confused.

OLEG (CONT'D)
I love it. Chinatown Jake... right?
You see it, yes?

DAVID
Eh... Right.

Oleg paces as he thinks.

He examines David's nose again.

OLEG
Maybe we blacken the eyes too.

The makeup artist nods her head in agreement.

Oleg shouts to David as he walks away.

OLEG
You have ten minutes to rehearse
your lines, then we shoot the
wedding fight scene...oh, and if you
are late again, I fire you!

David looks at Thomas with bewilderment.

The artist applies the fake blood to his nose.

THOMAS
(surprised)
That went better than I thought.

EXT. Studio - south stage - NIGHT

28

A scene from the film Parania plays out.

Oleg looks up from a projector machine after he watches it.

He calls to David.

OLEG
Old David Campbell, come here!

David stands in front of him.

DAVID
(annoyed)
What's up, I was just about to
leave.

OLEG
You were at a social last night,
yes?

DAVID
Look, I already said I was sorry..

OLEG
(cautionary)
They are bad influence on people
like you.

DAVID
(puzzled)
People like me?

OLEG
You cannot handle socials. It made
you late for shoot today. Do
not go to them anymore.

DAVID
(defensive)
With all due respect, I'm a grown
man, and can make my own
decisions.

OLEG
Bad decision, do not go anymore.

Oleg looks back into the projector and ends the conversation.

David looks at him a moment, unsure if he's finished, then
leaves.

INT. RESTAURANT - THAT SAME DAY - NIGHT

29

David and Anya, with Nadia in tow, sit to eat dinner.

Anya speaks to Nadia, but never takes her gorgeous eyes off
of David.

NADIA
 Anya asked if you live in
 California?

DAVID
 No, New York.

Anya and Nadia converse.

NADIA
 Anya asks if it is exciting there?

DAVID
 (exuberant)
 New York, New York! So good they
 named it twice.

She speaks and Nadia translates.

NADIA
 She asked if you would take her
 back to New York with you when you
 leave?

DAVID
 Might be a little soon. We're on
 our first date.

Nadia translates, Anya answers.

NADIA
 She said going to New York would
 be the best thing that happened to
 her.

DAVID
 We'll see how it goes. So, what
 does Anya do for fun?

Nadia translates.

NADIA
 (seductive)
 She said to please a man is fun.

Anya leans over and kisses David.

DAVID
 I agree with her.

NADIA
 She also likes to dance. Perhaps
 you and her will go dancing after
 dinner?

DAVID
Sure, why not.

NADIA
She says you are very handsome.
She can make you happy.

Anya puts her hand on David's knee.

He smiles, as he hasn't felt this alive in a long time.

DAVID
How's everyone's dinner?

NADIA
It's very good. Why do you seem nervous?

DAVID
(anxious)
I guess I'm not used to all of this attention.

NADIA
Can you blame her? You're a famous and attractive. You can give her a good life.

DAVID
(defensive)
I don't want a girlfriend or a wife, just a few dates.

Anya kisses him again.

NADIA
You might need to try harder to convince her of that.

Anya motions to a waiter.

NADIA (CONT'D)
More wine, David?

DAVID
Absolutely.

David can't take his eyes off Anya.

Her beauty captivates him.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT - SHORTLY LATER 30

David, Anya, and Nadia cross the foyer and exit the front door.

A moment later, BORYSKO, (40's) jet black hair, tall man in a suit, meets the manager of the restaurant.

He takes a thick envelope from him and places it inside his jacket.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - SAME NIGHT 31

The club is dimly lite but the lights on the dance floor flash and music pulsates loudly.

The room is packed tightly with hedonistic and indulgent people who dance close together.

Sweat falls from their bodies.

Anya runs her fingers across David's chest and arms as she circles him.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE NIGHTCLUB - THAT SAME NIGHT 32

David grunts as he helps Anya into a cab.

She is passed out.

Nadia gets into the front seat.

He runs to the other side of it and climbs in.

The cab speeds away.

At the front door of the club, Borysko collects money from the doorman.

INT. CAB - MOMENTS LATR 33

David holds Anya awkwardly as she sleeps.

DAVID
(concerned)

You think she'll wake up by the time we get to the hotel? I'd like to spend some more time with her.

NADIA

I don't know. Looks like you wore her out.

David moves some hair that covers Anya's face.

DAVID

I like her a lot.

NADIA

She likes you too. I can tell.

DAVID

Really?

NADIA

Yes, she hasn't asked me about any other men all night. That means she's only interested in you. Would you like to see her again?

DAVID

Yes, I would.

NADIA

I will arrange it with Douglas. Anya will be happy.

DAVID

(vulnerable)

Has Anya gone out with lots of men before me?

NADIA

You shouldn't think of such things. She is with you now, and you had fun.

DAVID

I guess you're right. Everyone has a past. I just wish I knew more about her.

NADIA

Some mystery in a woman's life is good. We are at your hotel.

The cab stops.

David moves his arm from around Anya.

She wakes up.

Nadia speaks to Anya.

ANYA
I will see you tomorrow?

DAVID
(surprised)
Yes...wow, your English...I can't believe it.

Anya kisses David passionately.

ANYA
I learn for you. Good night.

NADIA
Good bye.

DAVID
Bye ladies.

David exits the cab.

It drives away.

David smiles to himself, a little skip in his walk to the hotel door.

INT. FILM STUDIO - NEXT DAY

34

The end of a scene between David and two other actors is stopped by Oleg.

OLEG
(frustrated)
Cut! Stop! Do you like to act?

DAVID
(confused)
Who, me?

OLEG
Yes!

DAVID
Well, I'm an actor, so...

OLEG
I asked you if you like to act,
not what you call yourself.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
Of course.

OLEG
Then why don't you?

DAVID
What?

OLEG
I do not see your passion. When
you say your lines, it feels flat.
Not real.

DAVID
(defensive)
Hey, don't forget, I took this job
because no one else wanted to do
it, and you broke my balls ever
since I got here.

OLEG
(prideful)
My film is not beneath you. You
have shown up on set hung over,
late, and with attitude. You go
through the motions in front of
the camera. Are you here to party
or work?

DAVID
I'm here to work.

OLEG
Then do so. I expect nothing but
the best from my actors. You are
not an exception. Show up tomorrow
and want to act, or you will get
fuck!

DAVID
(confused)
Fuck what?

OLEG
You, fuck!

DAVID
Don't you mean I'm fucked?

OLEG
That's what I said.

David shakes his head in frustration.

:FLASHBACK

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

35

A modernized apartment, not too big or small, but every inch of it a real home.

David works out on a treadmill.

Andy sits on the floor near him and plays with action figures, imitating the sounds of a battle.

DAVID
(winded)
Hey buddy, what'cha doing over there?

Andy glances over his shoulder and smiles.

ANDY
(happy)
Just playin', daddy. How long are you gonna run?

DAVID
A little longer, I gotta stay in shape to make movies.

ANDY
Can I do what you do, daddy? Make movies?

DAVID
(supportive)
You can do anything you want to, buddy.

ANDY
I wanna do what you do.

David stops the treadmill.

DAVID
(tender)
I love you a lot, buddy. You know that, right?

ANDY
Yeah, I know.

DAVID
You could be anything you want to
be.

ANDY
(sincere)
I wanna be like you.

David gets a lump in his throat.

Pride swells in his chest as shown by the expression on his
face.

David sits on a couch.

He motions to Andy to sit next to him, and he climbs up.

DAVID
Okay, your first acting lesson,
ready?

ANDY
(excited)
Yeah!

DAVID
Say lights...camera...action!

ANDY
Lights...camera...action!

DAVID
(supportive)
You're a natural, way to go!

He hugs Andy tight and its filled with love for his son.

The front door opens.

BETH CAMPBELL, (30's) an attractive woman, short hair, and a
terrific smile, but she looks tired, exhausted from a way of
life.

She pushes the door open with bags of groceries in her hands.

BETH
Hey, I'm home! Where are my two
favorite guys?

DAVID
Right here.

Andy runs to his mother and hugs her.

She smiles as she holds him tight.

BETH
(sincere)
Oh, I needed that buddy. How'd you
like to do your mom a favor?

ANDY
Sure.

BETH
Can you pick up your toys and wash
your hands for me?

Andy runs to his toys.

DAVID
How are you?

David kisses Beth, but she turns her cheek towards him to
avoid her lips.

KAREN
(exhausted)
Better now that I'm home. Did you
get started on dinner?

DAVID
(hesitant)
No, I'm sorry, I used the
treadmill and lost track of time.
I have to talk to you though.
Andy, can go wash your hands
please?

Andy runs from the living room.

Beth puts the bags on a table.

She sits down and takes a deep breath.

BETH
(annoyed)
Your leaving early again, right?

DAVID
I have to, I'm sorry, but I didn't
even...

Beth looks at the treadmill with disgust.

BETH
You always use that thing when you
leave earlier than planned.
(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

This happens more and more. You promise you'll be home and then another job comes up and your gone.

DAVID

(defensive)

I have a contract to live up to.

BETH

(frustrated)

What about your responsibility here? With me and Andy? He gets his heart broken every time you leave early, and after your gone, I have to deal with it. It's not fair.

DAVID

(patronizing)

Beth, he already told me he gets a little mad, but then he's fine, so don't make it into something it's not.

BETH

I don't make it up! I'm here, you're not! You don't see it! Your work is more important than us!

DAVID

(aggravated)

I have to work, to support us! Don't you get it? I don't have a choice!

BETH

Every time you walk out that door, you make your choice, David! When you're gone for weeks, you make a choice! You're missing the best parts of Andy's life! You can't get it back! He needs his father!

DAVID

So what, quit? Give it up?

BETH

Yes, teach acting here in the city! You're more than qualified to!

DAVID

(patronizing)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Fine, after this picture wraps,
 I'm done! I'll teach, I'll talk to
 Andy...whatever will make you happy,
 okay?

Beth stares down at the floor, a beaten down woman.

BETH
 Do whatever you like.

She leaves the room.

:END FLASHBACK

INT. DAVID'S HOTEL ROOM - THAT SAME NIGHT

36

David lies on his bed, alone and in despair.

He holds his photo of Karen, Andy and himself.

Another boom sound outside, farther away, causes David to
 drop the photo.

He looks out his window, then picks up his cell phone and
 dials it.

SPLIT SCENE
 WITH DAVID AND
 RACHEL ON
 PHONES:

DAVID
 (anxious)
 Rachel, it's David, where's Ziggy?

RACHEL
 (nonchalant)
 Hi David, How's the shoot going?

Rachel's focus is on her computer.

Her conversation with David is secondary.

DAVID
 It's crazy over here, I think I
 hear explosions!

RACHEL
 (distracted)
 No way, probably just a party
 somewhere, with fireworks.

DAVID
(disbelief)
Really?

RACHEL
(annoyed)
How the hell should I know? I'm
just trying to make you feel
better.

DAVID
Well, you suck at it! Where's
Ziggy?!

The annoyed guest on the other side of David's hotel room
wall pounds on it.

GUEST
(frustrated)
Keep it down!

David pulls the phone to his chest.

DAVID
(annoyed)
God, is your ear against the
wall?!

David puts his cellphone back to his ear.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Please get Ziggy.

RACHEL
(offended)
I'll get him, and don't be such a
pussy.

Rachel hangs up her phone and is replaced by Ziggy.

ZIGGY
David, how's filming?

DAVID
(concerned)
It's nuts here, I hear noises that
sound like cannons.

ZIGGY
Unless you've got back in time to
the revolutionary war, they're not
cannons. I told you about the
skirmishes there between Ukraine
and Russia.

DAVID
You didn't say skirmishes!

ZIGGY
(bored)
Okay, there are skirmishes
sometimes.

DAVID
You said I would be safe.

ZIGGY
You are, now go act.

DAVID
I feel like I might have to join
the Ukraine army or something.

David's imagination conjures an image of himself dressed in
army fatigues.

He shouts and throws a Molotov cocktail.

ZIGGY
David, I'm not flying almost five
thousand miles to hold your hand.
Get some sleep.

DAVID
But Ziggy...

Ziggy hangs up the phone.

David looks towards his hotel room window in fear.

SPLIT SCREEN
WITH DAVID AND
ZIGGY ENDS:

INT. RESTAURANT - THE NEXT NIGHT

37

Anya, Nadia, and David eat at a table.

NADIA
(concerned)
You are very quiet, David. Anya
thinks you don't like her anymore.

DAVID
 (preoccupied)
 Oh, it's not her. Please tell her
 that.

The two woman speak in Russian.

NADIA
 She says she doesn't like to see
 you sad. Sad is boring. She wants
 fun.

DAVID
 (annoyed)
 Just a little down time, okay?

He notices that the women's interests wanes.

David reacts to save the moment.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Nothing to worry about. Who wants
 more wine?

David holds up the empty bottle.

Anya excitedly claps.

She kisses him.

DAVID
 So, Nadia, please don't take
 offense to this, but when am I
 going to have some alone time with
 Anya?

NADIA
 Anya needs me to translate for
 her.

David puts his hand on Anya's.

DAVID
 (romantic)
 What I want doesn't need
 translating.

Nadia opens her mouth to reply and blushes.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Well, I hope not.

NADIA

That will come later, when Anya feels more comfortable with you.

DAVID

(smug)

Well, Yana felt pretty comfortable with me already, so what's Anya's deal?

Anya looks annoyed.

ANYA

Then go to Yana.

She crosses her arms and sulks at the table.

David looks uncomfortable.

DAVID

(puzzled)

She understood me?

NADIA

(insightful)

Some words, yes. Not every woman is the same. Anya likes you a lot. She spends time with you, and gets to know you. You can't just expect sex when you want it.

David shakes his head.

DAVID

(defensive)

Look, I've spent a lot of money so far on our dates, and she's beautiful, so I want to be with her.

NADIA

(supportive)

She is not a prostitute. She is a companion. You may have her as a girlfriend, or wife one day. You are a famous actor, and Anya would leave here with you when you go. She would be loyal to you, and love you.

David looks at Anya and realizes he hurt her feelings.

DAVID
I'm sorry about what I said. I
disrespected you.

Nadia translates for David. Anya kisses him.

ANYA
(seductive)
I still like you.

Anya winks at Nadia as she kisses David again.

INT. BAR - DAY

38

David enters and sees Yuri at the bar.

He sits down.

The bartender looks at him.

BARTENDER
No Long Island Tea.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
I've got it, vodka rocks and
cranberry.

Yuri looks at him.

YURI
Look who it is.

DAVID
Hey, about the other night...

YURI
(disappointed)
Save it. You're like every other
American who comes here.

DAVID
(caring)
I get it, it sucks about your
svetta, and I didn't plan on going
to the social, but the more I
thought about it, why not? It's
fun and I met a nice woman there.

YURI
(frustrated)
Nice woman? You think that? Let me
tell you something. I knew a man
(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

who went to nine socials, but couldn't find a nice woman to love him...he killed himself because he never found a nice woman. The agencies that run socials made a fool out of him, took all his money and left him broken. He was my friend.

David swallows his spit.

The bartender gives David his drink.

He sees the hurt in Yuri's eyes.

DAVID

(comforting)

I...I'm sorry Yuri.

YURI

I may drink a lot, and get angry, but I work hard and do what's right. I loved one woman with all my heart. If she were here, I probably wouldn't drink so much.

Yuri stands from the bar.

DAVID

Hey, maybe you shouldn't leave like this..

David reaches for Yuri, but Yuri brushes him away.

YURI

(defiant)

You do what you like, but I warned you.

Yuri leaves the bar.

The bartender stands in front of David.

David holds up his drink.

DAVID

(annoyed)

It's still full!

INT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT - That same day

39

David and Anya grind against one another on the dance floor.

Both are pretty drunk.

Anya moves to other men.

David watches her, visibly upset.

He tries to call her, but the loud music deafens him.

Anya disappears into the crowd of people.

A worried look crosses David's face.

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

40

David uses his cellphone.

DAVID
(anxious)

Hi Nadia. I've left a few messages with you about getting together with Anya again, but I haven't heard back. Can you call me? I'm not sure what's going on here.

He hangs up the cellphone.

Thomas approaches him.

THOMAS

Hey, there you are. We've got to get to work. Something wrong?

DAVID

I don't get it. I met this great girl, we hit it off, and now I can't get a hold of her. It's like she's disappeared.

THOMAS

At a social?

DAVID

Yeah, so?

THOMAS
(concern)

I told you about those places, they're scams.

DAVID
(defensive)

There not as bad as you think.

THOMAS

That great girl probably ghosted you.

DAVID

You don't even know her.

THOMAS

(supportive)

I know Oleg has been all over you, but you have to get your head in the game here. You can catch up with this woman later, right?

DAVID

Yeah, sure... Okay.

THOMAS

I know you're a better actor than what you've been doing here. Don't mail this in.

DAVID

(frustration)

Alright already, let's just get back to work.

Thomas feels the anger in David words.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You're right, I'm sorry.

The two men give a quick fist bump as an apology.

INT. SOCIAL - NIGHT

41

David looks around the social.

He spots Douglas.

DAVID

Douglas!

DOUGLAS

(friendly)

Hey David, how are you? How's the movie?

DAVID

(anxious)

Never mind that, I've called Nadia to get in touch with Anya, but

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
there's no answer. Can you set something up?

DOUGLAS
(supportive)
Look, you seem like a nice guy, so I'll tell you the truth. Anya likes her booze, and when she drinks, she gets bored real quick with people. It isn't you, it's her.

DAVID
She seemed into me, we had fun.

DOUGLAS
She probably did, at first, and then she drank and moved on. It happens a lot with her.

DAVID
(annoyed)
So you couldn't have warned me about her? Why didn't Nadia say anything?

DOUGLAS
Nadia works for me, and she's a translator, that's it. I hoped Anya would've liked you enough to change.

DAVID
So now what?

DOUGLAS
Relax, I'll send an even better woman than Anya to your hotel. Go there and wait for her.

DAVID
When, tonight?

DOUGLAS
(convincing)
Yes, shortly. Go to the hotel. I'll take care of everything.

DAVID
Yana?

DOUGLAS
No, she's busy.

DAVID
 (eager)
 Seriously, better than Anya?

DOUGLAS
 Trust me, go.

David leaves the social.

INT. DAVID'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

42

David sits on his bed.

He's nervous.

There is a knock on his door.

He opens it.

KATRINA, (20's) gorgeous, confident in every way, stands in the hallway.

DAVID
 Hi.

Katrina walks into the room and kisses him.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Wait a second, what's your name?

Katrina removes her shirt.

KATRINA
 (seductive)
 Does that matter?

She jumps onto him and kisses him.

They fall to the bed.

They make love in different positions.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

43

David and Katrina sleep next to each other in the bed.

He stirs and looks at her.

She wakes up, smiles and kisses him.

DAVID
(tender)
Do you want to tell me your name
now?

KATRINA
Katrina, and you are David.

DAVID
Oh, Douglas told you?

KATRINA
(confident)
Yes. So now you will stay here?

DAVID
Well, I do have to go to work, but
I can stay a little longer.

He hugs her.

They kiss.

KATRINA
No, you will stay in Odessa?

DAVID
(confused)
Ah, I don't know. I mean, I have
to finish the movie, but after
that..

KATRINA
You are famous actor, right?

David is still ashamed of that exaggeration.

DAVID
Sure.

KATRINA
(matter-of-fact)
So you will stay here, after I
sleep with you. When you finish
movie, you will take me with you.

He is taken aback by Katrina's calculated honesty.

DAVID
Look, last night was great, really
great, but I don't want a wife.

KATRINA

I will come back tonight, we can have sex again. I will treat you very nice. I show you again. I can be the perfect wife. Do whatever you want.

DAVID

Did you do this to keep me here?

KATRINA

You like me, so I will come back tonight, and you will stay.

Katrina climbs on top of him.

She kisses his chest.

KATRINA (CONT'D)

I like you. We make future together.

She starts to make love to him again, but speaks softly, barely noticeable.

David, caught up in the passion of the moment, doesn't hear Katrina.

KATRINA (CONT'D)

My future.

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

44

Oleg interrupts a conversation between David and Thomas.

OLEG

A word, David.

DAVID

(sarcastic)

Just one?

OLEG

Your scenes are better, but still needs work. You had too many takes on set today.

THOMAS

You want me to go?

OLEG

(blunt)

(MORE)

OLEG (CONT'D)

No, you can hear this. I was generous with you and let you stay on my set when you and Ziggy Stone tried to trick me. I gave you a chance. I do not want to regret it.

David looks at Thomas.

DAVID

(fed up)

We didn't try to trick him!

Thomas shrugs his shoulders.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(supportive)

I know this film is important to you. It's important to me too.

OLEG

Really?

DAVID

Yes, I told you I needed this role.

OLEG

You are desperate. It shows on your face, in the lines you speak, everything. You need to be more like character.

DAVID

(defensive)

I'm a damn good actor, and I give everything I have.

OLEG

Then dig deeper.

Oleg walks away and shouts in inaudible conversation.

DAVID

(frustrated)

Asshole...I don't know what else to do. I really don't. This guy's nuts, right?

THOMAS

(sincere)

Maybe, but he's going to get the best out of you. You heard him. Listen, I know you didn't want to

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)
talk about what happened to you a few years ago, but maybe you need to.

DAVID
(defensive)
Those things are still pretty raw with me. I'm not ready to talk about them.

THOMAS
Maybe it distracts you.

David gestures at Oleg.

DAVID
(frustrated)
It's him. He's anal about every scene I do.

THOMAS
This movie means everything to him and all of us. There's a lot invested in it.

DAVID
It means a lot to me too.

Oleg returns.

OLEG
We will hold production for two days.

DAVID
(confused)
Why two days?

OLEG
Military activity in the area. I am responsible for everyone's safety on set, so we take break from filming.

Oleg leaves.

DAVID
Military activity?

THOMAS
(comforting)
Probably army drills or something, nothing to worry about.

DAVID
 (perplexed)
 I don't get this place, it's
 exciting and fun, but it feels
 dangerous too.

THOMAS
 Just don't get lost from the
 reason you came here, alright?
 I'll see you in two days.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

45

David sits in bed.

Katrina, in lingerie, is next to him.

She caresses his arm.

KATRINA
 What is wrong?

DAVID
 (anxious)
 I'm not sure, it's just... Do you
 want to go somewhere? Dinner, a
 movie, just walk around, see the
 sights?

KATRINA
 (flirtatious)
 You don't like this?

She kisses his shoulder.

DAVID
 I do. I guess I want more though.

KATRINA
 If you stay, we can do more. We
 can do anything.

David gets off the bed.

DAVID
 (interrogative)
 Why is it so important I stay?

KATRINA
 You like me, so stay in Odessa. We
 can do things, go places, have
 sex. It will be fun.

DAVID
 (annoyed)
 Yes, it's been fun, but I'm not fulfilled because it's a quick fix.

KATRINA
 What is quick fix?

DAVID
 Anya disappears, and you show up. I didn't have to do anything...didn't have to work to win you over. You were given to me.

KATRINA
 (confused)
 You don't make sense!

David is too frustrated to talk anymore.

DAVID
 I think I just want to go to sleep.

KATRINA
 You want to sleep, now?

DAVID
 Yeah, I'm tired.

KATRINA
 That's it? No fun?

DAVID
 I need a night to get it together, okay?

KATRINA
 (annoyed)
 Then I go out. This is boring.

DAVID
 You're not staying?

Katrina, in a fit, gets out of the bed.

She dresses herself.

KATRINA
 I want this, I do not want this. I no go out, let's go out, no sex,
 (MORE)

KATRINA (CONT'D)
then sex all the time! You are
crazy!

DAVID
Is that all this ever was to you,
to keep me in Odessa?

Katrina gives him a frustrated look.

KATRINA
You give me money to go out
tonight!

DAVID
You're broke? How?

She stomps her foot with a child's tantrum, and holds out her
hand for the money.

David shakes his head in disbelief.

He hands her some money from his wallet.

Katrina snatches it from him, grabs her purse, and leaves his
hotel room.

David stares at the closed door.

He lies on his bed, dissatisfied.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY BAR - DAY

46

Douglas and David talk over drinks at the bar.

DOUGLAS
What did you want to talk about?

DAVID
(polite)
Well, you've been great with the
socials and everything, but I
think it doesn't work for me.

DOUGLAS
(supportive)
What? Now come on, the women have
lined up to take a crack at you,
right? It's exactly like I
described.

DAVID
(disheartened)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Not really. I liked Anya, and she disappeared on me, I haven't even seen Yana again, and Katrina's great, but all she ever wants to do is have sex, all the time.

Douglas laughs.

DOUGLAS

That's a problem?

David looks at him.

Douglas shrugs.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

I don't get your problem with Katrina. She's most guys dream girl, and I told you about Anya...

DAVID

(annoyed)

Yeah, you told me about her, but it doesn't change the fact that these women are like distractions...I jump from one to another, and I'm not satisfied.

DOUGLAS

Can I be honest with you?

DAVID

(puzzled)

You haven't been?

DOUGLAS

It's your look.

DAVID

My look?

DOUGLAS

Yes, it's drab, and it needs a make over. How are you going to impress any woman with your appearance, when your supposed to be a famous actor, and you don't dress the part?

DAVID

(sarcastic)

Let me guess, you're on the cover of Odessa Men's fashion Quarterly?

DOUGLAS
Plenty of magazines and fliers!

DAVID
Really? You told me to lie to these women about being famous. You said it's what they wanted to hear.

DOUGLAS
(supportive)
It is, and they want to be with a sharp dressed guy who shows confidence. I'm going to do you a favor. I'm going to send one of my assistants to your hotel tomorrow. She'll take you around town, help you pick out some new clothes, maybe teach you some Russian too, help you to be more comfortable here.

DAVID
(offended)
I can shop for myself.

DOUGLAS
Can you? C'mon, new clothes and a haircut, you'll feel like a new man. I'll set it up. Her name is Veronika, and she'll meet you in the lobby in the morning. I'll send a picture of her to your phone so you'll know who to look for.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
You're a mean little shit when you want to be. I don't know...

DOUGLAS
You just said you're not fulfilled, right? This will cure that. Do it, you'll feel better.

DAVID
Okay, I'll do it.

DOUGLAS
There you go. Well, I have to run, another social tomorrow. You should go to it with you're new threads.

DAVID
Let's get through the make over
first.

DOUGLAS
Fair enough. Remember tomorrow,
this lobby, Veronika.

Douglas throws some money on the bar for the drinks.

He leaves David the bar.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NEXT DAY

47

David looks at Veronika's picture on his cellphone, then
throughout the lobby.

He sees VERONIKA, (40's) a natural beauty with very little
make-up on, and a gentle smile.

She looks in his direction and waves.

He walks over to her.

VERONIKA
David, right?

DAVID
Yes, how did you know it was me?

Veronika holds her cellphone in front of him.

A picture of him is on the screen.

VERONIKA
Douglas thought it would help.

DAVID
(embarrassed)
I have a confession...

David holds up his phone with Veronika's picture.

She laughs.

DAVID
I don't know whether I should
thank him or be nervous about my
picture on his phone.

VERONIKA
I'd thank him.

DAVID
So, you're Veronika... Douglas left
out that you were beautiful.

VERONIKA
Just very helpful, right?

DAVID
He said you could turn me into a
new man. Can you?

She studies him a moment and smiles.

VERONIKA
(sarcastic)
I can try.

DAVID
(wounded)
Ouch!

Veronika laughs in a way that intoxicates him immediately.

VERONIKA
Shall we go?

DAVID
Lead the way.

INT. CLOTHING SHOP - DAY - LATER

48

David exits a dressing room in a suit and hat.

He poses for Veronika.

DAVID
(hammy)
Well, Am I handsome enough for
you?

VERONIKA
Take off the hat.

He removes it.

VERONIKA (CONT'D)
You look better without it.

DAVID
With my receding hairline?

VERONIKA
(complimentary)
(MORE)

VERONIKA (CONT'D)
It's who you are, distinguished.

DAVID
You're the expert, no hat.

VERONIKA
The gray suit looks good on you.

DAVID
(doubtful)
Yeah, you think? I've always liked
black in a suit.

VERONIKA
Black would make you look gloomy,
depressed.

DAVID
Really? Well now I have to throw
out my ten black suits I have back
home.

Veronika laughs.

VERONIKA
(engaged)
You have a good sense of humor. I
like that.

DAVID
I can tell you jokes all day. You
have a nice smile...full.

VERONIKA
What is a full smile?

DAVID
It means sincere, like you really
mean it when you do it. It's
usually ear to ear.

David demonstrates the smile with his finger.

VERONIKA
(impressed)
Thank you. Do you want to try on
something else? We've only found
one suit.

DAVID
Some shirts and a few ties. I
could use a new pair of shoes too.

David takes off the jacket.

He notices the price of the suit.

DAVID
(concern)
Wow, this isn't cheap!

Veronika looks down and away from him, some guilt on her face.

VERONIKA
Nice things cost money.

DAVID
Well, I've spent a fortune here already. Between the cab rides around town, the dinners, the clubs...I know I spent a lot on drinks, it adds up.

VERONIKA
(unconvincing)
You want to impress the women here, they like a man who looks good.

DAVID
I'm going to go back in there and get changed.

He walks a few feet, stops, and turns to her.

DAVID (CONT'D)
(sincere)
It's funny, but in the few hours we've spent together, I haven't even thought of another woman.

He walks into the fitting room.

Veronika smiles.

INT. CAFE - DAY - LATER

David and Veronika eat lunch inside a small, quiet bistro with a rustic, simple look.

VERONIKA
This is very nice. The food is good.

DAVID
(puzzled)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)
You live here, and you've never
been to this place?

VERONIKA
(disappointed)
I don't go to restaurants. Work is
busy.

DAVID
(sweet)
Being out with those other women,
we stopped here, but it's
different now...not as loud, or
chaotic. It's peaceful, with you.

VERONIKA
Thank you, David. You are charmer.

DAVID
Does it ever feel, weird I guess,
to work for a dating agency?

VERONIKA
(confused)
How do you mean?

DAVID
(curious)
I mean, the job you do as an
assistant for a company that finds
women for men, and you being a
woman. Doesn't it feel awkward?

VERONIKA
I don't normally get involved in
that side of it. Paperwork and
plans for socials is what I do.
Doing this, with you, isn't
something I do.

DAVID
(hopeful)
Douglas said you wouldn't mind.

VERONIKA
I don't mind. Douglas said you
asked him for a make over. I guess
he thought you really needed my
help.

DAVID
(humor)

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Well, he thought of it. He looked at me and threw up in his mouth, so...

Veronika laughs.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm glad he came up with the idea. I'm having a great day.

VERONIKA

Me too.

DAVID

(curious)

Do you ever ask the women at the agency how they feel about being at the socials?

VERONIKA

No, Douglas deals with the women and their needs. Why do you ask?

DAVID

I wonder how they feel, endless dates, to think you found love, only to move on from it...maybe to marry a stranger.

VERONIKA

(cautious)

The girls don't mind.

Veronika's face shows a crisis of conscious.

VERONIKA (CONT'D)

Maybe the socials aren't for you. I should not say this...to speak against the agency I work for, but sometimes, men don't find love at them.

DAVID

They seem like fun, and the women there are gorgeous, but it seems hollow, with temporary satisfaction.

Veronika feels David is drawn to her.

She doesn't seem prepared for it.

Veronika quickly changes the subject.

VERONIKA

Douglas told me you are an actor,
here to make a movie. You are
excited?

DAVID

(humble)

It's more like work to me. I came
here and took this part in the
film to save my career.

VERONIKA

You're not a rich actor?

David blushes.

DAVID

No, I just said those things at
the social to impress the women
there. Truth is, I'm the
definition of a struggling actor..
Disappointed?

She smiles.

VERONIKA

(compassionate)

No, you finally told the truth, to
me. That is good.

DAVID

(vulnerable)

I feel I can be honest with you.

VERONIKA

Good. You are a nice man, and
kind. I'm glad I met you.

DAVID

Me too. I haven't felt good like
this in a while.

There is a moment of silence between them.

They look at each other with attraction.

DAVID

So, was I just a project that
Douglas gave you to work on?

VERONIKA

(embarrassed)

At first, yes, but you are more
than that.

DAVID

We made today about me, and my hideous fashion sense, but I don't know anything about you.

VERONIKA

There is not much to me. Every day I go to work, and go home. It isn't very glamorous.

DAVID

Do you have kids?

VERONIKA

No, no children.

DAVID

A pet dog named Spot?

David and Veronika giggle.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Give me something.

VERONIKA

I... I like to be told everything is alright.

DAVID

That's it?

VERONIKA

Yes, but you must believe it when you say it. Then it passes hope to someone else. Everyone needs hope. I have not heard that in a while.

DAVID

(supportive)

Everything..

VERONIKA

No, don't say it now...today WAS alright. Save it for another day.

DAVID

(hopeful)

Then I'll see you tomorrow?

VERONIKA

Yes, we have more work to do on you.

They both laugh.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
In that case we'd better book the
rest of the month.

She stops.

VERONIKA
I do not live far from here, but I
must go now, that way.

She points down the street.

DAVID
Should I walk you home?

VERONIKA
(defensive)
No! It's not necessary, and your
hotel is that way..

David is taken aback by Veronika's quick answer and tone.

DAVID
(puzzled)
Okay, well, good night then.

VERONIKA
Good night, David.

Veronika leaves.

David shouts to her.

DAVID
Do you believe in love at first
sight?

Veronika turns to face him.

VERONIKA
No, but anything's possible here
in Odessa!

Veronika turns and walks away.

David stands a moment, transfixed on her.

INT. FILM STUDIO - NEXT DAY

50

David rehearses his lines for his scenes.

Oleg walks up to him.

OLEG
(friendly)
Two days have made you better actor.

DAVID
(sarcastic)
I'll take that as a compliment.

OLEG
Tell me something, what makes you want to act now?

DAVID
I have new motivation, plus I work with the greatest director of our generation.

OLEG
(confident)
What you say is true, yes, but will motivation last? We have several days to film.

DAVID
I think so.

OLEG
(concern)
Good. I notice that you do not talk to other actors except when you read lines. Why?

DAVID
I'm here to make a movie, not friends. I've known Thomas a long time, but these other actors, I'll never see again when we're done with the shoot.

OLEG
(insightful)
You should know fellow actors. If you care about how others perform, then you will perform better.

DAVID
(skeptical)
Friend advice, from you? How do you know they want to get to know me?

OLEG

They would. You are an important contact for them from the west. Acting is a community, be a member of community.

He turns from David and leaves.

David looks around the set at the cast and crew.

Oleg's words resonate with him.

:FLASHBACK

EXT. CAFE PATIO - DAY

51

David and Beth sit in awkward silence at a table outside a quaint cafe on a busy street.

A salad sits in front of each of them.

Beth squirms in her chair. She is emotionally uncomfortable.

David moves a filled wine glass closer to her.

DAVID

I ordered you your favorite.

Beth gulps down the entire glass.

She puts it on the table with annoyance.

BETH

I would need ten of these to get through this.

DAVID

(sympathetic)

Can you try to be civil with me?

BETH

(frustrated)

I tried that for the last year, David...I'm done with it.

She reaches into her bag and removes a large brown envelope.

Beth drops it in front of David.

BETH (CONT'D)

If you could move your salad and sign those so I could get out of

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
here. There's a pen inside the
envelope.

DAVID
(desperate)
Why the rush? Don't you even want
to save our marriage?

BETH
(offended)
Try? How dare you! As if I haven't
tried!

David looks around to make sure no other diners look at them.

DAVID
(embarrassed)
Beth, please.

BETH
(apathy)
You picked this place to meet so I
wouldn't make a scene, right?
Don't worry, I'm passed that now.
Sign the papers.

DAVID
We could go to counseling.

BETH
(upset)
I begged you to go, but work was
too important. The career always
came first, even after what
happened...you hid behind it.

Beth puts her hand to her face.

She wipes a few tears in her eyes.

DAVID
(defensive)
I had to work! There was nothing
for me at home from you!

Beth looks at him with hurt from his words.

BETH
It's easier to throw it back on
me, right? You gave up a long time
before the accident...don't play the
victim now. You're not that good
an actor.

David grabs the envelope.

He opens it, and signs the papers with the pen.

David shoves the papers back into the envelope.

He throws it in Beth's direction.

BETH (CONT'D)
 You care so much, right? You
 didn't even look at the papers
 before you signed them.

She stands and walks out on David.

He watches her exit. A look of frustration on his face.

:END FLASHBACK

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - BAR - NIGHT

52

David sits at a table with food in front of him.

He looks at a picture of his wife.

Veronika approaches the table.

VERONIKA
 (cheerful)
 David, hello!

He puts the picture away.

DAVID
 Hi, please join me.

Veronika sits at the table.

DAVID
 Something to eat? I ordered this
 meal, the waiter said it's a
 favorite dish here.

VERONIKA
 No, thank you, but a drink,
 please.

DAVID
 So what is this again? I can't
 pronounce it.

David nods at the dish of food with his head.

VERONIKA

Borscht.

He takes a fork full of Borscht and eats it.

DAVID

Hmm, delicious. What's in it?

VERONIKA

Beets, carrots, potatoes, onions,
sour cream.

DAVID

Well, it's terrific. Here, dig in.

He pushes the plate near her.

VERONIKA

(embarrassed)

I don't like it.

DAVID

(sarcastic)

I find the only woman in Odessa
who doesn't like a national dish.

The two laugh.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So, I think it's safe to say
you've gone above and beyond in
David Campbell's charity case, and
it's been four days now.

VERONIKA

You really didn't need that much
help.

DAVID

(sincere)

What's going on between us?

VERONIKA

(caring)

I like to spend time with you. You
care about me and how I feel, you
make me laugh, and you see me as a
person, not an assistant.

DAVID

I find it hard to believe anyone
would treat you differently.

VERONIKA
(guarded)
It's true. My life is difficult.

DAVID
I wish you'd tell me more about
you. Maybe I can help?

VERONIKA
I have problems like everyone.

David suddenly kisses Veronika.

She kisses him back and after a moment, pulls away.

VERONIKA (CONT'D)
Why did you do that?!

DAVID
I'm sorry, I thought you wanted me
to kiss you.

VERONIKA
(offended)
No, that was wrong.

DAVID
It didn't feel wrong. You kissed
me back.

VERONIKA
(defensive)
I should not have done that. I
have to go.

Veronika stands from the table.

DAVID
(concern)
Wait, now? Why?

VERONIKA
I made mistake.

DAVID
You don't have to leave. We can
talk about it.

VERONIKA
I'm sorry, I must go.

Veronika leaves.

David stares in her direction, dumbfounded.

Behind him, at a table, Nadia sits and watches them.

INT. DOUGLAS' OFFICE - later

53

Douglas and Veronika talk.

Veronika is uncomfortable.

Borysko sits in a chair.

DOUGLAS
Are you okay?

VERONIKA
(nervous)
Yes.

DOUGLAS
(disappointed)
You've never done something like
this before. Frankly, I'm shocked.

BORYSKO
She is whore, like all of them.

Veronika looks in fear of Borysko.

Douglas shoots Borysko a look to hold his tongue.

DOUGLAS
Unnecessary, Borysko. A little
class, please.

VERONIKA
Who told you?

DOUGLAS
Nadia saw the two of you together.

VERONIKA
(defensive)
She is mistaken.

DOUGLAS
Is she? She saw you two kiss.

Veronika is silent, nervous.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Shall I call Nadia in here so she
can clear everything up?

VERONIKA

No, please don't. We did kiss, but it was mistake.

DOUGLAS

(calm, unnerving)

Do you like him? Please don't lie to me.

VERONIKA

Yes.

DOUGLAS

Well, this is a problem. I asked you to get him new clothes, a haircut, build up his confidence a little, not this.

VERONIKA

Douglas, please, he is nice man.

DOUGLAS

So what? Plenty of nice men come here and attend my socials. He's no different.

VERONIKA

(defiant)

He is different.

Douglas' tone changes.

A cold expression comes across his face.

DOUGLAS

(agitated)

No, he's not. You're my assistant, and you work for the agency. This is what we do. You don't fall in love with clients. That undermines what we do.

VERONIKA

He cares about me.

DOUGLAS

Who put those ideas in his head, you? Now you know what he wants?

Douglas sits next to her.

His emotions seem to change him into something sinister.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
You'll stop this, now. He's had
enough help, right? I need my
assistant back.

VERONIKA
He is one man. The agency does not
need his money.

Borysko stands.

He charges towards Veronika like a bull.

BORYSKO
I will teach her lesson!

Douglas stands between him and Veronika.

DOUGLAS
(calm, unnerving)
I have this under control.

Douglas slaps Veronika in the face.

Veronika falls to the floor, gripped with fear.

She holds her face.

DOUGLAS
(anger)
It's my agency, and I run it!
There's an order here that works!
First you fall in love with a
mark, then the receptionist falls
in love with another one! This
thing with him stops, now! I'm
done with it!

Veronika crawls away from him to a chair.

Douglas' demeanor suddenly changes as a smile creeps across
his face.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
(calm)
I'm sorry I hit you. It wasn't
necessary. You're a good assistant
and I need you here in the office,
okay?

VERONIKA
(scared)
You hit me! You never do that!

DOUGLAS
Don't wreck what I built here,
stop being foolish.

VERONIKA
You could fire me, not hit me!

DOUGLAS
Now what good would that have
done? Besides, how can I keep my
eye on you if I did that? Clean
yourself up, and take the day off.
We'll start again tomorrow.

VERONIKA
No!

Veronika stands.

She walks towards the office door.

Borysko stands in front of it.

Douglas speaks to Veronika.

DOUGLAS
Don't do that. It isn't smart.

Veronika turns and faces Douglas, desperation on her face.

VERONIKA
Please let me go.

Douglas motions to Borysko.

He opens the door for her.

Veronika exits.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER

54

David watches TV on the bed.

A knock at the door.

He answers it.

Veronika is there, visibly shaken.

DAVID
(concern)
Come in.

Veronika sits on the bed.

VERONIKA

I am sorry to come here.

DAVID

It's okay. You look upset. If it's about what happened in the bar downstairs...

VERONIKA

Things are wrong now. Nothing is right.

DAVID

What do you mean?

David notices a bruise on Veronika's face.

DAVID (CONT'D)

What happened to you? Who did this?

VERONIKA

No one.

DAVID

(angry)

That's crap! Who did this?

VERONIKA

(frightened)

Please, don't make me say his name.

DAVID

A boyfriend? Is that it?

VERONIKA

No.

David gently holds her face in his hand.

DAVID

(caring)

It isn't right that someone hit you. Let me help you.

VERONIKA

He can kill you! I cannot let that happen!

David looks at her.

A moment later, he figures it out.

DAVID
(furious)
Douglas, right? That son of a
bitch!

VERONIKA
Please don't go see him!

DAVID
I have to do something!

VERONIKA
I came here to see you! You were
the first person I thought of!
Don't leave!

David sees the fear in her eyes.

He tries to calm Veronika.

DAVID
(soothing)
It's okay, I'm glad you came here.
I'll help you.

Veronika kisses David softly at first, then with passion.

They fall back onto the bed.

Veronika climbs on top of him.

They continue to kiss.

Veronika's eyes look to her left.

She sees David's wallet on the bed.

A picture sticks out of it.

She reaches for it and removes it.

A photo of David, Beth, and Andy.

VERONIKA
(shock)
Who is this? Your family?

DAVID
Where did you get that?

VERONIKA
(Anger)
(MORE)

VERONIKA (CONT'D)
Your wife and child!

DAVID
(defensive)
Give me that!

He snatches the picture from Veronika's hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Why are you going through my
wallet?

VERONIKA
It was on the bed! I saw it! You
would sleep with me when you are
married?

DAVID
You don't understand!

VERONIKA
Is that your family?!

DAVID
(frustrated)
Yes, alright!

VERONIKA
You are the same as other men who
come here to cheat on their wives!

DAVID
Hey, let me explain the picture!

VERONIKA
(betrayed)
No! I came here because I care for
you, I wanted to feel better, to
have everything be alright! You
made me feel worse! You are a
liar!

Veronika walks to the door.

DAVID
(desperate)
Veronika, wait! Don't go!

She turns to him.

VERONIKA
You hurt me! I will never see you
again!

Veronika leaves.

DAVID
I didn't do anything wrong!

He looks at the picture.

INT. DOUGLAS' OFFICE - DAY

55

Douglas sits at his desk and talks on a phone.

David barges in the office.

DAVID
(angry)
Put the damn phone down!

DOUGLAS
(surprised)
I'll have to call you back.

Douglas hangs up.

Borysko stands from a chair. He moves towards David.

Douglas motions for him to stand back.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
What's the problem, David?

David walks around the desk.

He grabs him by the jacket, and yanks him out of the chair.

DAVID
Tough guy, right? Hit a woman,
makes you feel like a big shot?
How about I hit you?

DOUGLAS
(calm)
I wouldn't.

He pulls his jacket open.

A gun in a holster is there.

DOUGLAS
Now let me go.

David lets go of him.

He backs away from Douglas.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)

You know, I'd have every right to shoot you. You come to my office, and threaten me.

DAVID

(anger)

You hit Veronika!

DOUGLAS

I dislike violence... but sometimes things happen that call for it.

DAVID

What did Veronika ever do to you, other than work for an asshole?

DOUGLAS

Name calling, it's beneath us, isn't it? You're mad because it's her, right? You have a soft spot for her.

DAVID

You're damn right I'm mad. Doesn't matter how I feel about her.

DOUGLAS

Oh, but it does. She's my assistant, and works here at the agency. She isn't at a social, and she's off limits.

DAVID

(chivalrous)

Says who, you? You don't have that right!

Douglas snickers.

Borysko paces, ready to beat the hell out of David.

DOUGLAS

(sinister)

I gave you every chance to find a woman here. I set up date after date, hoping you'd find someone, anyone, to fall in love with. They all ended the same way, every woman told me how boring you were, how needy you were. They all got tired of you, so I asked Veronika to help you straighten out, to do

(MORE)

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
something with you to get a woman.
That was my mistake.

DAVID
(defiant)
You don't control people! I like
Veronika and she likes me, I know
that! I came here to beat the hell
out of you, and then make you tell
me how to find her!

DOUGLAS
Wait a second, you two haven't
really talked about her, have you?
You know what, here you go, this
is where you can find her. Go see
her and have that talk.

Douglas types on his cellphone.

He sends a message to David's phone.

David looks at his cellphone.

DAVID
(judgmental)
You're a real piece of work.

BORYSKO
(threatening)
You should leave Odessa.

DAVID
Is that a threat?

DOUGLAS
It sure was. Borysko doesn't say
much, but he backs up his threats.
A person like you is bad for my
agency.

DAVID
I'll go to the authorities.

DOUGLAS
(smug)
Go ahead, the police would love to
hear all about it...oh wait, they
already know.

DAVID
(shocked)
The police help you?

DOUGLAS
Most of them, and the ones that
don't steer clear.

David looks at Douglas and Borysko.

He figures out their motives.

DAVID
It's all part of the agency,
isn't it? A scam, to get Americans
to spend money here.

DOUGLAS
(jovial)
More than just Americans.

DAVID
(enlightened)
I spent eight grand since I've
been here, on cab rides,
restaurants, nightclubs, drinks,
the socials, clothes, the hotel I
stay at.

DOUGLAS
Why so high and mighty now? You
enjoyed it.

DAVID
(angry)
Then you send a pretty woman back
home with some sap...he thinks he's
in love, that he found a soulmate,
right? What happens then, when she
gets her citizenship, she dumps
him?

Borysko grabs David by his throat.

He tries to fight back.

Borysko slams David against a wall.

Douglas stands next to them.

DOUGLAS
(menacing)
My friend, Borysko, isn't as
diplomatic as I am. He has his own
method of solving problems.

Borysko squeezes David's throat tighter.

David can't break free.

Douglas stares at David as he gasps.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Let him go.

BORYSKO
What?

DOUGLAS
Do it!

He reluctantly lets David go.

David coughs hard.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
You get one warning, leave Odessa.

DAVID
(nervous)
I have...to see...Veronika, and finish
the movie. I'll leave you alone...I
won't say a word to anyone.

DOUGLAS
No one will care.

A sinister smile creeps across Douglas' face.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Go and see Veronika. You two need
to talk.

David holds his throat.

He gives Borysko a defiant look.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Then wrap up the film, and leave
Odessa. I'm not joking about this.

DAVID
How do I know you won't hurt
Veronika, or me, before the movie
finishes?

DOUGLAS
(cryptic)
Something tells me that I won't
need to do anything to you.

David quickly leaves the office.

EXT. STREET - DAY - LATER

56

David exits a cab.

He looks at an apartment, then at his cellphone.

David talks to the driver.

DAVID
Wait for me.

He walks to the front door and rings the doorbell.

A MAN, (40's) a little overweight and a sour disposition,
answers the door.

MAN
(annoyed)
Who are you? What do you want?

DAVID
(confused)
Um... does Veronika live here?

MAN
How do you know my wife?

David's jaw drops.

DAVID
(shocked)
Your wife?

MAN
Yes, my wife. What do you want?

Veronika comes to the door.

She and her husband speak Russian to each other.

Veronika walks outside and shuts the door behind her.

DAVID
You're married?

VERONIKA
(apologetic)
I am sorry I lied to you. My life
is not good. My husband hurts me
with words, he is cruel. When I
met you, you were only a job. Then
we talked, and I found a beautiful
person who I liked.

DAVID
(defensive)
You yelled and screamed at me at the hotel because you think I'm married and have a kid, and your married!

VERONIKA
(confused)
I was angry at myself because I did not behave like married woman. It was easy to blame you and not blame myself. I wanted you and I did not care about the vows I took. You were different from my husband, so kind...but then I find you are married and have child. I could not be with you.

David paces, frustrated and hurt.

DAVID
(angry)
I'm not married, I'm divorced! I've been divorced for years! My son, Andy, is dead! He passed away, and I keep that picture you saw as a reminder of them!

Veronika pauses to process what David said.

VERONIKA
(stunned)
You tell the truth?

DAVID
Yes!

Veronika pulls David further away from her apartment so to avoid her husband hearing them.

VERONIKA
(vulnerable)
Why did you not tell me in your hotel room?

DAVID
I wanted to tell you when you found the picture, but you ran out of the room!

VERONIKA
I was upset!

DAVID

I wouldn't lie to you, not with how I feel about you. You're the only good thing to come out of my trip here.

VERONIKA

That is sweet to say.

DAVID

(desperate)

Why don't you come back to the United States with me?

VERONIKA

(confused)

What?

DAVID

Yes, come with me. What is here for you?

Veronika doesn't answer.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I know how corrupt the agency is. You don't belong there.

Veronika turns away from David.

Her eyes grow with anxiety.

DAVID

Your husband is abusive to you, so what's keeping you here?

VERONIKA

(sympathetic)

I would want to, but I did feel guilty at the hotel. I am married, no matter what.

DAVID

In the States you can have a second chance. You can start your life over again, with me.

VERONIKA

Not all of us get second chances, David. You come to Odessa to get one, with the movie, and see what happened.

DAVID

If you stay here, you're trapped.
You care for me, and isn't that
enough to try, and leave with me?

Veronika stares into David's eyes.

She is tempted to kiss him, but looks at her apartment.

Her husband looks out a window at them.

VERONIKA

(painfully)

No. I can not go, now please
leave.

Veronika begins to walk away.

David reaches out to her but she moves away.

VERONIKA (CONT'D)

My husband sees us.

DAVID

Veronika, don't let it end like
this!

VERONIKA

It must. I will never forget you,
but you must forget me.

She walks to her apartment door, opens it, and goes in.

Her husband, through a window, stares at David with contempt.

David puts his hands over his face in frustration.

He walks to the cab.

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY- SHORTLY LATER

57

David walks onto the set.

He shouts to the cast and crew with anxiety in his voice.

David's behavior is that of a manic person.

DAVID

Okay, let's get to work everybody!

Puzzled actors who rehearse their lines stop and look at him.

Thomas approaches him.

THOMAS
(concern)
David, you're not supposed to
shoot today. Are you alright?

DAVID
(anxious)
Yeah, I'm fine...fine, I just want
to get to work!

THOMAS
You seem upset, you want to talk?

DAVID
(defensive)
No! Let's just get to work!

The sudden hostile tone in David's voice alarms Thomas.
Oleg finds the two men.

OLEG
What is this?

David doesn't answer him.

He begins to pace and rub his hands together.

THOMAS
Hey, David, let's go figure this
out, okay?

DAVID
(anxious)
No!

Thomas instinctively moves away from David.

He senses something building inside him.

OLEG
(blunt)
You do not film today. Go to hotel
and come back tomorrow.

DAVID
(desperate)
I just want to work now! Can't we
just shoot now!

David paces frantically.

DAVID (CONT'D)
My work's all I have now!

OLEG

Tomorrow.

DAVID

Tomorrow's too late! It's too late!

David begins to sob.

He sits on the floor.

The crew and cast gather around him, concerned.

DAVID

(inconsolable)

I wasn't there when he died! I should have been there! I was on the phone!

A cast member moves towards David to help him.

Oleg stops her.

DAVID

I took the call! That's all I ever did...I didn't hear him!

:FLASHBACK

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - bathroom - NIGHT

58

David is in a bathroom while Andy bathes in a tub.

There are several plastic army men on the side of the tub.

Andy and David play with them.

ANDY

(happy)

I'm gonna get you dad!

DAVID

Oh no you're not!

ANDY

My army's gonna win!

DAVID

Wanna bet!

The two mash the toys together.

David's cellphone rings in his pocket.

He removes it and checks it.

David's eyes light up with excitement.

DAVID
(thrilled)
Buddy, one second, I have to
answer this, okay?

ANDY
(disappointed)
But dad, you promised, no phone.

DAVID
I know, but this is super
important...just one minute, keep
playing, okay?

David lifts himself off the floor.

He leaves the bathroom.

Andy watches him leave.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

59

David talks on his phone.

It's a one sided conversation.

DAVID
Hey Ziggy, sorry, I was with my
kid. What's up? Yeah, I remember
the audition...wait, I got the part,
holy shit, yes! Tell me all about
it.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

60

Andy plays with his army men.

One of them falls off the side of the tub.

Andy stands, wet from head to toe, and leans over the tub
side to get the toy.

He suddenly slips inside the tub.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

61

David is still on the cellphone.

DAVID
(ecstatic)

So the film shoots in two weeks?
Fucking fantastic! Thank you,
Ziggy...of course it's a huge
deal...nah, Beth will be pissed for
a day or so, but she'll come
around, she always does.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

62

Blood begins to pour out from the open bathroom door into the hallway.

INT. DAVID'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

63

David still talks on the phone.

Beth enters through the front door.

She walks to David and kisses him on the cheek.

David smiles at her as a sort of brush off.

Beth mouths the words " where's Andy " to David.

He motions towards the bathroom with his hand.

Beth walks in that direction.

DAVID

Yeah, this is going to be
great...you right, it's gonna grow
my career immediately...okay, I'll
stop in your office tomorrow...yeah
I gotta get back to Andy...okay
Ziggy, and thanks again.

David ends the call, a huge smile on his face.

Beth's scream when she finds Andy's body in the bathroom
echos into the living room.

David, shocked, turns towards her voice.

:FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. FILM STUDIO - DAY

64

David's eyes flood with tears.

He grips his knees as he rocks back and forth.

DAVID
(grief-stricken)
Andy needed me! I couldn't help
him! That god-damn phone call! It
was more important than my son! Oh
god, I miss him so much! I want to
hold him one more time! I want to
talk to him...hear his voice!

Thomas bends to one knee next to David.

He puts his hands on his shoulders and tries to comfort him.

The actors and crew surround them.

DAVID
I couldn't save him! I wasn't
there! It was my fault! My fault!

Oleg kneels down in front of him.

OLEG
(consoling)
It's time to let go.

DAVID
What?

OLEG
It was an accident. You did not
cause it.

THOMAS
(supportive)
He's right, David.

DAVID
(despondent)
I couldn't help him!

OLEG

No one could have. It is
painful...to lose child. That grief
wounds the soul.

DAVID

(upset)

I couldn't deal with it! I hid
from it, hid from my life! It hurt
too much!

THOMAS

David, it was horrible. I knew
what happened to you and Beth, and
I tried to reach out and help...but
you just weren't ready.

David begins to calm himself.

He wipes the tears from his eyes.

DAVID

(reflective)

I never forgave myself. I never
accepted what happened. I stopped
living, terrified of my life
without him.

OLEG

I also knew what happened to you.
I had to be hard on you while we
worked, had to break through wall
that stopped you from being an
actor.

THOMAS

Maybe you can start to forgive
yourself now.

DAVID

I have to. I owe it to Andy, and
Beth. I didn't appreciate her, and
I put her through hell...I owe it to
myself too.

David stands up.

He and Thomas hug.

He motions towards Oleg for a hug.

OLEG

(uncomfortable)

I do not hug.

DAVID
 (inviting)
 You're not leaving here without
 one.

David hugs Oleg.

It is a train wreck.

Oleg turns from David and leaves.

THOMAS
 That is the most awkward hug ever.

DAVID
 (sarcastic)
 Not the warmest of men, is he?

THOMAS
 But he is something else, huh?

DAVID
 Both you guys are.

The cast and crew gather around them with signs of support
 and inaudible conversations.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - MORNING - NEXT DAY

65

David approaches the front desk to check out of the hotel.

The same clerk that checked him in waits on him.

CLERK
 All done with the movie, boss?

He looks at the clerk with contempt.

CLERK (CONT'D)
 You had good time, right?

DAVID
 (annoyed)
 I know what you do here, and it
 sucks.

The clerk gives him a smirk of superiority.

CLERK
 (smug)
 It's all about hundred dollar
 bills, make that money. Here is
 receipt. You come back, yes?

He hands David a hotel bill.

David reluctantly takes it.

DAVID

Not if I can help it, and it's all
about the Benjamins. You can't
even say the damn phrase right.

David removes cash from his wallet.

He hands it to the clerk.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Hope you choke on it.

David leaves the front desk.

INT. ziggy's OFFICE - DAY - A MONTH LATER

66

Ziggy, Thomas and David talk.

ZIGGY

(pleased)

I don't know what happened in
Odessa, but it put you back on the
map, David. The film opened to
great reviews and the revenue
shows a hit.

THOMAS

Hey, great news.

ZIGGY

Glad you came on board, Tom. I've
got offers lined up for both of
you based on that film.

DAVID

(happy)

You can't keep a good actor down.

ZIGGY

Well, look who found their
confidence. I like the new you,
reminds me of the old you.

DAVID
Things aren't like they used to
be.

ZIGGY
Good. See, my little to no faith
in you paid off.

DAVID
More than you know...get me jobs
with Thomas. I also gave you a
list of other good actors I'll
work with.

ZIGGY
(sarcastic)
Telling me how to do my job?

DAVID
A suggestion.

ZIGGY
(excited)
Okay, I can do that. So, the
driven son of a bitch is back!

DAVID
(modest)
Driven, but within reason. I'm not
losing my life to acting again.
Thanks Ziggy.

Thomas and David stand from their chairs.

They begin to leave.

ZIGGY
Where are you guys off to?

DAVID
Tom needs an apartment here in the
city, and I know a few realty
agents that'll still talk to me.

Thomas leaves the office first.

ZIGGY
(curious)
Hey David, what did happen when
you went to Odessa?

David looks back at Ziggy.

DAVID

It's like you said, I had to find myself again. I didn't know I was in Odessa.

Ziggy laughs as he leaves the office.

INT. david's APARTMENT - DAY - Later

67

David opens a door to an apartment.

He drops mail on a table.

The apartment is stylish, with a lived-in appearance.

His cellphone rings.

David takes it out of his pocket and looks at the screen.

CELL PHONE FACE WITH A FACETIME REQUEST.

He answers it.

DAVID

Hello...hello, anyone there?

VERONIKA'S FACE APPEARS ON THE PHONE SCREEN. SWITCH SCENES BETWEEN DAVID IN HIS APARTMENT AND VERONIKA ON THE PHONE.

VERONIKA

(desperate)

David? Is that you?

DAVID

(confused)

Veronika? I thought I wouldn't hear from you again.

VERONIKA

David, I was wrong to stay...it is worse now...I am frightened.

DAVID

Slow down Veronika, tell me what's wrong.

VERONIKA

Everything is wrong. Please come back to Odessa...come for me.

The call ends.

A worried David taps at his phone with his fingers.

 DAVID
Veronika!

FADE TO BLACK:

.

DAVID SITS AT A BAR. HE MOTIONS TO GET THE BARTENDER'S ATTENTION.

