

Revelations
by
Donald G. Skipper

Donald G. Skipper
Don@RenaissanceStudio.org
WGA East: VRFA6D67B5B

REVELATIONS

FADE IN:

SUPER: "MOSCOW, RUSSIA - NOVEMBER 1991"

EXT. BOULEVARD - NIGHT (MOVING)

VARIOUS SHOTS:

A black van races past Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and down several streets. An old warehouse that is surrounded by heavy metal fencing with razor wire on top comes into view.

SUPER: "FEDERAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE SERVICE COMPOUND"

EXT. FCS COMPOUND - WAREHOUSE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

DMITRI PLEKHANOV, 48, stands on the roof top overlooking the industrial area, and puffs on a Cuban cigar. Dmitri is a thin man with dark, menacing eyes and stark features.

VLADIMIR ARONSKY, 37, appears on the rooftop and approaches Dmitri. He wears a sharp business suit.

VLADIMIR

The transfer from the American is
in the accounts.

Vladimir removes an envelope from his jacket and hands it to Dmitri.

VLADIMIR (CONT'D)

Here is the bank account
information.

I personally conveyed it to the
contact at the Iranian embassy.

DMITRI

Excellent, you are about to be a
very wealthy man.

Dmitri glares into Vladimir's eyes as he inserts the envelope in his jacket and nods for Vladimir to leave. Vladimir disappears through the doorway.

INT. FCS WAREHOUSE STAIRWELL

Vladimir hears footsteps approaching from the steps below.
GENERAL VASILY PLEKHANOV, 50, appears in uniform.

Vasily stops and watches Vladimir as he passes by him and climbs down the staircase. Satisfied that he is gone, Vasily walks out onto the rooftop.

EXT. FCS COMPOUND - WAREHOUSE - ROOFTOP

Vasily joins Dmitri.

VASILY
Why do you keep that little shit
Vladimir around?

DMITRI
That little shit has a genius for
financial matters.

Vasily scoffs. Dmitri cuts his eyes at Vasily.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea how difficult
it is to hide five billion dollars
in the international financial
system?

VASILY
No, but I have a genius for
smelling a rat.

DMITRI
Relax, he knows nothing about our
plans, and he'll be dead tomorrow.

Dmitri takes a drag on his cigar.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
What news from the south?

VASILY
The key officers see no future in
the military and have joined our
cause for much less money than we
expected.

Dmitri removes a cigar and a cigar cutter from his pocket, and forcefully snaps off the tip. He hands the cigar to Vasily. Vasily lights it and takes a puff.

DMITRI

Have you finalized the plan for the transfer?

VASILY

Yes, the missiles are positioned and the vessels are assembled on the Caspian.

All we need is a command from the Kremlin to proceed.

Dmitri coolly takes a last drag on his cigar and crushes it out on the ledge.

DMITRI

The sudden absence of a President will solve that issue.

Dmitri flicks the remaining cigar butt off of the roof.

INT. FCS WAREHOUSE STAIRWELL

Vladimir listens as he stands beside the slightly open door to the rooftop. He freezes in terror as he hears footsteps on the staircase below. Vladimir remains alarmed until ALEXEI LEBEDEV, 40, appears. They exchange a tense glance.

EXT. FCS COMPOUND - WAREHOUSE - ROOFTOP

Alexei's demeanor has shifted to one of trepidation as he appears at the rooftop doorway. He carries a large envelope. Alexei hesitates and starts to turn away. Dmitri turns and notices Alexei with some disdain.

DMITRI

Now is not the time for irresolution.

Alexei's mind races with anxiety. He turns slowly and hands the envelope to Dmitri as he glares into his eyes.

ALEXEI

This is the future of Russia! It is not the time for personal ambitions!!!

They stare intensely at each other until Alexei disappears inside.

FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - PARKING LOT

Alexei appears through the side door of the warehouse. The black van pulls to a stop. Two MEN pile out.

They drag CLIFF DONAHUE, 36, out of the van and toward the warehouse. Cliff is bloodied and wears a blindfold. Alexei is repulsed by the scene, and he quickly hurries away.

INT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - LOBBY

NIKOLAI SIMOVICH, 35, opens the door. Nikolai is a huge blonde who wears a police uniform and heavy boots. Two of the men drag Cliff inside and exit. Nikolai grabs Cliff's collar and drags him down the hall to a large metal door.

BASEMENT

Nikolai opens the door. He jerks Cliff to his knees and boots him down the stairs. Cliff crashes into the wall at the base of the staircase as Nikolai bounces down the steps. ANDREI SIMOVICH, 40, appears behind Nikolai and seethes.

ANDREI

Nikolai!! We need him alive for
now!

Nikolai rolls his eyes and drags Cliff into the cell.

CELL

Nikolai rips the blindfold from Cliff's bloodied face.

NIKOLAI

Big mistake! You should have stayed
in America.

Nikolai kicks Cliff viciously several times with his heavy boot. Nikolai locks the gate and disappears. Cliff's eyes close, and he breathes with great difficulty.

CLIFF

Katya.

The lights go out. Cliff's labored breathing fades out.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - DEN - NIGHT

Katya SHARINSKY, 32, plays a sad but moving melody on the piano.

Katya is a uniquely beautiful and captivating woman with long dark hair. Her eyes are red from crying and her mood is one of complete despair.

Her slender and graceful fingers are mesmerizing as they flow magically across the piano keys. Katya continues to play as a revolver comes into view on top of the piano.

SUPER: WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES - INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA 1976

INT. OLYMPIAHALLE SKATING CENTER - NIGHT

The arena is packed with an enthusiastic multinational CROWD. A female ANNOUNCER stands at the rail of the skating rink with a microphone in hand.

ANNOUNCER

And now for our last figure skating performance of these Olympic games we have Katya Sharinsky of the Soviet Union.

She was the favorite for gold coming in to these games and she had a near perfect performance in the short program so she carries a substantial lead coming into the long program.

KATYA SHARINSKY, 17, appears on the ice in a gleaming silver costume. Katya is a very beautiful girl who exudes a serene confidence and a very captivating visual presence. She waves to the audiences as they clap enthusiastically.

She reaches center ice and strikes a pose. A beautiful melody begins to play as she skates.

It soon becomes apparent that Katya is an extraordinary figure skater. She moves with an athletic gracefulness that is unlike any other woman.

There is poignant intimacy to the emotions she displays in harmony with the music and her skating routine. Her jumps are high and flawless to a level that is breathtaking. The crowd is in awe of what they are seeing.

Katya moves to one end of the rink and leaps into a high, sensational spin. As she returns to the ice, the front of the blade on her right skate breaks loose.

The crowd gasps in horror as Katya crashes to the ice and crashes hard into the side board.

The music stops as Katya lies unconscious and bleeding on the ice. SASHA SHARINSKY, 38, rushes from the side of the rink.

Sasha reaches Katya and lifts her torso into her arms. Julia's eyes open and fill with tears as he looks down at her broken skate.

KATYA
(Extreme distress)
Mama, how could it break like this?

Sasha's eyes fill with hatred as she turns toward DMITRI PLEKHANOV, 33, who stands nearby just off the ice. He is a menacing man of small stature who wears a smile of satisfaction along with black suit and trench coat. His eyes reveal a sociopath.

Sasha rises and moves forcefully toward Dmitri in a fury.

SASHA
(Furiously)
Moscow will know what you have
done!!!

Dmitri's eyes flash with terror as Sasha returns to Katya and helps her to her feet. They embrace as the crowd applauds.

SUPER: "VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA - THREE DAYS LATER"

EXT. MAMAYEV HILL - DAY

Dense fog obscures the view until the stark face of the statue of "Mother Russia" suddenly appears. The huge statue eventually disappears back into the fog.

EXT. AN OPEN HILLSIDE - DAY

Katya runs in distress through the rain up a low rising hill.

Katya slips and falls down in the mud where she anguishes for several moments. She picks herself up and continues running toward the top of the hill.

Katya reaches the crest of the hill where the Volga River dramatically comes into view.

Katya shrieks in terror as she sees four MEN standing beside a body on the river bank. Two vicious DOGS are constrained on chains by one of the men.

Katya screams as she runs down the hillside toward the body. The large dogs bark aggressively at Katya but she is undeterred by them.

VOLGA RIVERBANK

Dmitri Plekhanov stands under a large umbrella near the body of Sasha Sharinsky and smokes a cigarette. She lies in death on the bank of the river under a rain soaked blanket. A silver chain with a cross lies on top of the blanket.

Katya approaches in severe distress and two KGB men move to stop her. She shifts into extreme rage as she increases her speed down the hillside. Katya slams with full force into the KGB men as they block her path to Sasha. They all three crash to the muddy turf.

Dmitri watches with indifference as Katya screams in horror as she scrambles to her feet with extreme determination and continues toward Sasha. Katya collapses to her knees in tears and grasps the cross in her hand as she embraces Sasha.

SUPER: "HOUSTON, TEXAS - 1979"

EXT. RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

The fountain flows in front of the ornate facade of the main entrance of the country club.

INT. RIVER OAKS COUNTRY CLUB - MAIN BALLROOM - NIGHT

Cliff Donahue, now 24, is a handsome young man with dark hair and broad shoulders. He wears a tailored suit and stands next to MELANIE PEARSON, 23, at the banquet table.

Melanie is a very beautiful girl. She wears a sexy evening dress that accentuates her eye-catching figure.

ROGER DONAHUE, 49, stands next to Cliff and WALT PEARSON, 52, stands next to Melanie. They both exude power and money in their dark Italian suits. MARIE DONAHUE, 47, stands beside Roger in a stunning evening gown.

About 40 PEOPLE are seated at banquet tables. They all reflect extreme wealth in their clothing and jewelry.

ROGER

Walt and I want to thank you all
for joining us tonight to celebrate
the engagement of Cliff and
Melanie. We could not be more
excited about the bright future
they will share together.

Melanie grasps Cliff's hand affectionately.

WALT

They have known each other since
grade school at St. Johns and they
graduated together from Harvard
with the highest honors.

It is a great joy to see them
committing their lives to each
other.

Roger and Walt raise their champagne glasses.

ROGER

To their happiness and success.

Melanie kisses Cliff. Everyone cheers and then cling their
champagne glasses in toasts as the BAND begins to play.

LATER

Melanie and her GIRLFRIENDS dance together on the large dance
floor as a group of young GUYS cheer them on. Cliff watches
the sophomoric frivolity until Melanie pulls him onto the
dance floor.

Everyone else leaves the dance floor, and the lights are
lowered as the music shifts to a romantic melody. Cliff and
Melanie seem to be the perfect couple as they dance.

HALLWAY

Cliff enters the hallway and sees Roger and Walt smiling and
congratulating each other in the Men's Bar. Cliff grimaces
and walks to the balcony doors at the end of the hall.

EXT. BALCONY

The balcony doors open, and Cliff steps outside. He stares
pensively up at the full moon for several moments. Marie
appears behind him.

MARIE

Are you okay?

CLIFF

Sure, everything is perfect. Dad's merger with Walt is a done deal now and I'm going to marry the most beautiful girl I've ever seen.

Melanie appears having obviously overheard his comments. Marie departs and Melanie kisses Cliff with the moon as a backdrop.

SUPER: "VOLGOGRAD - 1979"

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - KATYA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Katya, now 20, shrieks and cries in terror on her bed.

EXT. A VOLGOGRAD ALLEY - NIGHT

A black sedan idles with its lights off. Cigarette smoke streams out of the slightly open window on the left rear door. Dmitri, now 36, is visible through the open window.

Vladimir Aronsky, now 25, climbs out of the car and places an envelope into his inner jacket pocket. He pulls up the hood on his jacket to hide his identity. He surveys the area in all directions and then scurries off. The sedan drives away.

INT. VOLGOGRAD INTERIOR MINISTRY - ALEXEI'S OFFICE- MORNING

Alexei Lebedev, now 28, sits at his desk reading papers in a file folder. Dmitri forcefully enters the office.

DMITRI

Yuri Sharinsky is under suspicion of collaboration to undermine the Soviet Union.

Alexei stands.

ALEXEI

That is absurd!

HALLWAY

Dmitri slams the door shut from inside the office.

LATER

Screaming can be heard inside Alexei's office. The door to Alexei's office bursts open, and Dmitri storms out.

ALEXEI

This is an outrage!!

Dmitri stops and stiffly turns toward Alexei with his teeth clinched as he gets into Alexei's face.

DMITRI

Deliver the warning or die!!

Dmitri struts away. Alexei struggles to control his fury.

INT. VOLGOGRAD OIL MINISTRY - YURI'S OFFICE - EVENING

YURI SHARINSKY, 41, rises apprehensively as Alexei somberly enters his office. Yuri is a short but handsome man.

YURI

Hello, Alexei, thank you for coming.

Yuri picks up two small listening devices off of his desk. He places them into a dense glass jar and screws the lid on tightly. He places the jar into a metal box and closes the lid. They shake hands.

ALEXEI

Good to see you, Yuri. I wish it was under better circumstances.

YURI

You have new information?

Alexei nods solemnly.

ALEXEI

But I must have your assurance that this information will go no further than us.

YURI

You have my word of honor.

INT. VOLGOGRAD OIL MINISTRY - LOBBY

A woman's hand unlocks the steel lock on a glass door with a key. She wears a hooded coat. She enters the empty lobby, and quickly disappears down a hallway. Her identity is not clear.

HALLWAY

The unknown woman approaches Yuri's office and hears voices inside. She stops outside the door to listen.

YURI'S OFFICE

Yuri is seated at his desk and Alexei sits across from him. The atmosphere is very grave.

ALEXEI

I apologize that my investigation has taken so long, but no one has been willing to discuss the situation...

I made an unexpected breakthrough this morning, but I cannot disclose the circumstances.

Yuri nods his understanding. Alexei reflects his discomfort.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

As you may know, Sasha's strong advocacy for legal due process created considerable irritation all the way to the Kremlin...

Great pressure grew to act against her protest activities, but your daughter's Olympic status prevented any action.

Yuri's mood shifts to indignation as he rises to his feet.

YURI

So Katya's mistake at the Olympics removed the obstacle to action?

Alexei nods in extreme disgust. The door bursts open and Katya storms into the room in fury. Alexei rises quickly to his feet in surprise. Yuri rushes toward Katya but she pushes him away and aggressively confronts Alexei.

KATYA

Who are you, and how do you know such terrible things?!!!!!!

YURI

Alexei is a friend in the Interior Ministry. I asked him do an investigation.

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)
He is risking his life to tell me
these things!

The enormity of what Alexei has said hits Katya like a freight train. She staggers backwards and runs from the room. Yuri bolts from the room to follow Katya. Alexei sits down to collect himself.

His gaze gradually shifts to a beautiful picture of Katya that is sitting on Yuri's desk.

SUPER: "TWO MONTHS LATER"

INT. CLIFF DONAHUE'S HIGH-RISE CONDO - BEDROOM - SUNRISE

Cliff sits in a corner chair and gazes out the twenty-third floor window at the sunrise above the Houston skyline. Cliff wears boots, a pressed shirt and jeans. Melanie sleeps on the bed. Melanie's eyes open and she focuses on Cliff.

Melanie pouts, climbs out of bed, sits on Cliff's lap and wraps her arms around him. Cliff remains transfixed on the sunrise. Melanie gazes at her huge diamond engagement ring.

MELANIE
Are you sure I can't talk you out
of Russia? I don't understand why
you can't send someone else.

CLIFF
Because it's the family business,
and I am the only person we have
that can do the job...

MELANIE
You will be back for Christmas in
Hawaii?

Cliff sighs. Melanie bounces up and admires herself in a full length mirror. Cliff stands up.

CLIFF
I have to get going, or I'll miss
my flight.

Cliff kisses Melanie.

CLIFF (CONT'D)
I'm really sorry about this. I know
the timing is lousy with the
wedding preparations, but I'll get
back as soon as possible.

MARIE

It's okay, just please take care of yourself.

Cliff picks up his bags and disappears into the den.

INT. ROGER AND MARIE DONAHUE'S MANSION - BREAKFAST ROOM

Cliff sits at the breakfast table and gazes out the rear window at the back yard. Marie notes Cliff's troubled mood as she takes a seat. Roger enters the room.

ROGER

I know it's last minute, but I think we should send Mike Brown to handle the Soviets.

CLIFF

You can't be serious.

ROGER

I'm very serious. The problems over there may take months to resolve.

CLIFF

Yes, the issues are serious. What is your point?

ROGER

The merger with Walt is our number one priority and that makes Melanie your number one priority.

I don't think it's a good idea for you to be apart for so long.

Cliff stands in a challenging posture toward Roger.

CLIFF

You're ignoring realities of our situation in Russia.

ROGER

What realities?

CLIFF

Our contract with the Soviets was a huge breakthrough but they're blaming us for the problems they created with the rigs.

ROGER

So what?

CLIFF

If we don't handle this situation just right, you may blow your big deal with Walt because he doesn't give a damn about merging with you without the Russians.

ROGER

Mike can handle it!

CLIFF

Mike is a great rig up guy but he's not a diplomat or a businessman.

Do you really want to risk everything on Mike?

Cliff leaves the room. Roger fumes.

INT. HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT - TERMINAL C - DAY

Cliff reads a book as he waits to board his flight. A SECURITY OFFICER approaches Cliff and motions for him to follow him. Cliff complies.

SECURITY OFFICE

TED WILSON, 40, stands beside the desk as the office door opens. Cliff steps inside with some trepidation. The door closes.

TED

Hello, Cliff. Sorry to disturb you.

CLIFF

Is there a problem? Who are you?

TED

Let's just say I am with the Federal Government and we're interested in your trip.

CLIFF

Okay...

TED

You'll be traveling to seven destinations across the Soviet Union and this will place you in a unique position to meet certain people in those locations.

CLIFF

Yes, but what do you want from me?

TED

We are picking up indications of a network among the oil and gas ministries that may be pressing for major reforms inside the USSR.

CLIFF

And?

TED

You could be a valuable point of contact for us with the senior leaders at each ministry.

CLIFF

What exactly do you want me to do?

TED

Just gain their trust and engage in conversations with them that might cause them to reveal the situation.

CLIFF

I'm not a spy.

TED

No, and we don't want you to put yourself at risk... just watch and listen and be very careful where you speak because the interior ministry has listening devices everywhere.

CLIFF

(Mild sarcasm)

Is that all?

TED

Yes, just please take this seriously. Your observations could be very valuable.

You can ask for Max at the embassy in Moscow if you see anything of urgent interest.

EXT. MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

An Air France jet lands on the runway.

INT. CAB (MOVING)

Cliff watches the sites as he rides in the back of the cab.

VARIOUS SHOTS:

Multitudes of Russian made cars and military vehicles rush along the highways. The many colored domes of the Russian Orthodox churches pass by.

The rich, fall colors of the trees and the countless military monuments and statues. Huge posters of Soviet leaders, and communist slogans adorn the roadsides.

The cab crosses the Moscow River and passes by the huge, red brick walls of the Kremlin. The many domes of St. Basil's Cathedral come into view.

MILITARY MEN and TOURISTS crowd Red Square as the car passes Lenin's polished granite Tomb. The cab pulls up to the Rossiya Hotel and stops.

EXT. RED SQUARE - DUSK

Cliff admires St. Basil's Cathedral. Cliff stops and gazes up at the Kremlin wall and the Soviet flag atop the Presidium.

SUPER: "VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIA - TWO MONTHS LATER"

EXT. SKATING RINK- DAY

Vladimir Aronsky, now 25, stands near the skating rink.

Katya, now 20, appears from the rear of a small building and glides onto the ice. Katya wears a modest skating outfit as a soulful Russian instrumental melody plays from speakers.

Alexei Lebedev wears a business suit as he walks up beside Vladimir. His eyes remain fixed on Katya as she glides around the rink doing warm ups. Katya moves with a unique and captivating gracefulness.

ALEXEI

Vladimir Aronsky, the luckiest man
in the Soviet Union.

VLADIMIR

How so?

ALEXEI

You get to watch Katya skate every day.

Katya breaks into an incredible routine of jumps, spins and effortless free skating.

VLADIMIR

She is a joy to watch, but why do you keep coming here? She is too busy to notice any man.

ALEXEI

Yes, but the Olympics will come and go and perhaps her attention will shift to romantic thoughts.

VLADIMIR

And perhaps the sun will start rising in the west too.

ALEXEI

So she's a hopeless cause?

VLADIMIR

For you... yes.

ALEXEI

What makes you so sure?

VLADIMIR

I know her mind. We were raised by Yuri like brother and sister after my father died when I was ten.

ALEXEI

Yuri took you in?

VLADIMIR

Yes, my father died in an oilfield explosion and Yuri saved me from the orphanage.

They turn their attention to Katya as she completes her routine with a spectacular spin.

Katya glides to the edge of the rink and pensively focuses on the enormous statue of "Mother Russia" in the distance. Katya removes a necklace with a cross on it from under her top and grasps it with her fingers.

Yuri walks to the edge of the ice near Katya.

YURI
Is something wrong?

KATYA
Is anything right?

Katya eyes moisten as she skates away.

EXT. VOLGOGRAD AIRPORT

Cliff carries several large bags as he emerges from the front entrance of the airport with a YOUNG GIRL, 7 at his side. He sets the bags down and removes a burnt orange sock hat with a University of Texas logo from one of the bags.

Cliff drops to one knee and pulls the sock hat onto the head of the young girl. Her MOTHER smiles as she holds the little girls hand. The little girl hugs Cliff and her mother shakes Cliff's hand with gratitude.

Yuri stands beside an oil ministry van nearby. He watches as Cliff waves to the little girl and her mother as they walk away. Yuri walks to Cliff and greets him with a smile and a hearty handshake.

YURI
Cliff Donahue, I presume?

CLIFF
Yes, Sir.

YURI
I have heard great things about
you.

CLIFF
Exaggerations but thank you.

Vladimir follows Yuri. Vladimir takes Cliff's bags and loads them into the rear of the van as Cliff and Yuri climb into the back seat.

Dmitri Plekhanov, now 36, watches the van pull away. He drops his cigarette to the sidewalk and crushes it under his shoe. He then disappears into a black sedan that drives away and follows the van.

EXT. OILFIELD WELLSITE - DUSK

A light snow falls on a large, six-axle oil well servicing rig.

Cliff wears a hard hat with a large Texas flag decal on one side of it as he adjusts the controls on the rig. Cliff waves and the men back away from the rig.

The mast rises slowly until it reaches a vertical position. Cliff shifts to another control switch and the mast telescopes vertically as the Russians applaud. Cliff climbs down from the control platform and Yuri greets him.

YURI

Outstanding, Cliff! This calls for a celebration.

Cliff smiles and shakes his head.

CLIFF

Thanks, but no thanks.

YURI

Come, come now, Cliff. We have all heard about your drinking ability from the other ministries.

CLIFF

Yeah, and that's the problem. I've been drinking continuously since I got here.

YURI

Look, Cliff, we know that you Americans cannot compete with us in sports and romance, but we did not expect you to be so timid when it came to a few drinks among friends.

Cliff smiles in weary acquiescence.

CLIFF

Okay, Yuri. Just remember, you asked for it.

Yuri laughs loudly and puts his arm around Cliff's shoulders.

YURI

Big talk! That is what I like to hear!

INT. OIL MINISTRY - GATHERING ROOM - NIGHT

The wall clock reads midnight. Three RUSSIANS are passed out on the floor around the game table which is littered with playing cards and cigar stogies. Yuri sits across the table from Cliff in a stupor.

A WAITER places a tray with a new bottle of vodka on the table, and pours their shot glasses full. Cliff picks up his shot glass and quickly drinks all of it. Cliff takes a drag on his cigar and blows it at Yuri.

CLIFF

Twenty.

Yuri is almost asleep as Cliff pounds on the table. The pounding startles Yuri and he loses his balance. Yuri slides onto the floor and passes out. Cliff struggles to his feet.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

They never learn.

EXT. MAMAYEV HILL - BASE

The sky is cloudless as Yuri and Cliff climb the steps up the eastern side of Mamayev Hill. Cliff admires the great statue of "Mother Russia" on the crest of the hill above.

YURI (O.S.)

It is Mother Russia. She was erected as a memorial to the battle here during the Great Patriotic War.

CLIFF

Stalingrad...

YURI

Yes, perhaps the greatest battle in world history.

Yuri puts his arm around Cliff's back as they walk between the rows of alders toward the statue.

INT. MAMAYEV MEMORIAL BUILDING

Yuri and Cliff walk through the memorial building. They stop to view the large marble statue of a hand that reaches up out of the earth and holds an eternal flame.

They turn their attention to the hundreds of thousands of names that are inscribed on the walls of the building. Yuri moves slowly to the wall and solemnly places his hand over several names.

EXT. MAMAYEV HILL - TOP

Yuri and Cliff emerge from the memorial building and walk toward a nearby lookout point.

CLIFF

The loss of life here is hard to comprehend.

YURI

Yes, we lost three times as many people here in a few months as America lost in all of World War II.

I lost my parents and my older sister in the German bombing on the first day.

Cliff pauses solemnly.

CLIFF

I'm very sorry, Yuri.

Yuri's expression remains stoic.

YURI

It is very sad, but I never really knew them. I was only three at the time.

They reach the lookout point and admire the picturesque view of the city and the Volga River below.

YURI (CONT'D)

So much lost to the insanity of one man...

CLIFF

And the people who blindly followed him.

INT. BALLET STUDIO

Katya moves gracefully through a series of pirouettes. A soothing melody plays. Katya shifts into a series of graceful ballet movements.

Katya notices the Oil Ministry van through the window as it pulls up and parks in front of the building. She walks over to the window and watches as Yuri and Cliff climb out. Her eyes brighten as she focuses on Cliff.

EXT. BALLET STUDIO

Cliff, Vladimir and Yuri stand beside the van.

YURI
(In Russian)
Vladimir, you know nothing!

Vladimir smiles knowingly and nods. Yuri hurries up to the front door of the building. Yuri disappears inside as Cliff smiles and turns toward Vladimir.

CLIFF
What's he up to?

Vladimir nods to the large window where Katya stands. Cliff turns and his eyes meet Katya's. They transfix on each other until Yuri appears inside and closes the window drapes.

CLIFF (CONT'D)
Who's the girl?

VLADIMIR
I know nothing.

Cliff reaches into his pocket, pulls out his money clip and peels off a twenty. He hands it to Vladimir. Vladimir inspects the bill.

VLADIMIR (CONT'D)
You must not want to know very badly.

Cliff smiles and hands Vladimir another twenty. Vladimir smiles and pockets the bills.

VLADIMIR (CONT'D)
It is his daughter, Katya.

Cliff smiles. Yuri emerges through the front door, frowns and hurries toward the van. They all climb back into the van. Cliff turns toward the studio window.

The curtains on the window reopen and Katya appears. She focuses on Cliff. Her expression reflects serenity.

Cliff is visibly moved by Katya's expression. He places the palm of his hand onto the window as a profound acknowledgement. The van pulls away.

EXT. OIL MINISTRY RESORT - MOUNTAIN STREAM

Yuri and Cliff fish from the bank of the stream. Yuri gets a strike and reels in a one-pound trout. He holds it up for Cliff to see and beats his chest with his fist.

Cliff gets a strike and reels in a three-pound trout. Cliff smiles and shows it to Yuri. Yuri shakes his head.

INT. OIL MINISTRY RESORT - KITCHEN

Vladimir opens the rear door to the kitchen. Yuri comes inside with a stringer of two small trout. Cliff walks in with a stringer of five larger trout.

CLIFF

That was great, Yuri.

YURI

Yes, yes, great fun.

Vladimir smiles and takes the fish over to the sink. He holds up Yuri's stringer and laughs.

VLADIMIR

Are you sure I should not give these to the cat?

YURI

Very funny... Perhaps Vladimir would enjoy a transfer to Siberia.

Cliff smiles as Yuri exits the room. Vladimir spots a large rat by the back door. He grabs a knife and hurls it in a lightening quick motion. Cliff watches in amazement as the knife skewers the rat.

CLIFF

Nice shot! Where did you learn that trick?

VLADIMIR

From my grandfather. He fought in the great war... He got lots of practice killing rats to survive in a German concentration camp.

Cliff reflects amazement.

CLIFF

I didn't think anyone survived.

VLADIMIR

Not very many. He was the only member of his unit who survived the war and ten years in Siberia.

CLIFF

Siberia?

VLADIMIR

Yes, Stalin condemned the prisoners of war to prison for surrendering to the Germans.

A rage builds inside Vladimir as he retrieves his knife and tosses the rat out the back door to the cat.

VLADIMIR (CONT'D)

I hate Stalin! He was the biggest rat of all.

INT. OIL MINISTRY RESORT - YURI'S CABIN - NIGHT

Cliff admires pictures of Katya which sit on the shelves of a bookcase. He focuses on a dated picture of beautiful Sasha.

Cliff takes a sip from the glass as he points to two sets of books on the shelves with Cyrillic letters on the bindings.

Cliff runs his fingers over the bindings.

YURI

They are the writings of Marx and Lenin. They were given to me by my grandfather when I became a Communist Party member.

They take a seat in front of the large, burning fireplace.

YURI (CONT'D)

Communism is a wonderful idea, but our country has been driven to ruin in its name.

Yuri takes a sip from his glass.

YURI (CONT'D)

You see, our country spends half our resources to prepare for war against an enemy who should be our friend.

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

And we do this while most of our people live in third world conditions.

CLIFF

Is there any real hope that your system will change?

YURI

Yes, within ten years I believe you will see major transformations in the Soviet Union... Perhaps the end of communism as we know it today.

Cliff raises his eyebrows as Yuri nods confirmation.

YURI (CONT'D)

But the Communists will fight reform to protect their privilege and the extremists will try to take advantage of the people's discontent during the transition...

You cannot correct sixty years of mistakes overnight.

They both stare into the fireplace for a few moments.

YURI (CONT'D)

There is much danger in pursuing reform because of the extremists.

Yuri takes a big sip from his glass.

YURI (CONT'D)

If they ever take power, we'll all be living in Armageddon's shadow.

CLIFF

What are you saying?

YURI

Imagine where we would all be today if Hitler had nuclear weapons and you will understand the danger.

Moral insanity did not die with Adolph.

Yuri's gaze fixates on the fire as he grimaces.

YURI (CONT'D)

It is my mission to ensure that we avoid that terrible fate and that my people come to know real freedom and prosperity.

Your founding fathers understood the necessity of liberty and risked everything to achieve it.

We feel these same emotions.

Cliff is visibly moved by Yuri's words.

CLIFF

Why are you telling me this?

YURI

Because your CIA should know that many inside the party are fighting to end our totalitarian system...

We all have a stake in the outcome of the struggle that lies ahead in Russia.

INT. VLADIMIR'S VAN

Vladimir drives the van until it stops in front of the building. Yuri turns to face Cliff in the back seat.

YURI

I must leave for Moscow in the morning and I have arranged for Vladimir to drive you up to my dacha for the long weekend.

I think you two will enjoy yourselves there until I get back.

CLIFF

Thank you. Have a safe trip.

Cliff exits the van and closes the door.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM

Yuri sits at the dining table. Katya enters the room with a large platter of roast lamb and potatoes.

KATYA

Your favorite, Papa.

She places the platter in front of him. She pours them each a glass of wine. She raises her glass to toast.

KATYA (CONT'D)

To a most wonderful father.

Yuri smiles suspiciously as they clink their glasses. Katya serves their plates and hands one to Yuri.

KATYA (CONT'D)

We have plenty. Why do we not
invite your American to join us?
He is only a few blocks away.

Yuri almost chokes on his food.

YURI

Vladimir!

KATYA

It is not his fault. Why did you
not introduce me to the American?

YURI

Because no good could come of it.
Cliff must leave next week, and
there is no point in putting fairy
tale ideas into your head.

KATYA

Nonsense! I am a grown woman, and I
want to meet him!

YURI

Absolutely not! The KGB would never
permit it.

Katya stands in fury.

KATYA

To hell with the KGB! What kind of
country has their government
telling them what they can and
cannot do? It is disgusting!

YURI

Watch your tongue! They may be
listening!

KATYA

I do not care! I would rather die
than live by their rules!

Katya rushes out of the room. Yuri winces but he does not follow her.

INT. YURI'S BEDROOM

Yuri wears pajamas as he appears from the closet and collapses in exhaustion onto the bed. Katya enters the room and bends down to hug Yuri.

KATYA

I am sorry, Papa. I know it's not
your fault but I must live my life
my own way.

Yuri acquiesces and hugs Katya.

YURI

Just understand that these people
are very serious and there is no
life left for me if something
happens to you.

Please use good judgment in the
choices you make.

LATER

The door cracks open and Katya watches Yuri as he lightly snores while he sleeps on the bed. She closes the door.

EXT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Katya carefully opens the front door of the building. She quietly slips into the darkness on one side of the outer foyer. She peers around the corner where she observes a black sedan parked across the street.

The silhouette of a man is visible inside. The flash of a drag on a cigarette appears followed by smoke flowing out of the car window opening.

Katya drops to her knees and crawls behind a hedge row until she emerges out of view from the sedan. She quickly disappears into the darkness.

INT. CLIFF'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Cliff gazes at the city lights from his third story window.

A snowball flies up and hits above Cliff's window. Cliff leans toward the window as a second snowball sails past. Cliff looks outside but cannot see the culprit. Cliff raises the window and sticks his head out.

EXT. CLIFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Cliff's head appears out the window as Katya releases a large snowball from behind a bush below. The snowball smashes into Cliff's face. Katya winces but then breaks into laughter as Cliff wipes his face.

CLIFF

Nice shot.

Katya struggles to stop laughing and Cliff smiles.

KATYA

You are the American, no?

CLIFF

Yes, and who might you be?

KATYA

Katya Yurinova.

CLIFF

You're Yuri's daughter?

KATYA

But of course.

CLIFF

Pleased to meet you, Katya. My name's Cliff. Does your father know where you are?

KATYA

Certainly not.

CLIFF

So what are you up to?

KATYA

I have always wanted to meet an American and I was hoping you might escort me to the skating rink.

CLIFF

Isn't it a little late for skating?

KATYA

Yes, but it must be so no one will see us.

CLIFF

And what if they catch us?

KATYA

I do not know... but I doubt they would shoot you.

CLIFF

That's very reassuring but it's probably a bad idea.

KATYA

Okay, sorry to disturb you but Vladimir told me you were from Texas and I have always heard that only real men come from that place.

Cliff smiles and shakes his head.

CLIFF

You're definitely your father's daughter... I'll be down in a minute.

EXT. CITY PARK

Katya leads Cliff through the park to the skating rink.

KATYA

Please tell me about America, Cliff.

CLIFF

It's a lot like any other place. It has its good points and bad.

KATYA

What do you mean?

CLIFF

We have a high standard of living, but we take it for granted so we probably don't feel a lot better off than you do here.

KATYA

You must be joking.

CLIFF

Not completely. The Soviet Union is a lot like the U.S. was during the Great Depression. Common adversity seems to draw people together.

KATYA

We certainly have plenty of adversity.

CLIFF

Yes, but I've visited five Soviet Republics and have been greeted with friendship and hospitality at every one of them...

The people don't have a lot, but they're so eager to share what they have with me.

KATYA

Really? No resentment?

CLIFF

None. There's been a lot of curiosity, but no suspicion.

I've met some of the finest people I've ever known.

KATYA

It's good to hear you say that but there is also a very dark side to our country.

CLIFF

Yeah, I've seen it too. You've got great people but an awful government.

Headlights suddenly appear. Katya grabs Cliff's hand and pulls him into a small alcove of a building nearby. The area is so small that their bodies touch in forced intimacy.

They both hold their breath as the headlights approach and pass over their location. The car stops. Katya's eyes flare in terror. Cliff puts his arms around her.

The car resumes moving and disappears down the street. They gaze deeply into each other's eyes for several moments.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Are you sure this is a good idea?

KATYA
Have faith, dear Cliff.

LATER

Cliff and Katya reach the ice rink. She unlocks the gate and they disappear inside.

EXT. SKATING RINK

The rink is otherwise deserted as Katya stands next to Cliff while he ties his skates.

KATYA
You have an very unusual spirit.

CLIFF
I could say the same about you.

Katya smiles, pulls Cliff to his feet and leads him onto the ice. The rink is only illuminated by the full moon above. Cliff skates comfortably as Katya pulls away and breaks into a series of graceful skating moves.

Cliff watches in amazement until she eventually skates past him backward, takes his hands and pulls him along. She patiently leads him through a series of dance type moves.

LATER

Katya and Cliff skate playfully together. They eventually glide to a stop near the center of the rink and she puts her arms around his neck.

KATYA
Where did you learn to skate?

CLIFF
I played some hockey but I'll never be in your league. You must be training for the Olympics.

KATYA
Yes, the Olympic trials start in two weeks.

They savor each other's eyes for several moments. Katya closes her eyes as if she were inviting Cliff to kiss her. Cliff hesitates and kisses her on the forehead.

KATYA (CONT'D)
What am I, your sister?

CLIFF
I'm sorry.

KATYA
I see. Charming, but not romantic.
So much for the great Texas lover.

Cliff muses as Katya skates away in a mock pout. Cliff skates up behind her and spins her around.

CLIFF
Surely you must know that we can
never be more than friends.

KATYA
Of course but what is a little kiss
among friends?

Cliff smiles and kisses her tenderly. The kiss becomes gradually more passionate until Cliff pulls away.

CLIFF
Wow! That certainly explains why
Yuri's been hiding you from me.

EXT. CLIFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Cliff and Katya stand under a tree near the entrance.

KATYA
Vladimir says you are going to our
dacha until Papa returns.

Katya playfully wraps her arms around Cliff.

KATYA (CONT'D)
You know, the dacha can be a very
lonely place... Can I convince you
to let me come along?

Cliff reflects for a few moments.

CLIFF
I'm sorry, Katya. You're a
wonderful girl but it won't work.

KATYA
Why? What are you afraid of?

CLIFF

That I can't trust myself alone
with you.

Cliff jogs away. Katya muses until he disappears inside.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - KATYA'S BEDROOM - DAWN

Katya lies on the bed as she reflects mischievously. She eventually smiles, picks up the dated telephone receiver and dials. She speaks as though she is very sick.

KATYA

Leonid, I am sorry it is so early,
but I am terribly ill with a high
fever so I cannot possibly practice
today.

(a pause)

I know, I know, but it is
impossible today. I will call you
tomorrow.

INT. OIL MINISTRY GARAGE

Katya carries a small suitcase and a blanket as she stealthily opens the rear of the van, climbs inside and closes the door behind her.

EXT. CLIFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The van pulls up to the building where Cliff waits on the curb beside his suitcase. Vladimir stops the van, bounces out, grabs Cliff's bag and tosses it into the van through the side door.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The van races along a winding mountain road.

INT. VLADIMIR'S VAN (MOVING)

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY:

Vladimir drives as Cliff gazes at the mountains.

CLIFF

What can you tell me about Katya?

VLADIMIR

Not very much. Yuri would shoot me.

Cliff peels off a twenty-dollar bill from his money clip and hands it to Vladimir. Vladimir pockets the bill.

VLADIMIR (CONT'D)

She is a very hot number here in Russia. You should see her in a bathing suit.

Such sexy would bring tears to your eyes.

CLIFF

Thanks, Vladimir, but that's not exactly what I was looking for.

Katya smiles.

VLADIMIR

Well, all I can tell you is that she will be a very big problem for any man.

CLIFF

How so?

VLADIMIR

She thinks too much for herself.

Katya's eyes flare. Cliff smiles.

CLIFF

So women are suppose to be seen and not heard?

VLADIMIR

Of course. Everyone understands that except her.

Katya seethes as she struggles to remain silent.

CLIFF

And me.

Katya smiles, and closes her eyes. Vladimir becomes anxious.

VLADIMIR

Do not misunderstand me. I love Katya like a sister and I would do anything to protect her.

Katya's smiles.

INT. DACHA - DEN

Cliff follows Vladimir into the den. Vladimir sets Cliff's bags onto the floor.

VLADIMIR

Yuri told me to stay here but I'd like to spend the weekend with my girlfriend if it is okay with you.

CLIFF

No problem.

VLADIMIR

Thank you. Here is a phone number where I can be reached.

If you have an emergency, there is a bicycle in the wood shed and a phone at the highway intersection we passed.

I will be back Sunday morning.

INT. DACHA - DEN

Vladimir exits and closes the door. Cliff walks over to the large rear window that overlooks a beautiful mountain valley. Katya enters the room behind him.

KATYA

It is so beautiful that I almost forget I'm in the Soviet Union.

Cliff reflects his surprise as he turns toward Katya.

CLIFF

You certainly like to live dangerously.

KATYA

Do you want me to leave?

CLIFF

How?

KATYA

That is an unfortunate problem. I suppose I could walk down to the highway and catch a ride.

CLIFF

Not likely.

Cliff smiles as Katya walks up to him.

KATYA

Do you suppose we could relax and
just enjoy ourselves?

CLIFF

Do you ever take "no" for an
answer?

Katya shakes her head.

EXT. DACHA - DAY

Katya leads Cliff from the dacha and down a pathway through
the forest and up to a scenic frozen lake.

LAKE - LATER

Cliff sweeps the remaining snow off a large area of the lake
as Katya skates playfully around him.

KATYA

Thank you. That is plenty.

Cliff trudges to the edge of the ice. He takes a seat on a
fallen tree trunk and watches Katya skate through her
flawless routine in the scenic setting.

Katya glides to a stop to rest near the center of the lake
and waves at Cliff. Suddenly, the ice around Katya starts to
crack. She screams as she collapses through the ice.

Cliff grabs the broom and runs toward her. He slips and skids
across the ice. He struggles back to his feet and scrambles
over to the hole in the ice.

CLIFF

Katya!!!!

Katya bursts to the surface and screams as she gasps for air.
Cliff extends the broom to her and Katya desperately swims
through the broken ice toward it.

Katya tires and disappears under the water. Cliff pulls off
his jacket and boots. He slides into the water and swims
frantically toward her.

Cliff reaches the spot and lifts her back to the surface.
Katya gasps for air as Cliff pulls her to the edge of the
unbroken ice.

Cliff struggles to push Katya up onto the ice several times, but the ice continues to break off in pieces. Cliff begins to tire. He musters one last huge surge and shoves Katya out of the water and onto the ice.

Cliff struggles to catch his breath. He fights to lift himself out of the water and onto the ice. Eventually he grabs Katya by the collar of her jacket and carefully pulls her across the ice.

Katya shivers violently as Cliff carries her to the bank and removes her skates. He puts his jacket around her, and lifts her into his arms. Cliff rushes up the path toward the dacha. Katya passes out.

INT. DACHA - DEN - NIGHT

Katya sleeps on the rug in front of the fireplace under blankets. A fire rages in the fireplace as Cliff sits on the raised hearth with his back to the flames.

Cliff watches Katya with both concern and affection. Katya's eyes open and she smiles weakly at him.

CLIFF

How do you feel?

KATYA

Much better, thanks to you. How long have I been asleep?

CLIFF

About ten hours. It's after midnight.

KATYA

I cannot understand why the ice gave way. I've skated that lake all my life... It can only be fate.

Katya takes Cliff's hand affectionately. She then looks under the blanket.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Where are my clothes?

CLIFF

Drying by the furnace.

Katya smiles knowingly at Cliff. Cliff feigns innocence. She pulls a blanket around her as she stands up. Katya disappears into the bedroom.

LATER - DAY

The sun shines through the window as Cliff's eyes open. Cliff gazes around the empty room as he sits up. He pulls on his boots and jacket. Exits out the door.

EXT. DACHA

Cliff walks the path until he spots Katya as she stands solemnly at a white cross headstone and fingers the cross around her neck. Cliff watches until she notices him. Katya motions for Cliff to join her and he complies.

CLIFF

Sorry to disturb you.

KATYA

Not at all.

Katya puts her arm around him and he reciprocates.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Mama was from Ukraine. She moved to Volgograd to become a lawyer in a lawless country.

She hated injustice and made the mistake of fighting for due process under Soviet law.

People here are imprisoned or murdered or just disappear with no consequence.

Mother tried to change that.

Katya's eyes fill with tears.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Until one day they found her body in the Volga River...

They said it was suicide, but we later learned that they were sending a message to anyone who would challenge the system.

Cliff is deeply moved by her words. He embraces Katya with genuine affection.

INT. DACHA - DEN - NIGHT

Cliff sits on the couch as Katya walks over to the phonograph and puts on an album. A soulful Russian instrumental plays as Katya walks back to Cliff and extends her hand to him.

Cliff stands up and she leads him to a bare area on the wood floor. They slow waltz until the song ends. She pulls him close and rests her head on his shoulder.

KATYA

I have a confession... I have never been alone with a man before.

CLIFF

How can that be?

KATYA

Training, always training. I have trained for the ballet since I was three and for skating since I was seven.

After the Olympics I hope to train to join the Bolshoi.

CLIFF

That's great. I went there while I was in Moscow. Very amazing.

KATYA

It is good but also bad. I love to perform, but I must be perfect. To be perfect I must train all the time.

CLIFF

No time for guys?

KATYA

No. I cannot be perfect if I am distracted. That is what they tell me.

LATER

Cliff and Katya sit next to each other on the piano bench as Katya plays a romantic piece. She is an excellent pianist.

CLIFF

A pianist, too?

KATYA

Yes, it is considered an acceptable distraction... The piano has always been my best friend.

Katya plays another more passionate piece as Cliff watches her elegant fingers with amazement.

LATER

Cliff and Katya sit on the floor beside each other in front of the fire. They join hands in an affectionate way as they gaze serenely into each other's eyes. Katya touches Cliff with her beautiful hands in very graceful and intimate ways.

Cliff responds in a similar way and they seem to lose themselves in long moments of deep intimacy. They seem to find a unique connection to each other on a cerebral and sensual level that transcends sexuality.

Cliff's expression gradually shifts to bittersweet.

CLIFF

Where do we go from here, Katya?

KATYA

I am not sure but my mother taught me that anything is possible if you truly believe.

The front door suddenly blasts open. Katya screams as two KGB MEN storm into the room. They quickly subdue Cliff and place handcuffs on him with his hands behind his back. Dmitri appears at the door and walks into the room.

Dmitri's eyes are as dark as his pitch black hair. His demeanor is ruthlessly intimidating.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Do you people not have more important things to do?

DMITRI

Sit down and shut up!

Katya defiantly remains standing.

KATYA

What is it you want?

DMITRI

There is the matter of your whereabouts.

(MORE)

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Your instructor reported you as
missing for your exercises.

KATYA
Yes, it is a holiday weekend.

DMITRI
But you were not given permission
to miss your training.

KATYA
I am not a slave!

DMITRI
No, you are an impudent little
child who seems determined to share
her mother's fate.

Katya's eyes burn with intense hatred.

KATYA
And you are an inhuman monster who
murders innocent people!!!

Dmitri raises his hand as he lunges at Katya. Cliff surges to
intervene but two KGB men brutally force him to the floor.

KATYA (CONT'D)
Go ahead, little man!! Hit me!!

Dmitri restrains his fury as he lowers his hand.

KATYA (CONT'D)
I am our country's only hope for
the gold medal and my sponsors in
the Kremlin will not be happy when
I tell them how you have treated
me!!

Dmitri glares at Katya. Katya is not intimidated.

DMITRI
Very well, little one, but I
suggest that you better win the
gold medal.

The KGB guys lift Cliff to his feet.

Dmitri jerks the chain from around Katya's neck. He drops it
onto the floor and crushes it with his heel as he walks
toward the door.

Katya snaps and lunges toward Dmitri. Dmitri turns lightening quick and viciously slaps Katya in the face with the back of his hand. Katya collapses to the floor.

Cliff explodes with intense fury and breaks free from his captors. Cliff surges toward Dmitri and slams into him with a powerful blast from his large shoulder.

EXT. DACHA

Cliff propels Dmitri through the front door and off the front porch into a mud hole. Dmitri lands hard on his head and shoulder knocking him unconscious.

Cliff quickly turns toward the other KGB men as they rush toward him from inside the dacha. He dodges the first KGB man who flies off of the porch and into the mud.

Cliff instantly connects with a vicious knee to the face of the second KGB man and renders him unconscious. The first KGB man struggles to his feet covered with mud. He reaches for his pistol inside his jacket.

A shotgun blast fires into the air and startles the first KGB man. Katya points the double barrel shotgun at the KGB first man.

KATYA

(Russian with English sub-titles)

Into the mud!!

The first KGB man tosses the pistol into the mud.

KATYA (CONT'D)

(Russian with English sub-titles)

The keys!

The KGB man retrieves the keys from his pocket and tosses them to Katya. Katya unlocks Cliff's hand cuffs and gives him the shotgun. Cliff empties the remaining shell from the shotgun and sets it against the wall inside the doorway.

The second KGB man is still on the ground but he is starting to awaken. Cliff offers him a hand. The KGB man hesitates briefly but then offers his hand. Cliff pulls him to his feet.

CLIFF

I'm sorry, it was a matter of honor
for me.

Both of the KGB men nod in respectful acknowledgment. Cliff shakes both their hands. The KGB men move to resuscitate Dmitri.

INT. DACHA

Katya's kneels down tearfully and picks up the bent cross from the floor. Cliff helps her to her feet and they embrace.

INT. OIL MINISTRY - VOLGOGRAD - YURI'S OFFICE - DAY

Yuri sits at his desk and gazes out the window with concern. He reaches for the phone with trepidation. The door bursts open and Dmitri struts into the room. Yuri rises with barely controlled fury, and walks to confront Dmitri.

DMITRI

Your little bitch of a daughter has become intolerable!

Yuri slaps Dmitri across the face with such intense anger that Dmitri collapses to the floor. Dmitri tries to rise but Yuri forcefully shoves him back down to the floor with the bottom of his shoe.

YURI

Get out of my office!!!

Yuri's rage is so intense that Dmitri briefly cowers in shock. Yuri returns his desk and dials the phone. Dmitri rises to his feet and moves toward Yuri.

DMITRI

What are you doing?

YURI

Calling Moscow to report that you have deliberately attacked and wrecked the emotional state of their most prized Olympic athlete!!

Dmitri lunges for the phone receiver. Yuri brutally strikes his hand with the receiver and Dmitri recoils in pain. Yuri returns to dialing.

DMITRI

It was not my fault! I did not know she was there.

YURI

(Mocking)

The mighty Plekhanov did not know?

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)
Who would believe that? You are
paid to know everything.

DMITRI
We went to pick up the American,
and she was there. Then she
overreacted.

YURI
(Yelling)
How would you react to the man who
murdered your mother?

DMITRI
Nonsense, you are speculating!

YURI
And you are a black liar!!!

Yuri lunges at Dmitri. Dmitri fends him off as he retreats.

DMITRI
Stop!!!

Yuri halts and fights to regain control. He points his finger
at Dmitri.

YURI
You are going to allow Katya to
have a few moments with the
American before he goes or I am
calling Moscow and you will be dead
by nightfall!!!

INT. KGB HEADQUARTERS - VOLGOGRAD - JAIL CELL - DAY

Cliff lies on a cot as he stares at the ceiling. The door
suddenly opens, and Yuri steps inside.

CLIFF
What's going on?

YURI
I am embarrassed to tell you, but
the old men in Moscow have given
orders for our military to invade
Afghanistan.

They have decreed that all
Americans must be deported so we
must take you to the train station
in a few minutes.

Cliff anguishes and rises to his feet.

CLIFF

I am embarrassed about what
happened to Katya.

YURI

It appears you retrieved her honor.
Perhaps it was meant to be.

(a beat)

We do not have much time to make
the Moscow train and Katya would
like a few moments with you.

Yuri exits and Katya enters the cell in tears. She rushes
into Cliff's arms. They embrace with deep affection for
several long moments.

KATYA

I was so afraid I would not be able
to see you.

CLIFF

Me too.

They transfix on each other's eyes. Katya runs her beautiful
fingers through Cliff's hair and across his face in a deeply
affectionate way. They both savor each other in intimate ways
while trying to absorb the magic between them one last time.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

Soon I'll be in Paris. I would give
anything to take you with me.

Katya kisses the back of Cliff's hand.

KATYA

Perhaps some day we can be there
together.

There is a loud knock at the door.

EXT. VOLGOGRAD - TRAIN STATION - DAY

Yuri and Cliff embrace profoundly. Yuri whispers something
into Cliff's ear. Cliff absorbs the information and turns to
Katya. Cliff hugs Katya as tears flow down Katya's cheeks.

CLIFF

I will see you at the Olympics.

They embrace until the train whistle sounds. They separate,
hold hands and gaze into each other's eyes.

Katya hands Cliff a small package. Two KGB MEN seize Cliff and force him away from Katya and onto the train.

Katya watches in tears as the train pulls away. The rear of the train passes by Katya and she notices Dmitri standing on the rear platform of the train. They exchange a long stare of mutual hatred until Dmitri disappears inside the train.

INT. TRAIN (MOVING)

Cliff sits by the window with the KGB guys beside him. He anguishes as he watches Katya and Yuri disappear. Cliff opens the package and finds a framed picture of Katya.

Katya is overcome with terror and turns toward Yuri.

KATYA

Papa, he will kill Cliff!

YURI

Moscow would never permit it.

KATYA

Why not? He is just one American who struck a KGB officer.

YURI

But Cliff is the key to getting all of the missing parts that we need from his company for rigs all over the Soviet Union.

KATYA

Plekhanov does not care what Moscow wants. Do you think Moscow wanted him to damage my skate in Austria?

Yuri registers concern.

KATYA (CONT'D)

What can we do to protect Cliff?

YURI

I am flying to Moscow for the meeting with Cliff and the head of the oil ministry.

KATYA

If anything happens to Cliff it will be my fault and my life will be over... I must go with you.

YURI
No, you must stay here and train
for the Olympics.

Julia's eyes flare with determination as glares at Yuri.

KATYA
I will not be training for anything
until Cliff has safely left the
Soviet Union!!

Yuri sighs in acquiescence.

INT. TRAIN - COMPARTMENT (MOVING)

Cliff sits by the window with the KGB guys beside him. He anguishes as he watches Katya and Yuri disappear. Cliff opens the package and finds a framed picture of Katya. Cliff registers alarm as Dmitri enters the compartment.

DMITRI
You are right to be concerned.
Striking an officer is punishable
by 15 years of hard labor...

Cliff glares at Dmitri without fear. Dmitri's expression shifts to barely constrained rage.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
But it seems that you are somehow
indispensable to the oil and gas
production of the Soviet Union.

Dmitri fights to control his emotions.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Tomorrow morning, you will be
meeting with the head of the Soviet
Oil & Gas Ministry.

I suggest that you give him
everything he wants or he will turn
you over to me for punishment.

Cliff remains expressionless and shifts his gaze out the window.

INT. SOVIET OIL & GAS MINISTRY - DAY

Cliff follows Dmitri down the huge ornate hallway of the former Czarist era palace.

The two KGB guys follow behind them. They reach two huge doors. A GUARD opens the door and they enter the former ballroom.

FORMER BALLROOM

Cliff looks around the enormous and very ornate ballroom in amazement as the door closes behind them. Dmitri points to a chair at the end of a 60 foot long conference table.

DMITRI

Take a seat at the end of the table.

Cliff slowly complies. Dmitri and the two KGB guys exit the room. A door on the opposite side of the ballroom opens and OLGA, 22, enters the room. Olga is a very attractive Russian woman who is dressed in a business suit.

Olga carries a large briefcase as she approaches Cliff. Cliff rises as Olga sets the briefcase down on the conference table. Olga extends her hand and Cliff shakes it.

OLGA

Hello, Mr. Donahue. My name is Olga.

CLIFF

Nice to meet you, Olga.

Olga opens the briefcase. She removes ten brown folders from the case and places them in front of Cliff.

OLGA

I have typed the protocols for each of the drilling rigs that you visited. They include inventories of all the components that must be replaced.

Olga removes a single blue folder from the briefcase and set it in front of Cliff.

OLGA (CONT'D)

This is an additional protocol that summarizes the many penalties that your company must pay to our ministry as compensation for the delays that your defective products have caused.

(MORE)

OLGA (CONT'D)

I am instructed to tell you that you may read the documents if you wish but it is suggested that you sign the documents as expeditiously as possible so that you can be on your way back home to America today.

Olga take a seat at the table as Cliff opens the blue folder and reads the document.

EXT. SOVIET OIL & GAS MINISTRY

Katya drives a grey Lada pulls into the parking lot and parks. Yuri and Katya emerge from the Lada and enter the main entrance of the ministry building.

INT. SOVIET OIL & GAS MINISTRY - FORMER BALLROOM

Cliff finishes reading the blue folder with a grim expression on his face. He sets it aside and opens a brown folder.

LATER

Cliff finishes reading the last brown folder and places it onto the stack.

OLGA

Are you prepared to sign the documents?

CLIFF

No I am not.

An expression of real terror flashes across Olga's face.

OLGA

It is my responsibility to insure that you sign these documents.

CLIFF

It is my responsibility to safeguard the interests of my company.

Olga loses composure. Tears flow down her cheeks.

OLGA

(Whispering)

Very bad things will happen to both of us if you do not sign these documents.

It would be an unforgivable thing for you to waste the time of the head of the ministry.

Cliff registers concern for Olga.

CLIFF

I am very sorry but I cannot sign these documents because they would unjustly cost my company over 20 million dollars.

Olga shudders as the main door opens. The two KGB guys enter and lead Olga out in tears. The doors close. Cliff projects real anguish.

The door reopens and a group of thirty MEN enter the room and stand at attention around the conference table at attention. Yuri stands to the right of Cliff and motions for Cliff to stand. Cliff complies.

A rear door opens and GRIGORI, 51, enters the room and moves to the opposite end of the table from Cliff. He is in an obvious state of irritation as he glares at Cliff.

GRIGORI

(In Russian with English sub-titles)

Be seated.

Everyone takes a seat except MICHAEL who remains standing to the left of Grigori remains standing. He speaks to Cliff in a forceful and accusatory tone.

MICHAEL

Our ministry entered into a contract with your company in good faith. That contract required that your company deliver ten oil drilling rigs to our ministry in working order. It also required that you provide a large group of spare parts and tools for each rig.

Upon receipt of the rigs we discovered many obvious defects and requested your presence here to resolve them.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You have since participated in an inspection of the rigs that has revealed that the rigs are not in working order and numerous spare parts and tools are missing.

These defects have caused grievous delays in our ability to operate these rigs and this has significantly reduced the oil and gas production at our oilfields.

We have presented you with a just proposal for the resolution of this situation. You have refused to sign these documents. Please briefly state your reasons.

Cliff rises and speaks.

CLIFF

The rigs were manufactured and shipped in good working order along with all of the required spare parts and tools.

I personally verified the working status of all the rigs and the part and tools were inventoried by a freight forwarder selected by your ministry.

Upon my inspection of the rigs here, it was obvious that numerous rig components, tools and spare parts had been stolen upon their arrival in the Soviet Union.

Grigori leaps to his feet in a rage that startles the men around the table.

GRIGORI

(Screaming)

THERE IS NO THEFT IN THE SOVIET UNION!! YOU AND YOUR COMPANY ARE ENGAGED IN AN OUTRAGEOUS CONSPIRACY WITH YOU CIA TO SABOTAGE THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE SOVIET UNION!!!

Grigori struggles to regain his composure.

GRIGORI (CONT'D)

As a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Union, I demand that you take full responsibility for the costs of your treachery and sign the protocols immediately!!

Cliff's mind races with the gravity of the situation. Yuri fights to suppress visible anguish for Cliff.

GRIGORI (CONT'D)

Now!

CLIFF

My signature under such duress would have no international legal effect.

GRIGORI

Get him out of here now!!!

Grigori storms out of the room in a fury. The two KGB guys appear and cuff Cliff. They then muscle him out of the room.

HALLWAY

Katya stands in the hallway in anguish as the two KGB guys drag Cliff down the hallway. Katya follows at a distance behind them.

EXT. SOVIET OIL & GAS MINISTRY

The KGB guys stuff Cliff into the rear of a black van as Katya appears and rushes to her car. The KGB guys pile into the van and it drives away. Katya follows the van in her car.

EXT. HIGHWAY

The black van races down the highway at a high rate of speed. Julia's car follows behind it.

INT. JULIA'S CAR

Julia's eyes are moist as her mind races with concern.

EXT. ROAD

The black van slows and turns into a public park.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK

The area is deserted. The van races down the narrow road to a parking lot. The van stops and the KGB guys drag Cliff out of the van and down a path through some trees. Julia's car arrives and she parks. She rushes out of the car and down the path.

EXT. THE TANK TRAPS

The KGB guys lead Cliff out of the trees into an open area. They check for other people and see none. The land is contains deep trenches that run in a north to south directions.

KGB GUY #1
Do you know this place?

Cliff shakes his head.

KGB GUY #1 (CONT'D)
This is the place where Her Hitler
was stopped before Moscow.

CLIFF
Tank traps.

KGB GUY #1
Yes.

They all gaze at the traps for several moments.

KGB GUY #1 (CONT'D)
We both have great respect for you
after the episode at the cabin. We
even like what you did to Comrade
Plekhanov.

CLIFF
Where is your comrade?

KGB GUY #2
He likes to talk big but he can't
stand the site of blood.

KGB Guy #1 paces for several moments in anguish.

KGB GUY #1
Unfortunately, you refused to sign
the protocols and we have orders to
bring you here and end your life.

Cliff tries to absorb the gravity of his situation.

KGB GUY #1 (CONT'D)
If we do not follow our orders,
they will kill us.

Cliff nods in understanding. KGB Guy #2 removes a pistol from a holster under his trench coat and screws on a silencer. He reluctantly points the gun at Cliff.

KATYA
STOPPPP!!!

KGB Guy #2 turns and points the gun at Katya as she runs up to them.

KATYA (CONT'D)
You must stop this madness!!!

Katya reaches Cliff and wraps her arms around him.

KATYA (CONT'D)
You know who I am. You know I must
win the gold medal for our country
at the Olympics... If you harm him
you must kill me too or I will end
my life.

The KGB guys assess the situation.

KGB GUY #1
We have no choice.

KATYA
Yes, you do. You can release him to
me and I will take him to the
American embassy. They can create a
new passport for him so he can
leave our country.

They consider her suggestion.

KATYA (CONT'D)
No one will ever know he's alive.

KGB GUY #1
(To Cliff)
You will leave and never come back
here?

Cliff glances at Katya. She nods reluctantly.

CLIFF
Yes.

KGB Guy #2 unscrews the silencer and returns the pistol to his holster. Katya embraces KGB Guy #2.

KATYA

Thank you. I am forever in your debt.

KGB GUY #1

(Smiling)

What about me?

Katya smiles and embraces him as well.

KGB GUY #1 (CONT'D)

You are the only person we would trust with our lives.

KGB GUY #2

Yes, but you must be very careful. The American embassy is under close surveillance.

KGB Guy #1 unlocks the cuffs on Cliff's wrists.

KGB GUY #1

You are a very lucky guy to have such a woman.

CLIFF

Yes I am.

Katya wraps her arm around Cliff's waist. Cliff places his arm around her shoulder. They all turn and walk back toward the path.

PARKING LOT

The black van drives away. Cliff and Katya watch it until it disappears. Ted Wilson suddenly appears from the trees and approaches Cliff and Katya with rifle case slung over his shoulder.

TED

Hello, Ms. Sharinsky. I'm Ted. It's a great privilege to meet you.

Katya eyes Ted with suspicion.

TED (CONT'D)

Thanks for saving me from taking out those two.

Katya is puzzled.

KATYA

And why are you here, Ted?

TED

I had to protect my guy here.

Cliff smiles incredulously.

CLIFF

Thanks for having my back but could you've cut it any closer?

TED

I spotted Katya and wanted to avoid an international incident if possible... All's well that ends well.

Cliff rolls his eyes.

CLIFF

Easy for you to say.

TED

Right now you and I need to get the hell out of here.

KATYA

Can I go with you?

TED

Unfortunately, no. You should return to your father to avoid attention on your whereabouts and Cliff's fate.

Tears roll down her cheeks as she turns to Cliff and they embrace. They exchange a soft and intimate kiss for several long moments. Cliff struggles to control his strong emotions.

CLIFF

Thank you for being here for me. I owe you my life... and you own my heart forever.

Katya loses her composure in tears as she holds Cliff tightly.

KATYA

Why must life always be so hard?

CLIFF

I ask myself the same question...
Right now we must part but we will
see each other soon in Lake Placid.

Katya nods through her tears. They embrace one last time and part. Katya watches Cliff until he stops in the distance. He turns and waves goodbye. She does the same and then breaks down in tears as he disappears.

LATER

Ted leads Cliff up to a car that is hidden in the trees. Ted opens the trunk and motions for Cliff to climb inside. Cliff complies. Ted closes the trunk.

INT. US EMBASSY - MOSCOW - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

Ted Wilson sits at the desk as the office door opens. Cliff steps inside.

TED

Please have a seat.

Cliff complies.

TED (CONT'D)

How was your trip?

CLIFF

Very enlightening before today. I
met some great people.

TED

Anyone of interest to us?

CLIFF

Julia's father, Yuri. He is a true
visionary

TED

And a very interesting man to us.

CLIFF

He says there is a large group
inside the Communist Party who are
fighting to end their totalitarian
system.

He is predicting the end of the
Soviet Union in ten years.

TED
So are we. Did he give you any
specific information?

CLIFF
Yes, Alexei Lebedev will be at the
Olympics.

TED
Thank you. Is there anything else
we should know?

Ted hands a business card to Cliff.

CLIFF
There is one other thing... The
Soviets are about to invade
Afghanistan.

Ted appears shocked.

TED
Really?

Cliff nods.

CLIFF
That's why they rushed me here.

Ted grabs the phone and dials.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katya gazes despondently at the rain outside.

BAGGAGE CLAIM

Cliff solemnly emerges from the terminal into the baggage
area as Melanie enthusiastically rushes to embrace him. They
hug for several moments.

MELANIE
I was beginning to think you would
never come home.

CLIFF
I'm sorry. It was a lot bigger job
than I ever imagined.

Cliff remains detached as she puts her arm around him and
they walk down the corridor.

INT. YURI & KATYA'S APARTMENT - KATYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katya lies in the fetal position on her bed in the darkness that is illuminated by only a streetlight. There is a knock at the door. Yuri enters the room, and takes a seat on the bed beside her.

YURI

I feel your anguish, Katya, but the trials start next weekend.

(a beat)

Alexei has arranged for both of us to go to Moscow so you can resume your training without the distractions here.

KATYA

I cannot do it, Papa.

YURI

Yes, you can... and you must... the Olympics are your big chance to show the world the most beautiful part of the Russian spirit.

The part the world never sees.

Yuri strokes her hair affectionately. Katya struggles to control her emotions.

YURI (CONT'D)

Cliff will be there, and he is missing you too.... Do you want to disappoint him?

INT. CLIFF'S CONDO - DEN - NIGHT

Cliff stands alone at the large picture window and stares out at the full moon. Cliff briefly looks down at the framed picture of Katya and winces with emotion as Melanie appears in a negligee at the bedroom doorway.

MELANIE

Come on to bed. I thought you were tired.

CLIFF

I'm coming.

Melanie approaches him, takes his hand and leads him into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Melanie leads Cliff into the room, and he stops her as they approach the bed.

CLIFF

Mel, I'm sorry, but I'm not up for this. I'm exhausted and I need some time to myself.

Melanie's eyes flare with anger.

MELANIE

How can you say that? I waited patiently for three months without a call or a letter and now you come home and treat me like a stranger.

CLIFF

I understand how you feel but Russia was very hard on me.

Just please give me some time to readjust.

MELANIE

Fine! Have it your way!

Melanie storms into the closet.

LATER - DEN

Melanie wears a designer sweat suit as she rushes tearfully from the bedroom and out of the condo.

INT - DONAHUE INDUSTRIES BUILDING - CLIFF'S OFFICE

Cliff sits in a daze at his desk as Roger bursts into the room and closes the door behind him.

ROGER

What the hell is going on with you?
... I just gotta' call from Walt Pearson and he's livid about the way you've been treating Melanie.

CLIFF

All I did was ask her to give me some time.

ROGER

Time for what?

Cliff opens his drawer, removes Katya's picture and slides it across the desk. Roger gazes at it and rolls his eyes.

ROGER (CONT'D)
You can't be serious!

Cliff nods.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Who is she?

CLIFF
The most incredible woman I could ever hope to meet.

ROGER
So what can you possibly do about it?

CLIFF
I'm not sure. All I know is that I can't just forget her overnight.

Cliff stands and picks up the picture.

CLIFF (CONT'D)
She's a Russian skater and she'll be at the Olympics at Lake Placid. I promised her I would be there.

ROGER
Forget it! You're not about to endanger the biggest deal we've ever had over a damn pipe dream!

Cliff locks his jaw and glares at Roger.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Come on, Cliff! You know we need the merger with Walt's firm to set the stage for the IPO next year!

CLIFF
Tell Walt whatever you want but I'm going to Lake Placid and nothing's gonna' happen between Melanie and me before I get back!

Roger storms out of the room.

INT. MOSCOW RESTAURANT - DAY

Yuri is anxious as he sits in a booth. Alexei appears and joins him. Yuri rises and greets Alexei with a brief handshake. They both take a seat.

YURI

Thank you for coming.

ALEXEI

Not a problem. What is going on?

YURI

You saw Katya's performance at the Olympic trials?

ALEXEI

Yes.

YURI

(Extreme frustration)

She is the best skater of all but she barely made the Olympic team.

ALEXEI

Yes, it was obvious that her heart was not in her performances.

Yuri fidgets in frustration.

YURI

(Angry whisper)

She defied me on the American, and now her affection for him has become a huge distraction that is a threat to everything!

Yuri struggles to calm himself.

YURI (CONT'D)

The reality is that her heart is broken and she has no chance at the Olympics without an intervention.

ALEXEI

(Serious concern)

And our cause could be lost if she loses. What do you suggest?

Yuri's mind races with anxiety.

YURI

You are traveling with the Olympic team to America...

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

You must find a way to get her access to the American when she arrives at the Olympics.

ALEXEI

What would that accomplish?

YURI

I have been encouraging her to view her performance as an expression of her affection for the American.... If she can make the emotional connection, she may create something that no one has ever seen before...

Such a performance could make us all untouchable.

Alexei reflects his mixed emotions.

ALEXEI

But her security will be very intense.

YURI

True, but the Americans are expecting you. Perhaps they can help.

ALEXEI

But why would they help us?

YURI

Because there are much bigger stakes than Olympic medals.

Katya is the key to everything.

Alexei remains reticent.

YURI (CONT'D)

Relax, Alexei... She has no chance of a life with the American and this is something we must do for Russia... and you might become her refuge in time.

Alexei nods in acquiescence.

INT. CLIFF'S CONDO - DEN

Cliff lies on the couch as the large TV plays.

TV ANNOUNCER (ON TV SCREEN)

This is just in from our Middle East bureau. Reports out of Afghanistan indicate a massive invasion of Soviet ground and air forces into Afghanistan. This shocking development has caused President Carter to lead the United Nations in condemning this naked aggression by the Soviet Union on a non-hostile state.

President Carter has recalled the American ambassador to the Soviet Union and has promised to press for severe sanctions to encourage the Soviets to reconsider.

All communication with the Soviet Union has been severed indefinitely.

Cliff anguishes and hits the off button on the remote.

SUPER: "LAKE PLACID"

EXT. OLYMPIC VILLAGE - NIGHT

Alexei walks nervously across the snow covered plaza. He stops and casually searches to see if he is being followed or observed. He carefully disappears down an alley and into the back seat of a waiting blue sedan.

INT. BLACK SEDAN

Ted Wilson extends his hand to Alexei as the car drives away.

TED

Alexei Lebedev?

Alexei nods nervously.

TED (CONT'D)

Very pleased to finally meet you.

LATER

Alexei remains in the back seat next to Ted.

ALEXEI

You must understand that Katya is critical to our reform efforts.

TED

How so?

ALEXEI

Her victory would make her a national hero and this would provide vital protection for Yuri's reform efforts...

Alexei hesitates uncomfortably. Ted nods to encourage him.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

The KGB is aware of Yuri's political activities and they are anxious to act against him...

Her failure at the Olympics would likely trigger severe reprisals....

Alexei hesitates again.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

(Nervously)

You should know that her mother was murdered by the KGB under similar circumstances when she failed at the last Olympics...

This is very serious.

Ted nods his understanding.

TED

How can we help?

ALEXEI

She has an affection for an American.

TED

Cliff Donahue.

Alexei nods.

ALEXEI

We believe he is here in Lake Placid and that a meeting with him could be very beneficial to her performance.

LATER

Alexei is anxious. Ted is calm.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)
It must happen this evening while I
am responsible for her security.

TED
Understood. We will be there at
eight PM.

Alexei winces as he opens the door.

TED (CONT'D)
Relax, you're doing a great thing
for your country and the world.

ALEXEI
Have no fear about me. The tyranny
must end.

INT. LAKE PLACID SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Cliff sips a beer among the large CROWD that is jammed into the sports bar. Everyone is excitedly focused on the large TV screen. The final moments run off in the American men's hockey team's defeat of the USSR in 1980.

The crowd explodes in euphoria as the American team celebrates on the ice on screen. Cliff smiles, but does not engage in the celebration. He finishes his beer and quietly leaves the bar as the patrons chant.

PATRONS
USA, USA, USA, USA!!!!!!!

EXT. LAKE PLACID - NIGHT

Cliff trudges through the snowfall alone. He reaches a street and a blue sedan pulls up and stops in front of him. Ted steps out of the car and motions for Cliff to step inside. Cliff complies.

INT. BLUE SEDAN

Cliff climbs inside the rear compartment and Ted closes the door. Katya breaks into tears and embraces Cliff with intense emotions. Ted climbs into the drivers seat and drives the car away.

INT. LAKE PLACID - RESORT HOTEL - HONEYMOON SUITE - NIGHT

Cliff and Katya dance slowly to a romantic tune in front of the picture window that overlooks the lake. They both savor the intense affection they are feeling for each other.

They soak up every precious moment together. Their emotions are so intense and serene that words are irrelevant. The poignant intimacy between them is very extraordinary and is reflected in the way they embrace and touch and kiss each other.

They stop and kneel facing each other in front of the moonlight that is filtering through the picture window. They take each other's hands and gaze into each other's eyes in a way that reflects the great spiritual bond between them.

INT. LAKE PLACID - ICE RINK - DAY

Cliff sits in his front row seat as the women figure skaters glide onto the ice to begin their warm-ups. The crowd applauds loudly as the AMERICAN SKATER appears.

Katya eventually emerges in her stunningly beautiful costume. Cliff applauds and whistles loudly.

The people around Cliff reflect their disapproval of his enthusiasm for Katya but Cliff is undeterred. He continues to whistle until Katya moves in his direction and smiles as she spots him.

Katya skates to Cliff and they embrace hands over the rail to the amazement of all around them. Katya fights to control her emotions as she pulls away. She wipes tears from her face and waves as she skates away backwards.

LATER

The American skater skates through the ending of her performance flawlessly. She finishes her routine and the crowd explodes into applause. The crowd then begins to chant.

CROWD
USA, USA, USA, USA, USA,
USA!!!!!!!!!!

PERFORMER'S WAITING AREA

Katya wrestles with her emotions as the "USA" chant roars in the arena.

ANNOUNCER (O.S) (ON SPEAKERS)
Five-Nine! Five-Nine! Six-0! Five-
Nine! Six-0! Five-Nine!

Katya grasps her cross necklace and closes her eyes. Her expression gradually shifts to a peaceful but determined serenity.

ICE RINK

Cliff sits impatiently at the rail.

ANNOUNCER (O.S) (ON SPEAKERS)
And now, our final performance of
the women's figure skating
competition. Miss Katya Sharinsky
of the Soviet Union.

Katya waves as she skates onto the ice and the crowd applauds politely as Cliff claps loudly. Katya stops at center ice and strikes a pose as "Lara's Theme" from Dr. Zhivago plays. The crowd visibly connects to the melody.

Katya exudes a spiritual joy as she soars through her routine which is powerful, graceful and flawless in its precision. She effortlessly nails all of her exceptional jumps and spins.

The crowd's mood gradually shifts from pulling against Katya to a sense of growing amazement at her awe inspiring performance that includes many spectacular elements that no one has ever seen before.

It soon becomes evident that Katya's inspirational artistry is coming from her heart in a way that transcends the sport itself.

The American Skater watches Katya in awe of her passionate artistry and spectacular jumps, and spins. She more than anyone can see that her execution is flawless and in complete sync with the compelling music.

Katya finishes with a sensational spin at center ice and the crowd erupts into an extended applause that grows into a thunderous and protracted ovation. Everyone knows that they have just witnessed a true miracle on ice.

The American skater sits in stunned disbelief. Eventually tears flow from her eyes as she stands and joins in the lengthy applause. Katya reflects surprise at the intensity of the crowd's extended adulation as she moves around the ice.

She smiles at Cliff briefly and waves to the crowd as she skates from the ice. Cliff's demeanor reflects his strong emotions.

LATER

The crowd watches the scoreboard impatiently.

ANNOUNCER (O.S) (ON SPEAKERS)
Here are the scores for Katya
Sharinsky. Technical Merit. Six-0!
Six-0! Six-0! Six-0! Six-0! Six-0!

A collective gasp from the crowd as they clap.

ANNOUNCER (O.S) (ON SPEAKERS) (CONT'D)
Artistic impression. Six-0! Six-0!
Six-0! Six-0! Six-0! Six-0! Perfect
scores from all judges!

Cliff claps and whistles loudly and the crowd rises to a thunderous standing ovation as Katya skates back onto the ice.

She skates around the rink several times as flowers pour onto the ice and the applause continues.

Katya eventually skates to Cliff's position in tears and they embrace over the rail. Cliff hands Katya a massive bouquet of flowers.

Alexei stands near the award stand in a state of awe.

ALEXEI
Perfection....

INT. MELANIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Melanie sits alone on the couch and watches her big screen television with a glass of red wine. She downs the glass of wine as she watches Katya skate away and look over her shoulder at Cliff until she disappears off of the ice.

INT. ROGER AND MARIE'S MANSION - DEN - NIGHT

A tear rolls down Marie's cheek as she sits next to Roger on the couch as Katya briefly reappears on the TV screen and waves to the crowd. Roger is visibly moved by what he has seen. He reaches over and holds Marie's hand.

INT. YURI'S MOSCOW APARTMENT - DAY

Yuri fights back tears as he watches the adulation of the American fans for Katya on the small television.

INT. ICE RINK - MEDAL AWARD STAND

Katya stands beside the American and German skaters on the award stand as they receive their Olympic medals. The crowd applauds until the Soviet anthem plays as their national flags rise to the ceiling.

Katya transfixes on Cliff as he watches from a spot near the awards stand. The song ends and the crowd applauds as Katya removes the gold medal from around her neck and carefully places a note and the medal into its case.

Katya's gaze shifts to two KGB MEN in the distance as she steps down from the platform. Cliff watches Katya as she hurries through the crowd toward him.

The KGB men lose sight of her and fight their way through the crowd. Katya reappears and rushes into Cliff's arms. They embrace tenderly for several moments until the KGB men arrive.

KATYA

It was all for you.

Katya tearfully stuffs the medal case into Cliff's large jacket pocket just before the KGB men lead her away. Cliff watches in heart wrenching anguish until she disappears into the crowd.

He reaches into his pocket, removes the case and opens it. He is astonished to see the medal and gazes at it in amazement for several moments. He unfolds the note.

KATYA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Do not lose heart. The world will change and perhaps someday we can be together. Until then, please know that I love you.

Cliff is overcome with emotion for several moments. Eventually, he solemnly places the note back into the case and walks away.

INT. CLIFF'S CONDO - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cliff has a three week old beard. He despondently lies on his back on the bed and stares at the slowly spinning ceiling fan. The doorbell rings but Cliff does not react.

The sound of the front door unlocking can be heard in the den. The door opens and closes. Roger soon appears at the bedroom door. Cliff remains transfixed on the fan as Roger reflects genuine distress.

ROGER

I know how you feel, son. The girl is incredible.

But the time has come to put this thing behind you.

Carter has slapped an embargo on Russia over Afghanistan and is pulling our team out of the summer Olympics in Moscow.

All communication with individuals in the Soviet Union has been cut off indefinitely.

Even if there were no political problems there is no chance the Soviets would let a national hero leave to be with an American.

You have no realistic hope of a future with her so you have to get on with your life.

Cliff reflects solemnly for several moments. Roger moves toward Cliff and Cliff rises from the bed. Roger emotionally embraces Cliff and Cliff reciprocates.

CLIFF

Thanks, Dad.

INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER

Cliff's despair is total as he leans against the wall of the darkened shower as the water pours over him.

INT. ROGER AND MARIE DONAHUE'S MANSION - DEN

Marie enters the room and walks toward the rear door. Marie's eyes light up as Cliff appears outside. Marie opens the door and excitedly hugs Cliff.

CLIFF

Hi, Mom. Sorry I haven't been by lately.

MARIE

I've been very worried about you.

Marie closes the door and leads Cliff to the couch where they both take a seat. Cliff sets a metal lockbox onto her lap.

MARIE (CONT'D)

What is it?

CLIFF

Take a look.

Marie opens the box and removes the picture of Katya.

MARIE

I can certainly understand the attraction.

CLIFF

Yes, but it's what you can't see that makes her so special.

Cliff motions her toward the case. Marie opens the case and gasps as she recognizes the gold medal.

MARIE

Oh my God!

Marie admires the medal until she notices the note. Cliff nods. Marie's eyes mist up as she reads the note. Marie places all of the objects carefully back into the lockbox. She leans forward and hugs Cliff.

CLIFF

Hardest thing I'll ever do, but I have to make a life without her.

I was hoping that you would hold onto this box for me.

Marie removes a copy of Time magazine from a magazine rack and hands it to Cliff.

A picture of Katya skating in her outfit at the Olympics is on the cover with "PERFECTION!" on the title block. The shot captures the joy and sadness of her moment.

Cliff fights his emotions as he places the magazine into the lockbox. He closes it and spins the combination lock. Marie takes the box and places it onto a prominent shelf in the bookcase. Cliff stands up and they embrace.

EXT. WALT PEARSON'S MANSION - YARD - DAY

The weather is clear and warm. Melanie sits beside the enormous pool on a lounge chair with her eyes closed. Cliff slowly walks up and takes a seat on a chair beside Melanie. Melanie ignores him and Cliff takes her hand.

CLIFF

Mel, I owe you a big apology. I know I have no right to ask, but if you can find it in your heart to forgive me, I'd like to try and make it up to you.

Melanie's mood softens and she opens her eyes.

MELANIE

I'm not a mannequin, Cliff. You really hurt me.

CLIFF

I know and I'm very sorry.

Melanie reflects for a few moments.

MELANIE

I'm sorry too.

CLIFF

Sorry for what?

MELANIE

For not being all that I should have been to you.

CLIFF

What do you mean?

MELANIE

I'm not dense, Cliff. I know about the Russian girl and I saw her Olympic performance.

A tear rolls down Melanie's cheek.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

She was amazing and watching her helped me understand the attraction you feel for her.

I cannot compete with who she is, but I can change. I can be better.

Melanie's eyes moisten.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

I love you too.

Cliff is visibly moved by her words. He embraces her for several moments as his mind races.

INT. YURI & KATYA'S MOUNTAIN DACHA - DEN - DAY

Katya sits in a large chair and gazes blankly out the large picture window. Yuri enters the room through the front door, but Katya does not react.

YURI

Sorry to disturb you but I have some good news.

Katya turns toward Yuri.

YURI (CONT'D)

Alexei has obtained permission from the Kremlin for you to pursue your ballet dream at the Bolshoi.

KATYA

Thank you for the news, Papa, but I have lost my affection for ballet.

YURI

Why?

KATYA

Artistry must come from the heart and my heart is lost to me forever.

Yuri paces slowly as he chooses his words carefully.

YURI

It is natural for you to feel that way but you have a future life to consider...

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

We have an opportunity together to go Moscow and use your stature to press for the reforms that are necessary for our people to find freedom and prosperity.

Katya reflects to choose her words.

KATYA

You know that I admire your dedication to such things but it is your passion, not mine. I have no faith that anything will ever change here.

YURI

Most people believe as you do but your mother gave her life for such things and there are many within the party who are risking their lives to pursue reform.

Yuri takes Katya's hand in his.

YURI (CONT'D)

You are in a unique position to help this historic cause and the Katya I know will rise to this challenge to do something important for our people.

Katya becomes very emotional.

KATYA

But what about happiness, Papa? Is it an impossible dream?

EXT. YURI & KATYA'S MOUNTAIN DACHA - DAY

Katya solemnly walks through a dense fog down the path toward the scenic lake. The depth of her despondency is extreme as she gradually disappears into the fog.

VARIOUS SHOTS:

A series of video clips and newspaper headlines of Leonid Bresnev's funeral, and Mikhail Gorbachev with President Reagan and President Bush. Battle scenes from Afghanistan. Yuri speaking to Gorbachev in a passionate way.

Russia leaving Afghanistan. The massive demonstrations in Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Images of the Gorbachev coup and Boris Yeltsin as he stands on the tank at the Russian Parliament. Yuri stands beside the tank cheering.

Yeltsin as he chastises Gorbachev thereafter. Yeltsin dissolving the Soviet Union. Yuri stands near him as he speaks. Tanks as they shoot at the Russian parliament building. Riots in Moscow.

Yuri walking among the crowds carrying a sign "LIBERTY".

SUPER: "HOUSTON, TEXAS - 1991"

INT. CLIFF AND MELANIE'S MANSION - DEN - NIGHT

Melanie, now 35, sits on the couch. Cliff, now 36, is seated on a large chair beside her. Legal documents sit on the coffee table in front of them. Melanie wipes tears from her eyes. Cliff reflects profound sadness.

CLIFF

Are you sure you want to do this?

MELANIE

No, but we both deserve the chance to find happiness... and I want to have a child with a man who feels a great affection for me...

CLIFF

I have wanted to have kids with you for years.

MELANIE

Perhaps, but that's not enough... I have seen how much you can love, but you've never felt that way about me...

Your heart belongs to a memory and that's never going to change.

Melanie leans forward and signs the legal document. She breaks down and hurries from the room in tears. Cliff stares at the document in despair.

INT. FAMILY LAW CENTER - COURTROOM - DAY

Cliff stands before the Judge with his attorney at his side. He is very subdued as the Judge speaks.

JUDGE

Are you sure this is what you want to do?

CLIFF

No, Your Honor, but our marriage was not meant to be.

JUDGE

Very well. The marriage of Clifford Scott Donahue and Melanie Anne Donahue is legally terminated.

The Judge bangs his gavel.

COURTHOUSE LOBBY

Cliff, Marie and Roger walk out of the elevator and into the main lobby of the courthouse.

ROGER

I'm very sorry, son. I wish there was something I could say to make you feel better.

CLIFF

You said it all by being here.

MARIE

Why don't we go up to the ranch for a few days and have Thanksgiving together?

CLIFF

Sounds great to me.

They turn and walk toward the door as rain falls outside.

ROGER

Maybe you should follow us up there in your Tahoe. We may need a four wheel drive to get around the place tomorrow.

CLIFF

Okay. I'll grab my gear and follow you up there.

INT. CLIFF'S TAHOE - NIGHT (MOVING)

Heavy rain falls as Cliff drives on a four-lane road. Roger and Marie pass on his left in their Mercedes. Marie smiles and waves as they go by. Cliff waves back.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Roger's car and Cliff's Tahoe both slow down as they reach a sharp left curve on an uphill grade. Oncoming headlights suddenly appear ahead and immediately swerve out of control into Roger's lane.

INT. CLIFF'S TAHOE (MOVING)

Cliff screams in horror as the loud collision can be heard.

CLIFF
NOOOOO!!!!

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Cliff stands solemnly beside two coffins under a grave site canopy. Rain pours down as the rest of the FUNERAL GROUP walks away under umbrellas. Cliff slumps into a nearby chair in despondency.

INT. ROGER AND MARIE'S MANSION - DEN - DUSK

Cliff sits in a large chair by a bay window. Tears trickle down his cheeks as he stoically stares out the window at the rain and lightning. A thunder clap shakes the house.

LATER - NIGHT

Cliff appears totally exhausted as he stares at the ceiling.

Cliff's eyes fixate on the metal lockbox that sits on one of the upper shelves of a bookcase. He walks over to the bookcase, retrieves the box and relaxes back onto the chair. Cliff dials the combination lock and opens the box.

He focuses on Julia's picture.

EXT. MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

An Air France jet lands.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY (MOVING)

The DRIVER drives. Cliff watches the sites as he rides in the limo. The limousine exits and pulls to a stop on one side of the gas station parking lot.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

A man approaches from inside the gas station and quickly climbs into the back seat beside Cliff. It is Ted Wilson, now 52.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY (MOVING)

The driver drives the limo out of the gas station.

TED

Hello, Cliff. It's been awhile.

CLIFF

Still going at it after all these years?

TED

Our job is more vital now than ever.

CLIFF

How so? Bringing down the Soviet Union was pretty impressive.

TED

Perhaps, but it may have created as many problems as it solved.

Trying to convert Russia from a socialist economic disaster into a successful capitalist democracy before the crazies and the mafia take advantage of the situation is as challenging as it gets.

CLIFF

How can I help you?

TED

Frankly, by letting us use you as a conduit to funnel money to credible reform elements inside Russia to stimulate economic prosperity before it is too late.

CLIFF

Why not pass it through the government?

TED

You know the answer to that one. Government officials would steal most of it and the Communists would use American aid to discredit the whole reform effort.

What we need is a benevolent and wealthy American who is eager to invest in new Russia.

CLIFF

If things go well, that's exactly what I intend to do.

TED

Glad to hear it but you should know that we can significantly add to your resources with a lot of cash.

CLIFF

How much?

TED

Billions.

CLIFF

Won't that draw suspicion?

TED

Perhaps, but we have to take the chance. New Russia cannot fail.

Ted motions for the driver to pull over at a restaurant.

TED (CONT'D)

We need you to work with us even if things do not go well with Katya.

CLIFF

Should I be concerned that things won't go well?

TED

Let's just say that you're not alone in your admiration for her, and your competitor for her affection is vital to the future of Russia.

CLIFF
(Dry sarcasm)
Thanks for the heads up.

TED
I suggest that you take this all
very seriously.

I get where your head is but you're
risking your life by being here and
you're in a unique position to do
something important for your
country and the world at a critical
moment in history.

Yuri and Katya have been risking
their lives for years to get Russia
to where it is today.

Cliff reflects somberly for a few moments and nods.

TED (CONT'D)
You should also be aware that your
friend Yuri was a driving force
behind Gorbachev and Yeltsin and
he's the key to our goal of a
democratic Russia.

Cliff reflects amazement.

CLIFF
Seriously?

TED
Yes, but that's for your
information only.

CLIFF
Why are you telling me this?

TED
So you understand the huge stakes
here. A lot of people want Yuri
dead and Katya is the only reason
he's alive.

The car stops. Ted steps out and looks back inside at Cliff.

TED (CONT'D)
You can reach me at the embassy.

Ted closes the door and walks away. The limousine drives off.

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Cliff's mind races as he watches the sites of Moscow.

VARIOUS SHOTS:

The limo drives. Multitudes of Russian and foreign made cars rush along the poorly maintained highways. Fewer nineteenth century huts sit beside even more endless rows of high-rise apartments. The many colored domes of the churches.

Old Russian women sweep the streets. The rich, fall colors of the trees and the countless military monuments. Various western stores and shops sprinkled strangely among the older Russian buildings. Thousands of Russian shops and street vendors hawk goods of all kinds.

Another larger group of PEOPLE lobby for their back wages. The car passes Lenin's polished granite Tomb and the scores of new commercial areas nearby. The cab pulls up to the Rossiya Hotel and stops.

EXT. RED SQUARE - NIGHT

Cliff walks up to St. Basil's Cathedral which is brightly illuminated. Cliff turns toward the Kremlin and focuses on the Russian flag atop the Presidium.

EXT. BOLSHOI THEATER BUILDING

Cliff approaches the theater as a large CROWD makes its way into the building.

INT. BOLSHOI BUILDING - MAIN THEATER

Cliff takes a seat near the left side of the stage. Alexei Lebedev, now 39, sits in the center of the front row. Alexei is dashing handsome in his tuxedo.

The cover of Cliff's program says "Swan Lake". Cliff turns the page and sees a large picture of Katya. The smile on her face seems to mask an inner sadness. Cliff closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

The lights go down and the CROWD applauds as the orchestra starts to play. Cliff sits anxiously as the curtain opens.

VARIOUS SHOTS:

The opening sequences proceed until Katya, now 32, makes her dramatic entrance in the lead role. Cliff struggles to quell his emotions as she passes close to his seat.

Cliff and Alexei are transfixed on Katya throughout her performance that is excellent in style, artistry and technique. She possesses an extraordinary and very captivating gracefulness. Every movement is perfection.

LATER

The PERFORMERS complete the final sequence of the ballet and the curtain closes to a standing ovation. Cliff and Alexei both applaud enthusiastically.

The curtain rises and the performers walk to the front of the stage and take a bow. The other performers move back, the lights go down. The spotlight focuses on Katya as a male performer hands her a bouquet of flowers.

The applause grows louder as she accepts the flowers and walks forward to the front of the stage. The crowd rises in a thunderous ovation. She curtsies and throws a kiss to the crowd.

Cliff claps as Katya faces in his direction. Cliff whistles loudly and Katya briefly looks his way but she does not distinguish Cliff from the crowd.

Katya closes her curtain call and walks to the rear of the stage. Cliff turns to watch as she waves to the crowd and the curtain falls. Cliff removes a small wrapped package from his jacket.

KATYA'S DRESSING ROOM

Katya removes her makeup as there is a knock at the door.

KATYA

Please come in.

A Russian POLICEMAN carries Cliff's package as he enters the room.

POLICEMAN

A gentleman in the lobby requested
that I deliver this to you.

He hands the package to Katya and turns to leave.

KATYA

Thank you.

The Policeman closes the door as Katya removes the wrapping from the package to reveal a small box. There is another knock on the door.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Come in please.

A STAGEHAND enters and hands a large bouquet of flowers to Katya.

STAGEHAND

Alexei Lebedev asked me to deliver these. He would like to speak with you.

KATYA

Please show him in.

The stagehand disappears and Alexei enters the room as Katya places the flowers in a large vase. Katya gives Alexei a warm but brief embrace.

ALEXEI

An outstanding performance.

KATYA

Thank you but do you not grow tired of watching the same performance?

ALEXEI

No, I never lose my enthusiasm for perfection.

KATYA

Very charming, Alexei, but doesn't a major political leader have more important business to attend to these days?

ALEXEI

Perhaps, but matters of the heart have always been a priority for me.

Katya smiles sympathetically.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

You are well aware that I have had an affection for you since our days in Volgograd.

(a beat)

(MORE)

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

Surely you must know that my emotions for you brought me to Moscow.

Katya smiles with some discomfort.

KATYA

Thank you for your kind sentiment, Alexei. Any woman would be privileged to be the object of your affections, but I am puzzled how you have avoided marriage all these years.

ALEXEI

Perhaps because my heart could only belong to one very special woman.

Katya's mind races as she gazes down at her hands.

KATYA

I am flattered by your words but unfulfilled love is a very lonely path in life.

ALEXEI

This is true and we seem to have shared a similar fate in this regard.

But we both know that there is no life without love so I remain curious why you resist my affections.

Is there something about me you find unattractive?

KATYA

Of course not. You are the most eligible bachelor in Moscow and any other girl in the company would be honored by your attention.

It is simply my choice to be alone.

ALEXEI

It is mine, too. I long ago concluded that the thought of you is better than the reality of any other woman.

Katya is moved by Alexei's words.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

Can I convince you to go with me to
the closing party tonight?

Katya muses.

KATYA

Very well. Please give me a few
more minutes to finish changing.
Thank you for the invitation.

Alexei smiles and exits. Katya anguishes for several moments
as she stares at her reflection in the mirror. Her expression
reflects a sense that it may be time for change.

LATER

Katya finishes dressing and focuses on the box. She removes
the lid and is shocked as she recognizes the medal case.

Katya's hand quivers as she opens the case and removes the
Olympic Gold Medal. She gazes at the medal in amazement for
several moments. She then opens the note inside the case.

CLIFF (V.O.)

I would love to see you if it is
appropriate. I will wait in the
lobby until eleven o'clock.

Katya looks at her watch. It says eleven o'clock.

KATYA

Oh, my God!

Katya rushes out of the room.

HALLWAY

Alexei leans against the wall as Katya joyfully bursts from
her dressing room.

KATYA

Please forgive me, Alexei, but I
have an emergency and I cannot go
to the party.

Alexei reflects his disappointment as Katya pulls away and
races down the hall. Alexei follows her.

THEATER LOBBY

Cliff looks at his watch that reads eleven-0-five. Katya suddenly lunges through a door at the opposite end of the large room. She spots Cliff and they rush to embrace each other.

They meet in an embrace of extreme joy as Cliff lifts her off her feet & gracefully swings her around several times until they slow to a stop & focus on each other's eyes in amazement.

Alexei appears at the doorway and watches dejectedly as Cliff lowers Katya down.

KATYA

So many times I have dreamed of
this moment.

Katya wraps her arms around Cliff's neck as she struggles to control her joy. Alexei watches in the distance as Cliff and Katya turn and walk away from him. Alexei appears devastated as he turns and disappears.

EXT. BOLSHOI THEATER - NIGHT

Cliff and Katya walk hand in hand away from the theater.

CLIFF

How is Yuri?

KATYA

He is well but he is a big reform
politician now.

CLIFF

That is what I've heard.

KATYA

He has accomplished great things
for our country. Lately he has been
away organizing regional reform
groups but he should be back
tonight.

CLIFF

What's your work schedule like now?

KATYA

Your timing could not be better.
Tonight was our final performance
of the season, and I have a month
off...

(MORE)

KATYA (CONT'D)

Can I convince you to come stay
with us at Papa's apartment?

CLIFF

I appreciate the offer, but would
Yuri approve?

KATYA

Papa would insist. We have a
beautiful guest room.

CLIFF

Thank you for the invitation but
are you sure it would be
appropriate?

KATYA

Yes, of course... You are family to
us.

CLIFF

Wow! Thank you.... We'll need to
grab my things at the Rossiya.

KATYA

Of course...

Alexei exits the theater and despondently watches as Cliff
and Katya disappear around a building. Dmitri Plekhanov, now
48, and Andrei Simovich join Alexei.

They speak inaudibly with Alexei for several moments until
Andrei hurriedly moves in the direction that Cliff and Katya
disappeared.

DMITRI

Perhaps now you can put this
romantic nonsense behind you. She
has played you for a fool for
years.

ALEXEI

If I cared about your opinion I
would ask for it.

DMITRI

There are much bigger issues at
stake than your romantic ambitions.

ALEXEI

Get to the point if you have one.

DMITRI

The Soviet Union has fallen and Russia is in chaos and Western democracy and capitalism will not work here.

We must have a new political system that restores order and creates economic prosperity.

ALEXEI

Since when did the FCS concern itself with politics and economics?

DMITRI

We are patriots too and we understand that order must be restored through economic progress.

ALEXEI

So you are the master of the obvious? Do you have a magic solution?

DMITRI

We believe a partnership of security and political resources is the only chance for Russia to achieve its full potential.

We also feel that you may be the only person who can design an effective economic system for Russia.

Alexei turns to walk away.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

You might also be the only man who has the popularity and the stature to lead the way to the future... People trust you.

Alexei stops and turns toward Dmitri.

ALEXEI

But why should I or anyone else trust you?

DMITRI

Because neither of us can achieve our goals without each other.

(MORE)

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Together we can seize this great
opportunity for Russia.

Alexei shakes his head in derision of Dmitri.

ALEXEI
I'm sorry but your past does not
inspire confidence in you as a
partner for the future.

DMITRI
I understand your concern but I was
just following orders as I would
for you when you become President.

ALEXEI
President? It is impossible.

DMITRI
Not with our resources in the FCS
and the military and a political
and economic vision from you that
inspires the confidence of the
people.

Alexei ponders as he gazes up at the Presidium.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Becoming President may also be your
only chance to achieve your
romantic goals as well.

Alexei eyes Dmitri with suspicion and then turns away.

ALEXEI
Very doubtful... but send me a
proposal to consider.

Alexei stalks away.

INT. KATYA'S CAR - NIGHT (MOVING)

Katya drives the car away from the Rossiya Hotel.

KATYA
So tell me, Cliff, what have you
been doing all these years?

CLIFF
My father and I made a lot of money
on the sale of our business in
1980. So we started an investments
firm to manage our assets.
(MORE)

CLIFF (CONT'D)

We did so well that we started
managing investments for other
people.

Cliff is overcome with emotion. Katya reflects concern.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

We were very successful until he
and my mother died in a car
accident several weeks ago...

Katya takes a deep breath of despair...

KATYA

Oh, Cliff. That is terrible... I
am so very sorry.

Cliff fights back tears. She takes his hand affectionately.

LATER (MOVING)

Cliff gazes out the window. He turns toward Katya.

CLIFF

Sorry for the downer... I try to
put it out of my mind but I have no
means to comprehend that anything
so terrible could ever happen.

KATYA

I understand... It is the feeling I
had after mother was taken from me.

INT. KATYA'S CAR

Katya stops the car and turns off the engine at her apartment
building. Cliff's expression reflects his anxiety.

CLIFF

I hate to bring this up now.

But you should also know that I was
married until I got divorced about
a month ago.

Katya reflects her disappointment.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Katya, but I eventually decided that our situation was hopeless and that I had to get on with my life.

It was a mistake and it was not fair to her.

She was never more than a distraction to keep my mind off missing you.

I've lived a lie all these years.

Katya wipes the moisture from her eyes and struggles to collect herself.

KATYA

Several times I pursued relationships but every time I was with a man, I could only think of you.

I finally resolved to focus on my career and to pray for the day that you would return.

All those prayers have been answered tonight.

Katya smiles serenely and squeezes Cliff's hand.

EXT. KATYA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Cliff and Katya climb out of the car and walk arm in arm toward the building.

INT. ANDREI SIMOVICH'S CAR

Andrei Simovich sits in a black sedan and smokes a cigarette as he watches Cliff and Katya.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - DEN

Yuri reads the newspaper as he sits on the couch. The front door unlocks from the outside. Katya leads Cliff in by the hand and closes the door. Cliff sets his suitcase down. Yuri rises to his feet and registers his surprise.

YURI
Cliff Donahue!

Katya smiles as Yuri embraces Cliff with a bear hug.

CLIFF
Hello, Yuri. It's been too long.

YURI
That is for certain.

KATYA
I have asked Cliff to stay in our
guest room.

YURI
But, of course! Welcome to our
home, Cliff. This is cause for
celebration!

Yuri retrieves a bottle of vodka and quickly fills three shot
glasses. They all raise their glasses and toss down their
shots.

CLIFF
Thank you for sharing your home
with me.

YURI
It is our privilege. Please make
yourself at home

Yuri motions for them to sit. They all take a seat.

YURI (CONT'D)
So what have you been doing all
these years, Cliff?

LATER

Cliff sits on the couch. Katya relaxes next to him and holds
his hand. Yuri reclines in a comfortable chair. His
expression is grave.

YURI
I am so sorry to hear about your
parents. It is a great tragedy to
lose loved ones in such a terrible
way.

CLIFF
Thank you.... Katya tells me you're
a big time politician now.

YURI

A daughter's exaggeration for sure... Politics is a very difficult business these days.

The extremists are busy among us and times are very hard for our people.

The coming elections will decide our future for generations. So there is much work to be done...

Yuri reflects concern as he ponders for several moments.

YURI (CONT'D)

I am happy to see you, Cliff, but what brings you to Russia after all these years?

CLIFF

A search for a very special girl, and a dream that we might find happiness together.

Katya reacts with great emotion.

YURI

And what are your intentions now that you have found her?

CLIFF

I dream that we might share a life together if she feels the same way.

Katya smiles and squeezes Cliff's hand. Yuri grimaces.

YURI

And where would you live?

CLIFF

Here in Russia, if possible. I could never ask Katya to leave.

YURI

Would you change your citizenship?

CLIFF

If necessary, yes.

YURI

And how will you provide for Katya? Russia is a hard place to make a living.

CLIFF

Well, I hate to break it to her this way but I have over \$200 million dollars in cash and much more in other assets from my parent's estate.

Katya's eyes light up as Yuri slumps in anguish.

KATYA

What is wrong, Papa? This is wonderful news!

YURI

In most places it would be but a rich American who marries a Russian national treasure will certainly be a target. Being the son-in-law of a reform leader will only make things worse.

I understand how you feel, Cliff, but the Mafia and the extremists will try to get to you or those you love.

Wealthy businessmen are murdered here all the time and as a friend, I must tell you that leaving Russia is your wisest course of action.

KATYA

Then we will leave together.

Yuri anguishes.

YURI

I suggest that we all consider these matters carefully before making emotional decisions.

Yuri struggles with his thoughts for several moments.

YURI (CONT'D)

Please forgive my candor but this is a very serious matter. I want Katya to be happy but we must all face the reality of the situation.

CLIFF

I understand but we have to find a way to make it work.

I have no life without Katya.

Katya warmly embraces Cliff. Yuri nods in fatalistic resignation. Katya breaks from Cliff and hugs Yuri.

YURI

Do not misunderstand, princess.
You have my blessing but Cliff
deserves to know the circumstances.

CLIFF

Thank you for your candor and
concern.

Yuri nods his respect.

KATYA

So much money, Cliff. What will you
do with it?

CLIFF

I was thinking of creating a
foundation in your name to invest
in oil and gas ventures in Russia.
Russia's experiment with democracy
and capitalism must succeed for
everyone, and it must increase its
oil and gas exports to achieve that
goal.

Any profits could be used to help
finance small businesses and
charities in Russia.

KATYA

Are you serious?

CLIFF

Sure.

KATYA

That is a wonderful idea!

YURI

Yes it is, Cliff. If we do not show
economic progress quickly all could
be lost.

CLIFF

That must not happen... I believe I
could raise huge amounts of
additional capital to invest in oil
and gas projects here if a legal
means can be found to reward the
investors.

YURI

That will be more difficult but I feel sure it is something my people would want to discuss further with you... Thank you for your offer.

Yuri ponders for several moments and then rises to his feet.

YURI (CONT'D)

Please excuse me... It is so good to see you, Cliff, but I am very tired and I must leave for St. Petersburg in the early morning for two days. I must get some rest.

CLIFF

I understand, but please hold on a moment... I've got something for you.

Cliff opens the side pouch on his suitcase and removes a magazine. He hands Yuri the Time magazine with Katya's picture on the cover. Yuri smiles broadly.

YURI

Thank you.

CLIFF

Please enjoy it.

Yuri nods and focuses on the magazine as he exits.

KATYA

That was very sweet, Cliff. I am really worried about him...

The political pressure is wearing him down at a time when he needs his strength.

He is the best hope for Russia's future. We must help him.

CLIFF

We will.

INT. ALEXEI LEBEDEV'S HOUSE

Alexei enters the house and closes the door. He walks to the bar and pours a glass of vodka. Alexei glances sadly at a framed picture of Katya on the book case.

He walks to the window and gazes out at the Kremlin towers in the distance. His mood is one of complete despondence.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

Cliff sleeps on the large guest room bed. Katya enters and smiles as she watches Cliff sleep. She then kisses Cliff on the forehead. Cliff opens his eyes, smiles and stretches.

CLIFF

Good morning, beautiful.

KATYA

So are you going to sleep all day?
It is beautiful outside. Why do we
not go skating?

CLIFF

Sounds great.

EXT. GORKY PARK ICE RINK

The weather is clear and cold. The rink is busy with SKATERS as Cliff and Katya approach. Cliff carries their skates.

Many PEOPLE recognize Katya and some of them walk up and offer her best wishes. Katya returns their greetings and waves at other WELL WISHERS who follow them to the rink.

Two small GIRLS run up to Katya and she gives them each a hug. The girls are excited as they rush back to their MOTHER. The CROWD has grown quite large by the time they reach the rink. Cliff and Katya sit down and put on their skates.

CLIFF

This is pretty amazing.

KATYA

Yes, I love to come here to inspire
these people during these difficult
times.

Will you forgive me if I skate
alone for a few minutes?

CLIFF

Sure.

Katya laces her skates, stands up and gives Cliff a small kiss. Katya works her way toward the rink as the other skaters exit the ice and join in clapping.

The applause abates as a beautiful Russian instrumental plays on the loud speakers. Katya soars through an amazing series of acrobatic moves that mesmerize the crowd. Her every move is in harmony with the music.

The music shifts to a more upbeat Russian march. Katya adjusts her moves accordingly as the crowd starts to sing and to clap with the melody. Cliff joins the clapping.

Katya ends her performance with a dramatic spin, and a kiss to the crowd. The crowd wildly applauds as the other skaters rush to the middle of the rink to congratulate her.

Katya works her way back to Cliff as WELL WISHERS continue to pay their respects. Katya leads Cliff onto the ice and helps him find his rhythm. Cliff and Katya eventually join hands and skate playfully together.

Andrei Simovich coolly watches as he smokes a cigarette.

EXT. GORKY PARK

Cliff and Katya hold hands as they walk through the park.

CLIFF

I read a lot about Russia on the Internet, but how are things here these days?

KATYA

Not good. We seem to be stuck in an awful place between dead communism and the worst form of uncontrolled capitalism.

Part of the people want to turn back to the old days while part of us want to reform more quickly.

Everyone is very disillusioned, and it is a very dangerous time.

CLIFF

You sound like a politician.

KATYA

It's hard not to when I am around Papa all the time.

He has great plans for me to be a politician after I retire from the ballet.

CLIFF

But what do you want to do?

KATYA

I care about my country but I don't have any answers for the problems.

I just want to marry the man I love and perhaps have children with him before it is too late.

CLIFF

(In Russian with English sub-titles)
I have the same dream.

Katya reflects surprise at his Russian words.

CLIFF (CONT'D)

(In Russian with English sub-titles)
Yes, I can speak a little after many years of listening to audio tapes.

It was one way of staying connected to you.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cliff sleeps on the bed. His eyes open when he hears a beautiful melody as it plays in one of the other rooms. Cliff smiles and climbs out of bed. His chest is bare and he wears only boxer shorts.

INT. HALLWAY

Cliff follows the music to a closed door at the end of a hallway. Cliff does not make a sound as he cracks open the door.

INT. KATYA'S STUDIO

The large room has a polished wood floor & a full-length wall mirror with a ballet bar mounted on it. The room is only illuminated by the street lights that shine through the large windows. The ambiance is mystical.

Katya does her exercises on the ballet bar, moving gracefully with the music. Katya's movements reflect her intense emotions of the moment.

Katya dances about the studio with spectacular movements that are in passionate harmony with the music. Cliff watches in awe until she places her right leg back up onto the bar.

Cliff quietly walks up behind her & softly touches the under side of Katya's right thigh. She smiles without opening her eyes.

Cliff gently strokes her leg as his left hand touches her hip & slowly moves up her torso to her breast.

Cliff kisses the back of Katya's neck as she writhes with pleasure & smiles. Cliff presses his body against her as he continues to kiss her neck.

Katya turns & wraps her right leg around the back of his left leg.

Katya eases him down onto a mat on the floor. Cliff crosses his legs & she sits on his lap & wraps her graceful legs around him. They fixate in wonder at each other's eyes.

She releases her hair & shakes it with her hands as it falls around her shoulders. He supports her back as she leans back with arms extended in an emotional moment of triumphant joy.

They writhe in a deeply affectionate & sensual embrace until the music ends.

INT. KATYA'S BEDROOM

Moonlight illuminates the room as Katya lies in Cliff's arms on the bed. A teardrop falls down Katya's cheek.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Yuri, Katya and Cliff eat breakfast at the table on the penthouse balcony. There is a dramatic view of the Moscow River and the Kremlin as well as other sites of the city. Yuri wears a dark suit.

YURI

We have big political meetings today. We are attempting to create a reform coalition party and develop a strategy to take control of the Duma in the next elections.

KATYA

Papa is a candidate for the position of Party Leader.

YURI

She exaggerates. Alexei Lebedev will be the new leader. He is very intelligent, and a good colleague.

KATYA

Yes, but Alexei seems to be more of a lover than a fighter for the reform cause.

CLIFF

And how would you know that?

YURI

Because Alexei has been trying to romance her for years.

KATYA

Emphasis on trying. Napoleon had more success at Waterloo.

Yuri smiles as he rises from the table.

YURI

Please excuse me but I must go.

Katya hugs Yuri.

KATYA

It is your time, Papa.

YURI

We will see.

Cliff and Yuri shake hands.

CLIFF

Good luck.

INT. ALEXEI'S BUSINESS OFFICE

Alexei reads the newspaper as Dmitri enters the room and closes the door behind him. Alexei stands.

ALEXEI

What are you doing here?

DMITRI

This should help you see the light.

Dmitri walks over to a tape recorder on Alexei's desk. He inserts a tape and pushes the play button.

YURI (O.S.)
Cliff Donahue!

CLIFF (O.S.)
Hello, Yuri. It's been too long.

LATER

Dmitri paces as they listen to the tape recorder.

KATYA (O.S.)
Are you serious?

CLIFF (O.S.)
Sure.

KATYA (O.S.)
That is a wonderful idea!

Dmitri clicks off the recording.

DMITRI
I have a much better idea.

ALEXEI
Forget it, Dmitri! We are patriots,
not common thieves.

DMITRI
Nothing can be accomplished without
money. We must buy the loyalty of
key officials to get them to risk
their lives to support our cause.

Alexei reflects his disgust.

LATER

Alexei and Dmitri continue to listen to the tape.

KATYA (O.S.)
Yes, but Alexei seems to be more of
a lover than a fighter for the
reform cause.

CLIFF (O.S.)
And how would you know that?

YURI (O.S.)
Because Alexei has been trying to
romance her for years.

KATYA (O.S.)
 Emphasis on trying. Napoleon had
 more success at Waterloo.

Alexei snaps and smashes the recorder onto the floor. Dmitri scoops it up and grinds his teeth as he forcefully shoves the recorder across the desk into Alexei's lap.

DMITRI
 Get a grip! What is more important,
 your country or an idiotic fantasy
 of a woman who is in love with
 another man?

Alexei walks over to the window and reflects.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
 How soon can you have the strategic
 plan completed?

ALEXEI
 I have a draft complete but I must
 focus on the party election
 tomorrow night. I will get it to
 you soon afterward.

DMITRI
 Then you are committed to the coup?
 No turning back?

ALEXEI
 Whatever is necessary. Russia is
 more important than any man, but
 there must be a minimum of
 bloodshed or we will lose the faith
 of the people.

DMITRI
 One old drunk President dying of a
 heart attack will not upset anyone
 for long if we can restore order
 and offer a better economic vision
 for the future.

INT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - LARGE MEETING HALL

The CROWD chatters as VICTOR DUDKO, 60, steps to the podium and bangs the gavel. Victor is tall and imposing man.

VICTOR
 Be seated!

Everyone complies.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

The tabulations are complete and we have a new party leader.

Will Alexei Lebedev and Yuri Sharinsky please stand and be recognized?

They both comply and there is a large round of applause.

Alexei appears confident as Yuri smiles and waits patiently.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

The winner of the election for party leader, with 73% of the vote is Yuri Sharinsky of Volgograd.

Alexei Lebedev is elected his first deputy and head of Party security.

The crowd explodes in applause. Yuri is in shock and Alexei is infuriated. Alexei storms out of the hall as well wishers surround Yuri.

INT. PARTY HEADQUARTERS - ALEXEI'S OFFICE

The office door swings open and slams against the door stop. Alexei barges through the doorway and struggles to control himself.

GENERAL CONSTANTINE MARTOV, 55, enters the room and closes the door. General Martov is a large, foreboding man who wears a Russian General's uniform.

GENERAL MARTOV

How could you let this happen?

ALEXEI

It is not my fault!

GENERAL MARTOV

Master of excuses! Do you not realize how important this is?

Our country is in economic ruin and our military power has collapsed.

We are the laughingstock of the world and we cannot trust the outcome of more elections.

ALEXEI

No one understands more than I do!
I am sick to death of watching our
people starve and our country
grovel for scraps from the West!

I am pledged to stop this travesty
and I will do what must be done!

GENERAL MARTOV

Well, get moving or soon I will be
forced to take military action!

General Martov storms out and slams the door behind him.

INT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - YURI'S OFFICE

Yuri reads in a large chair near the window as his secretary
speaks over the intercom.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Katya and her friend, Mr. Donahue,
are here to see you.

Yuri smiles, spins around in his chair and stands up.

YURI

Please send them in.

The door opens and Katya rushes to embrace Yuri.

KATYA

I am so proud of you! It is a huge
victory for Russia.

YURI

Perhaps, but Party leadership is a
terrible burden.

The secretary speaks over the intercom again.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Sorry to interrupt, sir. The
President is calling to
congratulate you.

YURI

Please excuse me. This will take
awhile. We will celebrate later.

Cliff and Katya exit the room as Yuri picks up his phone.

INT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE - STUDY

Alexei reads at his desk as Dmitri enters the room and closes the door. Alexei's mood is one of calculated determination.

DMITRI
You called for me?

ALEXEI
Yes. As first deputy, I would assume control of the party if Yuri resigns... Yuri will do anything for Katya so I agree with you that the best way to achieve his resignation is by kidnapping the American.

DMITRI
Too complicated. I am thinking we should arrange a fatal accident for Yuri and be done with it.

ALEXEI
It would be much more effective to force Yuri to confess to corruption with the American and discredit the entire democratic reform movement in the process.

A malicious grin appears on Dmitri's face.

DMITRI
Very clever. You dispose of your American rival and avoid killing her father.

ALEXEI
Yes, and you can separate the American from his money while you detain him.

I am sure he would part with it to protect Katya.

DMITRI
I like the way you think, but we must move quickly. I will have the American picked up immediately.

Alexei glares at Dmitri.

ALEXEI
Make certain he is not harmed. He is no good to us dead.

DMITRI

Of course, but you can be certain that Yuri is a dead man if he does not cooperate immediately.

ALEXEI

What is your obsession with killing him? He may be a fool, but he is a patriot.

DMITRI

Let's just say his death is long overdue.

Alexei's expression reflects his unease as Dmitri exits the room and closes the door behind him. Alexei opens his drawer, and removes a picture of Katya.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DUSK (MOVING)

Vladimir Aronsky, now 37, drives as Cliff sits beside Katya in the rear seat while they cruise down a country road.

The limo reaches a large ornate entrance where an armed GUARD opens the gate. Katya's eyes light up as a large Czarist era mansion appears at the end of a long, canopied drive.

KATYA

What is this place?

CLIFF

It can be your new home.

KATYA

You cannot be serious!

Cliff smiles and nods.

INT. MANSION - FOYER

Katya enters the huge and ornate foyer. Cliff follows her and closes the front door with a picnic basket in hand.

BALLROOM

They enter the room and Cliff sets a picnic basket down on the oriental rug in front of a huge arched window which frames the sunset outside. An enormous fireplace burns brightly nearby.

A beautiful melody begins to play as Katya admires the room, and the sunset through the picture window. Cliff joins her and extends his hand. Cliff pulls her close and unclips her hair which falls down her back.

Katya shakes her head and smiles as Cliff leads her into a romantic waltz across the full breadth of the large room.

DEN

Cliff adds logs to the fire as Katya unloads the basket. Cliff sits down beside her and pops open a bottle of champagne as she feeds him a morsel of food.

Cliff fills two glasses, hands one to Katya and raises his to toast.

CLIFF

To my beautiful Katya.

Katya smiles and clinks her glass against his. They both sip from their glasses and savor each other's eyes. Cliff reaches into his jacket pocket and removes a ring box. Katya's eyes brighten with surprise.

Katya's eyes moisten as Cliff hands her the ring box. Katya's hands tremble as she opens the box to reveal a large diamond engagement ring. Her eyes flare in amazement as Cliff places the ring onto her finger.

Cliff pulls her into his arms and they kiss tenderly.

EXT. MANSION COMPOUND

Cliff leads Katya into a waiting limousine and it drives away and through the front gate.

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Vladimir drives down the rural highway. Katya rests her head on Cliff's shoulder in the rear seat. Suddenly, a truck backs out of a driveway in front of the limo. Vladimir locks up his brakes and stops just short of the truck.

Katya and Cliff are tossed about the rear compartment.

VLADIMIR

Imbecile!

Vladimir fumes as he rolls down his window. PYOTR SYNOVSKY, 35, climbs out of the truck and moves quickly toward the limo. Pyotr points a gun at Vladimir's face and Katya screams.

PYOTR
You, outside!

Vladimir emerges from the limo. Pyotr pistol whips him to the ground.

EXT. ACCIDENT SITE

Four MEN dressed in black emerge from behind a group of large shrubs. They wear black ski masks and carry night sticks. They drag Cliff and Katya out of the limo as Katya screams hysterically.

Two men gag Katya and inject her with a syringe. Two others club Cliff from behind with their night sticks until he ceases to resist.

Pyotr pulls out a syringe and injects it into Cliff's arm. Cliff collapses as a black van pulls up behind them. The men drag Cliff and stuff him into the van with Katya. The men pile into the van and it speeds away.

Vladimir waits until the van disappears and stands up. He coolly climbs into the limo and drives away.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Katya is unconscious and bound to a chair. Cliff is tied to a chair across the table from Katya. Dmitri Plekhanov places smelling salts under Cliff's nose. Cliff gradually regains consciousness and focuses on Katya.

Dmitri removes a revolver from his jacket and places it to her head.

DMITRI
Good morning, Mr. Donahue. Sorry for this inconvenience but we understand that you are interested in making large contributions to worthy Russian charities.

Our organization is just such a charity and we will be more than happy to accept your generous donation.

(MORE)

DMITRI (CONT'D)

My associate is going to untie your hands and you are going to transfer \$200 million dollars from your accounts to ours.

Pyotr unties Cliff's hands and places a phone in front of him.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

If you comply, this young lady will be home for dinner. If you do not, it will be very unfortunate for both of you.

Do I make myself clear?

CLIFF

Why should I believe you?

DMITRI

We are not barbarians, Mr. Donahue. We are businessmen.

She was brought here only to facilitate this transaction.

The only way she will be harmed is if you do not cooperate.

CLIFF

What about me?

DMITRI

You will be held pending the outcome of negotiations with her father. If he is as reasonable as I expect you to be, you will be released.

Dmitri cocks the trigger. Cliff nods in resignation.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

Very good. Take her away.

Pyotr carries Katya from the room.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

First you will transfer one million dollars to her father's bank account here in Moscow.

Here is the information.

Cliff is puzzled as Dmitri slides a piece of paper to him.

EXT. WAREHOUSE

Katya remains drowsy as Pyotr shoves her into the limo and climbs in the rear compartment beside her. The limo drives away.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Katya passes out and Pyotr admires Katya's large engagement ring. He smiles as he removes it from her finger and places it into his jacket pocket.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - DEN

Yuri sits despondently on the couch as he downs a vodka shot. The phone rings. Yuri anguishes as he rises slowly and walks to the phone. He hesitates as it rings again and then picks up the receiver.

YURI
This is Yuri.

He listens, hangs up and rushes out the door.

EXT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Yuri bursts through the front door and races across the street toward a park bench where Katya lies. She is bound, gagged and unconscious. Yuri hurries to her side and checks her pulse. His expression reflects relief.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Katya regains consciousness as DR. PASHA KATINGER, 67, completes his examination of her. Yuri stands nearby.

PASHA
She has been drugged and she is
experiencing emotional shock.

Physically there is nothing I can
do but give her a sedative.

KATYA
No! I must remain alert to help
Cliff. Have you heard anything?

YURI
Not yet.

The telephone rings and Katya sluggishly follows Yuri.

DEN

Yuri and Katya walk into the room. Yuri picks up the phone.

YURI

Yuri here.

Yuri's demeanor grows increasingly grave.

YURI (CONT'D)

How do I know you will not kill him
anyway?

Yuri listens for several moments more and hangs up. He collapses onto the couch and fills a glass full of vodka.

KATYA

What did they say, Papa?

Yuri tosses down the glass of vodka and refills it. He downs the second glass as Katya takes his shaking hand.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Please talk to me, Papa. What do
they want?

YURI

They want me to resign as coalition
leader, and to publicly confess to
charges of corruption...

If I refuse, they will murder Cliff
and assassinate me.

Katya reacts with deep distress.

KATYA

But will they release Cliff if you
do what they want?

YURI

They say they will, but they cannot
be trusted.

KATYA

What can we do?

Yuri fills another glass and lifts it to drink. Katya slaps the glass from his hand and grabs the bottle from the table.

KATYA (CONT'D)
 Not this time! You are going to
 keep a clear head and we are going
 to find a way to help Cliff.

Yuri indignantly jerks the bottle from her hand.

YURI
 There is no way to help Cliff!

KATYA
 If you do not try, I will never
 forgive you!

Yuri hesitates and allows Katya to take the bottle.

KATYA (CONT'D)
 Is there no one we can call to stop
 these people?

YURI
 No. The Police and the Security
 Services despise us.

KATYA
 What about Alexei? Isn't he the
 Head of Party Security?

Yuri lifts his receiver and dials the phone. Katya walks to
 the bar and picks up the receiver of the other phone.

INT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE - STUDY

Alexei sits at his desk as his phone rings and he picks up
 the receiver.

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY:

ALEXEI
 Lebedev.

YURI
 Alexei, this is Yuri.

ALEXEI
 Good evening.

YURI
 Katya is on the line with us.

KATYA

Hello, Alexei. I am so sorry about the other night but I had to meet an old friend who was waiting in the lobby.

ALEXEI

It is quite alright but we missed you at the party.

KATYA

I will have to make it up to you but right now we have a serious problem.

LATER

Alexei, Yuri and Katya are still on the phone.

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY:

ALEXEI

This is incredible! Do you have any clue who the perpetrators might be?

YURI

In Moscow, it could be almost anyone. We were hoping that you might have some insight.

ALEXEI

It certainly sounds like the Mafia, but that would not explain the demand for your resignation.

YURI

Someone appears to want you to replace me as party leader.

ALEXEI

But that would only be until a new election could be held and it is painfully obvious that the party does not view me as its leader.

YURI

So, what is your recommendation?

ALEXEI

We cannot allow our party to be discredited by your resignation.

(MORE)

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

I suggest that you agree to announce your resignation at the party meeting this evening.

I will pursue an investigation today and we will flush out the culprits.

KATYA

But what about Cliff?

ALEXEI

We will do everything possible to find your friend. Just remain at your apartment until this is over. I will send someone to watch your building.

KATYA

Thank you, Alexei. I knew we could count on you.

INT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE - STUDY

Alexei sits at his desk. Dmitri is seated across from him and smiles as Alexei hangs up the phone.

ALEXEI

Yuri took the bait. He will announce his resignation at the party meeting at 10:00 this evening.

He says he must first see the American alive and unharmed.

INT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT - CELL

Cliff awakens to the sound of voices upstairs and winces in severe pain as he surveys the room. Minimal light shines through the bars from upstairs. A metal, folding chair sits in one corner.

INT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

A group of a dozen MEN pour into the room and take seats around the large dining table. Pyotr closes the double doors as Alexei walks to his chair but remains standing.

General Martov, Victor Dudko and Dmitri Plekhanov sit at the table with Andrei Simovich, General Vasily Plekhanov and several other OFFICERS and POLITICIANS. Large envelopes sit in front of each of them.

ALEXEI

Yuri Andreivich will offer his resignation at a special Party meeting this evening and I will become the interim Party Leader until a new election can be organized.

The President has scheduled a conference with the leaders of the major parties at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. That meeting will provide us with our opportunity to penetrate the President's security.

Everyone applauds vigorously. Alexei's mood is nervous and reflects forced enthusiasm.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

I appreciate your enthusiasm but the murder of a President is a very serious matter for Russia and the world.

Before you is a written summary of our operational plan for assuming control of the government and the economy.

You all have important rolls to play so please study the plan as soon as you depart this meeting.

Everyone nods in confirmation.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

It must be understood that I am only willing to proceed with your full support of this plan that includes the death of the President and the establishment of a new constitution under my leadership.

Please indicate your support by saying yes at this time.

EVERYONE

Yes!

ALEXEI

Then I recommend we immediately
activate operation swift sword.

They all pour their shot glasses full from half a dozen vodka
bottles. They each raise their glasses.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

Our long national humiliation is
almost over.

To restoration of glory and
prosperity for our people!

They all smile and empty their glasses.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

Enough celebration for now. We have
much to do before tomorrow.

INT. FOYER

Nikolai stands next to Andrei at the front door as the other
men file through it.

ANDREI

(to Nikolai)

The big day has finally arrived.

Dmitri and Vasily are the last to appear as Alexei and
General Martov disappear outside. Dmitri closes the door and
turns toward Nikolai.

DMITRI

Zealous fools.

Clean up the American and deliver
him to Reform Party Headquarters by
nine-thirty.

Have the large van standing by
outside until the meeting is over.

NIKOLAI

What is the plan from there?

DMITRI

We will show him to Yuri and then
the American will disappear
permanently.

ANDREI

Another unfortunate victim of the
infamous Russian Mafia.

Dmitri, Vasily, Andrei and Nikolai exit the house.

EXT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE

Dmitri and Vasily hurry down the front steps and into a waiting limousine. The limousine speeds away as Andrei and Nikolai climb into a police car and drive off. Alexei disappears inside the house.

INT. ALEXEI'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM

Vladimir removes a cassette tape from a video recorder. He hands it to Alexei and places the recorder into its case. Vladimir exits the room.

INT. DMITRI'S LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

A DRIVER drives as Dmitri and Vasily sit in the rear compartment which is separated from the driver by glass.

DMITRI

Are you certain the senior officer
corps follow you?

VASILY

Most of the key officers despise
General Martov and have committed
to me.

The rest will be shot immediately.

DMITRI

Excellent. What about the
President's personal guard?

VASILY

No progress. They are fanatically
loyal to the President but they
will be ineffective as soon as he
is dead.

Dmitri muses as he gazes out the window.

INT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT

The door at the top of the stairs opens and Nikolai thunders down the steps to the door on Cliff's cell. Nikolai flips the light switch but it does not come on.

Nikolai slides the viewing plate on the cell door aside and notices the broken bulb on the floor of the cell. He draws his handgun.

Nikolai opens the cell door with his gun at the ready but he cannot see Cliff.

NIKOLAI

Okay, you want to play a game?

I like games. You get to play the
dead guy.

Nikolai steps into the doorway with arms extended and ready to fire.

Suddenly, the metal chair crashes across Nikolai's extended arms from the darkness. Nikolai drops the gun and Cliff and he desperately dive for the pistol in the darkness.

Nikolai and Cliff struggle violently until a muffled shot is heard. Nikolai's eyes reflect shock as Cliff pushes him aside to reveal their blood spattered chests.

Nikolai and Cliff both stare in disbelief at the massive wound in Nikolai's torso. Nikolai succumbs. Cliff slowly rises to his feet and staggers through the gate.

INT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - LOBBY

Cliff emerges from the basement and hears voices. He hides in the coat closet but leaves the door ajar.

INT. NIKOLAI'S OFFICE

Pyotr places his envelope from the meeting into a briefcase and sets a automatic pistol on top of it as SERGEI TUPOLEV, 35, enters the room. They both wear police uniforms and berets.

SERGEI

Where is Nikolai?

PYOTR

He went to get the American.

SERGEI

But why is he not back by now?

Sergei and Pyotr register alarm and disappear through the doorway leaving the briefcase open on the desk.

INT. BASEMENT

Sergei and Pyotr rush down the steps and into the cell.

SERGEI

Son-of-a-bitch!

They turn and bolt out of the cell as the heavy door at the top of the stairs slams shut.

INT. LOBBY

Cliff shoves the large bolt on the basement door into the slot. He can hear Sergei and Pyotr's muffled screams and pounding.

INT. NIKOLAI'S OFFICE

Cliff rushes into the office. He grabs the pistol from the briefcase. Cliff notices the large envelope in the briefcase. He reads the writing on the envelope and registers alarm.

Cliff tosses another pistol and several clips into the briefcase.

He closes the briefcase, picks up an automatic weapon and blasts the radio and telephone with a short burst. Cliff races out of the room.

INT. LOBBY

Cliff rushes to the side door. He pulls on one of the black top coats from the rack and dons a wool Russian hat. Cliff hides the automatic weapon inside the jacket.

EXT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE

Cliff works his way through some shrubs as a police car pulls into the driveway. Cliff hides behind a shrub as a POLICEMAN jumps out of the car and rushes into the house.

Cliff fires a short burst into the tires of a car sitting by the garage. He races over to the running police car, climbs into the driver's seat and speeds down the driveway.

Sergei, Pyotr and the policeman explode out of the side door with their weapons drawn. They watch in frustration as Cliff's police car blasts through the security gate and disappears.

The guard at the gate fires several shots at Cliff's police car with no effect.

INT. POLICE CAR (MOVING)

Cliff drives down the avenue. The car has a cellular phone and a police band radio which is audible in the background. Cliff anguishes at a traffic light.

Cliff suddenly opens the car door and vomits onto the street. He closes the door and rests his forehead on the steering wheel until a car honks for him to move through the green light.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Once again, all units in the vicinity of Kominsky Prospect, proceed to the district headquarters location.

We have a report of gunfire.

INT. FCS COMPOUND WAREHOUSE - BASEMENT

Sirens can be heard outside as Andrei Simovich storms down the stairs and into the basement with an automatic weapon in hand. Andrei blasts through the cell door and disappears into the darkness of the cell.

Terrible screams can be heard as he spots Nikolai. Andrei burns with rage as he explodes from the cell and spots Sergei, Pyotr and the policeman as they reach the bottom of the steps.

ANDREI

Idiots! How could you let this happen?

Andrei shoots them with a burst from his weapon until the clip empties. Sergei, Pyotr and the officer collapse to the floor.

EXT. FCS COMPOUND - WAREHOUSE

Andrei barges out of the side door of the warehouse and runs over to his police car which is parked in the driveway. He picks up the radio handset.

INT. CLIFF'S POLICE CAR (MOVING)

Cliff drives as he listens to the radio and speeds down a broad avenue.

ANDREI (V.O.)

Dispatch. This is the Captain. I want all black units to search for the American, Cliff Donahue.

He has murdered my brother and at least three other officers. He is believed to be driving police car number thirty-seven.

I'm in route to the Sharinsky residence at four-ten Gorky Prospect.

On site security seize the Sharinsky girl immediately!

I want all available black units in the area to converge there. I repeat black units only.

Cliff is horrified. He accelerates the car as he picks up the cellular phone and struggles to figure out how to use it. Cliff pulls into a parking lot to focus on the phone.

EXT. ABOVE CLIFF'S POLICE CAR

A number thirty-seven is painted on the roof of the car.

EXT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Two POLICE OFFICERS burst out the side door of a black van. They are immediately cut down by silenced gunshots.

Vladimir appears and surveys the deserted area. He rushes to the downed officers and quickly stuffs their bodies back into the van as sirens approach. He closes the van door and disappears into the darkness.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT - DEN - NIGHT

Katya plays a sad but moving melody on the piano. Her eyes are red from crying and her mood is one of complete despair. Her slender and graceful fingers are mesmerizing as they flow magically across the keys.

Katya continues to play with greater passion as a revolver comes into view on top of the piano. Tears roll down Katya's cheeks and the melody slows as Katya focuses on the revolver. The phone rings once and she snatches up the receiver.

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY:

KATYA

Hello.

Cliff sits in the police car as he speaks on the car phone.

CLIFF

Katya.

KATYA

Praise God! Are you hurt?

CLIFF

Yes, but I'll be okay.

KATYA

Where are you?

CLIFF

I can't say because they may be listening to the call.

Several bad cops were killed during my escape so everyone is searching for me.

KATYA

Oh, my God!

CLIFF

They're coming for you. You must go now to the place where you hugged the little girls.

INT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY

Sirens approach from outside as Katya emerges from the staircase door. She wears a black topcoat and a black scarf as she hurries down the hall and disappears into the laundry.

LAUNDRY ROOM

Katya walks past the washers and dryers to a window. She quickly opens the window and climbs through it.

EXT. YURI AND KATYA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Katya works her way between the shrubs to avoid detection as sirens can be heard in all directions. Katya jogs until she reaches a crosswalk. Katya hides inside a bus stop housing as two police cars approach and skid to a stop nearby.

Four POLICEMEN rush from the vehicles and spread out around the apartment building. Vladimir watches Katya from behind a tree in the park across the street.

LATER - SIDE STREET NEAR GORKY PARK

Katya appears terrified as she moves quickly to avoid police cars in all directions. Two police helicopters appear with search lights that sweep the area.

PEOPLE in the surrounding houses start to come out onto the sidewalks to watch the action.

Katya covers her face with her scarf and works her way from one group of people to the next. Eventually the ice rink becomes visible in the distance.

LATER - SIDEWALK

Katya walks rapidly as a police car appears and focuses a spotlight on her. She ducks into an alley and the police car speeds up to follow her.

EXT. ALLEY

The alley is a dead end. Katya frantically searches for a way to escape as the police car closes in. In desperation she pulls her gun and prepares to fire.

CLIFF

Katya, don't shoot! It's me!

Katya is relieved and she rushes to climb into the car.

INT. CLIFF'S POLICE CAR

Katya closes her door and Cliff jerks the car into reverse.

CLIFF

Get down!

Katya slides down onto the floorboard.

EXT. ALLEY

Another police car appears and two OFFICERS climb out and rush into the alley. Cliff accelerates toward them in reverse as they draw their weapons and open fire.

INT. CLIFF'S POLICE CAR (MOVING)

The rear window shatters. Cliff is hit in the right shoulder and the car crashes into the side wall and stops. The officers race toward Cliff's car until several silenced gunshots strike the officers and they collapse to the ground.

Vladimir appears and rushes to the driver's window. Katya screams until she recognizes Vladimir.

Vladimir opens the driver's door and helps Cliff into the rear seat of the fallen officer's car. Katya moves to the rear seat on the passenger side. Vladimir jumps into the drivers seat and the car speeds away.

INT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - ALEXEI'S OFFICE

Alexei paces by the window as Victor Dudko stands nearby. Dmitri enters the room and closes the door. Dmitri tosses a large envelope onto the small conference table.

ALEXEI

Where the hell is the American? We cannot delay the meeting forever!

DMITRI

He has escaped.

Alexei explodes in a rage.

ALEXEI

How is that possible?

DMITRI

Relax. I always have a backup plan.

Yuri is in our custody and a renegade American who killed four police officers could work to our advantage.

(MORE)

DMITRI (CONT'D)

Especially since he is a friend of Yuri.

ALEXEI

Okay, but how can we use it?

DMITRI

I was already preparing the indictment for Yuri when I got news of the escape.

I made certain modifications which are included in the envelope material.

Alexei sits at the table and opens the envelope. He removes documents from the envelope and hands one copy to Victor who sits down beside him. They both start reading.

INT. POLICE CAR (MOVING)

Vladimir drives and hands a policeman's scarf from the dashboard to Katya. She wraps Cliff's shoulder with it.

KATYA

We must get him to a doctor. Call Pasha and have him meet us.

Vladimir picks up the cell phone and dials. Cliff looks at his bloody shoulder and passes out. Katya notices him.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Oh, no!

INT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - ALEXEI'S OFFICE

Alexei and Victor sit at the table as Dmitri stands at the window facing away from Alexei. Alexei finishes reading the indictment with concern. Dmitri turns toward Alexei and Alexei forces a smile.

ALEXEI

You are a true genius, Dmitri. Have Katya picked up and taken to my house.

DMITRI

That will be a problem. She escaped with the American.

Alexei's eyes flare and he jumps to his feet.

ALEXEI

How is that possible? How much do they know?

DMITRI

We fear the American may have taken a copy of the operational plans.

Alexei stands in stunned silence for several moments.

ALEXEI

She was never supposed to know!

DMITRI

Get a grip! When you become President, you can have your way with her!

Alexei is speechless. Dmitri reflects his concern.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

He is a hunted fugitive who murdered four policemen and the document is a forgery as part of his plot with Yuri!

Dmitri picks up the envelope and motions for Victor to follow him as he walks to the doorway. He stops without turning to Alexei.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

Do not make yourself dispensable!!!

ALEXEI

Do not threaten me!!! I will do what must be done!!

Dmitri disappears. Alexei begins pacing back and forth nervously as his mind races.

INT. REFORM PARTY GARAGE - OFFICE

Cliff lies on the couch and Katya sits on a chair nearby. There is a heavy bandage on his shoulder. Dr. Pasha Katinger sits between them beside Cliff's transfusion IV. Katya reads from the meeting envelope as Cliff's eyes open.

PASHA

Ah yes, back with the living. You were minutes from death, you know.

(MORE)

PASHA (CONT'D)
You are fortunate that Vladimir arrived and Katya had a compatible blood type.

Katya kisses Cliff on the forehead.

KATYA
This is Dr. Pasha Katinger.

CLIFF
Thanks, Doctor. Where are we?

KATYA
In the garage at the party motor pool. Vladimir is helping us.

CLIFF
What about Yuri?

KATYA
He is still in the Party meeting three blocks away.

We found an envelope in the briefcase you were carrying. Where did you get it?

CLIFF
At the warehouse where I was being held.

KATYA
It contains detailed plans for a conspiracy to assassinate the President and overthrow the government.

Cliff reflects both surprise and deep concern.

KATYA (CONT'D)
They plan to blame the assassination on the Communist Party leader who is attending the meeting with the President tomorrow morning.

PASHA
Then they will declare a state of emergency and Alexei Lebedev will assume power as a reformer.

KATYA

But they intend to secretly pursue
a nationalist agenda while they
rebuild Russia's military and the
West continues to disarm.

Cliff struggles to his feet and picks up the police shotgun.

CLIFF

Where is Vladimir?

KATYA

He just left to try and warn his
American contact about the
conspiracy.

CLIFF

You know about the CIA?

KATYA

Yes, of course, they have been
supporting Papa's political efforts
for many years.

CLIFF

So it's up to us to help Yuri.
Let's go.

PASHA

Your wound is serious. Be very
careful.

INT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - LARGE MEETING HALL

Noisy MEN in suits fill the large room to capacity. Dmitri,
Andrei and Victor watch Alexei as he sits stoically on the
front row.

DMITRI

Be prepared to go with the
alternate plan if I raise my arm in
the air.

Andrei and Victor nod. Andrei disappears from the room.
Dmitri takes a seat in the front row. Andrei reappears and
leads Yuri to a chair on the elevated platform. Victor
solemnly steps to the podium and bangs the gavel.

VICTOR

Be seated.

All the men comply and cease talking as Victor adjusts the
microphone.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

As Party Secretary, I have the responsibility of conducting inquiries into ethical and criminal behavior of Party members.

Certain accusations of corruption and treason have been made against our new Party Leader, Yuri Sharinsky.

AUDIENCE

Ohhh!

Yuri reflects his surprise.

VICTOR

I must emphasize that this is not a criminal proceeding and the intent here is not to determine guilt or innocence by legal standards.

Our sole purpose is to determine whether or not our Party Leader retains sufficient moral authority to lead us through the coming campaign.

Victor walks toward Yuri who is seated nearby.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Yuri Andreivich, have you done anything you feel should require your resignation?

YURI

No, I have not.

VICTOR

Very well. Do you know an American named Clifford Donahue?

YURI

Yes. He is a friend of my family.

VICTOR

Isn't he also your daughter's fiancée?

YURI

Yes.

AUDIENCE

Ohhh!

VICTOR

Do you approve of such a marriage?

YURI

Yes, they love each other.

VICTOR

But you know the stature of your daughter in this country.

Did you consider the political consequences to our Party if she marries a wealthy American during this time of great hardship for our people?

YURI

Yes, but he is considering Russian citizenship and it is a personal matter that I did not consider to be politically relevant.

There is a collective groan.

VICTOR

How long have you known this American?

YURI

Since nineteen seventy-nine.

VICTOR

Have you had any political or financial dealings with him?

YURI

Only brief discussions of my political philosophy in the most general of terms.

There has been no financial relationship at all between us.

Victor hands Yuri a piece of paper.

VICTOR

Then how do you explain this transfer of one million dollars to your bank account yesterday?

There is collective surprise as Yuri reviews the paper.

YURI

I have no knowledge of this.

VICTOR
But, the transfer from Mr.
Donahue's account has been
confirmed by the bank.

YURI
He does not have my account number,
so the transfer must have been
forced by his kidnappers.

VICTOR
Kidnappers?

YURI
Yes, he was abducted yesterday.

VICTOR
Is it normal for kidnappers to send
money to friends of their victims?

YURI
Only if it is intended to frame me!

VICTOR
So your Mr. Donahue is very
wealthy?

YURI
Yes.

Victor retrieves a stack of documents from a table and hands
them to Yuri.

VICTOR
It might interest you to know that
Mr. Donahue was not kidnapped
yesterday.

He was arrested with these
documents in his possession.

They describe an elaborate scheme
to assassinate our President and to
finance your campaign as his
replacement.

Yuri and the audience leap to their feet.

YURI
That is outrageous! If they say
that, they are total fabrications!

Andrei shoves Yuri back down into his chair.

VICTOR

No! It is outrageous that a man with the public trust would sell out to American business interests and commit treason and murder in the pursuit of power!

Your American friend confirmed his intentions when he escaped this evening and murdered at least four police officers in the process!

The crowd screams in outrage as Alexei anguishes. Eventually, Alexei leaps onto the platform.

ALEXEI

I demand order! Have you people lost your minds! We have all known Yuri Andreivich for years.

He is totally committed to reform and he is certainly entitled to the benefit of a full investigation before we destroy his reputation and our Party's credibility!

Dmitri raises his arm in the air and Andrei nods as he motions to an OFFICER standing across the hall. A large group of POLICEMEN immediately enter the room and move toward the platform.

VICTOR

(to Alexei)

It is not surprising that you would step forward.

You are implicated in the documents as Yuri's accomplice.

Alexei reflects his shock as Andrei raises two folded documents in the air.

ANDREI

(to Alexei)

I have warrants for the arrest of yourself and Yuri Andreivich.

The crowd explodes in an uproar as the policemen quickly subdue Yuri and Alexei and hustle them out of the room.

EXT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS

A limousine is parked across the street. Black glass obscures the contents of the car.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Katya and Cliff hold hands as they sit in the limousine and watch the Reform Party Headquarters building.

CLIFF

It'll be dawn soon.

KATYA

We're running out of time.

EXT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS

The front doors of the building open and a large group of MEN exit. A large police van pulls up to the side door and four OFFICERS shove Yuri and Alexei into its rear compartment. Yuri and Alexei both wear handcuffs.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Katya watches the Headquarters building as Cliff points.

CLIFF

That was Yuri.

KATYA

Yes, but Alexei was with him and they were both wearing handcuffs.

It makes no sense.

EXT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS

Dmitri stands at the rear of the van as Andrei jumps into the rear compartment.

INT. POLICE VAN - REAR COMPARTMENT

Alexei and Yuri stoically refuse to look at Dmitri as Andrei fumes.

DMITRI

(to Alexei)

You have redefined the meaning of stupidity!

A foolhardy patriot who would throw away a chance for ultimate power for a woman who loves another man!

Dmitri lights a cigar and takes a drag.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

Did you really imagine that you were indispensable?

Victor is happy to replace you this morning. The President has already invited him to explain what has happened this evening and he will execute the assassination as planned.

Dmitri takes another drag on his cigar.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

Victor will make an excellent President because he fully appreciates the value of our support and he can implement your economic plan.

We can accomplish great things with the communists discredited by their complicity in the murder of the President and the reform movement branded as traitors.

YURI

You're talking madness!

DMITRI

Hardly. The Communists and your people are the ones who are destroying this nation with your political fantasies.

Communism has wrecked this country, and democracy has no chance of success in Russia so we must seize power by more reliable methods to achieve our goals.

This country is fortunate to have our assistance.

YURI

Don't glorify you're filthy
ambitions!

You're the KGB scum who murdered my
wife and now you want to steal our
nation's future!

DMITRI

Be serious, Yuri. Your wife killed
herself with her foolish idealism
and this country has no future
without us in control.

Your pathetic experiment in
democracy has been a total failure.

Yuri struggles vigorously against his constraints. Andrei
slaps him violently and knocks him back down onto the bench.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

(to Yuri)

You have always been a pathetic
fool fighting for lost causes.

YURI

Your only cause is disgusting
greed!

Dmitri laughs in contempt.

DMITRI

You have a big heart but a small
mind, Yuri.

We have a far greater vision than
you can possibly comprehend.

Yuri and Alexei seethe as Dmitri takes another drag.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

All we need is a window of chaos to
export ten nuclear missile
launchers to our partners in Iran
for 500 million dollars each.

We suspect that the death of the
President and senior leaders will
create sufficient chaos.

Dmitri smiles through his clenched teeth.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
(To the driver)
Follow our car.

Dmitri exits the van and slams the door.

EXT. REFORM PARTY HEADQUARTERS - PARKING LOT

Dmitri climbs into a waiting limousine. It drives away.

INT. POLICE VAN

The DRIVER drives and follows Dmitri's limousine as it pulls away. Andrei points his gun at Yuri and cocks it.

ANDREI
Where is the American?

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Cliff and Katya watch as the van speeds away. Katya drives the limo out of the parking lot and follows the van at a distance.

CLIFF
Katya, we have no good options
here. We may have to risk Yuri's
life to have any chance of saving
it.
(a beat)
What do you want to do?

Katya anguishes as the van turns to the right and they follow it around the corner. Both vehicles race down the empty boulevard.

KATYA
We must try now.

Katya accelerates to pass the van. Cliff lowers the window and sets to fire the shotgun as the driver comes into view.

EXT. BOULEVARD

Cliff squeezes off a blast from the shotgun and hits the van's left rear tire. The van swerves wildly as Katya brakes and follows behind it. The van jumps a curb and spins to a stop on the grass.

INT. DMITRI'S LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Dmitri turns in the back seat and watches the van roll onto its side and crash to a stop. Dmitri's grimaces in frustration.

DRIVER
Should we turn back?

DMITRI
No, it is of no consequence. We
will deal with them later.

EXT. CRASH SCENE

Katya's limo skids to a stop. Cliff leaps from his seat and rushes toward the back of the van. Katya bursts from the car and follows behind Cliff with her pistol ready to fire.

The driver stumbles out of his door and collapses to the ground where Katya holds him at gunpoint.

KATYA
Hands behind your head!

The driver complies as multiple shots are heard from inside the van. Cliff eases up to the van and carefully opens the rear door.

CLIFF
Yuri?

Yuri crawls out of the van and collapses onto his back. Katya shrieks at the sight of Yuri's blood-covered body and rushes to his side.

KATYA
Papa, are you okay?

YURI
I think so. Check on Alexei.

KATYA
Do you know he's leading a coup
against the President?

YURI
No he is not. Help him.

INT. POLICE VAN - REAR COMPARTMENT

Cliff points his gun through the rear opening and spots Andrei lying dead in a pool of blood. Alexei nervously points a pistol at Cliff for several moments before he tosses the gun out the rear door.

ALEXEI

My right leg is broken.

Cliff carefully drags Alexei outside.

ALEXEI (CONT'D)

Get the keys from his pocket.

Cliff removes the keys from Andrei's pocket and unlocks Alexei's handcuffs.

EXT. BOULEVARD

Cliff pitches the keys to Katya and she unlocks Yuri's handcuffs. She helps Yuri to his feet and Cliff assists Alexei as they move toward the limo.

Suddenly, Andrei's blood-soaked hand appears. Andrei fires one quick round. Katya screams as Cliff whirls around and rakes Andrei with a shotgun blast.

Andrei shudders and collapses back into the van. Katya shrieks as Yuri falls to the ground. Cliff spots a bullet wound in Yuri's back and eases Alexei to the ground. Cliff rushes to help Katya carry Yuri to the limo.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Yuri writhes in pain as Cliff places Yuri's head onto Katya's lap as she cries hysterically.

YURI

Help Alexei!

EXT. BOULEVARD

Cliff rushes to Alexei as he lies in pain on the ground. Cliff struggles to lift Alexei and carries him to the limo.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Cliff eases Alexei into the rear seat opposite Yuri and Katya. Katya slides down between Yuri and Alexei onto the floor and holds each of their hands.

KATYA

Please hurry!

Cliff jumps into the front seat and drives away.

LATER (MOVING)

Cliff drives as Katya waits impatiently while Yuri lies uneasily across the seat. Alexei winces in pain and Katya moves closer to comfort him.

KATYA

Alexei, why the change of heart?

ALEXEI

No change of heart... It was all part of our plan to flush out the conspirators.

KATYA

Our?

ALEXEI

The Americans thought up the scheme to incriminate all the coup plotters and take them all out at once.

I was going to present the evidence to the President at our meeting this morning.

The hope was to position me to implement the new economic system and later succeed the President when he leaves office.

Yuri pulls Katya close.

YURI

He is telling the truth, but everything has gone wrong now.

You and Cliff must stop Victor Dudko.

(MORE)

YURI (CONT'D)

A meeting is scheduled for eight
o'clock this morning and he plans
to murder the President...

Yuri slips into unconsciousness as Katya freaks out.

KATYA

No, Papa, no!

INT. REFORM PARTY GARAGE

Yuri lies unconscious on the rear seat as Pasha completes his
examination.

Cliff, Katya and Vladimir stand close by as Pasha gravely
steps back out of the limo and shakes his head.

PASHA

Internal bleeding, but fortunately
the weapon was a small caliber.
Yuri hasn't got an hour left
without surgery.

I will drive him to the hospital
while you three figure out how to
stop these traitors.

I will deal with Alexei's leg.

Cliff and Vladimir move to help Alexei who is sitting in the
rear seat in severe pain.

ALEXEI

No, you must take me with you.

KATYA

But your leg is in terrible shape.

ALEXEI

This is too important for the
future. I must go with you

PASHA

It's seven thirty! You must get
moving!

Pasha quickly injects a syringe of fluid into the upper part
of Alexei's leg.

PASHA (CONT'D)

This should relieve the pain. Go!

INT. VICTOR DUDKO'S LIMOUSINE - DAY (MOVING)

Victor sits in the back of the limo as it pulls up to the Kremlin gate. The guard waves them ahead. Victor breathes easier as they drive to the drop off zone. The car stops. An ATTENDANT opens the door.

EXT. KREMLIN COURTYARD

Victor climbs out of the car. He walks toward the main entrance of the building and disappears through the double doors which are opened by two GUARDS.

INT. VLADIMIR'S LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Vladimir drives the limo away from the garage as Cliff and Katya sit in the back seat across from Alexei. Katya desperately wracks her brain for an idea.

KATYA
(to Vladimir)
You had no luck with the Americans?

VLADIMIR
No, the security forces have the
embassy locked down and the phone
service is cut off to the building.

Vladimir's mind races with great anxiety as though wrestling with a great internal conflict.

CLIFF
Who can we trust?

KATYA
That is the problem! This is
impossible without Papa!

Cliff takes her hand firmly.

CLIFF
No, Katya, nothing is impossible if
you really believe.

Katya's mood eases and Cliff releases his grip.

CLIFF (CONT'D)
We've come too far to lose
everything now.

(MORE)

CLIFF (CONT'D)
You have the courage and the
credibility to pull this off.
Where should we go?

KATYA
The Kremlin.

INT. KREMLIN OFFICE BUILDING - HALL

Victor walks nervously down the hall as Dmitri appears and joins him.

DMITRI
All the arrangements are made.

The Prime Minister will be
eliminated as soon as word comes of
the President's death.

VICTOR
Any sign of Alexei or Yuri?

DMITRI
Yes. Yuri is in a coma and in
surgery.

VICTOR
What about the American and Alexei?

DMITRI
They are both hunted fugitives who
have been completely discredited.

Nothing can stop us now.

Victor's expression eases.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Just relax and do your job and you
will soon have more money than you
can imagine.

Victor's mood shifts to determination as they shake hands and move apart in opposite directions. Victor reaches a set of large conference room doors and disappears through them.

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Vladimir drives as Cliff looks at his watch. Alexei has passed out. Katya has a somber revelation.

KATYA
We've only got one chance.

CLIFF
Where to?

KATYA
Turn right at the next corner.

Vladimir turns the corner and Red Square comes into view.
They drive past St. Basil's Cathedral and the Lenin
Mausoleum.

KATYA (CONT'D)
Turn left at the next corner and
left again at the corner after
that. Then pull up to Kremlin gate.

INT. KREMLIN OFFICE BUILDING - HALL

The PRESIDENT walks toward the conference room doors with
security AGENTS on each side of him. Two GUARDS open the
doors to reveal a group of MEN as they stand near the
conference table. One of the men steps forward.

SECURITY AGENT
Good morning, Mr. President.

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Vladimir drives up to the gate and waits behind a car.

CLIFF
Are you sure about this?

KATYA
Do not worry. The car is
bulletproof.

Vladimir's is shaking with anxiety as his mind races. Katya
notices Vladimir as he seems to be thinking about talking to
the guard.

KATYA (CONT'D)
I love you, Vladimir. Everything
will be okay. This is the only way.

Vladimir acquiesces and his mood shifts to determination.

INT. KREMLIN OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM

The President greets each MAN, but we never see his face. Victor nears the front of the line and looks down at his right hand. He flips a cap off the underside of his ring to reveal a tiny needle.

INT. VLADIMIR'S LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

The other car moves ahead through the gate. Vladimir slams on the accelerator and the limo lurches forward.

EXT. KREMLIN COURTYARD

A dozen GUARDS race to block the way. They are forced to jump aside to avoid being hit as Vladimir's limo squeezes through the Kremlin gate just before it closes. A hail of gunfire rakes the limo.

INT. KREMLIN OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM

Victor is about to greet the President as alarms sound. The President reacts immediately and his two guards hurriedly shuffle him out of the room. Victor rushes toward the large doors as they close.

VICTOR

Damn!!!

Victor clinches his fist and pounds it on the door. Horror reflects on his face as he slowly opens his hand and looks at a small trickle of blood on his palm.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Nooo!!!!!!!

Victor collapses to his knees in a hysterical rage as the others stand back and watch.

EXT. KREMLIN COURTYARD

A crowd of TOURISTS scream and scatter to avoid the limo as it speeds across the courtyard with its horn blaring. GUARDS hurry toward the limo but they are forced to hold their fire to avoid hitting the tourists.

INT. LIMOUSINE (MOVING)

Vladimir accelerates through a group of GUARDS who fly out of the way and fall on the ground as the gunfire continues.

KATYA

The building on the left. Pull up
to the double doors and stop.

INT. KREMLIN OFFICE BUILDING - CONFERENCE ROOM

Victor writhes on the floor in the throws of a cardiac arrest as the other men try to assist him.

EXT. KREMLIN COURTYARD

A large group of GUARDS appear and point their guns at Vladimir's limo as it skids to a stop.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Vladimir turns off the ignition and turns toward Katya as she anguishes.

CLIFF

Well, we've really done it now.
Are you ready?

Katya nods and Vladimir opens the moon roof.

EXT. KREMLIN COURTYARD

Katya and Cliff are not yet visible as the GUARD OFFICER steps forward.

GUARD OFFICER

Come out peacefully and you will
not be harmed.

KATYA (O.S.)

May I speak to you first?

GUARD OFFICER

For what purpose?

KATYA (O.S.)

My name is Katya Yurinova.

GUARD OFFICER

Katya of the Bolshoi?

KATYA (O.S.)

Yes, it is me.

Everyone lowers their guns and smiles as Katya rises through the moon roof.

GUARD OFFICER

Why are you doing this? It is a very serious matter.

KATYA

Yes, I know, but we had no other way to foil the plot against the President's life.

He may still be in danger and we must speak to the Head of Security immediately!

IVAN RYSAKOV, 43, walks up to the car.

IVAN

I am Ivan Rysakov, Head of Security.

Katya lowers her hand down and Cliff places the meeting envelope into her fingers. She hands the envelope to Ivan.

KATYA

This folder contains details of an extremist conspiracy to murder the President and seize control of the Government.

It involves traitors at every level. Several of those people were to meet with President at eight o'clock this morning.

Their intent was to assassinate our President with a small injection of poison that would create a cardiac arrest.

We strongly suggest that a physician examine the President immediately.

Ivan nods and two of his AIDES disappear down the hall. Ivan flips through the documents in the file.

IVAN

Very interesting but I must conduct a full investigation in light of the accusations against your father.

KATYA

I understand. Can you assure us of safe treatment? There are many conspirators who might harm us.

IVAN

You have my word. Who was the assassin?

KATYA

Victor Dudko.

IVAN

That is ridiculous! Victor represents the Reform Party.

KATYA

Yes, but he helped kidnap my fiancée and framed my father.

Cliff was forced to kill an officer in self defense.

IVAN

Yes, we have all heard about his exploits. He has a lot of explaining to do.

An AIDE rushes up to them.

AIDE

The President is well but Victor Dudko had a cardiac arrest and died in the conference room. He was wearing this.

The aide hands Victor's ring to Ivan and points to the needle.

KATYA

Dmitri Plekhanov is the coup leader and you should arrest Generals Martov and Plekhanov immediately.

They are the senior military conspirators and they might still attempt a coup.

Ivan nods as he hands the file to one of his aides and four armed GUARDS join him. Cliff and Katya emerge from the car and approach Ivan.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Could you please have an escort
take us to the Moscow City
Hospital?

My father is there in serious
condition and Cliff and Alexei need
medical attention.

IVAN

Certainly.

Ivan snaps his fingers and four more GUARDS approach them. Suddenly, Dmitri bursts into view with his pistol pointed at Katya.

DMITRI

Bitch!

Cliff reacts immediately and lunges between Dmitri and Katya as she screams and Dmitri fires his weapon once. Cliff is struck in his lower abdomen and collapses to the ground.

Officers grab Dmitri but he quickly struggles free and aims at Katya as she kneels beside Cliff.

Dmitri is suddenly struck a vicious blow by a military knife in the forehead. Dmitri staggers backward and falls to the ground. Vladimir appears, removes the knife from Dmitri and moves to Julia's side to comfort her.

Katya cries hysterically as she covers Cliff's wound with her hand as he passes out.

INT. DEFENSE MINISTRY - GENERAL VASILY PLEKHANOV'S OFFICE

Vasily Plekhanov sits at his desk in total despair. SECURITY OFFICERS burst into his office. Vasily calmly points a pistol at his temple and pulls the trigger.

INT. MOSCOW CITY HOSPITAL - YURI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Katya blankly stares out the window as she holds Yuri's hand while he sleeps on the bed. Pasha wears scrubs as he solemnly enters the room. Katya rises with trepidation to greet him. Pasha takes Katya's hand.

PASHA

We've done all we can do with surgery but Cliff is in very serious condition.

I must be honest, Katya. It does not look good for him.

He lost a huge amount of blood and it may take a miracle for him to make it through the night.

If he survives, he may never walk normally again.

Katya reflects her devastation as the tears flow.

KATYA

May I be with him?

PASHA

Of course. Follow me.

INTENSIVE CARE

Cliff lies unconscious on the hospital bed in the dark room. He is connected to numerous tubes and devices. The door slowly opens and Katya chokes with emotion as she enters the room and focuses on Cliff.

Katya trembles as she sits down on a bedside chair and takes Cliff's hand in hers. She tenderly kisses his hand and gazes at him for several moments.

Katya eventually removes her cross necklace and tearfully places it into Cliff's palm and closes his fingers around it. Katya holds his fist closed as she whispers a prayer to herself.

LATER - DAWN

Katya sleeps with Cliff's hand in hers as a ray of sunlight bursts through the window onto her face. She winces as she opens her eyes.

CLIFF

You wouldn't let me go.

Katya cannot control her joy as she squeezes Cliff's hand and strokes his hair.

KATYA
I will never let you go.

SUPER: "TWO MONTHS LATER"

EXT. THE BLACK SEA - DAY

The sky is clear and the weather is warm. A one hundred foot yacht motors through the water. Vladimir lounges on the sun deck of the yacht surrounded by four beautiful GIRLS in bikinis.

INT. A KREMLIN CONFERENCE HALL - NIGHT

Cliff and Yuri wear suits as they sit in the front row of the crowded room while the President speaks at the podium. Katya stands near the President wearing an evening dress with her Gold Medal around her neck. Alexei stands beside her.

THE PRESIDENT
It is with great gratitude and
admiration that I now present the
Presidential Medal of Valor to our
new Prime Minister, Alexei Lebedev
for his central role in exposing
the recent coup attempt.

The President turns toward Alexei and places the medal around his neck as the CROWD explodes in applause. The President motions for silence and the applause abates. He turns toward Katya.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Dearest Katya... Pride of our
nation.

Everyone applauds.

THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
Words cannot express the gratitude
I feel for the extreme valor you
displayed in foiling the conspiracy
against me and our great nation.

Without your courageous actions, I
would be dead and our country and
the world would be in grave crisis.
Thank you.

The President then places a medal around Julia's neck as the crowd erupts into thunderous applause and begins to sing the Russian National Anthem.

Cliff is moved by the power of the crowd's emotions and their obvious affection for Katya.

Cliff's expression gradually shifts to despair as the crowd moves forward to congratulate Katya. Cliff turns and walks solemnly from the room as the revelry continues. He walks with a cane and a limp.

EXT. KREMLIN BALCONY

Alexei stands alone and surveys the sites of Moscow. St. Basil's cathedral is most prominent. Katya appears and approaches him.

KATYA

Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. I am sure you will do great things for Russia in the future.

ALEXEI

Thank you, Katya, but it all means very little to me without you.

Katya anguishes.

KATYA

I understand how you feel, Alexei, but some things are not meant to be.

Our country needs you to be strong so please do not let me be a distraction from what you must do for all of us.

Alexei wrestles with his emotions.

ALEXEI

I fear that is not possible... As I told you before, matters of the heart have always been the most important to me.

They exchange a brief but poignant glance. Cliff watches as Alexei departs. Cliff gazes at Katya as she surveys the dramatic sites for a few moments.

Katya is more beautiful than ever against the back drop of St. Basil's cathedral illuminated by lights in the clear night sky. Katya turns and notices Cliff. She rushes to embrace him with great affection but Cliff's mind is racing.

INT. KATYA'S APARTMENT - KATYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cliff stands next to the large bed and watches Katya as she sleeps peacefully. Cliff is extremely distraught as he sets an envelope on the bedside table.

Cliff strokes Katya's hair and kisses her on the forehead. She remains asleep. Cliff limps toward the door and picks up a suitcase. He affectionately gazes at Katya one last time and disappears.

LATER - DEN - DAWN

Yuri sits in his large chair and reads a newspaper as Katya bursts into the room in tears.

KATYA
Cliff is gone!

YURI
Gone?

KATYA
Yes, he left this note.

Katya hands Yuri the note. Yuri reads it.

CLIFF (V.O.)
Dearest Katya,

From the moment we met I have experienced many revelations about love, courage, devotion and what is truly important in love and life.

My saddest revelation came tonight.

You have a very important role to play in this country and my continued presence here would only create danger and resentment for you and Yuri.

It is clear that I must leave now but Yuri and Russia need you now more than ever and I could never ask you to leave.
(MORE)

CLIFF (V.O.) (CONT'D)

No man has ever loved a woman more than I love you, but my conscience will permit no other course of action.

I apologize for leaving you this way but I trust you will understand that I must do the right thing for all concerned.

There are much bigger considerations than just you and me. Please give Yuri my best.

Love always,
Cliff

Yuri's face is ashen as he hands the note back to Katya and collapses back into his chair in prolonged silence. Katya struggles to compose herself.

KATYA

Have you nothing to say?

YURI

Yes, but you will not like it.

Cliff understands your place in Russia, and he had the courage to do the right thing.

I know how much you love him but love is a small thing compared to the future of your country.

Katya tearfully agonizes for several moments.

KATYA

But what about happiness, Papa?

Have I not already done enough for Russia?

Yuri anguishes for several moments.

YURI

Perhaps, but you are in a unique position to do so much more.

Your political future is unlimited, and we desperately need an inspirational leader like you.

Tears roll down Julia's cheeks.

KATYA

Papa, I would do anything to help
my country if it would make any
difference but surely you must see
the truth.

Yuri stands with difficulty and walks to the window to gaze
outside.

KATYA (CONT'D)

No amount of inspiration from me
can correct seventy five years of
mistakes soon enough to satisfy the
people...

Yuri anguishes.

KATYA (CONT'D)

In the end they will lose patience
and choose order over liberty.

Yuri turns to face her. He is choked with emotions and his
eyes are filled with tears. Katya moves to embrace him.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Papa, I am so proud of you.

You have done great things for our
country...

You have given our people a chance
but they must make the choice to be
free and prosper.

Yuri's mind races as he tries to compose himself.

YURI

What you say is true but you are
the one person who has everyone's
respect...

Together, you and Alexei can lead
the way.

Katya is overwhelmed by emotion. She pulls away from Yuri and
walks to the window. She gazes outside.

KATYA

It is a beautiful dream, Papa...
but it is just dream...

Yuri winces but remains silent.

KATYA (CONT'D)

No one can flip a magic switch and
wipe all the mistakes of the past.

Yuri reflects on her words as Katya turns toward him.

KATYA (CONT'D)

Our people are hopeful now but they
will be impatient for results that
it is impossible for anyone to
deliver...

YURI

And that is why Russia must have
you as a voice of reason who can
help the people see a realistic
vision of the future that they will
embrace.

Katya winces in anguish and nods in understanding. She and Yuri gaze directly into each other's eyes for several poignant moments. Katya steps toward to Yuri and embraces him briefly.

She steps away and walks to the coat closet. Tears flow as she removes her coat and pulls it on. She places her hand on the front door knob.

YURI (CONT'D)

I will love and support you either
way.

Katya turns toward Yuri.

YURI (CONT'D)

I want more than anything for you
to be happy.

Katya smiles weakly through tears and exits through the door. Yuri chokes with emotion and picks up the phone.

EXT. MOSCOW - DAY

VARIOUS SHOTS:

Katya covers her face with a scarf, and solemnly walks past the skating rink, across the Moscow river, through Red Square and up to the Bolshoi Building. She pauses briefly and disappears inside.

INT. BOLSHOI BUILDING - MAIN LOBBY

Katya stands alone in the vast lobby. She leans her back against the wall and closes her eyes.

FLASHBACK:

VARIOUS SHOTS:

Katya and Cliff race to joyfully embrace and kiss in the Bolshoi lobby. They make love at Katya's apartment.

Cliff and Katya dance at the mansion.

Cliff gives Katya the engagement ring. Cliff dives to take the bullet intended for Katya and collapses. Katya holds Cliff's hand in the hospital bed as he awakens.

CLIFF

You wouldn't let me go.

Katya fights to control her joy as she squeezes Cliff's hand and strokes his hair.

KATYA

I will never let you go.

END FLASHBACK:

Katya slides down to the floor in tears. Eventually she removes her cross necklace. She clasps it in her hand and closes her eyes.

EXT. PARIS - DAWN

The Eiffel Tower is illuminated by the sunrise behind it.

EXT. PARIS - AVENUE FOCH

Cliff walks alone with a slight limp and his cane. His mood is total desolation as the Arc de Triomphe appears ahead.

Cliff notices the sound of footsteps behind him. He slowly turns around and emotionally embraces Katya. They eventually hold hands and walk slowly toward the Arc and the spectacular sunrise beyond.

Katya eventually takes his cane and supports him with her shoulder and they continue walking.

Ted steps out of an alcove behind them and lights a cigarette. He watches Cliff and Katya walk away together.

FADE OUT: