

The Last Lambada

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2016

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1

INT. RUSSIAN MECHET - TADZHIKISTAN - DAY - 1976: UNDER
TITLES

1

The screen is black. We hear the echoing sound of men praying and then the words of the Mullah droning. Slowly the blackness turns to gray and then to a lighter gray as shapes on the inside of the Mechet come into focus. Among the old men is a young man RAKHIM about 20 and wearing a military uniform.

He is holding the hand of his brother YOUNG TEMIR who is 7. They are both quiet as the voices continue to drone on. Temir looks up questioningly at his older brother.

YOUNG TEMIR

I want to see Mama...

Rakhim does not move, but grasps his brothers hand tighter.

YOUNG TEMIR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Let's go and see Mama, Rakhim.

Young Temir pulls on his brother's hand, but he still does not move. Rakhim's eyes are full of tears.

2

EXT. DUSHANBE (CITY IN TADZHIKISTAN) - HOTEL - TITLE CARD
READS - FIFTEEN YEARS LATER:

2

The hotel is quiet with only a few people milling around. Rakhim enters the hotel and looks around the lobby. He spots a man sitting in a large chair watching the door. This is the JOURNALIST, in his early thirties and a bit uneasy, trying to be as nonchalant as possible. Rakhim goes up to him.

RAKHIM

You must be the reporter from the
Dushanbe Press.

JOURNALIST

(surprised)

Yes...I...who are you?

RAKHIM

You are waiting for Ibron Aki?

JOURNALIST

I don't know who you are talking
about.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

It's alright...I am his representative he has been in poor health.

JOURNALIST

I am sorry, but I don't know you...

RAKHIM

He is out in the car...if you follow me.

JOURNALIST

You are who?

RAKHIM

(extending his hand)

I am Rakhim...Rakhim Davlyatov.

JOURNALIST

You say he is in the car?...I was given instructions not to talk with anyone, that he would meet me here.

RAKHIM

He is here, he just has a heart condition...he must have mentioned it.

The Journalist, still reluctant, gets up and goes with Rakhim.

3 EXT. HOTEL:

3

Rakhim leads the Journalist to a "Volga" (Russian made car). We see the figure of a man inside. Rakhim opens the door and the Journalist gets in. Through the rear window we only see the heads and shoulders of the men, no detail as the car drives off just as a police car screams by with its sirens blasting. The shrill of the alarm is deafening.

4 INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT - MOSCOW - MORNING

4

The screen becomes bright with color and noise. The sound can now be identified as the blare of a car horn. Temir, who is now as old as his brother Rakhim was in the first scene, is sleeping on a rumpled bed covered with books and papers. He opens his eyes and looks at the clock by his bed which reads 9:15 a.m.... He throws off his covers sending the papers and books flying. Temir rushes to the window.

TEMIR'S POV OUT WINDOW

It is a harsh overcast January morning in Moscow. On the street below we see a silver-gray Opel parked in front of the building entrance. Temir's attention is drawn to the gorgeous figure of a young woman, TANYA, who has a halo of golden hair and wears an expensive short fur coat.

5 EXT. STREET - IN FRONT OF APARTMENT BUILDING. 5

As Tanya approaches the car a WOMAN CARETAKER stops sweeping the snow from the sidewalk and looks at the vision of youth and beauty. As Tanya opens the door to the car she turns and looks up, smiling and blowing a kiss in Temir's direction as he leans out the window.

6 INT. OPEL 6

Inside the car RAM, a strong, square jawed man sits behind the wheel. He watches as Tanya hesitates before getting in the car.

RAM
What's the matter?

Tanya gets in.

TANYA
Nothing, my neighbor, a Student,
has a crush on me.
(She smiles)
it's cute the way he devours me
with his eyes.

RAM
Just make sure he doesn't choke.
Why do you insist on staying in
this hole. Let me set you up.

Ram starts the engine. He sniffs rudely in her direction.

RAM (cont'd)
(continuing)
What is that perfume you are
wearing?

TANYA
Anais

RAM
Well you smell like my grandmother.
(He covers his nose
dramatically.)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAM (cont'd)
Open the glove compartment.

TANYA
Why?

RAM
Just open it and see what I got
you.

TANYA
What?

She opens the compartment and discovers a small dark box wrapped in shiny cellophane. She knows what it is immediately.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
"Black Magic" oh, how marvelous.

She leans over and gives Ram a kiss on the cheek.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
You are a magician...but you always
have to tease me, don't you?

7 INT. CAR. SADOVOE BLVD. - SIMULTANEOUS TIME.

7

RAM
I've got a deal for you.

Tanya does not look pleased.

TANYA
Not again...

RAM
He's a fat cat businessman who
needs to be hooked, a native
millionaire... tomorrow at the
hotel National.

TANYA
I already told you no the last
time. Get one of your whores to do
it.

RAM
He won't fall for a whore...he
needs the pure, clean sophisticated
personality of my girl Tanya.

(CONTINUED)

Ram leans over to kiss Tanya.

TANYA
Stop the car!

She pushes his arm away.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
Did you hear me, stop the car!

Ram does not slow down. Tanya starts to open her door.

RAM
What are you doing? Are you out of
your mind?

Ram steps on the brakes and steers the car over to the curb. Tanya throws the perfume box at him, jumps out of the car and walks away. Ram gets out of the car and quickly overtakes her.

RAM (cont'd)
(continuing)
Tanyusha, don't be mad...

He tries to put his arm around her. She quickens her pace, shaking him off.

RAM (cont'd)
(continuing)
This is the last time.

Once again he catches her but this time holds her firmly. PASSERS BY stare at them.

RAM (cont'd)
(continuing; gently)
My little sunshine...I am not
asking you to climb into his bed.
You are a clever girl, you just
have to dance with him, play him a
little...while Tolik films you,
that's all.

Ram, again embraces her, kissing her on the cheek. She stops resisting.

8 INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - DAY

8

Temir is sitting in class absentmindedly drawing a face which resembles Tanya in his test booklet. He is supposed to be taking an exam but cannot concentrate. The Teacher starts walking up and down the aisle between the students. He stops at Temir and looks down on his paper.

TEACHER

Not bad. Is she a super model? You, Davlyatov, seem to have a talent, you are a real artist. That does not happen every day at the Plekhanov Institute. Give me your examination booklet...

Ashamed and embarrassed, Temir hands the teacher his booklet.

INSERT ON BOOKLET

The teacher scrawls energetically "Examination Passed." Temir is shocked.

TEACHER (cont'd)

You may go.

He pats Temir on the shoulder. The other students look at him enviously. Temir is still confused but stands awkwardly and starts toward the door.

The Teacher addresses the class.

TEACHER (cont'd)

(continuing)

There goes our own Rembrandt.

The students laugh.

9 INT. NATIONAL RESTAURANT - SATURDAY NIGHT:

9

A well known singer SEROV is blasting out a song. He is performing for both foreigners and natives.

SEROV

...You love me you paint me, you write poems about me, you turn me into a statue... Oh, this is a miracle: You love me!

(CONTINUED)

He finishes and there is pleasant applause. An ARAB accompanied by an AMPLY BOSOMED LADY walk up to Serov and shake his hand, money passes, almost unnoticed, between them.

The room is full, at a table in a far corner are four provocatively dressed and attractive women. There is a large white skinned woman named VIKA and a younger green eyed girl LENA who are talking seriously. The other two women, a BRUNETTE and a REDHEAD are scanning the room. A LOCAL MAN, already drunk, comes up to invite them to dance. Almost in unison they all say "Buzz Off". Vika and Lena continue their conversation.

LENA

Vika, I just don't have 100 rubles right now...

Lena is desperate, her face is tear stained.

LENA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Could you just lend me 30, please?

VIKA

What? didn't you have any clients again last night?

LENA

My mother was in town from the provinces, I couldn't work while she was here. Please? You have to understand...

VIKA

Alright, alright...but this is the last time, understand? I have a sick child at home... besides, if you want to work here you have to pay like all the other girls. We can't afford any trouble with Ram. He would work you over until no John would ever look at you again.

BRUNETTE

That's for sure...

VIKA

All right then Girls, let's each throw in ten buck's. I'm sure Tanya will contribute as well. Lena, you can repay us on Wednesday...Okay?

Musicians start playing the blues.

(CONTINUED)

ON ENTRANCE

Ram and Tanya come through the door. A WAITER comes up to them immediately. With a nod from Ram, the Waiter escorts Tanya to a table where three men are already seated. A bald man LEV, a jew, fiftiesh and rather roly polly; a large broad-shouldered BODY GUARD; and a well dressed BEARDED MAN who was already rather drunk. The waiter addresses the Bald Man.

WAITER

Excuse me...all our tables are occupied and I see that you have one seat free, would you mind if this lady joined you?

LEV

Sasha, what a question. It would be a sin not to accommodate the lady.

TANYA

(to waiter)

Perhaps you could get me another table.

LEV

But, my dear lady, what is the problem? Please, we are all gentlemen here, take a seat and join us.

The Bald Man gets up and offers to help Tanya with her seat.

LEV (cont'd)

(continuing)

We have a nice group of people here. We are from Odessa and are willing to do our best to entertain you. Here this gentleman

(pointing to the bearded man)

is an Associate Professor of Jewish Jokes.

BEARDED MAN

Full professor.

The bearded man gets up awkwardly, bows drunkenly. Tanya smiles.

LEV

Sasha, my dear fellow, the best of all your drinks for this lady.

(CONTINUED)

WAITER
 (turning to Tanya)
 Champagne?

TANYA
 I will choose for myself.

LEV
 Whatever the lady wants...

ON LENA:

Lena sees Ram standing by the door and nervously looks around for "Sasha" the Waiter. He is already making his way in her direction. Nonchalantly he takes an envelop that Lena left on the table and walks towards Ram. Both men leave the room together.

10

EXT. - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

10

Ram and the Waiter look around to see if the coast is clear, then the Waiter puts the envelop in Ram's pocket. Ram smiles.

WAITER
 (whispering)
 Four hundred, the girls were busy this weekend. By the way the Kike swallowed the bait...are you going to show him the tape?

Ram takes offense to the Waiters familiar tone, and while still smiling takes him by the nose and twists it hard. The waiter cries out in pain.

RAM
 Don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong.

11

INT. TANYA'S FAMILY'S APARTMENT - SUNDAY MORNING:

11

Tanya comes in exhausted. TANYA'S MOTHER is waiting for her and immediately starts in on her daughter. They walk into the kitchen.

TANYA'S MOTHER
 So where have you been whoring? You have been gone since Friday, don't you have any sense of decency?

Tanya's sister NADYA chimes in from the table where she is feeding her two-year-old daughter.

(CONTINUED)

NADYA

Really, Tanya, you could at least have called, we were worried.

TANYA

I'm sure you were, worried where your sainted sister has been. Well you don't have to worry about me, you are better off if I never came home...there would be more room in this stinking apartment.

TANYA'S FATHER comes in, already drunk.

TANYA'S MOTHER

I haven't slept for two nights... Your sister knows her place, but you... You know what people say about you?

TANYA'S FATHER

She got herself some stud with a fancy car.

TANYA

Those people are jealous...and why is Nadya any better living here with her bastard daughter?

TANYA'S MOTHER

Better because she is honest and doesn't go around with men that are old enough to be her father.

TANYA'S FATHER

I don't want to see him come around here no more.

TANYA

He's only 35.

TANYA'S MOTHER

Liar!

Nadya's daughter starts to cry, the noise levels increase. Nadya leaves the kitchen with her daughter.

TANYA'S FATHER

There is only one father in this house. Tanya, I want to talk to you in private, confidentially, if you know what I mean.

(CONTINUED)

He takes Tanya by the elbow and pulls her into a corner of the kitchen.

TANYA'S MOTHER

(screaming)

Don't you dare give him any money,
do you hear me?

Tanya's father turns around angrily.

TANYA'S FATHER

Shut up!

He turns back to Tanya with a totally different tone, pleading, pathetic.

TANYA'S FATHER (cont'd)

(continuing)

Just ten Rubles, OK? Ten that's
all.

TANYA

I don't have it.

TANYA'S FATHER

What do you mean?

TANYA

I have nothing. I had to lend money
to my girl friend.

His tone changes again.

TANYA'S FATHER

You gave money to your girl friend
and now you have no money for your
father...?

TANYA

You have to stop drinking dad...

Tanya's mother breaks down, crying at the kitchen table.

TANYA'S MOTHER

What kind of life is this? What is
happening to us?

Tanya goes to her mother to try and console her. We see through the kitchen door that her father has gone into the other room and is rifling through Tanya's purse.

12 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - ON FATHER 12

He cannot find any money but he comes across two packs of imported condoms. In a fury he storms back into the kitchen.

BACK TO SCENE

TANYA'S FATHER

You bitch, you have money for this,
for these imported condoms.

Tanya jumps up and pushes her father out of the kitchen.

TANYA'S FATHER (cont'd)

(continuing)

You're mother was right, you are a
filthy whore...don't touch me you
whore...

He swings and hits her in the face. Tanya is shaken. Her father stares at her with a mixture of rage and drunken confusion. Tanya gathers her things and runs out of the apartment into the hallway. Tanya's mother starts to run after her, but her father pushes her back.

TANYA'S FATHER (cont'd)

(continuing)

Let her get the hell out of here!

13 INT. HALLWAY: 13

Tanya is crying, trying to wipe the blood from her face. She reaches into her purse and pulls out her compact. She looks in the mirror and sees a trickle of blood from her mouth down her chin.

Just then the elevator door opens and Temir comes out. He sees her and is frozen with shock and timidity. He notices the blood on her face and pulls out a snow-white handkerchief from his pocket. He offers it to her, she takes it.

TANYA

Thank you.

At first she is ashamed, but soon realizes the power she has over this poor boy.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

What's your name?

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR

Temir.

TANYA

My name is Tanya.

TEMIR

I know...

TANYA

You watch me from your window...

TEMIR

I...I...

TANYA

May I come in to wash my face...?

TEMIR

Oh! yes, of course...just a moment.

He wrestles his keys from his pocket and opens the door awkwardly, ushering her in.

14 INT. BATHROOM - TEMIR'S APARTMENT: 14

Tanya is washing her face, examining her lip in the mirror. The phone rings in the other room.

15 INT. TEMIR'S LIVINGROOM: 15

Temir is frantically trying to pick up and make things look neat. He holds an assortment of magazines and dirty laundry as he picks up the phone.

TEMIR

Hello? What? Antwerp? Yes I will accept. Hi, Rakhim! I'm alright, how are you? Things are alright...No, no I don't need anything.

Tanya comes into the room.

TEMIR (cont'd)

(continuing)

No, really, I don't need anything. I've passed three exams...When are you coming back? Good...I'll be expecting you soon then...Okay, bye.

(CONTINUED)

Temir hangs up the phone.

TEMIR (cont'd)
(continuing)
That was my brother from Belgium.
He's there on a business trip.

TANYA
He must have a good job. And you,
do you live here all by yourself?

TEMIR
I'm a student...attending the
Plekhanov Institute. My brother
rents this apartment for me.

TANYA
Well, he must be doing very well to
rent you a two room apartment in
Moscow. My family, the five of us,
live in an apartment this size.

She looks around.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
What does your brother do? Is he a
diplomat?

TEMIR
No, he is the Director of a sheep
breeding farm in Tadzhikistan.

Tanya laughs.

TANYA
You mean he is a peasant?

TEMIR
We used to live in Dushanbe, but
later we moved to the farm in
Kilyabe.

TANYA
So you decided to raise the level
of agriculture?

She walks around the room picking up odds and ends, getting a sense of Temir and his surroundings. She spots the small portrait of her that he was drawing in class.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA (cont'd)
 (continuing)
 How long have you been watching me?

TEMIR
 (lowering his eyes,
 embarrassed)
 A year.

TANYA
 Do you like me?

TEMIR
 (quickly)
 Oh, yes, very much.

TANYA
 You don't even know me. Do you have
 a pen?

Temir goes to his desk and gets a piece of paper and a pen.
 Tanya writes something on it.

TANYA (cont'd)
 (continuing)
 This is my number at work...if you
 call ask for Tanya Gudkov.

He stares at her for a long moment. She starts gathering her
 things.

TANYA (cont'd)
 (continuing)
 Call me, OK?

Tanya sees her own way out, Temir is frozen in place. He
 looks at the piece of paper.

16 INT. AIRPLANE - EVENING

16

Rakhim, is sitting next to a Frenchman SERGE SAVAR, in his
 50's and very well dressed. Serge is leafing through a
 French "Adult" magazine full of colorful pictures. The
 commercials blend artfully with pornography. A naked model
 lies provocatively on an open bag of potatoes, another is
 surrounded by flowers and wrapped in cellophane like a huge
 bouquet. Rakhim is intrigued and looks guardedly over at the
 magazine.

SERGE
 Do you like it?

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim is a little taken back that he had been discovered looking at it.

RAKHIM

It's alright...only the French can do such a magazine.

SERGE

Is that a compliment?

RAKHIM

Are you French?

SERGE

My grandmother was Russian. I have also been working in Moscow for a while now, since the beginning of "perestroika".. and you?

RAKHIM

I'm from Tadzhikistan.

SERGE

Oh, I've always dreamed of traveling to Asia: Tashkent, Samarkand...I'm told they are beautiful places.

RAKHIM

Well, come and visit us in Dushanbe.

SERGE

I would be happy to, here is my business card. I am Serge Savar. I represent the firm Savar in Moscow.

RAKHIM

Thank you...I am Rakhim Davlyatov, unfortunately I do not have a business card with me.

SERGE

No problem.

They shake hands enthusiastically.

SERGE (cont'd)

(continuing)

I am co-owner of the firm...as you can tell from the name, we produce machinery for light industry, shows, textiles, clothing...

RAKHIM

We are practically colleagues.

SERGE

That's wonderful, I must buy you a drink. Where are you staying?

RAKHIM

I will be staying at the Lenin.

SERGE

Ah! My secretary booked me at that new Marriott, full of those gawking Americans. I would rather be one of those grand old regime hotels.

17

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE OLYMPIC SPORT STADIUM - EVENING

17

Temir is waiting in the bitter cold with a bouquet of carnations in his hand. He stamps his feet to keep warm and looks at his watch. It shows 9:30. He walks up and down the avenue. A cab pulls up to the curb and stops. Tanya gets out and runs towards him.

TANYA

Forgive me my little Temir. How nice that you waited for me, and with flowers.

TEMIR

The concert is over by now...

TANYA

Oh, you poor boy, you must be frozen to death. I couldn't get away any sooner...They found an apartment for me. The former owners were leaving sooner than expected so I had to go and look at it. A friend called me today and said that tomorrow might be too late...

TEMIR

Your "friend" with the gray Opel?

TANYA

How did you know? It has become impossible to stay home with my father...my lip is barely healed.

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR

So, we'll no longer be neighbors.

Tanya takes Temir's hand. Snow begins to fall in large fluffy flakes.

TANYA

Where shall we go?

TEMIR

We could go to a movie, or a restaurant.

TANYA

Oh, big spender. How can a poor student like you have so much money?

TEMIR

My brother sends it to me.

TANYA

How much?

TEMIR

Around 500.

TANYA

That's four times my pay. You really have a priceless brother. And he pays for your apartment too?

TEMIR

Actually, he paid for it a year in advance.

Tanya is overwhelmed.

TANYA

Well that beats the "Opel"!

TEMIR

Rakhim could buy that too, if he wanted. Let's take a cab and go to the Metropol.

TANYA

Oh, no! I am sick to my stomach of restaurants. Look at the snow, I haven't walked in the snow like this in an eternity. You don't have snow where you come from, do you?

TEMIR

Only in the mountains.

Tanya picks up some snow and throws it at Temir playfully. He stands there covered with snow. She picks up some more, taunting him. He picks up some and makes a snowball and is just about to throw it, but stops himself.

TANYA

Well, throw it! What's the matter?

TEMIR

I can't, I can't...

TANYA

You poor boy, you must be frozen to death. Here let's go in here.

They go to the entrance of an apartment building and stand by the radiator on the landing of the first floor. It is dark, light from the entrance hall is barely visible.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

When I was fifteen, my friend Julia and two boys from the 10/b class would stand around these radiators to get warm.

Temir stares at her intensely.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Hold me.

Temir does not move.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

What are you waiting for?

TEMIR

...who is that man with the Opel?

TANYA

Him?...he is my boss, the Director of the Commissary Store. You know, the Commissary where confiscated property of criminals is sold. I'm a sales girl...and he is the director.

TEMIR

You said that he is your friend.

TANYA

Well, things like that happen,
don't they? Don't be jealous my
dear little Temir... He is who he
is and you are who you are. You are
the most precious, and dear person
in the world.

A door opens on the second floor.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

May I kiss you?

Tanya embraces Temir and starts to kiss his face and lips.

An OLD WOMAN appears with a dog. She scowls at the
passionate couple and walks out into the street. Tanya
hurriedly unbuttons her coat and lifts up her skirt, Temir
gets caught up in the passion and begins kissing and
fondling her.

18

EXT. SHEREMETEVO 2 AIRPORT - EVENING

18

There is a considerable amount of traffic in front of the
airport. A recently arrived PASSENGER carrying his luggage
walks up to a waiting cab which is parked apart from the
other cabs lining up for passengers. He opens the door and
gives directions to the CAB DRIVER.

PASSENGER

To the Vnukovo airport.

CAB DRIVER

No!

PASSENGER

I will give you 50.

CAB DRIVER

I said no! now close the door.

Stunned, the Passenger closes the door and walks towards
another waiting cab. The Cab Driver looks at his watch, it
shows 9:55. He starts his car and drives closer to the
airport entrance.

19 INT. AIRPORT - EVENING

19

Serge has passed baggage control in the foreigners' section and waves at Rakhim who is standing in line for "Citizens Only" Serge shouts over the noise and pantomimes.

SERGE
Goodbye, call me!

Rakhim acknowledges him and smiles. Serge gathers his luggage and moves towards the exit.

20 EXT. AIRPORT:

20

The same Cab Driver is now in front of the exit. He spots Serge and jumps out to offer him his services. He pops the trunk and puts his luggage in. Serge looks at the Driver and without a word gets in the cab.

SERGE
(in perfect Russian)
To the Red Presnya, chief!

The cab driver is surprised at Serge's fluent Russian.

CAB DRIVER
Get out.

SERGE
What?

CAB DRIVER
I drive only foreigners. Or maybe you have hard currency.

SERGE
What for? I will pay you your fare.

The Cab Driver reaches under his seat and pulls out a tire iron.

CAB DRIVER
Get out, you scum.

Serge is shaken and starts speaking in French.

SERGE
I am a foreigner, I was just joking, trying out some Russian I just learned. I really want to go to Hammerov Center. I have cash, here see...

(CONTINUED)

Serge pulls out a wad of money.

CAB DRIVER
You are a clown.

The Cab Driver puts the car in gear and steps on the gas. They barely drive 100 meters when two young foreigners loaded with luggage flag them down. One is a MULATTO and practically throws himself at the cab so the Driver had no choice but to stop. They speak in English.

MULATTO
Please, sir, we have to get to the Center, we are musicians, artists, and we are late for our concert.

CAB DRIVER
How much money?

MULATTO
Fifty American dollars.

CAB DRIVER
Fifty!
(turns to Serge)
Do you mind if I take them?

SERGE
Not at all.

MULATTO
Thank you.

The Mulatto gets in the front seat, and his partner JOHN gets in next to Serge. Almost immediately John falls asleep. As the cab moves down the highway the Mulatto watches the scenery. Through the rear window we can see a car blinking its lights. The Mulatto turns to his partner.

MULATTO (cont'd)
(continuing)
John.

John, was not really asleep. They both pull out guns and hold them at the Cab Driver's head.

JOHN
At the next exit, get out, understand?

CAB DRIVER
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

MULATTO

Just what he said, move to the right.

JOHN

To the right!

21 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT 21

The cab almost misses the next exit, but manages to turn off and travel some distance on a narrow road.

22 INT. CAB: 22

They travel down a dirt and deeply rutted road, shielded by woods.

MULATTO

Stop!

The Driver stops the car. Immediately the Mulatto covers his face with his hand and sprays the driver with gas. John does the same thing to Serge. They then exit the cab gasping in the cold, but fresh air.

The Mulatto removes Serge's luggage from the trunk and John goes back into the car, holding his breath while he frisks Serge, taking his wallet, briefcase, wedding ring and a seal-ring with diamonds. John shows the Mulatto his loot.

JOHN

Not bad huh?

MULATTO

Not at all.

The Mulatto works over the Driver, then leans over and pats his cheek.

MULATTO (cont'd)

(continuing)

Poor bastard.

23 EXT. WOODS: 23

The two thieves, loaded down with baggage, walk back to the highway where a blue car is waiting for them.

24

EXT. MOSCOW STREET - IN FRONT OF TEMIR'S APARTMENT BUILDING
- NIGHT: 24

Ram's Opel is parked in front of the building. A radio news program can be heard coming from the car.

RADIO

"Moscow time is 12:30. You are listening to the Beacon, we are bringing you the latest news. The newspapers of the world have been commenting on the speech of Mikhail Gorbachev delivered at the meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR..."

Ram turns the knob on the radio to find another station with music. He pulls out a pack of cigarettes and lights one.

Tanya and Temir come around the corner and see Ram, Tanya pushes Temir back.

TEMIR

What is he doing here?

TANYA

Waiting for me.

TEMIR

You have another date?

TANYA

He's here because I did not show up for work tonight.

TEMIR

I see.

TANYA

No you do not see. You know so little about the way things are. That's one of the things I like about you.

TEMIR

I am not nieve, I can see what's going on. I cannot stand to think of you with him, or anyone like him.

TANYA

You are too good for me.

She puts her hand to his face.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA (cont'd)
We have to get into the building
without him seeing us.

Tanya and Temir pick their way through the rubble behind the building to an entrance that is partially boarded up and forgotten. They enter the building and start climbing the rickety back staircase.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
I have decided...

TEMIR
Decided? Decided what?

TANYA
That I am going to leave.

TEMIR
What do you mean, leave?

TANYA
I cannot stand living with my
family anymore. I have to get out,
tonight.

TEMIR
Tonight? So that is the real reason
that Mr. Opel is here, to take you
away.

TANYA
No...I do not want to go with him,
I just want to get away. To be
free, to find a new life. A life I
have glimpsed through your eyes, my
darling Temir.

TEMIR
You are going to leave, just like
that?

TANYA
Come with me Tadzhik. Come away
with me.

TEMIR
You can't be serious.

TANYA
I am, I am serious...come, we will
see the world.

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR

I...I can't, I have my studies. My brother would never approve.

TANYA

Your brother? Does he run your life?

TEMIR

He takes care of me...he is paying for my education. I cannot disrespect his wishes. It is a crazy idea anyway. Do you think that your boyfriend would ever let you go?

TANYA

He is not my boyfriend, and I don't care what he thinks.

TEMIR

Maybe you should care about what he might do.

TANYA

My mind is made up.

They reach their floor. Tanya heads for her family's apartment.

TEMIR

Don't you think it would be wise to wait, at least a couple of days.

TANYA

I have waited too long already.

Tanya blows a kiss to Temir as she enters the apartment.

25

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - TANYA'S FAMILY'S APARTMENT - LATER
25

Tanya is in the entrance hall with her suitcase. Her little NIECE watches her from the neighboring room.

NIECE

Where are you going Tanya?

TANYA

Far away.

Nadya comes in from the kitchen, wiping away tears.

(CONTINUED)

NADYA

Don't leave, please, I beg you...

Tanya puts on her coat. Her fathers voice can be heard from the other room.

TANYA'S FATHER (O.S.)

She'll be back. Her boyfriend is married, the bastard, probably has some kids too.

TANYA

That's none of your business.

Her father comes in from the kitchen, dressed in a dirty t-shirt and pants. He is dirty and unkempt.

TANYA'S FATHER

It is my business when you come back here with a little bastard yourself.

NADYA

Papa...please.

TANYA'S FATHER

He is just going to use you, trample on you, then dump you...!

TANYA

Shut up.

TANYA'S FATHER

Don't ever show your face here again, understand.

Tanya's Niece runs up to her grandfather and starts pounding him with her little fists. Tanya's Mother comes in and picks up the little girl. Tanya leaves.

26

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY:

26

The elevator is busy. Tanya, in a hurry, heads for the stairs. The crying and yelling of her family can be heard behind her while the impatient honking of Ram can be heard from the street. She tries to ignore them as she passes Temir's apartment. She stops and rings the bell. Temir opens the door.

TANYA

May I come in?

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR
Of course.

27 INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

27

Tanya walks in past Temir, puts down her suitcase and goes to the window.

TANYA
Turn off the light.

OUT WINDOW:

Tanya looks out the window from the darkened apartment to the street.

TANYA'S POV
Ram has gotten out of his car and is looking up at the window of her family's apartment. Tanya's father can be heard.

TANYA'S FATHER (O.S.)
Why are you honking, you bastard,
Get lost. Get the hell out of here!

Ram throws his cigarette down with disgust, gets into his car and drives away.

BACK TO SCENE

Tanya breathes a sigh of relief.

TANYA
You can turn the lights back on now... no wait...do you have any candles?

Temir finds some candles and matches. They light them.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
There, that's better. We can celebrate New Years all over again. Let's have a drink and dance. Do you have any wine?

TEMIR
Maybe some cognac...

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

Super.. get it over here quickly, I need it. What about some music?

TEMIR

Sure.

Temir puts on some Latin-American music and sets the cognac on the table with a plate of dried fruit and sweets.

TANYA

Gifts of the East.

She starts to dance.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Pour me some cognac.

TEMIR

This is all from Rakhim...

TANYA

Well then, let's drink to your brother Rakhim.

They touch glasses and down their drinks in one gulp. Tanya picks out some of the sweets and pops them in her mouth, then starts feeding Temir. She pulls him close and kisses him on the lips.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Is it sweet?

Temir nods, unable to talk with his mouth full. A Lambada melody starts to play and Tanya starts to move with the music.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

This is my favorite.

TEMIR

Rakhim copied it for me. If it wasn't for the fact that it came from Brazil, you might mistake it for something from the East.

TANYA

Oh, a musicologist...hey, you better come over here and dance with me.

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR
I...I, can't.

TANYA
I'll teach you.

She takes him by the hand and leads him through the dance, their bodies getting closer and closer. Temir is awkward and self conscious.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
Let yourself go..

TEMIR
I can't.

TANYA
Of course you can...you are in love with me, aren't you?

Tanya kisses him passionately on the mouth. She leads him over to the sofa.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
You are my most special, most precious one. Most people don't love like this.

She unbuttons his shirt, his pants then pulls off her sweater to reveal her exquisite body. Temir touches her gently, carefully.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
Oh, my dear, precious one.

TEMIR
Why are you crying?

TANYA
Because, I am happy...

28

INT. MOSCOW APARTMENT - LATER THAT EVENING:

28

The apartment is fairly shabby with a few stuffed chairs, a tattered couch, coffee table and assorted odds and ends, including stacks of stolen goods that seem to line the walls.

(CONTINUED)

The Mulatto, John, VICTOR, STAS, the owner of the blue car, and the Cab Driver are sitting around a dining table on which sits the loot from the cab heist, including Serge's ring, two open bottles of vodka and some simple food. On the couch are clothes and other stuff pulled from Serge's suitcases and papers from his briefcase. A tape player is playing soft music in the background.

CAB DRIVER

They took us to the Police Station on Petrovka street. The French guy was yakking the entire time how he was an important businessman, that Moscow was full of thieves and that his seal-ring was worth a million. I was thinking to myself, I hope he doesn't tell them about the tire iron. They would have kicked me out of the cab business.

JOHN

You shouldn't have threatened him with that.

CAB DRIVER

I got confused. He looked like a foreigner, then all of a sudden he speaks fluent Russian. I almost puked. And you, you Mulatto, you didn't have to punch me so hard...

MULATTO

I did it for the police.

CAB DRIVER

What about my health?

The apartment bell rings, in what must be a prearranged coded pattern.

VICTOR

That must be Ram.

He goes and opens the door. The men grow silent as he enters the room. He is obviously in a mean mood.

RAM

Well?

JOHN

There it is?

Ram picks up the signet ring and looks it over. Ram addresses John.

(CONTINUED)

RAM

Who was your partner?

JOHN

Him.

(pointing to the Mulatto)

Ram goes over to the Mulatto who smiles, but backs up a few paces. Ram grabs him by the shirt and pushes him against the wall.

RAM

Did you forget what I told you? Don't you dare show your face at the airport. You are going to get them all in trouble. You just spit once and people remember you forever.

MULATTO

There are lots of people like me there.

RAM

There are plenty of people like you in the jungles, swinging from palm trees.

There is a burst of laughter. Ram lets the Mulatto down. The Mulatto is offended and angry, but doesn't have the nerve to face up to Ram.

RAM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Victor, come over here for a second.

Victor goes over to Ram and they walk out of earshot from the others.

RAM (cont'd)

(continuing)

The Old Man called and said that they are playing for big money at the Felix and aren't paying us our share, check it out.

VICTOR

Sure thing boss.

Tanya is still asleep as Temir prepares breakfast. He turns on the radio to a soft, Sunday Morning program. The doorbell rings and he goes to answer it. Rakhim stand there holding his suitcase and a package. Temir is overjoyed to see his brother.

RAKHIM
Hello Temir!

They embrace warmly.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
I got in last night and this morning I wanted to have breakfast with you.

TEMIR
Why didn't you call?

RAKHIM
I wanted to surprise you. You know me.

Tanya, still sleepy looks out of the bedroom wrapped in a blanket. Rakhim looks at Temir and smiles.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(to Temir)
Congratulations.

(to Tanya)

Hello, Madam, I am Rakhim.

TANYA
I'm Tanya.

She smiles feigning shyness and softly closes the door. Rakhim turns to Temir.

RAKHIM
I knew it had to happen sooner or later. I hope you are not failing your exams?

TEMIR
Of course not...you really surprised me.

Rakhim pats Temir on the cheek and then pulls a sheepskin lined jean jacket from his suitcase.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

This is a present from Brussels.

TEMIR

I told you I don't need anything.

RAKHIM

Try it on.

Temir puts on the jacket and looks at himself in the mirror.

30

INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER:

30

The two brothers and Tanya sit at the kitchen table that is covered with all kinds of goodies; pate, cheese, fish, salami, butter, pastries, sweets, and the unfinished bottle of cognac. Tanya is in heaven, trying a taste of everything. She sees a small jar that looks like jam.

TANYA

What kind of fruit is this?

RAKHIM

That's not fruit, it's fish, like smoked sturgeon. If you still remember what that tastes like.

TANYA

Of course I do, I eat sometimes at the National.

RAKHIM

I see your lady is not easily impressed.

TANYA

I am sure it is very tasty. Temir you have the most beautiful, wonderful brother. It must be great to have such a brother. Let's drink to your health Rakhim.

RAKHIM

You have already been drinking to my health?

TANYA

We must drink as long as the cognac lasts.

(raises her glass in a toast)

You know how proud Temir is of you. He talks about you constantly. Let's drink to your homecoming.

(CONTINUED)

Temir and Tanya down their drinks but Rakhim sips his.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
So, what have you been doing in
Belgium, if it is not a secret?

RAKHIM
I signed some agreements to set up
a Belgium-Tadzhik joint venture.

TANYA
Wow, that sounds great. Need a
secretary? How about a cleaning
lady? Anything just to be there.

RAKHIM
You want to live in Tadzhikistan?

TANYA
Moscow holds nothing for me. My
father is a drunk and my mother is
a fool...the whole city is corrupt.
I have had enough, so why shouldn't
I want to live in Tadzhikistan? Why
shouldn't I want to go with
handsome men like you and Temir...

Tanya is drunk and cannot hide her attraction to Rakhim.

RAKHIM
I really must be leaving
now...Temir can I see you for a
second.

Rakhim goes to the entrance hall and starts putting on his
coat.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
Come to my hotel tonight, my
regular room, Okay?

Temir nods.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
Goodbye Tanya.

Rakhim leaves.

TANYA
Was it something I said?

31 EXT. FELIX RESTAURANT - LATE AFTERNOON 31

A popular restaurant located in corner of Moscow square. Victor parks his blue car next to two "Lada's". The restaurant is busy even though it is during the day. Victor enters the restaurant.

32 INT. FELIX RESTAURANT: 32

At the entrance Victor passes a LARGE BURLY MAN in fatigues, with a cigarette dangling from his mouth, obviously a bouncer. He nods to the COAT-CHECK GIRL, who smiles back, and enters the well-appointed dining room which is almost full.

FELIX a roly-poly man in his early 60's is bending over a woman who looks like she comes from the communist party elite. Felix spots Victor and excuses himself and heads into the back where his office is. Victor follows him. He walks past TWO MEN, one of which is a DARK SKINNED MAN who looks up briefly and stops eating his shish kabob. After Victor passes the men start talking animatedly to one another.

33 INT. OFFICE: 33

Felix automatically walks over to a safe and pulls out a package wrapped in newspaper. He does not even look up as Victor comes into the room.

FELIX
The Usual?

VICTOR
Felix, is there nothing else?
Something you want to tell me?

FELIX
What do you mean?

VICTOR
Oh, I don't know...what do your
customers prefer - poker, roulette,
bridge...?

Felix turns pale.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
...or maybe they prefer the slot
machines, you know, the one armed
bandits? We are generous Felix...we
offer you two hands...

FELIX
I don't know what you are talking
about.

VICTOR
Let me explain it to you.

Victor holds up his two hands.

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
Look at my two hands...

Felix eyes the floor.

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
Look at my hands!!

Felix looks up.

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
Now then, how is it done? First you
drop in the money and then you pull
down on the handle...

Victor grabs Felix by the head and smashes it into the desk.

FELIX
No...Vic...please stop it...

VICTOR
You have done us dirt, Felix the
boss is furious.

FELIX
I can explain! Please I can
explain.

Victor grabs one of Felix's ears and pulls his head up.

VICTOR
Okay, explain.

FELIX

Let me go...you are hurting me.

VICTOR

That's the point Felix...you hurt us, we hurt you...

FELIX

Alright...I will tell you what happened. My store manager, damn him...he gave me the idea of putting up a small playroom, a casino in the basement. I put up the money, seventy-grand... the place had to be fixed up, furniture bought, all that...it was only supposed to be for my friends...At first I just wanted to recoup my investment and then I was going to let you know about it. But my store manager robbed me blind, I gave him the boot and he hired these Chechens, they are making me pay them...Oh, they are real animals...They told me if I make any noise they were going to kill me and my whole family. You see why I couldn't tell you...I have been scared...you don't know these men...

Victor let's him go. Felix wipes his face with a handkerchief.

VICTOR

These Chechens, do they play?

FELIX

Oh, yes, usually on Saturdays.

VICTOR

I appreciate your situation Felix, but you should have told us sooner...

FELIX

I know, I am sorry...please, you have to help me...my family.

Victor takes the money and starts to leave.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX (cont'd)
(continuing)
Victor...please, you will protect
me?

VICTOR
We'll see you later.

Victor leaves. Felix goes to the door after him.

FELIX
Be careful, there in the dining
room, two guys sitting by the
bar...

34 INT. DINING ROOM: 34

Victor looks around but doesn't see anyone suspicious. He nods to the Coat-Check Girl and notices that the Dark-Skinned Man is no longer standing by the door. Victor exits the restaurant.

35 EXT. RESTAURANT: 35

Victor goes to his car and throws the package into the back seat. As he gets in he notices that the left front of the car is low. He walks around and sees that he has a flat tire. He looks around warily, but sees no one. Victor goes to the trunk and pulls out the jack, a wrench and the spare tire.

He looks around again, still no one. He places himself between his car and the Lada and starts to jack up the car. He is distracted with changing the tire.

Suddenly footsteps are heard and shadows pass between the cars. Victor looks up as one of the two men we saw earlier runs towards him. The other of the two blocks his way on the other side. The Dark-Skinned Man comes up from behind as Victor grabs the wrench and tries to get up. One of the men kicks him in the chin and he goes down hard.

He is kicked again and again until one of the men picks up the spare tire and drops it on Victor, hitting him in the back. The Dark-Skinned Man comes forward.

DARK-SKINNED MAN
This is the last time you pick up
money here. If your guys ever show
their face again, you are dead...
Do you understand?

It is a suite of two rooms, not elegant but comfortable. There are three people in the room besides Rakhim.

ASHOT Rakhim's body guard during business transactions and two FINNISH MEN. AKHTO, the young one with red hair, is already quite drunk. The other OTTO, is older and stern faced.

AKHTO

So, how are things in Brussels? How are the Brussels, beauties.. the Brussels broads....?

RAKHIM

I like the Muscovites better.

AKHTO

Well...they are definitely cheaper.

The Older Finn gives the Younger Finn a dirty look.

OTTO

We are not here to talk about whores.

AKHTO

Ah, yes...I am sorry, I should have asked you how was your business in Brussels?

RAKHIM

(still stifling his mirth)
Business was fine. I signed a contract with the firm "Clair", they are going to use our furs and build a plant in Kulyaba.

AKHTO

Well, then it was quite a success.

OTTO

What do you have to offer us?

RAKHIM

I have some patterns. Ashot, bring them in.

Ashot goes into the other room. Ashot comes back with an armload of furs and spreads them on the table in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

OTTO

How much?

RAKHIM

One hundred American dollars a piece.

OTTO

What? We paid in Rubles last time.

RAKHIM

Yes, but look at the quality of these, it is much higher than the last shipment. Besides I do not make the decision on price, or payment. After our contract with Belgium I am afraid that they will get the best pieces. In order to supply you as well I will have to take double the risk with twice the expenses.

OTTO

We are also taking a risk...

RAKHIM

Well, as you like...but the French are ready to pay \$105.

There is a knock at the door. Ashot goes and answers it. Tanya and Temir stand in the doorway. Tanya clings to Temir like a little girl.

TANYA

Hello!

AKHTO

Ah! A beautiful woman, now the evening begins.

Rakhim gives her a look of disapproval. She ignores it as they enter the room.

37

EXT. MOSCOW STREET - NIGHT

37

Ram's Opel is speeding down the illuminated streets.

38 INT. OPEL: 38

RAM'S WIFE sits next to him. She is a beautiful, though somewhat corpulent blond in her late thirties. In the back seat are a BOY and a GIRL, Ram's children.

RAM'S WIFE

It was a nice rest, wasn't it? We should go to our dacha more often. The fresh air, the forest...it's good for the children.

(Ram does not answer)

What's the matter?

Suddenly Ram pulls the car over and slams on the breaks. There is a phone booth only feet from the front of the car.

RAM

I have to make a phone call.

39 EXT./INT. PHONE BOOTH: 39

Ram goes to the booth and pulls the door closed. Inside he dials a number.

RAM

Could I talk to Tanya please.

Tanya's father can be heard on the other end.

TANYA'S FATHER (O.S.)

The whore isn't here, understand!
don't you dare call again.

Ram hangs up and makes his way back to the car.

40 INT. CAR: 40

RAM'S WIFE

Anything wrong?

RAM

Shut up!

41 INT. LENIN HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT 41

Rakhim, Tanya, Temir, and the two Finn's are seated around a table. They are having a late dinner and there is entertainment on a small stage in a corner of the restaurant. Akhto leans into Tanya.

(CONTINUED)

AKHTO

Only a fool would not ask you to dinner. I am footing the bill, OK Tanya?

TANYA

Of course.

AKHTO

Tanya, do you know how to say "Love" in Finnish?

TANYA

(becoming annoyed)

No.

AKHTO

I love you Tanya, in Helsinki you would be a queen...

Temir looks on distraught, looking at his brother as Tanya moves away from the Finn and closer to Rakhim. The band begins to play a Patricia Cass song.

TANYA

(to Rakhim)

Let's Dance.

She pulls him onto the dance floor, as we see John and Victor, with his face bandaged and two black eyes, downing shots of vodka at the bar and watching Tanya.

JOHN

What is she doing here? Ram has been looking for her.

VICTOR

She is doing what whores do.

JOHN

I should call Ram.
(He reaches for a cell phone)

VICTOR

No.
(grabs the phone)
Lets see what she does with this one.

ANGLE ON RAKHIM AND TANYA DANCING

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

You dance well...have you had lessons?

RAKHIM

(Ignoring her comment)

What do you want with my brother?

TANYA

Want? What do you mean?

RAKHIM

A woman like you wants something, you wouldn't be hanging around him if you didn't.

TANYA

A woman like me? What is that supposed to mean? You know nothing about me.

(pause, as they dance)

Your brother is good, he has an innocence that I find appealing. There are not many people like him left in our country.

(She pulls him closer)

Your brother loves me. I am grateful for it...but he cannot save me from my life...from the wolves at my door. But you, you are strong and powerful, you could.

ANGLE ON TEMIR AND AKHTO

AKHTO

(eyeing Tanya)

She is worth whatever you've paid, my friend. Hey, let's share her tonight! Let me buy half...

Temir, appalled, shoves Akhto away, gets out of the booth and heads towards the dance floor.

ANGLE: TEMIR, TANYA AND RAKHIM

TEMIR

(grabs Tanya's hand)

Let's go, I will take you home.

RAKHIM

No, Temir, let her go.

(CONTINUED)

TAMIR

Why? So you can have her for yourself?

RAKHIM

(looks at Tanya contemptuously)

You are too weak for her.

Tanya is hurt by Rakhim's look and remark. She tries to pull away from Temir.

TEMIR

I see...and I suppose you are the strong one. You are the one who deserves her.

TANYA

Stop it! Stop it both of you.

She pulls away and rushes off towards the back of the restaurant.

JOHN AND VICTOR

They have been watching the argument. Victor gets up.

VICTOR

(To John)

Stay here and watch those two.

RAKHIM AND TEMIR

RAKHIM

I am trying to keep you from getting hurt.

TAMIR

Ah! I see...well you may control the pursestrings, but you can't keep me from living, Rakhim. I am not a child any longer. I love her, maybe a long time ago you knew what that meant. Now leave me alone.

Temir heads off to find Tanya. Rakhim is about to follow when an arm reaches out and grabs him from behind. Rakhim whirls around defensively and finds himself face to face with a drunken Serge.

SERGE

(effusively)

Rakhim! My old friend I have been looking for you. I went upstairs to

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SERGE (cont'd)
 your room, but you weren't there,
 you are here. Come, drink with me!
 I am celebrating my survival from
 almost certain death in your
 lawless country.

RAKHIM
 Serge! This is a surprise.

Rakhim tries to see where Temir is headed, but his attention is distracted.

ON JOHN

He sees Serge and turns away so not to be seen.

ON SERGE & RAKHIM

SERGE
 After we parted in the airport I
 was attacked by some thugs, punks,
 hoodlums. They beat me and stole
 almost everything I had. The police
 just shrug, they say this is a
 nation of thieves and they can do
 nothing to stop it.

Serge's tirade is getting the attention of others, Rakhim has no choice but to lead him over to the booth with the Finn's who are also well healed by now.

42 INT. WOMAN'S BATHROOM

42

Tanya looks at her face in the mirror. She starts to cry.

Victor comes in.

VICTOR
 Many men are fighting over you, do
 they know who you are? You don't
 deserve all that attention.

TANYA
 Get out of here you pig.

VICTOR
 Be carefull little whore. I could
 tear you apart.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

If you touch me, Ram will kill you!

Victor, angrily moves towards her as Temir's voice is heard outside the door.

TEMIR (O.S.)

Tanya? Are you in there?

Victor grabs Tanya and shoves her. Temir opens the door and sees Victor cornering her.

TEMIR

Tanya? Are you alright?

Tanya grabs Temir and pushes him out the door just as Victor grabs her hair.

TEMIR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Get away from her!

Temir tries to push Victor, but Victor grabs him by the coat and flings him out towards the bar.

43

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT

43

Rakhim hears the commotion, pushes Serge into the booth and starts to leave.

SERGE

Where are you going? I haven't finished telling you about the beating...

RAKHIM

Stay here and keep your mouth shut.

Serge, taken aback and confused sits, with his mouth open.

Temir is flinging himself at Victor who is pulling Tanya by the hair towards the front of the bar. Victor knocks Temir hard to the ground, Temir covers his head in anticipation of Victor's continuing assault. Victor kicks Temir several times as John arrives.

JOHN

(whispering to Victor)

The Frenchman we beat up is here with this one's friend.

(he points at Temir)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)

They know each other. We need to get the fuck out of here before he recognizes me.

VICTOR

(angrily)

Take the whore and go out the back way.

Rakhim sees Temir at Victor's feet and Victor shoving Tanya to John. He grabs Tanya who struggles with him to break free.

ON RAKHIM & VICTOR

Rakhim runs and makes a flying leap, tackling Victor. They go sprawling onto the floor. Patrons and staff are becoming alarmed. Rakhim turns Victor over pinning him and slamming his head into the floor. Victor's face is pure rage, he spits at Rakhim.

Rakhim hits Victor in the mouth and then pulls a gun from under his coat and pushes it into Victor's face. Temir is suprised to see the gun.

RAKHIM

You ever lay a hand on my brother again and I will shove this so far up your nose it'll hit that pea sized brain.

Serge approaches Rakhim attempting to help in the conflict.

SERGE

(Drunkenly)

I will help you my friend...we cannot let these hoodlums get away with attacking honest hard working people.

Serge sees the gun and is impressed.

SERGE (cont'd)

(continuing)

On the other hand, perhaps you have things under control.

ON JOHN & TANYA

John sees Serge approaching and is concerned that he will be recognized and panics, this gives Tanya the opportunity she needs to break free. She runs over to Temir.

(CONTINUED)

ON TEMIR & TANYA

Tanya helps Temir to his feet.

ON VICTOR

Victor takes a moment to get up, he is totally humiliated and blind with anger, but there is a crowd gathering and it is no time for another confrontation.

RAKHIM, TEMIR & TANYA

Rakhim grabs Temir from Tanya and pushes her away.

RAKHIM

Get the hell away from my brother.

Rakhim pulls Temir toward the table where the Finn's applaud Rakhim's Victory. Serge follows Rakhim and Temir as they make their way back to the table.

SERGE

I could have used you yesterday.
Between the two of us those crooks
would never have been able to jump
me like they did.

AKHTO

Bravo...you certainly have my
respect. We are happy to do
business with such a hero. Here,
here is the money you asked for.

Akhto pulls out a wad of bills and shoves them at Rakhim.

VICTORS POV

He watches as the Finn gives Rakhim the money. Rakhim stands motionless, making no move towards the money. Otto jumps up and starts speaking in Finnish, pushing Akhto to the side.

Temir is still dazed, looks around for Tanya.

ON TANYA

She is standing unsure of what to do, between Victor by the bar and Rakhim at the table. Temir goes to her, takes her by the hand and heads out the door.

Rakhim starts to follow, when Akhto comes up to him with the money, Rakhim is distracted and upset. He pushes Akhto away in disgust.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

Get away from me with that, you are going to get me and yourself into a lot of trouble, go home to your reindeer.

Rakhim goes out the door after Temir and Tanya

44

EXT - STREET - EVE:

44

Rakhim catches up to Temir and Tanya as they are about to get into a taxi, and confronts them. Ashot watches from the white Lada.

RAKHIM

Temir, let her go she belongs with those scum.

TAMIR

No! She was trying to get away, she wants to be with me, have a new life. I love her, you don't understand.

RAKHIM

Listen to me. I know what is best for you, I have always known what was best for you. She is trouble.

TANYA

(to Rakhim)

How dare you.

She goes to Rakhim and slaps him across the face.

Rakhim grabs her and is about to hit her back, Temir steps in and stops his brother. Serge comes up, as Temir and Rakhim stand face to face. Ashot, seeing the confrontation, gets out of the car and starts towards them, Rakhim waves him back.

SERGE

Rakhim, my friend, I still need to talk to you, maybe you can help me...

TEMIR

(to Rakhim)

Stay away from her, and stay away from me. I don't need you to look after me anymore.

(CONTINUED)

Temir and Tanya get into the Taxi and speed away. Rakhim motions to Ashot to pull the car up. As Ashot pulls up we see Victor and John exit the side of the building and head toward their car. As John is getting in Serge sees him and becomes excited, pointing and yelling.

SERGE

Look...Look! That's one of those thugs that attacked me...he's with that man who you beat up in the bar.

RAKHIM

What? What are you talking about?

SERGE

One of the men that attacked me from the airport...over there!

RAKHIM

Are you sure?

SERGE

Yes! The cowardly scum bastard!

Serge heads toward Victor and John. John ducks into the car as Rakhim pulls Serge from behind.

RAKHIM

Stay here, you drunken fool.

Rakhim looks past Serge to where Victor is standing.

RAKHIMS' POV

Victor is glaring at Rakhim, daring him to come to him. Rakhim pushes Serge toward his car. Ashot opens the door and helps Rakhim push Serge in.

SERGE

What are doing? You're letting the bastards get away.

Rakhim takes one more look at Victor then climbs into the car next to Serge. Ashot gets in and they drive off.

45

INT. - RAKHIMS' LADA

45

Serge is glaring at Rakhim.

(CONTINUED)

SERGE

I thought you were my friend. I thought you would help me.

RAKHIM

Calm down, Serge. I know someone that might be able to help us both.

Victor stands watching Rakhim and Serge drive off. He motions for John to come out.

VICTOR

Go back to the hotel, get into that Tadzic bastards room and find out what he's up to.

JOHN

But the Old Man said we're supposed to...

VICTOR

I'll take care of it.

46

EXT. TANYA'S APARTMENT - LATER:

46

Temir and Tanya approach the building, she sees the gray Opel parked by the entrance.

TANYA

Stay here.

She walks towards the car, Ram gets out, throwing a cigarette butt into the snow. He walks towards her. She tries to smile. Without a word Ram slaps her hard across the face. Temir sees Ram hit her and runs up to help.

RAM

Well, here is your hero...the natsman.

He hits Tanya again. Temir raises his fists.

TEMIR

Don't you touch her...

Temir rushes forward as Tanya tries to put herself between the two men. Ram shoves her aside.

RAM

Well, boy, let's see who you are!

Tanya grabs Ram's arm and with all her might pulls him towards his car.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

Ram...no, don't...please! Let's go...I beg you...let's go.

RAM

So you are afraid for your little boy...

TANYA

Let's go Ram, now...let's go to the apartment, OK?

Ram pulls open the car door and flings Tanya in. Before getting in himself Ram shoots a menacing look at Temir. Temir stands there, his fists still clenched his face set.

Ram and Tanya speed away. Tanya looks out the back window, her makeup smeared, pleading for Temir to understand. Temir watches as the car disappears down the street.

47

INT. COLONEL'S OFFICE AT THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION:

47

COLONEL YURI BARKOV, the division head, served with Rakhim in the Afghanistan war, and although the same age as Rakhim, the job has taken its toll on him; he looks frazzled and old beyond his years. Rakhim, Serge, and Ashot enter. Barkov rises to greet them with a weary welcome.

Rakhim pulls out a flat package from his case and hands it to Yuri. It is a children's toy police outfit.

RAKHIM

A present for your son, from Belgium.

BARKOV

For Zhenya...that was thoughtful. Look there's even a hand-cuff set with keys, he will be very happy. Thank you very much.

SERGE

I see there is more than a professional relationship here.

BARKOV

Rakhim used to be on the police force, our friendship was cemented under fire.

(CONTINUED)

SERGE

Interesting...you never told me you
used to be a cop?

An OFFICER bursts into the office without knocking, he looks
even more frazzled than Yuri.

OFFICER

Excuse me Sir, but there is a
report of a riot at the Ostankino
dairy plant. There are 200 people
involved with weapons...people are
already hurt.

BARKOV

Oh christ, who have we got in the
area?

OFFICER

Tragoran and Semyan, but their car
is broken down and won't be able to
get there for another hour or more.

BARKOV

Then they will get there when they
get there.

Yuri turns to Rakhim.

BARKOV (cont'd)

(continuing)

As you can see we are undermanned,
overworked, and in the middle of a
war with criminals that are better
armed, and have automobiles that
work. So what can I do for you?

48 EXT - RAKHIM'S HOTEL - DAY

48

A beige car drives up to the hotel. The Young Man, now
wearing a golfing cap with pompom on top, gets out of the
car and enters the hotel.

49 INT RAKHIM'S HOTEL - CONTINUING

49

John sits in the lobby facing the registration desk so he
can observe the corridor. The Young Man goes up to the desk
CLERK.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG MAN

Excuse me, which room is Mr. Rakhim Davlyatov's.

CLERK

I'm sorry, we don't give out that information.

YOUNG MAN

I am his brother Temir, He recently got in and has not yet had a chance to phone me...I go to school and...I really need to see him.

The young man slips the clerk some money.

YOUNG MAN (cont'd)

(continuing)

I would really appreciate it...

CLERK

Room 309.

50

INT. THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION: - CONTINUING

50

Serge is looking thru mug shots. Rakhim is talking to the Colonel.

RAKHIM

Times have changed. It's hard to know who to trust.

BARKOV

We're all corrupted. Nothing works here anymore. The people have no faith in the government. It's just a matter of time before there's anarchy.

RAKHIM

Then why do you keep trying to do this job? Why don't you quit and come work for me. There's money to be made in chaos.

BARKOV

It's not in my blood. Someone has to try to represent order, to be the voice of sanity.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

Good luck, my friend, it is like trying to swim up stream against the raging waters of the Volga.

SERGE

Ha! There's one of them. I will never forget his face.

Serge holds up a picture of the Mulatto.

BARKOV

He has been associated with the Ilyich Gang, a particularly ruthless and violent group who think they own the streets of Moscow. You should stay as far away from them as you can.

RAKHIM

It may be too late for that.

51 EXT. MOSCOW STREET - NIGHT

51

Victor is sitting in his car with four other men. The beige Lada with four other men drives up and parks next to Victor's car. They roll down their windows.

VICTOR

We should be hearing from the Old Man any minute.

Victor motions to his men and they all pull ski masks down over their faces. Victor's cell phone rings, he answers it.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Understood, we're going now.

52 INT. RAKHIM'S HOTEL - NIGHT

52

The door to Rakhim's room bursts open and three men in ski masks come barrelling in.

SLASH CUT TO:

53 INT. FELIX RESTAURANT - NIGHT

53

The door to the secret gaming room bursts open and men in black ski masks surprise the unsuspecting Chechen's along with some of the regular clientele. Victor's men pick off the Chechen's as the customers look on in horror.

INTERCUT with men searching Rakhim's apartment. One of the men is John, a smaller man Stas, who we met earlier and a large imposing man named BOLT.

BACK TO THE FELIX

One of Victor's men gets wounded as the last Chechen is shot down at the feet of an HYSTERICAL WOMAN.

RAKHIM'S ROOM

BOLT

Not a trace of any drugs.

JOHN

This is not some stupid Tadzhik he wouldn't keep the drugs here, look for the money.

FELIX RESTAURANT

Victor roughly turns over the dead Chechen's, he is looking for the one that attacked him.

RAKHIM'S ROOM

Stas goes through Rakhim's jacket and finds 220 rubles and a \$10 bill. He shows it to John who shakes his head. Rakhim and Ashot can be heard talking as they come down the hall. The three men look at each other for a plan.

FELIX RESTAURANT

Victor finds the man who kicked him. The man looks up at Victor with wild, scared eyes. Victor's men line up the remaining Chechen's as Victor gives his warning.

VICTOR

If any of you ever cross our path, not just here, but anywhere, we will shoot you, hang you, and chop you into pieces.

RAKHIM'S ROOM

John is closest to the door and as quietly as possible locks it. He turns to Bolt and Stas and motions them to scatter.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX RESTAURANT

Victor looks down on the Chechen at his feet and smiles a wicked smile.

RAKHIM'S ROOM

As Rakhim and Ashot enter, Rakhim is jumped and goes down onto the floor. Ashot, realizing that Rakhim has been attacked instinctively jumps to the side and draws his weapon, but Stas gets him from behind and tries to choke him. Ashot is a former boxer and Stas is no match, he quickly throws him to the floor and points the gun at his face.

FELIX RESTAURANT

Victor has his gun in the Chechen's face.

VICTOR (cont'd)

This is not Chechenya, this is
Moscow. Moscow is ours.

Victor pulls the trigger.

RAKHIM'S ROOM

Ashot receives a blow to the back of his head. Now Bolt stands over him holding a lead weight. Stas scrambles out from under, fear still lingering in his eyes. The three men drag Ashot and Rakhim together in the middle of the room. John turns on the lights.

JOHN

(to Bolt)

Get a rope. Stas, you watch them,
if they move, give them another
"sedative".

54

INT. RAKHIM'S ROOM:

54

Rakhim and Ashot are tied in two easy chairs, they are now awake. John has the contents of both their pockets spread before him on the coffee table. He picks up a red ID booklet and reads.

JOHN

First Lieutenant Saakyan Ashot
Gurgenovich...a soldier.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

I think you have made a big mistake.

JOHN

I have no interest in him, but you...that's a different story.

John picks up his check book and the money they found in his pockets. Then he reads from Rakhim's ID.

JOHN (cont'd)

(continuing)

Davlyatov, Rakhim Davlyatovich,
born 1957 in the city of Dushanbe.

RAKHIM

What do you want?

JOHN

You really don't know?

RAKHIM

No!

JOHN

You think you can come to our city,
attack us, insult us, do business
here and not pay a price?

RAKHIM

I had no idea that this was your
city.

JOHN

Listen smart-ass, you have dollars,
that means you are here to
deal...and there are no deals in
Moscow that we don't get a cut of.
Do you understand? Tomorrow at 1400
you will be at the entrance to
Gorky Park with \$3,000 dollars and
the 12.000 from the savings
account...do you understand?

Rakhim nods.

JOHN (cont'd)

(continuing)

Oh, and don't bring your friend.

John and the others look around one last time then leave,
closing the door behind them, leaving Rakhim and Ashot tied
to the chairs.

55

INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT:

55

The place is a mess - books, notebooks, clothing are thrown in heaps. Temir sits on his bed his head in his hands. The lambada record he played for Tanya can be heard softly in the background. A CAR HORN goes off and he rushes to the window only to see a cab driver pull up and an old women get in. He goes back to his bed and picks up his drawing of Tanya which he has framed.

INTERCUT with Tanya's face from that night, looking into his. The TELEPHONE RINGS and we come back into the present.

TEMIR

Hello?

Rakhim is on the other end. There are policemen talking to Ashot and looking around. The scene is INTERCUT between Rakhim and Temir.

RAKHIM

Temir, listen to me, this is important.

TEMIR

Everything you want is important to you. While everything I want means nothing?

RAKHIM

Temir...you are in danger...we are in danger, and it is because of your girlfriend.

TEMIR

I don't believe you...

RAKHIM

You have to forget about her.

TEMIR

I will not...you have no say in what I do from here on...

RAKHIM

Your girlfriend's buddies have been to see me. It was not a social call. They have threatened both of us and I am not about to hang around to see if they mean it. Listen to me carefully. Be ready by tomorrow 11 a.m. I will pick you up, our flight is at 3:10.

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR

I am not going anywhere with you.

RAKHIM

Don't be foolish.

TEMIR

Tanya is in trouble, and I have to find her.

RAKHIM

You are in more trouble, if you stay here. Besides we have a funeral to attend.

TEMIR

A funeral? What are you talking about?

RAKHIM

Ibron has died. Rohkat will want you there.

56

INT. RAM AND TANYA'S RENTED APARTMENT - EVENING

56

The room in which Ram's birthday party is being celebrated is barely big enough for two people much less Ram, Victor, Tanya, SERGEY ILYICH (The Old Man), the Mulatto, John, the Cabby and THREE WOMEN. There is food and drink spread throughout the apartment, everyone has to move carefully not to bump into something.

Tanya is dancing the Lambada with the Mulatto. She is extremely sensuous moving every part of her body close to his, he responds. She looks over at Ram who watches. Finally the dance is over and everyone applauds especially Sergey who stands abruptly and announces a toast.

SERGEY

Friends. You and I have just witnessed a marvel. A Russian girl, dancing a Brazilian dance better than any girl in Rio. She has talent, passion. As Dostoyevski once wrote -this is the universal response of the Russian soul...

He raises his glass.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

... I do not even mention your beauty, and everything else. Today

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY (cont'd)
 we celebrate Ram's birthday. I am
 grateful that he, the celebrant was
 generous enough to give all of us
 Tanya's dance.

His hand starts shaking.

 SERGEY (cont'd)
 (continuing)
 I know these are different times, a
 different world but our beloved
 Fyodor said "Times have no power
 over our souls!" I have no special
 gift for you Tanya, but I ask that
 you do me a favor and accept
 this...

He loosens his tie and unbuttons his shirt, pulling out a
 large gold cross. Everyone is stunned, especially Tanya. He
 hangs the cross around her neck and kisses her on the
 forehead. She begins to cry softly and runs out of the room.

 WOMAN ONE
 She is beside herself.

 VICTOR
 Who would not be moved by such a
 gift.

Victor starts to go after her.

 RAM
 (to Victor)
 Stay here.

Victor glares at Ram.

57 INT. HALLWAY

57

Tanya is crying and very uneasy. Ram comes over and hugs
 Tanya who remains limp in his arms.

 RAM
 Calm down, it's all right...hey
 this is my birthday celebration.
 Let's forget about everything
 bad...OK?

Sergey comes up from behind.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

Forgive me Tanya, if my gesture was too emotional for you...but you have touched my heart. You are a remarkable and clever girl.

Sergey kisses her hand.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

Now, let's see what a good hostess you can be and go back to our guests.

Tanya wipes her eyes, looks at Sergey and goes into the apartment. Ram and Sergey face each other. Sergey paces.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

I did not want to bring this up on your birthday, but there is no avoiding it. Your men have been attracting way too much attention. Never mind about the raid on the casino, but the robbery of the cab is threatening to cause unpleasant consequences. I recently received a phone call from the Captain, that case with the Frenchman has gotten the MVD going...

RAM

But the Cabby said the MVD investigator was replaced...

SERGEY

John was spotted by that frog outside the hotel and he was with a Tadzhik who attacked Victor.

RAM

A Tadzhik?

SERGEY

I also have to know if you think that Felix is going to double cross us?

RAM

No, no he's too much of a coward, and has his family to worry about.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

Good, that's good...still with the MVD, the Frenchman and his friend, I think you should take a vacation. What do you prefer, the Carpathian mountains, the Caucasus...?

RAM

What about Tadzhikistan...?

SERGEY

I see that we are thinking alike. As for that Tadzhik...this isn't a personal thing between you and him, is it?

RAM

It's business

SERGEY

For your information, recently there was a large shipment of drugs moved from Tadzhikistan through Moscow to Sweden...or more precisely, from Kabul through a village outside Dushanbe to Moscow.

RAM

So everything is falling into place.

SERGEY

I want you to get to the bottom of this.

RAM

It will be done.

SERGEY

Remember, it's rather hot in Dushanbe.

RAM

Don't worry, I have a friend, a former cell-mate there.

58 EXT. TADZICSTAN VILLAGE - HILL LOOKING DOWN OVER CEMETARY - DAY 58

Temir and Rakhim are walking toward the gathering crowd. Temir looks tired but takes in every inch of the surrounding countryside.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

Dil'bar and little Natalia will be happy to see their Brother in law and Uncle. How does it feel to be back?

TEMIR

I should not have left. Tanya needs me. I could not find her to say goodbye. I don't know what has happened to her...

RAKHIM

She does not need your protection...you are the one who needs to be watched.

TEMIR

I am not a little boy anymore...that's what this place reminds me of...that's what you want, you want me helpless so I have to depend on you.

RAKHIM

You are still my little brother and I swore to care for and protect you for as long as I live.

(changing the subject)

It's good to be back in the peace and quiet of our country. Kulyaba has changed a little, but not too much. I think Rokhat would like to see you.

TEMIR

Rokhat!? She is Vakhid's girl now. I came to honor her father, nothing more...then I go back to Moscow.

RAKHIM

Yes...sure, I understand.

TEMIR

No, I don't think you do, you will try to to keep me here, but it won't work.

RAKHIM

Ibron was a wise leader...I learned a lot from him. I think the first thing he ever taught me was never go against nature. That meant in dealing with sheep and people.

It is a sunny day in February and almost everyone from the village is gathered around. Some in western clothes and some in the traditional herdsman outfits. The deceased was obviously an important and well liked man. Rakhim stands in front of the crowd delivering a eulogy.

RAKHIM

On this beautiful day it is difficult to express the sorrow that has struck us down. It is difficult to measure the loss burning in our souls. Our beloved Ibron-Aki lead your community for thirty years. For thirty years he sacrificed his own life, his passionate heart for the common cause...and now that tired heart has finally stopped beating. I had the honor of knowing him for five years during which time he replaced my own father. Eternal peace to you Ibron, we promise to continue the cause and never forget you.

Women and men weep. The deceased man's WIDOW and young daughter, ROKHAT are first to honor the coffin.

Temir is in the crowd and sees his friend VAKHID who was talking with Rokhat. Temir calls and runs up to him, touching him on the shoulder, but Vakhid turns away from him and disappears into the crowd. Temir calls after Vakhid but it is too late.

Rakhim goes up to the grieving widow, but she also turns away from him as all eyes bare down on Rakhim and Temir.

ROHKAT

Leave us alone.

People in the crowd begin to whisper, but Rakhim doesn't seem to take any notice.

RAKHIM

Poor Rokhat...

60

EXT. RAKHIM'S VOLGA - LATE

60

Temir is driving, but has not had a lot of experience so Rakhim is giving him some pointers.

RAKHIM

Steady, keep a grip on the wheel
and don't hurry...I must say, you
have improved.

Temir is barely listening. He is concerned about the reactions he received at the funeral. Rakhim senses the uneasiness.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

You want to know what happened at
the funeral, why your friends
reacted as they did?

TEMIR

I don't understand it.

RAKHIM

You are as sensitive as your
mother. I suppose I am more like
our father...

TEMIR

What happened, why did they turn
away from me like that?

RAKHIM

You have to understand that for
many of the local people we...I am
a stranger. We come from Dushanbe
and therefore are outsiders. People
here stick to their old ways...

TEMIR

No!, that's not it. The last time I
was here I could talk and socialize
with my friends. Now it is as if I
am some kind of criminal...

RAKHIM

I have worked hard for these
people. They elected me as a
Representative to the Soviets and
in their souls they envy me. Evil
tongues are busy saying that I
wanted to replace Ibron-aki.

(CONTINUED)

TEMIR

Did you?

RAKHIM

How can you ask me something like that? Why would I need to replace Ibron-Aki? Everything happened through me anyway, I needed him as a groom needs a best man.

TEMIR

That is not an answer.

RAKHIM

I was hoping that you would fall in love with Rokhat. Ibron would have been pleased to have you as a son-in-law.

TEMIR

She is in love with Vakhid..

RAKHIM

So what? People here are of the old traditions, they do what their fathers tell them to do.

They near the building of the Communist Party District Committee. A crowd of several dozen protesters wave islamic flags and shout anti-communist slogans. Two policemen stand guard and watch the crowd impassively.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Stop.

Three YOUNG MEN with broad shoulders spot Rakhim and come over. They get into the car, greeting Rakhim politely.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing; pointing to the crowd)

Who are these people?

FIRST YOUNG MAN

Members of the organization for independence.

RAKHIM

Disperse them, but quietly.

(CONTINUED)

The young men get out of the car and start towards the crowd. They go up to the man waving the flag, say something to him, others they talk to and some they push aside. The crowd begins to disperse. Temir watches this, realizing the power that his brother wields.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

You look surprised...don't jump to conclusions brother. I am not a hard line Communist and I am for national self determination, but I want to achieve it without bloodshed. Let the Russians leave our country not because we kick them out but because they feel better in Russia.

They drive out of the village. Temir is listening but not really hearing his brothers words.

A motorcycle POLICEMAN stops them and seeing Rakhim he salutes, then goes to talk to Rakhim.

POLICEMAN

Yesterday at the market and at the bus station there were two Russians along with a Tadzhik. They were making inquiries about you. They said they were from a cooperative and were interested in buying furs.

RAKHIM

Check them out.

The Policeman salutes once more as Rakhim and Temir pull away.

TEMIR

Two Russians?

RAKHIM

I am sure it is nothing.

They run into a herd of sheep moving slowly down the road. The Shepherder greets them but Rakhim looks at the sheep.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Beautiful lambs...they are the Bukhara breed. I made a special trip to Uzbekistan to select them. Turn here.

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim indicates the gated entrance to the cooperative above which hangs a banner in Russian and Tadzhik "Our contribution to Perestroyka". As soon as they are in the gates they are surrounded by people, workers, managers...

As Temir stops the car we see that they are surrounded by death. The beautiful sheep that Rakhim was talking about earlier are being slaughtered and skinned. Rakhim gets out of the car and is embraced by a MANAGER, an older bald man with yellowish skin. Temir is appalled at what he is seeing.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
I want to introduce you to the manager of this unit, Yusif-aka, he comes from a family, many generations of shepherders.

Temir reluctantly shakes the mans hand.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
Everything is new here, over the last five years...but there is still much to do. Producing karakul fur is a delicate matter.

Rakhim shows a rack of fresh skins, Temir can barely hold in his lunch. Not far away several men are skinning the freshly killed lambs. The two men continue their conversation without taking notice of the carnage.

YUSIF-AKA
Did you hear Zarif Nabiev has become the father of an eighth son at the age of 60.

RAKHIM
Really? at the age of 60? did you hear that Temir? I have to congratulate him.

61 EXT. KULYABA BUS STATION - DAY

61

Vakhid holds a package wrapped in plastic and is walking towards the station. Two Young Men we saw disperse the crowd earlier are watching him. The station is fairly crowded but we see Ram, John and a Tadzhik through the crowd, who Vakhid approaches. He holds out the package to Ram.

(CONTINUED)

VAKHID

This is it, everything I have.

RAM

Thanks kid...do you think this Rakhim has anything to do with the drug trade?

VAKHID

I don't know for sure. Why would the Agricultural Investigators Office want to know about that?

RAM

Not us personally, but there are interested parties here
(indicating the Tadzhik)
from Dushanbe...

TADZHIK

Special Investigative Branch.

RAM

I see that you are a smart fellow, and speak Russian very well.

VAKHID

I served in the Army near Moscow.

TADZHIK

I see...and have you read Hamlet?

Vakhid is surprised by the question.

VAKHID

I have seen the movie.

TADZHIK

He was seeking revenge for his father as you do for your girlfriends.

VAKHID

I do not look for revenge...do you?

RAM

Of course not, this is our job. We will be staying here in Kulyaba, if we need you we will call you. Not a word to anyone.

Not far away, one of the Young Men following Vakhid pulls out a camera and starts taking pictures.

62 EXT. RAKHIM'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - DAY

62

Rakhim's wife DIL'BAR is collecting laundry from a clothesline. She is tall and well built, the perfect picture of a healthy young woman. Rakhim's four year old daughter plays near by. One of the YOUNG MEN from the train station comes into the courtyard.

YOUNG MAN

Hello! Is Rakhim Davlyatovich home?

DIL'BAR

Yes, but he is taking a bath at the moment. Would you like to wait for him?

YOUNG MAN

Thanks, but no, I just stopped by for a minute to drop off this.

He hands Dil'bar a black envelop. She takes it as the young man cannot help but stare at her. He diverts his eyes, when she looks up.

DIL'BAR

I will see that he gets it.

The Young Man leaves with a tip of his cap and she carries the laundry into the house.

63 INT. HOUSE:

63

Once inside, Dil'Bar cannot control her curiosity. She opens the envelop and pulls out three pictures.

ON PICTURES:

They are nothing special to her, only the same three men in each photo, one is Ram and the other is Vakhid.

BACK TO SCENE:

Rakhim enters the room fastening his bathrobe. Dil'Bar is surprised and tries to shove the pictures back in the envelope, but inadvertently one of them falls onto the floor upside down.

DIL'BAR

A young man came buy and left this envelope for you.

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim takes the envelope removes the pictures and looks at them briefly. He casually puts them in his bathrobe pocket just as Temir enters. Temir seems upset.

RAKHIM

Ah, here is Temir. Can we have some dinner my dear?

Dil'Bar heads for the kitchen and Rakhim turns on the television and VCR.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Someone gave me a Chuck Norris tape, one of the perks of being the local boss, do you want to see it?

Temir does not answer. Rakhim shrugs and pops in the tape. There is a silence broken only by the sound of the tape in the machine and Dil'Bar in the kitchen. Temir turns to Rakhim, his face set and his voice agitated.

TEMIR

Rakhim, can I ask you a question?

Temir does not wait for permission.

TEMIR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Why are people in the village saying that Ibron did not die from a heart attack.

RAKHIM

(without looking up from the T.V.)

What are they saying he died from?

TEMIR

An overdose of sleeping pills, that he might have committed suicide, or worse.

RAKHIM

(More attentive)

Why do you listen to this nonsense?

TEMIR

The rumor has it that you made the doctors and Ibron-aka's widow keep silent about it.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

It is idiocy. How could I make a doctor lie like that. The old man already had had two heart attacks - the third one he could not survive. What is the point of making him look bad and spreading such rumors?

Rakhim is not watching the tape anymore. He confronts Temir.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Why is my own brother listening to this nonsense. Are you still pining away for that Russian girl?

Temir lowers his eyes and spots the photo that Dil'Bar dropped earlier. He picks it up and looks at it, his face goes white. Rakhim sees his face and is concerned.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

What are you looking at?

TEMIR

Where is this photo from?

RAKHIM

What photo, why?

TEMIR

I know this man standing next to Vakhid, he's from Moscow.

He shows the picture to Rakhim.

RAKHIM

Who is he?

TEMIR

Tanya's friend, the one I told you about.

RAKHIM

What?

Rakhim stares at Temir for a moment, and then slaps him across the face.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

You brought these bastards here!

Temir is shocked, offended and humiliated. He runs out of the room as Rakhim looks after him, almost reaching out to Temir, but not in time. Rakhim turns to the phone and dials.

64

EXT. COURTYARD - VAKHID'S HOUSE - NIGHT

64

It is a much poorer structure than Rakhim's house but kept as neat and clean as possible. As Temir enters the courtyard he hears Vakhid's voice.

VAKHID (O.S.)

Come in.

Vakhid was in a corner with only a small flashlight, working on some kind of radio.

TEMIR

Hello.

Vakhid nods.

TEMIR (cont'd)

(continuing)

I heard that your mother was sick and I came over to ask how she is doing?

VAKHID

That is the reason you came over?

TEMIR

Yes, that and, I wanted to ask you... I saw a picture of you today...you were with a stranger, a man called Ram.

VAKHID

What picture?

TEMIR

You were photographed with this man from Moscow. How do you know him?

VAKHID

Listen, I think you had better leave now.

TEMIR

Vakhid, we used to be best friends, why can't you talk to me?

(CONTINUED)

VAKHID

Used to be, we used to be, that was
four years ago. A lot has happened
in those four years.

Rohkat comes into the courtyard from the house. Temir is
surprised.

TEMIR

Rohkat! are you....

ROHKAT

I have come to look after his
mother.

TEMIR

I wanted to talk to you, both of
you. What have I done to make you
angry?

ROHKAT

Since you have been gone, our
innocence has been stripped away.
Our quiet town thrown into turmoil
and all because of your brother.

TEMIR

Why do you say that?

Rakhim is a kind and honorable man.

VAKHID

He caused her father's death...
you're brother is trying to pretend
it was an accident, a heart attack.

TEMIR

As far as I know it was a heart
attack. Why would I think any
differently?

VARIOUS SCENES

The dialogue below narrates over the following... Rakhim
quarreling with IBRON-AKI an elderly man with a strong face
and kind eyes.

Ibron-aki sitting alone in the dark, the dim shadows of the
moon illuminating his face.

Sheep are being led into a secret pen in the mountains while
armed guards keep a close lookout.

(CONTINUED)

VAKHID

Ibron challenged your brother for what he was doing to this town, to us... He could not sleep nights; he expected to be arrested any moment because they would blame him for the misdeeds of your brother.

TEMIR

This is untrue, this couldn't be true...

VAKHID

Thousands of lambs have been unaccounted for to supply his private deals.

TEMIR

Why? How...how could he do this?

BACK TO SCENE

VAKHID

For the past four years, your brother has been corrupting these people. Ibron wrote hundreds of letters to national papers, to the MVD security forces in the hopes that perestroyka would allow the truth to be told.

TEMIR

I would have known, why didn't you tell me?

ROHKAT

Like a spider he ensnared everyone in the village and kept them in fear.

65

INSERT - SCENE ON DUSHANBE STREET - DAY:

65

VAKHID (V.O.)

A journalist wanted to help Ibron, came all the way to see him, but died mysteriously in Dushanbe. Strange coincidence, isn't it?

The Volga we saw at the beginning with two men sitting in the back seat as it drives away from the camera. The police car passes as before with it's sirens blaring which gives cover as the man on the right of the car pulls out a gun and shoots the Journalist - the man on the left.

(CONTINUED)

BACK TO SCENE

TEMIR

I cannot believe this.

ROHKAT

Believe it, he is sucking the life
blood out of this town, out of
these people.

Rohkat is no longer looking at Temir, but just beyond. Temir sees she is distracted and turns. Rakhim steps out of the darkness.

RAKHIM

Are you through? It is only right
that you think of Ibron as a saint,
a fighter for the cause...but times
changed and he lived in the past.
He was a true communist who found
himself cut off, stranded by a
regime that had been his whole
life.

VAKHID

You still thought he was a threat,
you invited foreigners here, set up
auctions of our sheep....

RAKHIM

Cooperation, auctioning, these are
things that were foreign to him,
and he would not have understood in
a hundred years. That is why I
tried to keep him out of it....his
death was truly an accident,
believe me.

ROHKAT

You will never convince me.

Rakhim changes tone, and becomes firm, almost forceful.

RAKHIM

I did not come here to convince
you, I came to find out where the
two Russians are.

VAKHID

I met with them, yes, in order to
defeat a thief who has no respect
for local authorities...and to
protect Rohkat...I had to turn to
authorities from Moscow.

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim cannot contain his anger and frustration.

RAKHIM

You little...you have no idea...

VAKHID

Here I am, why don't you kill me too?

RAKHIM

...did they show you any identification? Temir, tell your friend who he has been conspiring with.

TEMIR

Vakhid, you made a big mistake...If you thought that you had problems before... These are real gangsters, scum from the streets of Moscow.

VAKHID

You are lying!

RAKHIM

Temir knows these dogs first hand. What is the name of your whore's friend... Ram? These bastards followed me from Moscow, they were trying to extort money from me. Only an idiot could take them for cops.

Vakhid stands for a moment, letting the words sink in, Rohkat looks at him, puzzled and frightened.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

They do not care who they hurt or kill to get what they want.

ROHKAT

What did you tell them?

VAKHID

I told them about...about everything...

RAKHIM

Everything you thought you knew.

(CONTINUED)

VAKHID

Everything I know to be true.

RAKHIM

I am sure they will have use for the information...perhaps now you will not have to worry about me so much.

VAKHID

I cannot let them, or you, destroy this town, these people.

Vakhid turns and runs out of the house

Vakhid throws open the doors to the barn, disappears inside and comes out pushing an old motorcycle. Rohkat starts after him chasing him down the street as he rides off. He does not notice the car parked nearby.

66

INT. CAR:

66

FIVE OF RAKHIM'S MEN ARE INSIDE INCLUDING THREE THAT WE SAW EARLIER DISPERSING THE CROWD.

Rohkat looks back at Temir.

ROHKAT

I know this is not your fault, but I think you belong to the city now.

She walks quickly in the direction Vakhid drove off in and is soon swallowed by the darkness.

67

EXT. ROAD:

67

Rakhim comes over to the car.

RAKHIM

Follow him, he will lead you there.

The car does a U-turn and speeds away. Rakhim goes to his car, gets in and heads off in the opposite direction.

Temir starts walking after Rohkat. Rakhim pulls up along side him.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

Come on, get in. Temir pretends not to hear him and keeps walking.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM (cont'd)
 Rakhim pulls in front of Temir,
 Temir walks around the car. Rakhim
 gets out and catches Temir by the
 arm pulling him towards the car.
 You believe him...you, my own
 brother, my only family? I don't
 care what he thinks about me,
 anyone can call me names and
 despise me, anyone but you.

Temir tries to pull away, he is emotional but Rakhim holds
 his arm tight.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
 (continuing)
 Since you were seven, I vowed to do
 everything I could to keep you from
 feeling like an orphan. You were
 always a weak child...I taught you
 to stand up for yourself. I endured
 humiliating job after humiliating
 job, I signed up for Afghanistan
 and kept in touch with you all the
 time. Do you know how much it cost
 me to get you into the University?
 I wanted my brother to study in
 Moscow. When you received the 500
 rubles every month, you never asked
 where it came from. How have you
 repaid me...you spent my money on
 that whore, on that gangsters bride
 and now you have the nerve to
 listen to Vakhid and Rohkat for ten
 minutes and believe that I am a
 bastard.

Temir gets into the car. They sit for a moment.

68

INT. RAKHIM'S CAR:

68

RAKHIM
 In this damn country it is
 impossible not to be a bastard. If
 you are not smart, if you don't
 stand up for your family then
 you're as dead as a fly on the
 wall.

TEMIR
 So it is true, everything?

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

I did not say that.

TEMIR

I will find a way to pay you back
your money.

RAKHIM

That is not what I meant.

Temir gets out of the car and starts walking. Rakhim gets out but stands and watches Temir in silence.

69

INT. HOTEL IN KULYABA

69

Vakhid storms through the lobby brandishing a large and rather outdated looking pistol. The DESK CLERK tries to stop him as he storms up the stairs and down the hallway. Standing briefly before a door, getting up his nerve.

HOTEL LOBBY

Rakhim's men rush in and ask the Desk Clerk in Tadzhik, where Vakhid went. The Desk Clerk points to the stairs. The men pull their guns and run after Vakhid.

BACK TO DOORWAY

Vakhid is still standing in front of the door. He tests the door handle, it is locked. Vakhid pulls out the gun and shoots the lock.

Rakhim's men reach the top of the stairs and see Vakhid. They yell at him to get away from the door. Vakhid turns to them just as shots tear through the door hitting Vakhid in the chest.

One of Rakim's men pulls Vakhid out of the way, as they all plaster themselves against the walls away from the door. Rakhim's men start firing through the door into the room as they break the door down.

70

INT. TAXI - NEXT DAY

70

Temir is looking out the window as they approach the Dushanbe airport.

71 INT. - AIRPORT:

71

Temir is at a ticket counter, crowded to overflowing with anxious travelers.

It is obvious from the man behind the counter that there are no tickets available.

Temir goes and finds a piece of floor, sits on his already worn suitcase and wraps his jacket around himself.

A few hours later, Temir is sleeping as best he can. A young man, one of RAKHIM'S MEN, approaches Temir and taps him on his shoulder and hands him a ticket.

RAKHIM'S MAN

Your flight leaves in an hour.

The young man disappears into the crowd. Temir is groggy but realizes his brother is still taking care of him and frantically searches the crowd.

Exhausted, he sits on a bench on which is the morning newspaper. He glances at it.

INSERT ON PAPER

There is a large headline with pictures of Vakhid and Ram. Temir turns pale, puts his head in his hands and sobs silently.

72 EXT. TRAIN PLATFORM - MOSCOW RAILWAY STATION - AFTERNOON: 72

As passengers leave the train we see the Mulatto is among them, his GIRLFRIEND tags along behind. She looks like a factory worker and wears a fake fur with a kerchief around her neck. The Mulatto is obviously glad to be back, and walks along with his arm around his girlfriends shoulder, telling her a funny story.

A POLICEMAN watches the Mulatto and his girlfriend from the exit where they are just coming to.

POLICEMAN

(to the Mulatto)

Show me your ID, please.

The Mulatto is surprised.

MULATTO

Why?

(CONTINUED)

POLICEMAN
Present your ID please.

The Policeman is serious and the Mulatto realizes that he has been identified. The Girlfriend looks worried.

As the Mulatto opens the buttons of his coat as if he is going to comply with the policeman but suddenly pushes him out of the way and starts to run. The policeman recovers and is about to go after the Mulatto when the girlfriend grabs him by the arm, holding him back for a moment before breaking free.

The Mulatto is running through the crowd pushing confused travelers aside. The Policeman is quickly making up the distance he lost and blows his whistle to alert other officers in the area.

The Mulatto sees a trolley just about to leave and jumps on the back steps. The Policeman runs after the trolley.

73 INT. TROLLEY

73

The TROLLEY DRIVER sees the policeman and puts on the brakes. The Mulatto rushes through the trolley pushing passengers aside. The Policeman is now on the trolley as the Mulatto tries to push his way into the drivers cabin. Now he is trapped, the Policeman is coming towards him and the Mulatto panics.

From his pocket he produces a small handgun. The Policeman stops, holding up his hands, but the Mulatto momentarily forgets about the Driver who rushes him from behind and tackles him to the trolley floor.

74 INT. SERGEY ILYICH'S APARTMENT:

74

Sergey sits next to Tanya on the couch. Her eyes are red from crying. Sergey's Body Guard and Victor are also in the room.

SERGEY
(offering her a handkerchief)
Who are you crying for, Tanya? Is it Ram who was killed so far from home? Or someone else? You are not telling me everything... I know that you will want Ram's death investigated and avenged. I know who Ram was to you...but his death is our loss too. We have to know

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY (cont'd)
everything, you understand,
everything.

TANYA
I've already told you everything...

SERGEY
Look into my eyes...now start from
the beginning.

TANYA
I told you I was in the restaurant
Budapest with my girlfriend and he
walked up to us...

SERGEY
What is the name and address of
this girlfriend?

TANYA
I...I, don't know...

SERGEY
Lies. A trusted comrade is
slaughtered far from home and all
you can do is tell me lies.

He grabs Tanya by her hair and pulls her face close to his.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing)
Ram was killed, you understand,
slaughtered like an animal. Two
children have lost their father...

Tanya tries to look away. He pulls her closer.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing)
Don't look away! This man loved
you. Don't you dare let him down.
Who introduced you to this Tadzhik?

Tanya closes her eyes in pain and grief. Sergey tightens his
grip, practically pulling her off the couch.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing)
Who can call this murderer back to
Moscow?

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Let me get it out of her...

Tanya's eyes fly open, she recoils from Victor's advance.

TANYA

Don't let him touch me.

SERGEY

She doesn't like you very much
Victor.

VICTOR

That's too bad, I like her a whole
lot.

TANYA

Please Sergey, don't...

SERGEY

Who do we call?

TANYA

He has a brother...

SERGEY

Where does he live?

Tanya becomes ashen and as Sergey releases her hair she collapses in a dead faint.

75 EXT. MOSCOW STREET - DAY

75

Victor, Stas and two other of their men pile into the blue car. They burn rubber as they head down the street.

76 EXT. KULYABA - THE PAST:

76

TEMIR AT THIRTEEN is standing in the mechet and the voice of the mullah and old men praying can be heard as in the opening scene.

Rakhim is standing with him in a police uniform. Everything appears drifting in a fog. Young Temir sees a stream of red on the floor and looks up at his brother.

YOUNG TEMIR

What is this?

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim doesn't answer but pushes open a large wooden door to reveal the bodies of freshly slaughtered lambs. One young lamb is still alive and attempts to get up, but falls back onto the bodies of the others. Rakhim takes Young Temir by the hand and leads him to the lamb, handing him a knife.

RAKHIM

You are a big boy now, kill it.

Young Temir drops the knife.

YOUNG TEMIR

I can't.

RAKHIM

But it is sick, see how it suffers.
Help him Temir.

Rakhim hands him the knife again, this time Temir raises it above the lambs head. It turns towards him and looks into his eyes. He drops the knife and turns away. Rakhim shouts after him.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

You are a weakling...a weakling....

The words are repeated over and over until we CUT TO:

77

INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT - DAY

77

Temir is lying on the sofa, he looks pale, thin and has large shadows under his eyes from lack of sleep. The door bell rings. It takes him a moment to comprehend what the sound is but finally rises to answer it.

He opens the door without asking, or trying to see who it is. Tanya stands there nervously. She rushes in and then turns as he closes the door behind her.

TANYA

Temir, my darling, please forgive me.

She embraces and kisses him.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Get dressed quickly, take only the most necessary things, let's get out of here. I've talked with a girlfriend of mine, you will be staying with her for a while.

(CONTINUED)

Tanya finally sees what kind of shape Temir is in.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
What's the matter with you? You
have to pull yourself together.
They are coming for you, you have
to leave here. They won't forgive
you or your brother for Ram's
death. We have to contact your
brother and tell him that under no
circumstances is he to come to
Moscow again...do you understand?

Temir looks at her, his eyes are full of fear and pain.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
Get dressed, and hurry...

She tries to help him put on some clothes, Temir is like a
limp doll. She puts on his overcoat and slips on his shoes.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
It's all my fault. Please forgive
me.

Tanya gets Temir to his feet.

TANYA (cont'd)
(continuing)
Let's not take anything...

Temir finally looks at Tanya.

TEMIR
It's my fault, I am weak and naive.
I could not see the truth...

TANYA
The truth, the truth...truth is
they want to get to your brother,
and they don't give a rats ass what
happens to you. Do you understand?

TEMIR
I have been a fool.

TANYA
You are not alone, my love. Lets go
now...

(CONTINUED)

Tanya leads Temir down the stairs, as they reach the courtyard and round the corner they run right into Victor and Stas. They all freeze. Tanya looks around for someplace to run but the courtyard has only one exit and Victor and Stas are standing in front of it.

STAS

Well Tanya, that was thoughtful of you to bring him down for us.

VICTOR

You are a useful bitch.

Victor slaps her across the face as he and Stas grab Temir. He tries to fight them but is too weak. They throw him in the back of the blue car as Tanya slumps to the ground in tears.

78 INT. RAKHIM'S HOUSE - EVENING

78

The telephone rings, Rakhim picks it up.

RAKHIM

Yes operator, I will accept the call. Yes, this is Rakhim Davlyatov. Who is this? Who am I talking to?

Rakhim listens for a minute, then slowly puts the receiver back. His wife comes in and sees that he is disturbed.

DIL'BAR

What is it, what's wrong?

RAKHIM

I have to go back to Moscow.

79 INT. SERGEY ILLYICH'S APARTMENT - MORNING

79

The radio is on we hear the ANNOUNCER and water running in the bathroom.

ANNOUNCER

Moscow time is 9:00 a.m. and we are bringing you a review of the morning news...

ON BATHROOM:

Sergey is shaving with a straight razor, he turns down the radio to listen for a moment, then looks in the mirror, admiring himself.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

(to himself)

I look pretty good for 63.

The door bell rings.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

Igor, check it out. Sergey goes back to looking at himself in the mirror, then finally exits the bathroom and goes to the livingroom. Tanya stands uneasily in the middle of the room while IGOR watches close by. What brings you here so early in the morning Tanya? I thought you were angry at me for last night.

TANYA

Sergey, I came to ask you...I need you to listen to me.

He offers her a chair. She stands.

SERGEY

I am listening.

TANYA

I know that you like me, and I appreciate what you have done for me in the past...but I need to ask you this one favor...

SERGEY

Go on...

TANYA

Let Temir go...I will do anything you ask, please let him go. You can't bring Ram back...

SERGEY

Let him go?...why should I?

TANYA

He didn't do anything.

SERGEY

Ah, the cry of the innocent.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

Its my fault that he is here.

SERGEY

Are you by any chance in love with this Temir?

TANYA

He loves me, he is dear to me...

SERGEY

And what about Ram? He also loved you. You know how I feel ...when you danced that day, I said to myself what a lucky fellow Ram is, just to be in the same room with you means happiness.

TANYA

I am not that special, I am just a poor citizen trying to get by.

SERGEY

You have a "living soul" as they used to say in Russia long ago. I too had to survive. I saw what the government did to my parents... who loved each other deeply, I saw that love didn't matter, that decent people have no place in this world.

TANYA

You are wrong...you try to make everyone like you, but they are not. Temir is not part of your world, but you had to drag him into your filth because of me and I will not have it.

SERGEY

You said you would do anything...

TANYA

I will do anything, just let him go.

SERGEY

You see this Igor, a pure selfless soul. When you meet someone like this in such a world, and at my age...well Tanya, I will tell you what I want.

Tanya looks into Sergey's eyes as he leans in close to whisper in her ear.

80 INT. COLONEL BARKOV'S OFFICE - DAY

80

A Young Major GLEB SERGEEYEVICH comes into the Colonel's office and salutes.

BARKOV

So, what did you find out about the Mulatto?

GLEB

He refuses to say he had anything to do with any robberies. He also maintains that he does or did not know Ram or the other man killed in Kulyaba. We do have definite suspicions that he belongs to Ilyich's gangsters. We showed the Frenchman his picture after running it through the computers...

BARKOV

And? What were the results?

GLEB

After some hesitation he picked the Mulatto. It was interesting though that the cab driver could not recognize anybody.

BARKOV

Hold the Mulatto and pick up the Cab Driver. We may have the key to breaking Ilyich's gang...on second thought don't pick up the Cabby, keep a close eye on him instead.

GLEB

Yes sir.

81 INT. SHACK - SOMEWHERE IN MOSCOW - DAY

81

Temir is lying on an old torn sofa in a tiny room with no windows. The only light comes from a bare bulb hanging from the ceiling and light coming in from under the door. The door to the shack opens and Victor comes in followed by Stas. Temir does not move, but his eyes are open and he looks at them blankly.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

You finally woken up. Are you on a
hunger strike?

Victor sees a plate of fried eggs, buttered bread and tea
still untouched near Temir.

STAS

He hasn't eaten anything in two
days. He wasn't healthy the first
day, maybe he is sick?

Victor goes and feels Temir's forehead.

VICTOR

He doesn't have a fever. Hey kid,
how do you feel?

Temir looks at Victor for a second, then closes his eyes.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Do you speak Russian?

(to Stas)

How did he communicate with
Tanya... Hey, tell us, did you fuck
her?

There is no movement from Temir.

STAS

Maybe he needs more air.

VICTOR

He just needs to eat.

Victor picks up a piece of bread and begins to push it into
Temir's mouth. Temir turns away, gets up and heads for the
open door, surprising them both.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

The god damn monkey is alive...

Temir goes to the door but Stas blocks his way. He picks up
Temir and pushes him back into the room.

STAS

Not so fast boy, not so fast.

Stas puts Temir on the bed. Temir turns away from them.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

To hell with you, don't eat if you don't want to, doesn't make any difference to me. If your brother doesn't show up, your dead anyway.

Victor and Stas leave, they lock the shack door on the way out.

ON TEMIR as he listens to their conversation.

STAS

So the funeral for Ram is tomorrow?

VICTOR

We'll have to move the kid to the bath house before then.

Temir closes his eyes as the scene fades to black.

82

EXT. MOSCOW AIRPORT - DAY

82

Rakhim is flanked by two of his men as they are greeted by Ashot. All four of them get into a Lada parked nearby. The clock on the dashboard of the car says 10:50 a.m.

RAKHIM

Well, how are you my old friend?

ASHOT

Alright, although I still get these terrible headaches.

RAKHIM

I brought you some medicine for those.

ASHOT

Thank you.

RAKHIM

You have some information for me?

ASHOT

Ram was an important figure in the Moscow underworld. But his was a small branch of a much bigger tree. While there aren't that many gangs here they often have very influential supporters. Sergey Ilyich, also called "The Old Man" is the leader

(CONTINUED)

(he hands Rakhim a picture)
 He is practically untraceable. If you are lucky enough to get an address by the time you check it out it is obsolete. If he has decided to personally take revenge for Ram we are going to have a tough time.

RAKHIM

They have Temir, Ashot, there has to be a way.

ASHOT

Ram's gangsters have one group of blood enemies, the Chechens. I know them from back in Rostov. If we can find where your brother is they might help us.

RAKHIM

Stop at the next phone booth.

The car stops near the city center. Rakhim gets out and goes to the phone.

83

INT. PHONE BOOTH:

83

Rakhim looks at a crumpled piece of paper and dials the number on it. A YOUNG VOICE answers.

YOUNG VOICE (O.S.)

Yes.

RAKHIM

Where is Temir?

YOUNG VOICE (O.S.)

Do you have the money?

RAKHIM

I asked you, where is Temir?

YOUNG VOICE (O.S.)

Don't be smart with me...you fork over the money and then we'll see.

RAKHIM

Listen boy, I will talk about money with the Old Man and only him, do you understand?

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG VOICE (O.S.)
 (flustered)
 Uh....I...he's not here right now.

RAKHIM
 You give him a message. You tell
 him that I insist on a personal
 meeting or we have no deal. I will
 call back in half an hour for
 confirmation.

Rakhim hangs up the phone.

84 EXT. GATED HOUSE - AFFLUENT MOSCOW NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY 84

The Cabby stands in front of the gate waiting for someone, he looks at his watch as WE SEE a nondescript car parked across the road. Inside the car are two plain clothes police OPERATIVES who have been assigned to watch the Cabby.

85 INT. OPERATIVES CAR: 85

The FIRST OPERATIVE looks through binoculars and sees a car drive up to the Cabby. He bumps the SECOND OPERATIVE who sits in the drivers seat and is reading a newspaper.

SECOND OPERATIVE
 What, I'm just getting to the good
 part.

FIRST OPERATIVE
 He's on the move. Let's get going.
 The License plate is MO 17-43.

SECOND OPERATIVE
 I see it, I see it.

As the car with the Cabby drive off, so does the Operative's car.

86 EXT. MOVIE HOUSE - STREET: 86

The car with the Cabby pulls in front of the theatre. As we get a closer look we see that Victor is driving. The Operatives car pulls to a safe distance near a news stand as a second car rolls up along side Victor's. Inside the second car is Stas and Bolt.

The First Operative goes to the newsstand then back to the car where he gets into the back seat for a better view.

87

INT. OPERATIVE CAR:

87

FIRST OPERATIVE

Something's up, I can feel it. Give me the camera.

The Second Operative hands the First Operative a camera with a large telephoto lens.

THROUGH THE LENS

We see the clock on the corner of the building shows 13:03. The camera lens pans down and catches a third car just pulling up. There are four people in it but we can't see who they are yet, as the Cabby heads towards it. The camera clicks.

Rakhim and Ashot get out of the third car and walk toward the cabby. The Operative can't get a clear picture of Rakhim because the Cabby is in the way.

FIRST OPERATIVE (cont'd)

Hold on, whose this? Why don't you show yourself.

At that moment the Cabby steps out of the way and they have a clear picture of Rakhim. The camera clicks. The Cabby leads Rakhim back to the car, but Rakhim stops and gives the Cabby a little push away from the car as he and Ashot climb in the back seat. The Cabby heads towards Stas's car and gets in.

88

INT. VICTOR'S CAR:

88

Victor does not turn around as Rakhim and Ashot get in.

VICTOR

Did you get it?

RAKHIM

I only talk to Sergey Ilyich.

Victor turns and puts a gun in Rakhim's face.

VICTOR

Listen, I should shoot you right now for what you did to me and for killing my friend.

RAKHIM

Go ahead...see where it get's you. If it's any consolation, I didn't

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM (cont'd)
kill your friend. But I see we are
beyond that now.

VICTOR
Shut up.

89 EXT. STREET: 89

Victor's car pulls away followed by Stas and Rakhim's men.
They take the Operatives by Surprise.

90 INT. OPERATIVES CAR: 90

FIRST OPERATIVE
Move, move...

The Second Operative starts the car and tries to get it in
gear but has a hard time.

FIRST OPERATIVE (cont'd)
(continuing)
Come on, they are getting away,
don't lose them.

The Second Operative finally gets the car in gear and
follows the others who have been stopped at an intersection
by a traffic light. As the Operatives car pulls up it
stalls.

SECOND OPERATIVE
Piece of crap.

He pounds the dashboard. The light turns green and the other
cars pull away, leaving the Operatives stranded in the
middle of the street.

91 INT. - SERGEY ILYICH'S HOUSE: 91

This is a different place than we last saw him in, much more
luxurious and far larger. Sergey, dressed in a light sports
coat and matching pants with an open shirt comes into the
entrance hall where Igor is polishing shoes.

SERGEY
Igor, our guests will be arriving
shortly.

Igor puts down the shoes and leaves for the kitchen.

92 EXT. - SERGEY ILYICH'S HOUSE: 92

Victor's car pulls up to the old house and the Zhiguli stops behind him. A third car pulls over far behind the others, we do not see who is inside. Stas signals the second car to park behind them as Victor and Rakhim get out and go to the main entrance. The door opens and Igor stands menacingly in the way. He motions for Rakhim to put up his hands, which he does, and Igor searches him.

93 INT. - HOUSE: 93

Satisfied, Igor steps aside and lets Rakhim and the others in. As Rakhim steps into the foyer just as Tanya comes in from her bath. Rakhim freezes when he sees her and a look of rage fills his face.

RAKHIM

You....!

Victor also sees her and is surprised.

VICTOR

What are you doing here?

Tanya is mortified. In her face we see horror, desperation, and vulnerability. She now realizes that she has no one.

RAKHIM

I should have known you were behind all this.

TANYA

I...I...came to get Temir...

RAKHIM

I see, being where the action is, where the deals are made, isn't that what you wanted?

Sergey comes in.

SERGEY

Come in, please, come in.

He leads Rakhim to a couch, Tanya takes the opportunity to disappear.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

Beautiful woman, eh? What do you say Victor?

(CONTINUED)

Victor does not answer but looks at Sergey with as much contempt as he can without Igor jumping down his throat.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing; to Rakhim)
So, how did you find out about me?

RAKHIM
It was not very difficult.

SERGEY
That is disturbing, I thought that I was covering my tracks pretty well. After all I pay many men a lot of money to do just that.

RAKHIM
Well I had an advantage, you were looking for me, I wasn't necessarily looking for you.

SERGEY
That is a good point, still, it is a little disquieting to think I am so well known in the Moscow circles.

RAKHIM
All I want is my brother, then I will be out of your hair.

SERGEY
I'm afraid it's not that easy. I need you to explain what happened to my people in Kulyaba.

RAKHIM
Your people? I don't know who your people are, aside from this fellow...
(pointing at Victor)
he had two companions as far as I know, but they were very much alive last time I saw them.

SERGEY
I see.

94 INT. - HALLWAY: 94

Tanya, her eyes red from crying, enters the hall with her suitcase. She puts on her short fur coat and leaves the house, under the watchful eye of Igor.

95 EXT. - STREET: 95

She walks absently in the direction of the cars. She realizes that Stas is in one, so she crosses to the other side of the street. Stas sees her and gets out of the car.

STAS

Tanya, where are you going? Let me help you, What is wrong, you are crying?

TANYA

Get lost.

96 INT. SERGEY'S HOUSE: 96

RAKHIM

In Kulyaba I heard there were two Russians who were killed in a street brawl. Hundreds of people these days are killed each year...

VICTOR

The street brawl was a convenient set up...you...you murdered them, you scum bag.

RAKHIM

If those two men came to Kulyaba because of me, that is not my fault, if they were anything like him...

(indicating Victor)

then I am not sad they were killed.

Sergey smiles as Victor is prepared to take Rakhim apart limb from limb.

SERGEY

I must admit, Tadzhik, you have balls.

RAKHIM

Actually, it was not by chance that I asked to see you and only you...I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM (cont'd)
will not, however, have any
discussion in front of
this...this...goon.

97 EXT. - STREET:

97

Stas catches up with Tanya and tries to comfort her and steer her towards his car.

STAS
You can't leave now, not today,
today is Ram's memorial.

TANYA
(resisting)
I don't give a shit about Ram, you,
or any of you. Just leave me alone.

STAS
You are emotional, at least sit
down for a moment and collect
yourself. Here let me take that.

Stas takes her suitcase and puts it in the back seat of his car. Tanya is emotionally drained, she tries to resist but desperately needs to sit down, her legs are weak. There is a third car observing the scene.

98 INT. - HOUSE

98

SERGEY
I admire your courage Rakhim, but
you are beginning to overstep your
bounds...however, I can tell there
is no love loss between the two of
you...

He nods to Victor, who hesitates.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing)
I will call you later.

Victor leaves and Sergey goes to a cigar box on the coffee table, takes out a cigar, offers one to Rakhim, who refuses.

SERGEY (cont'd)
(continuing)
You must have some pretty good
sources of information. I too have
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY (cont'd)

my sources. I understand that you are a man of considerable wealth and power in your territory. It is possible that you had my men killed, but then again I see no motive. Before they were killed my people told me that our suspicion of you having connections with the drug trade were incorrect.

RAKHIM

Why would you think I had anything to do with drugs?

SERGEY

Some rather over zealous informants. I want you to know that your brother is alright for now, but he needs help.

RAKHIM

Is that a threat?

SERGEY

We are not in the business of trading for our friends lives. Our law is the ancient law, an eye for an eye. But your case is unique. We cannot be sure that you killed our people, therefor we will let you and your brother go for money.

RAKHIM

That is generous of you...but I need guarantees.

SERGEY

I am afraid my word has to be my guarantee.

RAKHIM

Perhaps, there is an alternative.

99

EXT. - STREET:

99

Tanya is in Stas's car, Bolt is pouring another cognac into a half full plastic cup that Tanya is holding. She has obviously already had quite a few. Bolt then hands the bottle to the Cabby who is in the back seat.

(CONTINUED)

BOLT

You feel better? No? Little Tanya?

Tanya downs the cognac.

100

INT. - HOUSE:

100

Igor enters the room with a tray of freshly brewed coffee and a bottle of cognac.

RAKHIM

I hope you understand, this deal can work for both of us and will be in effect for at least as long as my brother is a student in Moscow. I have your guarantee on that?

SERGEY

You are full of surprises my Tadjik friend.

RAKHIM

Money is not important for me, my brother is and I see no reason why I should not have a partner in Moscow, and why that partner should not be you.

SERGEY

I think I like you! You are a shrewd businessman.

RAKHIM

The 200,000 is basic capital and you can order fur coats from my factory at cost and sell them for whatever you like...we split the profits... the details we can work out later.

SERGEY

I accept, but I will need the capital up front.

RAKHIM

When I see my brother...

SERGEY

Yes, I see, he will be driven home in three hours.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM
Three hours...

101 EXT. - DACHA - OUTSIDE MOSCOW - DAY 101

Victor comes out from the main house and walks a narrow path through the snow to a stone bath-house. He unlocks the door.

102 INT. BATH-HOUSE: 102

The windows are of opaque glass and are barred. Inside the room there is a television, VCR, and a refrigerator behind an oak bar. Pornographic pictures hang on the walls and a sofa sits in one corner of the room where Temir lies almost unconscious. There is a tray of food next to him but it is untouched.

VICTOR
You still refuse to eat, you
bastard? Just don't die on us.

There is a knock on the bath house door.

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
What? Who is it? Don't come in
here.

WOMAN'S VOICE
There is a telephone call for you.
It sounds important.

VICTOR
I will be right there.

103 INT. - DACHA - MAIN HOUSE: 103

The main house is a two story wooden structure, sparsely furnished but comfortable. Victor is on the phone just off the kitchen area where TWO HEALTHY WOMEN are preparing food. Victor is pacing the floor, he does not look happy.

VICTOR
Now? You want me to bring him now?
Why not tomorrow morning? We are
busy right now....Fuck You old man.

Victor slams down the phone. He looks out the window and sees Stas's car drive up. Victor goes out to meet them.

104 EXT. - DRIVEWAY - DACHA:

104

Tanya stumbles out of the car, obviously drunk, followed by Stas, Bolt, the Cabby, and a GIRL that we saw earlier at Ram's birthday party.

VICTOR

Well, Tanya I'm glad you decided to join us.

Tanya slips on the snow and falls, the other girl picks her up as they head into the house, Victor produces a sly smile. Before the Cabby and Bolt go into the house Victor pulls them aside.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

What happened?

CABBY

Soon after you left the Tadzhik came out to get his briefcase and brought it back to the Old Man, then he left.

VICTOR

That bastard...first he kicks me out and then he calls to tell me to bring that Asian kid home...

STAS

Now how are we supposed to know how much that Rakhim gave him.

CABBY

Looks like the Old Man is giving us the shaft. He doesn't seem to give a damn that Ram got knocked off by that scum.

STAS

He's smooth, he knows what he's doing, but he is also basically a bitch.

VICTOR

Alright. I have made up my mind, Ram's memorial service comes first, then we can deliver the Tadzhik. If he doesn't like it he can come and get the boy himself.

Another car drives up with more of Victor's men and TWO GIRLS. They all greet each other and go into the house together.

105 INT. TEMIR'S APARTMENT - EVENING

105

Rakhim, his two escorts, and Ashot are waiting impatiently for the arrival of Temir. The mood is edgy and tense.

ASHOT

It was foolish to take the word of such a man...we have been waiting almost six hours. Who knows what may have happened to Temir.

RAKHIM

There was little else I could have done. I thought I struck a fair bargain, one that saved face for both of us.

ASHOT

You must have a number...some way of getting in touch with him.

RAKHIM

A middle man, but that's all.

ASHOT

Call him.

RAKHIM

No! You told me about a Chechen group that might be willing to help.

ASHOT

They have old scores to settle.

RAKHIM

Good, get in touch with them. Do you remember how to get back to Sergey's house?

ASHOT

Of course, no problem.

RAKHIM

Let's go. You two stay here just in case he shows up.

Rakhim and Ashot exit the apartment.

106 INT. DACHA - MAIN HOUSE - EVENING

106

The party has digressed into a drunken orgy. Bodies are strewn about the room in various degrees of undress and postures. The Cabby stumbles onto the table strewn with spilled food, empty bottles and clothes.

CABBY

My dear fellow drunks, we have drunk to Ram three times and to John two times it is now appropriate to remember all our late ancestors -especially to the general who willed such a beautiful dacha to Victor who is now intent on trashing it without remorse.

STAS

Had the general known how his son was going to make a living, he would have died a second time.

VICTOR

Shut up you queer.

GIRL ONE

Enough with the toast and stuffing yourselves like pigs, let's get some music here.

There is general drunken agreement as one of the men goes and puts on a tape recorder. Girl One goes over to the Cabby and drags him off the table to dance. Tanya, very drunk, goes up to Victor.

TANYA

Where's Temir?

VICTOR

This is the fourth time you asked me about that Asian shithead, and I am getting tired of it.

Victor grabs Tanya by the waist and forces her to dance with him. She tries to resist.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

That Tadzhik, the Old Man, you've been a busy girl...I'm probably the only man in Moscow you haven't fucked.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA

You are a pig.

She tries harder to break free.

VICTOR

You know me pretty well by now.
Tell me, while Ram was alive did
you cheat on him?

TANYA

None of your damn business... Let
me go.

VICTOR

Listen...listen to me carefully.
There is new management here, and
if you want to live the kind of
life you had before, you now have
to be nice to me. Do you
understand?

Victor reaches down to Tanya's skirt and starts to lift it up, dragging her over to the couch. Tanya kicks at him, but he is too strong. He pins her arms and is on top of her when some guests come in. Tanya uses the moment to push Victor off of her and runs out of the room.

107

INT. SERGEY ILIYICH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

107

Sergey is sitting on the sofa in a lounging jacket, slippers with a glass of sherry while watching the evening news. He is obviously relaxing and enjoying himself.

The doorbell interrupts his rest. At first he doesn't pay much attention but the ringing is persistent.

SERGEY

Igor!?

Igor goes to the door and looks through the peep hole.

IGOR

It's him again, the Tadzhik with
the brother.

SERGEY

What does he want? Let him in.

As Rakhim bursts in followed by Ashot. Rakhim goes straight over to Sergey.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM

You went back on your word! I want my brother now, or so help me...

SERGEY

What are you talking about?

RAKHIM

You know very well what I am talking about.

Rakhim lunges at Sergey, but Igor steps between brandishing a rather lethal looking hand gun.

SERGEY

I gave the order to release your brother over five hours ago...

RAKHIM

If that's the case where is he? We waited over six hours and he never showed up.

Sergey, without another word, goes to the telephone and dials.

108

INT. DACHA - SIMULTANEOUS:

108

The phone rings, but no one pays any attention to it until a drunk, half NAKED WOMAN picks it up.

WOMAN

What? Hello? Who? Oh yeah, hold on a minute. VICTOR! VICTOR... telephone.

Victor is nowhere in sight but the Cabby takes the phone from her, gives her slap on the rear. Victor comes into the room.

CABBY

Hello?
(to the room)
Turn down that damn music.

VICTOR

Is it the Old Man?

The Cabby nods, Victor takes the phone from him.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)

We are having a memorial service for our fallen friends, your friends... We are honoring our dead, what the hell are you doing? First we see the money, then we give back the kid.

109 INT. SERGEY'S HOUSE:

109

Sergey slams down the phone.

SERGEY

I am sorry about this.

(Turns to Igor)

Do you know where Victor's Dacha is?

(Igor nods)

Go there and bring back his brother.

RAKHIM

That's it? You are just going to sit here and let your man deal with your problem.

SERGEY

I deal with my problems my way.

RAKHIM

Well your problems are my problems now. Until I get my brother back I don't trust you, your man here or anyone in your stinking operation.

SERGEY

Watch yourself, Tadzhik, you are in my house.

RAKHIM

And what if your other dogs don't obey their master? It already looks like they are searching for a new home.

Sergey looks at Rakhim for a moment while Ashot and Igor are prepared to defend each of their bosses.

SERGEY

Perhaps you are right...I should see to this personally.

(CONTINUED)

RAKHIM
We will all go.

110 INT. DACHA - NIGHT 110

The party is slipping into a mellow mood, people are now in drunken pairs, bodies spread everywhere. Tanya has regained some of her sobriety, but is dancing the Lambada in her slip and bra. Victor and the Cabby are also sobering up and they are no longer so jolly. One of the male PARTY GOERS, stimulated by alcohol reaches up and tears off Tanya's bra. Victor kicks him to the floor.

VICTOR
That's not for you, asshole.

Tanya taunts Victor by dancing in front of him without her bra.

VICTOR (cont'd)
(continuing)
I should shoot you right now.

He pours vodka into a bowl, and starts drinking.

111 EXT. STREET - SERGEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 111

Sergey, Rakhim, Ashot, and Igor climb into Rakhim's car. Rakhim sits in back with Sergey as they pull away from the curb. A moment later a dark "Volga" follows.

112 EXT. HIGHWAY: 112

Rakhim's car drives along the empty highway with the dark "Volga" following. As the Volga passes the camera we see that it contains Chechen's some who were present at the Casino Massacre and one of Rakhim's escorts.

113 INT. DACHA - NIGHT 113

Victor makes a couple of attempts to stand before finally coming to full vertical and addresses the Cabby.

VICTOR
I think we should check on our
little monkey or the Old Man will
think we deliberately killed the
fucker.

They stumble out of the room together.

(CONTINUED)

As they leave a PARTY GOER goes up to Tanya, picks her up and carries her to an easy chair.

TANYA

Aren't you afraid of Victor?

PARTY GOER

Who is Victor? I do not work for him...besides, I can take care of myself. I have already sent four men, better than him, to their graves.

114

INT. BATH HOUSE:

114

The door bursts open and a drunken Victor and Cabby pick up the weak and pale Temir.

VICTOR

Party time little Tadzhik. I think a little vodka, a little music and you will be good as new...don't forget to thank me.

BACK AT THE DACHA

Victor and the Cabby hold Temir up by the arms as they enter the now darkened room.

VICTOR (cont'd)

What's this.

He turns on the lights. As he does so the room comes alive with bodies jumping apart and cursing at the light.

Temir shows signs of life as he recognizes Tanya underneath the Party Goer.

Victor grabs the man, pulls him off of Tanya and fells him with one swift blow to the head. He then proceeds to violently kick the man until the Cabby pulls him away.

Tanya's eyes meet Temir's and he is devastated. She looks away, covers herself and goes into the neighboring room. Victor, finally calms down and looks for Tanya.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

Where is she?

Temir collapses in a chair and doubles over in physical and emotional pain. The Cabby pulls a WOMAN PARTY GOER to him and points to Temir.

(CONTINUED)

CABBY

Why don't you be nice to this
Romeo...whatever his name is.

The woman goes to Temir. She brings over a large glass of vodka and some pickles, raising the glass to his lips.

WOMAN PARTY GOER

Drink, my dear, you will soon get
an appetite for other things.

Temir turns his face away and the vodka splashes onto the carpet. Tanya comes running in from the neighboring room. She looks pretty much the way she did when we first saw her, disheveled, and battered. Victor follows her into the room.

VICTOR

You bitch, you're fucking everyone
but me...I'm going to do it right
here in front of your bastard
Tadzhik boyfriend...how would you
like that.

He starts tearing at her clothes. Temir, though still in a weakened condition, can't stand it anymore and rushes Victor.

Victor is taken by surprise, lets go of Tanya and falls to the floor with Temir pummeling him as best he can.

Victor regains his senses and hits Temir hard in the face. Temir falls backward. Tanya rushes to Temir and frantically tries to pick him up as Victor comes towards them.

VICTOR (cont'd)

(continuing)

You both can go to hell.

Victor pulls a gun and points it at Temir and Tanya.

TANYA

Run....

As Temir and Tanya burst out the front door they are met by the glare of headlights. Rakhim's car pulls to a stop inches from them. Igor exits the car with the briefcase, followed by Sergey and Rakhim. Tanya and Temir stand frozen before them.

Temir is relieved to see his brother but Tanya, seeing Rakhim with Sergey, does not share his enthusiasm. Rakhim starts towards Temir, but Tanya pulls Temir away. Something isn't right and she knows it. Victor comes tearing out of the door after them still firing wildly, Igor pulls out his gun and shoots Victor dead.

RAKHIM

Temir, are you alright?

TANYA

(to Temir)

That's Serge, with your brother,
the man who kidnapped you.

RAKHIM

Temir, I have come to take you
home.

TANYA

Come with me my love, we have to
get out of here.

Tanya tries to pull Temir away, Temir resists, confused.

TANYA (cont'd)

(continuing)

Don't you understand, your brother
is in with Sergey...the Old Man...
the man who locked you away.

RAKHIM

Don't listen to that whore,
Temir... she has been bought and
paid for by Sergey...she has always
been part of his gang. She just
used you to get to me.

Temir is completely torn, unsure of who to turn to or trust.

TANYA

My darling, you have to believe me,
I never used you, I never wanted to
hurt you.

TEMIR

I have to talk to my brother.

Just then the black Volga pulls up with the Chechen's and Rakhim's two body guards.

(CONTINUED)

SERGEY

What is this?

Igor stands in front of Sergey as the Chechen's approach.

SERGEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

You are good, Tadzhik I underestimated you, that was a mistake I see.

Igor is gunned down by one of the Chechen's. Sergey stands alone, he looks at the Chechen and runs his hand across his head, smiling at the irony of the situation.

A Chechen walks up to Sergey and without hesitation puts a bullet between his eyes. As Sergey falls, Tanya lets go of Temir and starts to run towards the woods.

Sergey's men, half dressed, come out of the Dacha with their guns drawn and blazing.

One of the Chechens is hit but Sergey's men are way to drunk to be very accurate and the Chechens finish them off quickly. The HEAD CHECHEN, the one who messed up Victor's face in the parking lot, comes up to Rakhim.

HEAD CHECHEN

We are in your debt.

He then goes with his men into the Dacha, we hear more gunfire as Temir looks at his brother. It is as if he is seeing a stranger, a monster.

Flames start to dance through the windows, the Chechen's come out obviously having spared no one inside. One of Rakhim's body guards has captured Tanya and drags her back to where they are standing.

TEMIR

What have you done?

RAKHIM

I have saved you, as I always do.

Tanya is fighting her captor. Rakhim walks up to her.

RAKHIM (cont'd)

(continuing)

I knew the first time I met you, you were going to be trouble.

(CONTINUED)

Rakhim nods to Tanya's captor, who pulls out a switchblade and stabs Tanya. Her eyes go wide with shock. Temir runs to her.

No....

TEMIR

He holds her in his arms and looks into her eyes.

TANYA

My little Tadzhik, my poor little Tadzhik. I have done some things in my life...I am not proud of what I was, but you, you were the best part...

TEMIR

Shhh...shhh.

He breaks into sobs as Tanya slips away. Rakhim and Ashot pull Temir into the car and they speed away followed by the Volga.

116

INT. CAR:

116

Temir looks through the back window at Tanya's body lying in the driveway lit by the fire now raging through the Dacha.

He turns to face front, his face is expressionless and as cold as stone.

RAKHIM

From now on everything will be different. Life goes on, everything is going to be alright, believe me.

The car picks up speed. The radio is on, playing softly. Temir turns up the volume.

117

EXT. ROAD:

117

Unseen by Temir or Rakhim, the Volga follows them.

118

INT. CAR:

118

RAKHIM

(trying to shout over the music)

That is too loud, turn it down.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly the music changes to a wild Lambada. Temir turns it up even louder. A huge truck barrels down on them from around a corner. Temir grabs the wheel, pulling the car into the oncoming lane and straight for the truck.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
What are you doing?

The tempo of the Lambada increases as the car speeds towards the truck.

TEMIR
I am saving you, brother, like you saved me.

Rakhim struggles for the wheel and is able to turn it just in time to avoid the truck but not before turning off the road and down the steep embankment.

It picks up speed as it goes down the hill, soon it is airborne off a ledge and hits the ground tumbling over and over finally coming to a rest on it's top.

119 EXT. CAR - EMBANKMENT: 119

The car sits there for a moment rocking back and forth. The Lambada music still plays. Rakhim kicks out the door and crawls out dirty and bloody. Ashot has been thrown clear and lies, dead a hundred feet or so from the wreck.

120 INT. CAR: 120

Temir's lifeless body is crumpled against the dash board. Rakhim tries to pull him from the wreck.

RAKHIM
I promised...I promised to take care of you.

121 EXT. CAR: 121

A stream of fuel is leaking from a puncture in the tank. Rakhim finally is able to get Temir free he pulls him from the wreck. Rakhim hears the approach of men as rocks roll down the hill towards him.

He clears the dirt and sweat from him eyes and sees policemen moving towards him. He takes out a small pistol from his coat pocket and fires at them. They fire back. A familiar voice is heard above the noise.

(CONTINUED)

BARKOV
Stop firing.

The men stop shooting.

BARKOV (cont'd)
(continuing)
Rakhim, it's me, Barkov. I am
sorry, but I have to take you back
with me.

Rakhim holds Temir's body for a moment, then let's it down
onto the ground and runs the opposite direction. The
policemen open fire as Rakhim ducks behind a large rock.

BARKOV (cont'd)
(continuing)
I said hold your fire.

The men stop shooting.

BARKOV (cont'd)
(continuing)
Rakhim...listen to me, I can get
some medical attention for your
brother.

Barkov goes towards Temir's body.

RAKHIM
Don't go near him.

BARKOV
Come out now, there is no place to
go.

Rakhim comes out from behind the rock his arms held high.

RAKHIM
You are right, there is no place to
go. Let me take care of my brother.

Barkov's men move in but Barkov allows Rakhim the
opportunity to go to Temir.

RAKHIM (cont'd)
(continuing)
Can you give me a moment...how
about a cigarette?

Barkov hands Rakhim a cigarette and lights it for him.
Barkov turns to his men.

(CONTINUED)

BARKOV

Let him say goodbye.

He pushes his men back. Rakhim goes to his knees at Temir's body, the stream of gas has just about reached him. He takes a drag from his cigarette and looks back one more time to Barkov.

RAKHIM

(to Temir's body)

You were right brother, you were saving me.

He touches the cigarette to the gasoline and there is an explosion consuming both of them. Then a second explosion as the car goes up. The policemen fall back from the blast and the heat. Barkov looks on as a plume of black smoke obliterates the screen. The Lambada music comes up as the credits roll.

The End.