

Vanya + Sonia + Masha

VANYA Oh yes? Shouldn't you leave that for others to say?

SPIKE *(laughs good naturedly)* No, I mean I'm warm. The air is warm, I'm *hot!* *(looking out the window)* That pond that's out there. Can you swim in it?

VANYA Swim in it? It's not very deep. You can wade in it.

SPIKE Yeah. Maybe I'll do that.

MASHA Really, darling, you want to wade in a pond?

SPIKE Yeah, it's a hot day.

MASHA I guess it is. There are frogs in the pond, you know.

SPIKE I like frogs.

MASHA Did you bring a swimsuit?

SPIKE No, I can just strip to my underwear. See you later, babe, I'm gonna go cool off in the pond.

MASHA Well, if that's what you want, darling. *(to Vanya)* He's so unpredictable.

Very comfortable, but also liking people to watch him, Spike takes his shoes off, then takes his shirt off, then takes his pants off. With abandon, he throws his clothes onto a couch or chair. He puts his shoes back on. He is now only in his underwear. He looks very good. He starts toward the pond, but gives Masha a quick kiss on his way out.

SPIKE See you later!

He moves quickly out of the room, but oddly ruffles Vanya's hair on his way outside. It's a playful gesture but Vanya finds it strange. Spike happily exits onto the grass, looking forward to wading and frogs...

MASHA The younger generation is like that. They strip to their underwear right in front of everybody.

VANYA Did he do that because he knows I'm gay?

MASHA I rather think he did that because he knows I'm straight.

Start

VANYA Well it's very peculiar. Did you tell him I'm gay?

MASHA No, why would I? And are you gay? I'm sorry, did we have some conversation I forgot?

VANYA No, I guess we didn't. I just . . . assumed you assumed.

MASHA Oh, I did. I just thought maybe you were still in denial. Or had become asexual from so many years of abstinence. Oh, I've been a bad sister. I'm sorry, darling. Where is Sonia? Oh that's right, I upset her. Well I'll apologize later.

VANYA I must say, I'm a trifle surprised to see you with this young, young man. How old is he?

MASHA (*takes his hand*) Oh, Vanya dear, I'm so happy I'm with Spike. He's so adventurous and free, he gives me energy. We've been together 3 months.

VANYA Well he's handsome. Is he a good idea?

MASHA Don't be judgmental. I've been very lonely for several years ever since Robert left me for Heidi Klum.

VANYA Heidi Klum?

MASHA I just say that to make myself feel better. He left me for someone who looked a little like Heidi Klum. So I comfort myself with saying it was she. Still I haven't been able to hold on to my husbands, I don't know why. I'm talented, charming, successful—and yet they leave me. They must be insane.

Enter Sonia.

SONIA Why is that young man naked in the pond?

VANYA He's naked? (*looks out the window, interested*) Sonia, he's wearing underpants. That's not naked.

SONIA Well, underpants, naked, it's the same to me.

VANYA You need glasses.

SONIA I need a life. I need a friend. I need a change. But nothing ever changes.

MASHA Now, now, please don't get down in the dumps.

SONIA That's easy for you to say. You have a life, you have a career.

MASHA Oh, I wish you wouldn't feel jealous of me. It just exhausts me. Even if you were an actress, God forbid, we wouldn't ever go up for the same parts. I'm a leading lady, while you are much more of a . . .

VANYA Masha, I don't think you should finish that sentence.

SONIA Thank you, Vanya.

VANYA You're welcome, Sonia.

MASHA Well, it's not as if my career has been without disappointments, just like your life, Sonia. I've suffered too. I'm a movie star, but am I known as a classical actress on the stage?

SONIA No you're not.

MASHA Exactly! That's a path I didn't get to take. Remember when that famous acting teacher was going to cast me as Masha in *Three Sisters*. He said I was born to play that role. Imagine how wonderful I would've been. *(to Vanya and Sonia, suddenly acting the lines:)* "Oh my sisters, let us go to Moscow! To Moscow, let us go."

I would have said that with an ache in my voice and my soul, and it would have been heartbreaking. I feel the public doesn't know how heartbreaking I can be. *(genuinely)* Oh missed opportunities! Regret, regret, regret!

SONIA Regret, regret!

MASHA Please don't change the focus to yourself, Sonia. I'm talking now. You can talk later.

SONIA When?

MASHA 4:30. (*back to her story*) Oh that famous acting teacher said I was born to play the classics. And that once I did *Three Sisters*, he said I would have one classical triumph after another. I'd be the American Judi Dench. But I had to go do that movie about the nymphomaniac serial killer. It was a terrible script, but I was so good in it that it became this enormous hit and, of course, we made five of them eventually. Did you see all of them?

VANYA Oh yes, we certainly did. We liked you very much. They were extremely violent, though. Sonia had to look away from the screen a lot.

SONIA Yes, I did.

MASHA Oh darling, sensitive, tedious Sonia. You can't face life, can you?

Sonia begins to respond, but Masha stops her.

No, don't answer. You can talk at 4:30.

SONIA Why 4:30?

MASHA That's my nap time. (*when Sonia looks horrified*) I'm kidding, I'm kidding—4:30 is the cocktail hour, a half an hour early. I usually have a Black Russian. And a drink as well. Oh, I'm amusing myself, sorry. (*focuses back on her story*) Anyway, as I was saying that movie, *Sexy Killer*, really changed my life—it took me from being a respected actress to being a global celebrity. And there is a difference. "Fame, thou glittering bauble." Who said that?

VANYA Captain Hook.

MASHA The real Captain Hook?

VANYA There wasn't a real Captain Hook. He was just in *Peter Pan*.

MASHA "Fame, thou glittering bauble." Such an interesting thing for a pirate to say. And then they begged me to do a sequel, and it seemed inescapable to me. We made 5 of them. And those movies made me millions. But my point was the theater lost a great tragic

classical actress when I didn't play my namesake Masha in that famous acting teacher's production of *Three Sisters*. That's my point!

SONIA You keep talking about this famous acting teacher. Who are you referring to?

MASHA Derek Seretsky.

SONIA Who?

MASHA Derek Seretsky. Maybe he wasn't famous. He was famous to me.

VANYA When did you study with him?

MASHA Oh, many years ago, I can't remember dates or decades. I just live. I recall I had three fabulous sessions with him. He taught a combination of Stanislavskian sense memory mixed with Meisner repetition technique.

I'd say "Oh, Olga, let's go to Moscow" and he'd say back to me "Oh, Olga, let's go to Moscow?" And I'd say, "Oh Olga—let's GO to Moscow." And he'd say "Oh, oh, oh, Olga, let's go to MosCOW." And then I said, "Ho, ho, ho, let's go to Moscow, Olga. Moscow, Moscow, Olga. Oh, Oh, Olga, let's go!"

I'm sorry, this is sounding incredibly false as I'm saying it. It makes one think I would've been horrible in *Three Sisters*. Maybe I would have been. (*suddenly shouts emphatically*) No, no, I would've been great! Let's not talk about it anymore. Let's talk about something else. Sonia, what's new with you?

SONIA I'm not allowed to speak until 4:30.

MASHA Everyone's so touchy here. No, you can talk.

SONIA How old is Spike exactly?

MASHA Let's talk about something fun. We're going to a party tonight, and a costume one at that. I love costume parties.

~~**SONIA** We don't have any costumes to wear, Masha.~~

~~**MASHA** Yes, you do. I asked Hootie Pie to organize some costumes for both of you, and they're in the car.~~