

[REDACTED]

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Nadya enters the dimly lit cafeteria and makes some tea for herself. Behind her, the spark of a lighter pierces the darkness, followed by the smolder of a cigar. It flares as Dmitri takes a puff; watching her silently.

NADYA
(not looking up)
Do you intend to stare at me all night long, or will stinking up the place be sufficient entertainment for you?

DMITRI
Why not both? I am a simple man. Women and cigars. These things I cannot live without.

NADYA
Hm.

DMITRI
Want a try?

NADYA
No.

DMITRI
I meant the cigar.

NADYA
And I didn't.

DMITRI
(chuckles)
You are quite peculiar.

NADYA
Does that line work for you often?

DMITRI
Feisty. Committed. Intelligent. You
are no ordinary woman.

NADYA
I wasn't aware they taught flattery
in the KGB.

DMITRI
You know much for a doctor.

NADYA
(shrugs)
Rumors spread. You seem the type.

DMITRI
Indeed... I was.

NADYA
No longer?

DMITRI
No.

NADYA
Why the change?

DMITRI
That's not important.

NADYA
Hm. Is that why you're here?

DMITRI
You ask a lot of questions.

NADYA
It's my job.

DMITRI
Strange, I thought your job was to
advise Dr. Kowalczyk.

NADYA
Good advisors are well informed.

DMITRI
And where did you learn that?

NADYA
You still haven't answered my
question.

DMITRI
Which is?

NADYA
Why are you here?

DMITRI
I am here on assignment. Anything
to do with the KGB is purely
incidental.

NADYA
You are quite invested for simply
"being on assignment."

DMITRI
That is because unlike Kowalczyk, I
follow my orders.

NADYA
Oh?

DMITRI
The man's history is full of
incompetence. It's a wonder he's
here at all; he can barely make a
decision without pissing himself.

NADYA
He's more capable than you think.

DMITRI
I know what you're trying to do. It
won't work.

NADYA
And what is that?

DMITRI
I am the one in charge here.

NADYA

Yet Artur is the one who has say over whether the experiment continues or not. The parameters--

DMITRI

The parameters state the experiment must continue for 30 days.

NADYA

Unless it is deemed unviable. The gas's side effects are obviously too dangerous for it to be used. Why go any further?

DMITRI

The gas has worked exactly as we were told it would. It's not my fault two of the prisoners had... history.

NADYA

Yet you knew they did, did you not?

Dmitri is almost taken aback.

DMITRI

Where are you from?

NADYA

Moscow.

DMITRI

Where in Moscow?

NADYA

Don't try to change the subject. Enemies or not they have been well-behaved for the past five days. They only acted like that because of the gas.

DMITRI

That fight was inevitable. We simply gave them room for it to happen.

NADYA

So you did know about them.

DMITRI

Perhaps I did. Perhaps I didn't.

NADYA
You were obviously pleased with
them fighting.

DMITRI
They had it coming.

NADYA
What did you do?

DMITRI
Nothing. I simply ensured they'd be
here.

NADYA
Impossible. They volunteered.

DMITRI
I may have bought some...
assurances from the warden.

NADYA
Why?

DMITRI
Tsk tsk tsk. Too many questions.
Your accent is wrong. You're not
from Moscow.

NADYA
I was born in Moscow, I wasn't
raised there.

DMITRI
Mm. Remind me how you were assigned
to this project?

NADYA
I have friends in high places.

DMITRI
How high?

NADYA
High enough to know of your
demotion in Stalingrad.

Dmitri tenses. This is obviously a sore point.

DMITRI
Careful what you say, *doctor*, we
wouldn't want to misunderstand each
other.

NADYA
I believe I have made myself
perfectly clear.

DMITRI
(advancing, now more
intense)
Then allow me the same clarity: I
followed my orders in Stalingrad.
What happened was an *unfortunate*
oversight that will *never* happen
again. The experiment will continue
according to plan and I will *not*
allow insubordination. You would do
well not to interfere.

NADYA
What will the Kremlin say when they
find out you're wasting valuable
resources to keep a pointless
experiment running far too long?

DMITRI
(an outburst)
They'll hear that I followed orders
as promised!

Beat. Dmitri takes a deep breath, regaining his composure.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
Be careful, *devochka*, unlike
Kowalczyk, you are disposable. Do
not forget that. Then again...

He approaches her, a look in his eye, and grabs her wrist.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
You could be useful in other ways.

NADYA
You're disgusting.

She stomps on his foot forcefully, pulling her hand away,
then exits hurriedly. Dmitri glares as she goes.

