

Nikki M/W sif-c

ALEX

Well, can you blame me? I didn't write a
decent word the whole year we were together.
She wreaked havoc with my emotions, broke my
heart and topped it off by stealing my car!

JERI LEA

Oh, come on, it was only a Volvo.

ALEX

(GENTLE BUT FIRM)

Everybody... out.

(BOYD ROLLS OFF THE SOFA)

JERI LEA

(STARTING TO DOOR)

Boyd, will you help me learn my lines?

BOYD

Well, as long as you "axed" me nicely!

(HE LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKE AND EXITS)

JERI LEA

(TO ALEX, OMINOUS)

We'll use props.

(SHE EXITS)

START
↓
(ALEX SHUTS THE DOOR, SIGHS THEN CROSSES BACK
UP TO HIS DESK, SITS AND BEGINS TYPING AT THE
COMPUTER AGAIN. A FEW BEATS, THEN THERE IS A)

SFX: KNOCK AT THE DOOR

(ALEX STOPS AND LOOKS)

ALEX

Who do I know that knocks?

SFX: THERE IS ANOTHER KNOCK

(ALEX GETS UP AND CROSSES TO THE DOOR AND OPENS
IT. STANDING IN THE HALLWAY IS A TALL, GORGEOUS,
BLONDE WOMAN IN HER LATE TWENTIES)

(SHE IS DRESSED IN A STUNNING EVENING
GOWN WITH A SHORT COAT)

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(SHE IS KATERINA NIKOLAI (NIKKI) GERASIMENKO.
SHE SPEAKS WITH A RUSSIAN ACCENT. SHE STEPS
INTO THE ROOM)

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NIKKI

Hello, I'm a stranger who needs

*

a telephone where is it, please?

*

(A BEAT. STILL STUNNED, ALEX, WITHOUT
TURNING, RAISES HIS ARM, UPSIDE-DOWN AND
BEHIND HIM AND POINTS TO AN AREA NEAR THE
SOFA)

*

NIKKI (CONT'D)

*

Spaseba.

*

(SHE CROSSES TO THE PHONE, ALEX CHECKS THE
HALLWAY)

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*

ANOTHER ANGLE - NIKKI

(SITTING BY THE PHONE, RECEIVER TO HER
EAR)

NIKKI

Give me the overseas operator.

I'd like to place a call to

Moscow. 67901.

(ALEX REACTS)

(NIKKI LOOKS OVER TO HIM. SUDDENLY CON-
SCIOUS OF HIS STILL OUT-STRETCHED ARM,
ALEX SMILES NERVOUSLY AND SPEAKS)

ALEX

Old injury from, uh...

(RE: THE TWISTED, BACKWARD ARM)

... an Egyptian play I was in.

*

(PUTS DOWN HIS ARM AS SHE QUICKLY TURNS BACK TO THE PHONE AND SPEAKS IN RUSSIAN. IT IS OBVIOUS SHE IS UPSET AND SHE BECOMES VERY ANIMATED AS SHE SPEAKS. ALEX, NOR THE AUDIENCE, SHOULD KNOW WHAT SHE IS SAYING HERE. AFTER A WHILE SHE APPEARS TO SAY GOODBYE AND HANGS UP. SHE STARES COOLLY AHEAD FOR A BEAT THEN: SHE FLINGS HER BODY ACROSS THE SOFA AND BEGINS A SERIES OF HEAVING, ANIMATED SOBS. ALEX LOOKS CONFUSED AS HE WATCHES THIS LOUD, GYRATING TORSO. HE MOVES TO HER, THEN SHE LOOKS UP ABRUPTLY STRAIGHT AND APPARENTLY TOTALLY CALMED)

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NIKKI

Do you have a room to rent?

ALEX

A room to rent?

(LAUGHS A LITTLE)

No, I...

(SHE IS TAKING OFF HER COAT TO REVEAL A RATHER LOW-CUT GOWN)

*

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Sure.

(BEAT)

I mean I do have a second bedroom
but I...

NIKKI

(INTERRUPTING)

How much?

(A BEAT, ALEX SHRUGS)

ALEX

Two hundred-fifty dollars...

NIKKI

(DISAPPOINTED)

Oh.

*

ALEX

*

(QUICKLY ADDING)

A year!

NIKKI

My that is very reasonable!

*

(WALKS TO HIM AND SHAKES HIS HAND FIRMLY)

I will take it. Now if you will
excuse me I am tired and must be
bedded down.

ALEX

I beg your pardon?

NIKKI

(INDICATING)

The room is this way?

ALEX

Yes.

(SHE BEGINS MOVING TOWARD THE HALLWAY)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh, uh...

(SHE STOPS)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I forgot to mention... there's
only one bathroom... we'll have
to share it.

(SHE TURNS AROUND ABRUPTLY)

NIKKI

One bathroom? For the two of
us?

(A BEAT. ALEX NODS NERVOUSLY. ANOTHER
BEAT AND A SMILE COMES ACROSS NIKKI'S
FACE)

NIKKI (CONT'D)

What a wonderful country! One
bathroom for only two people!