

There Was No Flash Because My Life Sucks

By

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FADE IN

EXT. COLD DESOLATE AREA - DAY

Russia on 13 July 1882. PASSENGERS of a train sit quietly in their seat as a CONDUCTOR patrols each end of the train. The conductor reaches the front of the train and faces the passengers.

CONDUCTOR
LAST STOP BILLOWY SEAS!

The train speeds extremely fast and loses control which causes it to derail. The train lays off the tracks on its side with flames, and smoke starts to resonate from it. Two kids are clothed in a fur military cossack ushanka, a parka with layers of clothing underneath, and many cold winter accessories. ANYA, 8, Russian female, a alabaster pale skinned girl with fragile innocent features lies on the floor peacefully. She has hazel eyes and long light brown hair. FYODOR, 8, an achromatic ghastly skinned boy with rugged features stands tall and examines Anya. He has green eyes and short dark brown hair. Fyodor rubs his chin with the side of his index finger and kneels forward.

FYODOR
Sister, please be alive!

Fyodor shakes Anya softly and grabs both her arms. Anya awakens and SCREAMS in shock. A camera obscura falls out of Fyodor's parka and flashes at Anya. Anya calms down and becomes curious of the camera obscura. She plays around with the camera obscura. Anya presses all the buttons, and figures out the one button that captures a picture. Fyodor smiles at Anya.

FYODOR (CONT'D)
I am relieved that you are okay
sister.

ANYA
I don't remember anything brother.
Why were we in a train? Where is
Mama and Papa?

FYODOR
Now that you mention it. I don't
remember anything except waking up,
and finding you on the floor
unconscious.

(CONTINUED)

ANYA

Wait, I sort of remember a conductor being in the train and walking around.

FYODOR

Yes, you are right! He said something...Last stop Billoway ugh...SEAS!

ANYA

That makes sense! I hear water nearby.

FYODOR

This does not make any sense. I am still not sure why we were on a train heading to the ocean.

ANYA

Maybe we were on our way to go overseas somewhere.

FYODOR

Do you think our parents did that?

ANYA

Yeah! We may have been on our way back home overseas.

FYODOR

You are so optimistic...maybe they were sending us away because they don't want us anymore.

ANYA

Why would you say that?

FYODOR

I am just thinking of possible reasons that may be true.

ANYA

I don't really like that conclusion at all.

Anya looks down with a frown and her eyes become teary.

FYODOR

Hey we will find them. I promise.

Fyodor gently places his right hand over Anya's shoulder. Anya looks up and feels relieved.

(CONTINUED)

FYODOR (CONT'D)

They should be around here
somewhere. Maybe they are passed
out on the floor somewhere.

ANYA

We survived without a scratch.
Surely, Mama and Papa made it out
okay too.

FYODOR

You are right! That accident looked
insane. I can't believe we both
made it out of their alive.

Anya snaps a flash with the camera obscura at Fyodor and
GIGGLES.

FYODOR (CONT'D)

I am happy you are enjoying
yourself with that.

Anya puts away the camera obscura in an empty pocket of her
parka. She looks inside the other pockets of her parka and
finds five matryoshka dolls separated from each other. She
attempts to open them but they are sealed as if they are
glued tight.

ANYA

These dolls are so pretty!

Anya gleefully glances at the dolls. Anya places the dolls
back in the pocket of her parka, and takes out the camera
obscura.

FYODOR

Our parents gave us some odd items
to hold on to for this trip.

ANYA

Here! I think this is yours.

FYODOR

No, keep it. I don't even know why
I have it, and it looks like you
have grown attached to it anyways.

ANYA

Thank you.

Anya smiles joyfully.

FYODOR

Let us get a move on if we are ever
going to find them.

Fyodor walks along the wrecked train and Anya follows. Anya stumbles on to the ground, and discovers one-hundred fifty people dormant without life. She becomes petrified as the flames from the train diminishes and turns the area dark.

ANYA

BROTHER!

FYODOR

Don't worry I am here.

Fyodor holds on to Anya. A orange-red light from the northern sky where the tracks head to resonates, and illuminates the darkness. Fyodor gazes into the sky. Anya with her eyes shut holds Fyodor tight. SERPENT and SPAT, vile dark figures with red bloodshot eyes emerge from the light. They have razor sharp claws, and teeth.

FYODOR

Shh! Go hide!

ANYA

I don't want to leave you!

Fyodor throws her into a pile of snow. Spat approaches and lifts Fyodor up in the air by the leg. He stares into Fyodor's eyes.

SPAT

Where are the five matryoshka
dolls!

Fyodor bites and scratches Spat. Spat tosses Fyodor to Serpent.

SPAT (CONT'D)

AAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!YOU LITTLE
VERMIN!

SERPENT

What is the matter Spat? Having a
little trouble with someone not
your size?

SPAT

SERPENT! Why don't you stop sitting
around like a little pest and help!
You only watch and criticize me as
I do all the work!

(CONTINUED)

SERPENT

Remember dear brother, work is for brutes. I am the brains so I do all the talking so you don't upset big brother Ore. Did you forget what happened to our brother Turufe?

Spat suddenly gets a startled look on his face.

SPAT

I am sorry brother...

SERPENT

What is past is past. Let's take this boy back to Ore.

Serpent laughs cynically. Serpent and Spat probe back into the light. Anya remains silent in tears as she watches Fyodor get taken away into the orange and red light. After the dark figures and Fyodor are out of sight, Anya climbs out of the pile of snow. Anya walks along the train track path that leads to the orange and red light. Anya stumbles onto a person who lays on the floor. AWED, 21, he is pale but appears dirty all around with blue eyes and blonde hair.

ANYA

Excuse me sir, are you okay?

AWED

I am so cold, and I have not eaten for days...

ANYA

Here, take some of my extra clothing.

Anya removes a couple pieces of clothing and gives it to Awed. Awed wears the clothing, and thanks Anya.

AWED

I am truly grateful young one! My name is Awed. What might yours be?

ANYA

My name is Anya.

AWED

Why might a warm generous girl such as yourself be wandering this area alone? Are you lost? Ran away from home?

(CONTINUED)

ANYA

I have no memory except that I was in a terrible train accident with my brother Fyodor. After that, some terrible creatures came and took him away into the light.

AWED

I see...you poor thing. Well I don't know about you, but I could go for a feast right about now. You see, we need to start heading to that light. Rumor has it that there is a banquet of food located wherever that light is being projected. They say merchant ships keep all their supply there because it is a quiet secluded safehaven. And you see, we are in luck! A ship named the Bona Esperanza captained by HUGH WILLOUGHBY awaits for me at the Billowy Seas Harbour. They need me because I have a compass that will help us travel north to the light.

ANYA

I am quite hungry...but I must find my family!

AWED

You said you were in a train, if it was headed to Billowy Seas your parents are most likely merchants traveling to restock on supplies.

ANYA

Yes, the conductor yelled out that stop. I think you may be right...mama and papa may already be dead. Why do you really want to head over there?

AWED

What do you mean!? Look at me! I look like a skeleton!

ANYA

I do not know if I can trust you...you might be with those evil vile creatures!

Anya picks up random objects from the ground, and throws it at Awed's face.

(CONTINUED)

AWED

OH NO! NO! NO! Okay I will tell you the truth. Those creatures you speak of our my brothers I am actually hiding from. Serpent and Spat are not completely bad, but they share different views I do not agree with.

ANYA

You are related to such monsters?

AWED

Yes, but I am also in search of my brother Turufe. He is my nice younger brother who is nothing like the other three.

ANYA

Your evil brothers captured your brother too?

AWED

Yes, you may have overheard them rambling about matryoshka dolls. Not I or anyone from my family can actually touch those dolls other than you.

ANYA

Why is that?

AWED

You will know when the time comes. If we find my brother, chances are we will find your brother.

Anya gets teary eyed, and looks at Awed with a determined look.

ANYA

Lets find our brothers!

AWED

Well that settles it! Onward to an adventure!

Awed uses his compass to figure out the direction to Billowy Seas Harbour. He joyfully skips to the direction to the harbour. Anya mimics Awed, and her face begins to turn lush pink as she smiles.

(CONTINUED)

ANYA

I have never done this before! What do you call this?

AWED

Off to seeing the captain. The wonderful captain of the Bona Esperanza.

ANYA

It sounds like a song.

AWED

Ahh. It should? Shouldn't it?

ANYA

Yes. That would be so delightful.

AWED

So do you miss home?

ANYA

Of course I do. Although, the only home I know of is my brother.

AWED

Do you miss your mother and father?

ANYA

I don't know, can't remember anything about them or what they were like. I have no happy memories of them, only of Fyodor. If they are still alive, maybe mama and papa did not want us anymore...

AWED

That is absurd. Family never leaves each other and you are a kind-hearted gentle girl.

ANYA

Thank you Awed.

Anya smiles confidently.

AWED

Remember, no one is useless. We are all human and have a heartbeat. We struggle and go through failure and success. What matters most is that we got to experience it and maybe learn from it. Your parents would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AWED (cont'd)
be missing a wonderful experience
if they abandoned you.

ANYA
I want to find them now, but not
without my brother.

AWED
That is good! Never leave family
behind. Well, it seems we have made
it to the forest.

EXT. COLD FOREST AREA - DAY

Anya distractingly gazes in amazement of the fresh trees covered in snow. Awed focuses on his compass while he walks to the direction of Billowy Seas Harbour, but heavy snow from the trees blanket Awed. Anya oblivious of Awed's situation walks ahead and smiles in comfort. Anya smells the pleasant freshness of the nature that surrounds her. She continues to walk through the cold forest until she spots MISHA, a colossal brown bear who is stuck in a bear trap. An agitated wolverine begins to stalk Anya. Anya remains calm, and finds a sturdy stick from the ground. Anya uses the stick to pry the metal bear trap to free Misha. The wolverine sprints ferociously towards Anya, but is mauled by Misha. Misha bites the wolverine on the neck and puts the wolverine to sleep. Anya starts to have a rapid heartbeat, but remains still while she keeps eye contact with Misha. Misha slowly walks up to Anya and licks her hand. Anya pets Misha, and smiles.

ANYA
Thank you for saving me.

Misha gets on Anya and licks her face. Anya starts to laugh uncontrollably.

ANYA (CONT'D)
I think I will call you Misha!

Awed appears from the distance aat the back, and runs toward Anya.

AWED
Hey why did you go off without me!

ANYA
I'm sorry I was daydreaming off
into space because this place is so
beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

Misha comes out from the bushes.

AWED

Whoah! Anya get out from there!

ANYA

No! It's okay! Misha is my friend.

AWED

That is a big friend!

Awed attempts to walk towards Misha. Misha stands up on two feet and stares at Awed.

ANYA

No! Misha this is my friend Awed.
Be nice!

Misha yields and stands back on four feet.

AWED

Well, no time to make acquaintances
with Smoky the Bear. Let us get a
move on!

EXT. BILLOWY SEAS HARBOUR - DAY

Anya, Awed, and Misha walk towards the harbour to find the Bona Esperanza. Many lively CREW of the ship move crates around and pull ropes. The captain Hugh Willoughby approaches Awed.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

Ahoy there matey! What took ye so
long?

Anya whispers to Awed from the side.

ANYA

I did not know your friend was a
pirate!

Awed grins at Hugh Willoughby.

AWED

Hugh, quit trying to impress my
friend with your fake pirate voice.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

My apologies!

Hugh Willoughby turns to look at Anya. Anya stares at Hugh Willoughby with a bewildered look.

(CONTINUED)

HUGH WILLOUGHBY (CONT'D)
AHM! I am Sir Hugh Willoughby of
Derbyshire. The man navigating the
ship right over there is chief
pilot Richard Chancellor.

RICHARD CHANCELLOR smiles and waves to Anya as he steers the
ship's wheel.

RICHARD CHANCELLOR
WELCOME TO THE BONA ESPERANZA!
AIN'T SHE A BEAUT!

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
Who might you be young lady?

ANYA
I am An-ya...

Anya faints due to fatigue and hunger. Awed catches Anya in
his arms. Hugh opens his mouth, and gives a concerned look.

AWED
Believe it or not, I would not be
here if it weren't for my
charitable friend Anya.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
Is that so? I am guessing you two
are starving as much as my crew.
Well come inside for some oatmeal
and water. We are very low on
rations. Getting to the motherland
is of high importance. By the way,
what is a large brown bear doing
here? Should I be afraid?

AWED
The brown bear is with her.

Awed carries Anya on his back and follows Hugh Willoughby to
the cabin. Misha follows from behind.

INT. SHIP, CABIN - NIGHT

Anya and Awed consume the water and oatmeal with Hugh's
crew. Misha lays on the floor and stares at Anya. Everyone
sits on the sides, and Hugh Willoughby sits at the far end of
the table with Anya and Awed to the sides.

(CONTINUED)

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

I am very sorry to hear that about your brother. My crew is like a family to me, and to lose them...well lets not go there. Those demons you speak of...are they following you?

ANYA

No, my brother hid me before they could see me. They are however, looking for these.

Anya reveals the five matryoshka dolls. Anya lays them on the table. Awed reacts in awe, and stares at the dolls tentatively.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

Those are some cute toys. I did not know we were dealing with sissy demons who love to play with dolls. I am not worried. We will find your brother, and vanquish any evil that gets in our way. Awed, I really need to feed my crew so I am praying that you and that compass of yours can lead us to salvation.

AWED

My friend, look into my eyes. I have the utmost respect for you so I bring only truth and honor in your name. My intent is to get us all to that light so we all don't starve, and Anya can be reunited with her family.

ANYA

That is very touching Awed, but I think we have talked enough. May we please start sailing on this voyage.

MISHA

ROAR!

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

I agree with the lass and teddy. Lets get a move on!

EXT. SHIP, BILLOWY SEAS - NIGHT

The night is cold and breezy with the glacial winds that blows harshly. Anya rest peacefully in the cabin. Awed stands by Richard Chancellor while he holds his compass. Many of the crew begin to acquire frostbite because they are poorly clothed. Hugh Willoughby comes out of the cabin.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
Mr. Chancellor, how is it looking?

RICHARD CHANCELLOR
Not very good!

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
Awed, this better not be a red herring!

RICHARD CHANCELLOR
It seems we are headed the correct way, but the route is progressively becoming more dangerous.

AWED
Hugh, I think we should turn back or you risk losing a lot of men.

The sail on the ship gets a hole from the hail. The ship begins to slow down. The harsh winds start to demoralize the crew. Hugh Willoughby is frustrated and becomes embodied with rage.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
I always considered you as my first mate...

Awed walks back towards the edge of the ship facing Hugh Willoughby. Hugh Willoughby with heated anger pushes Awed off of the ship. Awed starts to fall as he looks at Hugh Willoughby with regret and sorrow.

AWED
I am sorry I have failed you friend...

Awed's body falls into the chilled water. Hugh Willoughby has a determined look on his face.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
Now I hope none of you think the same as to quit now.

The crew becomes intimidated.

(CONTINUED)

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
BROTHERS! WE WILL MAKE IT TO THE
MOTHERLAND! I PROMISE ON MY SOUL!

CREW MATE
What is it you want us to do
captain!

HUGH WILLOUGHBY
First, we need to start patching
the sail so we can start moving
again.

CREW
AYE AYE CAPTAIN!

The crew begin to climb and patch up the sail. The strong arctic winds persist to blow away some of the crew into the deathly ocean. Hugh Willoughby begins to have a butterfly feel in his stomach and sheds a tear.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY (V.O)
What have I done!? There is no
turning back now...we will perish
in this voyage if we do not have
resources on our return home.

INT. SHIP, CABIN - NIGHT

Anya wakes up when she hears the scream of Awed. Misha wakes up and sits besides Anya. There is a desk with writing material and a journal which reads, "My Life as an English Arctic Voyager", by Sir Hugh Willoughby." Many books lay on the bookcase with titles on the spine which reads, "A Voyage to Botany Bay" and "Rime of the Ancient Mariner." A lonely book lays on its side, the title reads, "He Leadeth Me", by Father Walter J. Cizek, S.J. A huge roar and snarl can be heard from outside the cabin. Anya trembles in fear as the sounds seem distinctly familiar to her in a horrific way.

ANYA
No, it can't be...

Anya wakes up and gathers many of the crew inside. The crew charges out of the cabin to help fight.

EXT. SHIP, BILLOWY SEAS - NIGHT

Hugh Willoughby, Richard Chancellor, and the crew become startled with the presence of Serpent and Spat. Richard Chancellor becomes so terrified that he quietly moves to the back of the ship and accesses a lifeboat for escape. The crew attempt to fight Spat with their weapons, but it proves useless. Spat with one hand picks up, and swings one of the crew as a weapon to pummel a crowd of them. He uses his other hand to toss several of the crew off the ship, and into the water. Hugh Willoughby stands his ground, and stares at Serpent.

SERPENT

Gentleman, we only wish for you to hand over the girl.

SPAT

STOP RUNNING YOU WEAKLINGS!

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

As you wish, but spare me and my crew.

SERPENT

I see we have established a compromise that will save us both time and trouble. Now hurry diplomat, bring forth the girl with haste.

Serpent points to Hugh Willoughby, and grins.

INT. SHIP, CABIN - NIGHT

Hugh Billowy runs into the cabin and orders his men to capture and throw her out of the cabin.

HUGH WILLOUGHBY

Men, seize her...I am sorry lass...

Hugh Billowy gets a look of dismay towards Anya. Anya silently tears up, but jumps on Misha's back. The crew attempt to capture Anya.

ANYA

Misha help me get out of here!

Misha runs out through the cabin doors.

EXT. SHIP, BILLOWY SEAS - NIGHT

Serpent grins as she watches Anya charge out on top of Misha in front of him. Spat interrupts and picks up Misha. Anya holds on tight to Misha. Serpent walks up towards the cabin door and peeks through the hole.

SERPENT

What is the matter? Why are you hiding? Don't you trust me?

HUGH WILLOUGHBY (O.S.)

You have the girl. Now fly away to wherever it is you came from!

Serpent walks towards the cabin door and releases a deep breath of carbon monoxide gas into one of the holes in the cabin walls. All of the crew and Hugh Willoughby fall to the ground and not notice what happen to them. Serpent smiles and lets out a sinister laugh.

SERPENT

I would say I spared you all.
Spared you the trouble of living a life as cowards...

SPAT

What a bunch of dishonorable punks!

SERPENT

Now hold on tight to those dolls little girl!

EXT. COLD DESOLATE AREA - NIGHT

The orange and red light illuminates over Serpent, Spat, Anya, and Misha. The four start to levitate, but are interrupted by TURUFE, a pleasant bright figure that has luminescent green eyes. Anya presses one of the dolls against Spat. Spat screams in agony, and releases Misha. Anya falls from the sky with Misha, but Awed, who looks similarly as bright as Turufe swoops down, and softens their fall. Serpent and Spat look toward Turufe in bewilderment.

SERPENT

Brother Turufe! How did you manage to escape Mt. Purgatory?

TURUFE

Let's just say brother has returned.

EXT. COLD DESOLATE AREA - DAY

Anya wakes up inside a snow pile, and feels confused. Anya exits the snow pile and ponders.

ANYA (V.O.)
This feels like déjà vu...

Misha shakes off the snow pile he is in.

MISHA
ROAR!

ANYA
MISHA! I am so happy you are okay!

Anya hugs Misha, and Misha licks Anya on the cheek. Anya walks along path that leads to the orange and red light. Anya stumbles onto a familiar individual who lays rest on the floor.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Hey...Excuse me sir, are you okay?

AWED
I am so cold, and I have not eaten
for days...

Misha jumps on Awed and GROWLS against his face.

AWED
I am not so cold or hungry
anymore...

ANYA
What happened back at the ship!?

Anya stamps the floor indignantly and makes a clenched fist. Misha gets off Awed. Awed stands up and focuses his attention on Anya.

ANYA (CONT'D)
I thought you were dead like the
rest of the people on the ship...

Anya looks down, and sheds a waterfall of tears that hit the icy floor. Awed calmly hugs Anya.

AWED
Don't worry, I am here. I was
thrown off the ship by Hugh, but I
managed swim and find Turufe.

(CONTINUED)

Anya calms her tears on Awed. Anya punches Awed in the gut. Awed falls to his knees and is out of breath.

ANYA

Don't you ever worry me like that ever again! Did you see my brother?

Awed crosses his arms over his gut and mutters.

AWED

It is nice to see you are well. I am sorry. Your brother was not with Turufe. He has to be with my other brother Ore unfortunately. He is the meanest of the three.

Anya grows weary and sits down. Awed sits down in front of her and looks to her concernedly.

AWED

I take it that you are tired and hungry?

ANYA

Yes, but I can't forget that I am still in search of my brother.

AWED

I haven't forgotten about him. I understand completely how important family is.

EXT. ROCKY PATH - DAY

Awed accompanies Anya along the path to the orange and red light. Anya, Misha, and Awed walk across a rocky terrain which slows their advancement. Anya loses balance as she walks. Awed looks at Anya with a puzzled look.

ANYA

What the heck! These rocks are so annoying!

AWED

Why don't you relax and take your time? No need to be too much in a hurry.

Anya steadies her pace and makes firm steps.

(CONTINUED)

AWED

You see, hard to get off balance if you take it one step at a time.

ANYA

I wish I was not clumsy...

AWED

Why do you say that?

ANYA

I wanted to to grow up doing something with finesse and elegance, but its too hard for me.

Anya looks away from Awed.

AWED

What something might that be?

ANYA

Ballet...

AWED

I think you would make an excellent ballerina.

Anya's face turns peach pink all over.

AWED (CONT'D)

You seem to be relentless wanting to find your brother. You freaking convinced a bear to journey with you, and you went head on with my monster brothers. I think you just need that same amount of persistence when learning ballet. Passion in the world is what divides the optimists from the people who are content.

ANYA

So you are saying I should get out of my comfort zone?

AWED

This whole time you already have. A meek girl such as yourself would never go out here on a limb for an adventure. Yet, here you are.

Awed pauses and suddenly starts laughing.

(CONTINUED)

AWED (CONT'D)

Sorry, I'm talking way too much again.

ANYA

No, not at all.

EXT. COLD DESOLATE AREA, NORTHERN GATE - DAY

Anya, Misha, and Awed reach a gate that blocks the way. Awed looks at Anya with distraught.

AWED

May I see the camera in which you possess?

ANYA

How do you know I have a camera?

AWED

Now is not the time to be asking questions.

Anya takes out the camera obscura from her pocket and hands it to Awed. Awed quickly runs away out of sight from Anya. Anya struggles to run and follow. Misha follows behind Anya. Anya continues to run until she finds the camera obscura that lays on the floor. Anya picks up the camera obscura and the third smallest matryoshka doll begin to radiate with a gold glow. She notices that there are only three matryoshka dolls which are the top largest. Anya walks back to the direction of the gate. As Anya approaches the gate, the bright matryoshka doll reacts with the gate and opens it. Anya begins to feel petrified, but shakes her head with a grin of confidence. Anya proceeds past the gate and the orange and red light start to illuminate brighter the closer she walks to its direction. Anya begins to walk sluggish. Misha moves his head down.

ANYA (CONT'D)

You want me to ride you?

Misha nods his head. Anya jumps on Misha. Misha runs quickly through the gate.

EXT. COLD FOREST AREA - DAY

Anya rides on Misha's back in a rapid pace. Other wild animals are around and stare at them as they pass through.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Anya and Misha sleep beside each other. Misha is in pain.

EXT. COLD FOREST AREA - DAY

Misha runs but starts to feel drained and stops at a river. Anya falls off of Misha's back. Misha lays on the floor lifeless. Anya hugs Misha's corpse and cries on it.

EXT. RIVER - DAY

Anya looks up optimistically and walks over to the river. Before she could try to drink from the river, a MINER, 23, ruggedly handsome but coalish all around interrupts her.

MINER

I would not do that if I were you!
This water is already contaminated
from acid mine drainage.

Anya stops herself before she touches the acid water. She looks at the miner and nods.

ANYA

I'm sorry, but I feel so tired,
hungry, and thirsty...

MINER

Drinking that will not help one
bit. You are more likely to be in
extreme pain from the burning
sensation and then you won't be
able to eat at all.

Miner laughs cynically. Anya looks at Miner with a disturbed look.

ANYA

Excuse me! I am in a bit of a rush
and cannot stall for any longer. Do
you know how I can get to that
orange and red light up ahead?

Anya points to the light straight ahead.

MINER (CONT'D)

Normally I would tell people I see
to scam and leave me alone, but I
am feeling generous today. I
suppose I could help accompany you
to that light. Follow me!

EXT. MINE SHAFT ENTRANCE - DAY

Miner walks around the river to a hidden mine shaft. Anya attentively follows from behind. She trips on a rock and falls on her knees onto some sharp rocks. Her knees have scratches and some blood against her pants. Miner looks down at Anya with dismay.

ANYA
OWW! That really hurt!

MINER
Little girl, watch your step next time.

Anya gets teary eyed, but shakes it off.

MINER (CONT'D)
I hope you are not a crybaby. I hate babies so much...

Miner reconvenes to the route intended earlier. Anya dishearteningly follows the miner.

ANYA (V.O.)
I am doing this for you Fyodor...

INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY

Miner continues through inside the mine shaft. Anya follows, but the tunnel starts to get darker. She loses sight of the Miner and panics worriedly.

ANYA
Mister! I can't see you...hello!

The dark area is silent besides the sound of waterdrops.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Mister! This isn't funny! I don't like being alone!

Anya carefully walks forward in hopes that she can find her way through. She remembers about the bright matryoshka doll and takes it out. The area lights up minimally but just enough so she can see where she walks. She attempts to yell out to the miner again.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Hello Mister! You there!

Familiar haunting noises start to emerge.

(CONTINUED)

ANYA (V.O.)

No, I hope its not them again...

Serpent and Spat noisily makes an appearance. Serpent looks at Anya excitedly.

SERPENT

Well we meet again little girl!

SPAT

GIVE US THE DOLLS!

ANYA

How did you find me?

SERPENT

Our big brother lead us to you. He is capable of many things your young mind couldn't possibly comprehend.

ANYA

WHERE IS MY BROTHER!

Anya clenches her hand into a fist and stares at Serpent furiously.

SERPENT

You want to fight me?

Serpent laughs hysterically. He stops his laughter immediately and looks at Anya with a serious tone.

SERPENT (CONT'D)

I may not resort to barbaric ways of thinking, but I surely CAN and WILL spank you.

Serpent walks angrily towards Anya. Before he can get up close to Anya, the bright matryoshka doll stops the glow it illuminates and Awed and Turufe are revealed out of the doll that glow vibrantly. Turufe blocks Serpent and pushes him back.

TURUFE

It is wonderful to see you again brother.

SERPENT

You go to hell!

AWED

Calm down all of you! There is no need for family to fight like this.

SERPENT

Yes there is, we never agree and have different interests.

AWED

It is because the three of you act selfish and violent. Why did you murder all of the people on that ship? Is it not enough to just be peaceful? YOU ARE ALL ANIMALS!

SERPENT

That is why I never liked you brother. You never let us do what we want or feel my choices are righteous. The captain was a wretched swine. YOU ALWAYS KEEP PUSHING US DOWN!

AWED

It does not mean you should be the one who decides if he lives or dies. I restrain you all because I care about my family and I cry for the ones I love.

Spat charges at Awed but Turufe jumps in the way and takes the blow.

SPAT

Why don't you just shut up!

AWED

Brother, is this how you wish to resolve our differences? By hurting one another?

SPAT

I know no other way! I AM A WARRIOR!

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

FLASHBACK: Spat spectates with Serpent a tied up Turufe who looks inhumanely chastised.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

Ore appears from the darkness and menacingly stares at Turufe.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

Spat looks away in disapproval of Turufe's condition.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

Awed appears and feels outraged towards Ore.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

Serpent surprise attacks Awed from behind and Ore delivers a blow that knocks Awed unconscious.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - NIGHT

Ore instructs Spat of how to deal with Awed's body.

EXT. MT. PURGATORY - DAY

Spat carries Awed off to the distance.

INT. MINE SHAFT - DAY

PRESENT: Awed and Turufe loudly engages in combat with Serpent and Spat. Serpent uses his intellect and speed to confuse Awed and Turufe. He sprints in a circle around the two which creates a gale wind that places them in a quagmire. Spat uses his super strength to lift a boulder and hurls it at the two while they are trapped within the gale. Turufe dissipates the gale wind with an outflow of cold air. Awed stops the boulder in the air with his mind. The four continue to fight vigorously and make an uproar in the cave.

INT. MINE SHAFT - NIGHT

Anya strays off away from the danger. She encounters her brother Fyodor. Fyodor stands idly still and looks down at the floor. Anya looks at Fyodor cheerfully and excited to give him a hug.

(CONTINUED)

ANYA
Brother! I missed you!

Fyodor continues to remain quiet but reaches for a pickaxe on the dark floor. Anya immediately becomes distressed and unsure if he can trust Fyodor.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Brother, why won't you say anything to me? Are you there?

Anya begins to get teary eyed in disappointment. Fyodor then chases after Anya with a pickaxe. Anya runs the opposite direction in fear.

ANYA (CONT'D)
You're not my brother!

Anya trips clumsily and falls to the floor. Fyodor strikes Anya on the left knee with the pickaxe. Anya screams in agony as her leg is wounded by the hit. Anya looks at Fyodor with pain and misery.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Brother please don't hurt me anymore...

Fyodor's eyes become full of tears as he raises the pickaxe high. He struggles to keep himself still. He refuses to strike Anya and his body shakes. Fyodor momentarily swings the pickaxe to throw it away to the corner. Fyodor passes out on the floor. Anya's eyes become soaked with teary sadness.

ANYA (CONT'D)
BROTHER!!!

Ore comes out of the body of Fyodor indignantly.

ORE
WHAT A USELESS BABY! I HATE BABIES
THAT DO NOT ADHERE TO ME!

Awed charges at Ore and pushes him to the corner with Turufe, Serpent, and Spat.

AWED
Welcome to the family reunion
brother! Anya quickly, use your
camera obscura to take a picture!

ORE
YOU ARE AN IDIOT! IS THIS WORTH IT?

Anya snaps all five of the ghostly brothers with a one shot flash which suction them into the largest doll. The matryoshka doll suddenly irradiates and bursts. Anya cries in agony as the dark cave opens and reveals the orange and red light.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

A YOUNG GIRL, 16, screams while on a metal table and constricted to it. A back alley light spotlights her in the darkness. Metal tools lay on a tray on a table beside the young girl. The young girl struggles, but faints. A YOUNG BOY, 16, runs to the girl and kisses her forehead while he holds her hand. The young girl opens her eyes halfway and looks at the young boy.

YOUNG BOY

I'm sorry baby. This cruel world is unsparing and inhumane. Now I can't even have you...I love you...

YOUNG GIRL

Spasibo...

The young girl's eyes slowly close. The young boy weeps beside her.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Anya sleeps on her MOTHER's lap while she holds a Misha teddy bear. Fyodor sleeps on his FATHER's lap. Anya wakes up after she hears a CLICK from a camera that comes from a man that resembles Awed who takes a picture of his family of brothers that resemble Turufe, Ore, Spat, and Serpent.

ANYA

Mama! Papa!

FATHER

Shhh...

MOTHER

Spokonoi nochi.

Anya smiles, and returns to sleep.

FADE OUT