

# **SWAP & SHOP**

**Pilot**

**Written by**

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EXT. CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

With the sun just beginning its burn through the smog, a beat-up delivery truck chugs down a street, strong with three story brick buildings.

Shops on the bottom floor bloom with colorful advertisements, tough guy town capitalistic flowers.

A screech of tires and the truck turns into an alley, tailpipe backfiring, right at the "Ukrainian Village" neighborhood sign.

To the right of the alley three shops bunch together, Kasia's delicatessen, the Swap and Shop pawn shop and Taras' Check Cashers.

A yellow and blue striped coffin size flag, Sails High above the Swap and Shop.

From the upstairs open windows we hear a man screaming.

AUUGGHHHHH! AUUUUUGGGHHHH!!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

COLONEL MAXIM POPOV, a brutish faced barrel chested Ukrainian man of fifty five sits up in bed and wipes the sweat from his forehead as he tries to catch his breath.

Lying beside him, with her head flat on the bed, no pillow, staring up unblinking at the ceiling JENNIFER DEMCHENKO a cutesy blonde hard featured woman in her early thirties lets out a long sigh. She flings an arm over the side of the bed trying to grasp the blanket pile back up to her.

SMACK, SMACK, SMACK! A hand slaps the door from the other side.

ANNA POPOV a sixteen year old girl with tomboy looks and charm whomps the door again.

SMACK!

JENNIFER  
(Slight Ukrainian accent)  
Just open the door for god sakes.

ANNA (O.S.)  
(Ukrainian accent)  
Is he OK?

JENNIFER

Oh God, he's fine, always fine. Are you fine?

ANNA (O.S.)

Are you sure it's not his hip?

JENNIFER

Would it matter.

Jennifer reaches with a clumsy stretch over to the nightstand grabs a cigarette and lights it, still staring up at the ceiling.

The Colonel stretches his arms wide above his head.

ANNA (O.S.)

Hello?

Jennifer takes a long drag then puffs perfect smoke rings to the cracked plaster above her.

EXT. CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

BOYKA a stunning eighteen year old woman wearing a bouncing halter top and skimpy shorts, sprints up the side walk. Her high heels and clutch bag swinging wild in her hands.

BOYKA

(squinting and out of breath)

Come on, come on... Fucking sun.

RAWUCH, RAWUCH, RAWUCH RAWUCH RAWUCH!

A vicious mutt dog bolts out of nowhere barking and snapping at Boyka, barely missing the bottom of her shorts just above her leg line as the mongrel yanks back from it's chain

BOYKA (CONT'D)

I'm gonna kill you someday...

Boyka sprints past the Swap & Shop, past Kasia's deli and rips down the alley.

She spins right up the back alley, a frantic hand digging in her clutch as she hops skips to a halt in front of a back graffitied door.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

Where are my damn keys...

Boyka suddenly just kicks the expletive painted door hard with the sole of her barefoot and it swings open into a violent thud.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

SMACK, SMACK, SMACK!

ANNA (O.S.)

Hello?

Jennifer sits up banging her head against an ornate carved headboard as she slips on the red satin sheets.

JENNIFER

ебать (FUCK)

ANNA (O.S.)

He needs his pill if it's his hip.  
The yellow one.

JENNIFER

Oh I'll give him a blue one.

ANNA

No!

The Colonel swings his sagging muscular arms in front of him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Hell-OH!

JENNIFER

How about two blue ones.

ANNA (O.S.)

Best nurse ever... We need to be  
downstairs in half an hour.

JENNIFER

Really, all of us?

ANNA

Sorry for bothering your beauty  
sleep, but it's only opening day  
once. Lets go Colonel!

SMACK, SMACK, SMACK!

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

In a cramped kitchen ANNA dressed in tennis shoes, nice slacks and a colorful flowered blouse bumps into a still out of breath Boyka as they hurry to scrounge up some breakfast. Boyka swings open the fridge whacking Anna in the butt hard with the door.

ANNA

Hey.

BOYKA

(Ukrainian accent)

Why did you eat my last yogurt?

ANNA

Like YOU ever eat breakfast. Your Monistat 7 is still in the butter drawer, eat that.

Boyka slams the fridge door shut.

BOYKA

Oh a comedian like Zelenskyy. Play the piano with your dick. You going to President someday?

ANNA

I'm the only one in the family with an IQ that qualifies.

BOYKA

But everyone would so vote for me and you know it.

Boyka turns around the room slow giving a pageant light bulb wave.

Anna launches up a knife from her hot buttered toast, swinging it as Boyka bends her head back.

ANNA

Spell Zelenskyy I dare you. Hell spell Monistat, or even seven.

BOYKA

In English?

ANNA

Mom always said to me "survive in the modern world, if you make money you'll have to speak perfect English to eventually wind up in American."

BOYKA  
To Anna the favorite.

ANNA  
(looking Boyka up and down  
disapprovingly)  
You should have paid more attention  
in religious class then.

LILIA eleven dressed in a sundress and tennis shoes, bounds into the kitchen and grabs a bowl of cereal on the kitchen counter.

LILIA  
Hide the pork rinds and Funyuns. I  
heard the Colonel stirring.

ANNA  
Ah yes, the Chicago salad.

Lilia swings open the fridge bopping Boyka in the butt.

LILIA  
Oh come on, there's no milk.

BOYKA  
Use some water, why's it bother you  
now?

ANNA  
Just eat it dry this morning and  
hurry.

LILIA  
Like a cow?

ANNA  
No I said to hurry.

Lilia slams the bowl down on the counter, Boyka kicks the fridge door shut with her heel.

Lilia scoops up a handful of cereal and shoves it in and chews it chomping with her mouth wide open.

BOYKA  
See Trix are for kids.

LILIA  
The witty sayings of my flight risk  
sister.

Boyka raises her hand likes she's going to womp Lilia.

ANNA

Mom would have had us all eating  
the same thing with a smile on her  
face.

BOYKA

With half a pint of vodka chaser.

Anna looks towards the ceiling shaking her head.

Boyka pours the last bit of a pot of coffee into her mug that  
reads, "I'm Not Flirting, I'm Just Hot and Talking."

ANNA

How can you eat just coffee? Your  
boobs must be full of it like a--  
camel toe to camel boobs.

LILIA

Hey when do I get my training bra?

BOYKA

It's a hand-me-down and Anna's not  
done with it yet.

Boyka flashes Anna a sarcastic smile then turns and pats  
Lilia on the head.

Anna grabs some salt quick and shakes it into Boyka's coffee  
while she's not looking.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

Anna can't help it she's build like  
a Pixar Mom. Back that dump truck  
up, beep, beep; beep, beep.

Anna looks down at her smart phone like she's unbothered.

ANNA

Dang the Cubs lost again.

Jennifer strolls slow into the kitchen in her half-open  
leopard spotted robe with the belt dragging on the floor.

Boyka takes a mouthful gulp of her coffee rolling her eyes  
towards Anna.

JENNIFER

Well if it isn't Anastasia,  
Drizella and little Cinderella.

Boyka does a spit-take right onto Jennifer's face.

Jennifer, unamused, face dripping with coffee pats Lilia on the head.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
Who doesn't love a good pumpkin  
spice.

BOYKA  
(tongue out trying to  
talk)  
Anna you're dead.

JENNIFER  
(wiping her face with her  
robe belt)  
You're all grounded. Forever.

LILIA  
Colonel!

Anna opens a door on the wall and ducks into a pantry. We can still see her.

BOYKA  
I'm eighteen, good luck with that.

JENNIFER  
And under my roof.

BOYKA  
Who's roof?

JENNIFER  
You're all so very, very precious.

Anna Opens up a coffee can and lifts out a liter bottle of vodka.

BOYKA  
(looking at Jennifer's  
sagging breast halfway  
out of her robe)  
And you're so very, very pretty.

JENNIFER  
Oh Maxie knows so hon.

BOYKA  
Thought you'd be out looking for a  
new goldmine by now. Oh that's  
right you're the golden goose.

JENNIFER  
Lilia make me some eggs, over easy.



BOYKA  
So that's the secret for a thirsty  
taste.

LILIA  
Colonel!

JENNIFER  
And make some scrambled for Boyka.

Anna chugs a gulp of vodka, then blows out to her side as  
quiet as she can shaking her head.

ANNA  
OK everyone lets all put our having  
fun smiles on, it's the first day.

BOYKA  
Yes lets all be one big happy  
family shall we?

LILIA  
Thank you.

BOYKA  
(smiling wide and fake at  
Jennifer)  
After all blood is thicker that  
water.

JENNIFER  
All women know how to get blood out  
of things. That's how we know we  
can get away with murder.

From the kitchen ceiling we hear a THUMP, THUMP THUMP.

INT. TOP OF KITCHEN STAIRWELL DOWN TO SHOP - DAY

Colonel Popov dressed in black shoes and pants, graying white  
socks and a hard starched white shirt, stands atop stair  
steps worn curved in and smooth by decades of caretakers.  
Each caretaker every morning practicing there English under  
there breath as they descended.

Lilia runs up to the Colonel excited, hugging him around his  
waist.

LILIA  
It must be time. This is going to  
be so much fun.

COLONEL  
 (Ukrainian accent)  
 Someday children, all this will be  
 yours maybe.

ANNA  
 That would be nice.

LILIA  
 How's your hip Colonel?

COLONEL  
 Hip is fine child. That was just  
 ghost you'll never have to see.

LILIA  
 That's right you saw them for me.

The whole family starts to gather behind the Colonel.

COLONEL  
 Wait shouldn't you children be in  
 some school?

LILIA  
 It's summer silly.

COLONEL  
 Never silly.

ANNA  
 Endless summer for Boyka. She'll  
 always have her T-bird lifestyle.

BOYKA  
 I can't help you're jealous of my  
 fame.

ANNA  
 Oh please tell us all about your...

Boyka slugs Anna in the shoulder.

COLONEL  
 Alright girls enough. You two get a  
 long like you mean it.

ANNA  
 (smirking at Boyka)  
 Oh I meant it.

Jennifer wearing a bright red skin tight velvet dress slips  
 in between the Colonel and Lilia.

COLONEL  
Oh good you're here.

JENNIFER  
Oh yes lets all go down and wait  
for the meth heads.

COLONEL  
You imagination is bigger than that  
Officer Barbrady's.

JENNIFER  
What?

Lilia turns and grins at Anna.

LILIA  
Told you I'd get him to watch it.

Anna gives Lilia a thumbs up.

COLONEL  
I was just telling the children  
that someday all of this will be  
there's.

JENNIFER  
(sarcastically)  
That would be nice.

COLONEL  
We ready to go down? We have five  
minutes until open.

LILIA  
I think we should say a prayer.

Anna elbows Boyka in the side.

ANNA  
(staring at Boyka)  
Traditional Eastern Orthodox like  
we learned in religious school?

COLONEL  
Our Father, who art in heaven--

LILIA  
No I will say this one.

JENNIFER  
Child you interrupted Maxim.

COLONEL

Oh its Ok I only know the first  
little bit anyway. I always count  
on those joining in.

Lilia smirks at up at Jennifer.

LILIA

Ok here we go.

BOYKA

Don't forget to mention God.

JENNIFER

And the right one.

LILIA

Dear HEAVENLY Father.

The Colonel pats Lilia on the head while Jennifer shrugs her  
bare shoulders.

LILIA (CONT'D)

We thank you for getting us to this  
great country, our old place was  
great to.

COLONEL

Slava Ukraine.

EVERYBODY

Slava Ukraine.

LILIA

And for allowing all of us to still  
be together.

ANNA

Amen.

LILIA

We miss you so much Mommy...

Boyka slides her hand into Anna's and squeezes it tight.

The Colonel bows his head, chin to chest.

Jennifer just stares straight ahead.

(pause)

BOYKA

Go ahead Lilia.

LILIA

And thank you for our new Mommy  
who's like the step-sister who we  
didn't know we wanted.

The Colonel slaps Jennifer on the butt jutting her forward a  
bit close to the edge of the stairwell going down.

The Colonel tries to side-hug Jennifer but she shrugs him  
away.

ANNA

Three minutes...

COLONEL

Slava Ukraine.

Jennifer eye rolls up at the Colonel.

LILIA

And now in this new place I get to  
share a room for the first time  
with all of my sisters, which I  
love.

Anna and Boyka look at each other with fake smiles still  
holding hands.

LILIA (CONT'D)

And also the candy section at  
Municipal Market. You were secretly  
working on the seventh day weren't  
you.

ANNA

(side-eyeing Lilia to  
hurry)

Two minutes...

LILIA

And I wish you were here for this  
Vasyl. You would have bought the  
whole store out with your soldiers  
pay.

COLONEL

He was the best son... The son, the  
son...

(pause)

Sometimes life is as stupid as a  
Russian. Goddamn Gopnik's.

Anna and Boyka unclasp their hand and place them on the  
Colonels shoulders.

Jennifer grabs the Colonels hand and squeezes.

ANNA

It's a disease, a horrible,  
horrible disease.

LILIA

And we must always remember our  
friends and family who have it  
harder than we do and living for  
freedom as we dream at night to  
someday to return.

(pause)

LILIA (CONT'D)

Now we are Americans.

Everyone glances at Lilia in surprise.

ANNA

One minute...

LILIA

And for Anna, Go Cubs Go!

BOYKA

Go Cubs Go.

LILIA

Ok prayer over.

COLONEL

Slav Ukraine!

EVERYBODY

Slava Ukraine!

LILIA

Oh and one more thing--

ANNA

(tersely)

Zero minutes.

LILIA

And God please bless us--

JENNIFER

There it is.

Lilia tilts her eyes up at the ceiling.

LILIA

And God please extra special bless  
us.

(pause)

Everyone beams over at lilia.

LILIA (CONT'D)

'cause we don't know shit about  
swap shops.

INT. SWAP SHOP - DAY

The Popov's burst down and out of the stairwell. Lilia leads them through an opening in a very old and ornate wood and glass shelved counter filled with jewelry, watches and sports cards, running down the length of the linear Swap Shop.

On the other side of the shop various items from TV's, laptops, musical instruments and statues cram onto wooden shelves.

A high shelf all around the shop holds oddities and folk craft. Mirrors and art cover the walls.

The back area open but cluttered and filled with items ranging from a blowtorch, amplifiers, fur coats and an ATM machine in front of a chained back door. The glass front door has two windows on each side plastered with lost animal posters and neighborhood event announcements.

Two worn red Persian rugs cover the floor in the center walkway.

LILIA

I should start watching all of  
these DVD's to make sure they work.

BOYKA

We're going to need a model for  
these fur coast on the website and  
the Gram.

ANNA

Tinder too Boyka?

Jennifer just stands in the middle of the front Persian rug with her arms folded tight in front of her.

Boyka snaps a selfie next to the extravagant coats.

COLONEL

Nothing leaves the floor unless the money is paid.

LILIA

We have an original Yoda set production model? Is this on eBay?

JENNIFER

You all have know idea how this shop makes money.

ANNA

(rolling her eyes)

Well because I'm sixteen now I went ahead and YouTubed and researched that we should buy items at twenty percent of their new price. Look that up on the laptop on the counter. Do not sell the computer.

JENNIFER

(overly sincere)

Oh that's how it makes money alright.

COLONEL

If the customer is a douche go down to ten to five percent.

Anna side-eyes the Colonel.

ANNA

Everything depends on the condition. The interest rate is ten percent on the cash paid out.

COLONEL

If they don't pick up there stuff in one week we sell it.

ANNA

Thirty days Colonel and we'll have a grace period.

COLONEL

No one says grace anymore.

BOYKA

So do I get paid for our social media?



COLONEL

We do need a fun commercial like  
Taras has.

LILIA

I want to wear the gorilla suit in  
the commercial.

JENNIFER

That air-conditioner sure is loud.

LILIA

Hey here comes someone.

BOYKA

No that's just the dude that takes  
his morning poop in the alley  
around the corner.

LILIA

Social media that shit.

JENNIFER

Well business seems to be hopping,  
think I'll go plan my Greek  
vacation.

COLONEL

People always need money and they  
always have items to sell. And we  
HAVE to sell the stuff. We are not  
a museum. In and out as fast as  
possible we are cash starved.

LILIA

And they're desperate.

ANNA

Well I think it might help if  
someone flipped the open sign  
around on the front door.

LILIA

I got it!

Lilia prances up and flips the sign to open.

BOYKA

Funny how business works.

JENNIFER

I don't think criminals get up  
before noon. All night out stealing  
stuff to sell.

BOYKA  
Where are the security camera's?

COLONEL  
If you ever met Baba--

JENNIFER  
Watch it she tried to be nice.

COLONEL  
If nice was grim reaper level.

Jennifer glares at the Colonel with a smirk, she pulls down slow on the top of her velvet dress snugging it into dangerous cleavage depths.

The door suddenly swings open almost whacking into Lilia.

A scroungy thin man with greasy unwashed hair stumbles up next to a horrified Jennifer.

SCROUNGER  
I have to use your bathroom.

Jennifer spins out of the way as the Colonel steps up.

COLONEL  
NO!

Lilia clomps to the back of the shop.

ANNA  
Sir I apologize but the restroom is for employees only.

JENNIFER  
And family members.

BOYKA  
Dude you need a makeover team, Like from that Barbie movie.

Scrounger man starts to bend over then squats down moaning.

COLONEL  
You shit on my rug and I'll rip your head off--

LILIA  
And shit down your throat.

Boyka smiles back at Lilia.

ANNA

Lilia behave.

JENNIFER

Yes child, behave.

SCROUNGER

You have to let me, it's the law, I have a card.

JENNIFER

Oh come on a card? A little poop emoji on it?

Scrounger man flips out a well worn dirty card holding it up from his squat.

Anna squints down at the faded stained card.

ANNA

Looks legit. Issued by the state of Illinois. Says he has a Crohn's disease.

COLONEL

(hands on hips)

He's going to have groins disease if he doesn't get up out of my shop.

Jennifer rolls her shoulders.

ANNA

We have to let him, it's the law.

BOYKA

I can show him where the alley is.

Scrounger groans as he starts to stand up.

SCROUNGER

I am going to report this and you will have to pay thousands in fines. Thanks for the pony.

JENNIFER

They will never find your body.

BLOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAPPPPPP!!!

Scrounger man lets out a Richter scale juicy fart.

Anna suddenly slaps her hand to her face and spins away.

ANNA  
(muffled)  
Save yourselves...

BOYKA  
(running to the back)  
The furs are melting, melting...

JENNIFER  
(through gritted teeth)  
You're going to hell dude.

Jennifer claps her heels and hurries up the stairs.

JENNIFER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Maxie I'm to young for this.

Lilia zig zags to the back.

LILIA  
Finally admits it.

SCROUNGER  
OH MY! I feel SO much better. Wow,  
I think that did the trick.

The Colonel standing at attention, face grimaced, lips tight suddenly throws up through his nose.

His chest heaves up and down, sloppy chunks blowing out of his nose with each expanse of his chest, a borscht Jackson Pollack dripping down his crisp white shirt.

Anna furiously waves her hand in front of her face.

ANNA  
(choking a bit)  
Well thank you for stopping by. We  
were going to let you use it you  
know.

Anna reaches over to a shelf and snatches a DVD.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
(through a cough)  
Here have this on the house, enjoy  
the rest of you day.

Scrounger holds up the Dumb and Dumber CD.

BOYKA  
(laugh burst)  
HA!

SCROUNGER

How much do you buy DVD's for?

COLONEL

(half digested pierogi  
flying off his lips)

GET OUT!

Scrounger scurries towards the door.

DING, DING.

The door swings open, ringing the little bell above.

He wiggle his butt on the way out the door.

Boyka starts whirling her arm around in the air spraying perfume, causing the Colonel to cough and spittle.

Anna glares back at Boyka.

ANNA

And somehow you know and have the  
scent that masks ass.

Lilia suddenly pops up from behind an amplifier wearing a World War One gas mask.

LILIA

Hey these things really do work.

INT. SWAP SHOP - DAY

With the only sound being the air-conditioner rattling, the Colonel and Boyka sit slumped on stools behind the counter. The Colonel staring straight ahead and Boyka with her nose in her phone scrolling through selfies of her with items in the shop.

Anna dusts off the TV's.

COLONEL

Jennifer refused to eat lunch. Says  
her tongue taste like a burnt  
marshmallow.

BOYKA

Well I've taken a picture of  
everything and got them up on the  
Gram.

ANNA

I'm sure that will help eventually.  
How many shots are you in?

COLONEL

We need people in the shop now,  
even criminals. We need soldiers on  
the dollar march.

ANNA

We had one customer.

COLONEL

We're lucky the mirrors didn't  
break. That was not a customer.

BOYKA

He left with something.

DING, DING.

In strolls DAVANTE, an African American man in his late  
twenties dressed in a yellow track suit and blue Jordans.

COLONEL

Ah our first customer, welcome,  
welcome.

DAVANTE

Thanks old man. Jennifer around?

COLONEL

Jennifer? She's my wife.

DAVANTE

I'm Davante, I mentioned I'd be  
stopping back by.

Davante notices Boyka stretching up from her stool.

DAVANTE (CONT'D)

But you can forget I even mentioned  
her.

Anna walks up with her hands on her hips.

ANNA

Ah that male gaze of sincerity.

BOYKA

Hey.

Davante puts his hands up in the air.

DAVANTE

Hey I haven't even played a song yet.

COLONEL

You're a musician? You can't trust a musician.

DAVANTE

Just a business man Pop.

COLONEL

You selling or pawning?

ANNA

I think he wants to put a flyer in the window for his band right?.

DAVANTE

I just stopped in to make sure you folks are settled in, just making sure you're safe.

Davante winks at Boyka and smirks.

ANNA

Well I don't know about Boyka here but we're safe.

COLONEL

Safe from who, you?

DAVANTE

Oh no not me, just people in the neighborhood. You know so much crime, some real bad dudes. From gangs to shop lifters.

ANNA

So dudettes can't commit crimes.

Davante leering, looks Boyka up and down, his bottom lip curling in.

DAVANTE

Becky's be commitin' all kinds of crimes just by being.

The Colonel steps out from behind the counter and statues himself next to Anna.

ANNA

Well do tell us how this works.  
'cause we don't know nothin' about  
protecting our babies.

Davante whips around from Boyka, his eyes burning into Anna  
all his teeth showing with the corners of his mouth up like  
the jokers.

DAVANTE

You'd better be careful Thick. I'm  
thinking your speech is a bit  
racist.

BOYKA

Hey only I call her thick.

ANNA

I think you'd best better be gone  
with the wind.

DAVANTE

See there it is again, just a  
little racist. I am never wrong.  
That's one thing about me. Right or  
wrong, I'm never wrong.

COLONEL

Shakedown won't work here ghetto  
man.

DAVANTE

Ghetto man?  
(laughing)  
You'd better watch it Pops, word is  
you got hurt in a war.

ANNA

How do you know that?

The Colonel nudges Anna back.

COLONEL

I'll break things you never knew  
you had!

DAVANTE

Well now,  
(shaking his head looking  
Boyka up and down)  
I would just hate to see any of  
your sweet honey you have here go  
stale and hard.



A barefoot Jennifer suddenly appears from the stairwell wearing jeans shorts and bikini top with one cup blue and the other one yellow.

JENNIFER

What are you breaking Maxie?

BOYKA

Just hearts.

DAVANTE

Well Slav Ukraine, Slava Ukraine.

JENNIFER

(smiling and adjusting her  
bikini top)

Oh Hi.

COLONEL

OUT NOW! OUT NOW!

DAVANTE

All this fine Ukrainian honey  
spilled all over the floor, such a  
waste, what a waste. Well I'll be  
black.

(laughs loud)

No wait, I'll be back. One G a  
month, keep that honey sweet now.

COLONEL

I'd rather pay the Alderman than  
you. A better class of scum.

DAVANTE

Business is just business.

COLONEL

(face borscht beet red)

One!

Davante backs up towards the door while blowing Boyka a kiss.

Jennifer turns sharp, glaring at her.

ANNA

Two!

Davante makes a heart sign with his hands towards Anna.

DAVANTE

(towards Jennifer)

See you around spitter.

JENNIFER

THREE!

DING, DING.

DAVANTE

'cause I am black baby!

Davante spins out the door.

(pause)

BOYKA

Well does that count as the first customer?

Anna gives a side-eye glance towards Jennifer.

ANNA

I'm thinking it does.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Boyka sprints down the sidewalk out of breath curves in full motion.

BOYKA

Hey black man!

Davante turns with an incredulous look on his face.

DAVANTE

Damn honey pot, so WE doin' the cakewalk now?

Boyka runs up to him, sliding her hand up his forearm.

BOYKA

So who you working for Huh?

DAVANTE

Oh I think it would be better if you stayed innocent. You are innocent aren't you?

BOYKA

As innocent as you need me to be.

Davante backs up while holding her slender hand up as he studies every dangerous curve.

DAVANTE

I do believe I get to eat the cake.

BOYKA

We don't have the money, we just don't.

Davante strokes the side of Boyka's face with the back of his hand.

DAVANTE

So we talkin' this just puts it off for a week, or this bite of cake is gonna be paid in full?

BOYKA

Red velvet cake with vanilla frosting means paid in full.

DAVANTE

I gotta bring back the money or the bakery gets mighty mad.

BOYKA

I run the best bakery in Chicago. How good a criminal are you?

DAVANTE

Businessman boo, business man.

Boyka runs her hands over her halter top, pinching her nipples hard, while her eyes roll to the sky.

BOYKA

So much inflation over all these ingredients. I could get you hooked by giving the first bite away for free, but I'm a business woman boo, a business woman.

Davante moves in close to her and she licks his lips with a quick flick of her tongue.

DAVANTE

Damn girl.

BOYKA

Order up for a slice of cake. You will supply the frosting won't you?

Davante backs up from her, blowing out hard.

DAVANTE

Goddamn. I got a place we can go a few blocks over.

BOYKA

How vanilla. The alleys right here.

Boyka turns hip shake walking into the alley, curling her middle finger high in the air for Davante to follow.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

You don't like risky sex? I just love it. You coming?

DAVANTE

You kinky little slut.

BOYKA

You are such a gentleman.

Halfway down the alley Boyka stops.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

Here will do fine.

Davante spins his head looking all around.

DAVANTE

There's no cover here.

BOYKA

Your not getting scared now are you?

DAVANTE

Damn you're freaky wild girl.

BOYKA

Here's the best spot. I can see by your sweatpants banana there that I'm gong to have to take you from behind to get all that in.

DAVANTE

Sweet pants banana?

Boyka pulls up her halter top, her breast bouncing down heavy.

Davante blows out hard looking up the alley at the street.

BOYKA

These bricks right here will give me a better grip. I don't want to break my back. That is what you're going to try to do isn't it? Break my back.

Davante grabs the front of his sweatpants.

DAVANTE

Goddamn girl. I'll have to hurry. I  
wanna take my time enjoying this  
slice.

BOYKA

The best cake you can't help but  
devourer.

DAVANTE

Somebodies gonna see baby.

BOYKA

How many times walking down the  
sidewalk did you look up this  
alley? You might have seen me.

DAVANTE

Oh goddamn, get your shorts down.

BOYKA

(laughing)  
So now you're in a hurry.

Boyka unbuttons the front of her shorts with casual flips of  
her thumb while staring into Davante's eyes.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

You going to get that thing out?  
Too bad there's no time to lick the  
spoon for some batter.

Boyka holder her shorts up with her thumbs through the  
beltloops.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

Showtime lover.

Her shorts fall to the asphalt. Smiling she steps out of  
them.

DAVANTE

Damn girl commando.

Boyka picks her shorts up spins around and sits them against  
the brick wall while looking back at Davante, as he fumbles  
trying to unknot his sweatpants drawstring.

DAVANTE (CONT'D)

Goddamn it.

Boyka bends down and slips her phone out of the back pocket of her shorts just enough for the camera to peek out.

DAVANTE (CONT'D)

Got it.

Boyka grips the brick with her bare ass in the air.

DAVANTE (CONT'D)

I'm gonna pull your hair baby.

BOYKA

If that's what you need to do to get it all the way up in me tight.

Davante stares down the alley at the street.

BOYKA (CONT'D)

Is your Momma looking for you?  
Worried you'll fill up on desert before dinner? Trust me, know one will see us. It's time to cut the cake.

Davante looks down at Boyka as she twerks and thrust her ass.

DAVANTE

Goddamn.

BOYKA

You forget women rule the world because we can walk in heels and shake it.

INT. SWAP SHOP - DAY

BOYKA

Anna! Colonel!

LILIA

I did good huh.

BOYKA

I don't know what you did, Goddamn.  
Anna!

Anna comes stomping down the stairs followed by the Colonel.

ANNA

What happened?

COLONEL

Is that Ghetto man back.

BOYKA

I just came in and well before I  
tell you, you just need to take a  
calm pill, a fistful.

ANNA

(glaring at Boyka)  
What did you do?

LILIA

I bought a watch!

ANNA

You what?

BOYKA

Calm pill please.

COLONEL

Like a toy watch?

LILIA

No a real live real one.

COLONEL

What? Why were you down here by  
yourself?

ANNA

Well excuse me for having to poop  
once in a while, sorry.

LILIA

(confident and happy with  
herself)  
A Rolex 16233.

ANNA

You bought a fucking ROLEX!

COLONEL

It can't be real.

ANNA

Let me see it now.

LILIA

I already put it under the counter  
to sell.

Everyone dashes to the counter.

BOYKA

Oh Wow.

ANNA  
Six thousand dollars?!

BOYKA  
How much did you give them?

LILIA  
One thousand five hundred and  
eighty dollars.

ANNA  
That's all the money we had under  
the register drawer.

The colonel grabs his hip.

COLONEL  
Child, Slava Ukraine...

LILIA  
You said to pay out twenty percent  
of the new value. I looked it up on  
the computer, that I didn't sell,  
and it said a Rolex 16233  
"Champagne dial" is worth seven  
thousand nine hundred dollars.

BOYKA  
So we're rich?

ANNA  
It can't be real. Lilia why didn't  
you come get me?

LILIA  
You said you'd be back in three  
minutes poopy butt.

COLONEL  
Well someone check if it's real!

ANNA  
OK, OK!

Anna runs to the counter and flips the laptop open.

BOYKA  
(staring at the watch  
through the glass)  
It looks real.

Boyka walks around the counter and lifts out the watch.

Anna's intense eyes move back and forth across the screen.



ANNA

Don't drop it. We might be able to sell it for a hundred or something, anything.

LILIA

Uhm hello. I already checked. It's heavy.

COLONEL

Any watch can be the heaviest.

LILIA

Ticking of the second hand.

ANNA

All watches should work that way.

LILIA

I put it up to my ear and heard the mechanical movement.

BOYKA

Like a shell hearing the ocean.

ANNA

Shut up.

Boyka swings the watch on her wrist above her head.

BOYKA

It is heavy.

COLONEL

Break it you buy it.

LILIA

It said Rolex on the dial.

COLONEL

That's the first thing a counterfeiter would get right.

BOYKA

I don't know I dated a boy who had a Rulax.

COLONEL

You are forbidden to date.

ANNA

That cabbage has spoiled.

BOYKA

I love your upside down smile, so perfect for you.

COLONEL

Concentrate.

LILIA

The caseback matched the picture. Serial number deeply engraved.

BOYKA

Shut up you're scaring me.

LILIA

The micro-etching a crown logo at 6 o'clock.

ANNA

The micro-etching a crown logo at 6 o'clock. A tilt of the dial may help bring this to be visible. Give it!

LILIA

(cupping her ear)

Like a shell hearing the ocean.

Anna yanks the watch off of Boyka's wrist almost dropping it.

COLONEL

Careful.

Anna tilts the watch in the light angling it deep trying to eye the etching.

COLONEL (CONT'D)

Is it there? Is it there?

ANNA

Hold on...

COLONEL

Lost the war on the first battle. We sent the children to the zero line. We have to blame ourselves. If only you had bought some vodka Lilia we could have poured one out for the shop.

The Colonel pats Lilia on the head as she rolls her eyes.

ANNA

IT'S REAL, IT'S REAL! WOO!

LILIA  
Told you, told you.

COLONEL  
I was confident. Very confident.  
That's my little girl.

BOYKA  
She's a natural.

ANNA  
Unlike some of us.

The Colonel picks Lilia up and spins her around, holding her in the air looking up at her.

COLONEL  
Don't ever do it again.

The Colonel looks with scorn over at Anna as he sets Lilia down.

ANNA  
Sorry you had to go through that  
Lilia. It was my responsibility to  
watch you. I will never leave you  
alone again.

COLONEL  
I'll make sure of it.

BOYKA  
Looks like she Watched herself.

Anna rolls her eyes.

LILIA  
Uh hello?

ANNA  
I said I was sorry Ok.

LILIA  
Lilia, first customer. Six thousand  
and three hundred and twenty dollar  
profit. I do believe now would be  
the right time to talk about me  
getting an allowance.

INT. SWAP SHOP - DAY

Anna picks up a Pokémon card from off the counter and stares down at the laptop shaking her head.

ANNA  
(to herself)  
There are way to many manboys in  
the world. Become a man go.

She flips the card back onto the glass and snatches up  
another one.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
(incredulous)  
Original Charizard card, three  
hundred and fifteen dollars?

DING, DING.

The front door bell rattle rings and in pops Diego a Puerto  
Rican, African American mix boy of seventeen.

His Keds slap the floor as he strolls up to Anna wearing a  
red men's tank top and baggy blue shorts.

DIEGO  
Look what I got.

ANNA  
A sandwich to pawn? I'm going to  
have to kill you yet.

Diego unfolds open the Kasia's Deli wrapper and holds it up  
to her.

DIEGO  
Spicy Italian! Oh Mama Mia.

ANNA  
Too close, you're always too close.

Anna scrunches her face and waves the leaning tower of  
grinder off.

DIEGO  
But it's your favorite.

ANNA  
I ate it once because I was hungry  
and it was free.

DIEGO  
Well are you hungry? I am. We can  
split it if you want.

ANNA  
My tummy did just grumble a bit.

Diego slaps the sandwich down on top of the Pokémon cards.

DIEGO  
Lets dig in babe.

ANNA  
Hey "BABE", these cards are a geeks  
ransom.

Diego snatches up the sandwich.

DIEGO  
Oo there are some nice one there.  
Hey did you ask your Dad about the  
movies?

ANNA  
(eyes wide)  
Uh... Not now....

DIEGO  
Oh come on he can't be as scary as  
you say he is.

COLONEL (O.S.)  
So you must be the young man that's  
marrying my daughter Anna.

The Colonel launches up from the behind the counter clutching  
his hip with a meaty hand stretched out.

Diego jumps back while jerking his hand straight out and  
slapping his slender hand into the Colonels.

DIEGO  
(face winching)  
Uh well...

COLONEL  
Welcome to the family! Scary good  
grip isn't it.

DIEGO  
Sir we haven't talked about  
marriage yet honest.

ANNA  
Well you better marry me, I'm  
eating for two now. Thanks for all  
the free sandwiches babe.

COLONEL

Well congratulations boy. You'll have to move in with us immediately. You'll stay in me and my wifes room until the nuptials of course.

Diego yanks his hand back smacking himself in the face.

ANNA

Then can you fix us up something nice in the store room we can live in?

DIEGO

I mean I like her... she's nice, not like other girls. I mean I'm in the friends zone. I really think I am honest.

Diego tosses the sandwich to the Colonel as he backs up towards the door.

COLONEL

I don't want to have to kill you. You seem like such a nice young man.

DIEGO

I'm in the friend zone. I wouldn't even know what to name a baby, I wouldn't.

Diego bumps into the glass front door, freezing still.

ANNA

Are you going back to the deli to get me desert BABY?

DIEGO

Oh a sweet cheese pierogi?

ANNA

How about a dozen.

DIEGO

Oh that's a lot...

COLONEL

You're not going to kiss her goodbye? I think that's a rude thing.

DIEGO

Uh... I think that's something she would have to ask me to do.

Diego wipes his forehead with his sweaty hand.

COLONEL

You can take her to the movies. Make sure it's a damn respectful film. And if touch my daughter in any no fly zones--

Diego scrambles, desperately trying to grab the door latch.

COLONEL (CONT'D)

I will rip off your head, mummify it and sell it on that Halloween holiday.

The Colonel take a full taste chomp of spicy Italian, eating with his mouth open and eyes animated.

Diego finally grabs the door handle and cracks the door open for escape.

DIEGO

Pick you up at six?

DING. DING.

ANNA

Six is fine Diego. Thanks for asking.

Diego dashes out of the door bouncing off of the jamb.

COLONEL

Hey next time boy. I don't even like spicy Italian!

Anna and the Colonel both belly laugh.

ANNA

I'm gonna have to marry him now thanks a lot.

INT. SWAP SHOP - DAY

Anna, Lilia and the Colonel are leaning on the counter.

ANNA

I suppose we could dust.

COLONEL  
On the second day?

LILIA  
Do you think that flamethrower back  
there works? We should at least  
test it out.

DING, DING.

In clomps a man in a happy birthday Mr. President sequined  
evening gown, size twelve heels and a black carpet of a five  
O'clock shadow. Fake blonde wig crooked on his head.

MR. PRESIDENT  
(thick Coney Island  
accent)  
Do yous all sell women's clothes?

The Colonel stands up straight.

COLONEL  
State your pronouns Sir.

ANNA  
(smacking the Colonels  
upper arm)  
Colonel, what the hell is wrong  
with you?

COLONEL  
What? I'm being modern. I thought  
that was the thing now.

ANNA  
Mam, blonde is so right for you.

LILIA  
We just have those fur coats in the  
back next to the flamethrower.

MR. PRESIDENT  
Hey that's the Big Boy electric  
diesel.

Mr. President pigeons toed heel hops back to the sparker.

LILIA  
I love the bedazzled shoulder  
strap. Adds something just right  
for you. How does ten percent off  
sound to you.



ANNA

Lilia...

MR. PRESIDENT

Prometheus Industries make some of the best stuff.

COLONEL

I've toasted many a Russian with one almost like it. Instant pork rinds.

ANNA

Colonel! Sorry he likes to kid.

COLONEL

The truth is a teenager.

LILIA

A pig will eat a person... just saying.

Mr. President looks very surprised.

Lilia rambles over to the DVD's picking up a copy of Scarface.

MR. PRESIDENT

Does it work? Did you test it out?

LILIA

They wouldn't let me.

ANNA

Uh, no we couldn't test it out. City ordinance won't allow it.

MR. PRESIDENT

City ordinance? The mans always after you.

LILIA

I'm sure it works or it wouldn't be here.

MR. PRESIDENT

I got to know before I buy it. I'm flying back tomorrow. I need it for a barbeque. My Mom is coming for a visit. I'm gonna roast a hog in a pit.

LILIA  
(quietly to herself)  
TSA anyone...

ANNA  
Aren't you a good--

COLONEL  
Modern person.

MR. PRESIDENT  
Well Spamlton is house broken now  
so I'm torn. I've sort have become  
attached to the pig guy.

COLONEL  
Oh a live hog.

MR. PRESIDENT  
Bought him at a farmers market on  
sale. He's so cute.

LILIA  
Bacon is a mans best friend...

ANNA  
I see how you can see that.

LILIA  
A new member of the family.

COLONEL  
If she is anything like you Mom  
will love him.

MR. PRESIDENT  
You know you're right. You all are  
so nice.

COLONEL  
I'm always right.

Anna side-eyes the Colonel as Mr. President sashays towards  
the door.

ANNA  
Well we look forward to seeing you  
again.

DING, DING.

MR. PRESIDENT  
They sexy man they.

Mr. President blows the Colonel a kiss as they spin out the door.

COLONEL  
What was that? They? What's a they?

LILIA  
They can be my Step-Mom.

ANNA  
Oh just one of your modern things.

COLONEL  
Oh I get it now.

LILIA  
(with a DVD behind her  
back)  
I'm gonna go upstairs and watch a  
movie.

COLONEL  
Good that Disney plus is expensive  
get all you can out of it.

INT. SWAP SOP - DAY

Anna is brushing the counter with a feather duster with long  
animated swings.

DING, DING.

Diego dashes in with an armful of bags.

DIEGO  
Hey.

ANNA  
For horses.

DIEGO  
Running out on deliveries, but I've  
got a take out order that wasn't  
picked up you want it?

Diego flips the paper bag up on the counter.

ANNA  
Old food again, how chivalrous.  
Maybe I'll start a day old deli.

DIEGO  
It's driving me crazy about being  
with you at the movies tonight.

ANNA  
It's just a movie.

DIEGO  
Eating popcorn, my arm around you  
who know what could happen.

Anna squirts some lotion on her hand from the bottle next to  
the register and rubs it in.

ANNA  
(smirking)  
Oh who knows what could happen.

DIEGO  
You women are always lotioning why  
is that?

Anna points the bottle at Diego and squeezes hard landing a  
spiral of cream over his whole face.

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
(laughing hysterically)  
You unicorn syrupeed me.

ANNA  
Huh, what did you say?

DIEGO  
Unicorn syrup.

ANNA  
How?

DIEGO  
When my Mom gave me the sex talk  
she called the-- UH the demon, I  
mean the semen-- She called it  
unicorn syrup.

ANNA  
You have a therapist right?

DIEGO  
Yes I've had massages but not with  
unicorn syrup.

ANNA  
I never want to meet your Mom.

DING, DING.

Boyka flounces in and up to the counter.

BOYKA  
Oh hi Diego.

Anna glances up at her with a Kubrick stare.

DIEGO  
So enjoy the sandwich and it's not  
spicy Italian so if your Dad wants  
it that's great.

Diego scrunches the bags up and jaunts towards the door.

DING, DING.

DIEGO (CONT'D)  
See you at five.

ANNA  
Six!

DIEGO  
Five fifteen!

BOYKA  
That boy likes you a lot. Like way  
a lot.

ANNA  
Everyone likes to eat.

BOYKA  
He won't even look at me.

ANNA  
Oh yeah, he just can't keep his  
stare off of me. I've hypnotized  
him into a mad love.

BOYKA  
He likes you so much he doesn't  
want to risk taking a chance  
getting caught looking at me and  
making you mad.

ANNA  
I don't think you're giving  
yourself enough credit in how much  
you think of yourself.

BOYKA

Or he could just have a mad thing  
for Chunkaton butts.

ANNA

Skin to win. Isn't that your  
mantra?

BOYKA

You sexual consent form needs its  
own publisher.

ANNA

If it wasn't for unicorn syrup  
you'd have no life.

Boyka snatches her phone up out of her back pocket.

BOYKA

You are to weird, but check this  
out.

Boyka strolls around to Anna on the other side of the counter  
and hold the phone up for her to see.

Anna's eyes go wide like a full moon as she slaps the screen  
away from her.

ANNA

You told me you stopped.

BOYKA

Oh you weren't complaining when I  
paid the bribe to the state  
mitigation service to get us the  
hell out of--

ANNA

So is this for?

BOYKA

Well to start with we won't be  
paying that protection money ever.

ANNA

You promised you stopped. You  
promised, you promised, you  
promised.

BOYKA

We shouldn't have to be extorted,  
this is America.

ANNA

People suck you just have to deal with it.

BOYKA

And I dealt with it.

ANNA

Dangerously and desperately.

BOYKA

Oh I'm never desperate.

ANNA

If the Colonel ever finds out.

The Colonel appears at the bottom of the stairs.

COLONEL

If the Colonel ever finds out what?

BOYKA

Well like you taught me I will never rat anyone out, but I don't know about Anna here. Is she loyal?

Boyka flashes a wide grin at Anna.

ANNA

Well I didn't want to say anything earlier

(pause)

And I know it's going to make you really mad. And as a parent it's going to be difficult, almost impossible to deal with.

(pause)

BOYKA

Loyalty is something when it explodes tends to have catastrophic collateral damage.

ANNA

Breaking out your three dictionary words.

COLONEL

Somebody tell me then hide me from you step-mother.

ANNA

Ninety seven degrees?

COLONEL  
On the dot now tell me!

BOYKA  
The sacrifice.

ANNA  
Lilia is upstairs watching the  
movie Scarface. There I said it.

BOYKA  
I'm so glad your conscience is  
clear, don't you feel better?

COLONEL  
(laughing)  
Oh, I was just up watching it with  
her. That movie is hilarious. "say  
hello to my little friend". What a  
comedy of comedies.

DING, DING.

ANNA  
(turning toward the door)  
It's not even three yet Diego--

Tarus burst in wearing a fluffy white fur coat over his pink  
track suite. His black Niki Ramaleo heels scraping the floor.

TARUS  
(Ukrainian accent)  
Three O'clock, time for vodka?

ANNA  
(to herself)  
It's eighty five degrees out.

The colonel, chest puffed up, parades to the middle of the  
shop.

BOYKA  
That fur coat.

ANNA  
(under her breath)  
The Great Gatsby called and wants  
it book back.

COLONEL  
This is a legitimate business we  
have no vodka for you. Not even the  
cheap stuff.



TARUS  
Someday I'll cash that check,  
POPOV!

COLONEL  
Bouncing like a ball. So why are  
you just about to leave?

BOYKA  
I love your coat. Is that mink.

TARUS  
White artic fox and you should try  
covering up with one.

ANNA  
Nice, endangered species coat are  
all the rage.

TARUS  
We are all endangered if we try  
hard enough. Speaking of which.  
(pause)

Tarus squeezes his hands together into a tight fist and rings  
them together.

TARUS (CONT'D)  
My protection man stopped by--

COLONEL  
Oh yes protected for life. We gave  
him everything we had, bottled  
water to.

TARUS  
It takes ten days to die of thirst.

The Colonel steps hard towards Tarus.

COLONEL  
Your lips do seem a bit chapped.

TARUS  
Well he told me you practically  
kissed him out of gratitude.

Anna glances around at Boyka shaking her head.

COLONEL  
Never! All rats eventually drown in  
the sewer.

TARUS

Well he said you arranged weekly installments.

Anna grabs Boyka's hand and starts to bend her finger back hard.

COLONEL

That ghetto man was so scared to tell you he failed and paid you himself. Now get out.

TARUS

Why so hostile. We are neighbors.

The colonel just stares at Tarus, lips pressed tight together, eyes in a glare.

TARUS (CONT'D)

(arms out wide)

Where is the love from this man children? We grew up best friends. Did everything together. Had our first shots together.

COLONEL

Now we are the best of enemies. Gold medal in it.

TARUS

Let me help you. I've done so much for the community. I've brought plenty of refugees over.

COLONEL

For a high price. And we didn't pay you and you will never get one hryvnia out of me.

BOYKA

So you both grew up best friends? Colonel you've never talked about--

COLONEL

Sold out his buddies for a weekend pass.

TARUS

I had a date with the most incredible woman.

BOYKA

Well I can understand that.

Anna smacks Boyka in the arm.

TARUS

Like the sweetest caviar ever.

COLONEL

And Kateryna ended up marrying me  
didn't she.

BOYKA

You dated Mom? Nobody tells me  
anything. Start with it, end with  
it doesn't matter.

ANNA

You're such a homebody you'd think  
you'd be the family encyclopedia.

TARUS

I dated her real good, so real  
good.

BOYKA

Ok we've all heard enough.

The colonel stomps right into Tarus' face, staring without  
blinking once.

COLONEL

This hero shot himself in the foot  
so he could go home because he was  
the worst kind of coward on the  
zero line. Piss in his pants.

TARUS

Kateryna nursed me back to health  
day after day. I had to lay in bed  
for weeks and weeks.

The Colonel shoves Tarus.

Anna and Boyka race around the counter and up next to the  
Colonel.

COLONEL

And now I fuck your daughter.

BOYKA

Oh Wow.

ANNA

(starting to leave)  
My pumpkin chariot awaits.

COLONEL  
Sorry children I lost my cool

TARUS  
That's right, children.

JENNIFER (O.S.)  
(from top of the stairs)  
Oh Maxie, I just pulled the  
thermometer out. Ninety seven point  
five degrees. Hurry on up we have  
to get right to it.

COLONEL  
I'll be right up, wouldn't miss it  
Dear.

JENNIFER (O.S.)  
OK but please. This could be the  
time. Once we put a rugrat in the  
trap all Papa has will be mine--  
ours.

ANNA  
Lady Tremaine we have guest!

JENNIFER (O.S.)  
(in a huff)  
Ohhhh.

We hear footsteps bounce away across the floor upstairs.

COLONEL  
Well you heard the little lady.

TARUS  
Oh one more small thing, I've been  
meaning to mention it. Completely  
forgot since you were having so  
much trouble getting out of  
Ukraine.

COLONEL  
You're stalling like a Russian.

TARUS  
Still can't believe you got out.  
I've helped all refugees get out.

BOYKA  
But by a miracle we did.

COLONEL

As indentured servants in  
laundering your pathetic life.

TARUS

I got these papers from the  
Alderman himself, but it turns out  
my swap shop.

COLONEL

My Swap & Shop.

TARUS

A spiteful ex-wife doesn't make it  
right. It just makes her a dog if  
you will.

COLONEL

Russian coward piss pants.

TARUS

But as you can clearly see you owe  
seventy thousand in back taxes.

ANNA

What?!

BOYKA

My back is aching--

COLONEL

Liar!

The Colonel snatches the papers hard out of Tarus' hand.

COLONEL (CONT'D)

You're a liar, always been.

TARUS

Oh and they are due by the end of  
the day tomorrow. I can't believe I  
forgot to tell you, but I'm sure  
you have the money, I see business  
is BOOMING.

Lilia bounds down the stairs and into the shop.

TARUS (CONT'D)

If you can't pay I would love to  
help you out, but how would you pay  
me back? You'd have to marry off  
one of your daughters I would  
think.

Tarus takes a lollipop out of his fur coat pocket and hands it to Lilia.

TARUS (CONT'D)  
Something for you to enjoy doll.

LILIA  
Love that pink track suit are they  
custom made for your belly or off  
the rack?

Tarus pats Lilia on the head smiling.

TARUS  
You are a Popov for sure.

Boyka glares at Tarus as she steps in front of Lilia.

Anna slaps Boyka's hands to her side.

Lilia turns and walks confidently with wide strides over to the DVD shelf like she is invisible.

COLONEL  
Get OUT! You are dead like Bakhmut.

TARUS  
And just so you know...

Tarus forcefully taps the papers in the colonels hands.

The Colonel yanks them away and reads through the them as Tarus speaks.

TARUS (CONT'D)  
If property taxes for the  
immediately proceeding tax year are  
delinquent on a parcel they are  
offered for sale at the annual tax  
sale.

COLONEL  
You are a LIAR!

TARUS  
(laughing)  
I think I'll call my new pawn shop  
The Ice Guys. Bling, bling.

ANNA  
(quietly to Boyka)  
Do you think you could...

COLONEL

I will go down and make sure this  
is all real.

ANNA

You're taking me with you.

Lilia snatches a copy of Taxi Driver off the shelf and skips  
back up the stairs.

Boyka storms out the door brushing past Tarus hard.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Boyka?

DING, DING.

TARUS

Feisty ones make the best borscht  
for dinner if you ask me.

Tarus grabs the lapel of his grand white fur coat flashing a  
smile at Anna and struts out the door.

TARUS (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I hear the middle child is always  
the wildest-- Oh that's right she's  
not the middle child now is she.

COLONEL

I will rip your fucking head right  
off!!!!

ANNA

We will find a way. The land of  
opportunities right.

Anna pries the crumpled papers out of the Colonels tight red  
and white knuckled fist.

The Colonel doesn't even blink, every one of his muscles  
tight and stiff as he stares straight ahead at the door.

JENNIFER (O.S.)

Come on Maxie we have to do this  
now. I have lilia watching a movie  
sound turned way up.

The colonel slams his fist into his hip hard over and over.

Anna her eyes darting looks intently through the papers.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)  
I'm wearing those knee high socks  
you like so much.

Anna flings the papers up high in the air.

EXT. SIDEWALK ALLEY ENTRANCE - DAY

Boyka heel stomps down the sidewalk, hips in full swing march  
time as she stares at her phone.

She bobbles it but catches it before it crashes into the  
pavement.

BOYKA  
This Goddamn day...

Suddenly Davonte rushes up to her grabbing her upper arm  
hard.

DAVONTE  
Bitch you fucking put me online! On  
Only Fans?!

Boyka jerks her arm away.

BOYKA  
Well you just announced it to the  
fucking neighborhood.

DAVONTE  
Bitch you fucked up, you really  
fucked up.

BOYKA  
You didn't think the cake was for  
free now did you? It's got over ten  
thousand bites already, some of my  
cooking.

Davonte mini lunges towards Boyka. She doesn't flinch.

DAVONTE  
Take it down now.

BOYKA  
How did you find my site lover?

DAVONTE  
Looked up your TikTok, Insta then  
OF.



BOYKA

That is the evolution of me getting paid. Congratulations now earn your own money.

DAVONTE

I'm a fucking cop.

BOYKA

I don't discriminate.

DAVONTE

You don't want this trouble.

BOYKA

You're not a cop, now I've heard it all. And you told me, so you're not a good one. Where's your badge?

Davonte puts his hands into fists.

DAVONTE

You'll keep quiet.

BOYKA

You do have plain clothes. Who are you after then?

DAVONTE

I can't talk about it, take it down bitch, now!

BOYKA

Where was that feisty attitude in the alley? I could have broke the internet.

Davonte starts to pace around Boyka.

Boyka throws out a defiant swagger hip.

DAVONTE

You're fucking up real bad.

BOYKA

Oh I'm sorry. I'm not the prisoner who decides to walk right into the back door of the jail cell

DAVONTE

You're in dangerous territory.

BOYKA

You don't turn yourself in then say  
you think you'll be going now. I've  
seen your TV should we name your  
dick Otis?

Davonte leans into Boyka staring side-eyed at her pupils.

DAVONTE

All that sweet Ukrainian honey  
leaking all over the street.

BOYKA

Oo I'm scared. If you're a fucking  
cop like you said you can't kill me  
and if you do, who's going to take  
it down.

DAVONTE

That's good, you'll take it down.

BOYKA

I didn't say that, this is  
business, nothing personal.

DAVONTE

If you're a smart business woman  
you'll take it down.

Boyka spins on her heels and starts to stride down the  
sidewalk but then turns back.

BOYKA

As a smart business man you must  
know I'll need to be compensated  
for taking it down.

Davonte grabs her arm but then quickly lets go.

DAVONTE

Fuck you. But I can do you a lot of  
favors.

BOYKA

Favors? I make around thirty grand  
a month on my site so--

DAVONTE

Your could have paid? No way.

BOYKA

All the way as they say. All kinds of subs pay the bounty to watch me round up prisoners all over the city for their conjugal visits. The alley of course, Village laundry, Dunkin'. Oh yeah Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral. No shame I know but I got sent the nun costume by mistake, you know Amazon. Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art next to a Andreenko nude. I know how can you tell. Underground Nail Art and of course my favorite the Chicago Police Department Thirteenth District.

DAVONTE

You've only been in Chicago a--

BOYKA

Oh to get out of your jail you'll have to bribe the guards pretty good, very good in fact.

DAVONTE

Fuck. Fuck, fuck.

BOYKA

What got you into this, won't get you out.

DAVONTE

I'm living the vice life just like you. We're both hustlin'.

BOYKA

You made me fuck you to get a break, and just a postponement at that on what we owed you. But the whole time you were hustled by the hustle.

DAVONTE

Fuck OK. Take it down and I'll pay for the protection. We collect cash all the time from drug dealers that we just take.

BOYKA

Nice to see I'm working with an honest business man.

DAVONTE  
Shut the fuck up, just take it  
down.

Boyka flashes a wide grin.

                  BOYKA  
Please?

                  DAVONTE  
Fucking please...

Boyka turns and starts walking away with a sassy swing with her hand waving bye high in the air.

                  BOYKA  
And I want to do a scene in a jail  
cell.

                  DAVONTE  
Won't be the first wont be the  
last.

                  BOYKA  
I think I love you.

                  DAVONTE  
Fuck you.

INT. GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER THEATER - NIGHT

Anna and Diego are seated towards the back of the theater as a black and white film flickers on the screen with the soundtrack "Odessa Steps" by Gene Pritsker playing in the background.

The only other person in the theater is a lone man sitting on the front row who looks like he belongs in a seventies porno theater.

Diego keeps looking over at Anna nervously.

                  ANNA  
Why the hell did you put pepper on  
the popcorn?

                  DIEGO  
Well you're spicy and you like  
those sport peppers on that one  
sandwich.

ANNA

I like syrup on my pancakes but not  
on my banosh. Wait, forget I  
mentioned syrup.

A smile comes across Diego's face

Anna munches a handful of popcorn, and crosses her legs.

ANNA (CONT'D)

And this is a pepper storm.

DIEGO

I can go get some fresh.

ANNA

No sit.

(pause)

Why a revival show of the  
Battleship Potemkin? You know I'm  
Ukrainian right?

Porno man in the front row clears his throat loudly.

DIEGO

It's about an uprising, a mutiny,  
Set in Ukraine.

ANNA

But--

DIEGO

Directed by the great Sergio  
Eisenstein.

ANNA

Eisenstein, Einstein.

DIEGO

Voted one of the best movies ever.

ANNA

Its not even a talkie.

Porno man in the front row clears his throat turning his head  
to the side.

DIEGO

One against all. Over throw the  
Tsarist leaders.

ANNA

Into communism.

(pause)

DIEGO

That's a very pretty dress.

ANNA

It's the only one I have or will ever have. I don't know why I put it on.

Diego starts to put his arm around Anna but pulls it quickly back.

Anna slowly uncrosses her legs.

DIEGO

Wait 'till you see the scene where the baby carriage goes all the way down the steps. It's so intense.

ANNA

Did you name the baby yet?  
(pause)

DIEGO

You love classic movies. You always have a DVD of one around you somewhere in the shop.

ANNA

Taken away from Lilia to keep her from watching it.

DIEGO

Well I've seen this twice this week so we could talk about it.

Diego turns toward Anna staring into her ear.

Anna crosses her legs.

ANNA

Well it's a good you knew we'd be doing a lot of talking.

Porno man clears his throat loudly.

Diego suddenly leans over and kisses Anna on the cheek with a touch of Frenchness.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Napkin please.

Diego reaches in his pocket and pulls out a napkin for Anna.

Staring ahead, with a jerk of her hand Anna wipes off the side of her face, holds the napkin out in front of her and lets it fall to the floor.

Diego with a halting stretch slides his arm around her.

Anna uncrosses her legs.

Diego stretches his arm a little further around Anna to squeeze her closer to him and accidentally sticks his finger in her ear.

Anna jolts up and back down into her seat.

Diego rips his arm back saving it from a cast.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You got that stupid pepper butter  
in my ear and now it burns, bad.

DIEGO

Oh I'm so sorry I was just trying  
to--

ANNA

You know...

Diego whips out another napkin and tosses it over to Anna.

Anna wipes the heat from her ear.

DIEGO

Can you hear Ok now? I was just  
trying to be romant--

ANNA

You know what?...

Porno man clears his throat while staring at the ceiling.

DIEGO

Does it still burn? What can I do?  
What can I do?

ANNA

You can finger me.

DIEGO

You like what I did? I thought it  
burned?

ANNA

No finger me.

Anna lifts up her dress past her thighs and looks down then over into Diego's eyes.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
Finger me, finger me. I Need it  
bad.

DIEGO  
Oh wow uh... What base is that?

ANNA  
That would be third Clemente.

DIEGO  
Ok, Ok this is moving along.

ANNA  
But wash the burning fire butter  
off your hands first please.

DIEGO  
Ok fingering... so uh sorry how do  
I do that.

ANNA  
With your finger.

DIEGO  
No, I mean which one?

ANNA  
Maybe choose an index finger.

DIEGO  
No, no I meant which one? The front  
one stage left or... right.

ANNA  
What?

DIEGO  
The hole... Which hole?

PORNO MAN  
If you put it in the wrong one  
she'll let you know pretty quick  
and if she doesn't marry her!

DIEGO  
Thank you.

Anna socks Diego a Charlie horse.



PORNO MAN  
No problem kid.

Diego, hand shaking opens the lid of their shared diet coke and sticks his fingers inside getting them wet.

Anna glances over with an incredulous shake of her head.

ANNA  
In the bathroom with water Mr.  
Etiquette.

Diego holds his hands up and rubs them together.

DIEGO  
It's diet, see no sticky at all.

ANNA  
The more you know...

DIEGO  
Ok are you ready?

ANNA  
There's no ready, set, go. No  
starter pistol and no national  
anthem.

DIEGO  
Uh, Ok... Does it smell?

PORNO MAN  
It's an acquired taste, like beer  
and coffee.

DIEGO  
Taste?

Anna shoots up flattening her dress in front of her.

ANNA  
We're leaving.

EXT. UKRAINIAN VILLIAGE SIDEWALK - DAY

Boyka's heels click quick down the sidewalk, we see her shadows head keep looking back behind her.

She veers towards the curb and peers back down the street.

BOYKA  
Where's the fucking bus?

Turning back she bumps into a mesh metal trashcan knocking it over.

BOYKA (CONT'D)  
Fuck, fuck, fuck.

INT. SWAP & SHOP - DAY

Anna is behind the counter smiling at a customer as she takes a gold watch from a barefoot to young to be a grandma woman wearing a American flag bikini.

BIKINI WOMAN  
It's our family heirloom. Supposed to be my retirement someday.

ANNA  
Who lives past sixty these days anyway am I right?

Anna slides a little baggie across the counter to the woman's shaking hand.

BIKINI WOMAN  
This stuff straight?

ANNA  
It's the beast. I like to affectionally call it the bear.

BIKINI WOMAN  
(blurting out way loud  
startling Anna)  
Da BEARS!

ANNA  
OH.

BIKINI WOMAN  
'Member that SNL skit. Sweet home Chicago am I right.

ANNA  
You can do no wrong.

EXT. UKRAINIAN VILLIAGE SIDEWALK - DAY

Boyka with her heels in her hand and her purse bouncing high off of her hip is in a full sprint.

She runs right through a no walk sign barely making it to the middle of the street just as two delivery trucks pass on either side of her.

Slips a bit taking a corner then stops and watches.

BOYKA

Come on...

She sighs in relief as no one is behind her.

Steps into her shoes and starts off in a confident hip shake strut.

INT. SWAP & SHOP - DAY

Anna places the gold watch she bought underneath the counter glass, then takes the bottom of her shirt and shines up the counter glass.

Lilia comes bounding into the room.

LILIA

I'm going to watch a movie.

Lilia jaunts over to the DVD shelf and grabs one.

ANNA

Bring it hear, let me see.

Lilia tosses Anna the movie.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(disapprovingly)

Centipede?

LILIA

I love nature.

ANNA

Little natural born killer.

LILIA

Oh, that's over there can I get that?

Lilia runs back to the shelf.

ANNA

Hell no.

LILIA

You're not my Mom are you.

ANNA

As close as you're ever going to get.

LILIA

How 'bout this telling time one? A Clock Work Orange.

ANNA

(defeated)

Why not it's Kubrick. It's a classic.

LILIA

Oh great it looks really fun.

Lilia hops up the stairs swinging the movie.

ANNA

A real playground conversational piece I'm sure!

DING, DING.

Boyka strolls into the shop combing the ends of her hair with her hand.

BOYKA

Have I got something to tell you sister.

ANNA

It will have to wait.

BOYKA

Oh how was the big date? How are we walking today?

ANNA

I can't find the Colonel. He always tells me where he's going and he's just gone.

BOYKA

Prolly eating a sandwich next door. You are really going to hear what I have to say.

ANNA

Diego said no. I'm getting worried. His hip seems to be getting worse. Now all this stress.

BOYKA

Well one of the stresses has been--

JENNIFER (O.S.)

(from top of the stairs)

Anna, have you seen my thermometer?

ANNA

Haven't seen it. Wouldn't even want to look at it. I'm filing a restraining order against it.

Jennifer clomps a lazy stomp down the stairs and into the shop.

JENNIFER

I just lose that damn thing all the time.

BOYKA

Maybe try the place you sterilize it.

JENNIFER

What? It doesn't go in your mouth.

ANNA

Yeah Boyka, didn't you learn anything in science class.

BOYKA

Must have been misinformed.

ANNA

Jennifer have you seen the Colonel. I thought he'd be over at Kasia's. I'm getting worried.

Jennifer slaps her hand on the glass counter.

JENNIFER

Well that old fool went down to the DMV to see about getting his license. You know how he wants to drive here.

ANNA

He can't drive with his hip.

JENNIFER

(laughing at Anna)

Oh he can drive 'till the tires are slick honey.

BOYKA

Yeah sometimes it's hard to tell if he's screaming in pain or you're screaming in--

ANNA

Oh my God I'm dead now.

JENNIFER

It's just nature. I thought you loved nature.

ANNA

My heart is concrete.

BOYKA

Just ask her boyfriend Diego.

ANNA

Not my--

JENNIFER

We really should get you poppin' on the pill dear.

ANNA

No, no need. No poppin'. No poppin' at all.

BOYKA

You can have the Colonel drive you down to plan parenthood. When does he get back?

JENNIFER

Oh not for a while he's taking the bus down to the Cook County Treasurer's office to check on that taxes thing. Mom never did have a head for business, the stupid witch.

BOYKA

What? Well I've got to go. I have a job interview for a bottle girl at the Underground.

JENNIFER

Well I thought we were a family business?

BOYKA

We close at six MOM.

ANNA

Is that what you wanted to tell me?

Boyka strides to the door, arms swinging.

BOYKA

I have to go.

DING, DING.

JENNIFER

Finally she can help with rent.

DING, DING.

In walks a man dressed in an creme cycle colored polyester suite carrying a three legged black cat.

POLYESTER MAN

Ladies have I got something for you.

ANNA

We don't take live animals.

JENNIFER

Ah it's kinda cute.

ANNA

That cat is stuffed, I'm pretty sure it's dead.

POLYESTER MAN

It is indeed Mam on it's tenth life as we say. But you will want this one because it is famous.

JENNIFER

Lucifer from Cinderella?

POLYESTER MAN

No Mam, this is the cat that was found in an animal trap and rescued by the very famous in his own right, the Dr. Pol from Animal Planet.

ANNA

Nat Geo Wild, I do believe.

POLYESTER MAN

You do know your nature little lady, you surely do.

ANNA

Have you ever seen the Music Man?

POLYESTER MAN

This is The Tater from the show and you need him in your shop. He will make a great conversation piece. That is just what you need in here for sure.

ANNA

Did you happen to catch my sister on your way in the door?

JENNIFER

We could use a mascot.

POLYESTER MAN

We think alike, we do think alike. Folks will come in from all over the neighborhood to see him and then buy anything you got.

ANNA

We have been trying to move a flamethrower.

JENNIFER

How much? Can I pet it?

ANNA

Ten bucks? It is missing a leg.

Polyester man plops the stiff cat onto the counter.

POLYESTER MAN

Well Tater here was the most famous cat on TV--

ANNA

I think he was on an episode last week.

POLYESTER MAN

Reruns of course I'm sure.

ANNA

Well if your sure.

JENNIFER

(petting Tater)  
His hair is pretty... Course.



POLYESTER MAN

I can discount him to you--

ANNA

How 'bout I trade you a copy of that Cats movie over there. It has Taylor Swift in it. Academy award winner I Do believe.

POLYESTER MAN

Five thousand dollars!

ANNA

I'm kind of a dog lover.

Jennifer pushes her finger down on one of his fang teeth.

JENNIFER

Oo sharp.

ANNA

Sharp as a tac.

MAN (O.S.)

(outside front door)

Oh man, Get Tarus, Get Tarus!

Everyone turns around as the man runs past the front of the shop.

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's bad it's so fucking bad!

Anna and Jennifer race out the door.

EXT. SWAP & SHOP - DAY

Anna and Jennifer are pushed out of the way by five burley men in various shades of track suits bounding by.

ANNA

What the hell happened?

Tarus steps out of his check cashing place like a vampire and starts stomp walking down the sidewalk towards her.

MAN

In the alley. So bad I can't even look again.

JENNIFER

What's going on Daddy?

BURLEY MAN

Someone cut off Davonte's head. His  
fucking head, clean off with piano  
wire or some shit. Old school  
mobster movie type shit.

JENNIFER

Oh My God, No, No, No... Boo Bear.

Anna looks up and stares at the limp Ukrainian flag high  
above her.

**THE END.**