

Masha + Spike

~~SONIA~~ I really think we should get a new cleaning woman.

Vanya returns with pants. He lets the top of the nightshirt pass as a regular shirt.

~~VANYA~~ Why is Masha here? Did she say?

Enter MASHA, attractive and grand, mid 50s, and looking great. With her is a handsome young man named SPIKE, age 27 or so. Spike is maybe dressed in worn-out jeans with rips in them. Or maybe is wearing more trendy, relaxed clothes. Sure of himself, and self-involved. Also outgoing.

Masha is dressed well, a bit glamorous as if she might run into photographers somewhere.

~~MASHA~~ Dearest Vanya. Sweetest Sonia. How wonderful to see you. How I've missed you, and this beautiful house. *(realizes she's missing something)* Spike, darling, would you go to the car? I forgot to bring my Snow White costume.

~~SPIKE~~ Okay.

~~MASHA~~ And don't forget the shepherd's crook.

~~SPIKE~~ Okay. *(to Vanya and Sonia, friendly, wised-up)* Women, huh?

Spike exits.

~~MASHA~~ Sweetest Vanya, dearest Sonia. How I've missed you. You both look the same. Older. Sadder. But the same. It's wonderful to see you, Vanya. Oh, and you too, Sonia.

~~SONIA~~ Yes, hello. I'm easy to miss.

~~MASHA~~ You are! I often miss you! I'm in a play or a movie, and I think of my dear Sonia, and think, oh I miss her! I must call her. Then I get called to the set and months go by and I forget to call. Life happens, no?

~~SONIA~~ Not here it doesn't. We sit still a lot. We look out the window. We bicker. We long for what the world cannot give. We are in our twilight years, and we realize we have never really lived.

MASHA (*lightly*) Oh, that's too bad.. (*back to herself, happy*) Oh I wish I had time to sit still. I'm always busy, I'm always on the TV, or flying off to some foreign country to make a movie. Oh I wish I had time to read the classics, sit in a chair, and just read. Do you read the classics, Sonia?

SONIA No. I think of it, but I have too much free time. There's so much I could fill the free time with, I can't make decisions. So I do nothing. I am a wild turkey, I am a wild turkey.

MASHA Really? How alarming. (*softer, to Vanya*) What's the matter with her?

VANYA She's referring to falling out of bed. She's fine. Masha, you look wonderful as usual. But what did you say about a Snow White costume?

MASHA Oh did I forget to tell Sonia?

SONIA Um . . . probably. Tell me what?

MASHA Well I got a lovely invitation from that extremely wealthy woman who bought the Dorothy Parker house up the road. She's one of our neighbors here, and she's dying to get to know people in the area, and so she's throwing a costume party. And she asked me to come.

VANYA Well she hasn't asked us to come.

MASHA Well you're not famous. She's inviting famous people and literary people, and interesting people. And, of course, you and Sonia are very interesting. And I told her that, so she wants both of you to come with me and Spike tonight.

VANYA Spike?

Enter Spike, carrying a large garment bag, which holds the costume, and a shepherd's crook. He finds somewhere to hang up or put down the garment bag and the crook.

SPIKE (*friendly, charming*) Yup, that's my name. Don't wear it out.

VANYA I'll try not to.

SPIKE Okay, I got the costume and this weird shepherd's thing.

MASHA Thank you, Spike.

SONIA Is Spike the name you were given at birth?

SPIKE No, it's my acting name. My real name was Vlad. But my agent said that that was hard to hear, and I was wearing my hair all spikey that day, and he said, why don't you call yourself Spike. And so I do.

MASHA Spike is a very gifted actor. He was almost cast in the sequel to *Entourage*, *Entourage 2*. HBO thought he was wonderful.

SPIKE Yeah, I should've gotten that part.

MASHA But, darling, you came very close. They brought you in to network. You were down to the last three.

SPIKE Yeah. And they put me up in a fancy hotel.

MASHA Well, of course.

SONIA Maybe you'll come close to getting another part soon.

MASHA Well next time he'll *get* the part.

SPIKE Yeah, it's only a matter of time.

VANYA I'm sorry, who is Spike? Is he your driver?

MASHA He's my beloved!

VANYA He looks ten.

MASHA Oh, Vanya darling, don't exaggerate. He's 29 if he's a day. And I'm only 41. Possibly 42.

~~Masha and Spike kiss with abandon and passion.~~

~~SONIA Hello. You're not alone in the room. Hello.~~

~~MASHA Sorry, it's all rather new for me.~~