

LIBRETTO

ANASTASIA

THE NEW BROADWAY MUSICAL

Book

TERENCE MCNALLY

Music & Lyrics

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LYNN AHRENS

Transcribed by Erin Flanagan

CHARACTERS

Anya/Anastasia

Dmitry

Vlad

Gleb

Dowager Empress

Countess Lily

ENSEMBLE

Tsarina Alexandra

Tzar Nicholas II

Olga Romanov

Tatiana Romanov

Maria Romanov

Alexei Romanov

Royal Servants

Count Ipolitov

Count Leopold

Townspeople

Communist Officers

Bolshevik Army

Parisians

Reporters

Ballet Dancers

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ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

RUSSIA: 1906: IN THE YUGUSOV PALACE, ANASTASIA'S ROOM

#1 OPENING FANFARE AND OPENING SCENE

ENSEMBLE

AHS

(This continues at times throughout the prologue.)

(LITTLE ANASTASIA and the DOWAGER EMPRESS are sitting on Anastasia's bed.)

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Why must you go Nana?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

It's time to go, I've stayed too long here.

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Take me to Paris with you!

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You'll visit me with your sisters and little brother. There's a bridge there named for your grandfather, did you know that? The Pont Alexandre. He never saw it. We'll walk on it together. And we'll go to the ballet every night!

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Take me with you now.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I already have, my darling Anastasia. Wherever I go, you'll always be with me. You're my favorite. Strong, not afraid of anything.

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Like you.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Shh! Our little secret.

(DOWAGER EMPRESS *grabs music box, twists gear underneath three times and opens.*)

#2 PROLOGUE: ONCE UPON A DECEMBER

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Our lullaby. When you play it, think of an old woman who loves you very very much.

FAR AWAY, LONG AGO
GLOWING DIM AS AN EMBER
THINGS MY HEART USED TO KNOW
THINGS IT YEARNs TO REMEMBER

LITTLE ANASTASIA and DOWAGER EMPRESS

AND A SONG SOMEONE SINGS
ONCE UPON A DECEMBER

(TSARINA ALEXANDRA *enters stage left.*)

TSARINA ALEXANDRA

Have you said your prayers, my precious Anastasia?

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Yes, Mamma.

TSARINA ALEXANDRA

For your father, the Tsar, you sisters and brother, for Russia herself?

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Yes, Mamma.

TSARINA ALEXANDRA

What's this?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

A music box. So the child will remember me.

TSARINA ALEXANDRA

Better prayers than music boxes in these difficult times.

(TSAR NICHOLAS II *enters from stage right.*)

TSAR NICHOLAS II

It's the last ball of the winter season, Mamma. All Petersburg will be there.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

We've been through this.

TSAR NICHOLAS II

She's right, Nicky.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Remember, Anastasia. Paris.

(She kisses LITTLE ANASTASIA's head and exits stage right.)

LITTLE ANASTASIA

Nana. Nana!

(She runs after THE DOWAGER EMPRESS but is picked up by the TSAR and placed back onto the bed.)

TSAR NICHOLAS II

The Tsar requests the first dance of the evening, mademoiselle.

LITTLE ANASTASIA

I am the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov.

(She jumps down from the bed and ANASTASIA and TSAR NICHOLAS II begin to dance together.)

#3 THE LAST DANCE OF THE ROMANOV

(The ENSEMBLE ROMANOV enter and dance with them. A teenage YOUNG ANASTASIA is now seen dancing with her father. It is now 1917. Everyone dances. ALEXI enters and dances, but falls. He is picked up by the TSARINA ALEXANDRA and the dancing continues. The ROMANOV pose for pictures. Gunshots are heard, and windows are shattered. Panic floods the Palace. The ENSEMBLE begins to flee the stage. TATIANA ROMANOV, OLGA ROMANOV, and MARIA ROMANOV run off stage left holding hands. The TSARINA ALEXANDRA, YOUNG

ANASTASIA, and TSAR NICHOLAS II, holding ALEXEI, remain. They run off, but YOUNG ANASTASIA runs back to grab her music box. There is a flash of light. She has been shot. The stage goes black, except for a small projection of snow. The DOWAGER EMPRESS walks onto stage, distraught, holding a letter.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

All of them? All of them?

(COUNTESS LILY, her lady-in-waiting, appears and runs to her side. She comforts the DOWAGER EMPRESS and helps her off stage left.)

SCENE ONE

LENINGRAD: 1927

#4 A RUMOR IN ST PETERSBURG

TOWNSPEOPLE

THE NEVA FLOWS

A NEW WIND BLOWS

AND SOON IT WILL BE SPRING

(GLEB, a communist officer, high in rank, enters. He addresses the public.)

GLEB

We hear you, comrades! The revolution hears you! Yes, our way is long, the journey hard. The chains of the Romanovs were heavy. Three long centuries they bound us. But we have broken them! Together we will forge a new Russia. A fair and compassionate Russia that will be the envy of all the world. That is the promise we have made. Fellow Russian to fellow Russian. The Tsar's St. Petersburg is now the people's Leningrad!

(TOWNSPEOPLE, including DMITRY enter.)

DMITRY

They can call it Leningrad, but it will always be
Petersburg! New name, same empty stomachs.

THEY TELL US TIMES ARE BETTER
WELL I SAY THEY'RE NOT
CAN'T COOK AN EMPTY PROMISE
IN AN EMPTY POT

A BRIGHTER DAY IS DAWNING
IT'S ALMOST AT HAND
THE SKIES ARE GRAY
THE WALLS HAVE EARS AND HE WHO ARGUES DISAPPEARS

DMITRY & ENSEMBLE

HAIL OUR GREAT NEW LAND

(DMITRY runs off stage, from GLEB)

ENSEMBLE

ST. PETERSBURG IS GLOOMY
A CITY ON THE RISE.

WOMAN 1

IT'S REALLY VERY FRIENDLY

WOMAN 2

IF YOU DON'T MIND SPIES.

MAN 2

WE STAND BEHIND OUR LEADERS

MAN 3

AND STAND IN LINE FOR BREAD

ENSEMBLE

WE'RE GOOD AND LOYAL COMRADES
AND OUR FAVORITE COLOR'S RED

(DMITRY appears in the podium center stage.)

DMITRY

NOW EVERYONE IS EQUAL
PROFESSORS PUSH THE BROOMS

DMITRY & ENSEMBLE

TWO-DOZEN TOTAL STRANGERS LIVE IN
TWO SMALL ROOMS
YOU HOLD A REVOLUTION,
AND HERE'S THE PRICE YOU PAY
THANK GOODNESS FOR THE GOSSIP

MEN

СПАСИБО ЗА СЛЮХИ! (SPASIBO ZA SLUKHI!)

ENSEMBLE

THANK GOODNESS FOR THE GOSSIP
THAT GETS US THROUGH THE DAY
HEY!
HAVE YOU HEARD
THERE'S A RUMOR IN ST PETERSBURG
HAVE YOU HEARD
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ON THE STREET?

MAN 4

ALTHOUGH THE TSAR DID NOT SURVIVE
ONE DAUGHTER MAY BE STILL ALIVE

ENSEMBLE

THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA

MAN 4

BUT PLEASE DO NOT REPEAT

ENSEMBLE

IT'S A RUMOR
A LEGEND
A MYSTERY
SOMETHING WHISPERED IN AN ALLEYWAY
OR THROUGH A CRACK
IT'S A RUMOR
THAT'S PART OF OUR HISTORY

WOMAN 3

THEY SAY HER ROYAL GRANDMAMMA
WILL PAY A ROYAL SUM

ENSEMBLE

TO SOMEONE WHO CAN BRING THE PRINCESS BACK

(VLAD *enters.*)

VLAD

Dmitry! They've closed another border! We should have gotten out of Russia while we still could.

ST PETERSBURG WAS LOVELY
WHEN ROYALTY WAS IN
I CALLED MYSELF A COUNT
AS THOUGH I'D ALWAYS BEEN
I HOBNOBBED WITH THE ROYALS
BUT THEN A CHANGE OF LUCK
THE TSAR WAS DEAD
THE ROYALS FLED
AND COMRADE NOW WE'RE STUCK!

DMITRY

Vlad! I've been thinking about the princess Anastasia.

VLAD

Oh not you too, Dmitry!

DMITRY

IT'S THE RUMOR
THE LEGEND
THE MYSTERY
IT'S THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA
WHO WILL HELP US FLY
YOU AND I FRIEND
WILL GO DOWN
IN HISTORY
WE'LL FIND A GIRL TO PLAY THE PART
AND TEACH HER WHAT TO SAY
DRESS HER UP AND TAKE HER TO PARIS

VLAD

IMAGINE THE REWARD
HER DEAR OLD GRANDMAMMA WOULD PAY

DMITRY & VLAD

WHO ELSE COULD PULL IT OFF
BUT YOU AND ME

(DMITRY and VLAD walk off stage right, and ANYA enters, sweeping the floor with a broom. A loud noise is heard, and she screams as she falls to the ground.)

ANYA

No!

GLEB

It was a truck backfiring comrade, that's all it was. Those days are over, neighbor against neighbor. There's nothing to be afraid of anymore. You're shaking. There's a tea shop just steps from here, let me...

ANYA

Thank you.

GLEB

What's your hurry?

ANYA

I can't lose this job. They're not easy to come by. But Thank you.

(ANYA runs off stage left.)

GLEB

I'm here every day.

(He exits.)

MAN 5

A RUBLE FOR THIS PAINTING
IT'S ROMANOV I SWEAR

MAN 6

COUNT YUSUPOV'S PAJAMAS
COMRADE BUY THE PAIR

MAN 3

I FOUND THIS IN THE PALACE
INITIALED WITH AN "A"
IT COULD BE ANASTASIA'S
NOW WHAT WILL SOMEONE PAY?

DMITRY

We need something of hers to show the old lady.

VLAD

There's more to being Anastasia than wearing a tiara, Dmitry.

DMITRY

Not much. Look how many people you fooled. How much is that music box?

MAN 3

Ah. The music box. It's genuine Romanov. I could never part with it.

DMITRY

Two cans of beans, comrade?

MAN 3

Done.

DMITRY

Do you believe in fairy tales, Vlad?

VLAD

Once upon a time I did.

DMITRY

We're going to create a fairytale the whole world will believe.

NOW IT'S RISKY BUT NOT MORE THEN USUAL.

WE'LL NEED PAPERS

WE'LL NEED TICKETS

WE'LL NEED NERVES OF STEEL.

(DMITRY and VLAD sit on the edge of the stage.)

VLAD

YES IT'S RISKY

A LOT MORE THEN USUAL

DMITRY

WE'LL TRY TO CROSS THE BORDER
WITH OUR PRINCESS AND OUR PLOT

VLAD

HOPEFULLY DISASTER WON'T ENSUE

DMITRY

WITH LUCK IT'LL ALL GO SMOOTHLY

VLAD

AND WITH LUCK WE WON'T BE SHOT

DMITRY & VLAD

WHO ELSE COULD PULL IT OFF
BUT ME AND YOU

DMITRY

WE'LL BE RICH

VLAD

WE'LL BE RICH

DMITRY

WE'LL BE OUT

VLAD

WE'LL BE OUT

DMITRY & VLAD

AND ST PETERSBURG WILL HAVE SOME MORE
TO TALK ABOUT

ENSEMBLE

I HEARD IT FROM A PERSON
I HEARD IT FROM A PERSON
WHO WAS ASSURED ME THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY TRUE
SHH!
HAVE YOU HEARD
THERE'S A RUMOR IN ST. PETERSBURG
HAVE YOU HEARD
COMRADE WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE?

VLAD

A FASCINATING MYSTERY

DMITRY

THE BIGGEST CON IN HISTORY

ALL

THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA
ALIVE OR DEAD
WHO KNOWS
SHH!

#4A UNDERSCORE AFTER RUMOR

SCENE TWO

INSIDE THE ABANDONED YUGUSOV PALACE

(MARFA, DUNYA, and PAULINA are auditioning for the role of Anastasia. DMITRY and VLAD are conducting these auditions. MARFA is holding a script, and is in the middle of her audition.)

MARFA

I am the Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov!

DMITRY

Try it this time without the gum in your mouth.

MARFA

It's not gum. It's tobacco

(She walks over to the other women stage right.)

DMITRY

These are the last three, Vlad?

VLAD

Who were you expecting? Sarah Bernhardt?

MARFA

(walks back to center stage, tries again)

It's me, Grandmamma! Your precious Anastasia! They shot me but I lived and I came all the way to Paris to tell you I'm alive.

(By the end of this spiel, MARFA stops acting and kneels facing DMITRY, who is sitting in a chair stage left. To VLAD)

I'm not really an actress.

VLAD (sarcastic)

No!

DMITRY

Thank you, ladies. We'll let you know.

PAULINA

What you're doing is against the law!

DUNYA

For this we lost our best hours on the street.

MARFA

If you weren't so handsome, Dmitry, I would report you.

DMITRY

Out! Out!

(He chases them out.)

VLAD

Well. You tried, my friend. Anastasias don't grow on trees.

DMITRY

Yeah, I'm not giving up. I'll go to Siberia to find an Anastasia.

(He reaches into his bag and pulls out the music box.)

VLAD

Have you ever been to Siberia?

DMITRY

I've never been anywhere but here.

(He sits on a sheet-covered bench stage right.)

VLAD

Ah. The day I took up with you...

(He crosses stage left to grab his coat and puts it on.)

DMITRY

It was me or a Bolshevik firing squad.

VLAD

You saved my life.

DMITRY

A rash act of kindness. Completely out of character!

(DMITRY inspects the music box.)

VLAD

Stop fiddling with that before you break it.

DMITRY

I can't get it open!

VLAD

It's a fake!

DMITRY

Oh, what do you know?

VLAD

No one spots a fake like Count Vladimir Popov. Biggest fake of them all.

(A knock is heard offstage. DMITRY and VLAD panic.)

DMITRY

I knew it! Those women ratted on us!

VLAD

At least they'll feed us in jail!

(They both hide. ANYA enters.)

ANYA

(She sees VLAD and is frightened.)

I'm looking for someone called Dmitry.

DMITRY

I'm Dmitry. What do you want?

ANYA

I need exit papers. And I was told you're the only person who can help me.

DMITRY

Exit papers are expensive.

ANYA

I saved a little money.

DMITRY

The *right* papers cost a lot.

(He brings over a chair downstage left and sits in it.)

ANYA

I'm a hard worker; you'll get your money.

(She kneels to him.)

DMITRY

What do you do?

ANYA

I'm a street sweeper.

DMITRY

A street sweeper!

ANYA

In Odessa, I washed dishes. Before that, I worked in the hospital in Perm.

DMITRY

They're a long way from here.

ANYA

I know. I walked it.

DMITRY

You walked here all the way from Perm?

ANYA

I had no choice.

(DMITRY gives VLAD a look.)

DMITRY

Who are you running from?

ANYA

I'm running to someone. I don't know who they are. But they're waiting for me in Paris.

DMITRY

You don't need papers. There's a canal out there. Jump in and start swimming. You'll be in Paris before you know it!

(He and VLAD laugh at her.) She's crazy!

ANYA

I'm not crazy. Why are you so unkind?

VLAD

We were hoping you'd be someone else.

ANYA

Who?

VLAD

Someone who may not even exist.

(VLAD is sitting like DMITRY, but on the other side of the stage. ANYA takes a look around, suddenly aware of the room, and is suddenly taken aback.)

ANYA

I've been in this room before. There was a play. Everyone was beautifully dressed.

VLAD

This was the private theatre in Count Yusupov's Palace.

ANYA

People were polite and kind.

DMITRY

She's going to faint on us!

(VLAD takes her hand and his chair and moves both of them to center stage.)

VLAD

When did you eat last?

ANYA

Afterwards, we danced. There was champagne. I stole a sip!

VLAD

Where are your manners, Dmitry? Get her some water. And a piece of that cheese too.

DMITRY

This isn't a soup kitchen, Vlad.

(VLAD points, and DMITRY goes offstage left to fetch the food.)

ANYA

You seem to be a gentleman. Even if your friend is not.

VLAD

A gentleman? I haven't heard that word in a long time.
Life has not been easy for my young friend.

ANYA

Life has not been easy for anyone.

(DMITRY appears with the water and gives it to ANYA.)

Thank you.

VLAD

Don't be too quick about this one.

DMITRY

Her? Have you gone crazy too?

VLAD

I'm Vlad.

(He makes a grand gesture of bowing to her.)

What's your name, dear?

#5 IN MY DREAMS

ANYA

I don't know.

(VLAD and DMITRY laugh. VLAD is at his chair and DMITRY crosses to his.)

VLAD

You don't know?

ANYA

They gave me a name at the hospital. Anya. They told me I had amnesia.

(VLAD and DMITRY share a glance and slowly sit.)

There was nothing they could do about it.

VLAD

Tell us what you do remember.

ANYA

THEY SAID I WAS FOUND
BY THE SIDE OF A ROAD
THERE WERE TRACKS ALL AROUND
IT HAD RECENTLY SNOWED
IN THE DARKNESS AND COLD
THE WIND IN THE TREES
A GIRL WITH NO NAME
AND NO MEMORIES, BUT THESE

RAIN AGAINST A WINDOW
SHEETS UPON A BED
TERRIFYING NURSES
WHISPERING OVERHEAD
"CALL THE CHILD ANYA
GIVE THE CHILD A HAT"
I DON'T KNOW A THING BEFORE THAT

TRAVELING THE BACKROADS
SLEEPING IN THE WOOD
TAKING WHAT I NEEDED
WORKING WHEN I COULD
KEEPING UP MY COURAGE
AS FOOLISH AS IT SEEMS
AT NIGHT ALL ALONE IN MY DREAMS

IN MY DREAMS
SHADOWS CALL
THERE'S A LIGHT
AT THE END OF A HALL
THEN MY DREAMS
FADE AWAY
BUT I KNOW IT ALL WILL COME BACK
ONE DAY

*(She walks over to VLAD and gives him the empty cup
from the water.)*

I DREAM OF A CITY
BEYOND ALL COMPARE
IS IT PARIS?
PARIS

A BEAUTIFUL RIVER
A BRIDGE BY A SQUARE
AND I HEAR A VOICE WHISPER
"I'LL MEET YOU RIGHT THERE,
IN PARIS"
PARIS

(She notices DMITRY and her tone shifts. To him.)

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE
NOT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE
TO HAVE LIVED IN THE SHADOWS
AND TRAVEL THIS FAR
I'VE SEEN FLASHES OF FIRE
HEARD THE ECHOES OF SCREAMS

(To VLAD, then out.)

BUT I STILL HAVE THIS FAITH
IN THE TRUTH OF MY DREAMS

IN MY DREAMS
IT'S ALL REAL
AND MY HEART HAS SO MUCH TO REVEAL

AND MY DREAMS
SEEM TO SAY
"DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO ON
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE
COME WHAT MAY"
I KNOW IT ALL WILL COME BACK
ONE DAY!

DMITRY

Maybe we can help you after all, Anya. It so happens
we're going to Paris ourselves.

*(VLAD starts talking to her and they go offstage
left. DMITRY smiles, with a plan forming in his
head. He follows them off.)*

#5A AFTER IN MY DREAMS

SCENE THREE

COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS

(COMMUNIST OFFICERS *are walking around, working.*)

#5B THE RUMORS NEVER END

WOMEN

ANOTHER RUMOR ON THE STREETS

MEN

ANOTHER RUMOR TO ATTEND

WOMEN

FILL OUT A NEW REPORT

ALL

THE RUMORS NEVER END

MEN

ANOTHER STEAL, ANOTHER LIE

FEMALE OFFICER

ANOTHER SPY BETRAYS A FRIEND

ALL

FILL OUT A NEW REPORT

THE RUMORS NEVER END

(GLEB, *with* DUNYA, PAULINA, *and* MARFA, *enter from stage right. They walk to a desk on stage left.*)

GLEB

Anything concerning the Romanovs, even the most preposterous rumor, we take very seriously.

PAULINA

(*to* DUNYA) I told you. (*to* GLEB) *She's* about as much a Romanov as I am.

MARFA

She's a street sweeper. She was sleeping under a bridge until she took up with them.

PAULINA

Her name is Anya.

GLEB

Thank you.

DUNYA

Are you going to arrest them?

GLEB

You've done your duty. And I've done mine. Listening to your gossip.

MARFA

It's not gossip, it's the truth!

(GLEB slams his fist on the desk. EVERYONE turns to him. He takes his time in getting up from his desk and puts his finger under the chin of MARFA.)

GLEB

The next time I see the three of you soliciting on Theatre Street, I won't look the other way.

(He blows in her face. The ACTRESSES run off stage and exit stage left. GLEB sings.)

GLEB

ANOTHER RUMOR ON THE STREET
ANOTHER GIRL TO APPREHEND
ONE MORE PRETENDER
WHO NO LONGER PLAYED PRETEND

Fill out a new report!

THE RUMORS NEVER END

THE OFFICERS

Fill out a new report

ALL

The rumors never end

ALL, but GLEB

The rumors never end

SCENE FOUR

THE YUGUSOV PALACE

(ANYA walks out. She is joined by VLAD, writing on a chalkboard, and DMITRY, with a book. She walks over to DMITRY.)

DMITRY

Are you ready to become the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov?

ANYA

I'm ready to find out who I am, but I'm not going to lie to do it.

(She begins to walk out, but is stopped by DMITRY. He guides her to center stage.)

DMITRY

It won't be a lie. We're going to help you remember the truth.

ANYA

I wish I had your confidence.

DMITRY

If the Dowager Empress recognizes you as her granddaughter, Vlad and I will get a small reward for our efforts and we will all live happily ever after.

ANYA

And if she calls me an imposter?

DMITRY

It will all just be an honest mistake. *(a beat)* Either way, it gets you to Paris and it gets us out of Russia. Everybody wins.

#6 LEARN TO DO IT

ANYA

How do you become the person you forgot you ever were?

(DMITRY puts a chair center stage.)

VLAD

Take a deep breath. Close your eyes. Imagine another time. Another *world*.

(The guys show ANYA an old photo album.)

VLAD

YOU WERE BORN IN A PALACE BY THE SEA

DMITRY

A PALACE BY THE SEA

ANYA

COULD IT BE?

VLAD

YES, IT'S SO

YOU RODE HORSEBACK WHEN YOU WERE ONLY THREE

ANYA

HORSEBACK RIDING? ME?

DMITRY

HORSE'S NAME

VLAD

ROMEO

YOU THREW TANTRUMS AND TERRORIZED THE COOK

HA!

HOW THE PALACE SHOOK

DMITRY

CHARMING CHILD

VLAD

WROTE THE BOOK

BUT YOU'D BEHAVE WHEN YOUR FATHER GAVE THAT LOOK

DMITRY

IMAGINE HOW IT WAS

YOUR LONG FORGOTTEN PAST

DMITRY & VLAD

WE'VE LOTS AND LOTS TO TEACH YOU

AND THE TIME IS GOING FAST

(They take away the book and help her up.)

VLAD

Let's see you walk. Head up. Regal bearing

NOW SHOULDERS BACK AND STAND UP TALL

AND DO NOT WALK, BUT TRY TO FLOAT

(She tries.)

ANYA

I FEEL A LITTLE FOOLISH
AM I FLOATING?

DMITRY

LIKE A SINKING BOAT

VLAD

YOU GIVE A BOW

ANYA

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

VLAD

YOUR HAND RECEIVES A KISS

(He kisses her hand.)

DMITRY & VLAD

MOST OF ALL REMEMBER THIS

VLAD

IF I CAN LEARN TO DO IT
YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

DMITRY

SOMETHING IN YOU KNOWS IT

DMITRY & VLAD

THERE'S NOTHING TO IT

VLAD

FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS
SHOE BY SHOE

DMITRY & VLAD

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT TOO

(ANYA walks around, a bit like a bird. VLAD copies her.)

ANYA

You're the ones who don't stand straight!

DMITRY

It's all his years of bowing and kowtowing in court.

(He jokingly bows.)

VLAD

Bowing is a sign of respect.

DMITRY

I bowed to someone once.

VLAD

There! You admit it!

DMITRY

I was a boy; I didn't know any better. That was the first and last time!

(ANYA suddenly takes her skirt and perfectly curtsies, shocking the guys and herself.)

DMITRY

Where did you learn to do that?

VLAD

I didn't teach you. She's a natural! Be seated, young lady!

(They all sit at a table upstage left.)

DMITRY

NOW ELBOWS IN AND SIT UP STRAIGHT
AND DO NOT SLURP THE STROGANOFF

ANYA

I NEVER CARED FOR STROGANOFF

VLAD

SHE SAID THAT LIKE A ROMANOV

DMITRY

THE SAMOVAR

VLAD

THE CAVIAR

ANYA

DESSERT AND THEN GOODNIGHT?

DMITRY & VLAD

NOT UNTIL YOU GET THIS RIGHT

VLAD

IF I CAN LEARN TO DO IT

DMITRY

IF HE CAN LEARN TO DO IT

VLAD

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

DMITRY

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

VLAD

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER

DMITRY & VLAD

AND YOU'LL PULL THROUGH IT

VLAD

TELL YOURSELF IT'S EASY

DMITRY & VLAD

AND IT'S TRUE

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT TOO

(VLAD runs over to a panel and pulls a shade, then walks to the chalkboard. DMITRY and ANYA both take off their jackets.)

VLAD

Who is your great grandmother?

ANYA

Queen Victoria.

VLAD

Great-great grandmother?

ANYA

Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld.

VLAD

Your best friend is?

ANYA

My little brother Alexei.

DMITRY

Wrong. Your best friend is -

ANYA

I know who my best friend is.

DMITRY

What a temper.

ANYA

I don't like being contradicted.

(She walks over to him and hits him with a book.)

DMITRY

That makes two of us.

VLAD

Continuing on.

(The guys discuss behind the chalkboard and VLAD hits DMITRY in the head. They come around.)

ANYA

I'VE HAD IT
AND I HATE YOU BOTH
I'M SORRY THAT WE EVER MET
I'M HUNGRY
AND I'M FRIGHTENED
AND I'M ONLY HUMAN
DON'T FORGET
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
GET OUT AND LET ME BE

(He tries to comfort her.)

VLAD

ANYA, DARLING
LOOK AT ME
WE'RE ALL FRIGHTENED
WELL, SLIGHTLY, NOW AND THEN

SHALL WE START AGAIN?
TAKE A BREATH
COUNT TO TEN

YOU HAVE COURAGE
AND STRENGTH YOU BARELY KNOW
SO BLOW THAT LITTLE NOSE
AND DRY THOSE PRETTY EYES
A PRINCESS LIKE YOUR MAJESTY
CAN DO THIS IF SHE TRIES

READY?

DMITRY

SET

ANYA

GO

(They flip the chalkboard and DMITRY is hit in the face again. VLAD goes crazy with the chalk.)

VLAD

NOW HERE'S YOUR GREAT-AUNT OLGA

DMITRY

HOW SHE FROLICKED

ON THE VOLGA

ANYA

OH!

VLAD

YOUR DISTANT COUSIN VANYA
LOVED HIS VODKA

DMITRY

GOT IT, ANYA?

ANYA

NO.

VLAD

THE DUKE OF OLDENBURG WAS SHORT

DMITRY

LOUISE OF BADEN

ANYA

HAD A

DMITRY

WART

VLAD

COUNT SERGEI

DMITRY

WORE A FEATHERED HAT

VLAD

I HEAR HE'S GOTTEN VERY FAT

ANYA

AND I RECALL HIS YELLOW CAT

VLAD

I DON'T BELIEVE WE TOLD HER THAT

ANYA

IF YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

I CAN LEARN TO DO IT

VLAD

SAW YOU AND I KNEW IT

ANYA

I'M GLAD YOU KNEW IT

SUDDENLY I FEEL LIKE

THERE'S A CHANCE

VLAD

NOT UNTIL YOU LEARN TO DANCE

(VLAD puts ANYA and DMITRY together to dance. They are reluctant, and DMITRY sucks at dancing. Really badly. VLAD counts. He steps on ANYA's foot. She steps on his on purpose.)

Anya!

(VLAD now dances with them, and counts. Then he steps back. The pair are dancing. They dance around the room. VLAD leaves the stage. DMITRY even lifts ANYA. The two stop dancing and circle each other.

Something has changed. VLAD returns and cuts in. He dances around the room with ANYA. DMITRY joins in and the three dance around the room.)

DMITRY & VLAD

IF YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

ANYA

IF I CAN LEARN TO DO IT

DMITRY & VLAD

HE CAN LEARN TO DO IT

ANYA

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

DMITRY & VLAD

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER

ALL

AND WE'LL PULL THROUGH IT

VLAD

TELL YOURSELF IT'S EASY

ALL

AND IT'S TRUE

DMITRY & VLAD

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

(They lift ANYA onto the chair.)

ANYA

NOTHING TO IT

ALL

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT

ANYA

THE CAVIAR
THE STROGANOFF
THE SAMOVAR
THE FEATHERED HAT
THE COUSIN DRANK
THE DUKE WAS SHORT
AND HERE A WART

AND THERE A CAT
THE HORSE'S NAME WAS ROMEO
SO TELL ME SOMETHING NEW

VLAD & DMITRY

HA!

ANYA

AH!

ALL

YOU CAN LEARN TO DO IT TOO

VLAD

Tres bien, mademoiselle, tres bien.

ANYA

Merci, monsieur, merci.

VLAD

Tu parle français?

ANYA

Un peu.

(The three of them are shocked.)

VLAD

Oh! She's charming!

DMITRY

What were you telling her?

VLAD

Oh, the aristocrats all spoke French, Dmitry. Russian was for common people, like you. (to ANYA) You get to sleep on the sack of lentils, tonight, Anya. You've earned it. Bon oui, ma chere. Tomorrow, we begin again.

(He exits.)

DMITRY

In *Russian*. For the common man

(He exits.)

#6A LEARN TO DO IT REPRISE

ANYA

YOU WERE BORN IN A PALACE BY THE SEA
COULD IT BE?

(She runs offstage.)

SCENE FIVE

COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS

(COMMUNIST OFFICERS enter and GLEB is at his desk, on the phone. He dismisses the OFFICERS and they exit. We hear half of this conversation.)

GLEB

Thank you, sir. Your confidence in me will be justified. My own office. The view of the Nevsky Prospekt. A Russian telephone that works. *(He laughs.)* Ah. That was a joke.

(A MALE COMMUNIST OFFICER enters.)

We have wonderful telephones.

MALE COMMUNIST OFFICER

She's here.

GLEB

Sir, our little troublemaker has been found.

(GLEB hangs up the phone and walks to the front of the stage. He doesn't see ANYA being brought in.)

It's a remarkable city, our Leningrad. All those people down there, coming and going, creating a future for themselves. I stand at this window for hours admiring them. And wondering why a few bad apples are getting up to mischief instead. I can see all the way to the old Yusupov Palace. Funny business going on there. Counterrevolutionary behavior, some might say!

ANYA

Why was I brought here?

GLEB

I thought you could tell me, comrade!

(He turns and sees her.)

You? The frightened little street sweeper! I almost-

(He stops. He dismisses the two COMMUNIST OFFICERS watching.)

I had almost stopped looking for you on the Nevsky Prospekt. Anya. Am I right?

ANYA

Yes.

GLEB

I am deputy commissioner Gleb Vaganov.

(He puts out a hand for her to shake. She doesn't.)

It's the uniform and the office that give the bad impression. I'm really not so bad.

(ANYA smiles.)

See? I have a sense of humor.

(He laughs. She finally shakes his hand.)

You're shivering again. A friendly cup of tea will warm us both up.

ANYA

What is the charge?

GLEB

There is no charge. Why should there be? You have a job, food on the table, your own place in the new order of things.

ANYA

I'm very thankful.

GLEB

Which is why I'm warning you to leave your land of make believe before it's too late.

ANYA

I don't understand.

GLEB

If you really were who you're pretending to be, they'd kill you. Without hesitation.

ANYA

Everyone imagines being someone else, I'm no different. It's an innocent enough fantasy.

GLEB

No, Anya. It is a dangerous one. The Romanovs are gone. Every last one of them. They no longer exist. My father was one of the guards.

ANYA

I don't want to hear this.

(She gets up and turns away.)

GLEB

He was told to fire. He obeyed orders.

#7 THE NEVA FLOWS

(ANYA sits back down.)

GLEB

BE VERY CAREFUL OF THESE RUMORS THAT PREVAIL
BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY
I WAS A BOY WHO LIVED THE TRUTH BEHIND THE TALE
AND NO ONE GOT AWAY

I SAW THE CHILDREN AS THE SOLDIERS CLOSED THE GATE
THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER AND HER PRIDE
MY FATHER LEAVING ON THE NIGHT THEY MET THEIR FATE
HIS PISTOL BY HIS SIDE

THE NEVA FLOWS,
A NEW WIND BLOWS
AND SOON IT WILL BE SPRING
THE LEAVES UNFOLD
THE TSAR LIES COLD
A REVOLUTION IS A SIMPLE THING

I heard the shots. I heard the screams. But it's the
silence after I remember most.

THE WORLD STOPPED BREATHING
AND I WAS NO LONGER A BOY

MY FATHER SHOOK HIS HEAD AND TOLD ME NOT TO ASK
MY MOTHER SAID HE DIED OF SHAME
BUT I BELIEVE HE DID A PROUD AND VITAL TASK
AND IN MY FATHER'S NAME:

THE NEVA FLOWS
A NEW WIND BLOWS
AND SOON IT WILL BE SPRING
THE LEAVES UNFOLD
THE TSAR LIES COLD

COULD I HAVE PULLED THE TRIGGER
IF I'D BEEN TOLD?
BE CAREFUL WHAT A DREAM MAY BRING
A REVOLUTION IS A SIMPLE THING.

(ANYA walks over to him.)

ANYA

Thank you for your warning, comrade.

GLEB

It's Gleb. Please.

ANYA

Gleb.

(He puts his finger under her chin, warningly.)

GLEB

Your eyes. A man could look right into them.

ANYA

I'm late for work.

GLEB

As your new friend, be careful Anya.

(She goes to exit and he grabs her arm.)

As Deputy Commissioner Gleb Vaganov, be very careful.

(ANYA *exits.*)

#7A SCENE TRANSITION AFTER THE NEVA FLOWS

GLEB

I SAW THE CHILDREN
AS THE SOLDIERS CLOSED THE GATE
ANYA

SCENE SIX

THE STREETS OF LENINGRAD

*(Four drunk MEN are sitting around two bonfires.
They are ragged.)*

#8 THE NEVA FLOWS REPRISÉ

MAN 1

Life is good.

MAN 2

As long as there is vodka, life is *wonderful!*

MAN 3

I'll drink to that.

MAN 3

THE NEVA FLOWS
A NEW WIND BLOWS

MAN 1

AND WHAT'S THAT AWFUL SMELL?

MAN 2 & MAN 4

THE LEAVES UNFOLD
THE TSAR LIES COLD

ALL MEN

NOW HE'S DRINKING HIS VODKA

In hell!

(They all sit on a bench in the middle of the stage and laugh. ANYA and DMITRY enter from stage left.)

ANYA

They know where we're living. His name is Gleb.

MAN 1

Well look who's here. The Prince of Petersburg.

MAN 3

We thought you were in Paris.

MAN 1

He missed his old partners in crime.

MAN 3

Looks like he got himself a new girlfriend instead.

(They all look at ANYA and DMITRY blocks them.)

DMITRY

She's not my girlfriend.

MAN 4

It's Anastasia herself. I bet he's got you bowing for him like a regular little Tsarina!

(DMITRY grabs ANYA and tries to exit, but is stopped by MAN 1.)

MAN 1

You going to Paris, ma cherie?

(DMITRY pushes him away.)

MAN 2

Have a drink with us, Dmitry!

ANYA

Come on, Dmitry, I don't like these people.

(She turns to exit.)

MAN 2

Too good for us, sweetheart?

MAN 1

If you don't want her, Dmitry, I'll take her!

(He pushes DMITRY away. They try to assault her.)

MAN 1

You want to dance, sweetheart?

DMITRY

Leave her alone!

(ANYA and DMITRY fight off the MEN. ANYA goes off and chases them with a stick from the bonfire. The MEN run offstage.)

ANYA

Next time I won't go so easy!

DMITRY

Where did you learn that? You're good.

ANYA

(She spots MAN 1 left on the ground.)

You want to see what else I can do?

(She charges at him while MAN 1 runs out. DMITRY lifts ANYA to stop her.)

Come at me, I won't hurt you.

DMITRY

I believe you, Anya.

ANYA

I didn't walk halfway through Russia without learning to defend myself.

(She hands the stick off to DMITRY.)

You've had it easy.

DMITRY

Not so easy.

(He joins ANYA on the bench.)

My father was an anarchist. He died in a labor camp for his convictions. My mother was already gone. I don't really remember her.

ANYA

Who raised you then?

DMITRY

No one. I raised myself.

#9 MY PETERSBURG

DMITRY (cont)

I GREW UP
ON THE SLY
IN THE GUTTERS AND THE STREETS
OF PETERSBURG

JUST A KID
ON THE FLY
GETTING GOOD AT GETTING BY
IN PETERSBURG

I BARTERED FOR A BLANKET
STOLEN FOR MY BREAD
LEARNED TO TAKE MY CHANCES
AND USE MY HEAD
A RUSSIAN RAT IS CLEVER
CLEVER OR HE ENDS UP DEAD

BOILS DOWN TO
THERE ARE SOME
WHO SURVIVE
SOME WHO DON'T
SOME GIVE UP
SOME GIVE IN
ME I WON'T
BLACK AND BLUE
WELCOME TO
MY PETERSBURG

Come on, Anya.

(He stands on the bench and it turns around. He helps ANYA up.)

STANDING HERE YOU CAN SEE
FROM THE SPIRES TO THE PIERS OF PETERSBURG
I'D BE DOWN ON THAT QUAY
SELLING STOLEN SOUVENIRS OF PETERSBURG
THE PALACES ABOVE AND ALLEYWAYS BELOW
FUNNY, WHEN A CITY IS ALL YOU KNOW,
HOW EVEN WHEN YOU HATE IT
SOMETHING IN YOU LOVES IT SO

(He jumps off the bench and prances around the stage. ANYA also jumps off. She watches him.)

THAT'S WHERE I
LEARNED MY STUFF
IN SOME ROUGH
COMPANY
THERE'S THE BOY
GROWING UP
WHO WAS ME
ALL I'VE BEEN
ALL I'LL BE

WE CAN DO WHAT WE'RE TOLD
WE CAN GO WHERE WE'RE LED
BUT I LEARNED FROM MY FATHER TO SEE WHAT'S AHEAD
NOTHING HERE TO HOLD ME
NO ONE THAT I OWE
FUNNY HOW A BOY CAN GROW
FUNNY HOW A CITY TELLS YOU WHEN IT'S TIME TO GO

BOILS DOWN TO
THERE ARE SOME
WHO HAVE WALLS
YET TO CLIMB

DMITRY & ANYA

(ANYA tosses him his bag.)

YOU AND I
ON THE FLY
JUST IN TIME

DMITRY
BUT TONIGHT
THERE'S A SKY
AND QUITE A VIEW
WELCOME TO...
MY PETERSBURG!

My father used to bring me here. He put me on his shoulders so I could get a better view. (*in a voice*) "Bet you can see all the way to Finland from up there, Dima!"

ANYA

Dima?

DMITRY

That's what he called me. There isn't a day I don't miss him.

ANYA

So neither of us has a family.

DMITRY

You don't know that yet. The answer is in Paris.

(They look at each other. A beat.)

Now, tell me about the little dog.

ANYA

His name was Toby.

DMITRY

Go on.

ANYA

I loved him so much.

DMITRY

Don't stop.

ANYA

I'm not as strong as you think I am.

DMITRY

Close your eyes.

ANYA

Why?

DMITRY

Just do it. Put your hand out.

(She does so and he grabs the music box from his bag. He puts it in her hand.)

Open. You've worked hard. You've earned it.

ANYA

What is it?

DMITRY

A music box.

ANYA

It's beautiful.

DMITRY

It's broken. I can't even open it.

(ANYA looks at the music box, and twists the bottom three times. It opens. Music starts to play. ANYA is mesmerized by it.)

How did you do that? Anya?

#10 ONCE UPON A DECEMBER

ANYA

DANCING BEARS,
PAINTED WINGS,
THINGS I ALMOST REMEMBER,
AND A SONG SOMEONE SINGS
ONCE UPON A DECEMBER.

SOMEONE HOLDS ME SAFE AND WARM.
HORSES PRANCE THROUGH A SILVER STORM.
FIGURES DANCING GRACEFULLY
ACROSS MY MEMORY...

(The ROMANOVs and ENSEMBLE (as ghosts) enter and dance around the stage. ANYA is lifted up.)

SOMEONE HOLDS ME SAFE AND WARM.
HORSES PRANCE THROUGH A SILVER STORM.
FIGURES DANCING GRACEFULLY
ACROSS MY MEMORY...

FAR AWAY, LONG AGO,
GLOWING DIM AS AN EMBER,
THINGS MY HEART
USED TO KNOW,
THINGS IT YEARNs TO REMEMBER...

(EVERYONE *exits*, the last two being TSARINA
ALEXANDRA and TSAR NICHOLAS II.)

AND A SONG
SOMEONE SINGS
ONCE UPON A DECEMBER

(*She closes the music box.*)

How soon do you think we can go? They're cancelling
trains right and left. Here.

(*She reaches into her pocket and grabs some money.
She gives it to DMITRY.*)

I worked an extra shift this week. It's not much, but
every little bit helps.

DMITRY

We're not even close, Anya.

ANYA

What are you saying?

DMITRY

I thought I could get us out before they closed the
borders for good.

ANYA

You were the only hope I had.

DMITRY

There must be someone who can help you, I'm sorry.

(*He tries to hand her money back.*)

ANYA

I don't want your money.

DMITRY

It's *your* money.

ANYA

It's *our* money. I trusted you.

DMITRY

I said I'm sorry.

ANYA

I didn't trust you enough. (*a beat.*) Now you close your eyes.

DMITRY

What for?

ANYA

You're the stubbornest person I've ever met. Almost as stubborn as me.

(He puts the money in his pocket and closes his eyes.)

Put your hand out.

(He does. ANYA grabs something from her coat pocket. A diamond. She gives it to DMITRY.)

Alright, open.

DMITRY

It's a diamond!

ANYA

The nurse in the hospital found it sewn in my underclothes.

#10A A SECRET SHE KEPT

ANYA (cont)

SHE HID IT FROM ME, TIL THE DAY I COULD GO
A SECRET SHE KEPT, ALTHOUGH WHY, I DON'T KNOW.
SHE SAID 'DON'T TELL A SOUL, TIL YOU KNOW THAT YOU MUST.'
I HAD TO MAKE SURE I FOUND SOMEONE I TRUST

DMITRY

You've had it *all* this time without telling me?

ANYA

Yes.

DMITRY

Why?!

ANYA

It's the only thing I have! Without it, I have nothing!

DMITRY

How do you know I won't take it now and you'll never see me again?

ANYA

I don't think you will!

DMITRY

If you weren't a girl I'd-

(He picks her up and spins her. VLAD rushes in.)

<p>#10B VLAD UNDERSCORE / TRANSITION TO TRAIN STATION</p>
--

VLAD

Disaster! The Yugusov Palace has been raided! We're done for if we go back there.

(He sees the diamond.)

Mother of Moses!

DMITRY

She had it the all along!

ANYA

I didn't trust either of you with it!

VLAD

I don't blame you. But never mind! All is forgiven! I love you, Anya!

(He also picks her up and spins her.)

DMITRY

Vlad, I'm trusting you to get the exit papers.

VLAD

Done!

(He begins to exit.)

ANYA

Hurry! There is a train at midnight from the Finland station!

DMITRY

I'll fetch the diamond.

(ANYA begins to exit.)

Where are you going?

ANYA

They owe me a week's wages. Every ruble counts!

(She and VLAD exit.)

DMITRY

We're going to Paris on a train! I'm going to sleep in a hotel and take a bath in a real bathtub.

(He runs offstage.)

SCENE SEVEN

THE FINLAND STATION

(PASSENGERS are seen entering the station, with luggage. They are ready to leave Russia for good. An announcement can be heard in the background. VLAD and DMITRY enter. ANYA enters shortly after them, and they wave her over.)

VLAD

It's a special train. Aristocrats and intellectuals. Everyone the Bolsheviks want to be rid of. We'll be

traveling as members of the Diagelf Ballet Russe. They've taken Paris by storm.

(He hands them their tickets from his coat pocket. COUNT IPOLITOV enters the stage. He sees ANYA and stops, then kneels to her and kisses her hand. Everyone around looks inquisitively.)

COUNT IPOLITOV

(to ANYA)

God bless you.

(He gets up and leaves her without another word.)

VLAD

I recognize that man. He's the Count Ipolitov. He's not just an aristocrat, but an intellectual as well. He's a dead man on both counts.

(A whistle blows and overhead an announcement about the train leaving is heard. It is time to go. Everyone gets ready to leave, but no one does.)

We should go.

#11 STAY I PRAY YOU

COUNT IPOLITOV

HOW CAN I DESERT YOU
HOW TO TELL YOU WHY
COACHMEN HOLD THE HORSES
STAY, I PRAY YOU
LET ME HAVE A MOMENT
LET ME SAY GOODBYE

TO BRIDGE AND RIVER
FOREST AND WATERFALL
ORCHARD, SEA, AND SKY
HARSH AND SWEET
AND BITTER TO LEAVE IT ALL

ENSEMBLE

I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND
TILL I DIE

HOW TO BREAK THE TIDE
WE HAVE SHED OUR TEARS
AND SHARED OUR SORROWS
THOUGH THE SCARS REMAIN
AND TEARS WILL NEVER DRY
I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND
TILL I DIE

ANYA

NEVER TO RETURN

DMITRY

FINALLY BREAKING FREE

ANYA & DMITRY

YOU ARE ALL I KNOW
YOU HAVE RAISED ME

VLAD

HOW TO TURN AWAY
HOW TO CLOSE THE DOOR

ANYA, DMITRY, & VLAD

HOW TO GO WHERE I HAVE
NEVER GONE BEFORE

ENSEMBLE

HOW CAN I DESERT YOU
HOW TO TELL YOU WHY

ALL

COACHMEN HOLD THE HORSES
STAY, I PRAY YOU
LET ME HAVE A MOMENT
LET ME SAY GOODBYE
HARSH AND SWEET
AND BITTER TO LEAVE IT ALL
I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND
TILL I DIE

(The ENSEMBLE exits and enters the train.)

ANYA, DMITRY, & VLAD

I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND

(VLAD *exits.*)

ANYA & DMITRY

I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND

(DMITRY *exits.*)

ANYA

I'LL BLESS MY HOMELAND

TILL I DIE

(ANYA *gets on the train. The train turns and it is now in motion.*)

#12A INSIDE THE TRAIN

VLAD

This is outrageous! I paid for first class. We should be having champagne and caviar!

(A PASSENGER *walks up to the bench they are sitting on and sits, causing them all to shift down.*)

DMITRY

There is no more first class. Everyone is *equal* now.

VLAD

You don't have to sound so damn happy about it.

ANYA

(*to PASSENGER*) How dare you smoke without my permission?

PASSENGER

Who the *hell* do you think you are?

ANYA

I am the Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov!

(VLAD and DMITRY *nearly flip and everyone else on the train stands and looks at ANYA.*)

MAN

I'm in a compartment with a crazy woman!

(Some people laugh and he heads to a seat in the back of the train.)

DMITRY

You warn us next time before you do that!

ANYA

I wanted to see what it felt like saying I was her!

VLAD

It's a *long* trip. You have plenty of time to practice. In Paris, your first challenge will be the Dowager Empress's lady-in-waiting. Lily, the Countess Malevsky-Malevich. No one has access to her majesty without *her*.

DMITRY

She sounds like a dragon.

VLAD

Quite the opposite. Lily was beautiful, voluptuous, married; everything I look for in a woman. She gave me a watch, studded with diamonds.

ANYA

Did you love her?

VLAD

Madly, darling. But I loved the watch more.

(ANYA gets up and moves to the side of the train.)

DMITRY

What happened to it?

VLAD

Gone, with the old Russia. Like everything else.

(DMITRY gets up and moved to the other side of the train.)

#12B WE'LL GO FROM THERE

VLAD (cont)

I hope Lily's happy to see me. Be honest, Vlad Popov, how could she not be?

I MAY HAVE GOTTEN FATTER
BUT MAYBE THAT WON'T MATTER
BOTTOM LINE
I'LL WIN HER

WE'LL DO SOME REMINISCING
SHE'LL SEE WHAT SHE'S BEEN MISSING
OVER WINE
AND DINNER

AND OH I KNOW
I'VE GROWN A TINY BIT GREY
SOME WOMEN SAY
I LOOK DISTINGUISHED THIS WAY

I'LL BOW AS IF I'M STILL A FRISKY YOUNG PUP
LET'S HOPE THAT I CAN STRAIGHTEN UP
IF SHE SAYS NO
WE'LL ALL LAY LOW
AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE

(The train turns to ANYA's side.)

ANYA

HANDS SHAKING
HEART THUNDERING
MEET THE ROYAL MESS
START SMILING
STOP WONDERING
WHY DID I SAY YES

*(The train turns to the back, where DMITRY has
climbed onto one side.)*

THIS CHANCE

DMITRY

THIS CHANCE

ANYA

IS ALL

DMITRY

IS ALL

ANYA & DMITRY

I'VE GOT

DMITRY

GET A GRIP AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND
SOON, WE'LL KNOW WHAT'S WHAT
PUT ON OUR SHOW
REWARDS WILL FLOW
AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE

*(The train turns again and ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD
are all facing forward.)*

ANYA

AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE

VLAD

AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE

ANYA, DMITRY, VLAD

AND WE'LL GO FROM THERE

ALL

OH WHAT A LOVELY RIDE
AND WHAT A LOVELY DAY

ANYA, DMITRY, VLAD

FOR A TOTALLY ILLEGAL

ALL

LOVELY GETAWAY

VLAD

I MAY HAVE GOTTEN
FATTER
BUT MAYBE THAT
WON'T MATTER
BOTTOM LINE
I'LL WIN HER
WE'LL DO SOME
REMINISCING
SHE'LL SEE WHAT
SHE'S BEEN
MISSING
OVER WINE
AND DINNER
AND OH I KNOW
I'VE GROWN A TINY
BIT GREY
SOME WOMEN SAY
I LOOK

ANYA

HANDS SHAKING
HEART THUNDERING
MEET THE ROYAL
MESS
START SMILING
STOP WONDERING
WHY DID I SAY YES
THIS CHANCE
IS ALL
I'VE GOT
GET A GRIP AND
TAKE A DEEP
BREATH AND
SOON WE'LL KNOW
WHAT'S WHAT

DMITRY

HANDS SHAKING
HEART THUNDERING
MEET THE ROYAL
MESS
START SMILING
STOP WONDERING
WHY DID I SAY YES
THIS CHANCE
IS ALL
I'VE GOT
GET A GRIP AND
TAKE A DEEP
BREATH AND
SOON WE'LL KNOW
WHAT'S WHAT

DISTINGUISHED
THIS WAY
I'LL BOW AS IF
I'M STILL A
FRISKY YOUNG PUP
LET'S HOPE THAT I
CAN STRAIGHTEN UP
BUT NO MORE DOUBT

DMITRY

NO TIME TO SPARE

ANYA

WE'RE NEARLY OUT

ALL

SO LET'S PREPARE
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO WHO KNOWS WHERE

(Train turns again to the original direction.)

ANYA, DMITRY, VLAD

AND WE'LL GO

MALE ENSEMBLE

AND WE'LL GO

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

AND WE'LL GO

ALL

FROM THERE

ANYA, DMITRY, & VLAD

We'll go from there!

*(The train suddenly screeches to a halt and two
COMMUNIST OFFICERS climb aboard. They surround ANYA,
DMITRY, and VLAD.)*

OFFICER 1

Papers! Papers.

VLAD

Good evening, gentlemen. Is there a problem?

OFFICER 1

We're looking for someone who is illegally leaving the country.

VLAD

Didn't have the right papers, eh?

OFFICER 2

He had the right papers, he had the wrong name, Count Ipolitov!

(A gunshot is heard in the distance. The COMMUNIST OFFICERS go investigate. ANYA begins to sob.)

VLAD

I'll go see what happened.

DMITRY

We know what happened.

(ANYA cries louder. VLAD stands.)

VLAD

Calm her down. Any tears will betray us.

DMITRY

We'll be safe soon.

ANYA

That's what the soldiers said when they were pointing their guns at us.

DMITRY

What soldiers?

ANYA

They said they were taking us somewhere safe. Toby's little heart was beating against mine. 'They're decent men,' I told him. 'They won't harm us'.

DMITRY

No one's pointing guns at you! You're taking this too far, Anya!

ANYA

Not if I really am her!

DMITRY

Shhh! We're almost out of Russia. Once we cross the border, you're safe.

ANYA

You put these ideas in my head. I'm beginning to think they might be true.

(VLAD returns.)

VLAD

I'm having a heart attack. Three Czechish officers just came aboard with orders to arrest *two men*, and a *young woman*.

DMITRY

That could be anyone.

(VLAD holds up a wanted poster with the three of them on it.)

VLAD

I don't think so!

DMITRY

What are we going to do?

ANYA

We're getting off!

(She begins to climb the train, and the outside of it. DMITRY follows her. The passengers are shocked. Chaos erupts.)

VLAD

But the train's moving again!

ANYA

Unless you want to end up like Count Ipolitov!

#12C JUMP

VLAD

What are you doing?!

DMITRY

Get on!

(VLAD climbs out with them. They all look at each other.)

ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD

Jump!

(They all jump off of the train, and the stage goes black.)

SCENE EIGHT

TWO COMMUNIST OFFICES / ALMOST POLISH BORDER

(Stage left has GLEB, talking on the phone to GORLINSKY, his superior, on stage right.)

#13A TRAVELING SEQUENCE

GORLINSKY

The train crossed the Russian border, and they weren't on it?

GLEB

A TEMPORARY SETBACK
WE'LL FIND THEM, NEVER FEAR
THEY THINK THEY CAN ELUDE US
BUT THEY'LL END UP HERE

GORLINSKY

A RAGGED LITTLE POPSTAR
ENGAGING IN A CRIME

(Thunder is heard. ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD run on stage, in the middle of a storm somewhere.)

ANYA, DMITRY, VLAD, GLEB, & GORLINSKY

THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA
IS RUNNING OUT OF TIME

(DMITRY *begins to run off*. GLEB and GORLINSKY *move to the background*.)

VLAD

Dmitry, wait! Anya can't go any further.

(*He puts down his suitcase, clearly winded.*)

She's exhausted.

DMITRY

The Polish border is only ten more kilometers! We'll be safe there!

(*He and ANYA run off. VLAD follows behind them.*)

VLAD

Wait for me!

(*Back on the phone with GLEB and GORLINSKY.*)

GORLINSKY

Follow her to Paris. If she's not Anastasia, bring her back. We'll make an example of her.

GLEB

And if she *is* Anastasia?

GORLINSKY

Finish the job for your father like a good son. Leave her floating in the sand.

GORLINSKY

IT'S REALLY VERY SIMPLE

YOU MERELY POINT THE GUN

AND THEN YOU PULL THE TRIGGER

GLEB

AND THE JOB IS DONE

GORLINSKY

ENJOY YOUR NEW POSITION
THE TELEPHONE WILL BE NEW

(ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD *return again*.)

ANYA, DMITRY, VLAD, GLEB, & GORLINSKY
THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA

(ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD *exit.*)

GORLINSKY
ALIVE OR DEAD

It's up to you.

#13B STILL

GLEB

Everyone imagines being someone else. It's an innocent enough fantasy.

AN UNDERHANDED GIRL
AN ACT OF DESPERATION
AND TO MY CONSTERNATION
I LET HER GO

SHE WANTS WHAT SHE CAN GET-
IS THAT A FAIR DEPICTION?
DOES SHE BELIEVE HER FICTION?
IT'S HARD TO KNOW

IS IT INNOCENCE OR GUILF?
OR NOTHING BUT A CHILDISH ACT OF WILL?
SHE DOESN'T KNOW SHE NEEDS YOU
SHE WILLFULLY MISLEADS YOU

(A COMMUNIST OFFICER *enter and puts his coat on GLEB, then exits.*)

BUT STILL...STILL

A SON BECOMES A MAN
AT HIS FATHER'S KNEE
IF MY FATHER ASKED QUESTIONS
WELL...WHERE WOULD WE BE?

SHE'S NOTHING BUT A CHILD
A WAIF WHO NEEDS PROTECTION
I FEEL A STRANGE CONNECTION-
I CAN'T ALLOW!

SHE SAYS IT'S ALL A GAME
SHE TREMBLES LIKE A FLOWER
BUT IN HER, THERE'S A POWER
I SEE THAT NOW

(Another COMMUNIST OFFICER gives GLEB papers, then exits.)

I AM NOTHING BUT A MAN
WITH NOTHING BUT HIS ORDERS
TO FULFILL
"I'M INNOCENT!" SHE CRIES!
BUT THEN, YOU SEE HER EYES
AND SOMETHING IN THEM TELLS YOU

(One more COMMUNIST OFFICER enters and hands GLEB a gun. He then joins the other OFFICERS, which have all come on stage and surrounded GLEB in a semicircle.)

THAT SHE ABSOLUTELY LIES
UNTIL YOUR HEART REPLIES
"BUT, STILL...!"
STILL
STILL

(He finishes the song and salutes the OFFICERS on stage, and they do the same. GLEB's salute mimics the projection on the screen, which is the same one from the prologue. The lighting is also red.)

SCENE NINE

A HILL OVERLOOKING PARIS

(ANYA, DMITRY, and VLAD walk onto the stage. There are beautiful pink and purple trees surrounding them. They have made it to Paris. They take it all in.)

VLAD

La belle, France!

(VLAD kisses the ground.)

DMITRY

It looks like Russia.

VLAD

France looks nothing like Russia. It looks like France.

ANYA

Except Russia is more beautiful.

VLAD

Russia is not the world! Open your hearts and minds to all this! Learn something! (*He gets emotional.*) I'm getting emotional. The last time I was in Paris, I was a young man. My waist was like this!

(He holds up his pinky finger.)

ANYA

Why have we stopped? I'm going to ask the driver what's wrong.

(She runs off. DMITRY nearly follows her.)

DMITRY

Look at her. Rattling off in French with him. You've taught her well. Don't be surprised if we get away with this, Vlad.

(He laughs, continuing to watch her.)

VLAD

She'll break your heart, Dmitry.

DMITRY

Be quiet. What do you know about anything?

VLAD

If they accept her as Anastasia, you'll never see her again.

DMITRY

(He walks away from VLAD)

As usual, you don't know what you're talking about.

(ANYA comes back on, this time with two suitcases, VLAD's and her own.)

ANYA

This is as far as he goes. But we're almost there! From the top of the hill, he says, you can just see Paris!

(VLAD runs and grabs his suitcase.)

VLAD

Oh! Are you ready to be astonished?

(He runs off stage.)

DMITRY

We made it!

ANYA

Even when I was mad at you, I never doubted we would. Thank you, Dmitry.

DMITRY

Thank Vlad.

VLAD (offstage)

I can see the Eiffel Tower! It's true! It's really there!

(DMITRY runs off.)

DMITRY (offstage)

Anya, come see! Anya!

VLAD (offstage)

Anya!

#14 JOURNEY TO THE PAST

ANYA

HEART, DON'T FAIL ME NOW.
COURAGE, DON'T DESERT ME.
DON'T TURN BACK NOW THAT WE'RE HERE.

PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY
LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES.
NO ONE EVER MENTIONS FEAR
OR HOW THE WORLD CAN SEEM SO VAST
ON A JOURNEY TO THE PAST.

SOMEWHERE DOWN THIS ROAD
I KNOW SOMEONE'S WAITING.
YEARS OF DREAMS JUST CAN'T BE WRONG.
ARMS WILL OPEN WIDE.
I'LL BE SAFE AND WANTED,
FINALLY HOME WHERE I BELONG.
WELL STARTING NOW I'M LEARNING FAST
ON THIS JOURNEY TO THE PAST.

HOME, LOVE, FAMILY.
THERE WAS ONCE A TIME
I MUST HAVE HAD THEM TOO.

HOME, LOVE, FAMILY.
I WILL NEVER BE COMPLETE
UNTIL I FIND YOU.

ONE STEP AT A TIME.
ONE HOPE THEN ANOTHER.
WHO KNOWS WHERE THIS ROAD MAY GO.
BACK TO WHO I WAS.
ON TO FIND MY FUTURE.
THINGS MY HEART STILL NEEDS TO KNOW.

YES! LET THIS BE A SIGN!
LET THIS ROAD BE MINE.
LET IT LEAD ME TO MY PAST,
AND BRING ME HOME
AT LAST!

*(The screen shows trees, then they part to reveal the
Eiffel Tower. Blackout.)*

-- END OF ACT ONE ---

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE

PARIS: 1927

(ANYA, VLAD, and DMITRY have glowed up. They are all dressed up very nicely and are exploring Paris.)

#15 PARIS HOLDS THE KEY (TO YOUR HEART)

VLAD

Voilà! Mes amis, here's Paris.

NOW THAT WE'RE HERE, FOLLOW ME.
BEGIN WITH THE NEW AS YOU STROLL DOWN LA RUE.

VLAD & ENSEMBLE

AND SOON ALL PARIS
WILL BE SINGING TO YOU

AHH

PARIS HOLDS THE KEY TO YOUR HEART
AND ALL OF PARIS PLAYS A PART
PARIS' TURNED A PAGE
TO THE NEW MODERN AGE

VLAD

AND WE'LL DO IT TOO IF WE'RE SMART!

ENSEMBLE

THE FRENCH HAVE IT DOWN TO AN ART
EVERYONE'S A WRITER, PAINTER, POET
EVERYTHING IS AVANT GARDE
OR CHIC

VLAD

WE'LL BE IN THE KNOW
BEFORE WE KNOW IT

VLAD & ENSEMBLE

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE KNOW IT'S-
OH, IT'S MAGNIFIQUE
TO FIND IN PARIS WHAT YOU SEEK.

(Couples branch off and dance, and DMITRY offers to dance with ANYA. However, a SUITOR cuts in right before. Two more SUITORS follow suit. DMITRY watches as this happens.)

DMITRY

PARIS HOLDS THE KEY TO HER FATE
WE WON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO WAIT
AND THEN COME WHAT MAY
WE WILL EACH GO OUR WAY...

(ANYA breaks away from dancing with the SUITORS.)

ANYA

I DREAMED OF A CITY BEYOND ALL COMPARE
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I'M FINALLY THERE

VLAD

AT LAST, THERE'S A FUTURE

DMITRY

THERE'S FREEDOM

ANYA

THERE'S HOPE

VLAD, DMITRY, & ANYA

IN THE AIR!

ALL

PARIS HOLDS THE KEY TO YOUR HEART
THE PLEASURES OF LIFE À LA CARTE
COME DANCE THROUGH THE NIGHT
AND FORGET ALL YOUR WOES
THE CITY OF LIGHT
HOW IT GLITTERS AND GLOWS
AND ONE NEVER KNOWS WHAT WILL START
PARIS HOLDS THE KEY TO YOUR HEART!

#15A PARIS HOLDS THE KEY EXIT

(The ENSEMBLE exits. VLAD gives ANYA a book.)

DMITRY

I don't know about anyone else, but it's been a long day.
I'll be at the hotel.

(He excitedly runs off.)

VLAD

Don't use up all the hot water! (to ANYA) I've never seen
him so happy. (a beat) I'm going to try and find Lily.

(ANYA fixes his bowtie.)

I'll start at the Neva Club.

*(They both smile and he exits. ANYA is left alone.
She opens the book.)*

ANYA

'Considered the most beautiful bridge in Paris, the
Alexander Bridge, as it is affectionately called by
Parisians, was named for...Tsar Alexander III'.

#16 CROSSING A BRIDGE

ANYA (cont)

LOOK AT THE SKY
LOOK AT THE WATER
SOMEBODY'S BRIDGE
SOMEBODY'S DAUGHTER
WHO COULD'VE KNOWN I'D BE ALONE
CROSSING THIS BRIDGE

BOATS HEADING IN
SOMEBODY CALLING
SUN GOING DOWN
SHADOWS ARE FALLING
SHIMMERING VIEW
DANGEROUS, TOO,
CROSSING A BRIDGE

HALFWAY BETWEEN
WHERE I'VE BEEN
AND WHERE I'M GOING

IN BETWEEN WONDERING WHY
AND FINALLY KNOWING
THOUSANDS OF LIGHTS
SHINING BELOW ME

SOMEBODY WAITS
SOMEBODY, KNOW ME
MAYBE WE'RE SHARING
THIS BEAUTIFUL NIGHT
ME ON THE LEFT BANK
YOU ON THE RIGHT
ALMOST IN SIGHT...
CROSSING A BRIDGE

EVERY LIGHT IS LIKE A PROMISE
EVERY LIGHT COULD BE A CLUE
ONE OF THEM MIGHT BE YOU

(She exits.)

SCENE TWO

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS'S HOME, PARIS

(LILY opens the door and enters, followed by COUNT LEOPOLD.)

LILY

I'm sorry, Count Leopold.

COUNT LEOPOLD

She can't always be resting. The Dowager Empress knows I have important papers for her to sign.

LILY

Papers designating you the heir of the Romanov fortune.
(She laughs.) She will never sign those.

COUNT LEOPOLD

She is an old woman who has outlived her place in history. Anastasia is a pathetic figment of her imagination. Eventually I will be recognized as the sole beneficiary of the Tsar's estate, by international court of law!

LILY

I'll tell her majesty you called.

(She gestures for him to exit.)

COUNT LEOPOLD

You will be at The Neva Club, this evening, Lily?

LILY

Along with every other White Russian in Paris.

COUNT LEOPOLD

I will want the first charleston.

LILY

I've given up dancing for Lent.

COUNT LEOPOLD

Lent just ended.

LILY

Next Lent. I'm getting an early start.

(She raises her hand for him to kiss, and he does, then exits. LILY wipes her hand off.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Is he gone?

LILY

Your Imperial Majesty.

(She bows as the DOWAGER EMPRESS enters.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

He's like a dog with a bone, that one.

LILY

Only four letters today.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

If only I could lose hope entirely. I used to open each one with a beating heart. Could this be my precious Anastasia? *(a beat)* But, after so many disappointments, I've come to dread the daily post. Another day, another imposter.

LILY

I won't let you give up.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Dearest Lily, I know I am a proud and difficult woman. You are the only one I've allowed to see what's become of me.

(She walks over to a couch stage right.)

I was Maria Fyodorovna Romanov, Empress of all Russia. You can't possibly know what that means, Lily. No one can.

(She sits. LILY opens the first letter and reads it aloud.)

LILY

'Your Majesty, remember our happy summers by the sea in Livadia?'

(LILY joins the DOWAGER EMPRESS on the couch.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Livadia? They all do their homework.

LILY

'Strange and bizarre events have brought me to Buenos Aires. Bring me to Paris, and I will convince you that I am Anastasia'.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

She wants me to pay her passage! At least that little imposter from Cleveland paid her own way. What is Cleveland? I've never heard of such a place. Sounds dreadful.

LILY

(moves to another letter and reads)

'Dearest Grandmamma, if I may call you that-'

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I was never Grandmamma, I was always Nana! I was *only* Nana! Grandmamma? They play me for a fool. Give me those.

(She takes the letters from LILY.)

No more letters. No more interviews.

LILY

There will be other young women. What should I tell them?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Tell them that they're too late. The Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov is dead. And the Dowager Empress is dead with her.

(She holds up a hand to LILY)

Leave me.

LILY

I'll light the lamps. Will you be alright this evening?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

(not hearing her)

My precious Anastasia.

LILY

She doesn't hear me. *(LILY exits. LITTLE ANASTASIA appears at the window stage right and watches.)*

#17 CLOSE THE DOOR

DOWAGER EMPRESS

THESE STRANGERS, COME CALLING
SOON ENOUGH THEY'RE GONE
THE TWILIGHT IS FALLING, LAMPS WILL SOON GO ON
AND WHERE DID SUMMER GO I WILL NEVER KNOW SUMMER USED TO LAST
ENDLESSLY
CHILDREN ALL IN WHITE, RUNNING DOWN THE SAND
TO ME
TO ME
THESE STRANGERS, SENT PACKING
WHAT DO THEY EXPECT
SO GRASPING
SO LACKING
WHY NOT BE DIRECT
THE BEATING OF MY HEART

AFTER THEY DEPART
LYING WIDE AWAKE
THROUGH THE NIGHT
WILL YOU EVER COME
RUNNING HOME TO ME
YOU MIGHT
YOU MIGHT
I'VE BELIEVED SO LONG
I HAVE DARED TO HOPE
THAT THE DOOR MIGHT OPEN
AND THAT YOU MIGHT

Enter.

PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK
KISSES ON MY CHEEK
THE LAMPS BEGIN TO GLOW
IN MY HEART I KNOW
YOU'RE A LIE THAT I'VE WAITED FOR
TELL THEM ALL TO GO
TELL THEM ALL NO MORE

(She puts a picture of LITTLE ANASTASIA, on her desk, faced down.)

TELL THEM I CLOSE THE DOOR

(Both LITTLE ANASTASIA and the DOWAGER EMPRESS exit.)

SCENE THREE

THE NEVA CLUB

(We are outside The Neva Club. There is a DOORMAN talking to people on their way in. TWO WOMEN enter.)

WOMAN 1

The revolution was the last gas for the *old* Europe and with it went our Tsar and the great of-

WOMAN 2

Except for The Neva Club, where time has stood still!

(She puts her boa on the DOORMAN)

Am I right, Sergei? *(to WOMAN 1)* He doesn't know what he's missed. Darling boy!

(She smacks his ass with her boa. Both WOMEN go offstage, and enter The Neva Club. GLEB enters the stage.)

DOORMAN

Welcome to Paris, comrade.

GLEB

I beg your pardon?

DOORMAN

Only off-the-train Russians wear shoes like yours. I have the same pair. Try the Russian tea shop on the Rue de l'Arc.

(GLEB starts to walk off)

Number 17. Last I heard they were hiring.

(GLEB stops.)

GLEB

I'm not looking for work, comrade.

(LILY enters. The DOORMAN bows.)

DOORMAN

Good evening, Countess Lily.

LILY

The only good thing about it is that it means one day less. *(a beat)* I'm being Russian, Sergei!

(They laugh.)

I love life.

(COUNT GREGORY enters with COUNTESS GREGORY.)

Count Gregory! How was the ballet?

COUNT GREGORY

Dreadful. You never heard such a racket.

COUNTESS GREGORY

Le Sacre du Printemps! Ooh! Gregory renamed it 'Le Sacre du Merde'.

(They all laugh.)

COUNT GREGORY

Thank God for *Swan Lake* next week. Real Russian music! Not this Stravinsky.

COUNTESS GREGORY

You'll be there with Her Imperial Majesty?

LILY

But of course. A lady-in-waiting's life is never her own.

(LILY enters The Club.)

COUNTESS GREGORY

Marvelous! I haven't seen the Dowager Empress since the Russian opera season.

(COUNT and COUNTESS GREGORY, with another MAN and WOMAN who have just entered the stage, enter The Club. The DOORMAN sees GLEB is still here and walks over to him.)

DOORMAN

Don't loiter. They won't like it. Go to the back door. Oscar will give you something to eat.

(He begins to return back to his post. One more WOMAN enters and goes into The Club, then COUNT LEOPOLD.)

GLEB

I'm not hungry.

DOORMAN

Don't be so proud, comrade.

GLEB

I'd rather starve than eat your scraps. They make me ashamed to be Russian!

(GLEB exits and the DOORMAN goes into The Club. We are now inside The, packed, Neva Club. Everyone is having a good time.)

#17A UNDERSCORE NEVA CLUB

COUNT GREGORY

(raising his glass)

Thank God for The Neva Club. St. Petersburg on the sand.

LILY

(sitting on the bar)

Only a *fool* would go back. My husband was very sorry he did. Ten families were living in our ballroom alone. There were chickens in the wine cellar!

(She laughs.)

It's not the Russia he remembers.

COUNTESS GREGORY

The Red Russians are for that.

LILY

What was it our great poet said?

COUNT GREGORY

Which one, Lily? We have *so many*.

(The ENSEMBLE starts to ad-lib Russian poets.)

LILY

It doesn't matter, they all say the same thing: past glories. Present griefs.

#18 LAND OF YESTERDAY

LILY

ONCE I HAD A PALACE
HERE, MERELY A FLAT
I FLED WITH SOME DIAMONDS
AND THAT WAS THAT

ARISTOCRATS

IT'S VERY TRAGIC

LILY

ONCE, LADIES-IN-WAITING
ALL BENDING A KNEE!
NOW, ONLY ONE LADY-IN-WAITING--ME!

MEN

NO FANFARES

WOMEN

OR SEDAN CHAIRS

MEN

AND NO COUCHES

WOMEN

AND WE SOLD OUR BROACHES!

COUNT LEOPOLD

NO AFTERNOON CARD GAMES WITH THE TSAR

LILY

NO CAVIAR!
BUT I SAY WE'RE NOT DEAD NOW!

ALL

WE'RE NOT DEAD NOW
WE'RE IN FRANCE INSTEAD, NOW

LILY

LET US NOT BE SAD!
THE NIGHT'S YOUNG
AND RUSSIANS ARE MAD
SO...

LET'S LIVE IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY
LIVE IN THE GRAND IMPERIAL HEYDAY
LET'S LIVE IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY RUSSIA!

ALL

HUSHA!

LILY

LET'S PUT ON THE FANCY CLOTHES
AND LET'S WHILE OUR WOES AWAY

LILY AND ALL

IN RUSSIA
LAND OF YESTERDAY

LILY

IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES,
WHY WALLOW IN REGRET?
WE'RE OUT OF SECOND CHANCES
WHY ARE WE HERE, EXCEPT TO FORGET?
WE KNOW THE WORLD IS FICKLE
LIFE IS A LEAKY SIEVE!
PASS ME A GLASS
AND GIVE ME A BOW--
AND DRINK TO THE "COUNTESS NOBODY" NOW.
WHY SHOULD I CARE
AS LONG AS I DARE TO LIVE...

ARISTOCRATS

IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY...

LILY

LET'S RUN UP THE BILL
AS IF WE'RE STILL
ROYALTY AT PLAY!

LILY AND ALL

IN RUSSIA, LAND OF YESTERDAY!

(The ENSEMBLE wants LILY to dance)

LILY

No, no, no. *(slight pause)* Okay!

(LILY leads a dance break. Everyone spins out of control and lands on the ground, except for LILY, who is still dancing, while holding a wine bottle.)

THE NIGHT'S YOUNG
AND RUSSIANS ARE MAD, SO...

(The ENSEMBLE starts to get up)

LET'S LIVE IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY.

ALL

LIVE IN THE GRAND IMPERIAL HEYDAY.
LET'S LIVE IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY
RUSSIA!
HUSHA!

LILY

LET'S BRUSH OFF THE DAYS OF OLD
AND LET'S HOLD THE WORLD AT BAY...

ALL

YES, HERE'S TO

(They make a circle around LILY.)

LILY

RUSSIA!

ALL

HERE'S TO

LILY AND WOMEN

RUSSIA!

ALL

HERE'S TO RUSSIA!
LAND OF YESTERDAY.

(VLAD sneakily joins in the circle from offstage.)

LAND OF YESTERDAY.

HEY!

(They all pose, VLAD with LILY.)

(Everyone breaks pose and enjoys the fun they just had. LILY sees VLAD and freaks.)

LILY

Oh! Vlad Popov!

VLAD

Aha!

LILY

I thought the Bolsheviks put you in front of a firing squad!

VLAD

They did. When they gave the order to fire, no one could pull the trigger.

LILY

I can't imagine why not.

VLAD

I still melt hearts, ma chere. Just as you still melt mine.

(VLAD and LILY walk downstage and The Club turns into a park, outside.)

SCENE FOUR

OUTSIDE, IN A PARK SOMEWHERE

#18A BEFORE COUNTESS AND THE COMMON MAN
--

VLAD

I crossed a continent for this moment.

LILY

Still up to your old tricks?

(She crosses to exit but VLAD stops her.)

VLAD

Admit you're happy to see me.

LILY

I'm glad you're not dead, but that's as far as I'm prepared to go.

(She makes a scene of walking away from him. "Seductively".)

What are you doing in Paris?

VLAD

(taking off his suit jacket)

Didn't you get my letter?

LILY

I did; and I promptly tore it up.

(She sits on a bench stage right.)

VLAD

(running after her)

You've grown hard, my darling Lily.

LILY

No harder than need be.

VLAD

My precious Lily.

LILY

I'm not the woman you remember, Vlad.

VLAD

No. You're even lovelier than I remember.

(He takes her arm and kisses it after each word.)

My hot-blooded. Sensual. Passionate-

(She flips and gets up.)

LILY

That was then. When the world was beautiful!

VLAD

We'll make it beautiful again! In Paris! The city of lovers!

LILY

If only we could.

VLAD

Ever since that first day in court when I saw you, I knew I was beneath you.

LILY

You're right, darling. You were.

#18B THE COUNTESS AND THE COMMON MAN

VLAD

I NOTICED YOU ACROSS A ROOM
THE MOST EXQUISITE ROSE
THE TINIEST TIARA AND
THAT HAUGHTY LITTLE NOSE
I FLIRTED WITH YOU SHAMELESSLY

LILY

OR SO THE SCANDAL GOES...
THE COUNTESS

VLAD

AND THE COMMON MAN
WE TIPTOED OFF TO PETERHOF
TO HAVE A ROYAL FLING

LILY

MY HUSBAND WAS OBLIVIOUS;
COUNT'S NEVER KNOW A THING!

VLAD

AND ALL OF IT WAS PERFECT...

LILY

'TIL YOU STOLE MY DIAMOND RING!

BOTH

THE COUNTESS
AND THE COMMON MAN

VLAD

COLOGNE IN THE BEDCLOTHES,
THE PASTRY AND WINE

LILY

AND UNDER THE TABLE
YOUR FOOT TOUCHING MINE

BOTH

AND HOW MY HEART BEAT
WHEN YOU SENT ME "OUR SIGN."

*(VLAD scratches his chest. LILY tugs on her ear.
They both wipe their brows, in opposite directions.)*

LILY

I LOVED YOU...

(VLAD pauses, unable to respond the same way.)

VLAD

YOU LOVED ME
AND OH, IT WAS SIMPLY

BOTH

DIVINE

*(Once again, a dance break. It ends with them
spinning, then running out of breath and needing to
sit down/take a break. Then they continue.)*

VLAD

WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN
MY LITTLE ROSE,
WE'RE BACK WHERE WE BEGAN

LILY

AND I SUPPOSE
THAT YOU'LL PROPOSE
ANOTHER SNEAKY PLAN!
WHICH I'LL RESIST...

VLAD

UNTIL YOU'RE KISSED...

(They KISS.)

BOTH

FOR NOTHING'S BETTER THAN...

LILY

THE COUNTESS

VLAD

AND THE COMMON MAN

BOTH
THE COUNTESS
AND THE COMMON MAN.

*(They pose, then kiss again, very passionately?
Messy? You decide.)*

LILY
I'm waiting for you to kiss me again.

VLAD
Gladly. But first, there's a young woman I want you to meet.

LILY
That's all?

VLAD
(He reaches into his coat pocket and grabs two tickets.)

There will be someone at the ballet on Monday who will want to meet her too.

LILY
Who is that?

VLAD
The Dowager Empress.

LILY
No!

(She begins to run out but again is stopped by VLAD. He grabs her hand.)

<p>#18C REPRISSES THE COUNTESS AND LAND OF YESTERDAY</p>

VLAD
We are going to change history, Lily.

THE COUNTESS
(He grabs his suit jacket from the bench and drapes it over LILY.)

LILY

AND THE COMMON MAN.

(VLAD drops the ballet ticket and they exit, arm-in-arm. GLEB enters.)

GLEB

THEY LIVE IN THE LAND OF YESTERDAY
LOST IN THEIR MAD IMPERIAL HAYDAY
HOW SAD IS THE LAND OF YESTERDAY?

(He finds the ticket on the ground and takes it.)

HOW COULD A GOOD RUSSIAN GIRL
BE SO BADLY LED ASTRAY?
YOU WANT TO CHANGE HISTORY
WELL, I'LL LET YOU LEAD THE WAY
TO ANYA

(He exits.)

SCENE FIVE

THE HOTEL. ANYA'S ROOM

#19 A NIGHTMARE

(ANYA is in her bed sleeping. She is having a nightmare. There are strobe lights. In her nightmare are the ROMANOVs and the ENSEMBLE from the Prologue. They all scatter the stage.)

ANYA

Who are you? Every night you come.

TSAR NICHOLAS II

And we will. Until you remember us.

TSARINA ALEXANDRA

Have you said your prayers? God is everything. Sleep well. With this mother's kiss.

(ALEXI is lifted into the air, like a swing.)

ALEXI

Can I tell you a secret? I'm going to die soon. We all are. Do you have a secret?

ANYA

I don't know who I am.

ALEXI

That's silly. Everyone knows who they are.

ENSEMBLE

ANYA

ANYA

ANYA!

(Everyone scatters, only ANYA is left in her bed.)

ANYA

(screams)

Ahh!

(She gets up.)

No!

(DMITRY runs in.)

DMITRY

Anya?

ANYA

(clearly shaken up)

The voices keep coming back!

DMITRY

(He runs toward her.)

That's all they are. Voices. You're having a nightmare.

(He grabs her by the arms and leads her back to her bed.)

ANYA

Stay with me, Dmitry. I'm frightened.

(They sit on her bed.)

DMITRY

Is that better?

ANYA

Who do you think I am, Dmitry?

DMITRY

If I were the Dowager Empress, I would want you to be Anastasia.

ANYA

You would?

DMITRY

I would want her to be a beautiful, strong, and intelligent young woman.

ANYA

Is that what you think I am?

DMITRY

I do.

ANYA

Thank you.

(A pause. They realize they are holding hands and they awkwardly separate.)

DMITRY

You're welcome.

ANYA

I began to wonder if you were ever going to pay me a compliment. *(a beat)* Do you really think—I might be her?

DMITRY

I want to believe you're the little girl I saw once, many years ago.

ANYA

I don't understand.

#20 IN A CROWD OF THOUSANDS

DMITRY

IT WAS JUNE
I WAS TEN
I STILL THINK OF THAT DAY
NOW AND THEN
A PARADE
AND A GIRL
AND A CROWD OF THOUSANDS

SHE SAT STRAIGHT
AS A QUEEN
ONLY EIGHT
BUT SO PROUD AND SERENE
HOW THEY CHEERED
HOW I STARED
IN THAT CROWD OF THOUSANDS

(He gets up and walks to stage right.)

THEN I STARTED TO RUN
AND TO CALL OUT HER NAME
AS THE CROWD ON THE ROAD WENT WILD
I REACHED OUT WITH MY HAND
AND LOOKED UP
AND THEN SHE SMILED

THE PARADE
TRAVELED ON
WITH THE SUN IN MY EYES
SHE WAS GONE
BUT IF I WERE STILL TEN
IN THAT CROWD OF THOUSANDS
I'D FIND HER AGAIN

ANYA

You're making me feel I was there too.

DMITRY

Maybe you were. Make it part of your story.

(He walks back to the bed and leans on the bedpost.)

ANYA

A PARADE

DMITRY

A PARADE

ANYA

PASSING BY

DMITRY

PASSING BY

ANYA

IT WAS HOT
NOT A CLOUD IN THE SKY
THEN A BOY
CAUGHT MY EYE

(DMITRY sits next to her.)

BOTH

IN A CROWD OF THOUSANDS

ANYA

HE WAS THIN
NOT TOO CLEAN
THERE WERE GUARDS
BUT HE DODGED IN BETWEEN
YES HE MADE HIMSELF SEEN
IN THAT CROWD OF THOUSANDS

(She gets up and walks to stage left.)

THEN HE CALLED OUT MY NAME
AND HE STARTED TO RUN
THROUGH THE SUN AND THE HEAT
IN THE CROWD
I TRIED NOT TO SMILE
BUT I SMILED

(There is a spark in her eye. She remembers something.)

AND THEN HE BOWED

(DMITRY is shocked, he gets up immediately.)

DMITRY

I didn't tell you that.

ANYA

You didn't have to. I remember!

(A pause. Then they run toward each other.)

BOTH

THE PARADE
TRAVELED ON
WITH THE SUN IN MY EYES
YOU WERE GONE
BUT I KNEW
EVEN THEN
IN A CROWD OF THOUSANDS
I'D FIND YOU AGAIN

(DMITRY starts to lean in to kiss ANYA but in the last moment, abruptly pulls away. He kneels to her.)

DMITRY

Your highness.

SCENE SIX

THE BALLET

#21A ARRIVING AT THE BALLET

(Two USHERS enter. Then, PARISIANS enter one after the other, all very elegantly dressed. They greet each other and chat until the DOWAGER EMPRESS enters. They all bow to her. Next, VLAD and LILY enter. They do their secret sign. After them, DMITRY runs in, in a tux. He talks to VLAD and VLAD points to DMITRY's shoe. He needs to tie it. He does. That's when ANYA enters, in a stunning blue gown. She walks over to DMITRY, and he is shocked when he looks up. He stands up and offers her his arm, and the two begin to walk off, until they notice VLAD. VLAD waves them to go on and they, with the other PARISIANS, LILY, and the DOWAGER EMPRESS walk offstage. VLAD is left.)

#21B MEANT TO BE

VLAD

WHAT'S MEANT TO BE
IS MEANT TO BE
I SEE IT
AT A GLANCE
SHE'S RADIANT
AND CONFIDENT
AND BORN TO TAKE THIS CHANCE
I TRIED TO THINK OF EVERYTHING
I JUST FORGOT
ROMANCE
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE
LET THEM DANCE

(He walks off and the scene changes to a ballet, everyone in different boxes. GLEB is in the top box stage right. LILY and the DOWAGER EMPRESS are in the box on the bottom stage right. ANYA and DMITRY are on the bottom box stage left. VLAD is in the box with them. Some PARISIANS occupy the remaining boxes. (Four boxes with three seats each in them.) Swan Lake begins. ODETTE enters. ANYA stands.)

#22 QUARTET AT THE BALLET

ANYA

CAN THIS BE THE EVENING?
CAN THIS BE THE PLACE?
AM I ONLY DREAMING
LOOKING AT HER FACE?
EVERYTHING I'VE WANTED
SUDDENLY SO CLEAR!
MY PAST AND MY FUTURE SO NEAR...

(ANYA *sits* and DMITRY *stands*. PRINCE SIEGFRIED *enters*. He dances with ODETTE.)

DMITRY

NEXT TO ME THIS FRIGHTENED GIRL
HOLDING TIGHT AS THE DANCERS WHIRL
KEEP YOUR NERVE AND
SEE THIS THROUGH
IT'S WHAT YOU'VE COME TO DO...

(DMITRY *sits* and the DOWAGER EMPRESS *stands*. The CYGNETS *enter and dance*.)

THE DOWAGER EMPRESS

SEE THAT GIRL
COULD IT BE...

Don't be ridiculous!

I REFUSE TO DREAM
I REFUSE TO HOPE
I MUST STOP BELIEVING
I WILL EVER FIND HER...

(She *sits* and GLEB *stands*. VON ROTHBART *enters and dances*.)

GLEB

SHE'S NEAR AT HAND
YET HERE I STAND
MY HEART AND MIND AT WAR...
THE TIMES MUST CHANGE
THE WORLD MUST CHANGE
AND LOVE IS NOT
WHAT REVOLUTION'S FOR...

DMITRY & GLEB

SOMEONE HOLDS HER
SAFE AND WARM
SOMEONE RESCUES HER
FROM THE STORM
SIMPLE THINGS
BUT ONE THING'S CLEAR:
IT'S FATE THAT BROUGHT US HERE...

(These parts are now overlapping as the dancers dance.)

ANYA & DOWAGER EMPRESS

PAINTED WINGS
SILVER SNOW
WHIRLING LIKE A BALLETT
THINGS MY HEART
YEARN TO KNOW

DMITRY

HOME, LOVE,
FAM'LY
SHE WILL HAVE
ALL OF IT!
I WILL HELP HER

GLEB

SIMPLE THINGS
SIMPLE THINGS!
AND WHATEVER I
HAVE TO DO I'LL
DO
SIMPLE HOW SIMPLE
MEN

(The parts now come back in unison, but have harmonies.)

ANYA, DMITRY, GLEB & DOWAGER EMPRESS

FIND A WAY
ANASTASIA!

(The song and ballet ends, and the dancers each take a bow before exiting.)

SCENE SEVEN

AFTER THE BALLETT, OUTSIDE THE DOWAGER EMPRESS'S BOX

(LILY comes from offstage right.)

LILY

The finest and driest champagne they have, of course Your Majesty!

(VLAD runs in from the opposite direction.)

VLAD

Is she in a good mood?

LILY

She's never in a good mood. What have you talked me into?

VLAD

Wait till you see her!

(ANYA and DMITRY enter. LILY turns and takes a look at ANYA, and then bows.)

LILY

Your Highness.

ANYA

(She rushes over to LILY and makes her stand straight.)

No, you mustn't.

VLAD

That composure! We did a good job, Dmitry!

LILY

I don't want to get your hopes up, young lady.

DMITRY

We'll celebrate after on your grandfather's bridge.

ANYA

I'm ready.

DMITRY

You will announce the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov.

LILY

You have a visitor, Your Majesty!

(LILY walks offstage right, into the box where (we assume) the DOWAGER EMPRESS is. ANYA follows her.)

VLAD and DMITRY sit in chairs. VLAD on stage left,
DMITRY on stage right.)

#23 EVERYTHING TO WIN

DMITRY

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?
WONDER HOW LONG THEY'LL BE
WHY SHOULD I WORRY?

WORRYING'S NOT LIKE ME
NOTHING TO DO BUT PACE AND STEW
AND WAIT TILL THE GIRL WALKS IN
WHY PANIC NOW WITH EVERYTHING TO WIN?

VLAD (spoken)

My nerves can't handle this. Tell Lily I needed a stiff
glass of vodka.

(He exits stage left.)

DMITRY

NOTHING BUT SILENCE

THIS COULD BE BAD
BUT NO, LET'S ASSUME IT'S GOOD
THOUGHT IT WAS FOOLPROOF

NOTHING IS FOOLPROOF!
WOAH! BETTER KNOCK ON WOOD!
GIRL GETS A FAMILY

BOY GETS RICH
AND FAIRYTALE GETS A SPIN
HOW CAN WE FAIL WITH

EVERYTHING TO WIN?
I WONDER

IF OUR PATHS WILL EVER CROSS AGAIN
THE WAY THEY DID

WHEN YOU WERE EIGHT AND I WAS TEN
WE SAID THIS WAS GOODBYE, BUT EVEN SO

YOU NEVER KNOW
YOU NEVER KNOW

(A beat. Something changes.)

I SHOULD BE GLAD
THAT WE'RE BREAKING FREE
BUT NOTHING IS WHAT IT WAS
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE MATTERED TO ME
BUT NOW I CAN SEE SHE DOES
CONMAN AND PRINCESS GET THEIR WISH
FAIRYTALE COMES TRUE
FUNNY, ONE SMALL PART I NEVER KNEW
WITH EVERYTHING TO WIN
THE ONLY THING I LOSE

*(He is cut off from finishing because he sees ANYA
come from the box. She is upset.)*

IS-

(He looks at her.)

DMITRY

What happened?

ANYA

She wouldn't even look at me. 'Tell this imposter, Lily,
I know her kind too well. She wants money and will break an
old woman's heart to get it'.

DMITRY

(He runs to meet her across the stage)

I'll tell her the truth.

ANYA

(angry)

That I was a pawn in a scheme of yours.

(DMITRY tries to respond but can't.)

You made me think I was someone I never was or ever could
be. I was cold and hungry and desperate, Dmitry, when I
met you; but I wasn't dishonest. I hate you for that.

(ANYA walks out. DMITRY tries to run after her, but ultimately lets her go. LILY enters. DMITRY runs to her.)

LILY

I'm sorry, young man.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Is she gone?

(The DOWAGER EMPRESS enters.)

DMITRY

Your Royal Majesty!

(He bows.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

How dare you address me?

DMITRY

Anya doesn't want your money! I take full responsibility for bringing her to Paris.

(He walks toward the DOWAGER EMPRESS. She puts up a hand to him.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Don't come any closer!

DMITRY

But I believe with all my heart that she *is* the Grand Duchess Anastasia!

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I will not stay for this.

(She begins to walk away from him.)

DMITRY

She only wants what's rightfully hers! Your recognition, and your loving embrace!

(He STEPS on the train of the DOWAGER EMPRESS's gown. Her beautifully stunning gorgeous expensive-looking gown. She stops walking.)

Try to imagine her life since her parents, sisters, little brother were murdered.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I do not need reminding what happened to my family!

(She whips her gown back around to behind her as she turns to yell at him.)

I lost everything I loved that day!

DMITRY

So did she. Anya survived for a reason. To heal what happened. Or Russia will be a wound that never heals!

(The DOWAGER EMPRESS slaps DMITRY.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

That is no longer a concern of mine. Russia has damned itself to eternity for what it has done!

LILY

You're tiring her!

DMITRY

God will judge you harshly, old woman. History already has.

(DMITRY exits. He turns his back to them.)

LILY

He turned his back to you!

DOWAGER EMPRESS

(She takes a moment, then rushes to exit.)

Take me home, Lily.

(LILY follows her off.)

#23A TRANSITION TO HOTEL ROOM

SCENE EIGHT

THE HOTEL, ANYA'S ROOM

(ANYA is pissed, and she is packing up her stuff. DMITRY is there, sitting in a chair, and VLAD is standing behind him.)

ANYA

It was my life you played with. Telling me I was someone else. Letting me believe I was.

(She picks up a doll from the table.)

What is this?

DMITRY

I bought it for you

(ANYA throws it to the ground.)

when we were at-

ANYA

I don't want it.

(She crosses to the other side of the stage and VLAD follows her.)

DMITRY

Where are you going?

ANYA

Anywhere that's far from you.

VLAD

Any-

ANYA

No wonder you were dismissed from court. Men like you deserve every bad hand life deals you.

(She rips the medals from his suit jacket. She throws them to the ground. She looks at both of them.)

You both do.

#23B ANYA/HOTEL UNDERSCORE

(ANYA turns away from them and starts to pack her things. She is rambling on, unaware of what's about to happen. LILY runs in and whispers something to VLAD. She gestures and the DOWAGER EMPRESS enters the room. She and DMITRY share a glance. LILY takes VLAD's hand and they exit. DMITRY takes the DOWAGER EMPRESS's cane she is holding out to him and bows. He exits. ANYA keeps ranting on, unaware.)

I admired the way you were proud of who you were, Dmitry, despite your circumstances. And you taught me to be the same! And the whole time you were tricking me.

(ANYA picks up a book.)

Russian history. Save it for your next Anastas-

(She turns and is shocked to see the DOWAGER EMPRESS before her, not DMITRY. ANYA stops in her tracks and bows.)

Your Imperial Highness.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I think history demands we play this game till the end.

ANYA

Please be seated.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

There's no need. I shall be brief. Who are you?

ANYA

(ANYA approaches the DOWAGER EMPRESS.)

I believe I am the youngest daughter-

DOWAGER EMPRESS

(cutting her off and walking in front of the bench center stage)

Oh, spare me my family history! It's in every bookstore along the Seine. And anyone can read it.

ANYA

I didn't think you'd be so cruel.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I'm old and impatient. Kindness has become a luxury.

ANYA

My Nana was the most loving woman imaginable.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

That was before they murdered everyone she loved.

ANYA

Her bosom smelled like oranges when she hugged me.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

It's a common enough scent.

ANYA

Not hers. It came from Sicily, especially for her in a box of polished ingelewood.

(ANYA sits on the bench.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

How dare you sit without my permission?

(ANYA stands quickly. A moment passes.)

Alright, sit. You have my permission. In that case, I shall sit too.

(ANYA sits again and this time the DOWAGER EMPRESS joins her on the bench. The DOWAGER EMPRESS studies ANYA for a bit. Then she begins to question her.)

Who was my favorite lady-in-waiting?

ANYA

You didn't have one. You kept dismissing them.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

That was a trick question; you're clever, I'll grant you that.

(She looks at ANYA again.)

I'm trying to see the resemblance, I don't trust my eyes.

(ANYA begins to smile.)

ANYA

You should wear spectacles

(She stops, realizing.)

I'm sorry.

(She turns away.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Name the three-

ANYA

Why don't you want me to be her?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I have found solace in my bitterness. It doesn't disappoint me. You Anastasias disappoint always do.

ANYA

If you give me a chance, maybe I won't.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I don't believe Anastasia exists.

(ANYA's face drops.)

ANYA

You don't want to believe it.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

What was your mother's *full* title as empress of all Russia?

(They overlap words in these next few lines.)

ANYA

Are we beyond this?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Her Imperial Majesty the Empress of all thou Russia-

ANYA

She was Mamma to me.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Alexandra middle name-

ANYA

She was Mamma to all of us

(She breaks down and cries.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You all cry at some point. Do you rehearse? Tears will get you nowhere.

ANYA

Why did you come here?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Your young man told me you were not part of his *scheme*.

ANYA

He's right, I wasn't.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

He thinks you very well might be my granddaughter. He says you've come to believe it yourself.

ANYA

I believe it with all my heart. But I can't be her unless you recognize me.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You can't *be* anyone unless you first recognize yourself.

ANYA

I know.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Do you know what it means to lose everything, young woman-my son, his *children*? Everything I loved and held dear with all my heart, all lost and gone in one terrible moment; and for what? The good of Russia?

(She shakes her head and looks down. Then forward.)

I'll ask you one last time, be very careful what you answer. *Who are you?!*

ANYA

I don't know anymore. Who are you?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

An old woman, who remembers everything the way it *should* have been and nothing the way it was. I am unreliable; I am a historian of the heart. (*She stops.*) I want this fearful journey to be over!

ANYA

Do you remember the last time you saw Anastasia?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I didn't know it was the last time! We never do. We never know which goodbye is the last.

ANYA

You were leaving for Paris. You never came back. You gave her a music box.

(ANYA looks to the table, grabs the music box and returns to the bench. The DOWAGER EMPRESS stands.)

I believe this was it.

(ANYA opens the music box. A melody plays.)

#23C ONCE UPON A DECEMBER REPRISE
--

ANYA (cont)

FAR AWAY

LONG AGO

GLOWING DIM AS AN EMBER.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

THINGS MY HEART USED TO KNOW.

BOTH

ONCE UPON A DECEMBER.

ANYA

I said I'd come visit you in Paris. We'd go to the ballet together, and walk on grandpapa's bridge.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You never knew him. I loved him very much.

ANYA

We'll walk the bridge together. For all of them, Nana.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

What took you so long?

ANYA

Doesn't matter. I'm here with you.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Too late. You've come too late.

ANYA

It's never too late to come home, Nana.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Anastasia!

*(They hug. DMITRY walks in and sees them together.
ANYA smells her.)*

ANYA

Orange blossoms!

(DMITRY leaves.)

SCENE NINE

THE PETERHOF PALACE

#24 THE PRESS CONFERENCE

(LILY runs in, bombarded by many reporters.)

MALE REPORTERS

HAS SHE BEEN LIVING FAR OR NEAR?

MALE REPORTERS

WHAT KIND OF LETTER DID SHE SEND?

FEMALE REPORTER 1

EXCUSE ME, OVER HERE!

ALL MALE REPORTERS

THE RUMORS NEVER END!

FIRST GROUP OF MALE REPORTERS

YOU'VE HAD IMPOSTERS, IS IT TRUE?

SECOND GROUP

WHAT SORT OF PROOF DO YOU INTEND?

FEMALE REPORTER 2

EXCUSE ME, OVER HERE!

ALL MALE REPORTERS

THE RUMORS NEVER END!

(VLAD enters and LILY addresses the reporters.)

LILY

Good afternoon. I am the Countess Lily Malevsky-Malevich,
and this is Count Vladimir Popov.

VLAD

P-O-P-O-V!

LILY

THE DOWAGER IS COMING BUT SHE'S RUNNING VERY LATE
I'M CERTAIN THAT HER MAJESTY WILL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT
BUT ROYALTY IS ROYALTY, ONE ALWAYS HAS TO WAIT

Wait!

I'M REALLY NOT AT LIBERTY TO GOSSIP WITH THE PRESS
HER MAJESTY IS COMING, UNTIL THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GUESS

VLAD

SUFFICE TO SAY

YOU'LL MEET TODAY

THE LITTLE LOST PRINCESS!

(The REPORTERS go nuts.)

MALE REPORTERS 1 & 5

DID SHE ARRIVE BY TRAIN?

MALE REPORTER 2

I HEARD SHE MAY HAVE GONE INSANE!

LILY

A lie!

MALE REPORTER 3

I'M FROM THE PARIS NEWS
WE DO EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS!

VLAD

Oh my!

MALE REPORTER 4

IS SHE A FAKE OR IS SHE REAL?

FEMALE REPORTER 3

HOW DOES SHE LOOK?

FEMALE REPORTER 4

HOW DOES SHE FEEL?

FEMALE REPORTERS 5 & 6

WHAT HAS SHE DONE?
WHERE HAS SHE BEEN?

ALL FEMALE REPORTERS

HOW DID SHE LIVE?
WHO TOOK HER IN?

LILY

WE'RE NEARLY READY TO BEGIN!

(The parts branch off. GROUPS 1 & 2 consist of various MALE & FEMALE REPORTERS. The SOPRANOS are FEMALE REPORTERS 5 & 6).

GROUP 1
WHERE HAS SHE BEEN?
WHAT HAS SHE DONE?

GROUP 2
WHO TOOK HER IN?
IS SHE THE ONE?

SOPRANOS
THE RUMOR

WE'RE WAITING
EAGERLY TO SEE

THE LEGEND

IS SHE

THE MYSTERY

ALL
THE PRINCESS
ANASTASIA...

SOPRANOS
ANASTASIA!

VLAD

Lily!

LILY
ENOUGH! NOW...

REPORTERS

HER MAJESTY IS ELDERLY
AND DOESN'T SUFFER FOOLS

SHE DOESN'T SUFFER FOOLS

SHE'S READY TO RECEIVE YOU

BUT YOU MUST OBEY THE
RULES.

WE MUST OBEY THE RULES.

NO SMOKING AND NO JOKING

VLAD
AND NO HANDLING OF JEWELS.

LILY
Members of the press,

THIS WAY!

THIS WAY!

REPORTERS

WHERE HAS SHE BEEN?

WHAT HAS SHE DONE?

WHO TOOK HER IN?

IS SHE THE ONE?

WE'RE WAITING

EAGERLY TO SEE

SOPRANOS

THE RUMOR

THE LEGEND

THE MYSTERY

ALL REPORTERS

THE PRINCESS ANASTASIA!

(LILY points stage left and all the REPORTERS exit that way. After they're all gone, VLAD takes LILY's hand and they exit stage right.)

SCENE TEN

ANOTHER ROOM IN THE PALACE

(ANYA is in a gorgeous red gown, and she and the DOWAGER EMPRESS appear to be taking photos. A few flashes go off as they pose.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Press and fellow Russians are all going to want to take a look at you and ask some questions.

(LILY and VLAD enter.)

ANYA

All that matters is that we found each other, Nana.

(COUNT LEOPOLD enters.)

COUNT LEOPOLD

(to the DOWAGER EMPRESS)

Surely, Your Majesty, you don't think this, this *imposter* is the Grand Duchess Anastasia?

(ANYA remembers him.)

ANYA

Count Leopold? With your dyed hair, powdered face, and vodka breath! No wonder my parents laughed at you behind your back.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You're right, Anastasia. *(whispers)* They did.

(COUNT LEOPOLD exits.)

VLAD

Everyone did, Your Majesty!

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I remember you.

LILY

(whispers to him)

Quit while you're ahead, Vlad.

VLAD

(bowing)

Yes, Your Majesty. Thank you, Your Majesty. Goodbye, Your Majesty.

(VLAD exits.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I don't like that man.

LILY

He's not so bad.

(She looks at the DOWAGER EMPRESS.)

Yes, he is, Your Majesty. He's a terrible person.

(She excuses herself and exits.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Get used to people agreeing with everything you say.

ANYA

That's not right!

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Now, where's your young man?

ANYA

He's not my young man.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

It's not plain to you that he *loves* you?

ANYA

He's not my young man, Nana.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

When he refused the reward for finding you, I thought, Anastasia has found herself another kind of prince. One of character, not birth.

ANYA

Dmitry *refused* the reward?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

You are Anastasia. He said that was his reward. You have made this the happiest day of my life, Anastasia. Make sure it will be yours as well, Anya. We will always have each other no matter what you decide.

#24A EVERYTHING TO WIN REPRISE

(The DOWAGER EMPRESS kisses ANYA's forehead and exits. ANYA sings to the audience. During this song, GLEB is in the background, shutting the doors. He sneaks in at the end of the song.)

ANYA

I SHOULD BE GLAD
I'M WHERE I SHOULD BE
BUT NOTHING IS WHAT IT WAS
I DIDN'T KNOW
HE MATTERED TO ME

BUT NOW I CAN SEE HE DOES...
CONMAN AND PRINCESS
GET THEIR WISH
AND FAIRYTALE COMES TRUE!
THE ONLY THING I LOSE
IS-

(She turns around to see GLEB.)

Gleb.

#25 STILL / THE NEVA FLOWS REPRISE

GLEB

AN UNDERHANDED GIRL
AN ACT OF DESPERATION
AND TO MY CONSTERNATION
I LET YOU GO

Well, not this time. Paris is no place for a good and loyal Russian.

ANYA

We are both good and loyal Russians.

GLEB

I've come to take you home.

ANYA

My home is here now.

(She goes to walk out but he grabs her arm and stops her.)

GLEB

Stop playing this game, Anya. I beg you.

ANYA

We both know it's not a game, Gleb.

GLEB

If you really are Anastasia, do you think history wants you to have lived?

ANYA

Yes. Why don't you?

GLEB

The Romanovs were given everything and gave back nothing in return. Until the Russian people rose up and destroyed them.

ANYA

All but one. Finish it. I am my father's daughter.

GLEB

And I am my father's son!

(GLEB pulls out the gun from his jacket.)

Finish it? Finish it I must.

MY FATHER SHOOK HIS HEAD TOLD ME NOT TO ASK
MY MOTHER SAID HE DIED OF SHAME

(GLEB points the gun at ANYA.)

ANYA

In me you see them, look at their faces in mine. Hear their screams, imagine their terror, see their blood!

GLEB

BUT I BELIEVE HE DID A PROUD AND VITAL TASK
AND IN MY FATHER'S NAME...

ANYA

Do it and I will be with my parents and my brother and sisters in that cellar in Yekaterinburg all over again!

GLEB

The children, their voices

(The ROMANOV FAMILY is seen behind the doors, being chased by COMMUNIST OFFICERS.)

A MAN MAKES PAINFUL CHOICES
HE DOES WHAT'S NECESSARY, ANYA!
FOR RUSSIA, MY BEAUTY
WHAT CHOICE BUT SIMPLE DUTY?
WE HAVE THE PAST TO BURY, ANYA!

ENSEMBLE

THE NEVA FLOWS, A NEW WIND BLOWS

GLEB & ENSEMBLE

AND SOON IT WILL BE SPRING
THE LEAVES UNFOLD
THE TSAR LIES COLD

GLEB

For the last time! Who are you?!

ANYA

(She gets up and walks over to GLEB. Proud. Sure.)

I am *(pause)* the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna
Romanov.

GLEB

BE CAREFUL WHAT A DREAM MAY BRING

(screams)

A REVOLUTION IS A SIMPLE-

*(He is ready to shoot ANYA. But he waits. He can't
do it. He drops the gun. And drops to his knees.)*

I can't.

*(The ROMANOVs and OFFICERS in the back walk past
each other.)*

ANYA

(She touches his head.

I mean you no harm, Gleb.

(She goes to leave but GLEB grabs her hand.)

GLEB

I believe you are Anastasia.

ANYA

What will you tell them?

GLEB

(He picks up the gun and puts it away.)

That I was not my father's son after all.

(He and ANYA shake hands.)

Long life, comrade.

(GLEB *exits*. Then ANYA *runs off*.)

SCENE ELEVEN
INSIDE THE PALACE

(The DOWAGER EMPRESS *enters*, followed by LILY.)

LILY

She'll turn up. Why would she disappear in the first place? You've accepted her as the heir to the Romanov fortune. She'll live like a queen. Even though people don't want queens anymore. Well, the English do, but they're crazy.

(VLAD *runs in*.)

VLAD

Not a trace of her! The room was bare. Except for this.

(He *holds up the music box*. The DOWAGER EMPRESS *takes it*.)

DOWAGER EMPRESS

I think we've seen the last of that young woman, Lily.

LILY

Was she Anastasia?

DOWAGER EMPRESS

My favorite. Strong, not afraid of anything.

VLAD

It's time, Your Imperial Majesty. We can't hold them any longer.

SCENE TWELVE

THE STREETS OF PARIS

(DMITRY walks in with his suitcase. ANYA runs in after him.)

DMITRY

If you ever see me from a carriage again, don't wave, don't smile... I don't want to be in love with someone I can't have for the rest of my life. Goodbye, Your Majesty.

(He bows and picks up his suitcase to leave. He stops when ANYA talks.)

ANYA

I always dreamed my first kiss would be in Paris with a handsome prince.

DMITRY

I'm not your prince, Anya.

ANYA

(crossing to him)

The Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov would care to disagree!

(She takes his suitcase and steps on it.)

Dima.

(She kisses him. They smile and DMITRY lifts ANYA off of the suitcase. He puts her down, grabs the suitcase, and she takes his arm. In another part of the stage, the DOWAGER EMPRESS is giving the press conference. GLEB is also giving a press conference in Leningrad on the other side of the stage.)

#26 FINALE

DOWAGER EMPRESS

As of today, there will be no more Anastasias. The reward for her safe return will be given to charity.

GLEB

There never was an Anastasia. She was a dream.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

A beautiful dream.

GLEB

A dream that only time will fade.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

So, no more talk of the Grand Duchess Anastasia Romanov.

GLEB

The new order has no need for fairytales. The case is closed.

DOWAGER EMPRESS

Still...

(The ENSEMBLE dances and ANYA and DMITRY are on a turntable that turns forward. They hold hands.)

ALL

FAR AWAY

LONG AGO

GLOWING DIM AS AN EMBER

THINGS MY HEART USED TO KNOW...

ONCE UPON A DECEMBER!

-- END OF ACT TWO ---

#27 BOWS

#28 EXIT MUSIC

-- THE END ---