

INT. RITA AND SONYA'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rita embraces Sonya as they eat pizza. Jazz hums softly.

VANYA  
It's way cheaper than in Europe.

NIKOLAY  
Yeah, but can you actually  
transition here...like, officially?

MAX  
Surprisingly, yeah.

RITA  
(raising her glass)  
To unlimited freedom!

They laugh and clink glasses. Rita pulls Sonya into a slow dance. The others watch with fondness.

NIKOLAY  
(to Rita)  
How was your call, Rit?

RITA  
(shrugs, mocking)  
Same old *"Ritochka, please, don't  
tell anyone that you're dating a  
woman. It's not safe."*

Vanya and Max laugh. Sonya hugs Rita tighter.

NIKOLAY  
She's far away. She worries.

Rita rolls her eyes.

RITA  
One day, I'll be even further.

NIKOLAY  
Estonia still on?

Sonya meets Rita's eyes, mid-twirl.

SONYA  
Just a few more years, I promise.

Rita nods and kisses Sonya.

RITA  
 We'll go once the money's right.  
 It's...still kinda safe. For girls,  
 at least.

Rita spins Sonya, both giggle as they move.

MAX  
 Safe and queer? In Russia? That's a  
 rom-com title waiting to get  
 banned.

VANYA  
 (pouring Max's wine)  
*Delusional: the Musical.*  
 (beat, bottle empty)  
 We need more wine!

Nikolay raises his empty glass, suddenly serious.

NIKOLAY  
 But seriously...you think we've got  
 a few years? You all read the news.  
 There is a huge chance Russia will  
 start a war with Ukraine.

The music **CUTS OUT**, plunging the room into silence. Rita  
**freezes** mid-twirl. Max shoots Nikolay a stunned look. Sonya  
 slips from Rita's grasp and heads to check the router.

SONYA  
 Three nights in a row--fucking  
 internet!

RITA  
 (half-joking)  
 Maybe it's the Iron Curtain beta  
 test. Imagine, three VPNs just to  
 Google cats.

Max laughs nervously.

MAX  
 And five to read EuroNews?

Rita shrugs. Vanya goes to the kitchen.

VANYA (O.S.)  
 OK, where is the wine?

As Sonya restarts the router, music returns.

SONYA  
All right, it was just a glitch.  
(shouting to Vanya)  
Look under the table!

Rita spins again, as if shaking off the thought.

RITA  
Nah, Russia would never.

Her reply breaks the tension. The room is ALIVE again.

MAX  
Exactly. Too absurd to happen.

NIKOLAY  
Too risky.

Vanya reappears with two bottles of wine.

VANYA  
Refills?

Laughter. Vanya nonchalantly pours the wine to the brim.