

Iron Will Episode 0104: Resheniye

written by

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While finding refuge at a retired couple's home during a snowstorm, Andrei and Oleg must decide on whether or not to defect the USSR before the storm traps them in. Meanwhile, Comrade Pofistal must decide whether to attend to the wounds of his fallen comrade or pursue the convicts.

TEASER

**EXT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - PORCH - MORNING**

INGMAR (78) sways on his rocking chair drinking his coffee while he hums a melody to himself. He gazes at the sunrise in the distance. His wife, ESFIR (68), joins him on the seat next to him.

ESFIR  
How's the coffee my love?

INGMAR  
Bitter, as usual.

ESFIR  
That means you like it.

Ingmar scoffs.

INGMAR  
Where's Yana?

ESFIR  
She's chopping wood for the fireplace.

INGMAR  
So early in the morning?

ESFIR  
She's been sloppy lately. She has to learn how hard life can be.

INGMAR  
That girl's life has been nothing but hardship.

**EXT. BEHIND THE HOUSE - WOOD CHOPPING AREA - MOMENTS LATER**

An axe splits a piece of wood in one fell swoop. YANA (25) picks up the pieces and tosses it onto the gigantic pile of chopped wood next to her. Esfir ambles towards her.

ESFIR  
Yana. Once you're done here, your grandfather wants you to go and collect the vegetables from the garden.

Yana throws the axe into the chopping block.

ESFIR (CONT'D)

He also wants you to slaughter one of the pigs. We're having a special meal tonight.

(beat)

Oh, and be a dear and do the washing as well.

Yana nods. With her dirty hands she wipes off the sweat.

YANA

And what will you be doing, Esfir?

ESFIR

Looking after your grandfather, of course.

Esfir ambles back to the porch.

YANA

(whispering to herself)

*Cyka.*

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Esfir lounges on the couch doing her needle work while listening to the crackle of the fireplace.

**EXT. BEHIND THE HOUSE - WOOD CHOPPING AREA - SAME TIME**

Yana takes another piece of wood and places it onto the chopping block.

**MONTAGE**

A) LIVING ROOM - Esfir gets up and throws another piece of wood into the fire.

B) WOOD CHOPPING AREA - Yana throws a piece of wood onto the large pile. She leans on the axe to catch her breath.

C) LIVING ROOM - Esfir reads a book about gardening while lying on the couch.

D) VEGETABLE GARDEN - Yana plucks potatoes and beets from the ground, throwing them into a basket.

E) KITCHEN - Esfir makes a sandwich for herself and Ingmar.

F) PIG PEN - Yana runs after a pig with a rope. She catches it and drags it to the slaughter house.

G) LIVING ROOM - Esfir gently knocks a radio against the couch to try and make it work.

H) WASHING LINE - A large pile of washing fills a basket. Yana hangs up shirts and bed sheets on the washing line. A gust of wind blows some of the sheets away. Yana chases after them as they fall into the mud.

END OF MONTAGE

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - AFTERNOON**

Ingmar, Esfir, and Yana are seated at the table. Yana's clothes are dirty. A dish at the centre of the table is plated with pork chops and the vegetables.

INGMAR

Thank you, Esfir. My mouth is watering.

Yana clears her throat and tightens her grip on the utensils. Her knuckles turn white. Esfir scoffs. She gestures for Ingmar's plate. Yana plates up for Ingmar.

YANA

What's the special occasion?

INGMAR

I'm sorry?

YANA

Esfir said Grandfather wanted to have a special dinner.

INGMAR

Oh, yes. How silly of me.

Ingmar takes Yana's hand.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

Yana. My beautiful granddaughter. Your life has been nothing but tragedy. Ever since your parents left, you've been helping us two senior citizens with our lives.

ESFIR

Speak for yourself.

Esfir plates up the biggest pork chop for herself. Something outside in the woods catches Yana's attention. She shifts in her seat to see it better.

INGMAR

That's why we believe Alexi, from  
down the road, would make an  
excellent husband.

YANA

What's that?

ESFIR

Well, a road is a piece of--

Yana shocked, shakes her head.

YANA

What? No, I mean that.

Yana jumps out of her seat and heads towards the window.  
Ingmar and Esfir turn to the window and gaze at ANDREI (28)  
and OLEG (26) as they emerge from the tree line, bloody and  
bruised. Esfir slowly ambles to the window.

INGMAR

What in Stalin's name?

END OF TEASER

ACT 1**EXT. WOODS - SAME TIME**

Andrei and Oleg emerge from the thick tree line, they stop and spot Ingmar's home.

ANDREI

Do you think someone's home?

Oleg turns to Andrei.

OLEG

Of course there is. Don't you see the candle light?

ANDREI

Oh, I'm sorry. It's difficult to see anything with blood in my eyes!

Andrei rubs his eyes with his blood tainted hands while Oleg takes out Zak's map.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Oleg, it's worse!

OLEG

Use your sleeves, you moron!

Oleg compares the house on the map and Ingmar's house.

OLEG (CONT'D)

I can't believe it.

ANDREI

What is it?

OLEG

I think this is Esfir's home.

ANDREI

Really? Zak's wife?

OLEG

Yes.

ANDREI

How do you know?

Oleg gestures the map to Andrei.

OLEG

Look, here. On the map is a river next to the house.

Oleg points to the river next to Ingmar's home.

OLEG (CONT'D)

And here, Zak drew the house with a slaughter house that matches that one.

ANDREI

All of this is too convenient for my liking.

OLEG

Zak also wrote here that he estimated that we would take a day of walking to get to Esfir.

Andrei takes a step back and scratches his head.

ANDREI

I'm not buying it. No offence to Zak. But he was drunk most of the time.

OLEG

Hey. Don't insult the dead. He was our friend.

ANDREI

It wasn't meant as an insult. He would probably agree with me...and then offer me some vodka.

Oleg scoffs at Andrei's remarks.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

So what are we going to do?

OLEG

I don't know? How do you go to someone's ex-wife and tell them that their now dead ex-husband wanted her to make us fake documents, that could possibly get us and her killed?

Andrei shrugs. A twig snaps, the two men turn to the forest and see nothing. They return their gaze back to Ingmar's house. They notice Ingmar standing on his porch with his shotgun aimed at them. Both men raise their hands in the air. Yana approaches them.

ANDREI

Did Zak mention anything about  
having a daughter?

Oleg shakes his head. Yana reaches Andrei and Oleg.

YANA

Who are you?

OLEG

My name is Oleg. This is--

Oleg takes a few steps forward. In the distance they hear  
Ingmar cock his gun.

YANA

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Oleg halts and takes a few steps back, rejoining Andrei.

OLEG

Understood.

YANA

(to Andrei)

And you?

ANDREI

Who me?

YANA

No, the *cyka* behind you. Of course  
I'm talking to you!

ANDREI

Oh, I'm Andrei.

Yana notices their prison guard attire.

YANA

Are you two prison guards?

ANDREI

No--

OLEG

No, no, no we're...MGB soldiers.

ANDREI

We are?

Oleg elbows Andrei in the ribs.



ANDREI (CONT'D)

We are! And we're on the look for two escaped convicts.

YANA

Those aren't MGB clothes.

OLEG

Yes, we changed clothes at the gulag. We didn't have any winter clothes.

Yana steps closer to Andrei and Oleg. She wipes the blood off of Andrei's face and inspects it. She shows it to them.

YANA

Whose blood is that?

ANDREI

We had an altercation with a Wolverine.

OLEG

That's why we're here. We lost our squad and we need somewhere safe to stay before the storm hits.

Yana contemplates for a moment.

OLEG (CONT'D)

Are you seriously going to risk saying no to a MGB officer?

YANA

Well, you can come inside, my grandfather loves everything Soviet and would love to help out his fellow comrades.

Andrei salutes Yana. She uncomfortably does the same. Yana turns around and gives Ingmar a thumbs-up. He lowers his gun. She leads them to the house.

OLEG

(whispers)

A salute? Really?

ANDREI

I panicked, okay.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Yana, Andrei, and Oleg enter the house. Esfir stands in the corner with a butcher's knife in hand. Ingmar raises his shotgun again and aims it at Andrei. He sees Ingmar's gun and quickly raises his hands in the air.

ANDREI

Oleg, he still has his shotgun out!

Oleg raises his hands as well.

OLEG

I thought your grandfather put his shotgun away.

INGMAR

Just because I didn't shoot you out there doesn't mean I won't shoot you in here. Who are you?

OLEG

Like we told your granddaughter, we're members of the MGB.

ANDREI

So you can put your gun away, old man.

Ingmar firmly places the barrel of the shotgun on Andrei's Adam's apple.

INGMAR

Watch your mouth, young man. I'm the one with the gun.

Yana places her hand on Ingmar's shoulder.

YANA

It's fine grandfather. These MGB soldiers have been through a lot.

INGMAR

MGB soldiers? Why didn't they say that?

YANA

They did.

INGMAR

Must've not heard it.

Ingmar takes the shotgun off Andrei's throat. Esfir lowers the butcher's knife. Andrei and Oleg relax.

YANA

Sorry, I haven't properly  
introduced myself. My name is Yana.  
(gestures to Ingmar)  
This is my grandfather, Ingmar.  
(gestures to Esfir)  
This is my step-grandmother, Esfir.

INGMAR

She's your grandmother, Yana.

ESFIR

It's fine, my love.

Andrei and Oleg stare at each other.

ANDREI

(whispering)  
That's Zak's wife.

ESFIR

What did you say?

ANDREI

Oh, I was just telling my comrade,  
that I can't believe you're a  
grandmother. You look so young.

Both men chuckle nervously. Ingmar bursts out laughing.

INGMAR

I'm a lucky man, aren't I?

OLEG

Yes, sir. Very fortunate.

INGMAR

Enough standing around. You two  
hungry?

Andrei nods vigorously. Ingmar hands the shotgun to Yana and  
trudges to the dining table.

**EXT. CAVE - MGB CAMP - SAME TIME**

MGB SOLDIERS unload supplies from crates. Some are gathered  
around a fire. Most of them are gathered around the medical  
officer's tent. POFISTAL (55), paces at the entrance of the  
tent. The MEDICAL OFFICER (39) exits the tent and marches  
off. Pofistal follows him.

POFISTAL

How serious is Viktor's wounds?

MEDICAL OFFICER

50/50.

POFISTAL

What does that mean?

MEDICAL OFFICER

It means, that I've done all that I can do for him.

POFISTAL

That's still not an answer.

MEDICAL OFFICER

Comrade General, the Wolverine did some serious damage to him. I did my best with what we have here at camp.

POFISTAL

So you're telling me you cannot help him with the supplies you have here?

MEDICAL OFFICER

Comrade General, I've used most of my supplies patching everyone else up.

Pofistal grabs the Medical Officer by the collar and pulls him closer. The Medical Officer drops his bag in shock.

POFISTAL

Why didn't you help him sooner?

MEDICAL OFFICER

He said to help everyone else.

POFISTAL

Fuck! Of course he did.

Pofistal lets go of the Medical Officer.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Could you save him if I got you more supplies?

MEDICAL OFFICER

I could try.

POFISTAL

That's good enough for me. I'll find you the supplies you need.

MEDICAL OFFICER

Comrade General, why are you so concerned about this man's life?

POFISTAL

No comrade under my leadership will die to a fucking dog.

The Medical Officer nods. Pofistal takes a few steps back with his hands on his head.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Can I go and see him?

MEDICAL OFFICER

I gave him the last of our morphine, which knocked him out. He should be awake in an hour or two.

POFISTAL

Thank you, Comrade.

Pofistal storms off. MISHA (30s) joins Pofistal's side as he marches to one of the crates.

MISHA

Comrade General.

POFISTAL

What do you want?

MISHA

I would just like to know our next move, Comrade General.

POFISTAL

Our next move is to care for the wounded. We cannot hunt the prisoners if we can't survive out in the wilderness.

Pofistal and Misha reach a stack of crates. Pofistal opens them searching for medical supplies. Misha stands aside.

MISHA

Comrade General, every second we stay here, the further the prisoners get.

POFISTAL

I am aware of that, Misha.

MISHA

Some of the men are getting restless.

Pofistal halts his search. He looks Misha straight in the eyes. Out of nowhere he punches Misha right in the gut. Misha collapses to his knees. Pofistal kneels down.

POFISTAL

Misha, do not forget your place. You are only here because you somewhat amuse me. That amusement is wearing old. Do not give me a reason to send you back to Omsk.

Misha pukes all over the cave floor.

MISHA

Yes, Comrade General.

POFISTAL

Comrades!

All of the MGB Soldiers give their attention to Pofistal.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Some of our fellow brothers are seriously wounded. One comrade in particular. You can help them by searching these unopened crates for medical supplies. Immediately!

The MGB Soldiers storm to the crates. Misha gets back to his feet. Annoyed, he helps to open a crate.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - DINNING ROOM - LATER**

Andrei and Oleg fill their plates. Oleg avoids the pork chops and only takes vegetables, while Andrei only takes the fattest pork chops. Ingmar, Esfir and Yana wait patiently.

INGMAR

Where were you two stationed?

ANDREI

Omsk.

OLEG

Moscow.

Andrei and Oleg stare at each other.

OLEG (CONT'D)

We were first stationed at the Kremlin, in Moscow.

ANDREI  
A city in the Soviet Union.

OLEG  
Then we got reassigned to Omsk when  
the prisoners escaped.

Andrei nods nervously.

ESFIR  
You say you were stationed at the  
Kremlin?

OLEG  
Yes.

ESFIR  
You must know Rodion?

ANDREI  
Ah, yes. Of course.

ESFIR  
How is he? Is he still as  
incompetent as ever.

ANDREI  
Ha! Of course. As dumb as a rock.

Esfir and Ingmar laugh hysterically. Andrei and Oleg  
nervously laugh along. Oleg leans in close to Andrei.

OLEG  
(whispering)  
Who is this Rodion?

ANDREI  
(whispering)  
I have no idea.

ESFIR  
You know, I've worked there for 17  
years and no one has ever gave me  
such a perfect summary of him.

ANDREI  
You also worked at the Kremlin?

ESFIR  
Da, I was secretary to one of the  
finest general's the Soviet Union  
has ever seen.

OLEG  
To which general?

ESFIR  
General Pofistal, of course.

Andrei and Oleg remain quiet. They stare at each other.

ESFIR (CONT'D)  
You have heard of him. Right?

OLEG  
Of course, we have.

Ingmar notices Oleg's meatless plate.

INGMAR  
Not a big meat eater, I see.

Oleg looks down at his plate and chuckles nervously.

OLEG  
Ah. Pork and I don't mix very well,  
I'm afraid.

Andrei takes a huge bite out of his pork chop.

INGMAR  
I guess your comrade doesn't have  
your problem.

Ingmar laughs at the sight of Andrei devouring his pork chop.  
Oleg elbows Andrei.

OLEG  
I apologise for my comrades vulgar  
behaviour.

ANDREI  
(with a mouth full of  
food)  
I'm sorry. I can't help myself.  
This pork. It's delicious. So  
tender. Who ever butchered this pig  
knew what they were doing. You only  
get the meat this tender if the pig  
wasn't stressed before it died.

Yana smiles at Andrei's remark.

INGMAR  
For a soldier, you know a lot about  
butchering.



ANDREI

I would hope so, my family owns a butchery. I worked in that place everyday since the day I could walk. Till the day I joined the MGB.

OLEG

They forgot to teach you manners in that butchery.

The whole table laughs except Andrei.

ANDREI

Ha ha. Make your jokes Oleg, but that butchery taught me to work hard.

INGMAR

You and my granddaughter should compare notes on hard work.

ANDREI

Oh, I see. I must thank you for this very delicious meal.

Yana starts to blush.

ESFIR

Actually, it was me that made the meal. Yana only helped gather a few minuscule things.

Yana folds her hands into fists and slams the table.

INGMAR

Yana! What has gotten into you? You will apologise to our guests.

Yana can't lift her head. Tears fall onto her lap. She gets up from the table and leaves the room. There is an awkward pause. Ingmar notices Andrei and Oleg's dirty jackets.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

You can give your jackets to Yana. She'll clean them. No MGB should wear a dirty uniform.

Andrei and Oleg nod.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Andrei wonders through the hallway of Ingmar's house peaking into each room. He spots Yana sitting by her window crying. Yana is frightened when she notices Andrei at the door.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - YANA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei enters the room.

ANDREI

I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to fright you.

YANA

What were you doing?

ANDREI

I was looking for the bathroom.

YANA

Oh, its the next door on the left.

ANDREI

Thank you.

Andrei turns to exit, but then stops in his tracks.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

It's none of my business, but what was that at the dinner table about?

YANA

Oh it's nothing. Just stupid Esfir being a *cyka*.

ANDREI

Hey. It's not nice to talk about your family like that.

YANA

She's not my family. Only my grandfather's leech of a wife.

Andrei sits down on the bed.

ANDREI

Oh, still. She seems...agreeable.

YANA

She's anything but agreeable. I've heard a rumour that she was married to a Nazi before she met my grandfather.

Andrei scoots closer to Yana.

ANDREI

What happened to him?

YANA

Nobody knows. Everyone thinks he's dead, somewhere in a gulag.

Andrei clears his throat.

ANDREI

Yeah, that's a rough one. But aren't you happy your grandfather found someone that loves him?

YANA

No. She's pretending to love him.

ANDREI

Why do you say that?

YANA

She's waiting for my grandfather to die, so that she can sell his land. Then she's free to kick me out.

ANDREI

Well, you could always go and live with your parents.

Yana starts to sob uncontrollably. Andrei comforts her.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Oh...touchy subject, I see.

YANA

They defected when I was young. They left me behind.

ANDREI

I'm sure they'll comeback for you.

YANA

How can you be sure?

ANDREI

I always think of family as a jigsaw puzzle. Each member is a piece of the puzzle. And when you miss a piece you never see the beautiful picture. That's why you don't stop looking for the missing piece.

YANA

Wow, you must be close to your family, to think like that.

Andrei chuckles.

ANDREI

Yeah. I miss them a lot.

Andrei takes out his family picture and hands it to Yana. She starts to giggle.

YANA

Oh my, how old are you here?

ANDREI

Oh, this was taken two years ago.

YANA

You looked much more handsome then.

Andrei and Yana chuckle. Oleg enters the room.

OLEG

Sorry to disturb, comrade. But we need to discuss what our next action will be.

ANDREI

Oh, it's fine comrade. I was leaving anyway.

Andrei gets up and heads towards the door, he turns back.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

It was nice chatting to you.

Andrei pushes Oleg into the bathroom. Yana gets up and stares at them in confusion.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Oleg contests as Andrei shoves him into the bathroom. Andrei closes the door behind them.

OLEG  
Andrei! What the fuck!

ANDREI  
What? I need to shit.

OLEG  
But we need to discuss what we are going to do next.

ANDREI  
I can do two things at the same time.

Andrei goes to the toilet. He pulls down his pants in front of Oleg. Oleg covers his eyes.

OLEG  
Seriously, Andrei?

ANDREI  
We both cheered on Zak when he was shitting on the toilet.

OLEG  
(whispering)  
Shhhhhh! Don't say his name to loud. Esfir might hear you. Plus, that was a different...context.

Oleg perches on the edge of the bath, still looking away from Andrei on the toilet.

ANDREI  
So what do you want to discuss?

OLEG  
What are we going to do when we leave here?

ANDREI  
What do you mean? The plan was always to go to Moscow where we get new identities so that I can go back home.

OLEG  
That was your plan, Andrei.

ANDREI  
And what about your plan to become an imam and spread your religion?

Oleg turns back to Andrei.

OLEG

Hey, keep your voice down. I don't want that crazy old man to hear I'm a Muslim. No idea what he might do.

Andrei lets out a mighty fart. Oleg goes to open a window.

ANDREI

Ah, I've been holding that one in since this morning.

OLEG

You're disgusting.

ANDREI

Look, Oleg. For your plan to work, you need documents. I'll come up with a story so that Esfir makes us new documents. We stay here, get a good night's sleep and talk again in the morning.

Andrei gets up from the toilet and heads to the sink. He washes his hands.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

What do you say?

Andrei extends his wet hand towards Oleg. Oleg ignores it.

OLEG

Fine. But no more flirting with the girl.

ANDREI

Me, flirting? Never.

Andrei opens the bathroom door to find Ingmar standing in the hallway. Oleg shoves Andrei out of the way. He halts when he spots Ingmar staring at them.

INGMAR

Esfir made coffee...I'll be on the porch, if you want to join me.

Both Andrei and Oleg nod. Ingmar walks away. Andrei face palms. Oleg sighs.

**EXT. CAVE - MGB CAMP - SAME TIME**

The MGB camp is in disarray, crates lay discarded and scattered on the ground. Pofistal smokes a cigar at the entrance. Misha approaches him.

MISHA  
Comrade General.

POFISTAL  
What do you want, Misha?

MISHA  
Comrade General, we have searched every crate. There are no more medical supplies.

Pofistal throws his cigar to the ground.

POFISTAL  
Fuck.

Pofistal takes a moment to compose himself. He hands Misha a radio and an extra jacket.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Okay. Take this radio and retrace our steps until you get a signal on it. Once you have a signal, radio comrade Sergei and tell him we urgently need medical supplies.

MISHA  
But Comrade General, a snow storm is starting to form.

POFISTAL  
That's what the jacket's for.

MISHA  
And the Wolverines?

POFISTAL  
You have a gun, yes? Use it.

Pofistal smiles as he gives Misha a pat on the back. Misha nervously smiles back. As Misha leaves the cave, the Medical Officer taps on Pofistal's shoulder.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Comrade General, comrade Viktor is awake.

POFISTAL  
Perfect.

Pofistal marches off to the medical tent. The Medical Officer follows loosely behind.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Comrade General, have you found any  
new medical supplies?

POFISTAL  
My men searched the entire camp.  
They found nothing.

The Medical officer sighs disappointedly.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Don't be discouraged, Comrade. I've  
sent one of my men to radio for  
more medical supplies.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
When can we expect them, Comrade  
General?

POFISTAL  
A day or two.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
I'm afraid Viktor might not have a  
day or two Comrade General.

Pofistal halts and turns to the Medical Officer.

POFISTAL  
If he doesn't make it, neither will  
you, comrade. Is that understood?

The Medical Officer nods anxiously.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Good. I will talk to Viktor alone.

Pofistal marches off and enters the medical tent.

**INT - MGB MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS**

VIKTOR (45) covered in bloodied bandages, lies on a stretcher  
shivering. A blanket covers only his feet. Viktor notices  
Pofistal as he enters the tent.

VIKTOR  
Comrade General?

POFISTAL  
Just checking in on our strongest  
soldier.



Viktor agonisingly chuckles. Pofistal throws the blanket over Viktor so that his entire body is covered.

VIKTOR  
How goes the hunt?

POFISTAL  
We're holding position until everyone is healed up.

VIKTOR  
Why, Comrade General?

POFISTAL  
Because, my men are important to me.

Viktor starts to cough blood.

VIKTOR  
Comrade General, I've already got one foot in the grave. Don't let those rats escape on the account of my health.

Pofistal takes out his handkerchief and wipes the blood away from Viktor's mouth.

POFISTAL  
Don't say that. I need men by my side that I can trust. Otherwise, I'll just be stuck with Misha.

They both laugh.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
But, I understand what you are saying.

VIKTOR  
Good. Now if you don't mind, Comrade General, I believe the doctor said I needed rest.

POFISTAL  
I'm sure that was the morphine talking.

Viktor smiles widely and then falls asleep.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Rest up, old friend.

Pofistal leaves the tent.

**EXT. CAVE - MGB CAMP - CONTINUOUS**

Pofistal marches to the campfire where most of the MGB Soldiers are gathered.

POFISTAL

Men! Get ready. We continue the chase.

**EXT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - PORCH - AFTERNOON**

Ingmar sits in his rocking chair drinking the freshly made coffee when Oleg and Andrei join him.

INGMAR

What were you doing in the bathroom?

ANDREI

Oh, we...were--

OLEG

Discussing our plan.

INGMAR

Plan?

OLEG

Yes. The MGB's plan for the escapee's.

ANDREI

Yes. Top secret.

INGMAR

I understand.

Ingmar gestures to the coffee and biscuits alongside him.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

Please, help yourself.

Andrei immediately starts to gulp down the coffee and devouring biscuits. Ingmar astounded by Andrei starts to laugh. Oleg elbows Andrei.

ANDREI

(with a mouth full of biscuits)

What? He said help yourself.

INGMAR

I don't think in my 78 years of living, have I ever seen a man with your appetite.

ANDREI

Da. Mother used to say that when I was a teenager, I ate her out of the house.

OLEG

Clearly.

ANDREI

A teenage boy needs food to grow strong. And It clearly worked.

Andrei flexes his bicep.

INGMAR

You must be handy in a fight?

ANDREI

I can hold my own.

INGMAR

Good. An MGB soldier needs to know how to fight.

OLEG

Were you in the MGB?

INGMAR

No, I never served in the MGB. But I was in the great war.

OLEG

You were?

INGMAR

I was so proud to serve my country. But it didn't last long.

ANDREI

How come?

Ingmar rubs his left knee.

INGMAR

Five minutes into combat, some German inbred shot my knee, shattering it.

Andrei and Oleg groan at the same time.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

Ever since then I've been nothing more than a simple farmer.

OLEG

Perhaps that was all that you were meant to be.

INGMAR

Maybe, who knows?

OLEG

Well--

ANDREI

Yes, who knows.

Andrei frowns at Oleg.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Ingmar. My comrade and I were wondering--

INGMAR

You were wondering if you could spend the night here, instead of trudging through the snow storm tonight.

ANDREI

Yes.

OLEG

We would appreciate it, comrade.

INGMAR

It would be my honour to help the MGB.

Esfir joins them on the porch.

ESFIR

My love, it's getting cold outside. Come sit by the fireplace.

INGMAR

Fine. Will you please prepare the guest room for our two soldiers.

ESFIR

Certainly.

Before Esfir enters the house, Oleg stops her.

OLEG  
Sorry, but you wouldn't have the  
time?

ESFIR  
It's about 5:30. Why?

OLEG  
Just asking.

Ingmar joins Esfir as they leave the porch.

ANDREI  
What was that about?

OLEG  
I must go pray.

ANDREI  
Of course you do.

Andrei and Oleg follow Ingmar and Esfir as a large storm  
looms over the house.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3**EXT. CAVE - MGB CAMP - SAME TIME**

Pofistal leans against one of the empty crates. Misha runs up to him. Out of breath, Misha hunches over.

POFISTAL  
You're back early. Did you radio comrade Sergei.

MISHA  
(out of breath)  
Yes, Comrade General. He said he'll be here within a day.

POFISTAL  
Good work, Misha.

Misha surprised at the compliment stares at Pofistal.

MISHA  
Thank you, Comrade General.

POFISTAL  
Go get some food.

Misha nods and scurries away. Pofistal marches over to the medical tent, where the Medical officer is smoking. Furious, Pofistal slaps the cigarette out of his hand.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Are you stupid?

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Comrade General?

POFISTAL  
I might not have a medical education, but even I know you don't smoke near wounded men.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
I'm sorry, Comrade General.

POFISTAL  
Update on Viktor.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Oh yes, Viktor. I need his chart.

POFISTAL  
Well go get it.

The Medical Officer scurries into the tent.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
I'm surrounded by idiots.

The Medical officer returns with Viktor's chart.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Yes, I believe that comrade  
Viktor's wounds have become septic.

POFISTAL  
What does that mean?

MEDICAL OFFICER  
It means his wounds have become  
infected. If we don't treat it he  
could die soon.

POFISTAL  
And we don't want that, do we?

The Medical Officer shakes his head.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Is he awake?

MEDICAL OFFICER  
No, he's asleep.

POFISTAL  
Okay. When he is awake tell him  
that the hunt goes on.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
Comrade General?

The Medical Officer stares concernedly at Pofistal.

POFISTAL  
I've decided to continue our  
pursuit of the prisoners.

MEDICAL OFFICER  
But what about the medical  
supplies?

POFISTAL  
I'm only taking a handful of men.  
The rest will stay here and help  
you when the medical supplies  
arrive. Do you have any questions?

MEDICAL OFFICER  
No, Comrade General.

POFISTAL  
Good.

The Medical Officer goes back into the tent. Pofistal spots Misha eating while other MGB Soldiers pack up camp. He gestures to Misha to come closer. Misha rushes over.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Misha, I assume you've gotten to know the men quite well?

MISHA  
Yes, Comrade General.

POFISTAL  
Good. Gather five or six men. We'll be the advanced squadron.

MISHA  
Excellent, Comrade General.

Misha rushes off. Pofistal ambles back to the entrance of the cave. He lights a cigarette as he gazes at the setting sun in the distance.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE KITCHEN - SAME TIME**

Esfir stands by the kitchen sink and washes the dishes. She spots Yana walking past the kitchen.

ESFIR  
Yana!

Yana reluctantly enters the kitchen.

YANA  
Yes, Esfir?

ESFIR  
Be a dear and help me finish the dishes.

Yana trudges over to the sink. Groaning along the way.

ESFIR (CONT'D)  
Have you thought about what we discussed at dinner?

YANA  
What did we discuss?



ESFIR  
Don't act stupid, Yana.

YANA  
Wow, a compliment from Esfir. Next  
thing you know pigs will fly.

Esfir turns to Yana.

ESFIR  
Can you please act you age?

Yana stays silent.

ESFIR (CONT'D)  
Now as I said, have you thought  
about what we told you?

YANA  
Only that I don't want to marry  
Alexi.

ESFIR  
And why is that? You've known him  
your whole life.

YANA  
Exactly! He's like a brother to me.  
He's like family to me.

Esfir scoffs.

ESFIR  
Family. What do you know about  
family? Abandoned by your own flesh  
and blood.

YANA  
They didn't abandon me.

ESFIR  
If that were true why are you here  
with us, and with them.

Yana starts to cry.

ESFIR (CONT'D)  
Save your tears for the people that  
actually love you.

YANA  
And who might that be?

ESFIR  
Me and your grandfather.

Yana takes a few steps back.

YANA  
You don't love me. You don't love  
my grandfather.

ESFIR  
How dare you say such things.

Yana wipes her tears off.

YANA  
Its the truth. You've never loved  
anyone in your life.

ESFIR  
That's absurd.

YANA  
Is it? Tell me what happened to  
your Nazi of a husband.

Esfir turns to face Yana.

ESFIR  
How do you know about that?

YANA  
Everyone knows about him. And how  
you sold him out to the MGB.

Esfir slaps Yana.

ESFIR  
You will not speak another word  
about Zak. Do you understand me?

Holding her cheek, Yana nods.

ESFIR (CONT'D)  
Good. Now you will marry Alexi and  
that is the end of that matter.  
Finish helping me here and then go  
get more wood for the fire.

YANA  
Yes, Esfir.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Ingmar and Andrei sit in the living room by the fireplace. Andrei gazes around the room looking at all of the different pictures of Ingmar and his family.

INGMAR

Where is your comrade?

ANDREI

Probably in the bathroom. He has an issue with his stomach.

INGMAR

I thought he only had issues if he eats meat?

Andrei pauses for a moment.

ANDREI

Oh yes, he does. He also has problems with alcohol, potatoes, basically anything nice in the world.

INGMAR

Oh poor lad. You said you grew up in a butchery?

Andrei nods.

ANDREI

Yes, my parents' butchery.

INGMAR

Your father be pleased that his son is a MGB soldier.

ANDREI

Da. Or at least I hope he is proud. I know for a fact he misses the free man labour at the butchery.

They both begin to laugh.

INGMAR

I can imagine.

ANDREI

Sorry, if I am out of place. But who is that?

Andrei points to a family picture of Ingmar his DAUGHTER, her HUSBAND, and a YOUNG YANA. Ingmar sighs deeply.

INGMAR

That is my daughter. Or at least it was my daughter with her idiot husband and their daughter, Yana.

Andrei stands up and retrieves the picture, holding it in the light of the fireplace.

ANDREI

What happened to them? Yana's parents, I mean.

INGMAR

My daughter's husband filled her head with religious nonsense and convinced her to leave the country.

Andrei nods.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

But I don't have to tell you. You must deal with religious fanatics all of the time.

ANDREI

You wouldn't believe it.

Andrei places the picture back onto the shelf.

INGMAR

It's my fault, that their gone.

ANDREI

How do you mean?

INGMAR

My daughter was set to marry a man I chose for her. He was a good man, but she told me she didn't love him. She told me she loved another man and that she was pregnant with his child.

ANDREI

How could you know?

INGMAR

I should've known he was no good for her. Kept her here on the farm. She could've raised Yana here.

Ingmar clears his throat.

INGMAR (CONT'D)

But that is enough of that. I've learned from my mistakes and won't let it happen again with Yana.

ANDREI

What do you mean?

INGMAR

I've found Yana the perfect husband. He lives just down the road. He and Yana have been friends for many years.

ANDREI

Oh, so she is engaged?

INGMAR

Not officially, but it is as good as set in stone.

Andrei tries to hide his dismay.

ANDREI

That's good.

Ingmar leans forward.

INGMAR

And you, comrade? Do you have someone?

Andrei chuckles.

ANDREI

No. Being deployed I haven't had the opportunity to find someone.

INGMAR

A young and strong MGB soldier like you. I have no doubts that there are plenty of girls lining up to dance with you.

ANDREI

Not as many as one would think. Perhaps one day. I would like to have a big family.

INGMAR

Da, that is good. The Soviet Union needs more people like you, Andrei.

Andrei smiles at Ingmar. Esfir joins them in the living room. She sits next to Ingmar. He places his arm around her.

ESFIR

And what are you two discussing?

INGMAR

Nothing much. Just manly things.

Andrei chuckles.

ANDREI

Esfir, would it be possible...

**EXT. WOODS - NIGHT**

Pofistal leads his MGB soldiers in a howling snow blizzard. The soldiers form a singular line behind him.

POFISTAL

Come on men. We can do it!

Down the line MGB Soldier #1 taps MGB Soldier #2 on the shoulder with his riffle.

MGB SOLDIER #1

Can you see anything?

MGB SOLDIER #2

Barely.

MGB SOLDIER #1

This is crazy.

MGB SOLDIER #2

This is the Soviet Union.

Misha marches along to Pofistal's side.

MISHA

Comrade General!

POFISTAL

What, Misha?

MISHA

Comrade General, is wise to continue in this weather?

Pofistal halts, he turns to Misha. He punches Misha in the gut, he falls to the ground. Pofistal kneels down.

POFISTAL

Let me remind you who is in charge,  
Misha.

The rest of the soldiers stare in horror as Pofistal kicks Misha in the ribs.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Do you know who's in charge Misha?

Misha nods his head.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Anyone else, don't know who is in  
charge?

All of the Soldiers shake their head.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

Good. Now pick him up and let's  
continue.

They march forward. They pass a tree marked with an "X". Pofistal notices this and stops the line.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)

No. It can't be.

MGB SOLDIER #1

What is it, Comrade General?

POFISTAL

Bring me the map.

MGB SOLDIER #1

Yes, Comrade General.

MGB Soldier #1 takes out the map from his backpack. As he hands the map to Pofistal, a gust of wind rips it out of the Soldier's hands.

MGB SOLDIER #1 (CONT'D)

Shit!

POFISTAL

You idiot.

MGB SOLDIER #1

My apologies, Comrade General.

POFISTAL

You will be punished for your  
stupidity.

MGB SOLDIER #1  
Yes, Comrade General.

Pofistal takes a moment to compose himself.

POFISTAL  
Fuck it!

Pofistal turns to his men.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Men, it looks like I have led you  
astray.

MGB SOLDIER #2  
Does that mean that we're lost?

POFISTAL  
Yes, it does.

MGB soldier #2 chuckles. Pofistal notices and marches to him.

POFISTAL (CONT'D)  
Do you think this is funny?

MGB SOLDIER #2  
No, Comrade General.

Pofistal grunts.

POFISTAL  
We will return to camp, for  
supplies.  
(to MGB Soldier #2)  
Your next station will be latrine  
duty, Comrade.

Pofistal marches past.

END OF ACT 3



ACT 4**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Yana enters the room and places clean sheets, and jackets on Andrei and Oleg's beds. Before she leaves the room, she notices Oleg in the corner praying. Oleg notices Yana and stops. He nervously stares at her.

YANA

What were you doing?

OLEG

Um. I was checking...the floor.  
Yes, very lovely floor you have.

YANA

Your lying.

OLEG

No, I mean it.

Oleg places his hands on his head.

OLEG (CONT'D)

Andrei is gonna kill me.

YANA

Wait, you aren't real MGB?

Oleg's eyes widen. He takes a few steps forward.

YANA (CONT'D)

Take one more step forward, and  
I'll scream.

OLEG

Yana. Please I can explain. Me and  
Andrei are good men. We won't hurt  
you.

YANA

Who are you?

OLEG

My name really is Oleg and his name  
really is Andrei.

YANA

Where did you come from?

OLEG  
We came from the Omsk...  
Specifically the Gulag.

YANA  
So you're not guards. You're  
prisoners!

Yana steps backward so that she stands in the doorway.

OLEG  
Yes, but please listen. I'm a  
Muslim, imprisoned because of my  
peaceful religion. Andrei was  
hungry. Please. We're innocent men.

YANA  
Do you pray often?

OLEG  
Very much so.

Yana stays silent for a beat. She bows her head.

OLEG (CONT'D)  
Are you religious?

YANA  
No, but my father was.

OLEG  
What religion did he follow?

YANA  
He was a Christian.

OLEG  
Ok, I can work with that, I guess.

Yana re-enters the room. She closes the door behind her.

YANA  
If my grandfather found out, he  
would kill you. Is Andrei  
religious?

OLEG  
No. Just hungry.

YANA  
Ok, I'll listen, but if anything  
sound odd or untrue I'm screaming.

OLEG  
Fair, but be warned. This story is  
not your ordinary story.

Yana goes to sit next to Oleg.

YANA  
I've heard it all before.

OLEG  
Even a man shitting gloves full of  
bombs?

YANA  
Wait, what the--

Andrei rushes into the room. He notices Yana and Oleg sitting  
on the bed. He raises his hands.

ANDREI  
Oh, sorry. Was I interrupting a  
deep conversation?

YANA  
I don't know, bread thief.

Dumbstruck, Andrei stares at Yana, then at Oleg, and then  
again Yana.

ANDREI  
What? No, I already ate.

OLEG  
Andrei, She caught me praying.

ANDREI  
Of course she did. I swear to  
however it is that you pray to.  
Your obsession with religion is  
going to get us killed!

YANA  
Hey, don't be so mean to him. It  
takes courage to be a man of faith  
in the Soviet Union.

OLEG  
No, Andrei is right. I should have  
been more careful.

Andrei sits down on a nearby chair, flabbergasted.

ANDREI

So what now? May I pick a method of execution before we die?

OLEG

At least she knows that we're innocent.

ANDREI

I'm not worried about her thinking we're innocent, I'm worried with the old man with the gun.

Andrei slumps back into his chair. He turns to Yana.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

Yana, would you mind giving us the room? There are a few things that my comrade and I need discuss.

YANA

Sure, but only if you do something for me.

ANDREI

By all means, what is it?

**EXT. BEHIND THE HOUSE - WOOD CHOPPING AREA - MOMENTS LATER**

Andrei swings the axe, splitting a piece of wood in one motion. Oleg shorts the pieces of wood in a neat pile.

ANDREI

I feel like I fell right into that trap.

OLEG

It's almost like you have a knack for getting into trouble.

ANDREI

Says the man who can't pray like a normal person. Couldn't you just pray in the bathroom?

OLEG

I needed to know where the sun was.

Andrei cuts another piece of wood in half. He plants the axe into the ground and lies next to Oleg.

ANDREI

So.

OLEG

So?

ANDREI

You want to discuss it like gentlemen before we shout at each other?

OLEG

Of course. I don't know if we should go on?

ANDREI

What? With life? That's a bit--

OLEG

Of course not, I mean the journey. Unless Esfir can help us--

ANDREI

Yeah...about that.

Andrei sits upright. He picks up a stick and fiddles with it.

ANDREI (CONT'D)

She doesn't do forgery, it seems.

OLEG

Did you try to threaten her with the large kettle?

ANDREI

Oleg!

OLEG

What? I thought it was your style!

ANDREI

I know I tell these people that I'm MGB, but I'm not that ruthless.

Andrei starts to carve the stick into a small spear. Oleg stares up at the dark clouds rolling in.

OLEG

We can't stay here. We can't go home. And our only hope to escape the Soviet Union is oblivious to our situation.

ANDREI

And if she does find out--

Andrei throws the spear at a nearby ant hill.

ANDREI (CONT'D)  
We're also dead.

YANA (O.C.)  
Then just continue the journey.

Andrei and Oleg turn around. Yana ambles to the two men and sit down. She takes out a atlas from her pocket.

YANA (CONT'D)  
Here. This map is more accurate  
than your shitty child's drawing.

ANDREI  
To be fair, a drunkard drew it.

OLEG  
But, what about the documents?

YANA  
Improvise. Find someone else. Esfir  
isn't the only person in the world  
to do paperwork, you know?

Oleg and Andrei page through the atlas.

INSERT

A map of Western Russia is drawn in with charcoal. A forest is encircled while a road is highlighted.

BACK TO SCENE

OLEG  
It's going to be difficult.

YANA  
And shitting out bombs wasn't?

ANDREI  
The man who did that is dead.

YANA  
Then do it for him. Do it for...

OLEG  
Zak. Zak Borisyuk.

Yana stands up and takes a small log. She plants the log vertically into the ground and carves the initials "Z.B." into it. She salutes the log. Oleg and Andrei stand up and do the same. Snow lightly falls down.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SAME TIME**

Esfir leans on the counter trying to get the radio to start again. She gently knocks on it on the counter.

ESFIR

Ingmar!

INGMAR (O.C.)

Yes?

ESFIR

The radio is broken again.

INGMAR (O.C.)

What do you want me to do about it?

ESFIR

Tell Yana, the next time she is in town to buy a new radio.

INGMAR (O.C.)

I will.

Esfir knocks the radio once more. It starts to play.

ESFIR

Never mind.

The radio plays classical music. Esfir ambles over to the drying rack and packs away the dishes. The music stops and the radio presenter starts to talk.

RADIO PRESENTER (O.S.)

We interrupt our scheduled program to bring you breaking news. Authorities have released the names of the escapee's of the Omsk gulag in efforts to apprehend the escapees. If you know where Andrei Barno or Oleg Angeloff is, please contact the authorities as soon as possible. These men are considered highly dangerous.

Esfir drops two plates, they shatter into a thousand pieces.

ESFIR

Ingmar!

INGMAR (O.C.)

What is it now?

Esfir rushes out of the kitchen.

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN - SAME TIME**

Andrei and Oleg duck beneath the window listening to the Radio Presenter.

ANDREI

I wish that radio stayed broken.

OLEG

We need to leave now.

ANDREI

No shit.

OLEG

What about some extra clothing? I'm not in the mood to lose any fingers or toes this year.

ANDREI

You stay at the backdoor, ready to run. I'll sneak inside and get some.

OLEG

Okay, good luck.

Andrei crouches his way to the backdoor and enters.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Esfir rushes into the room. Ingmar lounges on his chair.

ESFIR

They're not soldiers!

INGMAR

What do you mean?

ESFIR

Oleg and Andrei, they're not MGB soldiers.

INGMAR

What?

ESFIR

On the radio they said they're the prisoners from Omsk.

Ingmar gets out of chair panicking.



INGMAR  
Get my shotgun. Where's Yana?

ESFIR  
I don't know.

INGMAR  
Yana!

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei sneaks into the guest bedroom. He slowly opens the creaky door, wincing at the sound.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - GUEST BEROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei crouches into the room and grabs clothing from the closets and sheets from the beds. He heads towards the door when he hears Esfir running down the hall. He waits until she passes again. He sneaks out of the bedroom.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei crouches in the hallway when he spots Yana in her bedroom. He sneaks in, missing Esfir.

**INT. INGMAR'S HOUSE - YANA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei enters the room and heads directly for Yana.

YANA  
Andrei, my grandfather knows about you and Oleg.

ANDREI  
We know. We're leaving.

YANA  
Then what are you doing here?

ANDREI  
I would shoot myself If I never did this.

Andrei kisses Yana on the cheek.

YANA  
What's that for?

ANDREI  
For giving us hope.

Ingmar bursts into her room. He aims his shotgun on Andrei.  
Esfir stands behind Ingmar with a kitchen knife.

INGMAR  
Yana! Get away from him.

Yana shields Andrei.

INGMAR (CONT'D)  
Move Yana!

Andrei jumps out of Yana's window, shattering it into pieces.  
Ingmar shoots blindly out of the window.

**EXT. OUTSIDE OF YANA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Andrei sprints towards Oleg.

ANDREI  
Oleg!

**EXT. OUTSIDE THE KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Oleg turns around and sees Andrei running towards him.

OLEG  
I thought you were coming out this  
side.

ANDREI  
Change of plans. Run for it!

Oleg starts to sprint towards the woods.

**EXT. BEHIND THE HOUSE - WOOD CHOPPING AREA - CONTINUOUS**

Ingmar exits the backdoor and aims at Andrei as he runs into  
the forest.

INGMAR  
For the glory of the Soviet Union.

Yana pushes Ingmar, he misses his shot.

INGMAR (CONT'D)  
Yana! What are you doing?

YANA  
The right thing.

Andrei and Oleg disappear into the woods. Ingmar dashes inside the house. Yana stares at the forest.

**EXT. CAVE - MGB CAMP - NIGHT**

Pofistal and the MGB Soldiers enter the cave. The cave is deafly quite. All of the remaining soldiers are gathered at the medical tent.

POFISTAL  
No, no, no.

Pofistal rushes over to the medical tent. The Soldiers make way for him. He enters the tent.

**INT. MGB MEDICAL TENT - CONTINUOUS**

As Pofistal enters the tent he spots the pale body of Viktor. Pofistal falls to his knees. MGB SOLDIER #3 enters the tent.

POFISTAL  
When did he die?

MGB SOLDIER #3  
About a hour ago.

POFISTAL  
Where is the Medical Officer?

MGB SOLDIER #3  
He left just after Viktor died. He said he didn't want to die as well.

POFISTAL  
Leave. I'll be out shortly.

MGB SOLDIER #3  
Yes, Comrade General.

MGB Soldier leaves the tent. Pofistal leans closer to Viktor's corpse. Tears fall on Viktor's face.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF ACT 4