

## SCENE 2. MASHA SPIKE VANYA SONIA

MASHA: Now, Spike, I'm sure Vanya thinks you're a perfectly nice looking young man. Let's leave it at that. (to VANYA) He craves attention slightly.

But all good actors do.

SPIKE: I'm hot!

VANYA: Oh yes? Shouldn't you leave that for others to say?

SPIKE: (laughs good naturedly) No, I mean I'm warm. The air is warm, I'm hot!. (looking out the window) That pond that's out there. Can you swim in it?

VANYA: Swim in it? It's not very deep. You can wade in it,

SPIKE: Yeah. Maybe I'll do that.

MASHA: Really, darling, you want to wade in a pond?

SPIKE: Yeah, it's a hot day.

MASHA: I guess it is. There are frogs in the pond you know.

SPIKE: I like frogs.

MASHA: Did you bring a swim suit?

SPIKE: No, I can just strip to my underwear. See you later, babe, I'm gonna go cool off in the pond.

MASHA: Well, if that's what you want, darling. (to VANYA) He's so unpredictable.

(Spike, comfortable, but also liking people to watch him, SPIKE takes his shoes off, then takes his shirt off, then takes his pants off. With abandon, he throws his clothes onto a couch or chair. He puts his shoes back on. He is now only in his underwear. He looks very good. He starts toward the pond, ,but gives Masha a quick kiss on his way out.)

SPIKE: See you later!

(He moves quickly out of the room, but oddly ruffles VANYA's hair on his way outside. It's a playful gesture but VANYA finds it strange. SPIKE happily exits on to the grass, looking forward to wading and frogs...)

MASHA: The younger generation is like that. They strip to their underwear right in front of everybody.

VANYA: Did he do that because he knows I'm gay?

MASHA: I rather think he did that because he knows I'm straight.

VANYA: Well it's very peculiar. Did you tell him I'm gay?

MASHA: No, why would I? And are you gay? I'm sorry, did we have some conversation I forgot?

VANYA: No, I guess we didn't. I just... assumed you assumed.

MASHA: Oh, I did. I just thought maybe you were still in denial. Or had become asexual from so many years of abstinence. Oh, I've been a bad sister. I'm sorry, darling. Where is Sonia? Oh that's right, I upset her. Well I'll apologize later.

VANYA: I must say, I'm a trifle surprised to see you with this young, young man. How old is he?

MASHA: (takes his hand) Oh, Vanya dear, I'm so happy I'm with Spike. He's so adventurous and free, he gives me energy. We've been together 3 months.

VANYA: Well he's handsome. Is he a good idea?

MASHA: Don't be judgmental. I've been very lonely for several years ever since Robert left me for Angelina Jolie.

VANYA: Angelina Jolie?

MASHA: I just say that to make myself feel better. He left me for someone who looked a little like Angelina Jolie. So I comfort myself with saying it was she. Still I haven't been able to hold on to my

husbands, I don't know why. I'm talented, charming, successful - and yet they leave me. They must be insane.

(Enter SONIA.)

SONIA: Why is that young man naked in the pond?

VANYA: He's naked? (looks out the window, interested) Sonia, he's wearing underpants. That's not naked.

SONIA: Well, underpants, naked, it's the same to me.

VANYA: You need glasses.

SONIA: I need a life. I need a friend. I need a change. But nothing ever changes.

MASHA: Now, now, please don't get down in the dumps.

SONIA: That's easy for you to say. You have a life, you have a career.

MASHA: Oh, I wish you wouldn't feel jealous of me. It just exhausts me. Even if you were an actress, God forbid, we wouldn't ever go up for the same parts. I'm a leading lady, while you are much more of a...

VANYA: Masha, I don't think you should finish that sentence.

SONIA: Thank you, Vanya.

VANYA: You're welcome, Sonia.

MASHA: Well, it's not as if my career has been without disappointments, just like your life, Sonia. I've suffered too. I'm a movie star, but am I known as a classical actress on the stage?

SONIA: No you're not.

MASHA: Exactly! That's a path I didn't get to take. Remember when that famous acting teacher was going to cast me as Masha in Three Sisters. He said I was born to play that role. Imagine how wonderful I would've been.

(to Vanya and Sonia, suddenly acting the lines:)

"Oh my sisters, let us go to Moscow! To Moscow, let us go."

I would have said that with an ache in my voice and my soul, and it would have been heartbreaking. I feel the public doesn't know how heartbreaking I can be. (genuinely) Oh missed opportunities! Regret, regret, regret!

SONIA: Regret, regret!

MASHA: Please don't change the focus to yourself, Sonia. I'm talking now. You can talk later.

SONIA: When?

MASHA: 4:30.