

SCENE 5 VANYA, SONIA

VANYA: I'm sorry. Really.

SONIA: That's alright.

(She suddenly takes the cup she's holding and smashes it on the floor, in the direction of the kitchen..

Silence.)

VANYA: Is this how you are going to be today?

SONIA: I don't know what you mean.

VANYA: YOU JUST THREW THE FUCKING COFFEE AGAINST THE WALL! SONIA: I DIDN'T!

VANYA: You didn't??? What kind of idiot response is that?

SONIA: I don't know. It's an angry "I hate my life and I hate you" response. VANYA: Well, it was effective then, good for you!

SONIA: Thank you!

(Silence.)

SONIA: I'm sorry. I shouldn't have thrown the-cup.

VANYA: That's alright.

SONIA: It's just I had bad dreams last night.

VANYA: Oh?

SONIA: I dreamt I was 52 and I wasn't married.

VANYA: Were you dreaming in the documentary form?

SONIA: That's not funny.

VANYA: Really, I thought it was. You are 52, and you're not married.

SONIA: Whose fault is that?

VANYA: is the answer supposed to be me?

SONIA: There isn't any answer. And if I pine for you, that's my business.

VANYA: Don't pine for me. That's ridiculous. I'm 57 and I've told you for many years, I'm not interested in you in that way. I... march to a different drummer.

SONIA: Why must you march to a drummer at all? Why couldn't we both... walk to the sounds of a piccolo?

VANYA: What? I don't know what that metaphor means. Besides you're my sister.

SONIA: We're not blood relations. I am your adopted sister. So I can pine if I want to.

VANYA: Look I think your pining after me is a tired reflex. I don't think you even like me anymore.

SONIA: I agree with you. It's a reflex with me now. It comes from our living together. There's no one else in the house. Ever since mother and father died. And Masha left me and you to take care of them while she was off gallivanting, having a life. Don't you feel angry at Masha, that she's had a life? '

VANYA: Yes, I do. But it's too late now to do anything about it. I must say, I always admired you for doing your duty and taking care of our elderly parents, even though you were adopted. You put Masha to shame, in my opinion.

SONIA: Thank you, I appreciate that.

VANYA: Of course she had a successful acting career, and you basically didn't have anything else to do.

SONIA: Well, a moment ago you gave me a lovely compliment. And now... oh let's not talk. I'll keep my sadness to myself.

VANYA: Alright, you do that.

(Brief silence. After a while she sighs vety heavily, once, twice, maybe three times.. VANYA ignores it for

a while, but then doesn't)

VANYA: Your sadness is very heavy this morning, Sonia. Can you lighten it any? SONIA: No.

VANYA: Could you go to a different room?

SONIA: Leave the morning room? But I'm in mourning for my life.

VANYA: I hope you're not going to make Chekhov references all day.